**Mission Statement:**

*West Wimmera Shire Council will work in partnership with the community, business and government to develop and enhance a productive, healthy and safe community by providing leadership, services, advocacy and good governance.*

**HELD:** Thursday 21 May 2015

**LOCATION:** Edenhope Council Chamber

**COMMENCEMENT:** 7.30pm

<table>
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<th>IN ATTENDANCE:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Councillors</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senior Management/Officers</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Annette Jones, Mayor | Mark Crouch  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) |
| Ron Hawkins | Venkat Peteti  
General Manager Corporate & Community Services (GMCCS) |
| Bruce Meyer | Robyn Evans  
General Manager Infrastructure Development & Works (GMIDW) |
| Richard Wait |  |
| Warren Wait |  |

**Vision Statement:**

*West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer*
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1.0 WELCOME

2.0 OPENING PRAYER

The CEO read the opening prayer.

3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All councillors have a personal responsibility to ensure they are aware of the provisions mandated in the Local Government Act 1989 with regard Conflict of Interest disclosures. The Conflict of Interest – A Guide for Councillors (October 2012) has been made available to all Councillors in hard copy form and is available via Docs On Tap.

Nil

5.0 DELEGATES REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) AS LISTED IN THE COUNCIL KEPT COUNCILLOR DIARY

5.1 MAYOR, ANNETTE JONES

15/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
16/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
17/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
20/04/2015 Sena Solutions re finger post signage for Edenhope
21/04/2015 Mayor Graham Excell, Tatiara Local Council, SA
22/04/2015 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel Meeting, Melbourne
23/04/2015 MAV Rural & Regional Mayors and CEOs Forum, Melbourne
25/04/2015 Anzac Day, Apsley
27/04/2015 AICD Company Directors’ Course, Melbourne
28/04/2015 AICD Company Directors’ Course, Melbourne
29/04/2015 AICD Company Directors’ Course, Melbourne
30/04/2015 AICD Company Directors’ Course, Melbourne
01/05/2015 AICD Company Directors’ Course, Melbourne
03/05/2015 Lake Charlegrark Youth Art Festival
04/05/2015 Media Launch of Apsley Cup 2015, Border Inn, Apsley
05/05/2015 Lost in the Bush Committee Meeting, Natimuk
07/05/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
07/05/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
08/05/2015 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan Meeting, Horsham
12/05/2015 Hon Ryan Smith, Shadow Minister for Roads/Infrastructure/Industry
13/05/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
14/05/2015 Rural Councils Victoria Forum for Mayors and CEOs, Melbourne
15/05/2015 MAV State Council, Melbourne
18/05/2015 Community Action Network Meeting, Edenhope
19/05/2015  Primary & Secondary Little Desert Division Inter-School Cross Country Event, presentation of ribbons and medals to Primary School winners
21/05/2015  Lost in the Bush Meeting, Edenhope
21/05/2015  Council Meetings, Edenhope

7:33pm: Cr W Wait left the room
7:34pm: Cr W Wait returned to the room

5.2 COUNCILLOR RON HAWKINS
24/04/2015  Presentation Ceremony, Macpherson Smith Rural Scholar, Kaniva College
25/04/2015  Anzac Day, Goroke
01/05/2015  Official Opening, Natimuk Medical & Allied Health Centre
03/05/2015  Lake Charlegrark Youth Art Festival
04/05/2015  Media Launch of Apsley Cup 2015, Border Inn, Apsley
07/05/2015  Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
07/05/2015  Councillor Forum, Kaniva
13/05/2015  Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
13/05/2015  Apsley Recreation Reserve Committee of Management election meeting
15/05/2015  Volunteering Recognition Awards 2015, Horsham
21/05/2015  Council Meetings, Edenhope

5.3 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER
17/04/2015  Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting
21/04/2015  Kaniva Sporting Complex Committee Meeting
25/04/2015  Anzac Day, Kaniva
07/05/2015  Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
07/05/2015  Councillor Forum, Kaniva
12/05/2015  Kaniva Sporting Complex Committee Meeting
13/05/2015  Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
15/05/2015  Volunteering Recognition Awards 2015, Horsham
21/05/2015  Council Meetings, Edenhope

5.4 COUNCILLOR RICHARD WAIT
16/04/2015  Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
25/04/2015  Anzac Day, Harrow
04/05/2015  Media Launch of Apsley Cup 2015, Border Inn, Apsley
07/05/2015  Councillor Forum, Kaniva
09/05/2015  Goroke Social Infrastructure Meeting with community members
09/05/2015  Harrow Social Infrastructure Meeting with community members
13/05/2015  Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
15/05/2015 Volunteering Recognition Awards 2015, Horsham
19/05/2015 Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting, Donald
21/05/2015 Council Meetings, Edenhope

5.5 COUNCILLOR WARREN WAIT
22/04/2015 Official Opening Memorial Gallipoli/Anzac Exhibition, Red Tail Gallery
25/04/2015 Anzac Day, Edenhope
29/04/2015 West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Committee Meeting
07/05/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
07/05/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
09/05/2015 Goroke Social Infrastructure Meeting with community members
09/05/2015 Harrow Social Infrastructure Meeting with community members
12/05/2015 Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting, Horsham
13/05/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
18/05/2015 Peronne Memorial Hall Reserve Committee, election of new committee
21/05/2015 Council Meetings, Edenhope

5.6 MARK CROUCH (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)
15/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
16/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
17/04/2015 Rural Councils Victoria – Rural Summit, Halls Gap
21/04/2015 Post-Council Staff Briefing, Kaniva/Edenhope videolink
21/04/2015 Senior Management Group Meeting
22/04/2015 Owners of Edenhope Caravan Park
23/04/2015 MAV Rural & Regional Mayors and CEOs Forum, Melbourne
24/04/2015 Grampians Regional Management Forum Meeting, Ararat
25/04/2015 Anzac Day, Harrow
29/04/2015 LGMA Conference
30/04/2015 LGMA Conference
01/05/2015 LGMA Conference
05/05/2015 Manager Economic & Business Development
07/05/2015 Senior Management Group Meeting, Kaniva
07/05/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
07/05/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
11/05/2015 Leeanne Thomson, Wimmera Uniting Care, Horsham
12/05/2015 Hon Ryan Smith, Shadow Minister for Roads/Infrastructure/Industry
12/05/2015 Senior Management Group re agenda review
12/05/2015 Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting, Horsham
14/05/2015 Rural Councils Victoria Forum for Mayors and CEOs, Melbourne
15/05/2015 MAV State Council, Melbourne
18/05/2015 Communications Officer re pre-Council priority media items
20/05/2015 Geoffrey Lord, Federation University
20/05/2015 Healthy Minds for Healthy Living Forum, Horsham
21/05/2015 CEO Meeting re Emergency Management Cluster Agreement
21/05/2015 Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting
21/05/2015 Council Meetings, Edenhope

6.0 CONDOLENCES
Nil

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2015, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Minutes correction request from Cr Richard Wait:

1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 be amended by adding the words “West Wimmera Shire brand exposure” to the following motion:

15.1 Apsley Racing Club Sponsorship Request

That the Shire:

1. Agree to sponsor the Apsley Racing Club two thousand dollars ($2000.00), as per the attached sponsorship agreement, in relation to Naming Rights for a West Wimmera Shire Children’s Marquee.

2. That the Council Manager Economic and Business Development liaise with the Apsley Race Club to maximise West Wimmera Shire brand exposure, publicity and shire wide event exposure leading up to and during the race day.

2. That the amended Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2015, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.
Moved: Cr Richard Wait  
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 be amended by adding the words “West Wimmera Shire brand exposure” to the following motion:

15.1 Apsley Racing Club Sponsorship Request

That the Shire:

1. Agree to sponsor the Apsley Racing Club two thousand dollars ($2000.00), as per the attached sponsorship agreement, in relation to Naming Rights for a West Wimmera Shire Children’s Marquee.

