



30 January 2025

## AGENDA

### Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 05 February 2025

**Time:** Commencing at 3:00pm

**Venue:** 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  
Daniel Griffiths – Acting Director Infrastructure Services

### **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Community**

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

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



### **Public Access**

This meeting is open to members of the public and will be livestreamed from Council's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil](http://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil)

### **Live Streaming Statement**

This meeting will be streamed live on the internet and the recording of this meeting will be published on Council's website and/or social media pages after the meeting.

Members of the public attending this meeting may be filmed. By remaining in the public gallery once the meeting commences, members of the public give their consent to being filmed, and for the recording of them to be made publicly available and used by Council.

Information about the broadcasting and publishing recordings of Council meetings is available in the Council's Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy is available on the Council's website.

### **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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY, LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF VALUES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
4.2	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	6
<b>5</b>	<b>PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ACTIVITY REPORTS</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1	Cr ISMAY, MAYOR	8
6.2	Cr UOY, DEPUTY MAYOR	9
6.3	Cr AITKEN	9
6.4	Cr BARKER	11
6.5	Cr BARRY	13
6.6	Cr CLARK	14
<b>7</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PLANNING PERMITS</b>	<b>16</b>
9.1	PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA1863-2024 - Lake Road, Jeparit VIC 3423 (CA39A, Parish of Jeparit)	16
<b>10</b>	<b>REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION</b>	<b>23</b>
10.1	SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER CEO DELEGATION – QUARTER 4 2024	23
10.2	COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN 2024-2025 – QUARTER 2 UPDATE	27
10.3	FINANCIAL REPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2 – ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024	42
10.4	COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION	46

10.5 NHILL CARAVAN PARK MASTERPLAN	50
10.6 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION 2025	56

<b>11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b>	<b>59</b>
------------------------------	-----------

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES	59
11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES	59

<b>12 LATE REPORTS</b>	<b>60</b>
------------------------	-----------

<b>13 NOTICES OF MOTION</b>	<b>60</b>
-----------------------------	-----------

<b>14 OTHER BUSINESS</b>	<b>60</b>
--------------------------	-----------

<b>15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS</b>	<b>60</b>
--------------------------------	-----------

15.1 INDEPENDENT CHAIR - CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	
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<b>16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS</b>	<b>61</b>
-------------------------------------	-----------

<b>17 MEETING CLOSE</b>	<b>61</b>
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**1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY, LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF VALUES**

***Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community***

*Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners of Country.*

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

***Live Streaming Statement***

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*A copy of Council's Live Streaming and Recording of Council Meetings Policy is available at the back of this room and on Council's website. Please speak with one of our staff members if you have any questions.*

***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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**2 APOLOGIES**

Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services)

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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.

### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

#### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2024 at the Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

*Attachment Number: 1*

#### 4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
18 December 2024	That Council issues a notice of decision to grant a permit in relation to planning application PA1841-2023 subject to Conditions 1 to 10.	PA1841 permit issued.	Complete
18 December 2024	That Council authorises the use of the Common Seal to sign S173 Agreement for PA1718-2021.	S173 Agreement finalised and processed.	Complete
18 December 2024	That Council approves \$50,000 excl GST to undertake various works at the New Kindergarten site.	At the time of preparing this agenda works underway, including replacement	In Progress

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
		crossover. Some line marking, crack sealing and a general tidy up are still to be completed.	
18 December 2024	That Council submits a funding application to undertake upgrades for Dimboola Swimming Pool and refers \$275,000 to the draft 2025/2026 budget.	Council is progressing the application, including demonstrating and documenting community support. Due to the Little Desert Fire a scheduled community drop-in session was postponed.	In Progress
27 November 2024	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 \$287,843 comprising Council's co-contribution, to the 2025/2026 draft budget.	Applications were submitted by 30 January 2025.	Complete
27 November 2024	Contract Award 2024-2025-20 Emulsion Tank.	Contract documents completed. Delivery planning, footings, and concrete pad in process.	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.

## 6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

### COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 10 December 2024 – 27 January 2025

#### 6.1 Cr ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
10-12-2024	Mayor Training	Dimboola	
10-12-2024	Financial Training	Dimboola	
12-12-2024	MAV Mayoral Training	Melbourne	
13-12-2024	MAV Mayoral Training	Melbourne	
17-12-2024	Dimboola Secondary College Awards Night	Dimboola	
18-12-2024	Council Briefing	Nhill	
18-12-2024	Council Meeting	Nhill	
20-12-2024	Hindmarsh Shire Christmas Breakup	Jeparit	
14-01-2025	Catch up with Bill Millard Acting CEO	Rainbow	
21-01-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
23-01-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
23-01-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
23-01/2025	Council Briefing	Nhill	
26-01-2025	Australia Day Event	Rainbow	
26-01-2025	Australia Day Event	Jeparit	



Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26-01-2025	Australia Day Event	Dimboola	
26-01-2025	Australia Day Event	Nhill	

### 6.2 Cr UOY, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
10-12-2024	Deputy Mayor Training	Shire Hall, Dimboola	
10-12-2024	Induction Session	Shire Hall, Dimboola	
10-12-2024	Financial Literacy	Shire Hall, Dimboola	
12-12-2024	Mayoral Training	Hyatt, Melbourne	
13-12-2024	Mayoral Training	Hyatt, Melbourne	
17-12-2024	WSMD AGM	Teams	
17-12-2024	WSMD Board Info Session	Teams	
17-12-2024	Steampunk meeting Grampians Tourism	Dimboola Imaginarium	
18-12-2024	Council Meeting	Council Chamber, Nhill	
23-12-2024	Wimmera Health Christmas Cake Judging	Wimmera Nursing Home Horsham	
21-01-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
23-01-2025	Council Briefing	Council Chamber, Nhill	
26-01-2025	Australia Day Speech	Nhill	
26-01-2025	Australia Day	Dimboola	

### 6.3 Cr AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
4-12-2024	Land use planning via Zoom	Zoom meeting	
9-12-2024	Youth council end of year break up at Jeparit River Barbecue	Jeparit	
9-12-2024	Friends of Lake Albacutya Meeting	Rainbow	Gypsum Truck Traffic

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>10-12-2024</b>	Councillor Induction	Dimboola	
<b>11-12-2024</b>	With Telstra technician all day testing signal strength meet up with local residents and farmers in various locations.	Rainbow Area Pigrick Lorquon, Detpa, Netherby, Woorak, Glenlee, Hindmarsh, Gerang.	Telstra will come to a meeting in February to speak on the outcomes.
<b>11-12-2024</b>	Rainbow lions club meeting and talk	Rainbow	
<b>13-12-2024</b>	Jeparit Museum Open Day and Barbecue Evening	Jeparit	
<b>15-12-2024</b>	Carols by Candlelight and Barbecue	Rainbow	
<b>17-12-2024</b>	Jeparit Museum Meeting	Jeparit	
<b>17-12-2024</b>	P-12 School Awards Evening Rainbow	Rainbow	
<b>17-01-2025</b>	Rainbow Men's Shed Meeting	Rainbow	
<b>18-12-2024</b>	Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
<b>18-12-2024</b>	Council Meeting	Nhill	
<b>19-12-2024</b>	MAV Meeting	Teams (Online)	
<b>20-12-2024</b>	Archaeologist Survey Assessment around Rainbow Outlet Creek	Rainbow	
<b>20-12-2024</b>	Jeparit Bowls Club Meeting with Ron and Monica	Jeparit	
<b>20-12-2024</b>	Jeparit Museum Thank You to Volunteers Evening Barbecue	Jeparit	
<b>20-12-2024</b>	Hindmarsh Shire Christmas Break Up	Jeparit	
<b>21-01-2025</b>	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
<b>23-01-2025</b>	Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
<b>26-01-2025</b>	Australia Day Ceremonies		

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
	Rainbow Jeparit, Dimboola and Nhill		
27-1-2025	Little Desert National Park Fire		Numerous Phone Calls to Assist

**6.4 Cr BARKER**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
09-12-2024	Youth Council EOY Celebration	Jeparit	Wonderful opportunity to meet the current Youth Council and hear their reflections on 2024. A motivated and engaged Team that is well lead.
10-12-2024	Councillor Induction	Dimboola	Information was a good reinforcement of what was offered at the Little Desert Lodge previously. The financial basics were interesting and well presented.
11-12-2024	Handed out Nhill's Carol Night Posters	Nhill	Walked around the Nhill town talking to businesses and handing out the Carol Night Posters. Great feedback and engagement.
11-12-2024	CEO Drop In Session	Nhill Library	Met with CEO and Council Staff at Nhill Library and invited two community members who had reflected concerns that they wanted to discuss. Our CEO engaged with one prior to the event and the other attended on the day with good outcomes reported.
13-12-2024	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Open Night & BBQ	Jeparit	This Museum is well set up and has great potential. Volunteers that were met reflected that it was not utilised as much as it could be by local schools or community organisations. Volunteers are available for walking tours. The Open Night was a great

