



**Swan Hill Rural  
City Council**

# **SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 16 July 2024  
to be held at 2:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
Swan Hill Town Hall  
53 – 57 McCallum Street, Swan  
Hill. VIC 3585**

## **AGENDA**

### **PUBLIC ACCESS**

**Open to the public and  
Live streaming from Council's  
website: [www.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au)**

## Governance Rules

A copy of Swan Hill Rural City Council's governance rules can be found at <https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/about/overview/policies/governance-rules-2020/>

## Executive Leadership Team

Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer

Bruce Myers, Director of Community and Cultural Services

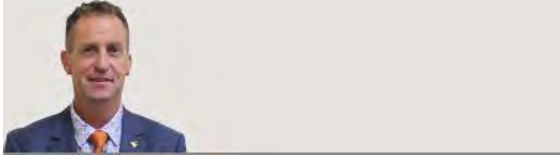
Michelle Grainger, Director of Development and Planning

Bhan Pratap, Director of Corporate Services

Leah Johnston, Director of Infrastructure

## Swan Hill Elected Members

### Mayor

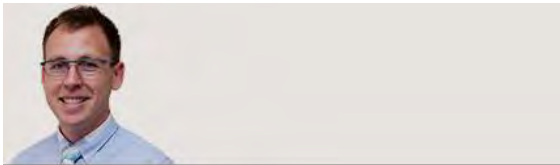


**Cr Stuart King**

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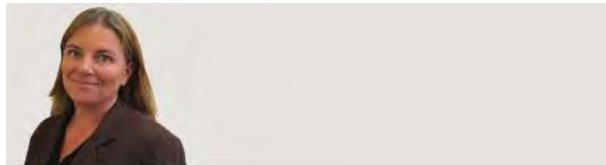
### Councillors



**Cr Chris Jeffery**

0429 447 802

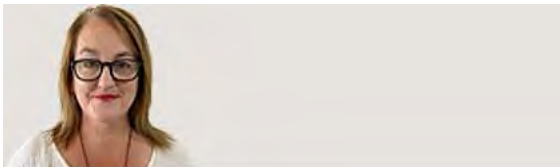
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**Cr Nicole McKay**

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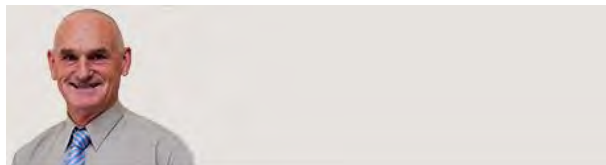
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**Cr Jacquie Kelly**

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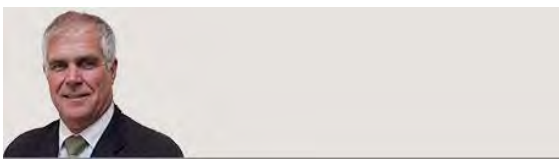
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**Cr Bill Moar**

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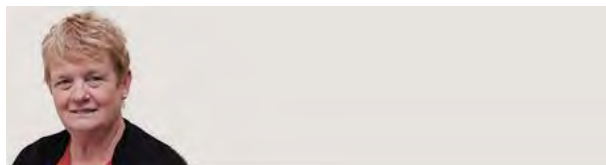
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**Cr Les McPhee**

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**Cr Ann Young**

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## Vision Statement

Built on strong foundations that embrace our rich History and natural environment, our region will be a place of progressions and possibility. We are a community that is happy, healthy and harmonious - we are empowered, we are respectful and we are proud.

## Our Mission

We will lead, advocate, partner and provide efficient services and opportunities for growth and the wellbeing of our community, environment and economy.

## Our Values

Council values our residents and community and will be responsive to their needs. In pursuing our objectives, we believe in, and are committed to, the following values:

**Community engagement** - We will ensure that our communities are consulted, listened to and informed.

**Leadership** - We will be at the centre of our community and by actively engaging our community we will form the collective view on strategic issues and will then express our views through strong advocacy and action.

**Fairness** - We will value and embrace the diversity of our community and ensure that all people are treated equally.

**Accountability**- We will be transparent and efficient in our activities and we will always value feedback.

**Trust** - We will act with integrity and earn the community's trust by being a reliable partner in delivering services, projects and providing facilities.

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## 1 Procedural Matters

### 1.1 Welcome

### 1.2 Acknowledgement Of Country

*“Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present.”*

### 1.3 Opening Declaration

*“We beseech you Lord, that we may be granted wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose, in the decisions we are called on to make for the welfare of the people of the Rural City of Swan Hill.”*

Or

“We, the Councillors of Swan Hill Rural City Council, declare that we will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor, in the best interests of our community, and faithfully, and impartially, carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us, to the best of our skill and judgement.”

### 1.4 Apologies / Leaves of Absence

None when the Agenda was distributed.

### 1.5 Directors / Officers Present

### 1.6 Confirmation of Minutes

#### 1.6.1 Confirmation of Minutes - Scheduled Council Meeting - 18 June 2024

#### Recommendation/s

That the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on the 18 June 2024 be confirmed.

### 1.7 Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

### 1.8 Joint Letters and Reading of Petitions

Nil.

## 1.9 Public Questions Time

**You can access the form Public Question Time form from:**

<https://forms.swanhill.vic.gov.au/council-meeting-public-question-time/>

### **Please note**

- Only ONE question per form submission.
- Submission must be received no later than 10:00am on the day prior to the meeting.
- A time is set aside for public questions during a Council meeting at which time each question will be read after the Chairman has looked at its contents and determined that the question is appropriate.
- Statements and opinions are not permitted during question time and will not be read to the meeting.
- The Chairman may disallow any question. This may be because the question is repetitive of a question already asked, objectionable, irrelevant, raises an issue of a confidential nature or is asked to embarrass a Councillor or Council officer. The Chairman will provide reasons where a question is disallowed. Questions considered to be inappropriate will be made available to Councillors on request.
- The Chairman will nominate the appropriate Councillor or Council officer to answer the question or elect to answer it himself/herself.
- No debate or discussion of the questions or answers is permitted.
- The Chairman may elect to take a question on notice in which case a written response will generally be provided within 10 working days.
- A summary of the text of the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting.

### **Who can use this form**

- Any community member

### **While completing this form, we will request**

- Your contact details (including your name, address, phone and email)
- Your question

It will take about 5 minutes to complete this form.

### **After you submit this form**

- We will send you an email receipt to confirm we have received your submission

### **What happens with your information?**

The information requested in this form is collected by Swan Hill Rural City Council to assist us in responding to your question.



Your name, suburb and question may be read out at the Council meeting and will be recorded in the Council meeting minutes but will not be used for any other purpose unless required by law.

We will handle any personal information you provide on this form in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. We record this information on our customer databases and make it available to relevant Council staff in line with our Privacy Statement.

You can access your personal information by contacting our Privacy Officer.

## 1.10 Open Forum

Please see below “Governance Rules 2023 – Section 7 referring to Open Forum” which outlines the rules and procedure of open forum.

### **7. Community questions and submissions**

#### **7.1. Open Forum and Questions Of Council Time To Be Held**

- (1) The Council will hold Open Forum and Questions of Council Time for up to 30 minutes duration at the beginning of each Scheduled Meeting to allow public submissions and questions of Council. Extension of time may be granted by resolution of Council.
- (2) Open Forum is an opportunity for the general public to present to Council on a matter listed on the Agenda or any other matter.
- (3) Questions of Council are an opportunity for the general public to submit a question prior to the Scheduled Meeting and receive a response from Council in the Questions of Council time.
- (4) Council meetings are recorded and broadcasted to the public; this includes community questions and submissions.

#### **Open forum and questions of council guidelines**

**7.2.** Questions of Council time and Open Forum will not apply during any period when the Council has resolved to close the meeting in respect of a matter under section 66 (1) of the Act.

**7.3.** Submissions as part of Open Forum and Questions of Council may be on any matter except if it:

- (a) is considered malicious, defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial, or objectionable in language or substance;
- (b) relates to confidential information as defined under the Act;
- (c) relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- (d) relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (e) If a person has submitted more than 2 questions to a meeting, the third and further questions may, at the discretion of the Chairperson be deferred until all other person who have asked a question have had their questions asked and answered and not be asked if the time allotted for public question time has expired.

**7.4.** Where the Mayor does not accept a question, the submitter is to be informed of the reason or reasons for which their question was not accepted.

**7.5.** The Mayor reserves the right to cease a submission as part of Open Forum if they deem the submission inappropriate.

**7.6.** Where possible Copies of all questions allowed by the Mayor will be provided in writing to all Councillors.

- 7.7. A submission or question submitted in writing by a member of the public, which has been disallowed by the Mayor will be provided to any Councillor on request.

#### **Open forum**

- 7.8. For any member of the public who wishes to be heard at Open Forum they must give prior notice:
- (a) in written form;
  - (b) contain the name, address and email or contact telephone number of the person to be heard;
  - (c) by online request <https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/>;
  - (d) in a letter to the Chief Executive Office, 45 Splatt Street, Swan Hill, Vic 3585; or
  - (e) in an email [council@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@swanhill.vic.gov.au); or
  - (f) hand delivery to the Council's Office, 45 Splatt Street, Swan Hill or 72 Herbert Street, Robinvale.
- 7.9. It is preferable for any group or association that wishes to be heard at Open Forum to nominate a spokesperson for an issue upon which the group or association may wish to be heard.

#### **Open Forum Procedure**

##### **7.10. Public addressing the Meeting**

- (1) Any member of the public addressing Council must extend due courtesy and respect to Council and the processes under which it operates and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called on to do so.
- (2) Council may suspend standing orders to hear from a community member or representative of an organisation, on matters of significance to the Council, only if prior arrangements have been made by written request to the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

- 7.11. The Chair will allocate a maximum of 3 minutes to each person who wishes to address Council.

- 7.12. The Chair will first invite any person who has given prior notice to present to Council.

- 7.13. The Chair will then invite members of the gallery who would like to present to Council.

- 7.14. The Chair has the discretion to alter the order of persons to be heard.