2. That the Council Manager Economic and Business Development liaise with the Apsley Race Club to maximise West Wimmera Shire brand exposure, publicity and shire wide event exposure leading up to and during the race day.

2. That the amended Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 14 April 2015, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.  

Carried Unanimously

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Nil.

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION
Nil.
10.0  COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD, OTHER MINUTES FOR TABLING

10.1 GENERAL COMMITTEE
FOR DECISION

The resolutions arising from the General Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 are now required to be formally adopted by Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolutions arising from the General Committee Meeting, being resolutions from the meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2015, as listed below, be adopted.

2.1.1 CONCERN OVER FURTHER COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

Moved: Councillor Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Councillor Richard Wait

That the West Wimmera Shire Council write to all state politicians representing this area in parliament to express our opinion that further amalgamations of shires is not in the best interests of local government, especially West Wimmera Shire.

Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – CEO: Nil comment.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

That the West Wimmera Shire Council write to all state politicians representing this area in parliament to express our opinion that further amalgamations of shires is not in the best interests of local government, especially West Wimmera Shire.

Carried Unanimously

Action: CEO
2.2.1 CHETWYND TOILET BLOCK

Moved: Councillor Richard Wait
Seconded: Councillor Warren Wait

That Council sets aside time at the next Councillor Forum to discuss the Chetwynd toilet block.

Carried
For: Cr Richard Wait, Cr Warren Wait, Cr Annette Jones, Cr Ron Hawkins
Against: Cr Bruce Meyer

Officer Comment – GMIDW:

Action: Nil - Completed.

2.2.2 COMMUNITY GROUPS SEEKING FUNDS FROM COUNCIL OUTSIDE OF GRANTS PROCESS

Moved: Councillor Richard Wait
Seconded: Councillor Warren Wait

That in future Council provides editorials, advertising or newsletter items encouraging groups to look at their future needs in relation to applying for grant funding.

Carried Unanimously
Moved: Cr Richard Wait  
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait  
That in future Council provides editorials, advertising or newsletter items encouraging groups to look at their future needs in relation to applying for grant funding.  
Carried Unanimously

Action: GMCCS

2.3.1 WATER FROM LAKE WALLACE STATION – DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Moved: Councillor Warren Wait  
Seconded: Councillor Bruce Meyer  
That Council:  
1. in cooperation with the owners of Lake Wallace Station, investigate the costs of draining new areas of Lake Wallace Station into the current drainage network with a view of getting more water into Lake Wallace and  
2. a report be prepared for Council consideration.  
Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – GMIDW:  
The Works Manager April 2015 report to Council advised that clearing the drains will have little effect on increasing the water in Lake Wallace.  
Before Council dedicates ratepayers’ money to actions, an understanding of groundwater resources, how groundwater functions and how the various uses, components and management bodies fit together is essential. Council will then be in a position to ‘problem
solve’ water issues from an evidence base and develop solutions that would be considered by State and Federal governments and/or the relevant water authorities and bodies. Whilst the initiating concern with the above resolution is Lake Wallace, the cost of an investigation would not be much less to restrict the investigation to Lake Wallace, and by expanding the investigation Council will 1. Get better value for money, and 2. Have a report that has Shire-wide relevance. Therefore, it is recommended that:

“An investigation into the groundwater of West Wimmera is commissioned, with particular focus on:

- the catchment area of Lake Wallace, Edenhope, and
- the long-term water security for the overall Shire, and,
- that the cost of $55,000 be referred to budget.”

The investigation report could include:

- an understanding of groundwater distribution across West Wimmera
- groundwater salinity issues, both current and trends
- the predicted role of groundwater in the longer-term water supply in West Wimmera
- define the size, extent and replenishment process of aquifers relevant to West Wimmera
- identification of the impact of changing weather patterns on West Wimmera’s groundwater
- identification of the impact of changing (increasing?) water use within West Wimmera.

The 2009 groundwater investigation of West Wimmera could be updated and include specific information on the Lake Wallace catchment.

Lapsed.
10.2 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Thursday 7 May 2015 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Thursday 7 May 2015 be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

10.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held Wednesday 8 April 2015 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held Wednesday 8 April 2015 be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<tr>
<td>10.3.1</td>
<td>Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting, 8 April 2015</td>
<td>15/001713</td>
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</table>
10.4 WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION

That the Minutes of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting held Friday 17 April 2015 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That the Minutes of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting held Friday 17 April 2015 be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

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<td>10.4.1</td>
<td>Minutes of Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting, 17 April 2015</td>
<td>15/001769</td>
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11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil.
12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL AND PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES – STAGED PROCESS ENDORSEMENT

FILE NUMBER: PS0082

REPORT AUTHOR: ELIZABETH MATUSCHKA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek ongoing endorsement from Council for the passenger rail services proposal, which is being led by Horsham Rural City Council.

Background

In early 2014, a meeting was held in Ararat (“the Ararat meeting”) with other Wimmera Southern Mallee and various South West Victorian Councils, to advance the case for a shuttle service for the Wimmera and South West using the existing standard gauge railways to link in with services from Ararat to Melbourne.

At the Ararat meeting, Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) provided a copy of the report which was considered by the Horsham Rural City Council meeting on Monday 3 March 2014. Horsham Rural City Council adopted the report’s recommendation, and on this basis HRCC wrote to seek an indication of West Wimmera Shire Council’s preparedness to provide financial support to prepare a feasibility study business case for a rail shuttle service.

HRCC flagged that the financial contribution could be done in two stages, with an approximate cost of $50,000 for each stage with a total cost of $100,000. It was further suggested that State Government through Regional Development Victoria, the Department of Transport, and Public Transport Victoria should be able to contribute around two-thirds of this sum, leaving the eight Wimmera Southern Mallee, South West Councils and the Wimmera Transport Group to fund approximately $32,000 in two stages. This was estimated to involve a cost of approximately $4000-5000 per Council, to be funded in two instalments of $2,000 in the 2014/15 financial year.
Considerable work was required to develop a brief and a specification for tender, and to seek funding through the Victorian State Government. On this basis the above scenario was speculative, but was included to give some indication of the scope of the study. At that stage HRCC could not be more specific, but was seeking a commitment of financial support for this project.

HRCC envisaged that this project would further proceed led by the Southern Grampians Shire, Ararat Rural City and the Horsham Rural City Council on behalf of the other Councils and the Wimmera Transport Group.

Council considered the proposal at its 20 March 2014 Ordinary meeting, and passed the following motion:

*That Council agree to refer to the Council budget 2014 / 2015 an amount of $2000 as a West Wimmera Shire Council contribution to the undertaking being the preparation of a business and feasibility case for a proposal to extend light passenger rail services into the Wimmera/Southern Mallee and south west Victoria, conditional on such work ensuring the service needs of the rural and remote areas of the Shire are factored into the business and feasibility case brief.*

A letter to this effect was subsequently forwarded to HRCC.

Council was provided with an update on the proposal at its 18 September 2014 Ordinary meeting, as follows:

- Public Transport Victoria (PTV) briefed HRCC in April 2014 on PTV’s next steps in creating a vision for regional public transport. PTV also advised that network development plans for the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee regions were well advanced, and that further work was to be undertaken in the central Grampians region.

- In August 2014, HRCC confirmed that:
  - Member Councils for the feasibility study business case were Horsham, Ararat, Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh, Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Northern Grampians and West Wimmera.
  - All Member Councils had responded positively to a request for financial support.
  - HRCC had submitted a request to Regional Development Victoria on 9 July 2014, seeking $2:$1 funding to carry out such a feasibility study.
  - It was envisaged that the total cost of the study will be $100,000, with one-third of the contribution shared by Member Councils.
HRCC wrote to Council on 5 May 2015, and provided an update on the project. HRCC also attached a Project Proposal for improving passenger rail to Western Victoria. Both documents are attached to this report.

