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 16 July 2015
Location: Goroke Memorial Hall
Commencement: 4.00pm

<table>
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<tr>
<th>IN ATTENDANCE:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Councillors</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senior Management Group</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Jones, Mayor</td>
<td>Mark Crouch Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Hawkins</td>
<td>Venkat Peteti General Manager Corporate &amp; Community Services (GMCCS)</td>
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<td>Bruce Meyer</td>
<td>Robyn Evans General Manager Infrastructure Development &amp; Works (GMIDW)</td>
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<td>Richard Wait</td>
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<td>Warren Wait</td>
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<td><strong>Council Officers</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kellie Jordan Manager Economic &amp; Business Development (ME&amp;BD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Members of the Gallery are advised that the following Local Law applies to this meeting:
West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2012
38. Gallery to be silent
(1) Any member of the public addressing the Council or in attendance in the gallery must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates
(2) Visitors must not interject or take part in the debate and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called upon to do so.

Vision Statement:
West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer.
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18.2 UPDATE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
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.

Cr Ron Hawkins: direct interest in Agenda Item 13.8, Proposed Tree Removal – Elizabeth Street, Edenhope

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

5.1 MAYOR, ANNETTE JONES

21/06/2015 Official Opening, Edenhope Joint CFA/SES Facility
22/06/2015 Rural Living Campaign Working Group Meeting
22/06/2015 CEO Mark Crouch
23/06/2015 Lost in the Bush Committee Meeting, Natimuk
25/06/2015 CEO Mark Crouch
25/06/2015 Farewell for Des White, Edenhope
26/06/2015 Wimmera Mayoral Gathering, Horsham
30/06/2015 Superintendent Paul Margetts, Western Region Division 4
01/07/2015 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel Meeting #2, Melbourne
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
06/07/2015 CEO Mark Crouch
06/07/2015 Emma Kealy MP
06/07/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
07/07/2015 Lost in the Bush Committee Meeting, Natimuk
09/07/2015 Plant Committee Meeting, Kaniva
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
13/07/2015 CEO Mark Crouch
13/07/2015 Mauro Baracco, RMIT via videoconference
14/07/2015 Annual Changeover Dinner, Goroke Lions Club
15/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke
5.2 COUNCILLOR RON HAWKINS

21/06/2015 Official Opening, Edenhope Joint CFA/SES Facility
22/06/2015 VASP Building Resilience in Farming, Project Reference Group Meeting
23/06/2015 Audit Committee Meeting, Kaniva
24/06/2015 WWSC Municipal Emergency Management Plan Audit
24/06/2015 Dept of Environment Forum: Know your legal rights as a landowner
25/06/2015 Farewell for Des White, Edenhope
30/06/2015 Victorian Fire Risk Register Meeting, Goroke
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
03/07/2015 Annual Changeover Dinner, Edenhope Lions Club
06/07/2015 Emma Kealy MP
06/07/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
09/07/2015 Plant Committee Meeting, Kaniva
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
09/07/2015 Annual Changeover Dinner, Kaniva Lions Club
13/07/2015 West Wimmera Municipal Fire Management Planning Meeting
15/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke

5.3 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER

19/06/2015 Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting, Horsham
23/06/2015 Audit Committee Meeting, Kaniva
25/06/2015 Farewell for Des White, Edenhope
29/06/2015 Public Meeting re Kaniva Wetlands & Fauna Park Redevelopment Project
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
06/07/2015 Emma Kealy MP
06/07/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
09/07/2015 Plant Committee Meeting, Kaniva
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
13/07/2015 West Wimmera Shire Council Grant Information Night
14/07/2015 Kaniva Sporting Complex Committee Meeting
15/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke

5.4 COUNCILLOR RICHARD WAIT

25/06/2015 Farewell for Des White, Edenhope
26/06/2015 Western Highway Action Committee Meeting, Beaufort
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
03/07/2015 Wimmera Mallee Tourism Strategic Plan Workshop, Warracknabeal
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
10/07/2015 Timber Towns Victoria General Committee Meeting, Melbourne
15/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke

5.5 Councillor Warren Wait

21/06/2015 Official Opening, Edenhope Joint CFA/SES Facility
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
06/07/2015 Emma Kealy MP
06/07/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
06/07/2015 Apsley Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Inc Public Meeting
09/07/2015 Plant Committee Meeting, Kaniva
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
14/07/2015 Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting, Horsham
15/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council, Kaniva
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke

5.6 Mark Crouch (Chief Executive Officer)

21/06/2015 Official Opening, Edenhope Joint CFA/SES Facility
22/06/2015 Rural Living Campaign Working Group Meeting
22/06/2015 Mayor Annette Jones
23/06/2015 Post-Council Staff Briefing
24/06/2015 Dept of Environment Forum: Know your legal rights as a landowner
25/06/2015 Mayor Annette Jones
25/06/2015 Farewell for Des White, Edenhope
29/06/2015 Launch of $500m Regional Jobs & Infrastructure Fund, Castlemaine
30/06/2015 Superintendent Paul Margetts, Western Region Division 4
02/07/2015 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
06/07/2015 Mayor Annette Jones
06/07/2015 Emma Kealy MP
06/07/2015 Economic Development Special Committee Meeting, Edenhope
07/07/2015 Senior Management Group Meeting to review draft agenda
08/07/2015 Rural Councils Victoria, Survey Interview
08/07/2015 Kevin Mills, CEO, Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital
08/07/2015 Venkat Peteti, General Manager Corporate & Community Services
08/07/2015 Senior Management Group – monthly meeting
08/07/2015 Robyn Evans, General Manager Infrastructure Development & Works
09/07/2015 Special Meeting of Council re further budget review
09/07/2015 Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting
13/07/2015 Mayor Annette Jones
13/07/2015 Communications Officer re pre-Council priority media items
14/07/2015 Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting, Horsham
15/07/2015 Regional Development Victoria re Regional Jobs & Infrastructure Fund
15/07/2015 LGPro Regional Directors Forum, Horsham
16/07/2015 Council Meetings & Community Forum, Goroke
5.7 GENERAL DELEGATES REPORTS
Councillors to provide delegates reports to Council meeting in relation to meetings attended in last month for which they have been appointed as Council representative. Verbal or written delegates’ reports.

Nil.

6.0 CONDOLENCES
Nil.

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
RECOMMENDATION:
That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 18 June 2015, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 18 June 2015, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Carried Unanimously

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Nil.

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION
9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 2015/04 – CR JONES – DEDICATED STATIC FIRE-WATER STORAGE FACILITY FOR EDENHOPE MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL

In light of the information Council received recently about a dedicated static fire-water storage facility and appropriate pressure pump system needed to fulfil compliance requirements for the refurbishment or rebuild of the Edenhope Mechanics Institute Hall (at an estimated cost of $130,000), that Council investigate and report back on the following:

1. Provide a brief history of fire fighting compliance regulations, which includes a history of the responsibility for town mains water infrastructure.

2. Provide details of current building code legislation relevant to fire fighting regulations for new buildings and the refurbishment of old buildings.

3. Inform Council of any implications for fire fighting capacity in West Wimmera Shire townships.

CEO Comment: Nil

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

In light of the information Council received recently about a dedicated static fire-water storage facility and appropriate pressure pump system needed to fulfil compliance requirements for the refurbishment or rebuild of the Edenhope Mechanics Institute Hall (at an estimated cost of $130,000), that Council investigate and report back on the following:

1. Provide a brief history of fire fighting compliance regulations, which includes a history of the responsibility for town mains water infrastructure.

2. Provide details of current building code legislation relevant to fire fighting regulations for new buildings and the refurbishment of old buildings.

3. Inform Council of any implications for fire fighting capacity in West Wimmera Shire townships.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.1.1</td>
<td>Notice of Motion 2015/04 – Cr Annette Jones – Dedicated Static Fire-Water Storage Facility for Edenhope Mechanics Institute Hall</td>
<td>15/002807</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action: GMIDW
10.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

10.1 GENERAL COMMITTEE

FOR DECISION

The resolutions arising from the General Committee Meeting held on Thursday 18 June 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 Thursday 18 June 2015, as listed below, be adopted.

2.1.2 REQUEST TO RECOGNISE FORMER SHIRE OF KANIVA FEMALE COUNCILLORS

Moved: Councillor Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Councillor Warren Wait

That Council investigate the feasibility of securing and displaying photographs of all Presidents of Kaniva and Kowree Shires pre amalgamation.

Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – CEO: There will be cost associated with the above, but a considerable amount of the photographic material will need to be sourced by community engagement processes and families of past Presidents/Mayors. The major Council cost will be in the form of Council staff resources, photographic reproductions and framing / presentation.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council investigate the feasibility of securing and displaying photographs of all Presidents of Kaniva and Kowree Shires pre amalgamation.

Carried Unanimously

Action: CEO
2.2.2 1868 TOURING ABORIGINAL CRICKET TEAM – DISPLAY IN EDENHOPE AND PREPARATIONS FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Moved: Councillor Bruce Meyer  
Seconded: Councillor Richard Wait  

That Council invite the Edenhope and District Historical Society (E&DHS) to the next Councillor Forum in Edenhope to discuss with them the best way to promote the 1868 Aboriginal cricket tour by placing panels telling the story in an appropriate location near the current Bendigo Bank.  

Carried Unanimously


Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer  
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait  

That Council invite the Edenhope and District Historical Society (E&DHS) to the next Councillor Forum in Edenhope to discuss with them the best way to promote the 1868 Aboriginal cricket tour by placing panels telling the story in an appropriate location near the current Bendigo Bank.  

Carried Unanimously

Action: GMCCS
2.2.3 REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL REPORT DETAILING STAFFING

Moved: Councillor Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Councillor Richard Wait

That Council is supplied with a confidential report detailing:
1. All new staff positions created in the past 2 years;
2. Number of casuals currently employed
3. Number of casuals raised to full time positions in the past 2 years.

Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – GMCCS: A Council agenda report has been prepared for the 16 July 2015 Council meeting. Refer Council Confidential Agenda report.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council is supplied with a confidential report detailing:
1. All new staff positions created in the past 2 years;
2. Number of casuals currently employed
3. Number of casuals raised to full time positions in the past 2 years.

Carried Unanimously

Action: GMCCS
2.4.1 SHEEP SELLING YARDS IN EDENHOPE

Moved: Councillor Warren Wait
Seconded: Councillor Bruce Meyer

That the Manager Economic and Business Development (ME&BD), Kellie Jordan, along with agents Rodwells, DMD and PPHS and with land owner Rohan West, meet and discuss the building of sheep selling yards in the Edenhope area.

Carried
For: Cr W Wait, Cr Meyer, Cr Hawkins, Cr R Wait
Against: Cr Jones

Officer Comment – ME&BD

The Council ME&BD has spoken to David Hanel (Rodwells) 23/06/2015. Rodwells has progressed the installation of sale yards, with a view to having them completed in time for livestock sales (mid-November 2015). Rodwells have considered the benefits and risks in partnering with other stock agents and have decided against partnering for commercial reasons.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That the Manager Economic and Business Development (ME&BD), Kellie Jordan, along with agents Rodwells, DMD and PPHS and with land owner Rohan West, meet and discuss the building of sheep selling yards in the Edenhope area.

Carried Unanimously

Action: ME&BD
2.4.2 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS HONOUR BOARD, EDENHOPE

Moved: Councillor Warren Wait
Seconded: Councillor Ron Hawkins

That the West Wimmera Shire Australia Day Awards Honour Board incorporating the Australia Day Citizen of the Year, Event of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, be placed on the south wall of the Edenhope Council Chamber.

Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – CEO: No issues. Minimal cost involved.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That the West Wimmera Shire Australia Day Awards Honour Board incorporating the Australia Day Citizen of the Year, Event of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, be placed on the south wall of the Edenhope Council Chamber.

Carried Unanimously

Action: ESO CEO

2.4.3 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, EDENHOPE – SAFETY CONCERNS
Moved: Councillor Warren Wait
Seconded: Councillor Richard Wait

That Council contacts the police concerning the pedestrian crossing in Edenhope in relation to safety concerns.

Carried Unanimously

Officer Comment – CEO: Council sent a letter to Edenhope Police on 15 May 2015, requesting that the Edenhope pedestrian crossing be monitored for drivers who are not stopping or complying with crossing road laws. The matter is a policing matter and has been actioned appropriately.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That Council contacts the police concerning the pedestrian crossing in Edenhope in relation to safety concerns.

Carried Unanimously

Action: ESO CEO

10.2 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Thursday 2 July 2015 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Thursday 2 July 2015 be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil
12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 LOUISE HOBBS – REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – INTERNATIONAL SPACE CAMP

FILE NUMBER: EN0008

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

FOR DECISION

Introduction

To consider a request from Louise Hobbs, a Kaniva College student, for sponsorship to attend an International Space Camp in USA and South Korea in September 2015.

Background

Council has received a letter from Louise Hobbs dated 4 July 2015, requesting sponsorship so that she can attend an International Space Camp. Her letter of request has been acknowledged.

In her letter, Louise states:

- She is seeking a science based career.
- Being from a rural school, opportunities like this do not arise often.
- She believes this camp will increase her understanding and further her scientific knowledge.
- The camp involves a trip to America and South Korea.
- Total cost of the trip is $7050.
- The camp includes visits to the US Space & Rocket Centre, Griffith Observatory and Planetarium, California Science Centre, Fossil Tar Pits, San Francisco Museum of Natural History and Explanatorium, USS Midway Naval Aviation Museum, and Samsung Electronics in South Korea.
- Her resume is attached to her letter.
• She would be grateful if Council would consider any amount of sponsorship.

Risk Management Implications

Not commented on.

Legislative Implications

Nil.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council could consider providing sponsorship funding from the Councillors Discretionary Fund. The current balance of the discretionary fund is $ nil. The total amount budgeted for 2015/2016 is $10,000.00

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Not commented on.

Communication Implications

Further approaches are being made with the applicant to strengthen the application and provide Councillors the necessary information to assist Council in considering the application.

Conclusion

Council receives numerous requests each year for sponsorship and financial assistance.

Further information and possible Council day or August 2015 Councillors Forum attendance has been requested from Louise, to strengthen her request to Council for financial support.
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

In relation to a request from Louise Hobbs, a Kaniva College student, for sponsorship to attend an International Space Camp in USA and South Korea in September 2015;

That Council agree to sponsorship support of $500 toward the attendance by Louise Hobbs at an International Space Camp event in USA and South Korea in September 2015, contingent on the camp attendance proceeding, and that the allocation is made from the Councillors’ Discretionary Fund.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

That Council agree to sponsorship support of $500 toward the attendance by Louise Hobbs at an International Space Camp event in USA and South Korea in September 2015, contingent on the camp attendance proceeding, and that the allocation is made from the Councillors’ Discretionary Fund.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<tr>
<td>12.1.1</td>
<td>Letter from Louise Hobbs requesting sponsorship, 4 Jul 2015</td>
<td>15/002899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1.2</td>
<td>Letter from David Staehr, Kaniva College re reference for Louise Hobbs, 14 July 2015</td>
<td>15/002899</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
12.2 REGIONAL JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (RJIF) – PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT AND OVERVIEW

FILE NUMBER: AD0152
REPORT AUTHOR: MARK CROUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

To overview the new Victoria State Government Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, launched by the State Government as the government overarching regional development package.

Background

The Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) is the Victorian Government’s overarching regional development package. It will invest in growing jobs, building infrastructure and strengthening communities in regional Victoria.

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) manages the RJIF’s three programs:

- the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)
- the Regional Jobs Fund (RJF)
- the Stronger Regional Communities Plan (SRCP).

There are ten program streams with public grant programs under the fund.

The Government welcomes grant proposals from regional and rural local government authorities, government agencies, not-for-profits, community groups and businesses from 1 July 2015. This includes from businesses in high-growth sectors such as: medical and new energy technology; food and fibre; transport, defence and construction technology; international education and professional services.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) is the main infrastructure program of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF). It aims to harness key regional strengths to improve regional Victoria’s productivity and liveability. It will invest in major infrastructure projects that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth, and build diversified and sustainable regional economies that are resilient to change.

The RIF provides public grant funding for the following four program streams:
As well as supporting our regional city areas, to address the needs and capacity of rural communities, RIF includes the Rural Development program stream which is available to support projects in a breadth of small towns and communities in the 38 rural local government areas. Under this program stream, grants for infrastructure are capped at $500,000 and grants for project and strategic planning are capped at $50,000.

The primary aim of the Regional Jobs Fund (RJF) is to facilitate job creation and retain existing jobs. It will attract and facilitate investment with a focus on regional competitive advantage or high-growth potential businesses, and it will assist to diversify the regional employment base.

The fund aims to improve regional capacity, innovation and capitalise on the potential of emerging industry sectors, particularly the Government’s priority areas and new export markets.

The RJF will provide support for strategic projects and infrastructure through the following four public grant program streams:

- Investment Attraction
- Innovation and Productivity
- Employment Precincts
- Market Access.

The $20 million Food Source Victoria initiative will be funded under the Market Access program stream. Food Source Victoria will build alliances across the agrifood sector to grow exports and build industry capabilities, and has its own targeted grant program.

The Stronger Regional Communities Plan (SRCP) aims to support rural and regional towns in attracting families and young people to live and work. It will do so by investing in community-led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth, building community capabilities to drive change and improving the liveability of regional and rural towns.

The SRCP supports small grants of up to $50,000 under the following two program streams:

- Community Capacity Building
- Population Attraction
Council will be meeting with RDV to examine potential Council identified projects that can be considered within one or more of the 10 streams above. Given the program complexity, a bottom up approach is being developed by Council staff to firstly identify suitable Council and community priorities, and then working with RDV staff to seek to align projects to funding stream programs.

**Risk Management Implications**

Not commented on.

**Legislative Implications**

Not commented on.

**Environmental Implications**

Not commented on.

**Financial and Budgetary Implications**

There will be varying program funding and other criteria linked to the various funding streams. Once Council has identified project alignment with a suitable fund, the process will then need to focus on stipulated criteria that many or may not have financial and budgetary implications. Each project and funding stream will need to be examined individually.

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

Council will need to ensure Council Plan priorities are taken into account when assessing suitable projects under the RJIF program.

**Communication Implications**

There will be communication implications when assessing potential projects within RJIF. A number of projects will be community based projects identified under various processes. These communities will need to take an important part in the application process and liaise with Council throughout the various process levels being undertaken.

**Conclusion**
The level of Council success under the program will hinge in part on the clear articulation by Council of suitable projects and their alignment with program funding parameters. There will be potentially many projects identified from many areas including economic development Target 10000 priorities, identified community priorities from the precinct planning processes now coming to a conclusion, and a range of Council identified priorities such as the development to replace an aging Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

The level of investment by Council in the scoping and costing of various proposals and project readiness to be able to lodge under RJIF will be a major determinant of funding success. Councils that can clearly articulate priority projects to take through the process, can demonstrate project alignment with funding streams, have projects that are clearly shelf ready and able to proceed, and have the ability to engage strongly with RDV, are those most likely to gain the most from the RJIF program.