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			idea but it could have been more inclusive.
<b>13-01-2025</b>	Meeting with Bill Millard, Acting HSC CEO	Nhill	Acting HSC CEO Bill Millard spent time discussing his experiences and insights into Rural Councils generally
<b>14-12-2024</b>	Nhill Christmas Carols Night	Jaypex Park, Nhill	This event was well attended with many families, pets, schools, church and community groups involved. The weather was perfect for this event. Much fun was had by children meeting with Santa who arrived via the CFA. Well co-ordinated by Melanie Albrecht and Pauline McCracken for the Nhill Town Committee with Ritchie Dodds WWHS CEO being the MC, Ross Barker coordinating the groups, Marty, Fred Albrecht, and their crew supplying and running the sound system and Nhill Lions running the BBQ. Young Leos arranged the lollies for the children. A fun time was had by all.
<b>17-12-2024</b>	Nhill College Award Presentation Night	Nhill College	Wonderful evening with awards being presented by various community Groups. It was my pleasure to award the Rae Keam Award to Mayan Crouch on behalf of HSC
<b>18-12-2024</b>	Council Briefing	Council Chamber, Nhill	Constructive engagement and collaboration with Councillors and Council
<b>18-12-2024</b>	Council Meeting	Council Chamber, Nhill	Constructive engagement and collaboration with Councillors and Council
<b>19-12-2024</b>	MAV Welcome	Teams (Online)	Interesting welcome opportunity to hear about MAV and the supports they offer to Councillors. The

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			political perspectives for 2025 election were interesting.
20-12-2024	Hindmarsh Shire Staff Christmas Party	Jeparit	Staff appeared to enjoy their day together, receiving service awards and generally appreciating each other and the year they had created.
21-01-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	Interview via Teams for consideration of Independent Chairperson for CEO Reviews and Remuneration
23-01-2025	West Ward Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Mayor Ismay to review West Ward changes and potential ideas
23-01-2025	HSC Briefing Meeting	Nhill	Met with two candidates for Independent Chairperson for CEO reviews and Remuneration, and other submissions for planning. Good collaboration between Councillors and staff.
26-01-2025	Australia Day Event	Nhill	Well attended event with a safe set up with the boundary fencing. Lions BBQ was appreciated by all. Great speech by Mayor Ron Ismay and inspirational speech by Deputy Mayor Chan Uoy. Many community members commented to me regarding the speeches. Could not see the flag raising and would suggest moving the tent over next year.

6.5 Cr BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
11-12-2024	Telstra Service Problems	Gerang Gerung	On site meeting with Telstra Tech personnel regarding service problems since 3G being turned off.
18-12-2024	Council Meeting	Nhill	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
21-1-2025	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	Teams (Online)	
23-1-2025	Council Briefing	Nhill	

**6.6 Cr CLARK**

Councillor Clark has been assisting with the Little Desert National Park fire and has been unable to provide his activity report for this period.

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## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Numbers:** 2 – 4

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2024/12/13 – Renae Wheaton to HSC re Covid19 Vaccinations (Attachment 2)
- 2025/01/30 – Moorabool Shire Council to HSC re Collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (Attachment 3)

**Outwards:**

- 2024/12/16 – Letter to Renae Wheaton re Covid19 Vaccinations (Attachment 4)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

*Attachment Numbers: 2 – 4*

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## 8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Numbers:** 5 – 7

**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.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

*Attachment Numbers: 5 – 7*

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## 9 PLANNING PERMITS

### 9.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PA1863-2024 - Lake Road, Jeparit VIC 3423 (CA39A, Parish of Jeparit)

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachment Numbers:** 8 – 11

#### **Executive Summary:**

This report seeks a decision for Planning Application PA1863-2024, recommending that Council issues a notice of decision to issue a planning permit. PA1863-2024 proposes the use and development of land for a sand quarry on Lake Road, Jeparit, with a total footprint of 9.66 ha. The application is presented to Council for decision as there is a standing objection from a neighbour, who is concerned about access to the site, increased salinity in the soil, and general quarry rehabilitation. Ultimately, the planning assessment (provided in attachments) demonstrates that the proposal will result in an acceptable planning outcome and the issues raised by the objector have been adequately addressed.

#### **Discussion:**

The planning permit application PA1863-2024, lodged by K & J Baker Cartage Pty Ltd, proposes the use and development of land at Dimboola-Rainbow Road, Jeparit VIC 3423 (Crown Allotment 39A, Parish of Jeparit) for Extractive Industry (a sand quarry). The application was originally lodged on 16 July 2024. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) has been prepared for the proposal and has been approved by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council.

#### Subject Site

The site (CA39A, Parish of Jeparit) is located on the western side of Dimboola-Rainbow Road, Jeparit, and the extraction area covers a total area of 45.99 hectares (Figure 1). The site is situated 4km north of Jeparit township, with Lake Hindmarsh closely located to the west. The area is surrounded by agricultural land, consisting of sand dunes with scattered vegetation and cropping paddocks. The existing entrance to the site is near an existing railway crossing. The site is within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.



Figure 1: Subject site in relation to Lake Hindmarsh and Jeparit

### Planning Controls and Permit Requirements

The portion of land proposed for the quarry is within the Farming Zone and is subject to the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 6, Bushfire Management and Transport Zone 2 to the east. The planning permit seeks approval under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

- 35.07-1 Use of land for Extractive Industry (section 2 use)
- 35.07-4 Construct a building or construct or carry out works for Extractive Industry
- 42.01-2 Earthworks
- 52.08-1 Use and develop land for Earth and Energy Resources Industry
- 52.29-2 Create access to a road in the Transport Zone 2

### Details of the Proposed Quarry Operations

The proposed 9.66ha quarry will extract sand intended to supply the local building industry. Topsoil will be stockpiled near the quarry edge for future rehabilitation. Extraction will occur by excavators or dozers and sand will be screened on-site with a mobile unit. No blasting will take place, and no water will be used for dust control or processing. Using mobile equipment only, and there will be no fixed processing plant, power, or water on-site. A car park will be built near the entrance, along with a mobile site hut and toilet. Operating hours will be 7:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, with no work on Sundays or public holidays. Figure 2 shows the proposed extraction area. A new entrance to the quarry from Dimboola-Rainbow Road is proposed, as requested by the Department of Transport and Planning who have required specific conditions as part of the decision.