In the letter, HRCC has advised that:

- $5,000 to support the study has been promised by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Intergovernmental Relations Division.
- HRCC has applied for additional funding of $10,000 from each of the Grampians and Barwon South West Regional Development Australia branches.

The Project Proposal outlines three stages:

Stage 1: Background analysis
Stage 2: High level study
Stage 3: Detailed analysis and business case

HRCC is seeking Council’s endorsement of the processes outlined in the letter and the Project Proposal.

Risk Management Implications

There are a number of risks associated with the above proposal.

There is significant capital and recurrent funding requirements and issues to be navigated before the above service provision to Wimmera Southern Mallee and South West region can be initiated. These include but not limited to capital upgrade of parts of the lines, crossing and traffic separation issues, rolling stock availability and logistic issues around coordinating passenger and freight movements.

Legislative Implications

Not commented on.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council has previously agreed to contribute $2000 to the project. This amount has not been requested or remitted and remains unexpended.
No further funding requests have been received.

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

Indirect linkages with Increased Community Amenity – protect unique values of our rural communities. Reliable and effective public transport a key service to increase rural amenity and lifestyle.

**Communication Implications**

Not commented on.

**Conclusion**

The reinstatement of passenger rail services to Western Victoria would be a very positive outcome for the region generally, for current residents of West Wimmera Shire, and for new residents which Council seeks to attract to the area.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves to support the Horsham Rural City Council and participating Councils by endorsing the processes outlined in the Project Proposal received from Horsham Rural City Council entitled “Improving Passenger Rail to Western Victoria”, in relation to assessment of the feasibility of reinstating intrastate passenger rail services within the Wimmera and South-West regions of Victoria, linking to Ararat and Melbourne.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That Council resolves to support the Horsham Rural City Council and participating Councils by endorsing the processes outlined in the Project Proposal received from Horsham Rural City Council entitled “Improving Passenger Rail to Western Victoria”, in relation to assessment of the feasibility of reinstating intrastate passenger rail services within the Wimmera and South-West regions of Victoria, linking to Ararat and Melbourne.

Carried Unanimously
## Attachments:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.1.1</td>
<td>Letter from HRCC re update on return of passenger rail, 5 May 2015</td>
<td>15/001651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1.2</td>
<td>Project Proposal – Improving Passenger Rail to Western Victoria, May 2015</td>
<td>15/001651</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
12.2 MIGA LAKE HALL – DISPOSAL / TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS

FILE NUMBER: CM0392
REPORT AUTHOR: MARK CROUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

To have Council consider the outcome of an advertised expression of interest (EOI) process for the disposal of the Miga Lake Hall.

Background

At the 17 July 2014 meeting of Council, Council resolved as follows (extract only) which in part pertained to the Miga Lake Hall;

6. That Council adopt the Sena Solutions final report Hall Group and Individual Hall recommendations – Group E halls recommendations;
   23. These halls be removed from the Community Hall portfolio
   24. Where necessary, Council facilitate the winding up of incorporated bodies
   25. Council liaise with halls that are privately owned to remove from the Halls Portfolio
   26. Council ensure that council owned halls that are unsafe are cordoned off from potential visitors to the site or passers by
   27. Council dispose of Council owned halls and property that is no longer required.

On 21 August 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting, a report regarding the Miga Lake Hall was included in the agenda, and Council resolved as follows;

That the Council convene a meeting with the Miga Lake Hall committee and community to discuss the issues around ownership and ongoing maintenance of the Miga Lake Hall.

A meeting was arranged with the Miga Lake Hall Committee and community for Wednesday 3 September 2014, onsite at the Miga Lake Hall. Council was represented by five Councillors and CEO Mark Crouch.

Key issues discussed at the meeting were:
- Possible options and models for the Hall being passed to a community body.
- Insurances.
The Miga Lake Hall Committee and community members held a meeting on 3 September 2014, and provided Council with the Minutes of this meeting. A range of options regarding the future of the Miga Lake Hall were discussed at this meeting.

On 23 September 2014, a further meeting was held with the Miga Lake Hall Committee and community, onsite at the Miga Lake Hall. Council was represented by Mayor, Councillor Ron Hawkins and CEO Mark Crouch. The range of options proposed by the Miga Lake Hall Committee and community were discussed.

On 25 September 2014, Council forwarded correspondence to Mr David Hobbs of the Miga Lake Hall Committee, confirming that the range of options being proposed by the Hall Committee would be discussed at the 2 October 2014 Councillors Forum, and formally considered at the 16 October 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting.

On 16 October 2014, Council resolved;

That Council:

1. Provide public notice of intention to sell the land, on an expression of interest basis, with the highest and any expression of interest not necessarily being accepted;


On 18 December 2014, Council resolved;

That Council:

1. Determine to transfer ownership of the Miga Lake Hall, title particulars Crown Grant Volume 5793, Folio 434 being TP 350562 Parish of Turandurey on an expression of interest basis, with the highest and any expression of interest not necessarily accepted;

2. Be responsible for all legal and other transfer costs associated with the transfer;

3. Pass on the net sale of hall proceeds to the local Miga Lake CFA group to be expended on local CFA group operations as seen fit by the group;
4. Liaise with the Miga Lake community to erect, at Council cost, a suitable plaque detailing the history and background to the Miga Lake Hall, and recognising the site from an historical perspective.

Risk Management Implications

Minimal. Not commented on.

Legislative Implications

Extract Local Government Act 1989;

189. Restriction on power to sell land

(1) Except where section 181 or 191 applies, if a Council sells or exchanges any land it must comply with this section.

(2) Before selling or exchanging the land the Council must—
(a) ensure that public notice of intention to do so is given at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land; and
(b) obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.

(3) A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on the proposed sale or exchange.

(4) Sub-section (3) does not apply to the sale of land that formed part of a road that has been discontinued and which the Council has resolved to sell as the result of a Council exercising its powers under clause 3 of Schedule 10.

Notice of intention to sell land at Miga Lake (hall) was advertised pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989. There were no submissions received.

The property valuation was provided by Wilson Valuers dated 27 November 2014.

Environmental Implications

Minimal. Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The sale of the land being the Miga Lake Hall will have limited financial implications.
Policy and Council Plan Implications

Council Plan Action 2.1 – undertake a strategic review of public halls and associated strategy implementation.

Communication Implications

There has been a positive and ongoing communication process with the Miga Lake community. Council has met with the community on a number of occasions and every effort has been made to establish a positive outcome for both the community and the Council.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the disposal of the Miga Lake hall closed on Friday 15 May 2015. Advertisements regarding the EOI process were placed in the Wimmera Mail Times and the West Wimmera Advocate, with a copy of the EOI provided to the two adjoining property owners.

The Miga Lake community have also been asked to compile suitable words for the erection of a suitable plaque commemorating the Miga Lake Hall.

Conclusion

Following the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, Council has received responses as follows:

Bindy Lees (no address provided) $3400.00
Mark Hancock (7132 Nhill – Harrow Road, Miga Lake) $5000.00

I refer Councillors to the valuation report prepared on the property pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989, as detailed in the Council report to the 18 December 2014 Council meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the Council resolution of 18 December 2015 viz;

That Council:

1. Determine to transfer ownership of the Miga Lake Hall, title particulars Crown Grant Volume 5793, Folio 434 being TP 350562 Parish of Turandurey on an expression of interest basis, with the highest and any expression of interest not necessarily accepted;
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 21 MAY 2015
WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

2. Be responsible for all legal and other transfer costs associated with the transfer;

3. Pass on the net sale of hall proceeds to the local Miga Lake CFA group to be expended on local CFA group operations as seen fit by the group;

4. Liaise with the Miga Lake community to erect, at Council cost, a suitable plaque detailing the history and background to the Miga Lake Hall, and recognising the site from an historical perspective.