Council staff will be engaging with RDV in meetings over the coming weeks. Project listings are being assembled by Council managers and will form the basis of early discussions with RDV. A meeting of West Wimmera Shire representatives and RDV senior managers has been convened for Wednesday 15 July 2015. A verbal update will be provided to the Council meeting.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

In relation to the new Victoria State Government Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF), launched by the Victorian State Government as the government overarching regional development package;

That:

1. the report be received and noted;
2. That staff proactively liaise with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to identify potential priority projects, seek to align projects with Regional Jobs & Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) funding streams, as well as identify projects with RDV that that will need further Council investment with regard scoping and costing to enable these projects to be realistically considered under RJIF;
3. Council workshop project listings and consider policy parameters to filter projects to be in a position to articulate the priority projects that Council seeks to take forward via the RJIF framework.
Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

That:

1. The report be received and noted;

2. That staff proactively liaise with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to identify potential priority projects that Council has identified, seek to align projects with Regional Jobs & Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) funding streams, as well as identify projects with RDV that will need further Council investment with regard scoping and costing to enable these projects to be realistically considered under RJIF;

3. Council workshop project listings and consider policy parameters to filter projects to be in a position to articulate the priority projects that Council seeks to take forward via the RJIF framework.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.2.1</td>
<td>Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund – Overview</td>
<td>15/002804</td>
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</table>
12.3 STREETSCAPE SCHEME POLICY – NEW POLICY CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

FILE NUMBER: AD0203

REPORT AUTHOR: KELLIE JORDAN, MANAGER OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (ME&BD)

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The West Wimmera Streetscape Scheme program is aimed at encouraging building owners and business operators to upgrade the appearance of building facades within the main street localities and to improve accessibility to premises.

The purpose of the West Wimmera Streetscape Scheme program is to beautify the region’s local shopping precincts by improving the streetscape and ensuring universal access. Through providing financial assistance the program aims to develop a stronger partnership between Council and building owners and business operators in making overall improvements to the main streets.

Background

The Streetscape Scheme Policy is a new policy for the West Wimmera Shire. The concept is derived from the objectives within council’s economic development strategy, specifically to support and grow business, and the desire to improve the streetscapes of main streets, within the Shire.

Risk Management Implications

Nil

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil
Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council has budgeted $12,000 in the Council 2015/2016 budget to implement the Streetscape Scheme.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

The policy is aligned with the goals and objectives of the Council Plan and Target 10,000, to strengthen business and improve the amenity of main streets within the Shire.

Communication implications

Extensive media and community engagement will be undertaken to ensure understanding of the Streetscape Scheme.

Conclusion

The Policy was put forward to the council meeting held 18 June 2015 and deferred for discussion at the Councillors Forum 2 July 2015. Based on discussions a minor adjustment was made to the Policy (2b), which clarifies that a business must be operating to be eligible to access funding.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the West Wimmera Shire Streetscape Scheme Policy, as appended.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council adopt the West Wimmera Shire Streetscape Scheme Policy, as appended.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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12.4 KANIVA WETLANDS AND FAUNA PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
FILE NUMBER: PS0206
REPORT AUTHOR: KELLIE JORDAN, MANAGER OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park (KWFP) Redevelopment project has been established to enhance the natural environment within the Kaniva Wetlands and upgrade the existing Fauna Park. Inclusions such as improved way-making, interpretive and directional signage and flora and fauna protection will improve the current area, leading to increased community interaction and visitor appeal. The project will include a new universally designed children’s activity area.

The project will be a joint undertaking of community groups, education providers, Landcare, and local, state and federal government.

Background

The Kaniva Wetlands were constructed approximately 30 years ago to aid in the capturing and filtering process of stormwater. The Fauna Park was developed later to add to the interest of the area. Up to this point, minimal work has been undertaken to properly develop the site. KWFP is centrally located adjacent to the Western Highway between Melbourne and Adelaide, and has the ability to provide a welcome rest stop for the traveller as well as providing well needed facilities for the local community.

The existing site detracts visitors for various reasons. An example is that there is restricted water flow within the wetlands due to the current water configuration, which spoils the creation of natural habitats. Management of the area is currently undertaken by the local Landcare groups for the wetlands, and the Kaniva Lions Club for the Fauna Park.

Risk Management Implications

As part of the Project, a Risk Management Plan will be prepared to identify the risks and develop strategies to mitigate/ minimise them.

Legislative Implications
The Wetlands and Fauna Park are situated on Crown land. Permission will be sought from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and planning prior to works being undertaken.

**Environmental Implications**

The Project will meet environmental and sustainable objectives as required.

The Project will improve the existing environment and amenity.

**Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Council will be required to allocate a budget to meet funding requirements. Council have the option of spreading their contribution over four financial years.

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

The Project is directly aligned with the following:

- WWSC Council Plan
- Target 10,000: Economic Development Strategy
- WWS Tourism Strategy
- Kaniva and surrounds Social Infrastructure Study

**Communication Implications**

Various stakeholder consultations have been undertaken over the last three months. A public meeting was held Monday 29 June. Further consultation and engagement will need to be undertaken going forward to ensure substantial community input.

**Conclusion**

A fully integrated and accessible design would establish the area as the premier location to stopover. The Project will be catalytic for the town of Kaniva, through increasing visitor numbers and creating a tourist destination.

The announcement of the Commonwealth National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) gives council the opportunity to potentially access a significant portion of the project costs. The Victorian Government has released their program guidelines for the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, which provides another potential funding source.
There are a number of other opportunities for stakeholder contribution, which is this preferred option to access matching funds.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council commend the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park Redevelopment project and commit to matching the National Stronger Regions Fund dollar for dollar requirement, on the condition that considerable partnership funding is successful through the various Victorian Government programs.

Moved: Cr Richard Wait  
Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer  

That Council commend the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park Redevelopment project and commit to matching the National Stronger Regions Fund dollar for dollar requirement, on the condition that considerable partnership funding is successful through the various Victorian Government programs.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<td>Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park Redevelopment Project Plan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

13.1 DIXON STREET, APSLEY: ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATION

FILE NUMBER:  PS0007
REPORT AUTHOR:  GILLIAN BRADSHAW, MANAGER PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

FOR DECISION

Introduction

At the 19 March 2015 meeting Council resolved to advertise the proposed closure of part of Dixon Street, Apsley after receiving a request from the adjoining landowner Mr Damien Devlin. Council received no submissions in response to the advertisement and can now consider the matter.

Background

Council received written correspondence from Damien Devlin on 9 February 2015 requesting that it close the unmade road reserve on Dixon Street, Apsley, to enable Mr Devlin to license the land for private use.

Mr Devlin owns and resides at 101 Wallace Street, Apsley, also known as Lot 1, TP 244734. The land is zoned Farming, and is located 520 metres west of Apsley’s township, with a frontage onto the south side of Wallace Street. It is oriented on a north-south axis, with Dixon Street forming the eastern boundary of Mr Devlin’s property.

Dixon Street is on the north and south sides of Wallace Street: the northern section is a gravel road accessible to vehicles from Wallace Street, and also connects with Ballantyne Street, while the southern section, which abuts Mr Devlin’s property, is an unmade road reserve that contains native vegetation, long grass and various items of rubbish.

Mr Devlin has requested that Council close the southern section of Dixon Street to enable him to enter an agreement with the State Government to licence the road for private use.

Mr Devlin has stated that he intends to remove the rubbish from the road reserve, install gates with chain closures at each end of the land, and use it as a day yard for one horse in conjunction with his private property. Mr Devlin does not propose to remove any native vegetation or to construct any buildings on the land.
If Council agrees to close the road, it can then advise the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP) that the road is ‘unused’, and Mr Devlin can apply to license the land for his intended purpose.

**Risk Management Implications**

When an unused road is licensed it is effectively declared ‘unused’ for public traffic purposes. The road is then removed from Council’s list of roads, and therefore no longer Council’s responsibility.

The section of Dixon Street subject to this request is unused and unmade. As the road reserve includes mature vegetation and long grasses, it may pose a bushfire risk.

Due to the presence of native vegetation, the road reserve is not accessible to vehicles from Wallace Street or from the south (which is Crown Land), and therefore does not perform any roadway function.

In the event that Council agreed to close the road, but required the land at some future stage, Council can apply for any lease agreement between Mr Devlin and DELWP to be annulled.

**Legislative Implications**

The road reserve, if closed and declared ‘unused’, would not be subject to the care and responsibility of Council under the Road Management Act 2004.

**Environmental Implications**

There are no negative environmental implications. If Mr Devlin is ultimately granted license over the road reserve, he will assume responsibility for its management, including care and upkeep of the environment. A transition of responsibility from Council to Mr Devlin is reasonably expected to lead to a reduction in bushfire risk due to active land management practices and the clearance of rubbish from the area.

**Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Any costs associated with the subsequent licensing process are borne by DELWP and/or Mr Devlin.

If Council relinquishes management of the road reserve, it will no longer need to undertake maintenance. This will provide a cost saving to Council.

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**
There are no direct implications on Council’s plans or policies. Council’s strategic land use planning policies for Apsley does forecast rural residential growth, but that growth is proposed in areas north of Wallace Street, and therefore does not have any bearing on this request.

However, if Council decided at some later stage to allow development in the vicinity of the southern section of Dixon Street, it could seek to annul the license and regain control of the road reserve.

If the road reserve is ultimately licensed to Mr Devlin, this will lead to indirect positive implications through improved land management and active land stewardship.

**Communication Implications**

If Council consents to this request, DELWP and Mr Devlin will be notified in writing of Council resolution. DELWP will then commence formal processes for closing the road and leasing it to Mr Devlin.

**Conclusion**

Mr Devlin has requested Council consider closing a section of unused, unmade road reserve abutting his property in Apsley, which will enable him to apply to license that section of road for private use associated with his dwelling. This section of road reserve has not been constructed, cannot be accessed by any vehicle, and is not part of a larger local road network. Further, Council is currently responsible for the road reserve, but has no plans to develop the area around the road reserve, and no plans to construct the road.

Mr Devlin’s proposal is proactive, pragmatic and reasonable. He has proposed to fence, maintain and actively manage the land in association with his dwelling and in doing so will improve the quality of the surrounding environment, and also reduce bushfire risk.

