



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL



The best of country living

COUNCIL INFORMATION



OFFICES

Edenhope Customer Service Centre
49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope VIC 3318
Tel: (03) 5585 9900
Fax: (03) 5585 9950

Kaniva Customer Service Centre
25 Baker Street, Kaniva VIC 3419
Tel: (03) 5392 7700
Fax: (03) 5392 7750

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 201
EDENHOPE VIC 3318

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
8.30am– 5.00pm

E - MAIL

council@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au

AUDITORS

Crowe Australia
Melbourne

Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO)
Melbourne

SOLICITORS

Meerkin & Apel
Greville Street, Prahran

Maddocks
La Trobe Street, Melbourne

BANKER

National Australia Bank

INTERNAL AUDITOR

RSD Audit
Breen Street, Bendigo

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2021-2022 Annual Report reviews our strategic, operational, and financial performance for the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. It is an important document that shows our community how we performed and whether we did what we promised.

It is a comprehensive report that compares our highlights and achievements with our strategic goals and strategies set out in our Council Plan 2021-2025. The West Wimmera Shire Council 2021-2022 Annual Report meets legislative and compliance reporting requirements under section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Annual Report contains the following:

- (a) a report of operations of the Council,
- (b) an audited performance statement,
- (c) audited financial statements,
- (d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement,
- (e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under part three of the *Audit Act 1994*,
- (f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Acknowledgement of Country

The West Wimmera Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pays respect to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

CONTENTS

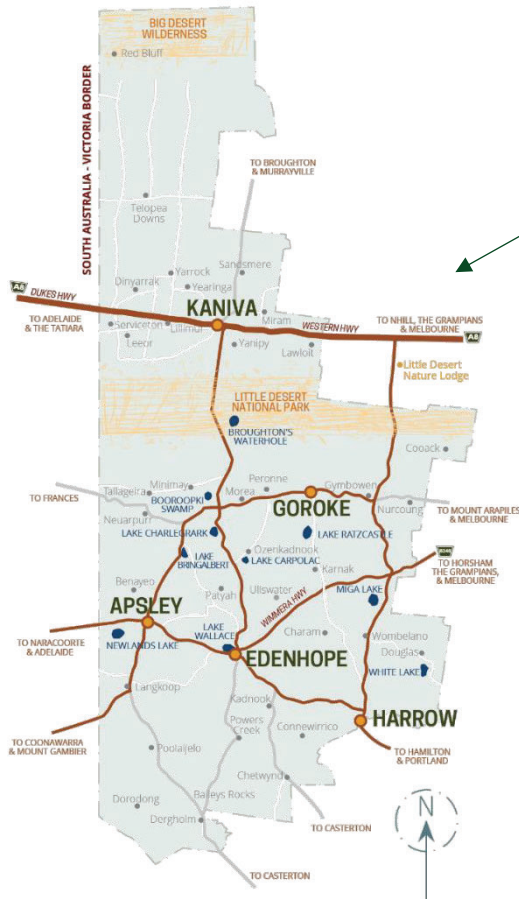
COUNCIL INFORMATION.....	2	Retired Service Performance indicators	55
2022 ANNUAL REPORT	3	Services Funded in Budget.....	56
ABOUT WEST WIMMERA.....	6	Advocacy	59
COUNCIL VISION & VALUES.....	7	Community Engagement	59
Council Vision	7	Community Strengthening and Other Grants Program	62
Our Values	7	Capital Works	65
MAYOR'S MESSAGE.....	9	Major Projects.....	65
CEO'S MESSAGE	10	CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE	68
FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2021/2022	11	Customer Service	68
Operating Position	11	Occupational Health and Safety	69
DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS	15	Community Support and Wellbeing	70
Economic Factors	16	Volunteering.....	72
Major Capital Works	16	Events	73
Major Changes	17	Regional Assessment Service	78
Major Achievements.....	17	Kindergartens	79
Covid 19 Response.....	18	Supported Playgroup	79
OUR COUNCIL.....	19	Childcare	80
OUR PEOPLE.....	22	Maternal and Child Health	81
Organisational Structure.....	22	Immunisations	81
CEO and Director bios	23	By Five WSM Early Years Project	81
Equal employment opportunity and human rights	28	Youth Services	82
OUR PERFORMANCE	29	Economic Development.....	83
Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework	29	Tourism.....	84
Council Plan.....	30	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKS	85
Performance	30	Engineering and Works	85
Major initiatives	47	Asset Management and Gis	85
Service Performance indicators	48	Contracts	85

Local Laws and Animal Control	86	STATUTORY INFORMATION	97
Environmental Health	87	Documents Available for Public Inspection	97
Planning and Building Services	88	Freedom of Information	97
GOVERNANCE	89	Disability Action Plan.....	98
Council Meetings.....	89	Protected Disclosure Procedures	98
Community Forums	91	Road Management Act Ministerial Direction	98
Local Laws.....	91	Infrastructure and Development Contributions	98
Review of Delegations.....	91	Contracts	99
Review of Council Policies	91	Domestic Animal Management Plan.....	99
Councillor Code of Conduct	92	Food Act Ministerial Directions	99
Conflict of Interest	92	AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE.....	99
Delegate Committees	93	GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST	100
Councillor Allowance and Expenses	94	PERFORMANCE STATEMENT	104
Internal Audit.....	96	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	118
External Audit.....	96		

ABOUT WEST WIMMERA

The West Wimmera Shire Council (WWSC) is situated along the Victorian – South Australian border, covers 9,108 square kilometres and includes the townships of Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow in the southern half of the Shire through to Goroke, Kaniva and Serviceton in the north. Home to approximately 4,006 residents, the region prides itself for its welcoming communities and wide diversity of industry and environment.

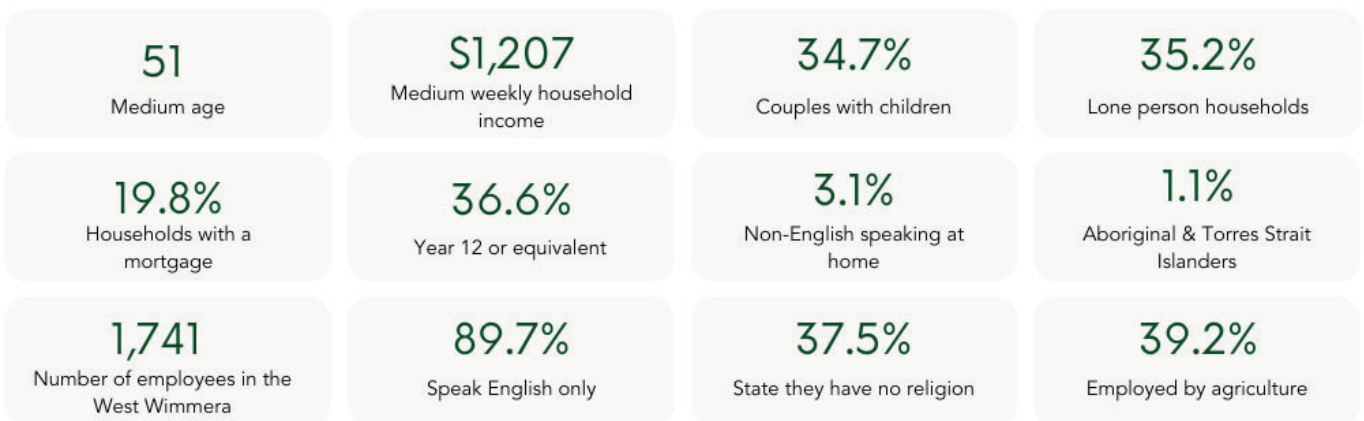
Consisting of untouched desert parks, vast wetlands and fertile plains, West Wimmera is equally known for its acres of wheat, barley, canola, beans, oats, lentils and legumes, and as a home to the famous malleefowl, red-tailed black cockatoo and a unique abundance of wildflowers.



A relaxed informal lifestyle, Mediterranean climate and spectacular scenery are the key features of the West Wimmera region. There is no commuter rush, and any drive is framed by beautiful, natural vistas. The region boasts high-quality education and healthcare services and well-equipped sporting facilities providing excellent outdoor activities for young and old.

A wide range of community groups also provide social and recreational opportunities for residents and help increase the strong sense of community.

Who are we?



COUNCIL VISION & VALUES

COUNCIL VISION

Our West Wimmera community is healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious, prosperous, and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity.

OUR VALUES

INNOVATIVE - We will proactively respond to change, are optimistic about our future and pursue continuous improvement in everything that we do.

ACCOUNTABLE – We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency, achievement of goals and advocating for our community

UNITED – We will do everything within our ability to encourage and form trusting relationships, to work together as one team to achieve our goals and advocate for 'One West Wimmera'.

COLLABORATIVE – We will actively and openly consult with you and work constructively with community organisations, agencies, the business community and other levels of government to our community's benefit.



Goal 1: Liveable & Healthy Community	Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy	Goal 3: Sustainable Environment	Goal 4: Good Governance	Goal 5: Our Commitment
<p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 showed results significantly higher than both the state-wide and smaller rural council's average. • Management of the Poolaijelo fires, with Council donating a sum of \$30,000 to BlazeAid. • Implementation of childcare services in Edenhope. • A citizenship ceremony was held in December 2021 and Council welcomed one new Australian citizen to the Shire. 	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and State Government advocacy for the West Grampians Pipeline. Updated Business Case Addendum. • Commencement of the West Wimmera Shire Council Planning Scheme Review. • Significant investment in the upgrade of the Council's Road network: significant amount invested in upgrading, renewing and maintaining the road network to improve safety and productivity 	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured \$30K of funding towards native vegetation management in Lake Wallace. • Lake Wallace Strategic Plan adopted 	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational restructure and adoption of the WWSC Workforce Plan 2021-2025. Including two directors appointed. • Adoption of Council Plan 2021-2025 and Annual Plan • Implementation of a new finance system. • Closed out 35 of 40 recommendations from the Victorian Inspectorate. • Implementation of the West Wimmera Shire Council Asset Plan. 	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Platform developed and implemented

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



On behalf of Council, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report 2021-2022. This always represents a time to pause and reflect on our achievements of the past 12 months. The role of Council includes:

- Acting as a representative government by considering the needs of the local community in decision making.
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic goals and strategies and monitoring their achievement.
- Maintaining the viability of Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner.
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments.
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

We have had many highlights in the past 12 months that Council is extremely proud of. One of Council's major initiatives earlier this year was the implementation of a childcare service in Edenhope. This service was much needed in the region, and we are now able to accommodate many children at the new centre. Community feedback has been extremely positive, and this centre has already helped many parents either return to or enter the workforce. We are now working on establishing a family day care centre set up at Goroke to further assist families in the Shire.

We have secured funding for a number of major projects in the Shire, including \$1.05 million to upgrade Edenhope Lakeside Tourist Park; \$1.445 million to upgrade and widen important truck routes in the Shire; \$250,000 to update the Edenhope Equine Facility; \$200,000 for new tennis and netball courts at Apsley; and \$30,000 for native vegetation management at Lake Wallace. We sincerely thank the state and federal governments for providing funding and helping make all of our major projects possible.

We have recently completed new landscaping works at the Goroke Kindergarten and the children are already enjoying their new playspace. Also, this year we started work on a new amenities block at the Kaniva Caravan Park; the Kaniva Kindergarten is currently undergoing renovations; and the new community pavilion at Goroke Recreation Reserve is nearing completion. We are looking forward to seeing these projects completed in the near future.

As we emerge from the pandemic and welcome tourists back into the region, Council has worked closely with hospitality businesses throughout the year to improve outdoor dining within the Shire. New outdoor table settings have been installed, and other improvements such as street cleaning, furniture refurbishment, new bins, and fresh paint, has helped keep our streets looking better than ever. We hope more people continue to visit West Wimmera Shire in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank our Councillors for their commitment to West Wimmera Shire Council and their ongoing efforts on behalf of residents. I also thank businesses, members of community groups and Council staff for all having contributed to improving the liveability and amenities of our Shire.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. H. Meyer".

Cr. Bruce Meyer OAM
Mayor

CEO'S MESSAGE



West Wimmera Shire Council's 2021-2022 Annual Report details our activities in the past 12 months and outlines our achievements in line with the 2021-2025 Council Plan strategic goals.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining an appropriate organisational structure for Council,
- Ensuring that the decisions of Council are implemented without undue delay,
- The day-to-day management of Council's operations in accordance with the Council Plan,
- Developing, adopting, and disseminating a code of conduct for Council staff,
- Providing timely advice to Council.

The 2021-2022 year saw many significant achievements within the organisation. After the Edenhope Library moved out of the Council office, and into its new home at the Edenhope and District Community Centre, there was an opportunity for change within Council offices. The old library section has been fitted out to accommodate new staff working areas, and the community services staff that were in the Edenhope Business Centre have now been moved into the main office. This creates a more inclusive environment for staff at Edenhope, which provides greater efficiencies for Council service delivery.

In January 2022, we welcomed two new directors – Director Infrastructure Development and Works Ram Upadhyaya and Director Corporate and Community Services James Bentley. During this time, we underwent an organisational restructure to help improve efficiency within Council.