##### **7.15. The person in addressing the Council:**

- (a) must confine their address to the 3-minute allocation of time;
- (b) shall extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates; and
- (c) shall take direction from the Chair whenever called upon to do;
- (d) There will be no discussion or debate with the attendees to Open Forum however Councillors may ask questions of clarification of the attendee;
- (e) Standing Orders do not need to be suspended to allow discussion for the purposes of clarification.

## 2 Officer Reports for Decision

### 2.1 Amendment of Budget 2024-25

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-06-18  
**Purpose:** For Decision

#### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

##### 4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

#### Current Strategic Documents

Budget

#### Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

#### Summary

The Budget 2024-25 as adopted on 18 June 2024 contains rates and property valuation data based on information available prior to completion of the annual valuation process. To ensure accuracy of the adopted budget and compliance with the Fair Go Rates System, amended rates information is required to be adopted.

Upon consideration of the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020, the adjusted rate in the dollar figures require formal adoption for the 2024-25 budget year to ensure they align with the raising of Council rates.

#### Discussion

The valuation of all rateable properties and subsequent audit check by the Valuer General Victoria, in conjunction with development of the Council Budget, is a tight timeframe. The Valuer-General Victoria certified preliminary valuations for budget purposes on 26 April 2024. These valuations are used to calculate the rates in the dollar for each type or class of land, after which rating models are run to determine total available rates to be raised. This ensures that the rates raised by Council increase within the maximum permitted under the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS).

The Budget 2024-25 as adopted on 18 June 2024 contained rates tables based on information available prior to the completion of the annual valuation process and the

verification by the Valuer-General. To ensure accuracy of the adopted budget amended rates information is required to be adopted.

The adopted Budget 2024-25 includes rate in the dollar values that if applied to final valuation figures provided by the Valuer General would result in an amount of rates raised that would exceed the FGRS rate cap. The changes required are to the declared rates in the dollar. This change is required to ensure that when rates are raised they are within the declared State Government Rate Cap of 2.75%.

The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under Section 158 of the Local Government Act 1989 for each type or class of land are detailed in the table below:

Type or class of land	Rate in the dollar as per adopted Budget 2024-25 cents/\$CIV	Amendment to Rate in the dollar required to be adopted
Residential – Swan Hill	0.441168	0.440202
Residential – Robinvale	0.441168	0.440202
Residential vacant land – Swan Hill and Robinvale	1.357440	1.354469
Urban – Other	0.424200	0.423271
Commercial – Swan Hill	0.551460	0.550253
Commercial – Robinvale	0.551460	0.550253
Industrial – Swan Hill	0.441168	0.440202
Industrial – Robinvale	0.441168	0.440202
Industrial and commercial – other	0.424200	0.423271
Recreational	0.424200	0.423271
Farm – Irrigation and non-irrigation	0.424200	0.423271
Farm – dry land	0.339360	0.338617

### Consultation

A formal advertising and submission process has taken place for the adoption of the Budget 2024-25.

The Budget has been prepared with significant guidance from Councillors, the Executive Management Team, Managers and Officers.

### Financial Implications

Adoption of the revised rate in the dollar values to ensure compliance with the FGRS rate cap will result in the total rates raised decreasing by \$42,000. This slight reduction in rates raised can be accommodated within the current budget.

### Social Implications

These amendments do not impact or increase social implications as a result of proposed changes.

### Economic Implications



There are no economic implications for this report

### Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications for this report.

### Risk Management Implications

By adopting this amendment, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk and ensures the accuracy of the declared rates in the dollar and compliance with the FGRS and the declared rate cap for 2024-25.

**Attachments:** Nil

### Options

1. Adopt the amendments to the declared rates in the dollar to ensure compliance with the Fair Go Rates System, raising \$28.38 million with the adjusted rate in the dollar values. These rates will be less than those declared by council on 18 June 2024.
2. Raise rates using the differentials declared on 18 June 2024. This will result in a level of rate raising that will exceed the rate cap set at 2.75%.

### Recommendation/s

#### That Council:

1. That Council adopt the amendments to the declared rates in the dollar as per the table below, raising a total of \$28.38 million:

Type or class of land	Rate in the dollar as per adopted Budget 2024-25 cents/\$CIV	Amendment to Rate in the dollar required to be adopted
Residential – Swan Hill	0.441168	0.440202
Residential – Robinvale	0.441168	0.440202
Residential vacant land – Swan Hill and Robinvale	1.357440	1.354469
Urban – Other	0.424200	0.423271
Commercial – Swan Hill	0.551460	0.550253
Commercial – Robinvale	0.551460	0.550253
Industrial – Swan Hill	0.441168	0.440202
Industrial – Robinvale	0.441168	0.440202
Industrial and commercial – other	0.424200	0.423271
Recreational	0.424200	0.423271
Farm – Irrigation and non-irrigation	0.424200	0.423271
Farm – dry land	0.339360	0.338617

## 2.2 Appointment of Two Councillors to Sign Annual Financial Statements

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-28-18  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

#### 4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

### Current Strategic documents

Annual Report

### Declarations of Interest:

Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

### Summary

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council appoint two Councillors as authorised signatories for the Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement.

### Discussion

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council appoint two Councillors to be the authorised signatories to the final set of Annual Statements. The signing will occur once the Statements have been reviewed by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

The Annual Statements comprise of the General Purpose Financial Statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the Performance Statement prepared in accordance with the Act.

The Statements will be reviewed by the Audit Committee and the Auditor General's Office. The two Councillors can then sign the statements enabling Audit opinions to be issued and the Annual Report to be finalised.

An advertising process will then take place, with the Statements being adopted at the Scheduled Meeting of Council, in October 2024.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil.

### **Social Implications**

Nil.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **Risk Management Implications**

It is a statutory requirement that two Councillors are nominated to sign the Financial and Performance Statements.

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Options**

1. Council may choose to appoint any two Councillors to sign the Statements.  
Past practice has been that the Mayor is one of the appointed signatories.

### **Recommendation/s**

**That Council appoint two Councillors to sign the Annual Financial and Performance Statements once audit clearance has been obtained.**

## 2.3 Community Grants Program 2024/2025 Successful Recipients

**Directorate:** Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S17-01-01-10  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**1. Liveability** - We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.

#### 1.4 Foster Creative and Cultural opportunities

1.4.1 Promote and celebrate the creative and cultural pursuits within the region

**3. Harmony** - We will be a welcoming community for all, recognised for our maturity and respect for each other.

#### 3.1 Communities that are safe, welcoming and inclusive

3.1.3 Flourishing community organisations

### Current Strategic documents

No strategic documents applicable.

### Declarations of Interest:

Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

### Summary

This report provides Council with information in relation to the 2024/2025 Community Grants Program, which includes the Community Development and Event Support Funds. It makes recommendations to assist Council in determining which applications should receive funding.

### Discussion

#### Community Development Fund

The Community Development Fund provides funding of up to \$5,000 for eligible community groups to carry out their objectives.

Projects funded may include:

- Structural repairs or minor upgrades to community facilities

- New or upgraded equipment essential to the operation of the community group
- Current OH&S or risk management issues
- New programs or activities within a community
- Projects for specific high needs groups
- Projects that promote local sustainability initiatives, environmental innovation, create proud community spaces and promote responsible water usage and conservation
- Protection, conservation and restoration of heritage items and assets
- Club capacity (training, business plans etc)

An assessment panel comprising of the Chief Executive Officer, Director Development and Planning, Building Program Coordinator, Community Development Officer, Mayor Cr. Stuart King, and Cr. Chris Jeffery evaluated all applications against the criteria. Each application was assessed with the following factors considered to determine priorities for funding:

- Does the project support community development and resilience?
- Does the project represent value for money?
- Will the project add to the sustainability of the applicant organisation?
- Are there alternate funding sources available?

### **Applications**

This year 46 submissions were received with 40 deemed eligible for assessment. Of these 40 applications, 22 are recommended for funding.

The total value requested from Council was \$165,374 with the annual budget for the 2024/2025 round being \$78,000.

### **Successful Grants**

Successful applicants will contribute approximately \$170,000 in cash, in-kind and sponsorship/other funding to match Council's \$78,000 worth of grant funds. This will result in approximately \$248,000 worth of community projects being completed by the end of May 2025.

A broad cross-section of projects recommended for approval cover several townships throughout the municipality including Swan Hill, Lake Boga, Piangil, Nyah, Speewa and Manangatang.

As part of the funding, groups will be asked to acknowledge Council as part of their project, which will include the Council logo in marketing, signs or other collateral. This is in addition to other acknowledgement requirements such as recognition of the sponsorship in any formal speeches made.



Refer Attachment A: 2024/2025 Community Development Fund for the list of recommended applications.

### **Unsuccessful Applications**

The 24 ineligible or unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and feedback will be provided regarding their application.

### **Event Support Fund**

The Event Support Fund provides cash sponsorship and logistical support up to the value of \$5,000 to event organisers. Events funded may include:

- New or emerging events
- Bring strong economic and/or social benefit to the region
- Promote growth, innovation and encourage visitation
- Develop new or innovative element to expand an event.

An assessment panel comprising of the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Development and Planning, Manager Libraries, Operations Manager, Mayor Cr. Stuart King and Cr. Bill Moar evaluated all applications against the set criteria.

In considering the level of support to an event, the following was considered to determine priorities for funding:

- Economic Benefit
- Social Benefit
- Growth and Innovation

### **Applications**

A total of 49 applications were received for the 2024/2025 round. In comparison, last year (2023/2024) we received 34 applications.

The annual budget for the Event Support Fund is \$100,000. The total value of cash sponsorship requested from the Event Support Fund was \$145,129 which does not account for logistical (in-kind) support leaving the budget oversubscribed.

Of the 49 applicants, 24 of the applications were for new events. 25 applicants have reapplied for existing events through this year's program.

### **Successful Applications**

The \$100,000 budget supports the cost of event (cash) sponsorship and logistical (in-kind) support. Logistical support can include the use of Council owned assets or services for their event, including traffic management, road signage, permit fees and venue hire.

Due to the quality of the applications received for the Event Support Fund, Council has decided to support 39 applicants and use reserve funds to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of funds for successful applicants.