Council is encouraged to endorse Mr Devlin’s proposal, declare the road ‘unused’ and proceed with a public notification period.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**
In relation written correspondence and application from Damien Devlin requesting that Council resolve to close the unmade road reserve on Dixon Street, Apsley, to enable Mr Devlin to license the land for private use;

1. That Council resolve to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

2. That Council notify DELWP in writing of the resolution to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

3. That Council notify Mr Devlin in writing of the resolution to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

1. That Council resolve to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

2. That Council notify DELWP in writing of the resolution to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

3. That Council notify Mr Devlin in writing of the resolution to declare the southern section of Dixon Street, Apsley (being the section of road south of Wallace Street and north of the Crown Land) as ‘unused’.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<tr>
<td>13.1.1</td>
<td>Material submitted by Mr Damien Devlin, including a written request, map and photographs</td>
<td>15/000353</td>
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</table>
13.2 HERITAGE STUDY STAGE 1 - FINAL REPORT ENDORSEMENT

FILE NUMBER: DA0158

REPORT AUTHOR: GILLIAN BRADSHAW, MANAGER PLANNING

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council accepted a grant of $70,000 from Heritage Victoria to enable Council to undertake a Stage 1 Heritage Victoria study of heritage buildings within the Shire.

Background

Following Council amalgamations in 1995, planning scheme amalgamations took place in 2000. West Wimmera Shire was unable to fund the required heritage studies prior to the Heritage Overlay being included in the new West Wimmera Planning Scheme. This deficit has caused problems for the Council in the past as it has been unable to justify heritage grant applications using the Planning Scheme as do other competing councils.

Additionally, the Council has been approached over recent years on several occasions, by local tourism and historical societies to have buildings listed in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay so they can apply for Heritage Victoria grants. A recent example of this is the old court house at Edenhope and regular requests from proponents of the Mullagh Homestead at Wombelano.

A Stage 1 Heritage Study generally identifies a list of heritage places within the study area and would include the preparation of a Thematic Environmental History and the identification of all places of potential cultural significance across the study area. It was also required of the Stage 1 process to provide an estimation of the time and resources required to undertake Stage 2 of the study brief.

Stage 2 would involve the detailed assessment of significance and documentation of those places that were identified to be of potential cultural significance in the Stage 1 survey. Stage 2 would commence once the necessary funding and resources have been obtained following the completion of Stage 1.

Grieve Gillett Pty Ltd was selected by Council to undertake the Heritage Study Stage 1.

Risk Management Implications
The buildings to be included in our Heritage Overlay will be assessed on their condition by a qualified consultant, and will include their condition as well as their heritage value. Undertaking this study reduces the West Wimmera Shires risk in asset management.

**Legislative Implications**

Planning Schemes require Councils with heritage buildings to undertake a Heritage Study to have the buildings properly assessed and registered with Heritage Victoria. The intention of this requirement is to provide a framework for Councils and community groups to apply for funding through Heritage Victoria to undertake restoration and preservation works.

Undertaking this study met legislative requirements.

**Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications to Council.

**Financial and Budgetary Implications**

There are no budgetary implications to Council as the grant did not require any contribution from Council.

There is no additional pressure for WWSC to undertake a Stage 2 study by accepting this funding, rather by undertaking a Stage 1 study WWSC would be demonstrating progress in meeting our heritage obligations.

**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

Council Plan Outcome 3.6 promotes “A successful tourism industry across the West Wimmera Shire, includes advertising attractions which would include heritage buildings e.g. Harrow Log Jail.”

Undertaking this study supports the Council Plan.

**Communication Implications**

Part of the Heritage study grant required community consultation to be undertaken and the community comments were considered. Grieve Gillett are very familiar with the Wimmera region and have established good working relationships with the community in Horsham Rural City Council as part of their Heritage Study.
The Stage 1 Heritage Study report runs to approximately 400 pages. The report is available through Docs on Tap and can also be made available in hard copy by request.

Conclusion

This study enabled Council to undertake required planning work at no cost to Council. Additionally, by undertaking a Stage 1 Heritage Study, Council will be able to seek funding to undertake a Stage 2 Heritage Study. A Stage 2 cannot be undertaken without completing a Stage 1.

Grieve Gillett Pty Ltd has demonstrated that they had the capability, knowledge and team to undertake this Heritage Study Stage 1.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and endorse the West Wimmera Shire Heritage Study Stage 1 report, as compiled by Grieve Gillett, being Stage 1 Heritage Victoria study of heritage buildings within the Shire.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer  
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

1. That Council receive and endorse the West Wimmera Shire Heritage Study Stage 1 report, as compiled by Grieve Gillett, being Stage 1 Heritage Victoria study of heritage buildings within the Shire.

2. That upon request, hard copies are supplied to interested parties.

3. That any errors found be reported to Gill Bradshaw and noted.

Carried Unanimously

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<td>13.2.1</td>
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<td>14/005410</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13.3 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

FILE NUMBER: PR0040

REPORT AUTHOR: ANDREW BAINBRIDGE, CONSULTANT ENGINEER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The Asset Management Policy and the Asset Management Strategy are critical documents for local government governance. These documents have been reviewed as part of the Council policy review schedule.

Background

Council services are the basis of operations of Council. To provide many of these services, Council needs to establish and maintain infrastructure. A critical part of the management of this infrastructure is the policy and strategy behind the management. The focus is on the planning, management and lifecycle of the infrastructure with an emphasis of the principles is the Australian Standard: Asset Management ISO 55000:2014. Using the ISO standard pre-empts national direction for asset management for local government and provides a rigorous, independent standard for asset management.

Additionally, Council participates in the Municipal Association of Victoria ‘STEP’ program and has commenced reporting against the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework in relation to asset management.

This report was tabled at the 18 June 2015 Ordinary Council meeting and held over due to lack of time to consider.

Risk Management Implications

Without good asset management Council services cannot be delivered to the acceptance of the community. The risks include:

- Service levels which do not meet the community expectations.
- An increase in renewal gap which will lead to unsustainable provision of Council infrastructure.
- Increased litigation risk from poorly maintained infrastructure.

These risks will be minimised (not mitigated,) with a quality Asset Management Policy and Strategy.
Legislative Implications

- Local Government Act, 1989
- Local Government (Best Value Principles) Act 1999
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Environment Protection Act 1970

Environmental Implications

Increasing costs of water, energy and the cost of embedded energy in built assets is of current concern and will only grow in importance. The policy and strategy explicitly includes interventions key points of the asset management process to mitigate:

- planning,
- maintenance,
- rehabilitation review, and,
- review of service levels

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Asset management is a critical component of the long-term financial plan of Council. The Policy and Strategy both nominate the Finance Manager as a member of the Asset Management Working Group to ensure a strong link between the assets and Council’s annual budget and long-term financial plan.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

The Council Plan has stated that there will be a review of services in order to “Increase community confidence in Council Service Levels”.

Other policy and Council plan actions must work in conjunction with Asset Management for council services that have assets attached to the service

Communication Implications

The policy and strategy if endorsed will be made available on the Council website.

Conclusion

The Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy ensure that Council services are delivered at an acceptable level.
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the Asset Management Policy
2. That Council endorse the Asset Management Strategy.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

1. That Council endorse the Asset Management Policy
2. That Council endorse the Asset Management Strategy.

Carried Unanimously

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Document</th>
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<td>13.3.2</td>
<td>Asset Management Strategy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13.4 APPLICATION TREE REMOVAL – 121 ELIZABETH STREET
EDENHOPE
FILE NUMBER: PSO 389
AUTHOR: BERNIE MADDERN CONTRACTS MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report is to consider a street tree removal application received from Frances Ryan, for the removal of one large Eucalyptus tree on the nature strip at 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope.

Background

An original tree removal request for this tree was received by Gay Edwards of 121 Elizabeth Street on 1 June 2012. This tree removal request was not approved on the basis that it did not meet the Shire’s street tree policy removal criteria.

Recently a further request has been received from Frances Ryan as described below. This request has been referred to Council as it is deemed as an aged and significant tree situated on public land in a Township, as per Council resolution at the 21 November 2013 meeting.

Applicant:
Frances Ryan - Request dated 13/05/2015
121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope
Applicants Reason: Refer to attachment.

Risk Management Implications

Any street tree can pose a potential risk to the general public, however this risk is mitigated through Council’s street tree management program through annual inspections and is audited annually by Council’s insurers CMP.

A recent individual risk assessment has been carried out by Council’s Works Manager on this tree. The assessment states that the tree is over 30 old. It is an active large tree, has been trimmed with large re growth, approximately 15 metres in height. The current risks identified are damage to infrastructure and regrowth overshadowing adjacent housing units. Bundled cable is running through the middle of the tree canopy.
Future risks are growth is weaker at the point of attachment to main trunk with potential breaking off in heavy winds and falling onto roof of unit. Usual risks for any township tree-scapes are kerb & channel damage and footpath distortion.

**Legislative Implications**

Council is required to comply with the Electrical Safety Victoria (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010. This is done through the Council Tree Management Plan and agreed with Powercor.

**Environmental Implications**

This tree is quite large, established and quite old. It provides valuable shade in summer, although it typically it drop leaves, twigs, nuts etc. on the footpath and driveway. Due to its close proximity to another large Flowering Gum tree on the sealed pavement, its removal would not greatly change the aesthetics of the streetscape.

**Financial and Budgetary Implications**

If Council decides that the tree is to remain, there will be no cost.

The budget for urban tree removal is allocated against Urban Street Maintenance if Council decided that the tree is to be removed.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of removal</td>
<td>$1,000.00 (approx.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of stump removal</td>
<td>$200.00  (approx.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,200.00</strong></td>
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**Policy and Council Plan Implications**

Consideration of the application to remove this tree must be undertaken within clause 5.2.1 the Tree Removal criteria in Council’s Street Tree Policy which states:

The street tree poses an extreme public nuisance because of its species, size, location, attributes, or condition.