At the end of June 2022, Council's financial position remains strong. Staff implemented a new software system, which has changed the way they handle rates, animal registration, finance, payroll, and customer requests. This has been a learning curve for many Council staff, and I thank everyone for their patience and willingness to adapt during this time.

Council's results in the Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey were again very favourable. In the 17 categories that the West Wimmera Shire Council is rated against, performance was similar to, or significantly higher than, the small rural shire group and state-wide averages on all measures in 2022. This reflects the high standard of work all our Council employees adhere to.

As Councillors and managers, it is our job to listen to community sentiment and understand your priorities. We have consistently heard that Council's services are valued by the community, and that Council also needs to be financially responsible and keep its rates as low as possible.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge Council, the local community and all West Wimmera Shire Council staff who have contributed to delivering our Council's vision and Council Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bezuidenhout'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Bezuidenhout

Chief Executive Officer

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2021/2022

Council's financial position continues to remain sound. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to Council's financial performance is included within the Financial statements and performance statements of this report.

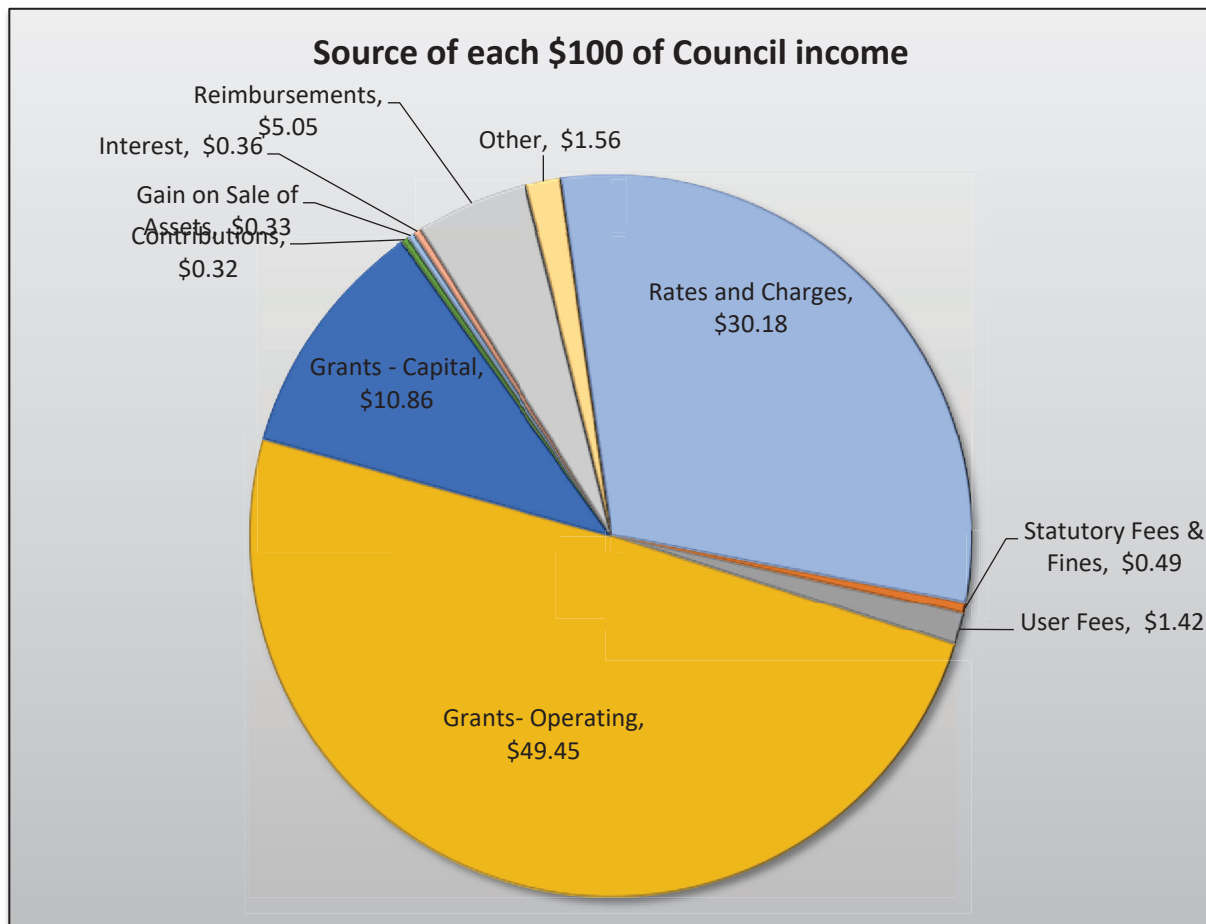
OPERATING POSITION

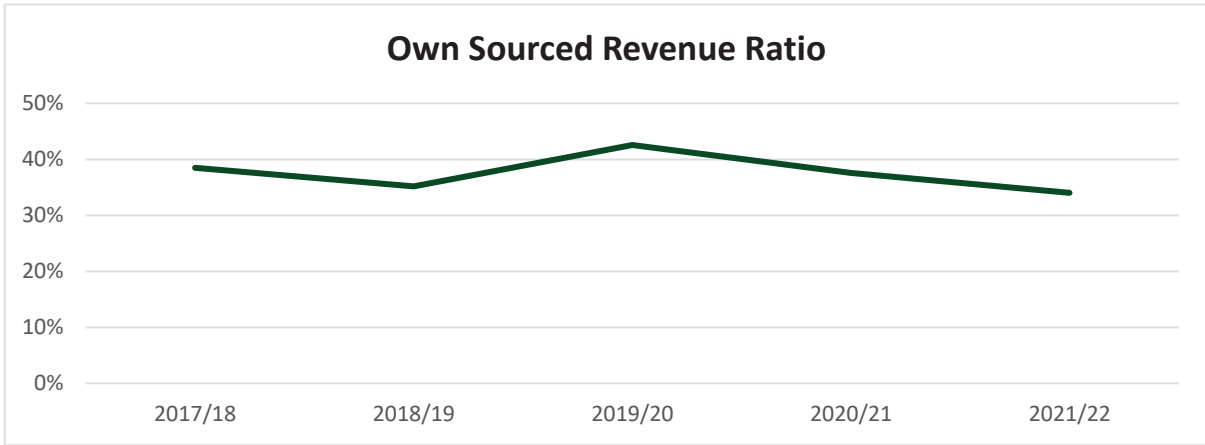
Council's operating result for 2021-22 shows an operating surplus of \$1.20million (\$0.61million deficit in 2020-21). After taking into consideration other comprehensive income, Council's total comprehensive result was a surplus of \$1.23million (\$33.23million surplus 2020-21). This large comprehensive surplus from 2020-21 included an asset revaluation increment of \$33.83million as a result of a revaluation of Council's road assets.

When analysing Council's financial data, we note that

Council incurred a significant depreciation charge of \$8.17million for 2021-22. This amount is not a cash expense, rather it represents the consumption of Council's assets annually. If this amount was removed from Council's underlying result, Council would be generating a significant underlying surplus.

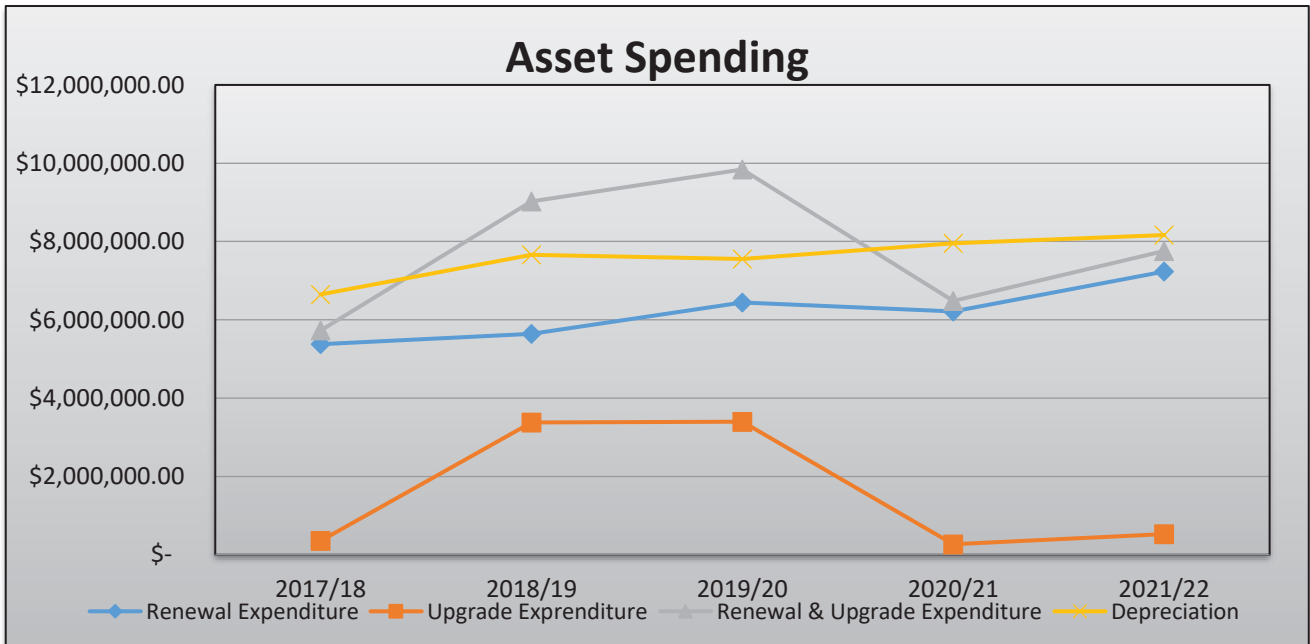
Roughly 60% of Council's income in 2021-22 was derived from external operating and capital grant funding. This highlights Council's reliance on external sources to fund its operations. For the 2021-22 year, Council's own-sourced revenue accounted for 34% of its total income (\$9.20million). As has been the case in prior years, Council continues to be heavily reliant upon external funding sources (particularly capital grants) to fund its asset renewal requirements and ongoing operations. It must be said that this is not an uncommon position within local government in Victoria, with all but the largest municipalities facing similar issues. A breakdown of Council's income sources is as follows:

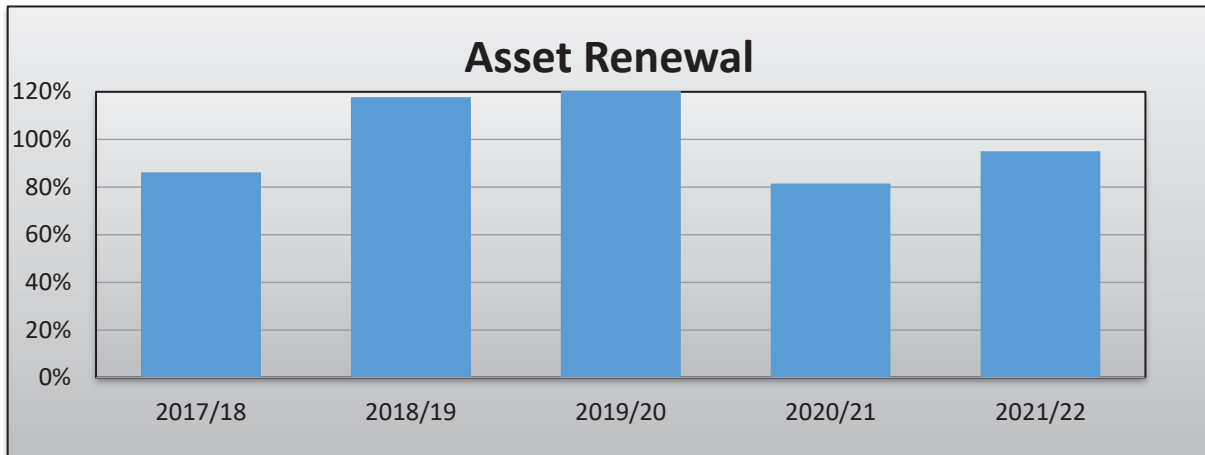




Council delivered a significant capital expenditure program during 2021-22 of \$7.85million, up from \$6.56million in 2020-21. Of this, \$5.86million was spent on roads with a further \$0.18million spent on other infrastructure such as footpaths and drainage. Council’s asset renewal ratio was 95% in 2021-22, indicating the

depreciation expense was slightly higher than Council’s spend on asset renewal and upgrades. However, it is noted that Council has still exceeded the annual asset renewal requirement spend per its most recent revaluation of road and infrastructure assets.