The panel agreed that one of the 39 successful applications to be funded through the surplus funds was left from the previous financial year, due to the event being held in early July 2024.

The events that have been listed as successful vary in size, purpose and location supporting community groups and event organisers across the municipality. While most of the events have been successful in obtaining funding, in most cases they did not receive the total funding that they have requested. This decision is made at the discretion of the panel to maximise the support for as many events as possible, considering repeated applications and consistency and equitable funding allocations.

When event organisers are notified on the success of their application, we will be recommending that they list their event on Council Website.

Event organisers will be asked to acknowledge Council as part of their event. This may include on the event collateral, such as marketing materials or speeches.

Council will also be running an Event Management Course this financial year, which we will be inviting all successful and unsuccessful applicants to attend. This course will be designed to improve event organisation and delivery and setting up events for longevity and sustainability.

Refer Attachment B: 2024/25 Event Support Fund Successful Applications for the list of recommended applications.

### **Unsuccessful Applications**

The ten ineligible or unsuccessful applications will be formally notified and are encouraged to contact Council should they require further information.

### **Consultation**

Council's media department distributed a media release and all details regarding Council's grants program (guidelines, submission dates, link to application form) are available through Council's website. The program was also promoted through Council's facebook page and The Guardian to ensure coverage across the whole municipality.

To complement this process, Economic Development officers maintain a grant mailing list, with subscribers receiving updates and reminders about the Community Grants Program.

## Financial Implications

Council set a budget of \$78,000 for the Community Development Fund and \$100,000 for the Event Support Fund for the 2024/2025 round.

This report recommends that \$77,810 is allocated towards successful Community Development Fund applicants.

This report recommends that \$100,000 budgeted for this financial year and any underspend from the 2023/2024 financial year is allocated towards successful Event Support Fund applicants. It should be noted that this amount equates to approximately \$8,000 from the funding carried forward from previous years.

## Social Implications

By providing funding for projects and events under the Community Grants program, Council helps to foster stronger communities in our municipality.

Community organisations will be able to undertake minor upgrades to facilities, purchase necessary equipment which will result in increased participation, health and fitness, social gatherings, and interaction.

The successful operation of community organisations and clubs, play a vital role in ensuring a vibrant and healthy community.

If a project or event is unable to proceed in the format and period initially planned due to unforeseen circumstances, applicants are encouraged to submit a variation proposal.

## Economic Implications

Funding through the Community Grants program will assist clubs and organisations to become adequately resourced to hold club and community-based activities and reduce financial pressure to maintain club facilities and equipment.

Projects to the value of approximately \$248,000 will be completed by community organisations by the end of May 2025.

Events to the value of \$107,900 will be run by community and other organisations by the end of June 2025. It is hoped that these events will inject significant economic return and social benefit to the municipality.

The estimated tourism impact for the recommended successful Event Support Fund applications is approximately \$14 million.

## Environmental Implications

Nil.

## Risk Management Implications

Successful Community Development Fund applicant organisations will be required to enter a Funding Agreement with Council. This will be to ensure that the applicant organisation is aware of its responsibilities in terms of delivering the project safely, by qualified persons, to relevant standards and with appropriate insurances in place. Applicant organisations responsible for completing projects on Council owned or managed land will also need to obtain approval from Council where applicable.

Successful Event Support Fund applicant organisation/groups will be required to enter into a funding Agreement with Council. This will ensure that the applicant organisation/group are aware of their responsibilities in terms of the event grant.

All events supported through this program that are held on Council owned or managed property must adhere to Council's Event Management process to ensure safe event management practices.

There will be a review undertaken by Council Officers of the processes undertaken for both the Community Development and Events Grants Applications with a view to identifying any changes that will enhance the process for both those involved in assessing applications and community groups submitting applications.

- Attachments:**
1. Attachment A 2024/25 Community Development Fund Successful Applications [2.3.1 - 2 pages]
  2. Attachment B 2024/25 Event Support Fund Successful Applications [2.3.2 - 3 pages]

## Options

1. That Council **approve** the 2024/2025 Community Development Fund (Attachment A) and Event Support Fund (Attachment B) Successful Applications.
2. That Council **not approve** the 2024/2025 Community Development Fund (Attachment A) and Event Support Fund (Attachment B) Successful Applications.

## Recommendation/s

### That Council:

1. **Approve the 2024/2025 Community Development Fund (Attachment A) and Event Support Fund (Attachment B) successful applications as recommended.**

- 2. Notify those applicants that were unsuccessful in receiving funding through the Community Development Fund and the Event Support Fund.**



**Attachment A: 2024/25 Community Development Fund Successful Applications**

Organisation	Project Name / Description	Value
Robinvale and District Ballet Guild Inc.	Enhancing Community Performances with a Theatre Projector – installation of theatre projector to Robinvale Community Centre	\$5,000
Swan Hill Little Athletics	Little Athletics Storage Facilities – construction of a shed to store equipment	\$5,000
Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Inc.	Upgrade to covered horse yards, tack room and human exercise area – wall cladding and installation of doors to section of the RDA skillion riding area	\$4,000
Pioneer Country Quarterhorse Association	Update Cutting and Performance Arenas – bring in sand and level arena space	\$2,800
Lakers Cricket Club	Lakers Shed – construction of shed for shelter and storage adjacent to cricket nets	\$5,000
Kiwi Hawthorn Rugby Club	Rugby Come and Try Program: Touch to Tackle – purchase of equipment for 11 week rugby program	\$2,000
Manangatang and District Bowling Club	Improving Verandah Cleaning and use for Stakeholders – purchase of aluminium seating	\$3,000
Nyah District Memorial Hall Committee of Management	Spick and Span – repair works to Nyah Memorial Hall	\$5,000
Speewa Heritage Collectors Club	Oxy/Acetylene gas kit – purchase of oxy/acetylene gas kit to assist with repairing engineering equipment	\$1,000
Woorinen District Progress Association	Television Screen for Meeting / Conference Room – installation of television to Woorinen South Community Centre	\$3,490
Swan Hill Lions Club Inc.	Portable BBQ trailer – purchase new BBQ trailer	\$5,000

Swan Hill Pony Club	Dressage Arena – laser grade existing arena, bring in sand and level at Lake Boga Equestrian Centre	\$2,800
Swan Hill Badminton Association	Junior Development Drive – purchase of badminton equipment	\$1,000
Lake Boga Bowling Club	Clubroom Chairs – purchase new chairs for clubrooms	\$3,600
Lake Boga Sports Club (Lake Boga Football Netball Club)	Scoreboard Facelift – Reclad existing scoreboard and purchase new metal numbers	\$3,850
Piangil Memorial Park & Recreation Reserve Inc.	Memorial Cenotaph Restoration – restoration works to Piangil War Memorial Cenotaph	\$4,000
Wemen Progress Association	Upgrading Wemen Hall Old Wire Fence – replacement of section of wire fence with pool type fencing	\$3,000
Swan Hill District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Upgrade lighting in the Cattle Pavilion – install LED lights to Showgrounds Cattle Pavilion	\$2,500
Swan Hill Neighbourhood House Inc.	Front Automatic Doors – installation of automatic glass doors to entrance of Neighbourhood House	\$5,000
Lake Boga Inc.	Silo Art Lake Boga Seating and Tables – installation of seating and tables near silo	\$5,000
Italian Social Club	Replace Toilets – replace toilet systems in venue (2 male, 3 female & disabled toilet)	\$5,000
Sustainable Living in the Murray	Growing Healthy Soil at GIFT Permaculture Community Garden – purchase of mulcher to compost garden waste	\$ 770
		<u>\$77,810</u>

## Attachment B: 2024/25 Event Support Fund Successful Applications

	Event	Organisation	Cash Sponsorship	Logistical Support	Logistical Support Breakdown	Total Value
1	Swan Hill Easter Market Day	Swan Hill Incorporated	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	• Traffic Management • Road signage and bollards	\$ 1,800.00
2	Swan Hill Market Day	Swan Hill Incorporated	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	• Traffic Management • Road signage and bollards	\$ 1,800.00
3	Swan Hill Region Food and Wine Festival	Swan Hill Incorporated	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	• Venue Hire • Traffic Management • Road signage • Cleaning	\$ 11,000.00
4	School Holiday Fun Bowls Day	Racecourse Bowls Club	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
5	Catalina Classic Two Triples	Lake Boga Bowling Club	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
6	Smoke on the Water	Hidden Gems T/A Smoke on the Water	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	• Council venue hire and fees • Cleaning • POPE	\$ 5,000.00
7	Lake Boga Yacht Club Easter Regatta 2025	Lake Boga Yacht Club Inc	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
8	Sun Centre Titles & 4SS Victorian State Trophy	Swan Hill Kart Club	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
9	Robinvale Lawn Tennis Club 2025 Easter Tournament	Robinvale Lawn Tennis Club	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	• Cleaning	\$ 1,500.00
10	Annual Wemen Christmas Tree	Wemen Progress Association	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
11	Speewa Swap Meet	Speewa Heritage Collectors Club Inc.	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	• Road Signs and Bollards	\$ 1,000.00
12	Speewa Collectors Club Rally	Speewa Heritage Collectors Club Inc.	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	• Road Signs and Bollards	\$ 1,000.00
13	Movie Premier - MRI Machine	Swan Hill Inner Wheel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
14	Unicorn Teddy Bears Picnic	Swan Hill Inner Wheel	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	• Council venue hire and fees	\$ 800.00
15	Garden Expo	Swan Hill Inner Wheel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00