That Council:

1. Accept the expression of interest bid of Mark Hancock for the purchase of the Miga Lake Hall, title particulars Crown Grant Volume 5793, Folio 434 being TP 350562 Parish of Turandurey, for the amount of $5000.

2. Be responsible for all legal and other transfer costs associated with the transfer;

3. Pass on the net sale of hall proceeds to the local Miga Lake CFA group to be expended on local CFA group operations as seen fit by the group;

4. Liaise with the Miga Lake community to erect, at Council cost, a suitable plaque detailing the history and background to the Miga Lake Hall, and recognising the site from an historical perspective.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

In relation to the Council resolution of 18 December 2015 viz;

That Council:

1. Determine to transfer ownership of the Miga Lake Hall, title particulars Crown Grant Volume 5793, Folio 434 being TP 350562 Parish of Turandurey on an expression of interest basis, with the highest and any expression of interest not necessarily accepted;

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2. Be responsible for all legal and other transfer costs associated with the transfer;

3. Pass on the net sale of hall proceeds to the local Miga Lake CFA group to be expended on local CFA group operations as seen fit by the group;

4. Liaise with the Miga Lake community to erect, at Council cost, a suitable plaque detailing the history and background to the Miga Lake Hall, and recognising the site from an historical perspective.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<td>12.2.3</td>
<td>Expression of Interest EOI – Sale of land – Miga Lake Hall – bid by Bindy Lees</td>
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FOR DECISION

Introduction

To enable Council to consider the report of the strategic review undertaken by the North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) on 20 March 2015, facilitated by Richard Baum, Ashton Forsyth Consultants.

Background

At the 28 November 2014 meeting of the NWMA, it was resolved:

    That the NWMA engage a suitable facilitator to prepare and undertake a facilitated NWMA strategic planning session to be scheduled for Friday 20 March 2015 in Horsham, to be open to elected members and Chief Executive Offices from member Councils.

Ashton Forsyth Consultants were engaged to facilitate the review.

Risk Management Implications

Minimal. Not commented on.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The member Council contribution for 2014/2015 was set at $630.00 per Council.
Policy and Council Plan Implications

Action 6.1 Council will review Council commitment and involvement in stakeholder and regional networks for effectiveness and benefit to West Wimmera Shire Council. Many regional and stakeholder networks provide valuable services, support and advocacy for Council.

Communication Implications

It is important that West Wimmera Shire Councillors engage and respond to the report and outcomes from the strategic workshop. A lot has changed in how the Local Government sector communicates and operates, with the NWMA needing to review how it operates if it is to remain effective and add value going forward.

_Councillors have been provided a copy of the NWMA Strategic Planning Day outcomes report and requested to provide inputs and thoughts to the Mayor or the CEO._

Conclusion

The NWMA, as it currently operates, lacks the resources and administrative structure required to enable the group to remain relevant. If the group is to have a role in the future, the association should be resourced and structured to enable the association to add value and be an effective group going forward. Member Councils also need to ensure they engage more effectively with the NWMA to ensure the association remains relevant and add value to its membership.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) Strategic Planning Day Outcomes Report (March 2015),

That:

1. The report be received and noted.
2. Feedback and inputs provided to the Mayor be conveyed at the next meeting of the North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) scheduled for 29 May 2015.
Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait
That:
1. The report be received and noted.
2. Feedback and inputs provided to the Mayor be conveyed at the next meeting of the North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) scheduled for 29 May 2015.

Carried Unanimously

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<td>12.3.1</td>
<td>North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) – Constitution and Rules of the Association</td>
<td>15/001745</td>
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<td>12.3.2</td>
<td>North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) – NWMA Strategic Planning Day Outcomes Report (March 2015)</td>
<td>15/001328</td>
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13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

13.1 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL TOWNSHIP AMENITY POLICY

FILE NUMBER: PS0389
REPORT AUTHOR: ROBYN EVANS, GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2013-2017 identifies the development of a Township Amenity Plan. As a framework for Council decision making and long-term asset management, the Township Amenity Plan must reflect:

- Community aspirations
- Legislative and regulatory requirements
- Good design and asset management principles.

The Township Amenity Plan is in development and can be finalised when the last of the community precinct consultations have concluded.

West Wimmera Shire Council has been conducting community precinct consultations since 2014, commencing with Kaniva, and will shortly be finished with the precinct consultations in Harrow and Goroke. The community outcomes of these consultations can then be incorporated into the Township Amenity Plan.

This report introduces the West Wimmera Township Amenity Policy, from which the Township Amenity Plan will evolve.

The Township Amenity Policy must be read in conjunction with the West Wimmera Street Tree Policy, the Street Trees under Powerlines Policy, and with the West Wimmera Shire Council Community Local Law.

Background

The West Wimmera Shire Council vision is to deliver the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer.
The West Wimmera Shire Council recognises that Township amenity is important for the social, environmental and economic aspects of the Shire’s townships and that the residents of the municipality identify with their individual towns and settlements.

Township amenity includes the landscape, the transport and social infrastructure, how communities use their towns and provide guidelines for decision making by Council, both day to day and for long-term planning.

Evidence based principles should guide design process, balanced with budgetary realism and community consultation. An example is attached to this report; the ‘Healthy Spaces & Places: A National guide to designing places for healthy living,’ a collaborative design guides by the Heart Foundation, Planning Institute of Australia, and the Australian Local Government Association.

Risk Management Implications

Uncoordinated day to day decision making and inconsistent decisions can undermine overall township amenity and can frustrate residents with perceived differences in Council decisions.

This policy and subsequent plan will mitigate these risks by providing a framework for decision making that is clear and transparent for Council and the community.

Legislative Implications

Electrical Safety Act 1998, (incorporating amendments as at 8 October 2014) and the associated Regulations
Road Management Act 2004
Road Safety Act 1986
Planning and Environment Act 1987
Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996
West Wimmera Shire Council Planning Scheme

The attached policy has considered the above.

Environmental Implications

Sustainable landscape and water sensitive design principles are considered in this policy.
Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are no budget implications from the policy in itself. Application of the policy will invariably involve budget, however many activities are already undertaken and in many cases, the application of the policy may be in improved decision making and/or doing things in a more holistic way, therefore not requiring additional budget.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

WWSC Council Plan 2013-2017 Action 2 – 2.1
WWSC Community Local Law 2012 Section 10
WWSC Community Local Law 2012 Section 22
WWSC Community Local Law 2012 Section 24
Target 10,000: WWS Economic Development Strategy (14/005386)

WWSC Street Trees Policy 2014
WWSC Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017
WWSC Tourism Strategy 2014-2018

Communication Implications

The policy and plan have been discussed at Council Forums. Councillors and the community have been involved in the community precinct plans. If endorsed, the West Wimmera Township Amenity Policy will be made available at Shire offices and on the Shire website.

An induction program will be undertaken with Customer service staff, Works and Parks and Gardens staff.

The ultimate West Wimmera Shire Council Township Amenity Plan will require a period of community engagement including advertising and placing on public display for 30 days.