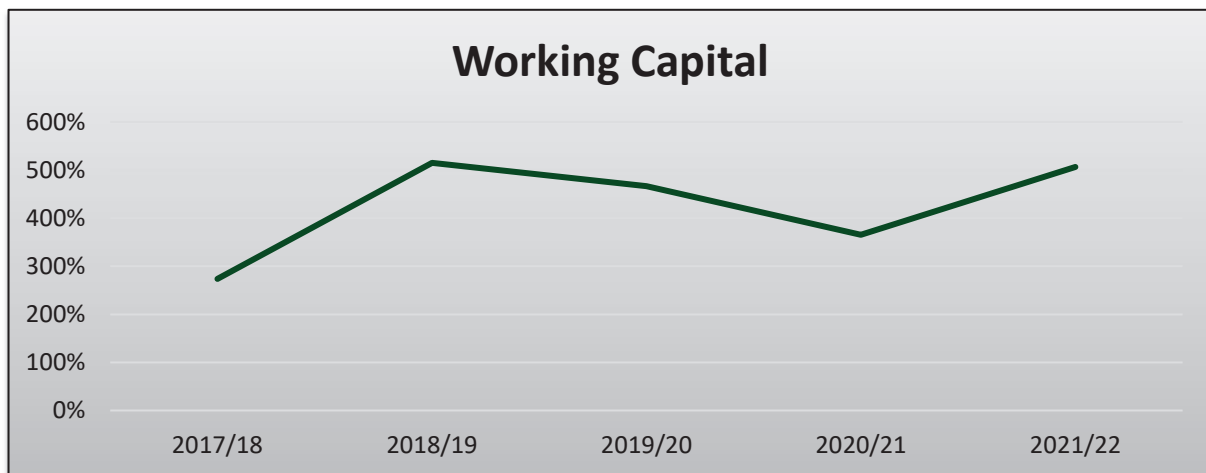




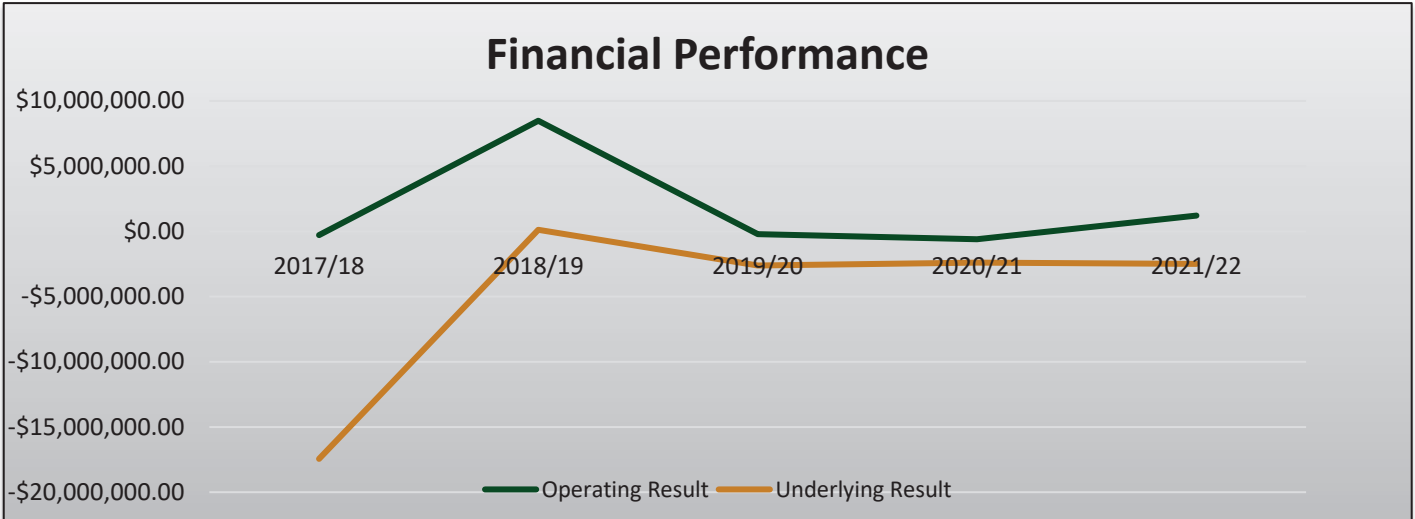
Council's cash position remains healthy, with unrestricted cash of \$8.80million and a total of \$17.20million cash on hand at 30 June 2022. Council is holding commitments by way of reserves, carried forward capital project funds, unspent grants and trust deposits of \$8.39million. It must be noted that the majority of the \$8.39million of funds restricted is held on a discretionary basis which Council may resolve to

use for other purposes if the need arises.

Council retains a solid working capital ratio. This is the coverage of current liabilities by current assets and measures the ability of Council to cover liabilities as and when they fall due. At 30 June 2022 Council had a working capital ratio of 507%.



Overall, Council has reported an operating surplus of \$1.20million for the 2021-22 year. The underlying operating result is very consistent with the prior year.



A lack of own sourced revenue sources other than rate income coupled with the rate cap creates a complex financial sustainability issue for Council into the future.

Council has met its asset renewal requirements per the most recent valuation and condition assessment. Council was holding property, plant and infrastructure assets of \$226.72million as at 30 June 2022, of which infrastructure accounts for \$205.14million. Being Council’s largest asset class by far, continued focus must be placed on meeting minimum asset renewal requirements annually and again highlights Councils dependence on grant funding.

Council has traditionally seen large fluctuations in grant funding over the years, with a significant total increase of \$4.42million in grant funding as compared with the prior year. \$1.70 million of this increase was seen in non-recurrent grants, with \$2.72million increase in recurrent grants. This is predominantly due to the prepayment of 75% of the 2022-23 Victorian Grants Commission Financial Assistance allocation.



DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS

West Wimmera Shire Council is responsible for the delivery of over 70 services across many areas including:

For Our Community



- Building Services and Planning Permits
- Libraries
- Sporting Facilities
- Parks, Gardens and Playgrounds
- Council-run events
- Support for Community-run events
- Community grants for activities
- Waste and recycling services
- Road and footpath maintenance
- Graffiti removal
- Environmental sustainability initiatives
- Local amenities and facilities maintenance
- VIC Roads Agency Services
- Animal control
- Pet Registration
- Provision of seasonal swimming pools
- Tourism development
- Street cleaning
- Fire prevention and pest management
- Accommodation
- Volunteer support
- Street lighting and signage

For Our Businesses



- Food and Health businesses registration and regulation
- Business support and education
- Business networking opportunities
- Business permits
- Food safety regulation programs

For Our Older People and People with a Disability



- Referral for aged care and disability services
- Social support groups
- Personal care and home care
- Emergency support
- Property maintenance
- Living at home assessments
- Delivered meals (meals on wheels)
- Community transport programs
- Respite care

For Our Families



- Playgroups
- Kindergartens
- Family services
- School crossing supervisors
- Social support for youth
- Early years support
- Maternal Childrens health services

This broad range of community services and infrastructure for residents, supports the wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Council's Vision, Strategic Goals and Strategies to further improve services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2021-2025. The associated Annual Plan 2021/2022 and the Budget 2021/2022 are guided and reported upon in this document.

Refer to the section on Our Performance for more information about Council services.

The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the Strategic Goals and Strategies is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures. Council also has a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Australian legislation.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

The 2021-2022 year saw the continual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continue across the West Wimmera Shire. The first half of the year consisted of recurrent lockdowns; however, the second half of the year saw the opening of the economy. As confidence grew with the new covid normal, visitors started to return to the Shire.

Rate capping, which started 1 July 2016, is progressively effecting Council's ability to fund service delivery and capital works, however, additional federal funding has again helped to offset a portion of this challenge for the 2022-23 period. Due to the COVID-

19 pandemic and continuing impacts on the local economy, interest rate rises and inflation, Council has not sought any exemptions to the rate cap for the 2022-23 period.

MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS

The capital works program forms a significant proportion of Council's budget. A variety of capital works were carried out including, renewal, upgrade, and safety initiatives of sections of roads and street infrastructure.

Major capital works delivered in 2021-2022 include:

Roads and street improvements:	
Kadnook - Connewirricoo Rd. Ch. 5800 - Ch. 7350 x 6.2m seal	\$361,000
Broughton Road Ch. 19320 - Ch. 20220 x 6.0m	\$202,000
Webbs Rd Ch. 700 - Ch. 1190 & Ch. 1440 - 1550 x 4.0m seal	\$117,000
Miram Nth Road Ch. 350 - Ch. 2670 x 4.0m seal	\$375,000
Cove Estate Rd. Ch. 2450 - Ch. 2850 x 6.2m seal	\$149,000
Mitre Road Ch. 1090 - Ch. 1570 x 6.2m seal	\$201,000
Street light additions	\$10,000
Harrow Rd construction (sealing) parking lanes, Windsor St. - Hallahan Rd	\$28,000
Reseals	\$1,200,000
Shoulder resheeting of various sealed roads	\$400,000
Resheeting of gravel roads	\$1,200,000
Footpaths:	
Kelly St, Kaniva, footpath, Rogerson St - Paterson St	\$37,000
Elizabeth St, Edenhope, footpath, Dundas St - bend	\$48,000
Bridge and culvert works:	
Harrow - Clear Lake Road Bridge over Salt Creek	\$256,000
Powers Creek Bourkes Bridge Rd culvert repairs	\$80,000
Buildings and structures upgrade:	
Kaniva pool concrete surround western end, replacement	\$10,000
Replacement of both shade structures at Goroke Kindergarten	\$22,000
Edenhope Customer Service Centre fit out	\$30,000
Goroke Men's Shed floor tiles replacement	\$30,000
Tank stand deck replacement, Gymbowen bore	\$11,000
Tank stand deck replacement, Nurcoung bore	\$4,000

MAJOR CHANGES

West Wimmera Shire has again undergone significant changes over the 2021-22 period.

Director Corporate & Community Services:

- Vincent McKay, employed as Interim Director Corporate and Community Services, commenced 6 April 2021 and ceased employment 6 May 2022.
- James Bentley, appointed as Director Corporate and Community Services, commenced 3 December 2021.

Director Infrastructure, Development and Works

- Mark Marziale, Director Infrastructure, Development and Works commenced 13 June 2018 and ceased employment 8 October 2021.
- Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure, Development and Works commenced 4 January 2022

The staged implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* has seen Councillors and Council officers dedicating time to researching and developing a suite of requirements within statutory delivery timeframes.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Implementation of childcare service in Edenhope
- Implementation of Council Plan 2021-2025 and Annual Plan 2021-2022
- *Local Government Act 2020* implementation program
- Adoption of the 2022-23 Budget
- Commencement of Planning Scheme review
- Ongoing pandemic response
- Success with external funding applications – roads funding, early years, tourism, sport and recreation, internal system improvement
- Innovation Platform implementation
- Emergency management of Langkoop – Poolaijelo fires
- Asset Management Plan adoption
- Improvements to internal structure and operations
- o Hybrid workplace
- o Organisational restructure/ filling key positions in the organisation
- o Development and implementation of Procurement Manual
- o Information Management (IM) Collaboration
- o Implementation of OH&S system
- o Development of facilities register
- o Adapting to change (adapting role/position change)
- o Implementation of a new finance system
- o Development and implementation of intranet
- o Team building and collaboration

COVID 19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 continued to create challenges for our organisation and communities in 2021-2022.

What did we do?

- Council held a West Wimmera Shire Pandemic Response Plan meeting for our local businesses to discuss the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting provided local businesses with a clear understanding of how emergency management worked on all levels and to answer questions.
- Council sought and received funding to implement the Local Government Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program. Council recruited Greg Varidel, Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Officer from the 9 August 2021 - 30 November 2021 to help businesses navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Council continued to meet weekly with Grampians Public Health Unit to discuss the public health response to COVID-19.
- Council re-adopted the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Rate Recovery Policy on the 18 August 2021 to address temporary financial hardship due to effects of COVID-19.



OUR COUNCIL

In accordance with the objectives of the *Local Government Act 2020*, West Wimmera Shire Council has a democratically elected Council, consisting of five councillors elected from an un-subdivided municipal district. Our Councillors are accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient and engaged with the community they serve.

The following Councillors were duly elected in October 2020: Cr Bruce Meyer OAM, Cr Jodie Pretlove, Cr Trevor Domaschcz, Cr Tom Houlihan and Cr Tim Meyer.

CR. BRUCE MEYER OAM



Councillor Bruce Meyer was elected Mayor in November 2021.

First elected as representative for the former Shire of Kaniva in 1993, serving until that Shire amalgamated with the Shires of Kowree and Arapiles in 1995. Councillor Meyer was elected to the inaugural West Wimmera Shire Council in 1997 and has continuously represented the Shire since then.

Elected:

First Term: 1993, Shire of Kaniva

Current Term: 18 October 2020

Committee Representative:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- Crabtree Estate
- Kaniva Community Sporting Complex
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Northwest Municipalities Association
- Rural Councils Victoria
- West Wimmera Shire Cemetery Trust
- Wimmera Regional Library Corporation
- West Wimmera Shire Kaniva Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee

Contact Details:

Tel: 0437 261 280

Email: BruceMeyer@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

CR. JODIE PRETLOVE



Councillor Pretlove was elected Deputy Mayor in November 2021.