16	Lake Boga 110 year anniversary celebration	Australian Red Cross - Lake Boga Branch	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
17	Swan Hill Little Athletics Open Day	Swan Hill Little Athletics Centre	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 200.00	• Cleaning	\$ 2,000.00
18	Swan Hill Bowls Club - Autumn/May Carnival	Swan Hill Bowls Club - Autumn/May Carnival	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
19	Mallee Cruisers present the autObarn RUSH	Mallee Cruisers Car Club Inc	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	• Venue hire and fees • Cleaning	\$ 5,000.00
20	Destination Outback Trek	The Robinvale/Euston Rotary Club	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	• Venue hire and fees • Cleaning	\$ 1,000.00
21	Brew and Chew Festival	Brew and Chew	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	• Venue hire and fees • Road closure and signage • Cleaning • POPE • Traffic Management	\$ 10,000.00
22	Women with Wings	The Lions Club of Lake Boga T/A The Flying Boat Museum	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
23	Swan Hill Badminton Veterans Tournament	Swan Hill Badminton Association	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
24	Robinvale Euston 80 Ski Race	Ski Racing Victoria Inc	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
25	Swan Hill Art Exhibition	Fight Cancer Foundation Swan Hill Branch	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
26	Standard Saloon Victorian Title	Swan Hill Motor Racing Club	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -		\$ 4,000.00
27	RACV Veteran Car Club 70th Anniversary Annual Rally	Veteran Car Club of Australia (Victoria) Inc.	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	• Venue hire and fees	\$ 5,000.00
28	Swan Hill District Cattle Show	Swan Hill District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	• Traffic Management • Road closure signage • Cleaning	\$ 3,000.00
29	Swan Hill District Show	Swan Hill District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	• Traffic Management • Road closure signage • Cleaning	\$ 8,000.00
30	Swan Hill Junior Invitational Basketball Tournament	Swan Hill Basketball Association	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	• Venue Hire and permit fees • Cleaning	\$ 5,000.00
31	Lake Boga Fireworks 2024	Lake Boga Inc	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	• Traffic Management • Road closure signage	\$ 4,500.00

32	Swan Hill Film Festival	Fight Cancer Foundation Swan Hill Branch	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
33	Robinvale Euston Lantern Festival	Robinvale Network House	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	• Cleaning	\$ 5,000.00
34	Open Garden Day 2025	Tytyndyer Homestead Inc.	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	• Traffic Management • Road signage and bollards	\$ 2,000.00
35	Splash Down & Rev Up	The Lions Club of Lake Boga T/A The Flying Boat Museum	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	• Traffic Management • Road closure signage	\$ 3,500.00
36	Mallee Almond Blossom Festival	Mallee Almond Blossom Festival	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	• Event and Economic Development Officer support	\$ 2,500.00
37	Centenary Weekend Lakeside Golf Club	Lake Boga Golf Club	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	• Council venue hire and fees • Cleaning	\$ 1,500.00
38	Sunrise Rotary Produce & Design Market	Swan Hill Sunrise Rotary Club	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	• Venue hire and fees • Traffic Management • Road signage	\$ 1,500.00
39	Robinvale and Euston Music Concert	Robinvale Music Club	\$ -	\$ 500.00	• Venue hire and fees	\$ 500.00

## 2.4 Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2030

**Directorate:** Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S12-24-07  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**1. Liveability** - We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.

#### **1.1 A modern municipality: Vibrant, connected and resilient**

1.1.1 Attractive urban areas and regional townships

1.1.2 Ensure adequate provision of a variety of safe and secure housing

1.1.3 Excellent transport links to allow ease of movement

**2. Prosperity** - We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy.

#### **2.1 Effective partnerships for prosperity**

2.1.1 Support diverse educational opportunities that fosters life-long learning

2.1.2 Support our key industries

#### **2.2 A thriving diverse economy**

2.2.1 Encourage the growth and development of our economy

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

#### **4.3 Bold leadership, strong partnerships and effective advocacy**

4.3.1 Create meaningful partnerships across our communities

4.3.2 Strong relationship with State and Federal governments to influence advocacy and funding opportunities

4.3.3 Working together in promotion of the municipality

### Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

10 Year Major Project Plan

Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022

Swan Hill Retail Strategy

Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan 2013

### Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

### Summary



This report seeks Council adoption of the Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2024-2030.

## Discussion

Council's Economic Development Unit has been working towards developing a new Economic Development Strategy (Strategy) for the municipality for the past eight months. Aimed at building on the previous strategy findings, as well as providing Council direction for the next six years and beyond, the framework for this Strategy includes:

### 1. Clear Intent

- Economic development vision
- Define focus areas and key initiatives
- Align Council's available resources
- Implementation Plan
- Measurable activities and outcomes
- Project advocacy documentation

### 2. Evidence Based

- Review 2017-2022 Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy
- Findings and feedback from community and stakeholder engagement
- Council's Covid 19 Response, Relief, Recover Plan
- Align with regional plans and strategy
- Consideration emerging trends and activities
- Outcomes from Swan Hill Region Housing Summit 2023

### 3. Strategic Alignment

- Community Vision & Council Plan 2021-2025
- Council's Corporate Plan
- Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy 2022
- Murray River Tourism Destination Management Plan 2022
- Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan

To support the development of this Strategy, Council engaged the services of an independent consultant to undertake the business and industry engagement process. Reflecting on insights and outcomes gathered during this process, the following focus areas have been identified for the new Economic Development Strategy:

- Industry/Business Support
- Workforce
- Liveability/Housing
- Leadership

These four focus areas have been coupled with strategic direction and associated actions that will support the realisation of the Strategy over a six-year period.

The Strategy seeks to make best use of the available resources within the organisation by concentrating heavily on the critical current issues. As such there is a reduction in tasks/actions from the previous plan. As with any strategic plan, an

ongoing review will be undertaken to ensure the document remains relevant and effective in delivering results.

### **Consultation**

- Business and industry engagement was a high priority during the initial consultation period, with over 100 people contacted via business site visits, phone calls and online business targeted surveys.
- Swan Hill Region Housing Summit provided the opportunity to engage and work with 120 local businesses, professions and service providers on localised housing solutions. With a key focus on housing, findings and recommendations from the Summit, including Council's Housing Action Plan, have been included within this Strategy.
- The draft Strategy has been through a 30-day public consultation process. Feedback from this process supported finalising initiatives earmarked in the Strategies implementation plan.

### **Financial Implications**

- The development of the Strategy has been conducted in-house within Council's Economic Development Unit, with an independent consultant engaged to support the engagement process and strategic analysis. This included coordinating and facilitating Swan Hill Region Housing Summit.
- Council's financial commitment towards the strategy's implementation is outlined in the ten-year Major Project Plan, under Economic Development Initiatives.

### **Social Implications**

- Implementing key initiatives within the strategy will empower community pride and social inclusion.

### **Economic Implications**

- The implementation of the identified key initiatives will drive real long-term economic benefits for the region including supporting business growth and development and attract new investment opportunities.

### **Environmental Implications**

- The strategy builds in support for renewable energy and energy security to grow our businesses, industries and agriculture sectors.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil.

### **Attachments:**

1. Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2030 [2.4.1 - 42 pages]

### **Options**

**That Council:**

1. Adopt the Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2024-2030
2. Do not adopt the Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2024-2030

**Recommendation/s**

**That Council:**

1. Adopt the Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2024-2030



Where Lifestyle &  
Opportunity Meet

# Economic Development Strategy

2024 - 2030





# Acknowledgement of Country

**Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land in which we live, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present.**

The Wamba Wamba, Latji Latji, Tatti Tatti, Waddi Waddi and Barapa Barapa peoples are the original custodians of the land known as the Swan Hill Rural City and our region remains strong in First Nations People cultural heritage values.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Council has renewed its Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy to directly reflect the needs and priorities of our diverse community for the next five years. A key focus for this period is to progress a vision for the region towards 2050, work that was commenced in 2023, to better strategise our planning, critical infrastructure, economic and community development into the future.

As you read through this document you will see that it sets out Council's Economic Development strategic intent for the next five years. This strategy is based on what industry, businesses and the community told us was important to them, their hopes and aspirations, and the kind of place they desire for the future.

Through implementing this Strategy, together we will work hard to make the Swan Hill region a place where lifestyle and opportunity meet.

Swan Hill Rural City Council affirms its commitment to partner with new and existing industries, businesses, developers and other levels of Government to provide positive outcomes for the people who are part of the communities in our region.

**Cr Stuart King**  
**Mayor**

**June 2024**







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This new Economic Development Strategy provides vision, direction and a clear roadmap that will support decision making, drive alignment, and communicate Council's economic development priorities.

Collaboration will be crucial to success, with Council seeking a partnership orientated approach with industry, businesses and community groups to deliver set objectives.

Based on reoccurring themes from industry engagement and reflection on the strengths, critical constraints, opportunities and emerging trends, four priority focus areas were identified:

- **industry and business support,**
- **workforce,**
- **housing and liveability, and**
- **leadership.**

Each focus area is accompanied by strategic intent and associated actions to be implemented.

Initiatives listed within the Strategy that are expected to form the bases for Council's 2050 vision include:

- Swan Hill Industry Land Development Strategy
- Swan Hill/Robinvale CBD Revitalisation Plan
- Swan Hill/Robinvale Future Development Masterplan
- Small Township Enhancement
- Tourism Destination Plan
- Investment Attraction Campaign



# STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

The Strategy was developed under the following principle guidelines:

1. Clear Intent
2. Evidence Based
3. Strategic Alignment

## 01 CLEAR INTENT

- Economic development vision
- Define focus areas and key initiatives
- Align Council's available resources
- Provide collaborative approach
- Project Advocacy documentation
- Implementation framework - 5 years
- Measurable activities and outcomes

## 02 EVIDENCE BASED

- Review 2017-2022 Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy
- Findings and feedback from community and stakeholder engagement
- Council's Covid-19 Response, Relief, Recover Plan
- Align with regional plans and strategy
- Consideration of emerging trends and activities

## 03 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- Community Vision & Council Plan 2021-2025
- Council's Corporate Plan
- Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy 2022
- Murray River Tourism Destination Management Plan 2022
- Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2018

## SINCE 2017

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-22

This strategy focused on the following three themes – Expand On Our Strengths, Develop New Opportunities and Take Up The Challenge, with over 20 strategic initiatives and 65 listed tactics. With 40 actions completed, approximately 12 actions rated 'high' remain as an 'ongoing'.