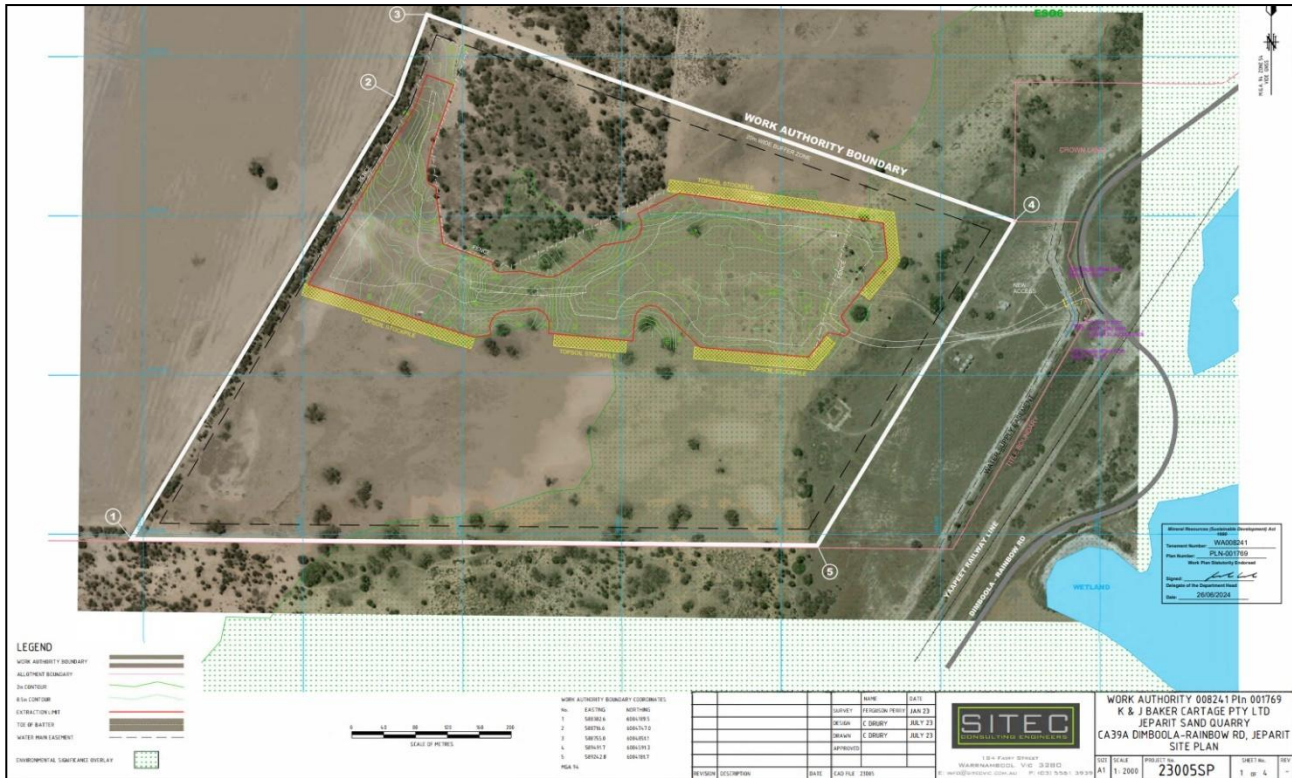


Figure 2: Subject site showing proposed extraction area

Work Plan’s Assessed by the Planning Permit Process

In the earth resources industry, a license to begin quarry operations (greater than 5ha) is referred to as a work authority. The first step in obtaining a work authority is developing a work plan, which is authorised by Resources Victoria in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Once the work plan is approved, a planning permit can be obtained using the approved work plan. Subsequently, both the planning permit and the work plan can be used to obtain the work authority. The planning permit approval process for quarries differs from other planning permit applications because many key issues are addressed within the work plan. Council is not permitted to contradict or duplicate conditions from the work plan when finalising the planning permit.

Public Notice and Standing Objection

The application was advertised by way of a sign on the site, notice on the website, and letters to neighboring landowners and occupiers. One submission (objection) was received from a neighbour who is concerned about the proposed access to the site, soil salinity and rehabilitation. The applicant provided a response to the neighbour’s submission, which addressed these concerns.

Summary of Planning Criteria

The planning criteria for this proposal focuses on ensuring economic viability, environmental sustainability, and community amenity, as well as protecting agricultural land for agricultural purposes. This includes minimising pollution, protecting native flora and fauna, managing water quality, and addressing noise, dust, blasting, and vibration impacts. The quarry should be compatible with the landscape, avoid erosion, and include rehabilitation plans for future

land use. Traffic management, road safety, and the impact on surrounding areas, including sensitive zones and water catchments, must also be considered.

#### Summary of Planning Assessment

The proposed extractive industry (quarry) complies with the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme and the work plan conditions address key planning matters. The proposal prioritises environmental protection, including native vegetation offsets, and management of erosion, drainage, dust and noise control, with minimal impact on the natural environment. The quarry will support the local economy by creating jobs and promoting sustainable growth, without significantly affecting agricultural land. The proposal does not adversely impact surrounding uses, and the site will be rehabilitated for future farming purposes. The location ensures minimal impact on community amenity. The objector's concerns surrounding site access (in terms of location and visibility) have been appropriately managed by the Department of Transport and Planning, who are the decision authority on this matter, and they have provided no objection to the proposal, subject to conditions. The objector's concerns regarding increased salinity and site rehabilitation will be adequately managed by the work plan requirements through the work authority process. A detailed assessment of this planning permit application is contained within the officer assessment report, which ultimately determines that the proposed extractive industry (quarry) is an acceptable planning outcome.

#### **Options:**

Issue or refuse a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit.

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

Community Vision: Safe and accessible communities, a strong competitive agricultural industry, sustainable practices that preserve our landscapes and open spaces for our future generations to enjoy.

Council Mission: Foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Nil.

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

Nil.

#### **Relevant Legislation:**

*Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**Community Engagement:**

Community Engagement requirements for planning permit applications are specified in S52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. These requirements have been adhered to as part of the planning application and review process.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

N/A

**Confidential Declaration:**

N/A

**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 – Daniel Griffiths, Acting Director of Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mikayla Mackley, Planning Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Advise the applicant and objector of Council's decision.

**Next Steps:**

Issue the Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit if approved by Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council issues a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit for PA1863-2024 for use and development of the land for Extractive Industry (Sand Quarry) at Lake Road, Jeparit VIC 3423 (CA39A, Parish of Jeparit), in accordance with the following table and subject to the following conditions (1 – 11):***

**THIS NOTICE OF DECISION TO GRANT A PERMIT ALLOWS**

<b><i>Planning Scheme Clause No.</i></b>	<b><i>Description of what is allowed</i></b>
<b><i>35.07-1 (FZ)</i></b>	<b><i>Use of land for Extractive Industry</i></b>
<b><i>35.07-4 (FZ)</i></b>	<b><i>Construct or carry out works for a Section 2 use (Extractive Industry)</i></b>
<b><i>42.01-2 (ESO6)</i></b>	<b><i>Earthworks</i></b>
<b><i>52.08-1</i></b>	<b><i>Use and develop land for earth and energy resources industry</i></b>



**52.29-2**

**Create access to a road in a Transport Zone 2**

**CONDITIONS**

**Use and Development**

- 1. The use and development must not commence until a work authority is granted under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.***
- 2. This permit will expire if the work authority is cancelled under Section 77O of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.***
- 3. The use and development must at all times be in accordance with any work plan approved under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.***

**Earth Resources Regulator**

- 4. Any planning permit conditions imposed do not duplicate or copy the requirements contained within the attached Statutorily Endorsed Work Plan and accompanying conditions.***

**Head, for Transport Victoria, Department of Transport and Planning**

- 5. Prior to the commencement of the use hereby approved, the access crossover shall be constructed generally in accordance with the design GD4010 and Site plans submitted with the application. Works shall be completed to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria and the Responsible Authority and at no cost to the Department of Transport and will include any line marking as required.***
- 6. On completion of the new access crossover, the existing access shall cease to be used and shall be blocked off to prevent further use.***

**Mandatory Conditions under Clause 52.09-6**

- 7. Except in accordance with a permit, no alteration may be made to the natural condition or topography of the land within 20 metres of the boundary of land. This does not apply to driveways, drains, bund walls or landscaping.***
- 8. Shrubs and trees must be planted and maintained to screen activity on the land.***
- 9. Parking areas must be provided for employees' cars and all vehicles used on the land.***

**Infrastructure**

**Drainage**

- 10. Stormwater must be contained on site to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.***

**Permit Expiry**

- 11. In accordance with Section 68A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, this***

***permit for the use of land for extractive industry expires if the use authorised by the permit is discontinued for a period of 10 years.***

***~END OF CONDITIONS~***

**Notes:**

***Department of Transport and Planning (Head, for Transport Victoria)***

- ***Separate consent for works within the road reserve is required under the Road Management Act 2004.***

***Infrastructure***

***Access/Vehicle Crossover:***

- ***The existing access for the premise on the Western Highway is under the control of the DTP.***
- ***The DTP have nominated a new location for entrance to the Proposed site.***

***Drainage***

- ***The landowner is responsible for ensuring water does not flow onto neighbouring properties.***
- ***No effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter Lake Hindmarsh or Council's Storm water drainage system.***

***Attachment Numbers: 8 – 11***



**10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION**

**10.1 SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER CEO DELEGATION – QUARTER 4 2024**

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Infrastructure Services

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides Council with an update on all Planning Applications approved under delegation for the period from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

**Discussion:**

This report is presented to Councillors on a quarterly basis to summarise the planning permits that the CEO has approved under delegation for the previous quarter.

All planning permit applications undergo a rigorous assessment against the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme. Delegations set by Council allow the CEO to approve planning permits that are straightforward and uncontroversial. Complex and controversial planning permits are presented to Council for decision making.

When eligible, some simple planning permit applications are assessed through the statutory VicSmart pathway, which aims to streamline and accelerate the assessment process. These VicSmart applications are always approved under delegation, however there were no VicSmart applications approved between 01 October 2024 and 31 December 2024.

The following standard Planning Permit Applications were approved by the CEO for the period of 01 October 2024 - 31 December 2024.