Elected:

First Term: 22 October 2016

Current Term: 18 October 2020

Committee Representative:

- West Wimmera Shire Cemetery Trust
- CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- Little desert National Park Fire Committee
- Wimmera Primary Care Partnership
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group
- West Wimmera Shire Sustainability Advisory Committee

Contact Details:

Tel: 0437 238 902

Email: JodiePretlove@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

CR. TREVOR DOMASCHENZ



Elected:

First Term: 22 October 2016

Current Term: 18 October 2020

Committee Representative:

- CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- West Wimmera Shire Sustainability Advisory Committee
- West Wimmera Landcare Network
- West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- Wimmera Development Association
- Wimmera Mallee Regional Tourism Association
- West Wimmera Tourism Association

Contact Details:

Tel: 0437 220 351

Email: TrevorDomaschenz@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

CR. TOM HOULIHAN



Elected:

First Term: 22 October 2016

Current Term: 18 October 2020

Committee Representative:

- CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- Douglas Mine Environment Review Committee
- Grampian Central Waste and Resource Recovery Group
- Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre Inc
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
- Municipal Fire Prevention Committee
- West Wimmera Rural Water Supply Project Steering Committee
- West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance

Contact Details:

Tel: 0437 219 881

Email: TomHoulihan@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

CR. TIM MEYER



Elected:

First Term: 18 October 2020

Current Term: 18 October 2020

Committee Representative:

- CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- Big Desert National Park Fire Control Committee
- Rail Freight Alliance
- West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- Western Highway Action Committee
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group

Contact Details:

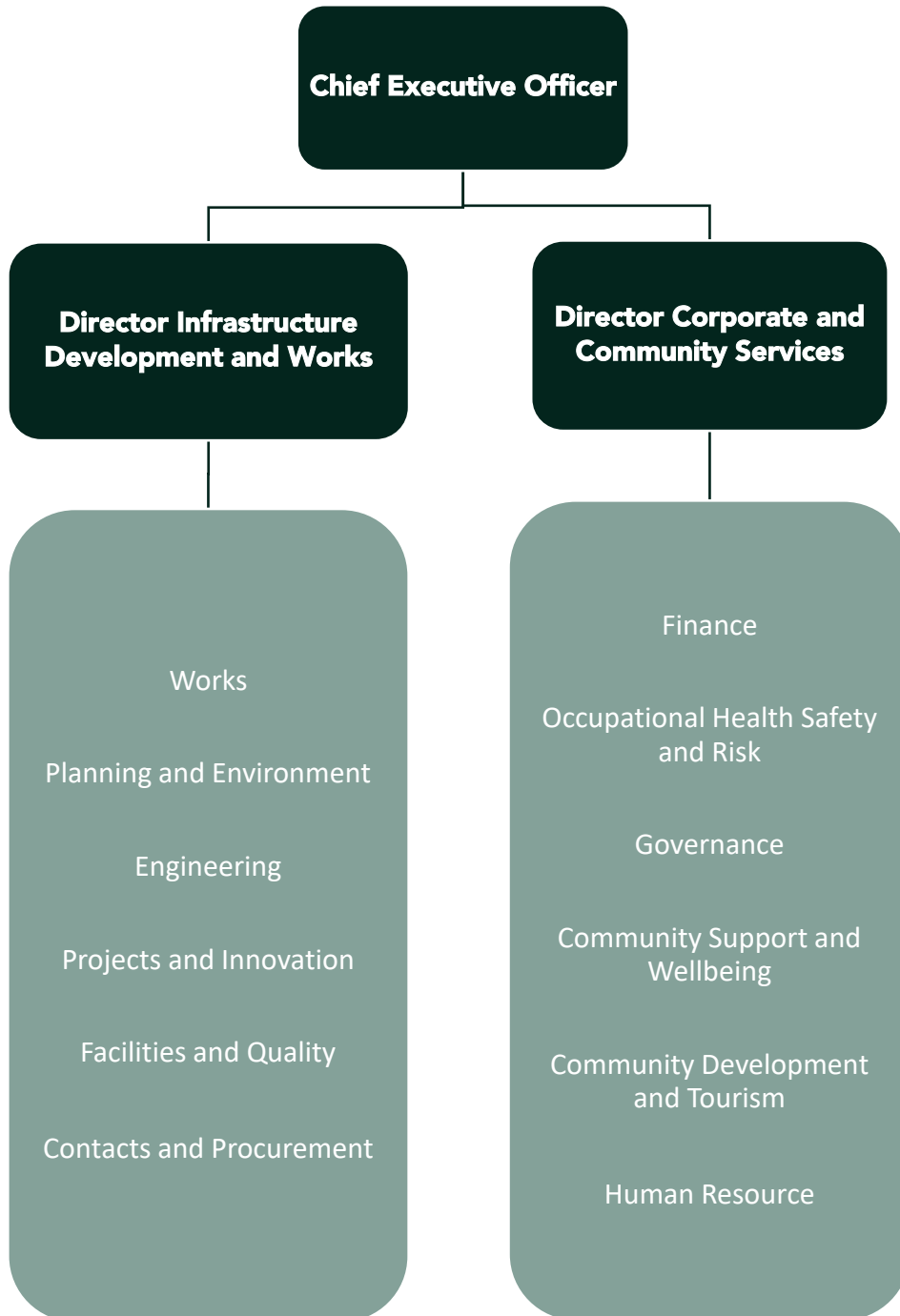
Tel: 0437 219 818

Email: TimMeyer@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

OUR PEOPLE

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Council is the governing body that appoints the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. Two directors and the CEO form the Executive Leadership Team.



CEO AND DIRECTOR BIOS



Chief Executive Officer

Appointee: **David Bezuidenhout (May 2021 – Current)**

David Bezuidenhout was born in South Africa and spent nearly 20 years in the Defence Force. David is qualified as a lawyer and worked in private practice for 16 years in South Africa and later in Queensland after migrating to Australia in 2006. Over the next 12 years, David worked in both the legal space and in senior projects and general management roles for firms including, Warley Parsons and Spotless in Queensland.

David made the transition into the public sector in 2015 as Head of Capital Projects for the Gladstone Area Water Board and in 2018 joined Cloncurry Shire Council in northwest Queensland as its CEO.



Director Infrastructure Development and Works

Appointee: **Ram Upadhyaya (January 2022 - Current)**

Areas of responsibility:

- Roads program
- Footpaths
- Waste, Recycling and Transfers
- Culverts and Drains
- Public and Environment Health
- Statutory Planning, Municipal Building Surveyor
- Strategic Planning
- Property Services
- Emergency Management and Fire Prevention
- Domestic Animals and Local Laws
- Roadside Pests and Weeds Program
- Parks and Gardens
- Aerodrome
- Quarries
- Contracts and Procurement
- Seasonal pools
- Shire buildings
- Qualities and Facilities
- Projects and Innovation

Ram commenced with Council as Director Infrastructure, Development and Works in January 2022 and brings extensive experience in asset management, project management, leadership, and stakeholder management. He has a very young family and thoroughly enjoys the rural lifestyle. Having worked in the Wimmera and for several councils over the past 10 years, Ram understands the challenges faced by the community and Council.

Ram holds a master's degree in Infrastructure Engineering and Management.



Director Corporate and Community Services

Appointee: **Vin McKay (Interim Director April 2021 – January 2021)**
James Bentley (December 2021 – Current)

Areas of responsibility:

- Finance, Rates and Revenue
- Customer Service
- Human Resources
- Governance
- Occupational Health, Safety and Risk
- Kindergartens, Early Years Services
- Risk Management, Audit Committee
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Youth Services
- Home and Community Care Services
- Community and Volunteer Support
- Information Technology
- Libraries
- Cemeteries
- Community Development and Tourism

James Bentley, Director Corporate and Community Services

After starting his career in corporate risk and underwriting in Sydney, James transitioned to Local Government in 2006. He has held senior roles in customer experience, finance and revenue in Councils across New South Wales and Queensland and brings with him genuine enthusiasm about the power of positive culture to deliver improvement for our community. James has completed his Master of Professional Accounting through RMIT and believes that working in Council is one of the most satisfying ways to contribute to the prosperity and sustainability of the place we call home.

Vin McKay, Interim Director Corporate and Community Services

Vin McKay held the role of Interim Director of Corporate and Community Services between April-January 2021. Vin holds a Bachelor of Arts (psychology and sociology majors); Graduate Diploma in Educational Counselling; Graduate Diploma Business Administration and has held a variety of senior roles at various Councils including Melton, Cairns, Glen Eira, and Nillumbik. He has also worked as a consultant in the Local Government and not-for-profit sectors and been a board member for libraries and health services, as well as an officer for various community groups.



HUMAN RESOURCES

A summary of the number of Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender, is set out below.

Table 1: Employee Distribution by Organisational Structure by Employment Type by Gender

Employment Type/ Gender	CEO & Governance	Corporate & Community Services	Infrastructure, Development & Works	Total
Permanent FT - F	1	11	4	15
Permanent FT - M	1	4	49	51
Permanent FT - X	-	-	-	-
Permanent PT - F	-	31	8	37
Permanent PT - M	-	1	8	9
Permanent PT - X	-	-	-	-
Casual - F	-	16	2	18
Casual - M	-	2	5	7
Casual - X	-	-	-	-
Total	2	65	76	143

F = Female, M = Male, X = Persons of self-described gender

FT = Full time, PT = Part time

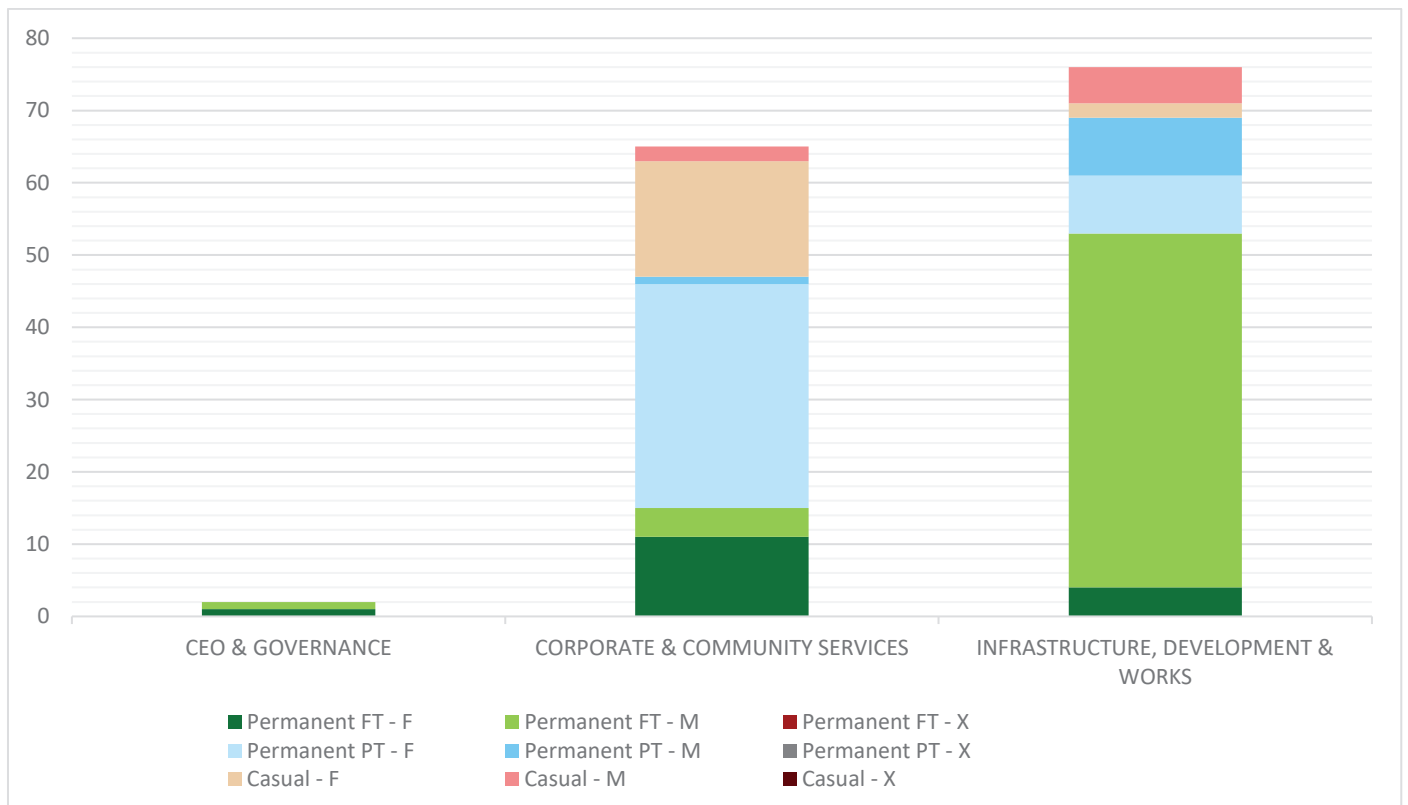


Figure 1: Employee Distribution by Organisational Structure by Employment Type by Gender (CEO, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