#### **ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD**

The following actions remaining from Economic Development Strategy 2017-22 that will be incorporated into this strategy include:

- Advocate for improved housing accessibility
- Facilitate the development of identified commercial opportunities within the Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct
- Advocate for infrastructure and services that improve the region's freight and logistics supply chains
- Advocate and partner with local services to further enhance the regions health and education services

#### **PROJECTS COMPLETED**

Some of the key projects and initiatives undertaken since 2017 include:

- Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct \$3.98M Stage 1
- \$30M Solar farm developments – Blackwire & Bannerton
- \$4.5M redevelopment Swan Hill & Robinvale Leisure Centre's Rural Township Placemaking - \$750,000
- Robinvale Housing Strategy/Business Case 2022
- Loddon Mallee Housing Strategy 2023
- Robinvale Population Review
- Robinvale Riverfront Masterplan 2022
- Seasonal Workers Accommodation Study

## POST COVID-19

Significant changes in the economic environment, including the impact of COVID-19, highlight the need to review and adjust this strategy. Some of these key changes include:

- lack of housing,
- skilled workforce shortages,
- **workplace practices,**
- **the realisation** of renewable energy and mineral sand mining, and
- transport and logistic advancements.

This strategy will seek to address these changes, as well as support key initiatives from Council's Covid-19 Response, Relief, Recover Action Plan 2020.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

The role of local government is to assist in creating an environment where local businesses can grow and prosper, undertaking (not limited to) the following activities:

- proactively engage and collaborate,
- being visionary and strategic,
- **acting as an enabler,**
- advocacy,
- facilitation,
- investment attraction,
- **investigation,** and
- planning.

Although Council has a wide scope to undertake economic development, actions need to be targeted due to budgetary and resource constraints.





# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This strategy forms part of a suite of Council policies, plans and strategies that are intended to work together to realise economic, social and environmental benefits for the region. This document also supports the broader policy and strategic environment as outlined in relevant local, regional and state-wide documents - summarised in Table 1.0.

The Swan Hill Region Community Vision and Council Plan consists of four themed pillars - Liveability, Prosperity, Harmony and Leadership. A key focus of this Strategy is to align actions and outcomes to these pillars.

## Council Plan Pillars



### Liveability

We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.



### Prosperity

We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy.



### Harmony

We will be a welcoming community for all, recognised for our maturity and respect for each other.



### Leadership

We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

## Regional

- Mallee Regional Economic Growth Strategy 2019
- Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2018
- Mallee Regional Partnerships: Mallee Roadmap Outcomes 2022
- Loddon Mallee Housing Strategy 2022
- Murray Regional Tourism Destination Plan 2022
- Western Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy – 2023 Update

## Local

- Swan Hill Community Vision & Council Plan 2021-25
- Swan Hill Rural City Council Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022
- Swan Hill and Surrounds Local Area Action Plan 2022
- Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan 2013
- Community Plans
- Robinvale Housing Strategy 2019



Table 1.0





# SWAN HILL REGION



...IN THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH EAST







# Demographic Snapshot



## POPULATION 21,225

- Based on Robinvale population at 8,000 (as to 3,479 ABS) - Geographic population study total population 25,806



## HOUSING

- Couples without children 27% (28% Regional Victoria avg)
- Couples with children 24% (25% Regional Victoria avg)
- 2.46 person per household (2.35 Regional Victoria avg)

Average Age  
**39 YRS**  
43 yrs State Average



## AGE CHARACTERISTIC

- Decrease years 15-19 by 14%
- Decrease years 20-24 by 7%
- Increase years 25-29 by 12 %
- Increase years 30-39 by 18%

\*since 2017



## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTIC

- Medium weekly mortgage repayment \$267 compared to \$320 Regional Victoria
- Medium weekly rental payment \$225 compared to \$285 Regional Victoria
- Current rental vacancy rate 0.26%

Person Born Overseas  
**13%**



30% State Average

## WHERE WE COME FROM

The net migration measure in Swan Hill is lower than Victoria at -6.5%, compared to 4.5%.



## PROPERTY MARKET

- \$500,000 medium house price Swan Hill, up 10.07% past 12 months

(<https://www.htag.com.au/vic/vic180-swan-hill-rural-city>)

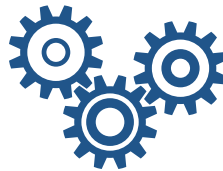
# Economic Snapshot



## TOTAL OUTPUT

1. Agricultural \$1.5B+
- Manufacturing \$273M
3. Construction \$240M

\* Sunrise: Mapping & Research Report 2021



## BUSINESS PROFILE

- Total Businesses - 2,660
- Total Jobs 11,072



## EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

1. Agricultural 2,019 - 18%
2. Health Care 1,546 - 14%
3. Retail Trade 1,028 - 9%



## INDUSTRY PROFILE

- Unemployment Rate 2.5%
- A larger percentage of workforce employed in Agriculture 21% compared to 2% (Victoria)
- A smaller percentage of workforce employed in Professional Services 2.6% compared to 8.4% (Victoria)



## VISITOR ECONOMY

- Total Visitors 768,000
- Total Visitor Spend - \$253M

\*National Visitor Survey & Expenditure Model YE March 2023 - Tourism Research Australia



## OTHER

2,528 people or 25.6% of Swan Hill's resident workers (All industries) have a tertiary qualification









### Insight - Agriculture

69% (426,300 ha) of the municipality is currently used for cropping and associated dryland infrastructure, which includes:

- 39% wheat grain
- 32% barley grain
- 8% lentils
- 7.5% cereal/hay

### Insight - Horticulture

Almond and table grape planting accounted for 63% of the gross value for irrigated crops, which was \$1.22B. Other composition included:

- vegetables inc potatoes and carrots (16%)
- stone fruit (7%)
- olives (4%)
- avocados (3%)
- field crops (3%)



### Economic Impact

Total Gross Value Price for agriculture in the Swan Hill LGA across three seasons were:

- \$931 million in 2015-16, all agricultural commodities including livestock
- \$1,392 million in 2017-18, dryland and irrigated cropping
- \$1,486 million in 2020-21, dryland and irrigated cropping





### Insight - Regional Solar

Swan Hill has approximately 1,710 small-scale systems installed (18%), with a collective capacity of 13,139 kW, as at March 31, 2023.

(source: [www.solarchoice.net.au](http://www.solarchoice.net.au))

There is currently 3,000MW Large Solar Power Projects in the proposed staged within the Mallee region

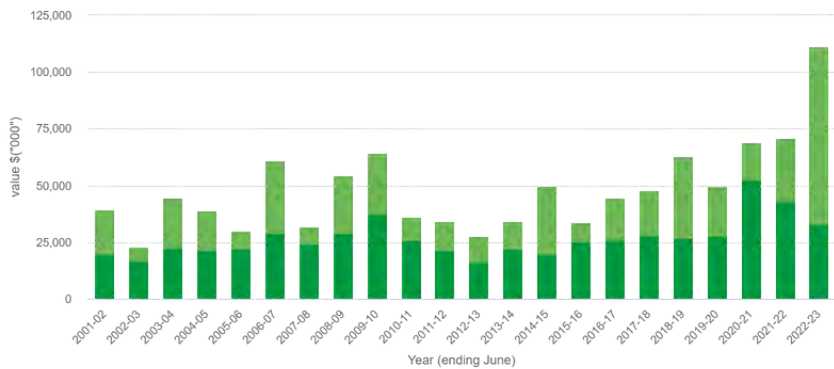
### Insight - Building Permits

The total value of building permits for the municipality has doubled since 2019/20 (post Covid-19) to \$112m in 2022/23

Value of total building approvals

Swan Hill

■ Non Residential ■ Residential



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).



### Insight - Characteristics

Emerging groups

The largest changes in the age structure of the workforce in Swan Hill between 2016 and 2021 were:

- 25 to 34 years (+613 local workers)
- 35 to 44 years (+409 local workers)
- 55 to 64 years (+190 local workers)
- 65 years and over (+191 local workers)





# CHALLENGES

Key identified challenges that will guide the development of this strategy include;



# CONSULTATION

## Consultation Process

- 650 newsletters
- 6 workshops - 180 participants
- 51 business checks
- 62 online survey











# OPPORTUNITIES

Abound by natural attributes, robust agricultural sector and innovative manufacturing industry, the region has the following distinct opportunities that will shape its future.

<p>Renewable energy and mineral resources</p>		<p>Intermodal and transport logistics</p>
	<p>Value add downstream production</p>	
<p>Vibrant and connected places</p>		<p>Visitor economy - nature base and Aboriginal tourism experiences</p>

# Future Aspirations 2030



## POPULATION

23,000

Modelling on Robinvale population at 8,000 (as to 3,479 ABS) total population 28,000



## TOTAL JOBS

11,000



## TOTAL BUSINESSES

2,800



## UNEMPLOYMENT

3.0%



## VISITOR ECONOMY

- Total Visitors 800,000
- Total Visitor Spend - \$300M



## HOUSES

The construction of 500 new dwellings



# SHAPING OUR REGION

## SWAN HILL REGION - A PLACE TO GROW & THRIVE

**We're laying the foundation to grow our economy, attract new investment and support our community as a place of choice.**

Macro-economic trends related to climate, water security, population movements and housing demands have played a significant role in the development of our region since 2017 and are likely to continue to have a strong influence on its future. In line with these trends, the region is on the cusp of significant investment in mining and renewable activities that will transform our economy for the next 20 years and beyond.

These include:

### **Mineral sands deposits**

The Murray Basin presents significant opportunities for discovery of new mineral sand deposits and development of existing resources.

### **Renewable energy + generation**

Northwest Victoria / Southwest NSW regions have ideal conditions for renewable energy generation, with significant works currently underway and a number of projects in planning stages that will support new wind and solar developments.

### **Value add downstream**

With the inclusion of intermodal terminal and direct access to key shipping ports, the region is in a unique position to support value adding activities. This is highlighted in the almond processing plant currently under construction at Murray Downs.

Through its 20+ year mine operation VHM Goschen project's construction and ongoing operations are predicted to generate more than \$2 billion for the Loddon-Mallee economy, supporting 250 construction jobs and 400 operating jobs.

[minerals.org.au/](http://minerals.org.au/)  
Victoria

# SHAPING OUR REGION

Supporting these potential developments, Council will look to maximise the associated benefits these activities will provide local businesses and communities. Council will also continue to advocate and facilitate for the delivery of identified priority projects that support a better place to live, work and play. These priority projects will form part of Council's Leadership and Advocacy works associated with this Strategy and will be updated on an annual basis.