Permit No.	Address	Proposal	Date Lodged	Trigger (Hindmarsh Planning Scheme)	Date Approved	Stat Days Met (60 day limit)
PA1826-2023-A1	Lake Road Jeparit VIC 3423	This application was an amendment to PA1826-2023 to expand a sand and loam quarry: Use of land for extractive industry and carry out works for extractive industry (amendment to	16/10/2024	Clause 35.07-1 of the Farming Zone Clause 35.07-4 of the Farming Zone Clause 52.08-1 for Extractive Industry	6/11/2024	Yes (51)

		amend the plans to increase approved 1ha extraction area to a maximum of 5ha under Code of Practice for Small Quarries and amend relevant conditions)				
PA1865-2024	92-94 Nelson Street Nhill VIC 3418 Australia	Construct a building and carry out works for an Emergency Services Facility (Nhill SES). This application sought retrospective approval for the existing Nhill SES building (shed) that has been constructed at the northern end of the site, the provision of a one way vehicle access driveway for emergency access from Nelson Street to Ridgewell Street at the rear and the current construction of seven (7) car parking spaces including an accessible car parking space adjacent to the building.	3/09/2024	Clause 36.02-1 of the Public Use Zone 6. Clause 42.01-2 and Schedule 6 of the Environmental Significance Overlay.	08/11/2024	Yes (52)
PA1874-2024	1063 Warracknabea I-Rainbow Road Rainbow VIC 3424 Australia	Construction of a Farm Shed.	7/11/2024	Clause 35.07-4 of the Farming Zone Clause 42.01-2 of the ESO2.	23/12/2024	Yes (26)

**Options:**

N/A

**Link to Council Plan:**

Facilitating and supporting economic development.

**Financial Implications:**

Nil.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Risk is managed appropriately by adhering to the assessment process during approval of all planning applications. Complicated planning permits with higher levels of risk are presented to Council for decision.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

*Road Management Act 2004.*

**Community Engagement:**

Community consultation is carried out for each planning permit application in accordance with S52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

N/A

**Confidential Declaration:**

Planning permit applications are available to the public in accordance with S197 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**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 – Daniel Griffiths, Acting Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mikayla Mackley, Planning Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

N/A

**Next Steps:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council notes Planning Applications approved by the CEO or delegate, for the period 01 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.*

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## 10.2 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN 2024-2025 – QUARTER 2 UPDATE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

### Executive Summary:

This report presents Council with an update on the progress of items identified in the Council Plan Action Plan for delivery in the 2024/2025 financial year. Annually, Council adopts an Action Plan that aids in the achievement of the objectives within the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The actions in the Action Plan correspond to the themes identified in the Council Plan:

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

Q2 covers 1 October – 31 December 2024, with actions against each item detailed with a progress indicator.

Key achievements in quarter two include:

- Significant development in Council’s communications areas;
- Delivery of a successful Senior’s Festival program, including a visit to Telopea Downs; and
- Progress on Davis Park and other key capital works projects.

### Discussion:

The table below provides a detailed update on the Council Plan Action Plan 2024/2025:

#### Theme One – Our Community

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
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.	The election period continued to October 26 thus limiting publications this quarter. Two monthly newsletters were produced with 1 hardcopy quarterly newsletter dropped to all letterboxes in the Shire. We have 502 subscribers for our monthly newsletters to be emailed, of which we sent four this quarter. There were also 30 media releases published in this period. We have changed our advertisements from numerous single items to a combined advert with all items grouped together, published in colour with the inclusion of QR code links to the appropriate information.	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
	<p>Our online presence has also experienced growth. Our 156 Facebook posts had 353.3k views, a 253.9% increase in reach from the previous quarter, and 97 new followers (a 49.2% increase).</p> <p>Hindmarsh Shire Council website has also had a several enhancements including an update to the libraries section, addition of a Landcare page, increased information in sustainability and waste management, responsible pet ownership and Hindmarsh swimming pools for the summer season.</p>	
<p>Deliver community safety and education initiatives around Council’s Local Laws as well as Fire Prevention and animal management.</p>	<p>Local Laws communications plan developed for 2025 calendar year, tying with key enforcement periods, including the animal registration renewal period and fire danger period.</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>In this period 48 cuppa connections were held across all four towns. A highlight from December was taking the Jeparit cuppa connection group to Dimboola to meet with other cuppa connections people, followed by a shared lunch.</p> <p>Between the regular scheduled classic movies and FRRR events, we held 7 classic movies with 166 attendees in total in this period.</p> <p>We were thrilled to host the Senior’s Concert on Wednesday 9 October 2024 as part of the Senior’s Festival with 215 attendees who tapped their toes to Lonnie Lee. Part of the Senior’s Festival also included the Seniors Victoria top-up funding which enabled us to facilitate the Telopea Downs Men’s Bus Trip with 55 total attendees.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
Support and coordinate the Volunteer Taxi Service in Nhill.	This service, whilst continuing to be coordinated by customer service, is limited in both capacity and usage. For the quarter there were a total of four bookings total across two patrons. A drive for both volunteer drivers and community transport service users is being planned for early 2025.	Ongoing
Develop a Sports and Recreation Strategy to support sports infrastructure, sports organisations and active living in Hindmarsh Shire.	Sports and Recreation Strategy development will commence in Q3/4 2024/2025.	0%
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.	Dimboola and Nhill Kindergartens were handed over to Council by the VSBA in late November. Orders for the fit out of the Kindergartens have been approved by the VSBA, with most of the items required for operations ordered prior to Christmas. Council will work with Emerge to finalise the remaining orders early in Q3.	80%
Continue to advocate for after school care and an increase in childcare in Hindmarsh Shire.	Hindmarsh Shire CEO has been working with By-Five and neighbouring Councils to advocate for childcare in Hindmarsh. Childcare is also features in Council's draft advocacy strategy that is currently being developed.	Ongoing
Continue to deliver Council's youth program, including delivery of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy, school holidays activities and the Youth Council.	<p>School Holiday Program held between 23 September – 4 October had over 260 participants across the two weeks. Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis Clinic, Cooking with Sharon, Outdoor Movies, Tiny Goats and Co, Ultimate Frisbee and a Soccer Clinic.</li> </ul> <p>The Youth Council held 3 meetings from October to December.</p> <p>The Youth team recorded 3 podcast episodes in November, topics being:</p>	Ongoing



Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-esteem and Confidence;</li> <li>• First Nations Mental Health and Healing; and</li> <li>• Eat, Sleep and Exercise.</li> </ul> <p>End of Year Celebrations were held in this period, including the Youth Formal in late November at Nhill Memorial Community Centre with approximately 100 people attending and the Youth Council Break Up. Our Youth Councillors celebrated the end of their term on 9 November 2024 at the Jeparit Riverbank Precinct with a BBQ.</p> <p>Multicultural Youth activities included stand-up paddleboarding on 30 October and 13 November down at the Nhill Lake, as well as a trip to Mount Arapiles on 8 December.</p>	
<p>Support significant days/weeks for groups represented within the Shire, including International Day of People with a Disability and Harmony Day.</p>	<p>International Day of People with a Disability was held on 3 December 2025 at Tiny Goats Co. 70 people attended and had a fantastic time. Activities included petting and playing with the tiny goats, a farm experience with animals such as cows, alpacas and ducks, a free BBQ lunch and games.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>A Reconciliation Action Plan is in its final form, with adoption delayed due to Council elections. This will be revisited in Q3-4.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh</p>	<p>Lifeguard and First Aid training, including CPR, were undertaken by 25 young people from across the Shire prior to commencing employment as lifeguards at the Shire’s four swimming pools.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
	The official opening of the redeveloped Dimboola Soundshell included performances by young music and singing students to provide them with an opportunity to perform live on a stage in front of an audience.	

**Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment**

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
Commence construction at Davis Park, Nhill, on the AFL compliant changerooms with undercover seating.	Building permit for the project was finally issued at the end of October. Builder onsite immediately for excavation works and installation of concrete slab. Alternate seating supplier sourced, and new seats ordered (includes installation).	20%
Complete Nhill Aerodrome upgrades including drainage and pavement works.	Works complete.	100%
Continue to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.	Council staff continue to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.	Ongoing
Seek funding to install solar on Council buildings and halls.	Council has sourced quotes for Council’s six main power-drawing buildings, so that we are prepared to apply should funding become available.	30%
Develop and implement an up-to-date Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.	The Onsite Wastewater Management Plan was adopted on 28 August 2024.	100%
Explore funding options for installation of solar heating at the Dimboola Swimming Pool.	Solar heating was installed at Dimboola Swimming Pool in time for the opening of the 24/25 swimming season.	100%
Consider options for delivery of Weeds, Pest and Plant program following the changes to	Council has employed a Landcare Facilitator who works with local Landcare groups to prioritise issues within the Shire regarding Pest, Plants and Weeds.	50%

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
the Landcare network in the region.	Ongoing mapping works being undertaken by Landcare Facilitator to identify control issues and weed species.	
Adopt a Climate Adaption Strategy that supports community resilience, risk mitigation and reduced negative environmental impact within the Shire.	The Climate Adaption Strategy was adopted by Council on 28 August 2024.	100%
Increased building and planning enforcement activity to protect Council's environment.	Council is seeking training opportunities for delegated staff to support planning enforcement processes. Several building matters referred to Council's building department (third party service) for investigation and action.	Ongoing
Facilitate Hindmarsh Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group.	To re-commence after 2024/2025 harvest. Council partnered with Horsham Rural City Council to host a Heavy Vehicle workshop at the Nhill Trailer Exchange in November 2024.	Ongoing
Successful delivery of Council's Capital Works program as contained within the 2024-2025 Hindmarsh Shire Council Budget.	Council has completed several capital works projects, some include Netherby Baker Rd and Mckenzie Rd. Works are also underway on a number of other projects including Lorquon Netherby Rd and Old Minyip Rd. Other projects yet to be started are scheduled with intention to complete as many as possible prior to the end of 24/25.	30%
Sealed road construction works on Dimboola Minyip Road (subject to funding).	Works are scheduled for commencement in Q3, with designs having been completed and gravel carted to the nearby stack site.	10%
Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee and Wimmera Regional Transport Group.	Council has a delegate representing Council's interests on these committees.	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
Implement Assetic Cloud as an effective Asset Management software system, improving the financial efficacy, sustainability and usability of our asset management functions.	Data migration to be done in January 2025 for full implementation in June 2025.	40%
Install recycling and glass collection bins in main street in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Bins have been installed in Nhill, Jeparit, and Rainbow, with Dimboola scheduled in coming months. Designs for wrapping the bin with images is being finalised and will be finalised in consultation with the Town Committees.	75%
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season.	Completed in October 2024.	100%
Work closely with conservation partners including the Wimmera CMA to educate the community on land management and conservation strategies.	Council's Landcare Facilitator will work closely with stakeholder groups, including Wimmera CMA to provide education activities for the community.	50%
Continued implementation of the Nhill Streetscape Plan.	Works completed on the pathway linking Victoria Street and the Nhill Lake, including surface works and lighting installation.  Plans are underway for the Centenary Park component of the project, with Council officers continuing to consult with stakeholder groups on project details and implementation.	60%
Seek funding to upgrade Rainbow Public Amenities and install new all-abilities	Council continues to advocate for funding for this project and prepare plans to best position Council should a funding opportunity become available.	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
amenities and ramp into MECCA Supper Room.		
Continue development and implementation of the Hindmarsh Playground Strategy.	The Playground Strategy is scheduled to be presented to Council in draft form in 2025.	10%
Complete construction of new Mechanics workshop at Jeparit Depot.	Construction completed. Final components due for installation in early 2025.	90%
Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas.	Lighting posts included as part of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan Implementation at Centenary Park. Council will continue to seek additional opportunities to improve public lighting.	Ongoing

**Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy**

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
Participate in the Visitor Economy Partnership and commence development of Destination Management Plans and industry development activities.	The GWMTourism Destination Management Plan and Local Area Action Plans are finalised. Form, with a workplan to be established using the DMP & LAAP as a guide to regional and local priorities.	100%
Continue delivery of Silo Art project at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow.	Ongoing communication between stakeholders for design changes to finalise 'shop drawings' for prefabrication of the tower offsite (Ballarat). Excavation works commenced in December, uncovering concrete tunnel which impacts the construction zone. concrete removed, fill material to be replaced and compacted at the start of Q3.  Art Activation Expressions of Interest advertised with 24 submissions received. Shortlisted to 3	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
	submissions with further input requested for evaluation to appoint Artist in Q3.	
Deliver a Business Assistance Grants program responsive to the changing economic interests within the Shire.	Recommendations for the 2024/2025 Business Assistance Grants were presented and awarded at the Council meeting on 28 August 2024, exhausting the annual allocation for this grant stream.	100%
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, play and stay.	<p>The Economic Development and Tourism team is working on a communications plan to continue online promotion of local attractions and events in parallel to the GWM Tourism online marketing campaigns.</p> <p>Communications delivered on social media pages across the holiday period in late 2024 and will continue in early 2025.</p>	Ongoing
Host quarterly business networking sessions in Hindmarsh for businesses to come together, network and learn.	A Networking Session was held in Dimboola on 21 August 2024. Another session will be planned for February / March 2025.	50%
Undertake a review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme.	The Planning Scheme review is underway with briefings planned with Council in early 2025.	30%
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.	A grant application has been submitted for studio cabins at the Nhill Holiday Park (formerly Nhill Caravan Park).	50%
Commence implementation planning for Council's Economic	Economic Development Strategy Actions are being worked through.	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Update	Progress %
Development Strategy 2024-2028.		
Provide financial and in-kind support to regional community events held in Hindmarsh that increase economic benefit.	Grants program delivered in Q1, with remaining funding to be utilised in Q3-4.	50%
Actively seek funding to upgrade key freight routes for our agricultural economy.	Council have approved an application for Dimboola Minyip Rd and Lorquon Netherby Rd for a Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program grant. This will be submitted in Q3.	20%

**Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability**

Action Item	Q2 Progress	Progress %
Deliver proactive activities aimed at encouraging candidature for the 2024 Council elections, including the MAV Stand for Council Program.	Council hosted MAV Stand for Council and delivered media and social media campaigns to encourage community members to stand for Council. Council developed a document for Council nominees covering relevant Councillor information. Council elections delivered in October/November 2024.	100%
Prepare for, and deliver, a compliant caretaker and election period for the 2024 Local Council Elections.	Council officers have delivered several operational processes to support a compliant caretaker period include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and guidance documents for staff</li> <li>• Training and guidance documents for Councillors</li> <li>• Internal delivery plan developed and implemented</li> </ul>	100%
Review existing, and develop new, Councillor induction processes (including a training program) to facilitate	Councillor Induction Program developed and implemented in accordance with formal guidelines. Councillor handbook also prepared as a resource for the new Council.	100%



Action Item	Q2 Progress	Progress %
compliant and effective transition into a new Council period.		
Review and adopt critical Council policies as per Council's policy review cycle.	Limitations on Council making policy decisions continued through caretaker period until 26 October. At the Council meetings that remained for the quarter Council adopted the Councillor Interaction with Staff Policy, and the Internal Resolution Procedure.	Ongoing
Further develop and maintain a panel of preferred suppliers for critical services areas to ensure the efficiency of Council business.	Further discussion to clarify requirements / parameters to be held with Director Infrastructure Services and Contracts and Procurement Officer.  Planned for Q3-4 of this period.	Ongoing
Continue to promote transparency and accessibility of Council meetings through streaming meetings online and including closed captioning where possible.	While all meetings were streamed in this period, technical issues were experienced during this time and new equipment has been ordered to improve the livestreaming function for Council Meetings.	Ongoing
Continue to consider trainee, apprenticeship, and work placement opportunities to providing bringing pathways to employment at Council.	Recruitment process undertaken this quarter for an Intern Engineer over the summer university break providing a learning opportunity and an insight into working with Council.	Ongoing
Develop a guide to assist the community and to provide clarity on the process of public Council meetings and how to participate.	This is a priority for the development team post implementation of new equipment. To be completed prior to June 2025.	10%
Implement the Community Engagement Policy and provide	Coordinator Strategic Communications and Information Management appointed to	Ongoing

Action Item	Q2 Progress	Progress %
appropriate consultation and engagement methods for policies, projects and plans.	oversee effective engagement. Consultations limited in this period due to the Election Period. Planning is underway for consultation in February 2025.	
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.	Complaints training and guidance documents produced and circulated to staff with full project scheduled for the second half of the 2024/2025 FY.  Complaints Handling Policy under review, to be presented to Council in Q3.	20%
Update Council's Long Term Financial Plan.	The long term financial plan is to be prepared in conjunction with the 25/26 budget and will be presented to Council in June 2025.	Ongoing
Continue implementation of Gender Equality Action Plan.	A gender equity lens is applied to the development of all internal and external programs, policies and procedures that have a direct and significant impact on the community.  The results of Council's performance against the gender equality indicators will be published in Q3-4 after they are made available by the Commission.	Ongoing
Continue to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project.	All staff now have access to online leave forms and manual/paper leave forms will cease by the end of February 2025. Procure 2 Pay is at the training stage and due to be implemented prior to June 2025. Online timesheets and community engagement will be rolled out when they become available through the software supplier.	Ongoing
Maintain the Business Continuity Plan as an active document, ensuring that it is	Business Continuity Plan updated annually, provided to the Audit and Risk Committee for endorsement in September 2024.	100%