Conclusion

The West Wimmera Shire Council Township Amenity Policy updates the Shire’s response to the Council Community Law and streamlines related policy. It provides the framework for quality decision making and the subsequent development of individual township amenity plans.
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:
- Endorse the West Wimmera Shire Council Township Amenity Policy, and
- Set a review date of 4 years to coincide with the budget planning timeframe for the following financial year.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That Council:
- Endorse the West Wimmera Shire Council Township Amenity Policy, and
- Set a review date of 4 years to coincide with the budget planning timeframe for the following financial year.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<tr>
<td>13.1.1</td>
<td>WWSC Township Amenity Policy DRAFT</td>
<td>15/001731</td>
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<td>13.1.2</td>
<td>Healthy Spaces and Places Guidelines</td>
<td>15/001733</td>
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13.2 TRANSFER STATIONS: RATIONALISATION OF SERVICES

FILE NUMBER: PS0328

REPORT AUTHOR: ROBYN EVANS, GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Council currently operates nine Transfer Stations as part of its waste management service. The hours of operation vary according to demand and are based on the district’s variables, including distances to other sites and kerbside/rural pick up’s.

Due to changes in services, declining usage of some sites and increased State compliance requirements, this report proposes some changes to provide a more cost effective service for Council. The proposal is to close the Serviceton and Lemon Springs sites, and replace them with a rural/kerbside pick-up at a common site provided by Council. In the case of Lemon Springs, the drumMUSTER service will continue and be delivered by local community groups as a fundraiser.

Background

Transfer Stations were originally set up to enable ratepayers a controlled site to dispose of their waste without the inconvenience of travelling long distances. Originally, the kerbside waste pickup service was restricted to townships only, but as the service evolved, on-route rural rubbish bin pickups were introduced. To some extent, this reduced the number of people who visit the district transfer stations.

Recent changes to the State-wide reporting requirements of transfer stations, waste and recycling operations as well as reducing overall budget for Council operations has prompted a two-year long review of the various waste and recycling services and infrastructure.

As a part of improved data collection and analysis, the needs and costs of all transfer stations were examined. The data (see attached report,) particularly those related to the operations of the Serviceton and Lemon Springs sites suggested that closing these sites would provide efficiencies and cost savings. The proposed closures are based on usage as both Serviceton and Lemon Springs have averaged less than one visit per week for the past eight months. Additionally, the resignation of John Smart, previous operator at the Serviceton site has prompted the consideration of its future.
Usage patterns for Goroke indicate that Fridays and Saturdays have minimal use, and the proposal is to close the Goroke site for these two days but increase the hours on Tuesday’s and Sunday’s. With this proposal there will be no change to the total opening hours at Goroke which will remain at eight hours per week.

Risk Management Implications

A. Users accustomed to current hours and operations will need to utilise other options.
B. There is a cost for residents for choosing the on-route pick-up option, however this cost will be offset by no longer being charged at gate entry.
C. Data collection at West Wimmera is still below State requirements due in part, to the lack of technology provided to operators.

These risks are mitigated by:
1. Closing operations and amending hours to reflect current user numbers and usage patterns,
2. Advertising of the changes to be undertaken in affected areas and at the affected sites
3. Consultation with major users (such as Goroke College) to ensure proposed hours meet their needs.
4. Data collection and analysis are significantly improved upon previous years and Council continues to look at ways of improving the quality of data collection for reporting and acquittal purposes.

Existing Contracts Implications

Transfer Station bin transfers - Dawnmock

There will be a deduction of $5,052 per annum to the contract. The annual contract is $98,000 and the proposed deduction of $5,052 represents approximately 5% of the annual price. The contract states that if the variation involves a decrease in the service or the omission of part of the service, the supervisor must make reasonable allowance for the contractor profit and overheads. In this case the value of the deduction is considered too small to warrant further consideration. Discussions have been held between Dawnmock and the Contracts Manager in March 2015, regarding this proposal and Dawnmock have advised that they will accept the deduction. They have also advised the deduction will be tempered somewhat as it will mean some cost saving in relation to the Serviceton pickups.

If the proposed two sites were to be closed there will be an offer to centralise pick-ups in the townships of Serviceton and Minimay for the disposal of general household waste where residents can take their bin for a weekly pick up at the prescribed fee. Due to time constraints there can be no extension to the collection route currently provided by Wimmera Mallee Waste. Discussions have been held with Wimmera Mallee Waste and they have advised that they can include any additional bins under this proposal with the township collections. Residents may also choose to take their bin to the nearest on-route service.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The table below outlines the impact of the proposed changes from the 2014/15 budget to the 2015/16 budget. Interested residents can pay an annual fee of $255, (as with all rural customers) to access this service.

This represents similar costs if residents were to dispose of their waste at the transfer sites through fees and charges.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Expenditure</td>
<td>Contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serviceton T/S</td>
<td>$8,088</td>
<td>$2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon Springs T/S</td>
<td>$6,379</td>
<td>$2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$18,835</td>
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INCOME

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th></th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General/</td>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Serviceton</td>
<td>$323</td>
<td>$530</td>
<td>$853</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T/S</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lemon Springs</td>
<td>$719</td>
<td>$1,350</td>
<td>$2,069</td>
<td>$900</td>
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<tr>
<td>T/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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- $2,922
- $3,055

TOTAL SAVING Expenses - Income
- $15,913
- $16,747

The proposal to provide alternate arrangements would take effect over the course of next financial year.

External funding has been achieved (a carry-over budget item from 14/15) to establish a recycling hub for Serviceton, as a pilot project, and this will soften the impact for the residents in this area. Given the very few visits to each transfer station there should be little impact.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Not commented upon

Communication Implications

As above, Council’s decision regarding changes to transfer station operating hours will be advertised at the impacted transfer station sites and by communication with residents outlining their future options.

The Works Manager has discussed the proposed changes to the affected Transfer Station Operators.
Conclusion

Cost cuts to operations budgets must be matched by service cuts of one sort or another. The two-year review of waste and recycling, along with recent improvements to data collection and analysis, indicate there are cost savings and efficiencies to be made with the closure of two transfer stations at Serviceton and Lemon Springs. This will provide a cost saving of $16,747 for 2015/2016 per annum. The proposed amendment of hours at Goroke will have no financial impact.

Recycling collection service is only available in townships where a waste charge is applied, and is not available to rural properties anyway. Additional non-manned recycling hubs at Serviceton (funded) and potentially Lemon Springs would provide a similar service and residents still have the option of taking recyclables to their nearest Transfer Station regardless.

An implementation program including community advice and gradual introduction of changes through the 2015/16 year will minimise the impacts on community as the Shire transitions from the current service provision to a new one.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That West Wimmera Shire Council:
1. Close the Serviceton Transfer Station following a period of community advice and offer on-route collection option.
2. Close the Lemon Springs Transfer Station following a period of community advice and offer on-route collection option.
3. Amend the hours of Goroke Transfer Station to:
   a. Tuesday 1pm to 5pm
   b. Friday closed
   c. Saturday closed
   d. Sunday 1 pm to 5pm
Moved: Cr Warren Wait  
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait  

That West Wimmera Shire Council:
1. Close the Serviceton Transfer Station following a period of community advice and offer on-route collection option.
2. Close the Lemon Springs Transfer Station following a period of community advice and offer on-route collection option.
3. Amend the hours of Goroke Transfer Station to:
   a. Tuesday 1pm to 5pm  
   b. Friday closed  
   c. Saturday closed  
   d. Sunday 1 pm to 5pm  

Carried Unanimously

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<td>13.2.1</td>
<td>Transfer Station Data Report May 2015</td>
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14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

14.1 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION ON THE PROPOSED RATE CAPping DISCUSSIONS PAPER – RATIFICATION

FILE NUMBER: AD0006
REPORT AUTHOR: VENKAT PETETI, GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) released its Consultation Paper for the Local Government Rates Capping and Variation Framework Review. The Review is being conducted at the request of the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Finance.

The ESC is required to develop a framework under which rate increases will be capped. Councils will need to submit proposals for increases above the cap to the ESC.