**Communication Implications**

An original tree removal request was received by Gay Edwards of 121 Elizabeth Street on 1st June 2012 advising that this tree had dangerous limbs over the unit, dropping of leaves & sticks, and recent ant infestation in tree causing ants inside unit and garage. This tree removal request was not agreed to by Council on the basis that it did not meet the tree removal criteria. Following the request some limb lopping was carried out to remove limbs overhanging the fenceline.
The recent request dated 13/05/15 for the street tree removal was received from Frances Ryan stating that the tree is causing damage to the kerb, holding water back. Due to the severe method of pruning under powerlines, the tree is at risk of dropping large limbs onto the neighbouring unit. It is also an eyesore as it has a large “u” shape cut into the middle of it.

During annual street tree inspections in 2014 carried out under the 2010 regulations, Vemco identified this tree as directly under low voltage ABC power line, causing footpath damage and it was recommended for removal.

Conclusion

This Gum tree is well established, and does not constitute ‘an extreme public nuisance’ as determined by Council’s Street Tree Policy.

However it is situated directly under power lines and has been trimmed extensively to allow the powerline to pass through with the new required clearances.

Given future tree-scaping will move to alternative trees in these situations, it would not be unreasonable for Council to depart from their policy in this particular situation.

The recent risk assessment has highlighted changes to this tree in the past two years, additionally with some kerb & channel and footpath damage evident and large overhanging limbs close to the adjacent housing unit.

Council could deny the application, or Council could approve the application for removal conditional on the cost of removal being met by the applicant, or Council could approve the application for removal and meet the $1,200 estimated cost with Council budget.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the application by Frances Ryan to remove the Gum tree situated on the nature strip adjacent 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope, conditional on the cost of removal, including stump removal, to be met by the applicant.

Moved: Cr Hawkins
Seconded:
That Council approve the application by Frances Ryan to remove the Gum tree situated on the nature strip adjacent 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope, with the cost of removal, including stump removal, to be met by Council.

Motion Lapsed

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

In relation to the application by Frances Ryan to remove the Gum tree situated on the nature strip adjacent 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope:

That Council Officers report back to Council on alternative options that don’t involve removing the tree.

Carried

For: Cr Richard Wait, Cr Warren Wait, Cr Meyer, Cr Jones
Against: Cr Hawkins

Attachments:

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>13.4.1</td>
<td>Letter from Applicant</td>
<td>15/002964</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.4.2</td>
<td>Tree Removal report</td>
<td>15/002964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.4.3</td>
<td>Risk assessment</td>
<td>15/002964</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13.5 POLICIES REVIEW - VARIOUS POLICIES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

FILE NUMBER: AD0208

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

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Council policies are regularly reviewed; generally on an annual to four yearly basis depending on the nature of the policy.

The policies tabled in this report are:

1. Building Fee Refunds Policy
2. Building Permit Information Policy
3. Domestic Firewood Collection Policy
4. Environmental Policy
5. Playground Management Policy
6. Recreation Policy
7. Road and Street naming policy
8. Tree plantings on unused Road Reserves Policy
9. Tree plantings on Road Reserves Policy

Background

The attached policies represent low risk policies for Council. They provide a framework for decision making for Council and allow low risk decisions to be made by officers within the general direction of Council without constant referral back to Council. Departures from Council’s endorsed policies are brought to Council through tabled reports. Councillors can then decide to confirm the stated policies or depart from the stated policies in a case by case, exception basis.
The officers’ reviews of the various policies effectively confirmed much of the previous Council policies and some only required updating of the nominated officer title and a new review date.

Main points of change from Council’s previous policies include:
- Domestic firewood collection now being recommended to limit to residents only (previously anyone could apply)
- The two tree planting policies now reflect no plantings can be in contravention to Council’s Fire Prevention Plan.

Risk Management Implications

The policy framework mitigates the risk to Council of case by case decision making. Departures from Council’s endorsed policies will continue to be brought to Council for their decision by exception.

Legislative Implications

The legislative basis for mandated activities is listed in each policy.

Environmental Implications

The environmental implications are identified in each policy.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

As a decision making framework, there is an administrative cost to all of the functions underlying the various policies however there is little or no additional cost in the actual policies themselves.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Several Council policies are due for review. Endorsement of the attached policies will ensure the currency of these policies.

Communication Implications

Where the individual policy had broader organisational impact, relevant officers were consulted, for example the Early Years Coordinator for the Playground Management Policy and the Rates Officer for the Road and Street Naming Policy.

Local Victoria Police reviewed the draft of the Domestic Firewood Collection Policy.

Conclusion
The adoption of this latest review of the attached policies ensures Council’s policies have been reviewed and found appropriate for current times.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council endorse the 2015 reviewed:

1. Building Fee Refunds Policy
2. Building Permit Information Policy
3. Domestic Firewood Collection Policy
4. Environmental Policy
5. Playground Management Policy
6. Recreation Policy
7. Road and Street naming policy
8. Tree plantings on unused Road Reserves Policy
9. Tree plantings on Road Reserves Policy

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer  
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait  
That Council endorse the 2015 reviewed:

1. Building Fee Refunds Policy  
2. Building Permit Information Policy  
4. Environmental Policy  
5. Playground Management Policy  
6. Recreation Policy  
7. Road and Street naming policy

Carried Unanimously
Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins
That Council endorse the 2015 reviewed Domestic Firewood Collection Policy, subject to the following amendment to point 1 of “Purpose and Objectives”:

“Purpose & Objectives: 1. Through the allocation of permits, allow residents access to fallen timber on roadsides for personal heating and cooking uses”.

Carried Unanimously

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins
That Council endorse the 2015 reviewed Tree plantings on unused Road Reserves Policy, subject to the following additional paragraph being added at the end of “Policy Details – 1. Adjoining landowners and stakeholders”:

“Except when landowner permission is provided in writing, trees are to be planted no closer than 2 metres from a landowner’s fence, and no closer than 5 metres of gateways”.

Carried Unanimously
Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

That Council endorse the 2015 reviewed Tree plantings on Road Reserves Policy, subject to the following amendments in “Policy Details”:

Policy Details 1: new heading to become “Adjoining landowners and stakeholders”.

Policy Details 1: new text to become “Council will consider planting applications only if adjoining landowners have been consulted. Except when landowner permission is provided in writing, trees are to be planted no closer than 2 metres from a landowner’s fence, and no closer than 5 metres of gateways”.

Policy Details 2: delete heading and text.

Policy Details 3: renumber as Policy Details 2.

Policy Details 4: renumber as Policy Details 3.

Policy Details 5: renumber as Policy Details 4.

Policy Details 6: renumber as Policy Details 5.

Policy Details 7: renumber as Policy Details 6.

Policy Details 8: renumber as Policy Details 7.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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13.6 ROADS TO RECOVERY ADDITIONAL FUNDING: 2015 - 2019

FILE NUMBER: PS0344

REPORT AUTHOR: ANDREW BAINBRIDGE, INTERIM ASSET MANAGER

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

The Australian Government has announced additional funds for the Roads to Recovery (R2R) Program. This report is to provide an update on the proposed adjustments to Council’s previously endorsed capital works program to accommodate and deliver against the additional funding.

Background

West Wimmera Shire Council has 840 km of sealed roads and 1,400 km of paved and 500 km of unpaved. Road lengths do not include VicRoad’s roads.

Council’s capital works program for roads depends heavily on grants, both Federal and State.

The 2015/2016 Capital Works program had been previously developed on the basis that Country Roads and Bridges funding (State) had been discontinued and the sole external funding was the original Roads to Recovery life funding (finishing June 2019) was $6,547,734.

The new allocation is:

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<td>$1,091,289</td>
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Council’s contribution will be limited to a minimum spend of half of the original life allocations across each of the delivery years. The below table is notional only until such time as the allocations can be confirmed.
A review of the capital works program needs to be undertaken with a view to:
- Facilitate delivery of the expanded Roads to Recovery program
- Not unreasonably encumber staff and ensure delivery capacity overall is maintained
- Maximise the potential output of the capital works program

### Risk Management Implications

Council must continue to meet own source funding budget allocations as per the original agreement.

Capacity to deliver additional works over the two year construction period may be stretched and strong project oversight will be required to ensure Council delivers.

### Legislative Implications

The *Road Management Act 2004* and the *Road Management General Regulations 2005* impose a legal duty for the Council to construct, inspect, maintain and repair roads to an adequate standard, having regard to the nature of the road and the traffic that uses them.

### Environmental Implications

Environmental effects are investigated prior to all capital works and mitigating actions, including permits for native vegetation removal if required, are undertaken at each site.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

The additional funding has no additional matched expenditure requirements to the requirements of “Own Source Expenditure”, as agreed by Council in accepting the original Roads to Recovery funding.

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Confirmation of the allocations across the program life needs to be confirmed; both the total amount against the original allocations and the indicated new annual expenditures.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Strategic objective 4 commits Council to deliver the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer and to increase community confidence in Council Service levels through a series of service reviews.

The Shire’s Road Management Plan was reviewed in 2013 and the West Wimmera Shire Council Road Management Plan 2013 – 2017 was endorsed 17 October 2013 and gazetted later that month.

Communication Implications

Officers are in close communication with Infrastructure Australia Roads to Recovery administrative staff as the details of this recent funding announcement are being made available. There are a few too many variables at the moment to provide a fully scoped updated capital works program. Once some of the projects are scoped we can start to lock in the detail.

Conclusion

Officers’ review of the capital works program for 2015/2016 onwards to accommodate the additional funding is underway.

There are a few too many variables at the moment to provide a fully scoped updated capital works program however once some of the projects are scoped the details can be presented to Council. It is estimated a fully developed, reviewed capital works program will be available by the end of August 2015 and a draft available for consideration by August Council Forum.