Action Item	Q2 Progress	Progress %
responsive to changing risk environments.		
<p>Enhance the organisations information, communications and technology (ICT) capabilities and systems, including strengthening our cyber-security capability.</p>	<p>Enhance the organisations information, communications and technology capabilities and systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued Rollout of improved higher spec devices to meet requirements of a Standard Operating Environment.</li> <li>• Windows 11 now in place as the default Operating system with a Device Rollover plan to keep devices current and in warranty. Legacy Windows 10 devices will be upgraded where applicable or replaced entirely before Operating System End of Life.</li> <li>• Review of the physical capabilities of network infrastructure to ensure still fit for purpose.</li> <li>• Outdoor staff given access to online leave via personal devices. MFA enforced for access with device security standard an additional requirement.</li> </ul> <p>Cyber Security capabilities and strengthening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum standard of Microsoft Business Premium License in place for all user accounts.</li> <li>• The review of existing firewalls showed area for potential improvement, planning is in place to add additional equipment and improve our security posture.</li> <li>• Continued review of system updates and application to impact users as little as possible.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Deliver actions within the Hindmarsh Shire Council Cultural Audit to improve the accessibility of	Key documents continue to be translated into Karen. Inclusive photo gallery in process for use in Council communications. Access,	30%

Action Item	Q2 Progress	Progress %
Council services and the diversity of our workforce.	Equity and Priority Policy to be developed and adopted in Q3-4.	
Engage local sporting clubs in the development and implementation of the Fair Access components of the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation and Use Policy.	Council engaged with Sporting Clubs in Q1 to inform the Fair Access Policy Action Plan. Sports and Recreation Strategy scheduled for development in Q3-4.	30%
Undertake review of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Workforce Plan.	Preliminary work has commenced with the Workforce plan to be completed following the Council plan.	10%

**Link to Council Plan:**

The Council Plan Action Plan is designed to support the implementation of the Council Plan.

**Financial Implications:**

Initiatives within the Council Plan Action Plan are accounted for in the Annual Budget as adopted.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	The preparation of the Council Plan, incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Community Vision, is a statutory requirement.
Community Needs	The actions contained within the Annual Action plan represent and allow progress on projects, events and services relevant to the community. This ensures that Council is expending resources efficiently and in line with community needs.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Gender Equality Act 2020*

*Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

**Community Engagement:**

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development and adoption of the Council Plan 2021-2025, additional engagement is undertaken in the development of the Annual Action Plans. Annual Action Plans are also informed by ongoing engagement

programs and the development of other Council strategies and plans, including Community Action Plans and the Economic Development Strategy.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

As this report presents an update for Council noting only, a Gender Impact Assessment is not required as there is no direct and significant impact on the community.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – 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:**

The Council Plan Q2 Update will be published via a media release to ensure that the information is available to the community.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers to continue implementation of the Council Plan Action Plan 2024/2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council receives the Council Plan Action Plan 2024/2025 second quarter update.***

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### 10.3 FINANCIAL REPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2 – ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Attachment Number:** 12

#### **Executive Summary:**

The Financial Report for the first half of the 2024/2025 financial year has been prepared, including explanations of variances where applicable. The report also contains the Local Government Performance Report to 31 December 2024.

As at 31 December 2024, Council's surplus is \$8.318m against a budget of \$5.229m. This variance is due to receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant in full in July 2024, whereas the budget reflects quarterly payments. As at 31 December Council had \$14.219m cash. The high cash balance is due to several capital projects being carried forward from 2023/2024 for completion in 2024/2025, as well as the early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant. Council's expenditure on capital works was \$3.358m against a budget of \$3.025m.

Some key indicators from the Performance Dashboard include consistent over-budget revenue at the Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park, and strong attendance at the Nhill, Jeparit and Rainbow holiday parks. The Performance Report reflects strong results in pool attendance, food safety assessments, and animal management service costs.

#### **Discussion:**

Council manages significant finances on behalf of the community and must manage these finances responsibly, effectively, and transparently to ensure the delivery of important services and facilities. As well as reporting quarterly on the delivery of the Council plan, quarterly financial reports are also prepared and provided to Council, forming a key component of Council's planning and reporting framework.

The content of financial reporting to Council summarises Council's financial health and shows how financial performance is tracking against the budget, highlighting any risks faced and providing information on any other relevant issues from that quarter.

The Financial Report (**Attachment 12**) includes:

- **Dashboard with both financial and non-financial indicators**

This information provides information in graph format for Council on a range of areas within Council including:

- rates outstanding and rates arrears.
- debtors and infringements outstanding.
- local laws information including after-hours calls, after-hours call outs, animals through pound and fines issued.
- a capital works update.

- planning permits applications and permits issued.
- staff accrued leave.
- Customer Service data including telephone calls and customers at each centre.
- Caravan park revenue and visitors for each of the four parks.

- **Executive Summary & Ratio Summary**

Along with the ratio summary, the Executive Summary section presents a high-level summary of YTD budget and actuals with a traffic light system to indicate any high-risk variances.

- **Income Statement**

As at 31 December Council surplus is \$8.318m against a budget of \$5.229m. The surplus is predominately due to the Financial Assistance Grant for 2024/2025 that was budgeted to be received quarterly being paid in full in July 2024.

- **Balance Sheet**

The information within the Balance Sheet includes current assets, non-current assets, current liabilities and non-current liabilities. Commentary is included for most items on the balance sheet.

- **Cash Flow Statement**

The information within the cash flow statement reflects the actual cash received and payments made for items. The cash flow statement will vary from the income statement due to timing of receipts and payments. The cash flow statement also includes payments for capital works but does not include depreciation.

As at 31 December Council had \$14.219m cash. The high cash balance is due to a number of capital projects being carried forward from 2023/2024 for completion in 2024/2025 and the early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant.

- **Capital Works Statement**

The information within the capital works statement includes projects of a capital nature that improve an asset. The capital works statement is broken into categories including buildings, plant and equipment, infrastructure, which is represented by new assets, renewal of assets, expansion of assets, and upgrades to assets.

As at 31 December Council expenditure on capital works was \$3.358m against a budget of \$3.025m. The variance is largely due to phasing of budgeted road projects as well as work undertaken on carried forward projects.

- **Key Result Area Summary**

The information within the Key Result Area Summary provides an overview of actual expenditure against budget for all service areas.

- **Detailed Capital Works Scheduling**

The information within the detailed capitals work scheduling provides Councillors with scheduled dates of commencement of capital works projects contained within the annual budget.

- **Local Government Performance Reporting Framework**

The information within the Local Government Report is a legislated report that gives Council an overview of progress in core functions within the Council in comparison to previous financial years. This report includes data on Waste Management, Governance, Food Safety, Roads and Statutory Planning. Library and Aquatic Facilities statistics provides insight into the use of these Council services.

**Link to Council Plan:**

Long-term financial sustainability

Ensure responsible risk-management principles

Strong governance practices

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	Reporting quarterly on Council’s financial position ensures the accountability and transparency of Council’s financial performance and enables Council to have high-level oversight of the same. Regular reporting allows for early identification of any high-risk items and early intervention should remedial action be required.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

Consultation with the community occurred during the development of the 2024/2025 Council Budget.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

This report provides financial information for Councillor noting only and therefore does not have a direct and significant impact on the community. As a result, a Gender Impact Assessment is not required.

**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:**

Nil.

**Next Steps:**

Nil.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2024 including the Local Government Performance Report to 31 December 2024 as presented.***

*Attachment Number: 12*

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## 10.4 COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION

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

### **Executive Summary:**

This report seeks the referral of a \$45,000 co-contribution to Council's 2025-2026 budget in support of a funding application through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2025.

The application will seek funding for the development of master plans for Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Jeparit Tennis Club, and Caravan Park Precinct and Nhill's Davis Park.

The maximum amount of funding available through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2025 is \$40,000. With indicative costs for the project being \$82,000, the co-contribution of \$45,000 meets the own funds requirement of \$10,000 and allows \$3,000 as a contingency.

### **Discussion:**

To support the priorities of Council's Draft Advocacy Strategy and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, it is proposed that Council submits a funding application through the Victorian Government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2 which was launched in late October 2024. The application is proposed for the development of master plans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Jeparit Tennis Club, and Jeparit Caravan Park precinct and Davis Park, Nhill.

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund is a competitive investment program, open to Local Government Authorities in rural and regional Victoria and Alpine Resorts Victoria, to deliver new and upgraded community sports infrastructure.