These Council led enabling projects include:

- **Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct - Wharf**
- **Robinvale Riverfront Precinct - River terrace / playground / trails**
- **Swan Hill Showgrounds, Sport & Recreation Precinct - Regional Sporting Hub**
- **Pental Island Cultural Precinct**
- **Eco-Trail Network - Swan Hill to Lake Boga / Nyah-Vinifera Park / Former Number 9 channel Swan Hill / Robinvale township loop / foreshore at Lake Boga**
- **Swan Hill CBD revitalisation**
- **Swan Hill Railway Precinct (pedestrian bridge)**

Advocacy support

- 2050 Vision
- Swan Hill bridge
- Swan Hill District Health precinct redevelopment
- Royalty returns mining operations
- Social / affordable / workers accommodation



Home to the highest average population of First Nation People in Victoria (4.5%v0.8%) Council will also look at opportunities and developments that will further enhance and celebrate the regions rich cultural diversity.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Based on the reoccurring themes and reflection on the strengths, critical constraints, opportunities and trends highlighted in the discussion, the following four priority focus areas were identified.

	INDUSTRY/BUSINESS SUPPORT
	WORKFORCE
	HOUSING/LIVEABILITY
	LEADERSHIP







# Focus Area: Industry/Business Support

## KEY INSIGHTS

### **Uniting industries to meet collective needs and find shared opportunities**

The economic data for the region highlights the significant performance and wealth generated by key industries. However, a collective narrative to promote investment in all industries is a priority. Feedback highlights a lack of connection and shared understanding across industries that is required to encourage local spend and reinvestment into the community. The growth of key industries and higher offshore ownership has resulted in a siloed economic structure.

Housing and workforce constraints are common to all, our solutions are not defined collectively. Competing priorities and investment in quick fixes has unintended consequences. For example, the purchase and use of retail properties to house workers impacting on the viability of business strips.

The broader industries do not understand the role of tourism in the region, however shared economic opportunity exists and should be explored in more collaborated ways to promote the full potential of the region.





# FOCUS AREA

**Champion the region and the unique needs of current and emerging industries to create unity, stimulate investment and drive reform**

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Support a connected and capable business base**

### ACTIONS

1. Develop a Business Friendly Approval Program to support new & merging businesses
2. Facilitate Local Business Support Program - B2B networking/events
3. Support connecting entrepreneurs with opportunities

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Support a thriving and sustainable rural and manufacturing industry**

### ACTIONS

1. Prepare an Agricultural/ Manufacturing Investment Prospectus
2. Investigate localised Circular Economy Opportunities/Pathways

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Stimulate investment to support business/industry growth**

### ACTIONS

1. Swan Hill & Robinvale Industrial Land Development Strategy 2050
2. Develop business case for a Swan Hill Gov Hub 2050
3. Prepare a revised streetscape masterplan for Swan Hill & Robinvale CBD

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Advocate for investment in high quality tourism products and experiences**

### ACTIONS

1. Pental Island Cultural Masterplan Implementation
2. Develop Trail Network Masterplans
3. Tourism Destination Management Plan 2050
4. Support First Nations People plan & develop new tourism products & experiences

*"We should not be so broad or siloed, or we don't have the investment or energy to really achieve anything"*



# Focus Area: Workforce

# KEY INSIGHTS

## **Enabling a fit for industry workforce through attraction & local up-skilling**

Engagement highlighted the critical impact of skills shortages and limited localised compliance training options. This negatively impacts the productivity and sustainability of horticulture and manufacturing. The region needs to ensure critical healthcare services are maintained to support ageing population and growing workforce needs.

The misalignment between the critical skills required in the region and the local in-scope TAFE qualifications means education assets are not optimised and the cost burden of skilling remotely is carried by industry.

Housing shortages are a known barrier to importing labour and there is not an immediate solution. Therefore, retaining the existing young adult workforce and up-skilling locally to meet industry needs is a priority. This requires a clear skills pathway that aligns schools, TAFE and industry to deliver a fit for industry workforce in partnership.

The inability to access childcare is removing significant capacity from the local workforce. A short term resolution to the childcare crisis is critical to unlocking immediate talent. Supporting the workforce needs for the long term is essential to delivering on the economic potential.



# FOCUS AREA

Resolve critical skills shortage through a coordinated approach to regional workforce planning and fit for industry training provision

## STRATEGIC INTENT

Diversify & Expand Training, Education and Workforce Base

### ACTIONS

1. Partner with industry, government and education providers to deliver training aligned to industry demands
2. Workforce attraction campaign to drive awareness of the region as a great place to work, live and play
3. Promote & Support Country University Campus
4. Establish partnerships with emerging industries - solar/wind/mining/circular economy

## STRATEGIC INTENT

Support Migrant Skilled Workbase

### ACTIONS

1. Undertake Regional Certification duties
2. Support PALM initiative & visa pathways to permanent residency
3. Partner with Government agencies to connect businesses with skill migrants

"We need to push hard for 5 years and get some important change to the way we're supported with skills in the region."











# Focus Area: Housing and Liveability

## KEY INSIGHTS

### Overcoming critical issues that limit liveability of the region and economic growth

Liveability is a critical component to attract and retain employees for industry and provide a workforce to deliver essential services. The attractiveness of the region is celebrated, but industry engagement highlighted extreme dissatisfaction with the constraints on housing, healthcare, childcare and availability of land. Industry reflects on this crisis as an ongoing disruptor to sustained economic performance. The lack of strategic progress over the last decade has limited confidence and discouraged investment, and funds are being diverted to other regions.

The region needs to ensure critical healthcare services are maintained to support the needs and future growth of a population catchment of 40,000 people.

Retail precincts are impacted when space is converted to accommodation and storage for other industries. This reduces the viability and vibrancy of town centres and diminishes the value of existing businesses and limits the succession plans of owners. Changes to policy relating to on-farm accommodation has created additional regulatory burden, confusion and costs to modify or rebuild.

Childcare shortages limit access to the workforce and reduce the financial capacity of community when higher inflation and interest rates is also impacting liveability.



# FOCUS AREA

**Prioritise the delivery of solutions to liveability constraints through mobilising partnerships, policy reform and driving local investment**

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Support Housing Developments & Opportunities**

### ACTIONS

1. Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan
2. Implementation Loddon Mallee Housing Strategy 2023
3. Establish Housing Action Committee for Greater Swan Hill

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Support Social Infrastructure Developments & Opportunities**

### ACTIONS

1. Plan & seek funding for Early Years Infrastructure in Swan Hill & Robinvale
2. Advocate for Health and Childcare opportunities & developments

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Facilitate commercial development opportunities within Swan Hill/Robinvale Riverfront Precinct**

### ACTIONS

1. Redevelop 42 Monash Drive
2. Advocate & Connect for the Swan Hill Riverfront - Pedestrian Overpass/Wharf
3. Undertake Swan Hill Future Development Plan (greenfield/gov't controlled sites)

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Invest in Place Activation Program**

### ACTIONS

1. Undertake Small Townships Enhancement Masterplan 2050
2. Facilitate the Swan Hill Region Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy 2050
3. Investment attraction strategy / marketing campaign 2050
4. Swan Hill Showground, Sport & Recreation Precinct Masterplan
5. Ken Harrison Reserve Precinct Masterplan 2050

*"Housing, health and childcare may not be what brings people to the region but is definitely what sends them away."*





# Focus Area: Leadership

## KEY INSIGHTS

### **Elevating opportunity through future focused leadership**

The consultation has highlighted the sentiment that industry sectors are heavily siloed by their own economic interest. This has led to a lack of shared vision or interest in supporting the evolution of emerging industries or precincts. Without rectification it has an impact on community mindset, attraction and regional identity.

It has been demonstrated by the challenge of moving community mindset forward to embrace and deliver progressive tourism projects, reducing benefit for future generations.

Strengthening connections between a new generation of industry and community leaders is critical to ignite relationships between future decision makers and build confident and proactive change agents.

The cost of standing still has been loudly emphasised throughout the engagement. Existing leaders are keen to engage in new thinking that encourages cross industry collaboration, public problem solving and progress beyond debate.



# FOCUS AREA

**Stimulate future focused leadership from within industry, community and Council to unlock potential and regional pride for the next generation.**

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Identify and prioritise strategic infrastructure projects**

### ACTIONS

1. Prioritise and advocate for Council's major projects & initiatives

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Work collaborative to realize a vision for the region**

### ACTIONS

1. Resource a regional leadership 2050 group
2. Develop and promote refreshing and bold 2050 vision
3. Inform potential investors on earmarked future projects / opportunities

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Allocate and align Council's available resources to business and community needs**

### ACTIONS

1. Review Council's Grant Program
2. Review Council's Community Planning
3. Advocate for the delivery of Community Planning priority projects that have economic outcomes
4. Review and update Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan 2013

## STRATEGIC INTENT

**Investment and resource in sustainability**

### ACTIONS

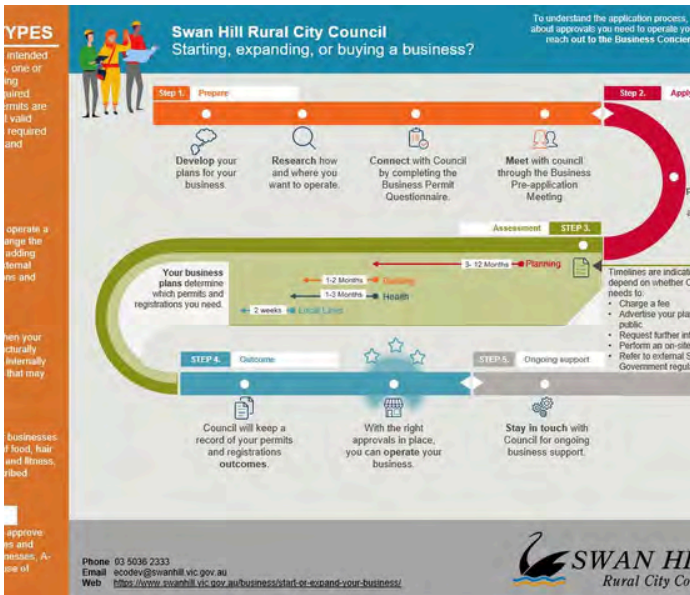
1. Advocate and prepare for renewable energy transition