The Consultation Paper outlines the principles that the ESC intends to use to guide its design of an effective framework. The principles recognise the diversity of the sector, the responsibilities of councils in delivering services, and the need for councils to engage with their communities when prioritising their expenditures and setting their rates.

The framework is to take effect from the middle of next year (affecting council rates for 2016-17). The ESC is required to advise Ministers on options and a recommended approach for a rates capping framework by the end of October 2015.


Background

Terms of Reference from the Minister for Finance

The Minister for Finance, Hon Robin Scott MP, has provided Terms of Reference to the ESC on 19 January 2015.
Some key aspects from the terms of reference are:

- The State Government’s objective is to contain the cost of living in Victoria while supporting council autonomy and ensuring greater accountability and transparency in local government budgeting and service delivery.

- As provided for by section 185b of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the Minister for Local Government can cap council general income.

- The ESC is asked to inquire into and advise the Ministers for Finance and Local Government on options and a recommended approach for a rates capping framework for implementation from the 2016-17 financial year.

**What is the impact on West Wimmera Shire Council?**

**Financial & Budget Implications**

At $6.5 million rate and charges base, 1% rate rise provides Council additional $65,000. On an assumption that the average rate rise Council could have for next 10 years is 4% and CPI indexed at 2.5% the impact of rate capping over 10 years is $6.8 million. On an assumption that there will be no indexation on Victoria Grants Commission grants for the next 10 years the impact on WWSC is estimated at $9.6 million. Together the rate capping and lack of indexation could create $16.5 million impact over the next 10 years for West Wimmera Shire Council.

**Economic Development Implications**

As per REMPLAN model *$16.5 investment in public sector* (LG) creates a flow on effect of *$23.5 million for West Wimmera Shire Economy* – which is equivalent impact of creating *82 jobs in West Wimmera Shire*. The impact of this will be *devastating* on West Wimmera Shire Council and would impact on existence of West Wimmera Shire Council in its current form and at the level of services being delivered.

**Environmental Implications**

Not commented on

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

With reduced funding Council will face massive challenges to meet its Council Plan objectives. Council will need to review the adopted Council Plan and rationalise the actions to match with resource availability.
All Council services and service levels provided will need to be reviewed between now and the next Council budget to enable Council to be in a position to make informed decisions in future budgets.

Legal and Risk Management implications

Reduced funding will force Council to rationalise its services, thus will have impacts on resources Council could allocate to risk management of Council services. It is not possible to estimate.

Submission from West Wimmera Shire Council

Officers presented a draft submission in the Councillor Forum on 7 May 2015 and sought comments from Councillors. All comments received were considered in the final submission and the submission was sent to the ESC on 15 May 2015. The final submission is attached to this report.

Key aspects of the submission

The submission responds to the 22 questions posed by the ESC and also provided general comments regarding:

- The impact of rate capping on Council’s commitment stop population decline
- Council’s lack of capacity to borrow any funds
- Council’s low staff base to manage processes to seek rate capping exemptions
- Council’s infrastructure renewal commitments and challenges
- Irrelevancy of Consumer Price Index as a rate capping measure.
- Highlighting that the largest cost pressure is shifting of costs from State Government to local government and reduction of grants from State and Federal Governments.

Conclusion

Rate capping will have devastating impacts on small rural councils. This has a direct impact on jobs, population and, if implemented, has potential to de-populate small rural shires. The Victorian Government must consider impacts on small rural councils like West Wimmera before the rate capping framework is established. West Wimmera Shire Council’s submission highlights the key challenges Council will face if the rate capping regime is implemented.
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the Local Government Rate Capping and Variation Framework-Consultation Paper, as released by the Essential Services Commission, and based in the State Government Rate Capping terms of reference;

That Council ratifies the attached submission as the submission from the West Wimmera Shire Council to the Essential Services Commission on the discussion paper for proposed rate capping regime.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That Council ratifies the attached submission as the submission from the West Wimmera Shire Council to the Essential Services Commission on the discussion paper for proposed rate capping regime.

Carried Unanimously

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<td>West Wimmera Shire Council submission to Essential Services Commission proposed rate capping discussions paper</td>
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14.2 RATING FOR LAND USED FOR MINING – HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL / NORTH WEST MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

FILE NUMBER: DA0045

REPORT AUTHOR: VENKAT PETETI, GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

This report tables the report on “Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria” prepared by Mr Mark Davies from Financial Performance Solutions on behalf of the Horsham Rural City Council.

Background

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) has sought assistance from the North West Municipal Association (NWMA) and its member Councils to firstly put a motion at the MAV State Council seeking their support to have the Government repeal Section 154 (2)(e) of the Local Government Act 1989 and secondly to prepare a report and business case to justify the changes to the legislation.

HRCC submitted a motion to the MAV State Council, which was carried. Further to this NWMA funded to engage a suitable consultant to prepare a report and the business case on Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria. HRCC engaged Mr Mark Davis from Financial Performance Solutions to provide a report on Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria.

Discussion

The review conducted by Mr Davies included the following:

- Researching the rating of mining operations in other states and territories
- Contacting various Victorian state departments to gather information on the current exemption and extent of mining operations across Victoria
- Surveying the NWMA member councils to understand the scope and impact of mining operations in their municipalities
- Preparing a report and business case
Key Findings from the report

The key findings of the review included the following:

- All Australian states including the Northern Territory, rate mining operations
- The Victorian mining rate exemption first appeared in the 1958 Act, however the predominant mining activity has changed significantly since this time
- The Capital Improved Value of mining assessments was $654 million at 1 January 2014 representing 0.4% of the total valuation of all private properties in Victoria of $1.5 trillion
- The annual rates foregone by all councils in Victoria for the 2014/15 year assuming all mining assessments were active was $3 million
- The Victorian council experience of mining operating supports the positive impact on economic growth particularly in the area of local job creation. It also supports the negative impacts of mining on infrastructure, services and the environment
- The introduction of rate capping from the 2016/17 year onwards will force councils to seek new revenue sources to offset the impact on future operating and capital works budgets. The rating of mining activities is one such possible new source of revenue
- The exemption of mining from council rates is not consistent with the ‘equity’ principle both from a horizontal and vertical equity point of view.

5. Recommendation from the report

It is recommended that the State make mining land rateable or subject to a payment in lieu of rates based on the unimproved value of the land subject to mining activity and certain improvements on that land.

Financial & Budget Implications

Very minimal impact for West Wimmera Shire Council (less than $1,000) due to rates foregone for mining 2014-15. The total annual rates forgone by the NWMA group of councils for the 2014/15 year, assuming all mining assessments were active, was $26,654.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on
Policy and Council Plan Implications

Not commented on

Legal and Risk Management implications

Not commented on

Conclusion

Council currently has minimal mining activity; hence the impact of mining on Council’s revenue is minimum. However Council should support advocacy of NWMA and MAV in bringing relevant changes in rating of mines to support sector wide initiatives.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the report on “Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria” prepared by Mr Mark Davies from Financial Performance Solutions, on behalf of the Horsham Rural City Council and funded in part by the North West Municipalities Association;

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the final report on the Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria prepared by Mr Mark Davies (Financial Performance Solutions) as attached to this report.


Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the final report on the Rating of the Mining Industry in Victoria prepared by Mr Mark Davies (Financial Performance Solutions) as attached to this report.


Carried Unanimously
## Attachments:

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<tr>
<td>14.2.1</td>
<td>Rating of Mining Industries in Victoria Report</td>
<td>15/001650</td>
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14.3 ROAD NAME CHANGES AT SERVICETON - SERVICETON NORTH ROAD SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED

FILE NUMBER: PS0248

AUTHOR: TRUDIE HOLLAND, RATES OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report presents decision from Office of Geographic Names (OGN) on a Council resolution to change the name of Serviceton North Road to Serviceton Road. As the Council resolution does not meet the guidelines of OGN, the road name change has not been accepted by OGN.