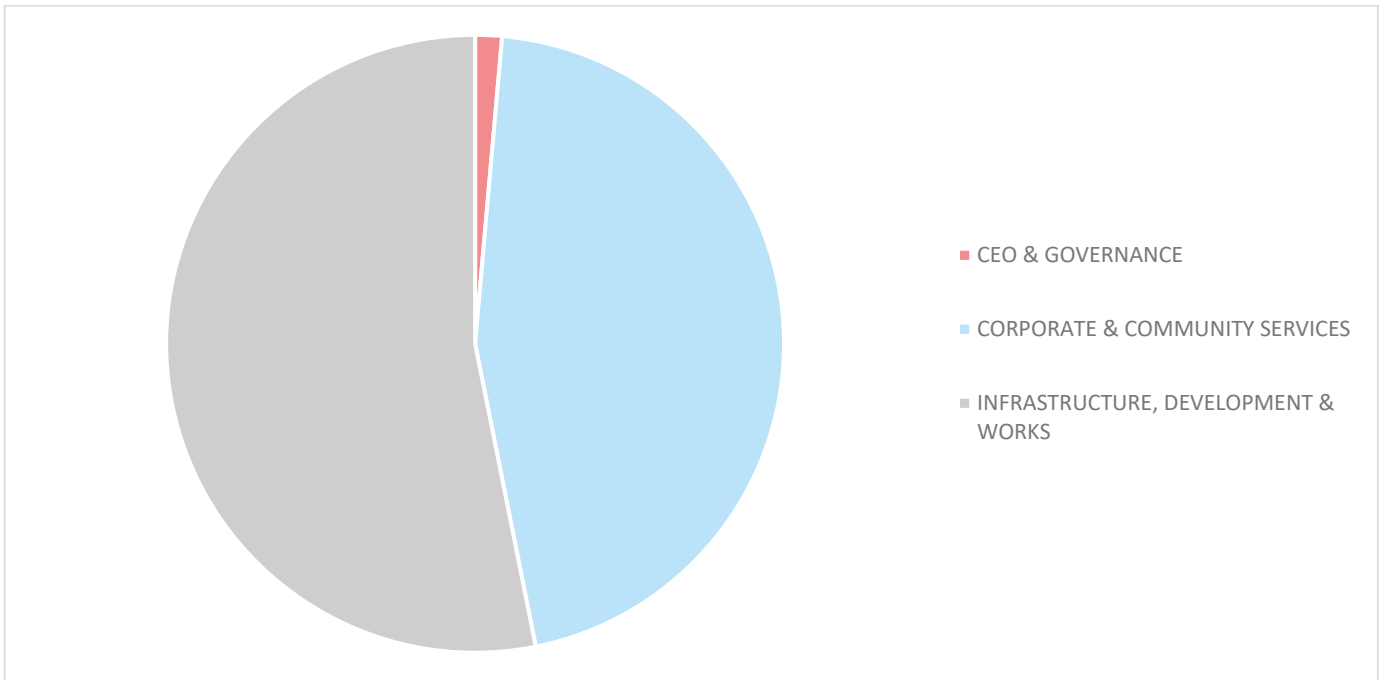


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of gender and employment type within organisational structure (CEO, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

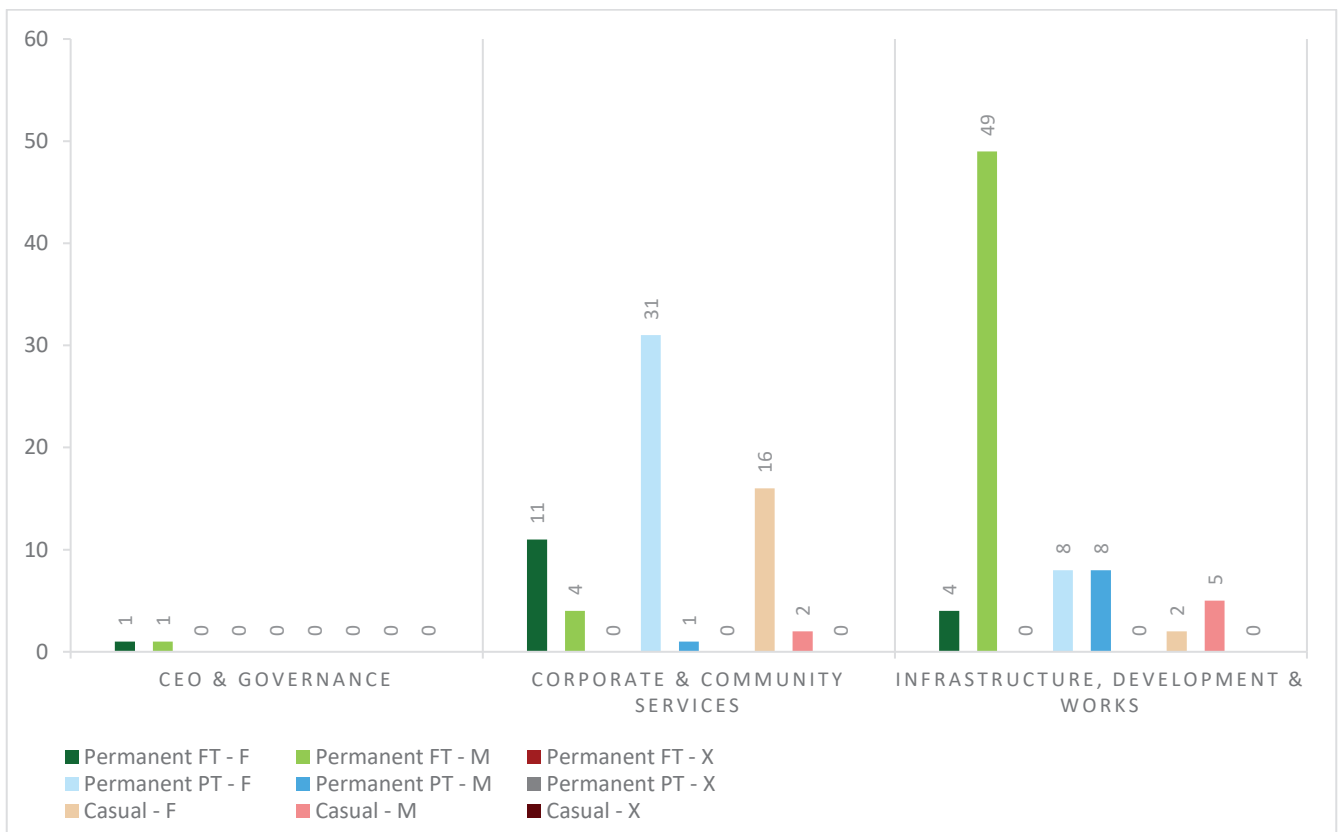


Figure 3: Distribution of employees by organisational structure, employment type and gender (CEO, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below.

Table 2: Employee distribution by banding by gender

	Female			Male			Self-described			Total FTE
	FT	PT	Casual	FT	PT	Casual	FT	PT	Casual	
Band 1	0	0.2	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	0.2
Band 2	0	8.3	-	8	0	-	-	-	-	16.3
Band 3	0	0	-	24.6	0	-	-	-	-	24.6
Band 4	6	3.8	-	4	0.8	-	-	-	-	14.6
Band 5	4	4.3	-	7	0.6	-	-	-	-	15.9
Band 6	1	3.8	-	2	0.6	-	-	-	-	7.4
Band 7	2	2.1	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	6.1
Band 8	4	0	-	5	0	-	-	-	-	9
Other	0	9.4	-	3	0	-	-	-	-	12.4
TOTAL	17	31.9	-	55.6	2	-	-	-	-	106.5

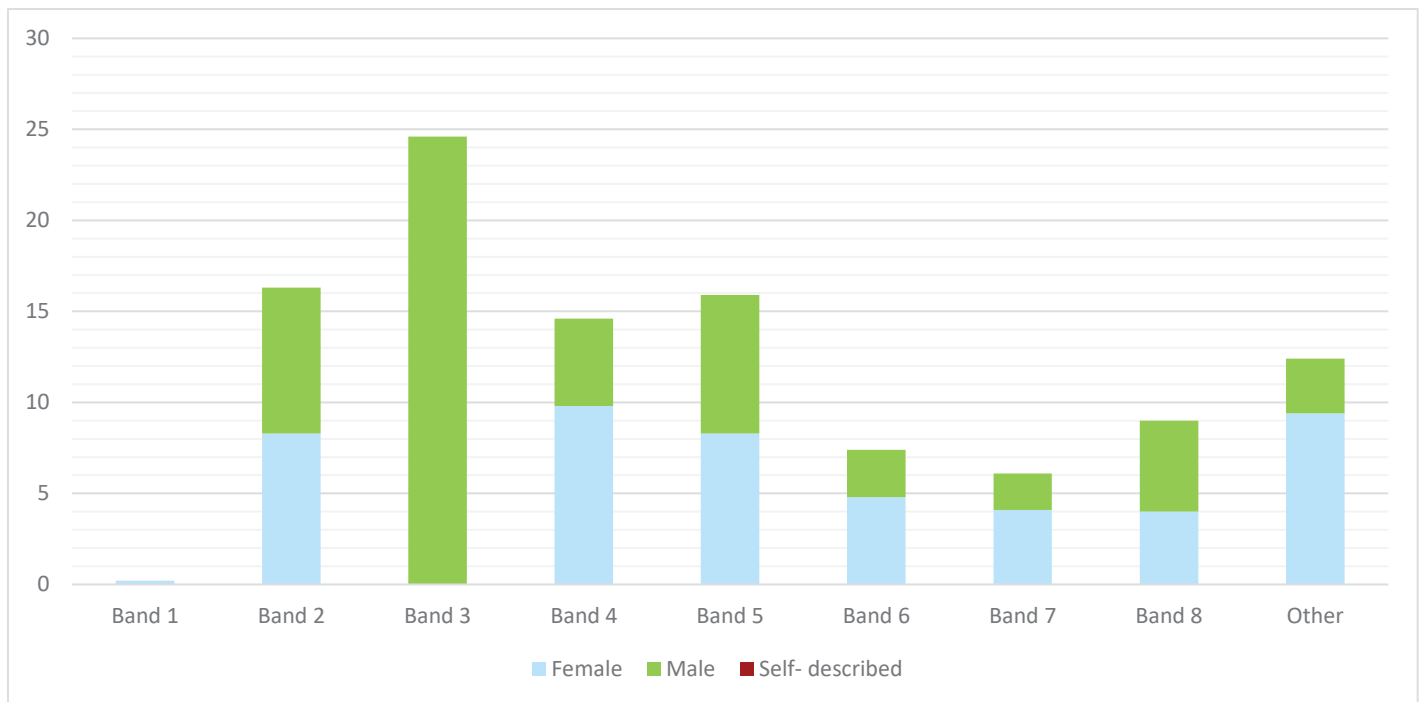


Table 3: Employee distribution by banding by gender

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Council continued to implement the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* throughout the year, including conducting a workplace gender audit to assess our organisational performance against workplace gender equality indicators. Council has also developed a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) which includes the results of the gender audit, and strategies and measures to improve gender equality in the workplace.

Council also looks to how it can promote gender equality in its policies, programs, and services by conducting Gender Impact Assessments to assess how they affect different genders in different ways. Assessments are done on Council programs or services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.

Council also sought to make gender equality a focus in our new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) (approved October 2021) through the introduction of a provision for disputes regarding a systemic gender equality issue not resolved in the workplace to be referred to the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner.

Victorian Local Government Women's Charter

At the June 2022 Council meeting, the West Wimmera Shire Council formally passed a resolution to become a signatory to the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter (the Charter). The Charter will provide Council with clear strategic goals and a framework in the promotion of their existing efforts towards achieving gender equality and improvement outcomes for women and men by:

- Promoting the principles of gender equity, encouraging diversity in representation and participation and women's active citizenship.
- Ensuring that gender equality remains a critical consideration with respect to the work that councils do in supporting communities.
- strategies and family violence prevention plans, as well as community capacity building (diversity and active participation in local decision-making and the local democratic process).

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

A new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement was successfully negotiated and approved by the Fair Work Commission, with an operative date of 1 July 2021, and a nominal expiry date of 15 October 2024.



OUR PERFORMANCE

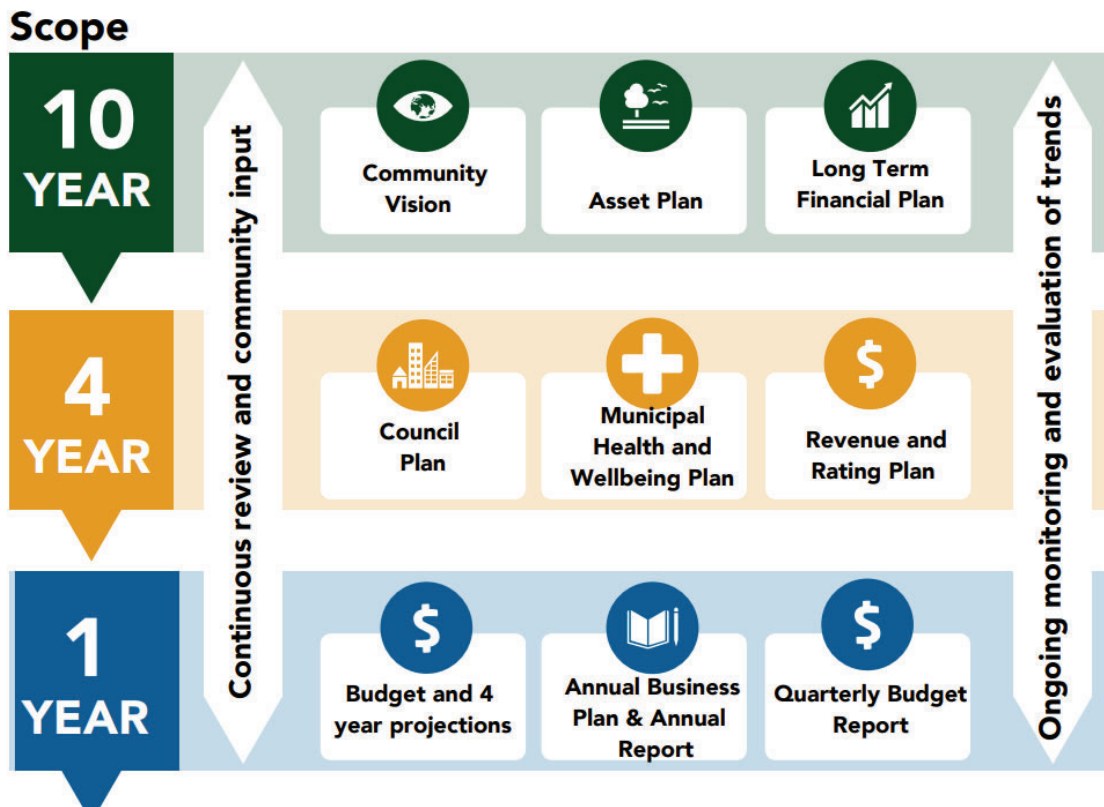
INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to prepare the following:

- A Community Vision (for at least the next 10 financial years),
- A Council Plan (for at least the next four financial years),
- A Financial Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years),
- An Asset Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years),
- A Revenue and Rating Plan (for at least the next four financial years),
- An Annual Budget (for the next four financial years),
- A Quarterly Budget Report
- An Annual Report (for each financial year), and
- Financial Policies.