An addendum update report may be available by July 2015 Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the update report on the Roads to Recovery: Additional funding 2015 – 2019 be received and noted.
Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

1. That the update report on the Roads to Recovery: Additional funding 2015 – 2019 be received and noted.
2. That a letter be written to the Federal Roads Minister thanking him for the additional funding.
3. That a letter be written to Andrew Broad MP thanking him for his support.

Carried Unanimously

Action: ESO CEO

Attachments: Nil
13.7 REQUESTED RURAL WASTE SERVICE EXTENSION

FILE NUMBER: CONTRACT CMO 384

REPORT AUTHOR: BERNIE MADDERN, CONTRACTS MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report is to provide consideration of the requested extension to the rural waste collection service on the Nhill Harrow road between Wombelano and the Coleraine Edenhope road at Harrow.

Background

Tari & Gurjit Sondhu have previously requested the rural waste service be extended along the Nhill Harrow Road from Wombelano to the Coleraine Edenhope road, a distance of 16 kilometres to enable them to access the service. This request has previously not been agreed to by Council on the basis that the contractor has two full days in the municipality on Wednesdays (10 hour day) and Thursdays (11 hour day), and there has been no scope to extend the service due to time constraints.

Last February Gurjit Sondhu contacted the Council regarding this extension again, and a site meeting was arranged with them along several others at Wombelano to discuss further. In attendance were Councillor Annette Jones and Bernie Maddern who explained the rural waste collection service, costs and possible options.

Risk Management Implications

Nil

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications as all waste is taken initially to the Edenhope transfer station and following that, to a licensed landfill at Dooen.

Financial and Budgetary Implications
Waste Collection Budget (Extension)    $Nil
Cost of Rural Waste Collection Service extension  $7,800.00
Cost of servicing additional pick-ups (10 x 120l Bins)  $1,966.53
Revenue from additional pick-ups (10 x 120l bins)  $2,550.00
Deficit  $7,216.53

Note: figures based upon a potential ten additional bins added to the service.

On current bin figures the annual contract cost to service the rural customers is $49,056, and the annual revenue received from the rural customers is $73,647. This provides an annual profit of $24,591.

While the overall rural service produces a profit, the contractors have advised this proposed extension (which is significant) will require an extra charge of $150 per week to provide the service which is over and above the bin pick-ups. This means in effect, that this extension will run at a loss to Council but if applied, the overall profit would be maintained, albeit at a reduced amount.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Council does not currently commit to rural bin service as a part of its Council plan in its delivery of “the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer.”

There was discussion on the potential service expansion opportunities for a widened rural collection service, and the associated limiting factors, at the Councillors Forum 2 July 2015. There was an understanding that the existing waste bin service provision model was predicated on servicing urban centres, and capturing a number of rural collections based on the route and timetable capacity where practical. There was discussion around whether a service review generally was warranted looking at different models to meet a range of service options going forward. Council was supportive of looking at service expansion requests on a case by case basis.

Communication Implications

Tari and Gurjit Sondhu of Wombelano have requested the rural waste collection service be extended on occasions in the past but the request has been denied on the basis of the contractor not having time to include the extra service. In February the Mayor Cr Annette Jones and Contracts Manager Bernie Maddern met with Gurjit Sundhu and several others at Wombelano to discuss further. During the
meeting the Sondhu’s and others were given the option of taking their bin to either the Wombelano road corner or the Coleraine Edenhope road intersection which would be up to a maximum of eight kilometres, to the existing waste truck route. The landowners indicated they did not want to proceed with this option.

Following the meeting several landowners along the Nhill Harrow road were contacted and four indicated they would access the service and one uncertain. With the subsequent Wimmera Mallee Waste proposal they have included an extension to a section of the Harrow Clear Lake Rd and a section of the Charam Wombelano Rd, and it is anticipated another 4 possible pickups on these roads. The total anticipated pick-ups have been rounded up to 10 to give a potential best case scenario.

Further ongoing discussions have been held with the contractor Wimmera Mallee Waste to fully investigate whether this service extension could be included.

Their proposal is to commence the Wednesday pick up two hours earlier and bring some of the Thursday pick up into Wednesday afternoon. This section altered would be the Thursday pick up from Edenhope to Crows Corner and Goroke, Gymbowen, Mitre & Nurcoung areas.

This would allow time for the truck to travel the southern section of the Nhill Harrow road to service the Sondhu property and any others in this section. The truck would then travel the full length of the Harrow Clear Lake road to Douglas where there may be two or three additional pick-ups, return to the Harrow township and then the Edenhope township.

Wimmera Mallee Waste has advised that the cost of this additional service will be $150.00 per week, equating to $7,800.00 per annum, plus the cost of any bin pick-ups. This additional cost would be offset minimally by increased revenue from additional waste charges received.

Conclusion:

The initial concerns with this proposed route extension has been whether the contractor has been able to fit the additional service into the Thursday pick up given that this is an eleven hour day for the truck driver. However the contractor has prepared an option for consideration which would enable this to proceed.

The proposed change would come at a cost and the financial impact would be an additional cost to Council’s operations by an estimated $7,216.53, assuming there are ten additional pick-ups.

Council endeavours to meet requests from rural landowners where suitable, however in this case the request is significant and the additional cost to Council cannot be justified for the benefit of a small number of landowners. There are a number of landowners who
travel some distance to access this service in other areas, and the option of taking bins some distance to the nearest existing route is still available for the people on the Nhill Harrow road. Landowners also have the option of utilising the Harrow Transfer Station which is situated on the southern section of this road.

Council could:
- Approve the request for the rural waste service extension on the Nhill-Harrow Road, conditional on the 10 householders subscribing to the extended service.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

In relation to the service provision request from Tari & Gurjit Sondhu for the rural waste service be extended along the Nhill Harrow Road from Wombelano to the Coleraine Edenhope road, a distance of 16 kilometres to enable them to access the service.

That Council not approve the request for the rural waste service extension on the Nhill Harrow Road.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council not approve the request for the rural waste service extension on the Nhill Harrow Road.

Carried

For: Cr Warren Wait, Cr Meyer, Cr Richard Wait, Cr Hawkins
Against: Cr Jones

Attachments:

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5.06pm: Cr Hawkins left the room.
13.8 PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL – ELIZABETH STREET EDENHOPE

FILE NUMBER: PSO 389
AUTHOR: BERNIE MADDERN CONTRACTS MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report is to consider a street tree removal application received from the Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital, for the removal of one Flowering Gum tree on the roadway adjacent the new nurses’ accommodation at 127 Elizabeth Street Edenhope.

Background

The original tree removal request has been received as described below, and not agreed to by Council on the basis that it and did not meet the Council’s tree removal criteria as per Council policy.

A further request has been received indicating the applicant wishes to extend the driveway. This request has been referred to Council as it is deemed as an aged and significant tree situated on public land in a Township, as per Council resolution at the 21 November 2013 meeting.

Applicant:
Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital - Request dated 19/03/2015
128 Elizabeth Street Edenhope
Applicants Reason: Refer to attachment.

The tree pre-exists recent building on the site.

During the planning stages the applicant would have been aware of the location of the tree and its close proximity to the existing crossover.

At that stage the applicant could have submitted designs for an alternative crossover location that would have suited the site and not raise the desire by the applicant for the tree to be removed.
Risk Management Implications

Any street tree can pose a potential risk to the general public; however this risk is mitigated through Council’s street tree management program through annual inspections and is audited annually by Council’s insurers CMP.

A recent individual risk assessment has been carried out by Council’s Works Manager and Parks & Gardens Supervisor on this tree. Usual street tree risks include tree roots causing some uplift in the kerb & channel. If Council approves the secondary application for a double crossover extension as proposed, the tree will be positioned within the driveway alignment creating an obvious risk to vehicles accessing the driveway.

Leaving the driveway as it is, would be consistent with many single crossover driveway entrances widening to double garages and/or double driveways within property boundaries. The risk as proposed by the applicant is not deemed to be a real risk as per the majority of property conditions.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

This tree is very well established and healthy and provides valuable shade in summer, although typically it drop leaves, twigs, nuts etc. The removal would change the aesthetics of the streetscape and take away valuable shade.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

If Council decides that the tree is to be removed outside of its Street Tree Policy, in accordance with the tree removal criteria then the cost should be borne by the landowner as per clause 5.3.1 of the Street Tree Policy, and there will be no cost to Council.

If Council additionally determines tree planting replacement of the lost asset, the cost of purchase and establishment could be also allocated to the developer.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

Consideration of the removal of this tree falls must be read in conjunction with clause 5.2.1 the Tree Removal criteria in Council’s Street Tree Policy which states:

*The street trees removal is required after investigation to facilitate the construction of a vehicle crossing into a property and there is no other viable choice. Cost of removal and replacement to be borne by the property developer.*
There is another option for the construction of the double vehicle crossover allowing the tree to remain in situ. However if Council determines to approve the application outside of its Street Tree Policy, there is the option of requiring the cost to be borne by the application.

**Communication Implications**

The initial request dated 19/03/15 for the street tree removal was received from The Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital stating that the tree & root system was encroaching over the driveway.

Following a site inspection a letter was sent to the applicant on 14/05/2015 advising that the application did not meet Council’s tree removal criteria in the Street Tree Policy. Refer to attachment.

On 12/04/2013 an email was sent to Council by the applicant advising that the driveway will need to be widened to accommodate the double garage and that the tree poses a significant risk to reversing out of the driveway as it will be in the middle of the right hand side of the garage.

Discussions with the outgoing CEO of EDMH confirmed that construction of the proposed double crossover is not contingent on any other aspect of the development and there is no urgency for Council’s decision.