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 February 2011, Council resolved as following:

Councillors Meyer/Hawkins

That the proposed road name changes be adopted but where there is an objection that Council will leave that road with its current name

Carried Unanimously

Council resolution is applicable to change the following road names. Council made this resolution to support request from Serviceton community.

1. McKay Road to be changed to Mackay Road.
2. Serviceton North Road (from Highway to Serviceton) to be changed to Serviceton Road.
3. Stimson Brooks Road to be changed to Brooks Road and to start from the intersection of South Road and H Colwill Road.
4. Serviceton South Road to start from the intersection of Merrett Road and the proposed Brooks Road.
5. Stimson Pressers Road to be changed to Stimson Road.
6. Feders and Pressers Road to be changed to Presser Road.

The following changes were accepted by OGN
1. McKay Road to be changed to Mackay Road.
6. Feders and Pressers Road to be changed to Presser Road.

For (5) Stimson Pressers Road to be changed to Stimson Road request - A change of names request was submitted to OGN in March 2015.

Work is in progress to change (3) Stimson Brooks Road to Brooks Road to start from the intersection of South Road and H Colwill Road and Council will submit a request to OGN in the next 6 weeks following the community consultation process. This request to change name also addresses (4) Serviceton South Road to start from the intersection of Merrett Road and the proposed Brooks Road.

The following road name change was rejected by OGN
(2) Serviceton North Road (from Highway to Serviceton) to be changed to Serviceton Road.

The naming proposal was not approved by Geographic Names in August 2014 for the following reasons:

The Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2 stipulate that there must be no duplication (in this case Serviceton) within a 15km radius for a regional urban area. Serviceton South Road, Serviceton North-Telopea Downs Road and Serviceton Tip Road, have been identified all within a 15 Kilometre radius.

Risk Management Implications

Not commented on

Legislative Implications

Geographic Names Act 1989
Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2 (Attachment 14.3.1 of this report)

Environmental Implications

Not commented on

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Not commented on
Communication Implications

There is a mandated process as part of Guidelines for Geographic Names and officer follow this process. Once a road name change is accepted by OGN, Council will use its traditional and social media outlets to keep the community informed on these changes.

Conclusion

The process of road name changes is relatively simple; however, lack of internal capacity led to significant delay in the process. Council’s Rates Officer now has the lead role of the road name change process from end to end and Council will see progress on its resolution in the next 12 weeks.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:
1. Council receives and notes this report on "Road Name Changes At Serviceton-Serviceton North Road Should Remain Unchanged"; and
2. Council rescind the motion of 3 February 2011:
   “That the proposed road name changes be adopted but where there is an objection that Council will leave that road with its current name.
   • Serviceton North Road (from Highway to Serviceton) to be changed to Serviceton Road.”

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That:
1. Council receives and notes this report on "Road Name Changes At Serviceton-Serviceton North Road Should Remain Unchanged"; and
2. Council rescind the motion of 3 February 2011:
   “That the proposed road name changes be adopted but where there is an objection that Council will leave that road with its current name.
   • Serviceton North Road (from Highway to Serviceton) to be changed to Serviceton Road.”

Carried Unanimously

Attachments: Nil
14.4 EDENHOPE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SHIRE SIGNAGE PROJECT

FILE NUMBER: PS0045
AUTHOR: VENKAT PETETI, GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report tables a letter received from Edenhope & District Historic Society (EDHS) expressing their disappointment on Council’s decision on township signage for Edenhope.

Background

Council undertook extensive community consultation for Signage designs under the Shire Signage rejuvenation project. Edenhope & District Historical Society (EDHS) provided its submission for Council to recognise Australian Aboriginal Cricketers who toured England in 1868.

Council also received numerous submissions to consider Lake Wallace as part of the signage.

After careful consideration Council advised the project manager of the Shire signage project to modify the designs for Signage reflecting Lake Wallace and adopted new signage designs in the Ordinary Council meeting on 19th March 2015.

Discussion

Council acknowledges the Historic significance of First Aboriginal Cricket team’s tour of England in 1868 and understands the significance of Edenhope in this context.

However Council felt that it is more appropriate to use the wall of Bendigo Bank in Edenhope to illustrate a story compared to branding this as part of shire wide signage project. Budget provision has been allocated in the 2015-16 draft budget to undertake art work on the Bendigo Bank wall at Edenhope to reflect the First Aboriginal Cricket team’s tour.
Progress on Shire Signage Project

The printing and installation of signs under the Shire Signage rejuvenation project is underway and is expected to conclude before 30 May 2015.

Risk Management Implications

Not commented on

Legislative Implications

Not commented on

Environmental Implications

Not commented on

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not commented on

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Not commented on

Communication Implications

Council issued a media release and a message to ‘thank’ the inputs from community members for this Shire Signage Project. All media outlets were provided with the photos of new Shire Signage designs and concepts.

Conclusion

Signage is a very subjective area; and divided opinion is expected on township signage from the community. However, Council had a robust process to consider all aspects carefully to choose the most suitable option.
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Receives and note the report;
2. Acknowledges the Edenhope & District Historical Society correspondence of 5 May 2015 noting the concerns raised.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council:

1. Receives and note the report;
2. Acknowledges the Edenhope & District Historical Society correspondence of 5 May 2015 noting the concerns raised.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<td>14.4.1</td>
<td>Letter from Edenhope &amp; District Historical Society letter dated 5 May 2015</td>
<td>15/001729</td>
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15.0 LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Local Law No.7 (2012), Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2012, West Wimmera Shire Council:

25. Urgent Business

   Business must not be admitted as urgent business unless it:

   i. Relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
   ii. Cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the following late items of business:

15.1 RURAL LIVING CAMPAIGN – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council consider the following late items of business:

15.1 RURAL LIVING CAMPAIGN – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Carried Unanimously
15.1 RURAL LIVING CAMPAIGN – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

FILE NUMBER: ED0001

REPORT AUTHOR: ELIZABETH MATUSCHKA, EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

To consider a proposal from Buloke Shire Council, for Council to join the Rural Living campaign by contributing $1000.

Background

Buloke Shire Council wrote to the Mayors of Victoria’s small rural shires on 1 April 2015, requesting their support for and involvement with the Rural Living campaign.

As at 18 May 2015, West Wimmera Shire Council had no record of this correspondence. Buloke Shire Council has provided Council with a copy of their letter, with this late report seeking Council consideration of the request. A copy of the Buloke correspondence is appended to this report.

West Wimmera has considered and resolved on the matter of minimum Local Government services and related sustainability concerns at the 14 April 2015 Council meeting;

That Council:
1. Note the concerns raised by Buloke Shire Council in relation to minimum Local Government Service levels and related financial sustainability concerns;
2. Supports the North West Municipalities Association in efforts to advance the debate and understanding around minimum Local Government service levels together with Local Government financial sustainability.

That Council prepare a revised service review program and timetable.
The 1 April 2015 letter from Buloke Shire Council states:

- The Rural Living campaign is essential to our way of life and the survival of our shires and communities.
- Rural Councils can no longer provide basic services without becoming financially unsustainable.
- Buloke Shire Council has drastically reduced its expenditure to ensure it remains sustainable.
- The level of services provided to rural residents is considerably less than those received by residents in other areas.
- Small rural shires have major barriers to their capacity to provide basic services to their residents, including:
  - lack of economies of scale
  - large distances and time required to deliver services
  - more people with lower incomes and other socio-economic factors
  - a higher proportion of aged people in the population
  - lack of competition from service providers and suppliers
  - difficulties in the recruitment of staff and skilled contractors
  - frequent market failure resulting in premium prices for goods and services
  - small population sizes and a consequent lack of capacity to pay for services
- The Rural Living campaign seeks agreement on a specific minimum set of service levels for residents of small shires, which would then be followed by formulation of methods for achieving these minimum service levels.
- The Rural Living campaign will involve development of a logo, Facebook page, media releases, feature articles, letters to Victorian Government departments, invitations to local members of Parliament, to Council briefing sessions, development of an advocacy group to take the issue to the Federal Government in Canberra in September 2015, and a delegation to the Victorian Minister for Local Government in August 2015.
• Council is invited to join the Rural Living campaign for a cost of $1000, which will be used to fund the necessary work.
• The delegation to Canberra in September 2015 will be funded by those attending.
• A Rural Living working group will be set up to guide the campaign.