The Act also requires councils to prepare:

- A Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least four years).



The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework for Local Government.

COUNCIL PLAN

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan) is Council's key strategic document and incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with Council's commitment to health and wellbeing reflected throughout. The Plan includes Council's values and goals, which set the outcomes that Council wants to achieve over the current four-year Council period. These outcomes are also aligned with the 2041 Community Vision.

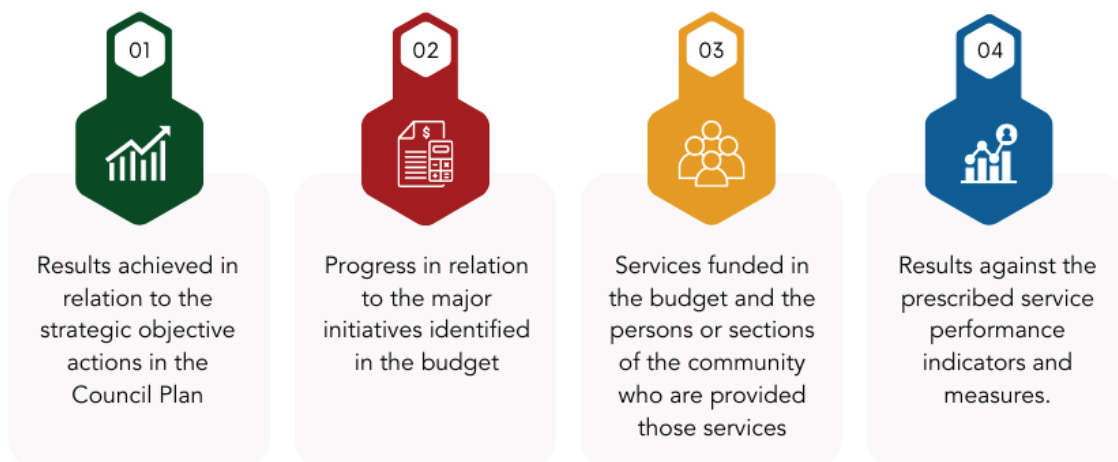
The Council Plan goals are broken down into strategies, initiatives and timing and each year the Annual Plan allows for these actions to be tracked and actioned.

The following are the five goals detailed in the Plan.



PERFORMANCE

Council's performance for the 2021-2022 year has been reported against each strategic goal and strategy to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2021-2025 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:



Goal 1: Liveable & Healthy Community

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/ Actions
1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.	1.1.1 Review and implement a revised Community Strengthening Program to ensure programs, clubs and infrastructure are supported equitably across the Shire.	2021-2022	Community strengthening grants program implemented and supported 15 community organisations. VAGO audit into grant fraud completed, internal review of grant guidelines underway.
	1.1.2 Seek funding for and prepare a Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy to guide sport and recreation infrastructure and activities in the Shire.	2021 – 2023	Funding applied for and received. Strategy to be completed in 2022/23.
	1.1.3 Implement Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy.	Ongoing from 2023	
	1.1.4 Advocate for improved access to health and community services within the Shire.	2021 – 2025	
	1.1.5 Work with other sporting, education, and health service providers to promote and deliver accessible healthy and active lifestyle programs.	2021 – 2025	
	1.1.6 Work with local health providers to provide long term mental health services.	2021 – 2025	
	1.1.7 Work with state, regional and local sporting associations to offer socially modified forms of sport and recreation that cater to all ability levels.	2021 - 2025	
	1.1.8 Support and promote volunteering opportunities within the organisation with local community groups.	2021 - 2025	Completed as required in newspapers and social media. New handbook developed and implemented for volunteers. Events held to recognise volunteers across the Shire.
1.2 Support a safe and inclusive community.	1.2.1 Maintain supported playgroups across the Shire.	2021 – 2025	Supported Facilitator began February 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x In-home, - 1 supported playgroup Dergholm.

			- 2 playgroups planned for Goroke & Serviceton.
	1.2.2 Provide a range of youth focused activities that provide a diverse range of safe and inclusive experiences across the Shire.	2021 – 2025	Ongoing. Successfully engaged 7 youth action team members from across Shire.
	1.2.3 Partner with relevant local and regional organisations to promote and deliver domestic violence awareness campaigns.	2021 - 2025	Completed with guest speakers and BBQ in Edenhope and Kaniva.
	1.2.4 Support relevant regional and local agencies in promotion of mental health, drug, and alcohol awareness programs and also, advocate for increased resources.	2021 - 2025	
	1.2.5 Ensure Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Action Plan is maintained and being implemented.	2021 - 2025	CoRE Action Plan implemented.
	1.2.6 Actively participate in road safety awareness programs.	2021 - 2025	Mobility Scooter Training provided in June 2022 at Goroke and Edenhope.
	1.2.7 Prepare and implement an action plan to reflect and incorporate the new Child Safe Standards in Council governance and operations.	2021 - 2025	Created online module and policy in draft, completed June 2022.
	1.2.8 Develop and promote intergeneration wellbeing activities in cooperation with other relevant agencies.	2021 - 2025	Monthly stakeholder meetings implemented. Wellbeing Carnival to be held 9 th September 2022.
1.3 Provide well-planned and sustainable community infrastructure.	1.3.1 Actively support committees of management in management of community facilities.	2022- 2023	
	1.3.2 Ensure key infrastructure (roads and buildings) is maintained and renewed as required to support our economy, community use and involvement.	2021- 2025	Ongoing asset management.
	1.3.3 Actively assist community groups in applying for funding to upgrade sport and recreation community infrastructure in line with the Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy.	Ongoing	Edenhope Football Changerooms and Oval Lighting Project highlighted as a priority project with State and Federal Government Ministers. Prepared projects to be shovel ready; Apsley, Harrow and Goroke Tennis/Netball Courts and Lighting

			projects. Commenced work on Apsley Playground Masterplan and Edenhope Playspace Masterplan/Strategy,
	1.3.4 Continue to extend Council's footpath network in towns and seek funding to develop and extend trails in accordance with Recreational Trails Strategy.	Ongoing	New footpath sections completed Elizabeth Street, Edenhope, Kelly Street, Kaniva, Station Street, Goroke.
	1.3.5 Advocate for improvements in public transport services for West Wimmera Shire.	2021 – 2025	
	1.3.6 Review and improve Council's Asset Management System to manage Council buildings and facilities in accordance with legislative requirements.	Ongoing	Current Asset Management System undergoing an upgrade. Completed condition assessment of the entire Building assets.
1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.	1.4.1 Partner with key stakeholders to complete a study of current and future childcare requirements across the Shire and define Council's role in the planning, service development and facility provision requirements.	2021 – 2022	Market testing completed. Approved by Council.
	1.4.2 Advocate for funding support from state and federal governments to assist with development and ongoing childcare solutions.	2021 – Ongoing	State Government approval for Childcare Subsidy. Childcare Service implemented in Edenhope.
	1.4.3 Support the implementation of childcare initiatives across Shire.	2022 – 2025	
	1.4.4 Work with key partners to encourage rural employment.	Ongoing	
	1.4.5 Partner with other agencies in attracting additional training opportunities for short courses.	Ongoing	
	1.4.6 Collaborate with local schools to assist with funding advocacy where required.	Ongoing	
	1.4.7 Secure ongoing, flexible, rural appropriate funding to support Maternal and Child Health and other early years initiatives.	Ongoing	Annual funding received.
	1.4.8 Prepare a community events manual to support safe, sustainable, and inclusive community activity.	2021 - 2022	New Events Handbook and Event Marketing Handbook created and implemented on new events page on website.

	1.4.9 Advocate for secure provision of potable water for our towns.	Ongoing	Included in GWM review.
1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.	1.5.1 Through membership of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation continue to provide library services that are relevant and contemporary.	Ongoing	Library services continued to be delivered in Kaniva, Edenhope, Harrow and Goroke.
	1.5.2 Seek funding for the development of a Community Arts Strategy.	2022 – 2023	
	1.5.3 Develop an Annual Events Program.	2022-2025	
	1.5.4 Review and improve Council's event support program to encourage local and regional events in the Shire.	2021-2022	New event support process, new website page to assist event organisers and events Handbook implemented.
	1.5.5 Work with local and regional organisations to develop and implement a range of initiatives that promote performing and visual arts within the Shire for the benefit of locals and tourists.	2022-2025	
1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.	1.6.1 Promote community participation in municipal emergency management planning.	Ongoing	Ongoing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee meeting.
	1.6.2 Partner with communities, agencies, and neighbouring municipalities to strengthen emergency and disaster planning, awareness and preparedness.	Ongoing	Partnered with CFA to develop funding application for Edenhope Airport Upgrade.
	1.6.3 Plan for and deliver emergency response, relief and recovery as required in conjunction with Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) Partners.	Ongoing	Municipal Emergency Management Plan development complete. Municipal Fire Management Plan currently awaiting the assurance process by REMPC. Delivered emergency response, relief and recovery for Langkoop Bushfire event Dec 2021 and Edenhope Storm event Jan 2022.
	1.6.4 Support local emergency services agencies. Plan for and deliver emergency services as required in conjunction with REMPC.	Ongoing	

1.7 Improve the liveability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.	1.7.1 Partner with state and regional bodies to improve the availability of housing options in the Shire.	2021-2025	
	1.7.2 Assist emergency housing agencies. Partner with state and regional bodies to improve the availability of housing options in the Shire.	Ongoing	Working with WDA on housing study and advocacy.
	1.7.3 Undertake a Planning Scheme review to identify options for increased residential development in and around townships.	2021-2022	Planning Scheme review commenced.
	1.7.4 Implement findings of the Planning Scheme review through an amendment to the Planning Scheme.	2022-2023	
	1.7.5 Partner with Wimmera Development Association (WDA) to implement a liveability framework to connect our community and to help develop a region that thrives in social, economic, and environmental aspects.	2021-2022	Ongoing work with WDA on housing.

Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
West Wimmera population (ABS)	2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census indicated population growth for the West Wimmera Shire Council from 3,810 to 4,006.
Primary Care Partnership – Wimmera Community Profile	The data set has previously been provided by Wimmera Primary Care Partnership, who have now joined the Grampians Region Public Health Unit within Grampians Health. The data set is provided on a four yearly basis.
Annual Local Government Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for elderly support services for the West Wimmera Shire was 73 compared with the state-wide score of 67. Appearance of public areas remains Council's best performing area (index score 78).

Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/ Actions
2.1 Encourage and support the establishment and expansion of innovative, creative, and sustainable businesses.	2.1.1 Develop strategies and then prepare and implement a campaign to attract businesses and families.	2021-2022	Deferred to 2022-23.
	2.1.2 Undertake a review of the planning scheme to ensure appropriate zonings are in place to support business development and liveability.	2021-2022	Regional Planning Hub (DELWP) funding secured, and Planning Scheme review has commenced.
	2.1.3 Implement the findings of the planning review through an amendment to the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.	2022-2023	
	2.1.4 Deliver a Business Assistance Program that supports businesses to establish and grow.	2022-2023	Ongoing, Supported Edenhope Pub Application.
	2.1.5 Work with the agricultural sector to support the continued development of cutting-edge farming.	2022-2023	
	2.1.6 Include a local planning policy in the Planning Scheme Review to protect agricultural land and provide diverse opportunities across the Shire.	2021-2022	Regional Planning Hub (DELWP) funding secured, and Planning Scheme Review has commenced.
	2.1.7 Seek funding to assist with COVID-19 recovery for local businesses and the community.	2021-2022	Funding received to implement the Local Government Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program. Council, Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Officer in place from the August 2021- June 2022 to help businesses navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2 Promote the Shire as a great place to visit, live and invest	2.2.1 Prepare a Tourism Strategy to guide Council's and our community's role in supporting tourism activity	2021-2022	Draft scope prepared.
	2.2.2 Actively participate in regional tourism planning and promotional campaigns	Ongoing	Unearth Amazing Campaign through Wimmera Mallee Tourism implemented.
	2.2.3 Implement Council's actions from Tourism Strategy	2022-2023	
	2.2.4 Design and implement a marketing campaign to encourage tourists to visit the Shire based on recommendations from the Tourism Strategy	Ongoing	
	2.2.5 Investigate options to advocate for incentives to attract the required skilled workforce to the region eg. Health care, childcare, agriculture.	2022-2024	
2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.	2.3.1 Review and update the Economic Development Strategy to maximise economic activity in the Shire.	2021-2022	Rolled over to 2022-2023.
	2.3.2 Work with government, employers, and regional bodies to find solutions to fill skill shortages and create jobs in West Wimmera.	2021-2022	Continuing to work with Wimmera Development Associated on skill shortages.
	2.3.3 Lobby and promote agricultural development in the West Wimmera Shire.	Ongoing	
	2.3.4 Advocate for aquaculture opportunities including the possible re-establishment of the facility near Lake Charlegrark.	2021-2025	
2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.	2.4.1 Seek funding and partnership opportunities to implement streetscape plans for Edenhope and Kaniva.	2022-2025	Outdoor Dining Project tables, chairs, barriers and umbrellas have been installed across the Shire.

	2.4.2 Continue to maintain and expand footpaths and shared paths in town centres.	Ongoing	Extension of Elizabeth Street, Edenhope, Kelly St Kaniva, and Station Street Goroke Footpaths - surveyed and designed, construction to be programmed.
	2.4.3 Facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in Edenhope and Kaniva.	2022-2023	Working with Evie who received DCAV funding for chargers in Kaniva and Edenhope. Locations have been scoped with installation due in 2022-2023 financial year.
	2.4.4 Review Local Law to assist business opportunities in the Shire and ensure the safety and amenities of our towns are preserved.	2021-2022	Under review.
	2.4.5 Complete streetscape master plans for Harrow, Apsley, Serviceton, Dergholm and Goroke.	2024-2025	
	2.4.6 Actively work to improve the appearance of main streets and town entrances across the Shire.	2024-2025	
2.5 Enhance the local road network and explore transport options.	2.5.1 Review the Road Management Plan (RMP) within 12 months of the Council election.	2021-2022	Completed and adopted in November 2021.
	2.5.2 Continue the programmed maintenance of the sealed and unsealed road network in accordance with the RMP and Moloney Report.	Annually	Annual capital works program developed to reduce the renewal gap as recommended by Moloney Report.
	2.5.3 Implement the Annual Capital Works program in line with the RMP and road network reporting requirements.	Annually	Developed annually.
	2.5.4 Implement an Asset Management System to monitor and plan road and asset maintenance and renewal.	2022-2023	

	2.5.5 Advocate for additional external funding for roads and bridges.	Ongoing	Secured \$56,500 through Rural Road Support Package to improve asset data capture and analysis.
	2.5.6 Advocate for VicRoads to improve the quality of state roads throughout our Shire.	Ongoing	Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group (WSMTG) and Western Highway Action Committee and regular meetings with VicRoads
	2.5.7 Seek funding to upgrade local roads throughout the Shire to support freight routes, heavy vehicles, and high traffic volumes.	Ongoing	Secured an additional \$1.445M through HVSP.
2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.	2.6.1 Campaign for improved access to quality digital connectivity.	Ongoing	Working with State Government and service providers to identify blackspots and connectivity requirements.
	2.6.2 Advocate for the West Grampians Pipeline Project.	Ongoing	Updated Business Case Addendum completed. December 2021 meeting held with The Hon. Minister Jaala Pulford.
	2.6.3 Advocate for improved water pressure within towns.	2021-2022	Ongoing. GWM have scheduled projects to do some improvements in Edenhope in 2022- 2023 financial year.
	2.6.4 Advocate for the improvement of roads to meet requirements for road trains.	2021-2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group (WSMTG) and Western Highway Action Committee hold regular meetings with VicRoads
	2.6.5 Advocate for a gas pipeline extension into West Wimmera.	2021-2025	
	2.6.6 Advocate for the continued sale and promotion of unallocated groundwater in the areas identified as still having sustainable water for sale.	2021-2025	
	2.6.7 Advocate for recreational water.	2021-2025	

Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results												
West Wimmera Shire unemployment rate	Data for the 2021 – 2022 Australia Bureau Statistics unemployment rate not yet released.												
Number of businesses in Shire	The total number of employees in the West Wimmera Shire is 1,741.												
Annual tourism related visitation	In 2019 the West Wimmera Shire attracted 17,637 daytrip tourist, 21,106 overnight tourists and 303 international tourists. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the gathering of annual tourism related visitation figures ceased. Wimmera Development Association has advised collection of data to resume for the 2022/2023 financial year.												
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	<p>The index score recorded for sealed local roads for the West Wimmera Shire was 54 compared with the state-wide score of 53 and small rural councils score of 50.</p> <p>The index score recorded for unsealed roads for the West Wimmera Shire was 48 compared with state-wide 41 and small rural 42.</p> <p>The index score recorded for lobbying for the West Wimmera Shire was 56 compared with state-wide 54 and small rural 53.</p>												
Moloney's Road Asset Report	<p>The Moloney Management System (MMS) sets projected renewal expenditure for various assets to ensure Council allocates capital expenditure each year to maintain its assets. For 2021-2022 the recommended expenditure by MMS and the corresponding actual expenditure are displayed:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Asset class</th> <th style="text-align: right;">MMS recommended exp</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Actual exp</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sealed Rd Reconstruction</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,605,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,429,918</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sealed Road resealing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,195,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,492,025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gravel road resheeting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,235,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,145,743</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Asset class	MMS recommended exp	Actual exp	Sealed Rd Reconstruction	\$2,605,000	\$2,429,918	Sealed Road resealing	\$1,195,000	\$1,492,025	Gravel road resheeting	\$1,235,000	\$1,145,743
Asset class	MMS recommended exp	Actual exp											
Sealed Rd Reconstruction	\$2,605,000	\$2,429,918											
Sealed Road resealing	\$1,195,000	\$1,492,025											
Gravel road resheeting	\$1,235,000	\$1,145,743											

Goal 3: Sustainable Environment

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/Actions
3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.	3.1.1 Prepare a Waste Management Plan to guide waste management activities and to maximise recycling and resource recovery.	2022-2023	
	3.1.2 Review West Wimmera Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan.	2022-2023	Under review.
	3.1.3 Review West Wimmera Shire Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.	2022-2023	
	3.1.4 Review and update Council's fleet policy for the use of electric and hybrid vehicles.	2022-2023	Motor Vehicle Policy developed and adopted.
	3.1.5 Explore potential exemptions, offsets, and land banking opportunities to compensate for native vegetation removal on farms and roadsides.	2022-2023	
	3.1.6 Advocate to GWMWater to complete part two of the Goroke Sewer Scheme.	2021-2025	Ongoing. Currently in GWM schedule for 2023 – 2024 financial year.
	3.1.7 Advocate to relevant stakeholders to maintain safe infrastructure (i.e roads, furniture, signage) on public land for recreation (lakes, parks, and natural environments).	2021-2025	Ongoing discussions with DEWLP and Parks Victoria.
3.2 Promote sustainable environmental management practices.	3.2.1 Support activities to control pest animals in farming and township areas.	2021-2025	Annual rollout of corella management plan and roadside weeds and pest funding activities.
	3.2.2 Work with partner agencies on roadside vegetation management.	2021-2025	Delivery of annual Roadside Weeds and Pest Management Program.

	3.2.3 Support initiatives to assist with disposal of waste products from agricultural activity.	2021-2025	
	3.2.4 Continue to look at circular economy opportunities.	2021-2025	Contribute to shared regional glass crushing facility – agreement signed. Funding application under Transfer Station Upgrade Program to introduce glass collection facility in transfer stations.
3.3 Protect and promote public open space and natural assets.	3.3.1 Identify opportunities to improve safe access and use of natural areas for recreational purposes.	2022-2023	
	3.3.2 Explore opportunities to define, scope and develop a Wetlands Centre of Excellence.	2022-2023	
	3.3.3 Investigate the feasibility of establishing a manmade lake at the Kaniva racecourse site.	2024-2025	
	3.3.4 Partner with key stakeholders to support the implementation of the Lake Wallace Strategy where funding permits.	2021-2025	Lake Wallace Strategy adopted.
3.4 Pursue alternative and sustainable energy sources	3.4.1 Promote alternative and sustainable energy projects in the Shire.	2021-2025	Supported 2 x potential renewable energy projects.
	3.4.2 Investigate the potential for micro-grids in industrial areas and towns.	2024-2025	Attended information session about micro-grids

Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	<p>The index score recorded for waste management for the West Wimmera Shire was 69 compared with the state-wide score of 68 and the small rural score of 68.</p> <p>The index score recorded for slashing and weed control for the West Wimmera Shire was 55 compared with state-wide 49 and small rural 50.</p>
Reportable Environmental Impacts	Council has not been notified of any reportable environmental impacts.

Goal 4: Good Governance

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/Actions
4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.	4.1.1 Prepare and implement a 10-Year Financial Plan.	2021-2022	Adopted October 2021.
	4.1.2 Prepare and implement long term Asset Plan.	2021-2022	Adopted May 2022.
	4.1.3 Provide quarterly financial reports tracking Council performance including Annual Plan performance measures and Capital Works Program.	Quarterly	Ongoing. Quarterly financial reports provided.
	4.1.4 Prepare and implement a Fees and Charges Strategy.	2021-2022	Fees and Charges Strategy implemented, and Pricing Policy adopted 16 March 2022.
	4.1.5 Maximise income from alternative sources.	2021-2025	Continuing to apply for external grants.
	4.1.6 Implement the West Wimmera Shire Council Revenue and Rating Strategy.	2021-2025	Adopted 16 June 2021.
	4.1.7 Undertake continuous improvement initiatives to look for cost efficiencies and savings.	2021-2025	Continuing to receive and implement innovation platform ideas.
4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.	4.2.1 Implement the Community Engagement Policy.	2021-2025	Implemented.
	4.2.2 Live stream Council meetings.	Ongoing	Completed.
	4.2.3 Regularly provide information to the community via the website and other channels to ensure Council's program and activities enjoy a high level of awareness.	Ongoing	Fortnightly West Wimmera Shire Council Newsletter developed and distributed to the community. Development of Instagram. Regular social media updates.
	4.2.4 Implement an Innovation Platform.	2021-2022	Completed. Innovation Platform committee meetings held monthly.

4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.	4.3.1 Prepare a document setting out key advocacy issues for West Wimmera Shire.	2021-2022	Draft Advocacy Plan underway.
4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.	4.4.1 Develop and implement the Workforce Plan.	2021-2022	Completed and adopted December 2021.
	4.4.2 Prepare and implement an Information Technology Strategy to support efficient Council operations and community interaction.	2022-2024	
	4.4.3 Review procurement policies and processes to maximise accountability, value for money, and encourage local procurement.	2021-2022	Adopted December 2021.
	4.4.4 Implement the action plan for the implementation of the Gender Equality Act.	2021-2022	Completed and implementation underway.
	4.4.5 Implement a cultural awareness training program for all Councillors and Council staff.	2022-2023	
	4.4.6 Prepare an Annual Business Plan to identify and track financial and operational performance.	Annually	FY22/23 Annual Plan developed.
	4.4.7 Implement a Project Management Framework.	2022-2024	
	4.4.8 Develop and implement a Council intranet.	2022-2023	Completed.
	4.4.9 Develop a framework and/or relevant management plans for key management areas in Council to ensure accountability and a clear understanding of responsibilities, processes, systems, and procedures.	2021-2025	Ongoing.
	4.4.10 Investment in Council staff and Councillors to enable them to be the best leaders for their communities.	2021-2025	Staff conference arranged for July 2022.

	4.4.11 Review and implement a records management system, strategy and policy that ensures good organisational governance.	2021-2025	
4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.	4.5.1 Support the activities of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee.	Ongoing	Key recommendations implemented.
	4.5.2 Prepare and implement an annual internal audit program.	Annually	Completed.
	4.5.3 Review and update the Business Continuity Plan.	2021-2022	Completed.
	4.5.4 Prepare and maintain a register of Council's statutory obligations including reporting and public registers.	Annually	Completed.

Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for consultation and engagement for the West Wimmera Shire was 54 compared with the state-wide score of 54 and small rural score of 54.
Annual Council Audit	Council's external auditors, Crowe Australasia, acting as agents for VAGO, have conducted their 2021-22 final audit.

Goal 5: Our Commitment

To put the right emphasis and importance on how we deliver on the Council Plan, Council has created a fifth goal; making a commitment to deliver the goals based on the following values.