**Conclusion**

With the applicants change in reasoning, the second request for removal relates to the criteria in Council’s Street policy which states:

*The street tree removal is required after investigation to facilitate the construction of a vehicle crossing into a property and there is no other viable choice. Cost of removal and replacement to be borne by the property developer.*

This Flowering Gum tree is well established, quite healthy and has value as a Shire asset.

The trees situated on the sealed roadway between Orme Street and Anne Street constitutes an important streetscape to the main thoroughfare in the Edenhope Township. The removal of this tree would have a negative effect on this streetscape.

During the planning stages the applicant would have been aware of the location of the tree and its close proximity to the existing crossover, and at that stage there would have been a viable choice of crossover location by the applicant.
It is worth noting that many properties with a double garage have a single crossover with the driveway opening out to double width from the building line.

Notwithstanding its Street Tree Policy, Council could:

- Allow the application to remove the Flowering Gum tree situated on the roadway adjacent 127 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope, conditional on:
- The cost of removal, including the removal of the stump, be borne by the applicant, and
- The applicant pay for a replacement planting; species as nominated and planted by Council, to be suitably sited mid way street frontage of the residential component of the development block.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

In relation to a street tree removal application received from the Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital, for the removal of one Flowering Gum tree on the roadway adjacent the new nurses’ accommodation at 127 Elizabeth Street Edenhope;

**That the application to remove the Flowering Gum tree situated on the roadway adjacent 127 Elizabeth Street Edenhope not be approved by Council.**

Moved: Cr Richard Wait  
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait  

That the application to remove the Flowering Gum tree situated on the roadway adjacent 127 Elizabeth Street Edenhope not be approved by Council.  

Carried Unanimously

**Attachments:**

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5:08pm: Cr Hawkins returned to the room
FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

After more than 12 months of planning and public consultation, the Federal Government has announced a Mobile Black Spot Programme to deliver almost 500 new or upgraded base stations with a total investment of $385 million.

Background

In a press release dated 25 June 2015, the Abbott Government announced that it will deliver 499 new or upgraded mobile base stations around Australia to deliver or improve mobile phone coverage. The programme will be funded by Federal and State Governments along with private investment from Telstra and Vodafone.

West Wimmera will receive six new or improved mobile base stations in Chetwynd (2), Connewirricoo, Harrow, Kadnook and Wombelano.

Extract from press release:

"The successful locations were chosen following a competitive selection process, with the mobile network operators asked to nominate sites where they would build new or upgraded base stations to serve the black spot locations nominated by the public. The Government selected the locations in accordance with the ranking process in the Programme guidelines issued publicly in December 2014.

The first base stations funded under the Programme will be rolled out before the end of 2015 and the rollout will continue for a three-year period. The rollout sequence will be determined by Telstra and Vodafone based on various factors including obtaining local government planning approvals for new base stations; the Government will closely monitor rollout performance and ensure that regular public updates are provided."

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad released the following on 25 June 2015:

"The Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad, said today’s announcement that 22 new or upgraded mobile base stations will be built in the Mallee Electorate, under the $100 million Mobile Black Spot Programme, will be of huge benefit to many people living in the Wimmera and Mallee regions.

“This is a great outcome for the people of the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura, with a total of $15.19 million to be invested on new or improved mobile coverage in our area.

“The people of this electorate have nominated blackspots as a crucial factor affecting the area and today’s announcement addresses these concerns, with 266 mobile black spots to receive coverage.

“I have always said that regionally based Australians deserve to have a quality network that allows them to link with the resources and opportunities that city dwellers take for granted.

“Today’s announcement is a very good step in that direction,” Mr Broad said.

Round Two of the Mobile Black Spot Programme, coupled with Telstra’s commitment to build 200 new 4G mini base stations will offer further opportunities to address unmet demand and provide coverage to more locations around regional and remote Australian.

The first round of the programme has successfully leveraged significant contributions from state and local governments, mobile carriers and third-party organisations, resulting in an outcome exceeding even Mr Broad’s expectations.

“The Mallee has done incredibly well out of this latest announcement, with 266 of the 357 black spots that were nominated in our region, being addressed via the 22 new or upgraded base stations.

“Compared to many areas in the country, this is significant. Some electorates got fewer than ten new or upgraded stations.

“I believe much of our success is due to the high levels of co-operation between the three tiers of government in our region and with Telstra.

“As a collective, we have worked together to deliver the best result we could and today’s announcement is a reflection of this collaborative approach,” Mr. Broad said."
Risk Management Implications
Not commented on

Legislative Implications
Not commented on

Environmental Implications
Not commented on

Financial and Budgetary Implications
Nil

Policy and Council Plan Implications
Not commented on

Communication Implications
Council will produce a media release to promote the announcement of the Mobile black Spot Programme.

Conclusion
West Wimmera Shire Council welcomes the announcement from the Federal Government to improve mobile phone coverage in the Shire. Council also thanks, Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad for his advocacy in the issue. The Mallee electorate will benefit from the addition of 22 new or upgraded mobile base stations with 6 of these in the West Wimmera Shire local government area.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That the report "Mobile Black Spot Programme – Announcement of New or Upgraded Mobile Base Stations in West Wimmera" be received and noted.
Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Ron Hawkins

1. That the report "Mobile Black Spot Programme – Announcement of New or Upgraded Mobile Base Stations in West Wimmera" be received and noted.

2. That a letter of thanks be sent to Andrew Broad MP for his support.

   Carried Unanimously

Action: ESO CEO

Attachments: Nil
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 GWMWATER AND COUNCILLORS BRIEFING – INCLUDING DOMESTIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GROUNDWATER UPDATE

15.2 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE - SERVICES REVIEWS

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That Council consider the following late items of business:

15.1 GWMWATER AND COUNCILLORS BRIEFING – INCLUDING DOMESTIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GROUNDWATER UPDATE

15.2 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE - SERVICES REVIEWS

Carried Unanimously
15.1 GWMWATER AND COUNCILLORS BRIEFING – INCLUDING DOMESTIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GROUNDWATER UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: CM0395
REPORT AUTHOR: MARK CROUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

To update Council on the outcomes of the recent GWMWater and West Wimmera Shire briefing 18 June 2015, particularly West Wimmera Shire Domestic Wastewater Management Plan and groundwater update.

Background

Council invited GWMWater Chairman and Managing Director to Kaniva on Thursday 18 June 2015, for the annual briefing to Councillors.

Mr Peter Vogel, Chairman of GWMWater and Mr Mark Williams, Managing Director of GWMWater attended and presented the briefing on water and wastewater matters specific to West Wimmera Shire. Refer attached presentation appended to the report.

GWMWater subsequently sent a letter to Council on 29 June 2015 (copy attached), confirming the matters arising from the discussions and the commitments of GWMWater:

- Sanitation in Goroke:
  - GWMWater will assess the technical options contained in the West Wimmera Shire Council Wastewater Management Plan, in a manner consistent with the principles established by their Statement of Obligations.
  - This assessment will be carried out by their Business Development Working Group, and a response will be provided to Council by 30 September 2015.
  - The relevant sections of the Statement of Obligations are attached to GWMWater letter.

- Groundwater Sale:
  - GWMWater requests that Council confirm its official policy position in relation to Cr Warren Wait’s recent expressed desire to have 1900ML of groundwater held back for any potential future development opportunities.
- GWMWater is looking to commence the groundwater sale process within the next three months, and will need to confirm volumes as part of the Expression of Interest prospectus.

- An appropriate person from GWM’s Water Resources Group can provide a briefing to a future Council meeting, to answer technical questions regarding the performance and capability of the aquifer.

• Edenhope Water Supply:

  - The Edenhope water supply is being adequately maintained from existing bore supplies.
  - The performance of these bores will be closely monitored to ensure supply is maintained.
  - The supply to Edenhope will be a key focus in the next Water Supply Demand Strategy.
  - Any assessment will be undertaken in the context of a servicing strategy for the West Wimmera Shire south of the Little Desert.

Risk Management Implications

Under the below legislative implications, Council has a responsibility to ensure domestic wastewater is being discharged appropriately on site to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities, ground and surface water sources.

Legislative Implications

Council has a responsibility to regulate the domestic wastewater discharge within the Shire boundaries under the following legislation:

- State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Environmental Implications

Should wastewater not be managed and disposed of appropriately this will impact the Shire ground and surface water sources through contamination.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not commented on.
Policy and Council Plan Implications

Each Council in Victoria is required to have a Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP). Council adopted its updated DWMP in November 2014. It will allow Council to better manage these situations with clear guidelines set on future development within its townships.

Communication Implications

Council’s Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is available on the Shire’s website.

Conclusion

At the 18 June 2015 Council meeting it was resolved that this Shire request from West Wimmera Ground Water Implementation Committee that an amount of 10% of water be kept for the Economic Development of this Shire. This request has been formally conveyed to the West Wimmera Ground Water Implementation Committee for consideration.

It is pleasing to see that GWMWater are advancing the technical and other assessment of the Shire Domestic Wastewater Management Plan and that a GWMWater response will be made by 30 September 2015. Given a number of past and current issues and challenges at Goroke over greywater / sanitation, it is hoped a number of potential treatment systems and other treatment options will come from this GWMWater Business Development Working Group.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

In relation to the Council / GWMWater briefing and outcomes summary provided by GWMWater following the briefing 18 June 2015;

That this report be received and noted
Moved: Cr Ron Hawkins
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

In relation to the Council / GWMWater briefing and outcomes summary provided by GWMWater following the briefing 18 June 2015;

That this report be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>RecFind Ref</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.1.1</td>
<td>GWMWater briefing presentation 18 June 2015</td>
<td>15/002659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.1.2</td>
<td>Letter from GWMWater re West Wimmera Domestic Wastewater Management Councillor Briefing, 29 June 2015</td>
<td>15/002858</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
15.2 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE - SERVICES REVIEWS

FILE NUMBER: AD0183
REPORT AUTHOR: MARK CROUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report is to background Council in relation to the proposed Council services review to be conducted in the period to December 2015. The report is to give Council an opportunity to have an understanding and input on the services prioritised for review, and the review template to be used to examine the nominated services. Further, for Council to consider how the reviews will be considered by Council over this period.