*"I'm not sure we could all share the same story right now but we could come together as different sections of industry and community - and create it"*



# PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Support Housing Developments
- Unlock Government owned land for future investment opportunities
- Business Support
- Build on existing strengths and opportunities
- Advocate for the delivery of priority projects



# QUICK WINS

- Investment Attraction Strategy
- Define Agreed Priority Projects
- Review Council's Grant program to support Business & Arts
- Develop Business Friendly Approvals Program



# Key Performance Indicators

## Industry/Business Support

- Develop & maintain an up-to-date business database
- Increase attendance in business support activities
- Reduce planning permit decisions relating to business matters

## Workforce

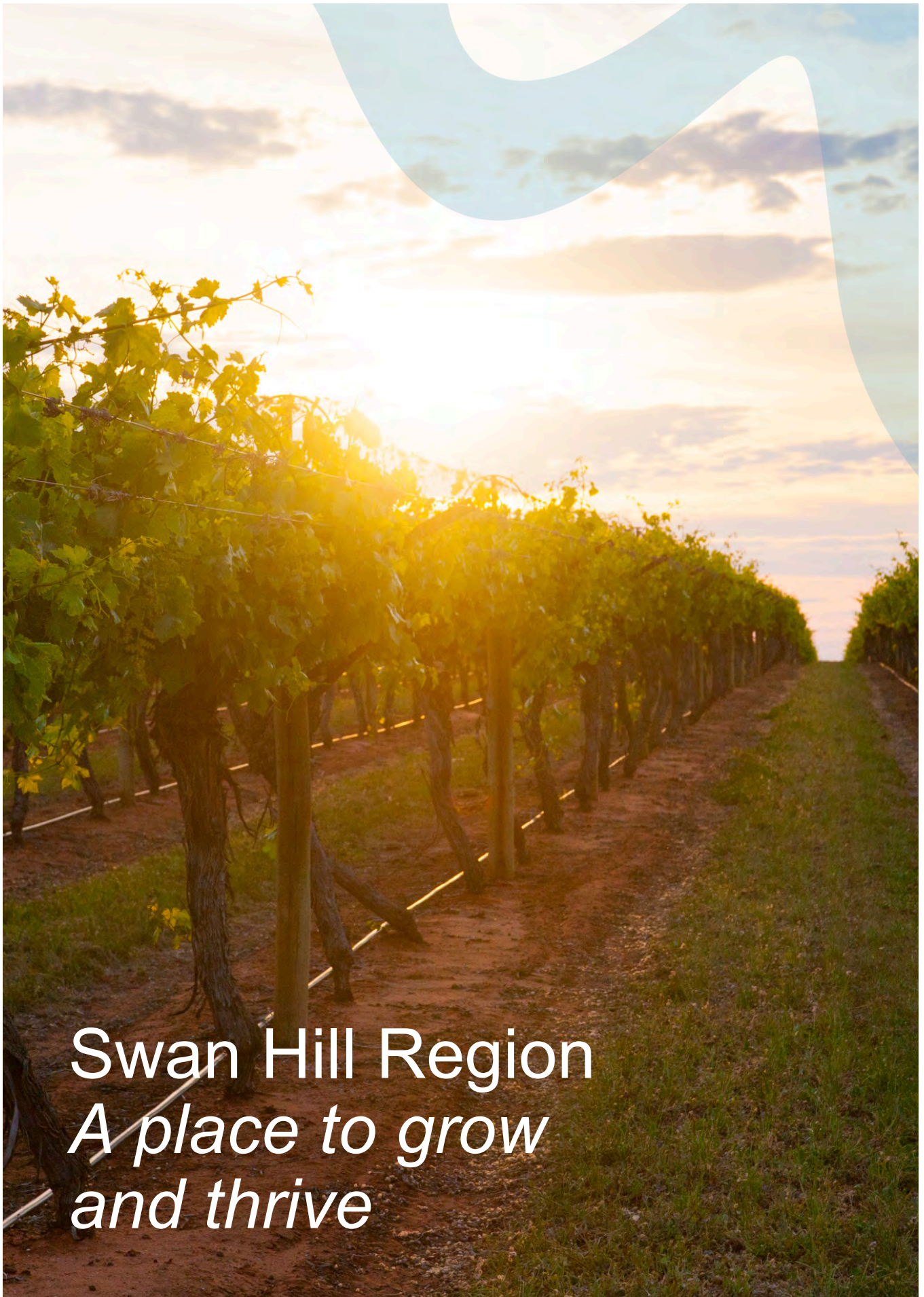
- Increase number of local business
- Increase number of local jobs
- Increase investment enquiries planning/building permits relating to commercial and industrial developments

## Housing/Liveability

- Population Growth
- Increase investment enquires, planning/building permits relating to residential developments
- Reduce planning permit decisions relating to housing matters

## Leadership

- Increase investment enquires
- Increase grant applications and/or approvals
- Reduce planning permit decisions relating to business matters



Swan Hill Region  
*A place to grow  
and thrive*

## 2.5 Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill

**Directorate:** Development and Planning  
**File Number:** S12-24-07  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**1. Liveability** - We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.

#### **1.1 A modern municipality: Vibrant, connected and resilient**

1.1.1 Attractive urban areas and regional townships

1.1.2 Ensure adequate provision of a variety of safe and secure housing

1.1.3 Excellent transport links to allow ease of movement

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

#### **4.1 Excellent management and administration**

4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

### Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

Robinvale Housing Strategy 2019

Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022

Swan Hill Residential Development Strategy-2006-2030

Loddon Mallee Housing action plan

Worker Housing to Strengthen the Local Economy and Drive Job Stability – Housing Summit

### Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

### Summary

This report seeks Council to note the establishment of “Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill” to address housing shortage across the municipality

### Background



Council is working to address the impact the current housing crisis is having in regional Victoria and on people and businesses of the municipality.

The development of a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (in draft) has been underpinned by the clear understanding that the shortage of available and affordable housing is a direct handbrake on realising social and economic aspirations for the municipality.

A consultation process and the major housing summit held late last year have highlighted the problems for employers, employees, and people looking to move to the region. All levels of government are urgently aiming to increase the supply of housing, particularly rental housing for key workers.

Much more importantly, this work also revealed currently available resources to deliver solutions are lacking. Summit participants expressed clear interest in being involved in some form of community-led partnership that will bring together land, capital, grants, infrastructure and construction capability that will drive local solutions to local housing problems.

Having expressed interest in contributing time, ideas, land, money and skills, key stakeholders have met on two occasions and are enthusiastic to work together for a common purpose – to drive social and economic prosperity through increasing the availability and affordability of housing across the municipality.

## Discussion

The success of the Housing Summit has created an expectation that Council will take follow-up action.

Consultants engaged to assist Council “Regional Housing Victoria” suggested an alternative to an ‘advisory committee’, with several objectives in mind:

- Engagement of stakeholders as ‘partners’, rather than ‘advisors’.
- Clear roles for Council as both as an equal ‘partner’ and ‘facilitator’.
- Reducing the risk that Council is seen as having sole responsibility for fixing the housing crisis by more directly activating the private sector.
- Harnessing the resources and energy of local community members.

In looking to build on the momentum from the Housing Summit, the key question is really:

*“What do we want each sector in the complex housing eco-system to actually do, to unlock local potential that will solve the housing crisis that is unique to our local circumstances? “*

The task is to support each sector to embrace their role, collaborate with other partners and simply build more housing – more units and homes to both buy and rent.

Since the summit held in November 2023, community members interested in being part of the solution to develop more housing have met on two occasions. In May about 35 people gathered and discussed the aims of establishing a community-based housing action group. People represented a variety of sectors – finance, construction, employers, health sector, developers, and real estate. From this meeting eighteen people registered to be involved further as a member and eight people as executive members. The executive has a governance role and will ensure key tasks are achieved. At the most recent meeting held in June, three working groups were established to investigate

- The quantifying and qualifying demand for housing
- Vacant land mapping
- Investment and management model

These groups along with the executive are to meet in the next few weeks.

*“What is the role of Council for each of these sectors?”*

Some answers may be simple and relatively easy to achieve and are as follows:

- **Advocating** through the Municipal Association of Victoria and Rural Councils Victoria to state and federal government regarding funding for homes and enabling infrastructure is a core role for Council.
- **Supporting** local community organisations / initiatives in health, education, childcare, aged care, disability services and so forth is also a core role of all Councils and does not require extensive advice from stakeholders
- **Partnering** with the private sector; including investors, developers and employers is however, more complex as there are commercial considerations for Council and the private sector.
- **Regulatory Review** – that Council contribute to state led regulatory review to benefit the housing sector and consider innovative ways to remove/refine or invest in better and faster approvals.

## Consultation

Between 25-27 October 2023, Regional Housing Victoria and Council’s Economic Development staff conducted 25 interviews with representatives from a sample of community organisations, businesses, and stakeholders.

On 20 November 2023, around 100 people from industry, the community sector, government, and neighbouring Councils gathered at the Swan Hill Town Hall to explore local solutions to the local housing needs.

All attendees from and those invited to the summit and other interested parties were invited to become members of the “Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill” group.

Two forums of Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill have been held in May and June resulting in the establishment of an executive and task groups.

### **Financial Implications**

Funding to support potential actions will be from the \$150,000 housing fund adopted in the 2024/2025 budget and located in the economic development budget.

### **Social Implications**

Supporting new housing and accommodation outcomes will empower community pride and social inclusion and increase liveability factors.

### **Economic Implications**

Increasing housing and accommodation services will provide real long term economic benefits for the region including supporting business growth and development, attracting new investment opportunities, and maintaining the region's population base.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Failure to build on the success of the summit could cause reputational damage.

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Options**

1. That Council note the establishment of "Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill" to address the housing shortage.
2. That Council recognise the formation of an Executive and Task Groups and facilitate further meetings over the next 12 months.
3. That Council not endorse the establishment of "Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill" to address the housing shortage.