The Fund aims to increase and promote opportunities so Victorians can participate in community sports and recreation in ways that suit them and is targeted toward individuals and communities who participate less.

Applications for the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2, close on 17 March 2025, with outcomes announced from July 2025.

The *planning stream* of the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2, has two categories. The category relevant to this proposed application is **Municipal Planning**. Municipal planning enables strategic planning for specific facilities such as play spaces, aquatic centres and indoor sports stadiums or development of master plans for a minimum of three sites.

Master planning is a method for defining clear strategies for the physical, economic, and social transformation of places. Planning for change in the physical, social, and economic

fabric of places requires an integrated process achieved through the efforts of many – user groups, Councillors and local communities.

The development of a masterplan for the **Dimboola Recreation Reserve** has been a Council and user group priority for several years. As there are at least eight user groups, plus public use within the recreation reserve, it is imperative that any future proposed developments include multi-use, gender equality and all abilities access considerations. The Dimboola Recreation Reserve is considered one of the best in western Victoria due to its size, proximity to the Wimmera River and the local environment, however most facilities and infrastructure on the site require significant redevelopment. With appropriate planning and future redevelopment, the Dimboola Recreation Reserve has the potential to become a leading regional facility.

The **Jeparit Tennis Club** currently has six tennis courts, of which three are not usable and three need an upgrade. The preferred outcome is to have a total of four tennis courts, and it is envisaged that the masterplan will provide plans for the establishment of the four courts with the remaining two courts being removed to enable an expansion of powered sites and non-powered sites for the Jeparit Caravan Park.

Stage 1 of the redevelopment of **Davis Park, Nhill** is currently underway with construction of new AFL compliant change rooms and undercover tiered seating. Future stages of redevelopment include the following:

- Second netball court.
- New netball / female changerooms
- New clubrooms / community function centre
- Power and oval / court lighting upgrades
- New public amenities

The proposed masterplan for Davis Park will replace previous plans that were developed as part of the 2016 Nhill Community Precinct Plan and the plan developed by Nhill and District Sporting Club in 2021. Neither of these documents are still relevant or accurate in their entirety.

Construction of new AFL compliant change rooms and tiered spectator seating is currently underway, and the new master plan will include high level schematic planning of the above stages to ensure that future developments will fit within the footprint of Davis Park and cost estimates.

**Link to Council Plan:**

A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community.

Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and abilities.

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

Gender Equity, respect and leadership.

**Financial Implications:**

One application per Council can be submitted for the Planning stream with the maximum amount of funding available being \$40,000. Funding is based on an SRV \$4.00: to Local \$1.00: ratio, meaning that for every \$1.00 Council contributes, \$4.00 can be applied for from Sport and Recreation Victoria to a maximum of \$40,000.00.

Due to the fee proposal of \$82,000 to develop the three master plans as outlined, and the contingency of \$3,000, Council will need to contribute \$45,000, including the \$10,000 available as part of the funding ratio required for the total SRV ask of \$40,000. This funding allocation will be required to be accounted for in Councils 2025/2026 annual budget.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Failure to strategically plan for the development and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities places Council in a vulnerable position when applying for grants to fund future developments. It is crucial that community consultation and appropriate planning are undertaken and demonstrated for any grant applications to be successful. Support from the community through consultation and engagement processes ensures that Council is dedicating resources to initiatives that are supported by the community.
Asset Management	Review of existing, or development of new, masterplans ensures that Council’s assets are being monitored and that Council is providing facilities to suit community needs, including access and availability to people who are less likely to participate or have accessibility issues. The development of masterplans enables Council to strategically plan for asset management and stage development in accordance with resourcing.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Gender Equality Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

Councils are required to undertake deliberative engagement as per the adopted Community Engagement Policy, this requires that we engage with community members impacted by potential decisions of Council.

Future community engagement will be conducted by both Council officers and Consultants appointed to develop the master plans if the funding application is successful. Consultation will also be conducted with specific user groups and the public in relation to developments likely to impact the community.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

A Gender Impact Assessment will be completed both on the application and the development of the master plans, subject to Council's support of the proposal and a successful application outcome.

**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 – Phil King, Manager Community Wellbeing

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

**Communications Strategy:**

N/A

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will commence the development of a funding application, including liaising with relevant stakeholders to obtain letters of support. Any approved co-contribution amount will be noted by the finance team and included in the draft 2025-2026 budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council supports the development and submission of a funding application through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2025 for the establishment of master plans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Jeparit Tennis Club and Caravan Park Precinct and Davis Park, Nhill and refer Council's co-contribution of \$45,000 to the 2025 / 2026 annual budget.*

## 10.5 NHILL CARAVAN PARK MASTERPLAN

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

**Attachment Number:** 13

### **Executive Summary:**

This report presents the Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan for adoption following an extensive development and consultation process.

At the Council meeting on 8 May 2024, Council endorsed the release of the draft Nhill Caravan Masterplan to the public for review and comment from Thursday 9 May 2024 to Friday 7 June 2024. Key components of the plan include a new amenities block, improved powered sites, accommodation cabins and improved vehicle/caravan access, and improved facilities for park users.

As a result of feedback received through this process, Council Officers worked with Thomson Hay Landscape Architects to develop a revised Masterplan that responded to community and Council input.

This Masterplan is now presented to Council for adoption.

### **Discussion:**

In May 2023, Council called for quotations from appropriately qualified and experienced consultants to undertake the development of a Masterplan for the Nhill Caravan Park. Subsequently, Thomson Hay Landscape Architects was awarded the contract in late May 2023. As part of the development of the Masterplan the following items were stipulated as inclusions:

- New amenities block (existing amenities block was refurbished in 2021);
- Improved powered sites, accommodation cabins and improved vehicle/caravan access; and
- Facilities for park users, e.g. camp kitchen, BBQs, laundry & playground.

The draft Masterplan was provided to the parties responsible for the Nhill Caravan Park at the time as well as the Nhill A&P Society and Nhill Vintage Machinery Club for them to review and comment prior to release to the public.

At the Council meeting on 8 May 2024, Council endorsed the release of the draft Nhill Caravan Masterplan to the public for review and comment from Thursday 9 May 2024 to Friday 7 June 2024.

At the time of closing, one formal response was received through Council's Have Your Say Hindmarsh website, while a range of comments and responses were received during community drop-in sessions.

Community drop-in sessions also included separate discussions with representatives of the Nhill Vintage Machinery Club and Nhill A&P Society as their groups operate adjacent to this property and may be impacted by any proposed plans.

A Briefing Report was prepared and presented to Council on 26 June 2024, following the draft plan being available for public comment.

Most improvements and redevelopments as illustrated on the draft masterplan were well received, however some specific issues and concerns were raised that have been addressed in the following table.

Item #	Issues / Concerns	Response / Actions
#A	<p>The entrance into the Nhill Caravan Park, Nhill Showgrounds and Nhill Trailer Exchange from Victoria Street received the most comments, as people felt this area required urgent attention.</p> <p>Respondents stated that there have been numerous near misses between trucks turning into the trailer exchange and cars and caravans entering or exiting the caravan park. A&amp;P Society and Nhill Vintage Machinery Club members said that they often see evidence that trucks have missed the turn into the trailer exchange and end up in the showgrounds with some either turning around to exit or just staying overnight.</p> <p>Comments were that the entry into the trailer exchange is not adequate for B Triples, Quads or even some of the larger B Doubles and they should be re-directed to the trailer exchange on the outskirts of town.</p> <p>Other comments were that the signage for the trailer exchange is inadequate – particularly at night.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>A suggested solution to the issues is to widen the entrance from Victoria Street to provide cars, caravans and trucks with sufficient space to safely enter/exit the three locations. However, as this impacts more than just the Nhill Caravan Park, consultation with VicRoads would be required.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Council to record the issues as identified and when appropriately investigated, engage with VicRoads to determine actions and processes to mitigate future issues. Masterplan directions have taken these concerns into consideration to ensure that any infrastructure or vegetation does not impede future works at the entrance.</p>
#B.	<p>The aesthetics of the front of the Nhill Caravan Park could be improved with artwork on the fence or a new fence and / or plantings of vegetation that will</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>New signage promoting the Nhill Caravan Park has been installed. Lighting will also be installed to illuminate the sign at night.</p>