Background

At the 14 April 2015 Council meeting, as part of consideration of the Buloke Shire proposed minimum services (now Rural Living campaign), Council resolved amongst other matters;

That Council prepare a revised service review program and timetable.

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989, Section 3E, 1 (b) details the functions of a Council as including the planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community.

A regular and cyclical review of Council services should ensure Council meets its responsibilities to affirm the principles under Best Value, reviews the delivery of services most needed and wanted by the community, and considers opportunities for savings, efficiencies and improved service outcomes.

The Council Plan 2013-2017 outlines a series of service reviews that were agreed to be undertaken over period of the plan. Given the need to re-examine this schedule in a more detailed and comprehensive manner, coming off the back of Council sustainability pressures and directly impacted by funding reductions and the rates capping regime introduction by the State Government, a revised and rigorous service review process has been agreed. Given the need to review services on a rolling program basis and undertake the process prior to budget processes being finalised, a listing of services has now been
prepared for consideration in the period to the end of December 2015. The completion of the priority services review processes by December 2015 will enable Council to be better positioned to consider and formalise budgets prior to June 2016.

The rates capping regime is still being structured by the State Government, but clear indications are that rate increases in excess of CPI will be closely examined and monitored by the Essential Services Commission. By Council having undertaken this review process, Council will have a clearer understanding around existing services and opportunities to possibly strengthen, rationalise and / or realign service provision going forward.

Services identified for specific review will need to strike a balance between being too broad and too narrow. Services that are too broad and aggregated will struggle to provide the required detail to enable practical and informed decisions to be made. Services that are too narrowly defined will have the potential for the review process to become ‘bogged down’ in detail and hence compromise the process. A balance needs to be found.

A listing of services or suggested service level categories to be the focus of the review for the period to December 2015, along with template structure, will be circulated to Councillors.

The Process

The process flow chart is essentially:

[Diagram description]

- Service defined - Can we define and is it the right level of service?
- Service Review Working Group nominated
- Working Group can call on expertise during process
- Service review conducted (initial draft)
- Final report submitted to Council
- Draft report workshoped by Council
- Council determination on service level provision
- New or confirmed Service Plan developed
- Budget and resources allocated
- Service Plan promoted to community
Generally service reviews involve at least one officer with responsibility for an aspect of the service and one or two other officers with particular insight and/or responsibility. The ‘Service Review Working Group’ may also call in other expertise as required.

For example, Playgrounds and Open Space Service Review involves Contracts, Works and Parks & Gardens staff. The Early Years Co-ordinator may also have an interest and expertise to offer. This working group might consist of 3 officers including the Early Years Co-ordinator, or the Early Years Co-ordinator might provide review of the work prior to it being presented to Council.

Risk Management Implications

The risks associated with not undertaking thorough and cyclical service reviews are significant. Inefficient, redundant and low value services, along with new opportunities need to be identified and considered by Council.

Given that service reviews will be undertaken in-house, and in many cases by the person/s currently undertaking service delivery, there is the risk that staff can be ‘too close’ to service provision and not able to bring a questioning and independent perspective to the review. At the same time, there are advantages in in house reviews that instil a level of ownership and professional commitment that is beneficial to the process. Staff will be involved and will feel part of a valuable innovate process. The risk is mitigated by setting up review teams to incorporate staff from other areas of the organisation, peer and SMG review, and a rolling program of Councillors review over the period to December 2015. Councillors workshop can be spread out, and reviews as undertaken considered in small blocks to avoid bottlenecks.

Legislative Implications

The Local Government Act 1989 details the Best Value (BV) Principle under Division 3. This division details BV principles to be followed, but details factors to be looked at in applying the principles, quality and cost standards, standards to be publically available, and Council reporting on Best Value Principles compliance.

Environmental Implications

Individual service reviews will include environmental implications and recommendations as relevant and applicable.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Individual service reviews will examine financial and budgetary implications. As detailed above, the cycle of service reviews ideally will be scheduled to ensure the reviews can be considered by Council prior to the commencement of the following year’s
budget compilation. This is particularly relevant if the review has highlighted service enhancement, reduction or alternatives that have budgetary implications.

There is no direct budget allocation for undertaking the service reviews.

Policy and Council Plan Implications

The current Council Plan has the service reviews outlined as below.

| West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer |
| Strategic Objective 4: Increase community confidence in Council Service Levels |

West Wimmera Shire seeks to
- Establish an annual service review process to inform budget allocations
- Enable Council to plan/review the viability of Council services
- Enable Council to match community expectation by promoting service level information
- Enable Council to discuss changes to services with the community and other agencies
- Enable Council staff to confidently deliver Council priorities

Action 4.1 Council will schedule Council service level reviews and establish relevant standards over the four year period of this plan. Reviews will be prioritized according to investment level, source of funds and community feedback. The reviews will inform Council about asset renewal/maintenance scheduling and potential alternate delivery options, enabling the development of Council service level policies. The results of the service reviews will provide the community and other stakeholders with an understanding of Council service levels and decisions.

<table>
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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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Reviews have already been undertaken in many of the areas above. Given the need for a current and possibly more comprehensive review regime, with reviews being structured possibly differently than in earlier reviews, the current review process will in part be informed by earlier work. Aspects of past work may be used and will be further strengthened by additional agreed review processes.
Communication Implications

Staff and Councillor Engagement for the service review process are essential.

A number of staff has been involved in the pilot service reviews and in the development of the service review list and review template. All staff will be involved in the next phase. Staff will have practical in-house mentoring and guidance along with senior management support to undertake roles on a number of working groups for relevant services.

All service reviews will be reviewed by Council in workshops and if there are recommendations for changes to services these will need to be considered by Council.

Council determined changes to services will need to be promoted and communicated. Council may seek that detailed community engagement processes be initiated along with possible benchmarking with like Council service providers. It is recognised that the review process to December 2015 will not necessarily entail community engagement and benchmarking. These further steps, if considered as having merit as part of service review sessions, can then be undertaken prior to formal service review decisions being made by Council.

Conclusion

Service reviews of local government services are a mandated requirement under the Best Value principles touched on above. The list of services to be circulated is a balance between the many hundreds of functions that Council undertake and a useful examination of key services provided.

The process will provide rigour to Council service plans and to budgets.

It is suggested that the 5 full day workshops be agreed and diarised, with the Senior Management Group to schedule completed reviews to be workshopped over this period.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report West Wimmera Shire – Service reviews, be received and noted;
2. That Council commit to five full day service review workshops (August – December 2015) to consider working group service reviews.
3. That the service listings and review template structure be circulated to Councillors for comment and input.
Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

1. That the report West Wimmera Shire – Service reviews, be received and noted;

2. That Council commit to five full day service review workshops (August – December 2015) to consider working group service reviews.

3. That the service listings and review template structure be circulated to Councillors for comment and input.

Carried Unanimously

Attachments: Nil
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 JOHN WILLIAMS, GOROKE – ADDITIONAL NEW SIGN FOR GOROKE

- Appreciates the new town signage that has been installed at the east and west entrances to Goroke, on the Frances-Natimuk Road.
- Can a third sign be added at the southern entrance to Goroke, on the Edenhope-Goroke Road.

Action: GMIDW

17.2 JOHN WILLIAMS, GOROKE – 50KM SPEED ZONE FOR GOROKE

- There are a lot of trucks travelling through Goroke.
- Can a 50km speed zone be installed in the Goroke township.

Action: GMIDW

17.3 JOHN WILLIAMS, GOROKE – SIGNS TO LAKE RATZCASTLE

- Appreciates the two new signs that have been installed, pointing to the entrance to Lake Ratzcastle.
- Can two additional signs to Lake Ratzcastle be installed on the Wimmera Highway, at the northern and southern approaches to the intersection of the Wimmera Highway and the Edenhope-Goroke Road (known as the Maryvale intersection).

Action: GMIDW
18.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

RECOMMENDATION
That Council pursuant to section 89(2) (d) Contractual Matters and (f) Legal advice of the Local Government Act 1989 close the meeting to members of the public at ....... pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

18.1 MAINTENANCE OF GRASS – KANIVA
18.2 UPDATE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Moved: Cr Richard Wait
Seconded: Cr Warren Wait

That Council pursuant to section 89(2) (d) Contractual Matters and (f) Legal advice of the Local Government Act 1989 close the meeting to members of the public at 5.24pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

18.1 MAINTENANCE OF GRASS – KANIVA
18.2 UPDATE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Carried Unanimously

RECOMMENDATION
That the resolutions pertaining to Confidential / In-Camera items be adopted and made public and that the reports for those items remain In-camera and that Council open the meeting to the public at ....pm.

Moved: Cr Warren Wait
Seconded: Cr Richard Wait

That the resolutions pertaining to Confidential / In-Camera items be adopted and made public and that the reports for those items remain In-camera and that Council open the meeting to the public at 5:45 pm.

Carried Unanimously

18.1 MAINTENANCE OF GRASS – KANIVA
1. That Council rejects the tender submitted by S J & K J King for Contract CMO420 Maintenance of Grass Kaniva in accordance with the specifications of Contract CM0420 for an annual lump sum of $86,816.00, AND,
2. That Council extends the current contract for a period of 6 months, AND
3. That Council conducts a service review provision of Township Amenity for the Township of Kaniva, including the service provision of the nominated grassed areas identified in the specifications of Contract CM0420.

18.2 UPDATE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

That in relation to the West Wimmera Shire Council General Committee resolution on a confidential update on Human Resources, Council receives and notes the report on Human Resources.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 5:46PM

NEXT MEETING: 20 AUGUST 2015
EDENHOPE COUNCIL CHAMBER