### **Recommendation/s**

**That Council :**

1. note the establishment of "Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill" to address the housing shortage.
2. recognise the formation of an Executive and Task Groups and facilitate further meetings over the next 18 months.
3. thank the community members who have volunteered to be part of the "Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill" group.



## 2.6 Interstate Travel - Canberra

**Directorate:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** S16-04-05  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

#### **4.3 Bold leadership, strong partnerships and effective advocacy**

4.3.2 Strong relationship with State and Federal governments to influence advocacy and funding opportunities

### Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

### Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

### Summary

This report proposes that Swan Hill Rural City Council be represented at Murray River Group of Council (MRGC) meetings with Ministers in Canberra by The Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer on the 19-20 August 2024.

### Discussion

Swan Hill Rural City Council has been a part of the Murray River Group of Councils for the past 17 years. A strong local government advocacy group in northern Victoria that comprises Swan Hill Rural City, Mildura Rural City, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire, Campaspe Shire and Moira Shire Councils.

Together the six Councils work together in the interests of the northern Victorian region to promote regional priorities to support the long-term prosperity and social well-being of the region.

Over the years MRGC has built a reputation as a reliable partner and a serious advocate for our residents on key priorities such as Energy, Digital Connectivity, Agriculture, Transport, Tourism and Water.

MRGC is seeking face-to-face meetings with Ministers in Canberra to further advocate for these priorities and has requested meetings with the following ministers:

- Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Water  
Basin Plan, open tender buy backs and the impact on our communities
- Hon. Chris Bowen, Minister for Energy  
Maximising opportunities of renewable energy transition
- Hon. Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport  
Roads and bridges investment (transport connectivity)
- Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture and Emergency Management  
Basin Plan impact on ag & flood recovery
- Hon. Kristy McBain, Minister for Local Government & Regional Development  
Local government funding and regional development investment in northern Victoria.
- Hon Michelle Rowland, Minister for Communications  
Digital connectivity.
- Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport  
PALM Rugby Union Program

It is proposed that the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer (or delegates) attend these meetings in Canberra.

### **Consultation**

Discussion at Councillor Assembly.

### **Financial Implications**

Accommodation and travel costs associated with attending the meetings in Canberra.

### **Social Implications**

Nil.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil.

### **Environmental Implications**

Emissions associated with travel.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil.

**Attachments:** Nil

**Options**

Council may choose to adopt or amend the recommendation.

**Recommendation/s**

**That Council:**

- 1. Authorise the travel of the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer (or delegates) to represent Swan Hill Rural City Council at the Murray River Group of Councils minister meetings in Canberra on the 19-20 August 2024.**
- 2. Move the Council meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, 20 August 2024, to the new date of Tuesday, 13 August 2024, commencing at 2pm at the Swan Hill Town Hall and to advertise this change of date in newspapers circulated throughout the municipality.**

## 2.7 Proposed Date Change for September Scheduled Council Meeting 2024

**Directorate:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** S16-05-03  
**Purpose:** For Decision

### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

#### 4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

### Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

### Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

### Summary

This report seeks to bring forward the Scheduled Council meeting for the month of September 2024 by one week to avoid any possible conflict with the council meeting falling within the election period.

### Discussion

The Local Government Act requires councils to have an election period policy and further requires that Council's refrain from making major policy decisions or committing significant expenditure during the election period. The election period starts on the last day on which nominations for the election can be received and ends at 6 PM on Election Day.

The **election period** for the 2024 general elections will begin at 12 noon on Tuesday, 17 September 2024 and end at 6.00pm on Saturday, 26 October 2024.

Nominations for the 2024 General Election of the Swan Hill Rural City Council are proposed to close at 12 noon on Tuesday, 17 September.

It is desirable that the Council meeting be moved forward to avoid creating the perception that actions of Council are in conflict with the Election period.

It is highly probable that the Council will be required to make some major decisions



which may include the awarding of contracts which have been programmed to allow for the implementation of Council's capital works program for 2024/25 at the September Council Meeting.

If Council were to delay making those decisions it would significantly interrupt the delivery of Council services.

It is for this reason that it is suggested the Council should consider moving the September Council Meeting forward one week to Tuesday, 10 September 2024.

### **Consultation**

There has been no consultation outside the organisation in relation to this matter.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil.

### **Social Implications**

Nil.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil.

**Attachments:** Nil

### **Options**

Council may choose to adopt or amend the recommendation.

### **Recommendation/s**

**That Council move the Council meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, 17 September 2024, to the new date of Tuesday, 10 September 2024, commencing at 2pm at the Swan Hill Town Hall and to advertise this change of date in newspapers circulated throughout the municipality.**

## 3 Officer Report for Noting

### 3.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 6 June 2024

**Directorate:** Corporate Services  
**File Number:** S15-28-01  
**Purpose:** Information Only

#### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

##### 4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

#### Current Strategic documents

Council Plan

#### Declarations of Interest:

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

#### Summary

Council's Audit Committee met on 6 June 2024 and this report summarises the items that were discussed at this meeting.

#### Discussion

The Audit Committee met on 6 June 2024 and as well as the usual procedural items the agenda included:

1. Internal Audit updates - Payroll & HR Review
2. Internal Audit updates - Accounts Payable
3. Internal Audit Updates - Budget Monitoring & Management Controls
4. Strategic Internal Audit Program Status Update and Industry Update - Recent reports and publications of interest
5. Review of Risk Register
6. Quarterly Risk Report
7. Strategic Risk Review
8. Run the Risk Audit Update – Depot
9. Quarterly Review of Financial Performance and Position to 31 March 2024.
10. Councillor Expenses January to March 2024
11. Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment Valuations

12. External Audit Interim Management Letter
13. Drag Strip Update
14. Swan Hill Art Gallery and Visitation Centre and Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub Update

### **General Business**

1. Preventing contamination from recycled mulch
2. Self Assessment Survey will be distributed after the meeting

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Financial Implications**

The sitting fees paid to independent members on the Audit Committee is adjusted annually by CPI. Sitting fees are included in Council's Budget.

### **Social Implications**

Nil.

### **Economic Implications**

Nil.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil.

### **Risk Management Implications**

The Audit Committee helps to oversee Council's risk management practices. Internal and other audits are routinely done to reduce the risk to Council.

**Attachments:** 1. AC Placeholder [3.1.1 - 1 page]

### **Options**

Not applicable.

### **Recommendation/s**

**That Council note the contents of this report.**

## **Confidential attachment**

- Audit Committee Confidential unconfirmed Minutes 6 June 2024 (attachment will be included into the in-camera agenda)



## 4 Decisions Which Need Action / Ratification

### 4.1 Councillor Assemblies - Record of Attendance and Agenda Items

**Directorate:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** S15-05-06  
**Purpose:** For Noting

#### Declarations of Interest:

Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

#### Summary

The following report provides attendance details of Councillor Assemblies on a monthly basis.

#### Discussion

Whilst Minutes have not been recorded, Agenda items and those in attendance are reported and presented to Council.

An assembly of Councillors is defined as a meeting that is planned or scheduled and where the matters being considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

No formal decisions can be made at an assembly but rather direction can be given that is likely to lead to a formal decision of Council.

Details of the most recent assemblies of Council are attached.

#### Council Plan Strategy Addressed

**4. Leadership** - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

#### Current Strategic documents

No strategic documents applicable.

#### Key Legislation

There is no key legislation applicable

**Attachments:** 1. COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA  
July (1) [4.1.1 - 3 pages]

### **Options**

Council Assemblies are reported to ensure good governance and transparency.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council note the contents of the report.**

**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**  
**18 June 2024 at 12.30pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Council Meeting Agenda items

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillors

- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Chris Jeffery

**Apologies / Leave of Absence**

- Cr Les McPhee

**OFFICERS**

- Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Bruce Myers, Director of Community and Cultural Services
- Bhan Pratap, Director of Corporate Services
- Leah Johnston, Director of Infrastructure
- Ash Free, Finance Manager

**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA**  
**25 June 2024 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- CEO performance review
- Rural Living and Low Density Residential review
- Planning scheme review
- Economic Development Strategy
- Final Detailed Design Stakeholder presentation – Tourism & Cultural Hub
- Councillor Only

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Nil

**ATTENDANCE**

**Councillors**

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Chris Jeffery

**Apologies / Leave of Absence**

- Nil

**OFFICERS**

- Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Heather Green, Executive Manager Strategic Projects
- Nathan Keighran, Economic Development Coordinator
- Dennis Hovenden, Economic & Development Manager
- Helen Morris, Organisational Development Manager
- Azam Suleman, Acting PMO Manager

**Other**

- David Bergin
- Ben Milbourne

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- Nil



**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA  
9 July 2024 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Mildura Health Fund - presentation
- Amendment of Budget 2024-25
- Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill
- Drag Strip
- 17 Arnoldt Street – 4 lot subdivision
- Review of 2024 Australia Day Event to obtain community feedback
- Councillor only session

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- Election Period

**ATTENDANCE**

Councillors

- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr Ann Young

**Apologies / Leave of Absence**

- Cr Les McPhee

**OFFICERS**

- Leah Johnston, Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Bhan Pratap, Director Corporate Services
- Ash Free, Finance Manager
- Heather Green, Executive Manager Strategic Projects
- Awais Sadiq, Development Manager
- Dennis Hovenden, Economic & Development Manager

**Other**

- Gerard Op de Coul – Mildura Health Foundation CEO
- Courtney Elliott - Mildura Health Foundation Area Manager, Mid Murray
- Ken Higgins, Hayden Glare, Jacinta Parsons and Andrew Ferguson (Swan Hill Speedway)
- Skid City Mark Humphrey, Alec Berias, Dion Marsh, Katie Cassar, Trish Crossin, Phil Lamattina

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- Nil

## 5 Notices of Motion

## 6 Foreshadowed Items

## 7 Urgent Items Not Included In Agenda

## 8 To Consider and Order on Councillor Reports

## 9 In-Camera Items

### RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the following confidential items:

### **Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 6 June 2024**

*CONFIDENTIAL ITEM This item is to be considered at an In Camera meeting in accordance with Section 3(1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, this item is to be considered in an incamera meeting on the grounds that the item concerns Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.*

## 10 Close of Meeting