Item #	Issues / Concerns	Response / Actions
	improve the appearance and act as a noise buffer from highway traffic.	Any future outcomes of vegetation planting should be developed to improve the aesthetic of the park and reduce the noise levels from the highway traffic.
#C & #J	One other main concern expressed by both the A&P Society and the Vintage Machinery Club was that in the event of an emergency at the entrance to the trailer exchange, caravan park or showgrounds, a bushfire in the swamp or some other incident, there is no alternative entry / exit into the caravan park. It was suggested that an emergency entry / exit could be established at either or both locations marked #C or #J. In addition, the emergency assembly area as indicated is adjacent to the main entry gate, so there should be an alternative emergency assembly area identified.	<b>Action:</b> The location identified as #C is the most logical place for an emergency exit, although this will remove the option of a powered site.
#D	The masterplan states that there will be screen plantings around the playground. It has been asked to remove this as there should be a line of sight into the playground to enable parents to keep a watch on the children and the inclusion of screen plantings would prevent this.	<b>Action:</b> Screening plantings around the playground area will be removed from the Masterplan, with low level plantings included for aesthetic purposes. Screening plantings will also be planted inside the front fence to buffer the sound of highway traffic.
#E.	The A&P Society and the Vintage Machinery Club have asked for clarification of the boundary on the southwest fence line as the boundary on the plans and surveyor marks on-site appear to be different.	<b>Action:</b> The boundary line as indicated on the draft masterplan is in accordance with the surveyor's report following their survey of the site.
#F.	Entry and exit boom gates – it was asked whether these will be operational 24/7 or only at certain times during the day or night. Council officer response was that they will probably be operational during	<b>Action:</b> No action required at this time as the hours that the boom gates are open / closed will be an operational matter when they are installed.



Item #	Issues / Concerns	Response / Actions
	times when the office is not attended or closed during the evening / early morning.	
#G.	The A&P Society and Vintage Machinery Club both agree that a solid fence (colourbond / timber / panel) along the southwestern boundary is an excellent idea as it will provide multiple benefits to the caravan park including privacy as well as reducing wind, dirt, weeds and rubbish blowing into the park.	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Further consultation to be held between Council, Nhill A&amp;P Society and Nhill Vintage Machinery Club to identify the most suitable type and size of fence for the purposes as proposed and for details to be included on the Masterplan.</p> <p>However, the likely consensus is that the fence will be colourbond steel.</p>
#H.	The A&P Society and Vintage Machinery Club have asked for clarification about the location of the retaining wall – will it be in addition to the proposed fence or part of the proposed fence?	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Further consultation to be held between Council, Nhill A&amp;P Society and Nhill Vintage Machinery Club to identify the exact location, size and type of construction material of the proposed retaining wall.</p>
#I.	The A&P Society and Vintage Machinery Club have asked for clarification on a timeline as to when Council is likely to want to take control of this area, so they have sufficient time to remove and re-house the equipment currently stored in the location. There is also a small shed on this site that the Vintage Machinery Club houses their air compressor in. A suggested use for this area included dog friendly powered caravan sites where the boundary of the sites is fenced with an appropriate dog proof fence and the caravans are located within the fenced in area. These sites are apparently becoming very popular within caravan parks.	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>Council to determine the future use and need of the area identified and to communicate with the Nhill A&amp;P Society and Nhill Vintage Machinery Club when timelines are known.</p>
#J.	Whilst not illustrated on the masterplan, there will potentially need to be an area identified for the future location of loaded	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>A mains water pressure test has been requested to determine the water flow</p>

Item #	Issues / Concerns	Response / Actions
	water storage tanks and infrastructure to comply with CFA regulations in relation to firefighting services. Refer to page 6 of the full draft Masterplan for references in relation to access for fire service vehicles. Consideration should also be given to any future installations of bulk gas storage facilities if permitted.	and when details are known the full extent of alternative systems will be identified.

As a result of the feedback, Council Officers worked with Thomson Hay Landscape Architects to develop a revised Masterplan that is presented for adoption.

**Link to Council Plan:**

A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community.

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

Attractive streetscapes.

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation.

**Financial Implications:**

Any works for the redevelopment of the Nhill Caravan Park in accordance with the Masterplan will be subject to the availability of external funding and/or budget allocations as determined in the annual budget.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management	The Masterplan will ensure that Council has clear direction when planning improvements and seeking funding for works to this important tourism asset. Ensuring that visitors have appropriate and accessible accommodation improves the financial viability of town businesses and supports Council’s overall tourism strategy.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

Community Engagement as required by the Act and Council’s Community Engagement Policy has been undertaken and is detailed in the body of the report.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

Gender Impacts Assessments will be undertaken on any proposed updates or developments that transpire as a result of implementation of the Masterplan.

**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 – Phil King, Manager Community Wellbeing  
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

**Communications Strategy:**

If adopted, Council officers will prepare communications that update the community on this project's progress.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will publish the Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan on Council's website and prepare project scoping plans to support future budget and funding submissions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council adopts the Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan.***

*Attachment Number: 13*

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## 10.6 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION 2025

**Responsible Officer:** Mayor

### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to submit a motion to the Australian Local Government Association's (**ALGA**) National General Assembly 2025 (**NGA**) that aims to enable economic development in small communities and support the financial sustainability of rural and regional Councils.

The proposed motion is as follows -

*"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a funding stream targeting small towns (up to 2,500 residents) in regional Australia, focused on innovative renewal for a sustainable future."*

### **Discussion:**

The ALGA's mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and communities. This year, the theme for the NGA is *National Priorities Need Local Solutions*.

As the closest government to communities, Councils understand local challenges and opportunities. They are a willing partner in government, and sustainably funded can provide place-based solutions to a range of national priorities including affordable housing, energy transition, road safety, increasing productivity, and improved health and wellbeing.

Specifically, the priority areas that any proposed motion must relate to include:

- Intergovernmental relations;
- Financial sustainability;
- Roads and infrastructure;
- Emergency management;
- Housing and homelessness;
- Jobs and skills;
- Community services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, digital technology and cyber security;
- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Environment;
- Circular economy

The proposed motion complements the 'financial sustainability' and 'community services' priorities in seeking to address the economic and financial sustainability of small rural and

regional towns and the local Councils that service them, as well as enabling locally designed economic development activities.

As well as Councils requiring tangible support from the State and Federal Government through policy and financial assistance for local government administration, there is a mutual dependency between Councils and the community when it comes to economic wellbeing and financial sustainability. Council must maintain roads, infrastructure and amenities to create safe and liveable spaces, and homeowners, business owners and workers need to drive economic development through investment in local communities.

Additionally, trades, business and Council in small towns are critical for providing services to key industries, including agriculture and food production, whose outputs contribute significantly to Australia's economy. The estimated economic output of the Shire in 2022 was \$721.5 million and 57.3% was contributed by the primary and secondary sectors. In order to provide services, quality infrastructure, recreational spaces and job opportunities that attract and retain residents, an inter-governmental approach is required that centralises local government's knowledge and ability to deliver locally appropriate solutions.

This motion requests additional funding that supports innovation and sustainability in regional towns and will empower Councils to provide local solutions that respond to national problems.

The motion creates scope for solutions to include innovative and creative uses of vacant commercial and recreational buildings and spaces, social enterprise development, job and skills-based training to support local industries, streetscape improvements, business development and support and tourism initiatives.

**Options:**

Council can choose to amend, support or not support the motion.

**Link to Council Plan:**

Facilitating and supporting economic development  
Long term financial sustainability

**Financial Implications:**

Nil.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	This decision enables Council to submit a motion to the ALGA NGA that leverages the collective influence of the ALGA to support Council's identified risks, including financial sustainability and meeting community needs.
Community Needs	

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

This motion supports the aims of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy that was developed through significant community engagement processes.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

This decision does not have a direct and significant impact on the community, therefore a Gender Impact Assessment is not required.

**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 – Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor.

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:**

Nil.

**Next Steps:**

If supported, the Mayor will work with Council officers to submit the Motion in line with ALGA NGA requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council supports the motion to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly 2025 as follows:***

***"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a funding stream targeting small towns (up to 2,500 residents) in regional Australia, focused on innovative renewal for a sustainable future."***

## 11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Nil.

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### 11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Number:** 14

**Introduction:**

One (1) Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Asset Committee held a meeting on the following date:

- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**  
General Meeting on 28 November 2024

A copy of the minutes for the Yurunga Homestead Committee meeting held on 28 November 2024 are included as an attachment for the information of Council.

**Next Steps:**

Community Asset Committee Minutes will be published on Council's website.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes the minutes of the Yurunga Homestead Committee meeting held on 28 November 2024.***

*Attachment Number: 14*

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**12 LATE REPORTS**

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**13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

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**14 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 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. 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:*

**15.1 INDEPENDENT CHAIR – CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**  
*– this report contains “private commercial information” insofar as it pertains to applications and fee structures for services to be provided to Council.*

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**16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

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**17 MEETING CLOSE**

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