Risk Management Implications

The risk issues associated with unsustainable Councils are real and growing. Although Victorian Councils are a creation of the Victorian State Government, there are real issues emerging over the ability of Council to fund and deliver core and ‘minimal’ services to their communities.

Legislative Implications

Not commented on.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

$1000 could be made available from the Councillor Discretionary Fund.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2013-2017 and “Target 10,000”, Council’s economic development plan, contain the overall focus of improving the long term sustainability of Council, improving services to residents, and attracting new residents to the Shire.

Both plans tie in well with the focus of the Rural Living campaign.

Communication Implications

Participation in the Rural Living campaign would be added to Council’s website and Facebook page.

Buloke Shire Council recognise that this issue of minimum services linked to rural living must we well communicated to local communities if it is to be successful. Community engagement and an improved community understanding around the issues faced by Council will be critical going forward. Councils will not be able to address these serious issues without the support and understanding of their communities.
The issue of *Rural Living*, minimum Local Government services and Local Government sustainability will also be canvassed and considered as part of the upcoming meeting of the North West Municipalities Association on 29 May 2015.

**Conclusion**

Council’s focus on improving the long term sustainability of Council, improving services to residents, and attracting new residents to the Shire fit in well with the Rural Living campaign proposed above.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

In relation to a proposal from Buloke Shire Council for West Wimmera Shire Council to join the Rural Living campaign by contributing $1000;

That West Wimmera Shire Council agrees to make a one-off funding contribution of $1000 to join the Rural Living campaign, being coordinated by the Buloke Shire Council.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That West Wimmera Shire Council agrees to make a one-off funding contribution of $1000 to join the Rural Living campaign, being coordinated by the Buloke Shire Council.

Carried Unanimously

**Attachments:**

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<td>15.1.1</td>
<td>Letter from Buloke Shire Council re support for Rural Living campaign, 1 April 2015</td>
<td>15/001890</td>
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16.0 SEALING SCHEDULE
Nil.

17.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY
This section of the Agenda allows members of gallery to ask questions of Councillors, through the Mayor. At all other times during the meeting, members of the gallery are required to be silent, pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2012.

17.1 LINDA GUTHRIDGE, EDENHOPE – LAKE WALLACE CATCHMENT

- Was unable to attend the meeting, so delivered a letter prior to the meeting, which was read out by Cr R Wait.
- The letter stated:

  "Wouldn’t it be a cheaper exercise to fill the lake by pumping water from Mosquito Creek north west of D Grahams Road to Ryan’s Lake, and let the water flow into the catchment area natural. The length of the pipe would be approximately 20km in length. The size of the pipe would be determined by the pump and its capacity.

  The pump could be located off D Grahams Road.

  Water can also be picked up through natural water courses that have been changed or diverted due to the drought we have just come out of."

Response from Cr R Wait:
- A lot of water does flow through Mosquito Creek.
- Uncertain of legalities of taking the suggested action.

Action: Letter taken on notice. GMIDW to prepare a written response.
17.2 ANDREW FARRAN, EDENHOPE – FILLING LAKE WALLACE

- Can Council make up its mind regarding what it wants in relation to filling Lake Wallace?
- What will Council say to the Victorian State Govt if it asks what we want?
- What is WWSC’s clear proposal?

Cr Meyer: GWM Water is responsible for the water in the Lake. Mode of delivery of additional water would be by pipeline. Water would come from Rocklands Reservoir. Council has had meetings and discussions with GWM Water. Council is again meeting with GWM Water on 18 June 2015 to discuss further.

Action: Noted.

17.3 TOM HOULIHAN, HARROW – FUNDING FOR STRATEGIC REVIEW OF HALLS

- It was mentioned at the last meeting that $80,000 to $90,000 was spent on the Halls Review.
- Where did the money come from? Where did it go?

CEO: State Government funding was expended on the strategic review of all halls in the Shire, a series of condition assessment reports for the Edenhope Mechanics Hall, community engagement workshops with Adrian Kennelly consultant, design work by an architect for the Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

Action: Noted

17.4 TOM HOULIHAN, HARROW – CHANGE ROOMS AT HARROW FOOTBALL GROUNDS

- Change room facilities for Harrow Football Grounds need to be upgraded.
- Has been filling in grant application forms and obtaining letters of support since 2009.
- Can’t hold football finals in Harrow anymore due to substandard condition of change rooms.
- Requesting Council assistance with grant applications.
GMCCS: provided an update on the social infrastructure project in Goroke and Harrow, members of Harrow Recreation Reserve Committee have participated and discussed the need for an upgrade of the change room facilities, critical that any grant application meets specific criteria of Government funding opportunities.

Action: Noted

17.5 TREVOR DOMASCHENZ, PATYAH – LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UNALLOCATED WATER

- Would Council provide a letter of support to the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Implementation Committee Meeting regarding unallocated water?

Cr Hawkins: Council already supports the work and recommendations of the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Implementation Committee, through its representative Cr Warren Wait.

CEO: Requested that the nominated Council representative on the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Implementation Committee provide adequate information and background around the concerns raised by Trevor Domaschenz, which would enable Council sufficient information and detail to formally consider the matter. CEO indicated that any request for a formal letter of support would need to be premised on Council consideration of the issue/s / concern/s, and for Council to consider and resolve accordingly.

Action: CEO to respond to Trevor Domaschenz and the Council representative on the West Wimmera Groundwater Management Area Implementation Committee, to seek detailed particulars of the issue raised and list for Council consideration.

17.6 TONI DOMASCHENZ, EDENHOPE – STORM DAMAGE TO LANGKOOP HALL

- Can you provide an update on the damaged Langkoop Hall, following the storm earlier this week?

CEO: State facility was located on Crown Land. Council is giving support to the community. There is work being undertaken to make the hall safe now. An insurance assessor will visit shortly. Council will be working with the Langkoop community as it moves forward and potential hard decisions have to be made. Any clean-up assistance Council can provide will be made available.

Action: Noted.
17.7 TONI DOMASCHENZ, EDENHOPE – ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse is currently underway.
- Is Council planning to take any action, in relation to supporting affected residents in the local community?

CEO: Council provides financial support to the Rural and Remote Engagement (RARE) Program run by Wimmera Uniting Care, which offers counselling and support to residents throughout the Shire.

Mayor: The Edenhope Hospital has a Social Worker available for counselling.

Cr Hawkins: The Shire continues to support the Rural and Remote Engagement (RARE) Program, whereas some surrounding Shires do not.

Action: Noted.

17.8 FRANCO VANZINI, EDENHOPE – 40KM SPEED ZONE FOR EDENHOPE KINDERGARTEN

- There is a 40km speed zone past Edenhope College School and the Edenhope Hospital.
- What about also having one in front of the Kindergarten, next to the Senior Citizens?

GMIDW: Langford Street is a local road. Can take the question on notice.

Action: GMIDW to follow up and provide written response to Franco Vanzini.

18.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

MEETING CONCLUDED: 9:23 PM

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015
KANIVA COUNCIL CHAMBER