- Innovation
- Accountability
- United
- Collaborative

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Strategic Objectives	Major Initiatives	Comments
Goal 1: Liveable and Healthy Community	Develop 10-year Asset Management Plan in line with <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .	Adopted May 2022
Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy	Prepare Tourism Strategy.	Delayed 2022- 2023
	Develop and maintain a tourism website.	Completed
Goal 4: Good Governance	Investment in Rural Councils Transformation Program to achieve shared regional financial systems to build resilience in Council systems and performance.	Implementation of Best of Breed Finance and Rating System on 1 July 2022 Council withdrew from the Rural Councils Transformation Program and resolved to award the contract for Supply of Integrated Corporate Software Solution to CouncilWise.
	Upgrade to cloud-based IT systems to improve capabilities of Council's operations.	Implementation of Sharepoint and West Wimmera Shire Council Intranet. Involvement in (Information Management System) Data migration to the Cloud.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of material variations.

Table 4: Service Performance Indicators Results

Service / indicator / measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	Comments
Aquatic facilities Service standard Health inspections of aquatic facilities [number of authorised officer inspections of council aquatic facilities / number of council aquatic facilities]	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	Inspections of aquatic facilities occur during summer months
Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / municipal population]	3.99	3.37	3.06	3.06	
Service cost Cost of aquatic facilities [direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / number of visits to aquatic facilities]	New in 2020	\$15.79	\$17.90	\$17.43	With temperate weather over the summer months and Covid-19, Council saw a slight decline in pool use and associated running costs
Animal management Timeliness Time taken to action animal management requests [number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / number of animal management requests]	0.00	0.01	1.00	1.22	Due to staffing shortages, Council's Local Laws Officer position has involved less hours than the prior year. Therefore, Council has seen a slightly longer response time in dealing with animal management requests
Service standard Animals reclaimed [number of animals reclaimed / number of animals collected] x100	50.00%	36.00%	15.38%	31.48%	Council has seen a higher proportion of collected animals

Animals rehomed [number of animals rehomed / number of animals collected] x100	New in 2020	64.00%	84.62%	61.11%	reclaimed than rehomed during 2021/22
Service cost Cost of animal management service per population [direct cost of the animal management service / population]	New in 2020	\$26.31	\$27.32	\$21.26	Due to staffing shortages, Council's Local Laws Officer position has involved less hours than the prior year
Health and safety Animal management prosecutions [number of successful animal management prosecutions / number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	New in 2020	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No animal management prosecutions during 2021/22
Food safety Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints [number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / number of food complaints]	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	No food complaints received in 2021.
Service standard Food safety assessments [number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the food act 1984 / number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the food act 1984] x100	80.77%	100.00%	95.35%	54.72%	Based on the past calendar year, a large portion of the year saw recurring lockdowns and border closures with many businesses and community groups not operating during 2021. There was little to no opportunity to visit many of our registered businesses and community groups.
Service cost Cost of food safety service [direct cost of the food safety service / number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the food act 1984]	\$1,796. 76	\$686.31	\$638.40	\$686.57	

<p>Health and safety</p> <p>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</p> <p>[number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100</p>	100.00 %	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	No non-compliance notifications issued in 2021/22
<p>Governance</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</p> <p>[number of council resolutions made at meetings of council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of councillors, closed to the public / number of council resolutions made at meetings of council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of councillors] x100</p>	34.71%	27.78%	16.75%	13.59%	Council has consciously reduced the number of confidential items to improve transparency
<p>Consultation and engagement</p> <p>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</p> <p>[community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on community consultation and engagement]</p>	62.00	59.00	55.00	54.00	
<p>Attendance</p> <p>Councillor attendance at council meetings</p> <p>[the sum of the number of councillors who attended each council meeting / (number of council meetings) × (number of councillors elected at the last council general election)] x100</p>	96.25%	95.38%	96.00%	98.82.%	
<p>Service cost</p> <p>Cost of elected representation</p> <p>[direct cost of the governance service / number of councillors</p>	\$33,589 .80	\$35,402.2 0	\$34,567.0 0	\$37,469.00	From 18 December 2021, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal introduced a

elected at the last council general election]					determination prescribing higher Councillor allowances
Satisfaction					
Satisfaction with council decisions [community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	61.00	58.00	58.00	54.00	
Libraries					
Utilisation					
Physical library collection usage [number of physical library collection item loans / number of physical library collection items]	1.09	0.89	0.77	0.85	Council has seen an increase in physical library collection usage as lockdowns associated with Covid-19 eased during the year
Resource standard					
Recently purchased library collection [number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / number of library collection items] x100	86.68%	37.08%	37.44%	38.98%	
Participation					
Active library borrowers in municipality [number of active library borrowers in the last three years / the sum of the population for the last three years] x100	13.65%	12.49%	11.60%	10.46%	Council has seen a slight decline in active library borrowers during 2021/22. While still within the expected range, it is noted the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have continued to be experienced during 2022.
Service cost					
Cost of library service per population [direct cost of the library service / population]	New in 2020	\$45.32	\$53.64	\$57.76	The increase in the cost of the library service is a combination of slight population decline, increased subscription costs to the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation and increased general costs

such as additional cleaning and venue hire.

Maternal and child health (mch)					
Service standard					
Infant enrolments in the mch service [number of infants enrolled in the mch service (from birth notifications received) / number of birth notifications received] x100	100.00 %	96.97%	96.97%	96.77%	
Service cost					
Cost of the mch service [cost of the mch service / hours worked by mch nurses]	\$105.74	\$147.15	\$57.74	\$55.08	
Participation					
Participation in the mch service [number of children who attend the mch service at least once (in the year) / number of children enrolled in the mch service] x100	96.23%	96.53%	85.63%	86.83%	
Participation					
Participation in the mch service by aboriginal children [number of aboriginal children who attend the mch service at least once (in the year) / number of aboriginal children enrolled in the mch service] x100	100.00 %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Council has two families, each with two pre-school aged children. These families have a high participation rate and utilise both Maternal Child Health Services and Childcare services
Satisfaction					
Participation in 4-week key age and stage visit [number of 4-week key age and stage visits / number of birth notifications received] x100	New in 2020	148.48%	139.39%	116.13%	Some families have travelled to see Allied Health or Doctors, and therefore are not seeing the MCH Nurse at the 4-week visit. The next visit is then the 6 weeks visit and immunisations with the MCH Nurse.
Roads					
Satisfaction of use					
Sealed local road requests	5.43	6.03	7.51	4.48	Council have noted a decline in local sealed

[number of sealed local road requests / kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					road requests during the 2021/22 year
Condition					
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards	94.61%	93.68%	99.73%	99.83%	
[number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by council / kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					
Service cost					
Cost of sealed local road reconstruction	\$30.88	\$37.61	\$38.72	\$44.80	Costs can vary considerably with contractor and materials pricing and availability
[direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]					
Service cost					
Cost of sealed local road resealing	\$4.91	\$5.46	\$4.76	\$4.27	Costs can vary considerably with contractor and materials pricing and availability. Council's square metres of reseals were substantially higher in 2021-22 than the previous year and some savings were noted due to the higher volume.
[direct cost of sealed local road resealing / square metres of sealed local roads resealed]					
Satisfaction					
Satisfaction with sealed local roads	53.00	55.00	54.00	54.00	
[community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					
Statutory planning					
Timeliness					
Time taken to decide planning applications	65.00	80.00	49.00	41.00	Council has made a conscious effort to reduce the time taken to decide planning applications.
[the median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]					
Service standard					

<p>Planning applications decided within required time frames</p> <p>[(number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (number of VICsmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / number of planning application decisions made] x100</p>	6.82%	75.00%	85.71%	83.33%	
<p>Service cost</p> <p>Cost of statutory planning service</p> <p>[direct cost of the statutory planning service / number of planning applications received]</p>	\$4,619.69	\$7,428.99	\$7,888.78	\$8,266.00	Due to staffing shortages, Council have engaged external consultants to assist with planning services.
<p>Decision making</p> <p>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</p> <p>[number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100</p>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No VCAT Council decisions in relation to planning applications
<p>Waste collection</p> <p>Satisfaction</p> <p>Kerbside bin collection requests</p> <p>[number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / number of kerbside bin collection households] x1000</p>	17.53	4.93	0.55	44.61	Council has improved it's CRM processes and is more effectively capturing data on kerbside bin collection requests, resulting in more requests being recognised and classified
<p>Service standard</p> <p>Kerbside collection bins missed</p> <p>[number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000</p>	0.53	0.60	1.21	1.20	
<p>Service cost</p> <p>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</p> <p>[direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / number of kerbside garbage collection bins]</p>	\$90.35	\$92.63	\$93.86	\$104.62	Increased number of kerbside garbage collections has resulted in higher contractor costs

Service cost					
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$83.58	\$83.38	\$96.78	\$85.92	After a significant spike in contractor costs for recyclables collection in 2020/21 following the closure of a major recycling facility within the state, Council has seen these costs return slightly to the level of prior years
Waste diversion					
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	22.22%	10.01%	20.95%	20.43%	

RETIRED SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 5: Retired Indicators Results

Retired indicators Service / indicator / measure	Results 2019	Comment
Aquatic facilities		
Service cost		
Cost of indoor aquatic facilities [direct cost of indoor aquatic facilities less income received / number of visits to indoor aquatic facilities]	\$0.00	This measure was replaced by cost of aquatic facilities for 2020.
Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities [direct cost of outdoor aquatic facilities less income received / number of visits to outdoor aquatic facilities]	\$12.14	This measure was replaced by cost of aquatic facilities for 2020.
Animal management		
Service cost		
Cost of animal management service [direct cost of the animal management service / number of registered animals]	\$90.48	This measure was replaced by cost of animal management service per population for 2020.
Health and safety		

Animal management prosecutions [number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0	This measure was replaced by animal management prosecutions (%) for 2020.
Libraries		
Service cost		
Cost of library service [direct cost of the library service / number of visits]	\$7.98	This measure was replaced by cost of library service per population for 2020.
Maternal and child health (MCH)		
Satisfaction		
Participation in first MCH home visit [number of first MCH home visits / number of birth notifications received] x100	211.1%	This measure was replaced by participation in 4-week key age and stage visit for 2020.

SERVICES FUNDED IN BUDGET

The following statement reviews the performance of services funded in th

	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Strategic Objective 1	Corporate Services	This service provides management and administration support to the corporate area of Council and includes the Risk Management and Occupational Health and Safety functions.	-474	528	-1002
	Customer Service	This service provides the main point of interaction between Council and the community. Services include over the counter advice, receipting, and administrative support to Council.	468	491	-23
	Elected Members	This service provides for leadership from and support to the community's elected leaders.	249	173	76
	Finance and Rates	This service predominantly provides financial based services to both internal and external customers including the management of Council's finances, payment of salaries and wages to Council employees, procurement and contracting of services, raising and collection of rates and charges and valuation of properties throughout the municipality.	-4694	-3356	-1338
	Governance	This service provides support and oversight to Council operations including the conduct of Council meetings. The Governance service also covers such items as customer satisfaction monitoring.	14	38	-24
	Information Technology	This service is responsible for the provision of information management services to Council and the community, including hardware and software solutions to enable Council to undertake its desired activities and to provide contact methodologies for our community.	537	472	65
	Records Management	This service is responsible for providing and maintaining accurate and up to date record keeping facilities and archives.	139	185	-46

Strategic Objective 2	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	CEO Office	This service provides executive leadership and support to Council, and co-ordinates advocacy programs on behalf of the West Wimmera community.	533	470	63
	Human Resources	This service provides the recruitment, training and performance evaluation of Council staff.	309	282	27
	Public Relations and Marketing	This service is responsible for the management and provision of advice on external communication, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, on behalf of Council.	54	146	-92

Strategic Objective 3	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	Buildings and Property	This service provides for management and maintenance of Council's building portfolio.	162	199	-37
	Cemeteries	This service provides management of the Kaniva, Edenhope and Goroke cemeteries.	-2	-2	0
	Depot and Engineering Operations	This service provides Council with infrastructure management services, including works, engineering, contract management and inventory and stores control activities. It also includes Plant maintenance costs and all costs and income associated with plant usage.	1263	1029	234
	Quarry Operations	This service provides for materials utilised by Council in its works and construction activities.	77	-2	79
	Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	This service provides for all maintenance and operational works undertaken on Council's roads, bridges and footpath network. It includes the contract works Council undertakes for VicRoads on state roads within the municipal boundaries.	-505	-46	-459
	Stormwater Drainage	This service provides for maintenance works on Council's stormwater drainage network.	66	52	14

Strategic Objective 4	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	Aerodrome	This service area provides for maintaining the operation of the Edenhope Aerodrome.	9	12	-3
	Business and Economic Development	The business and economic development service assists the organisation to facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for local residents to improve their skill levels and access employment.	420	566	-146

Strategic Objective 5	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	Arts and Culture	This service provides a varied ongoing program of arts and cultural events and activities, plans and develops arts and cultural facilities and infrastructure and develops policies and strategies to facilitate art practice.	32	32	0
	Building	This service provides statutory building services to Council and the community including processing of building permits, investigations of complaints and illegal works.	133	88	45
	Children, Youth and Family Services	This service provides a range of children and youth support activities, including pre-schools, Infant Welfare Centres, Freeza and youth engagement programs.	-180	-120	-60

Fire Prevention and Emergency Services	This service provides for essential monitoring and management of vegetation in fire risk areas and also for the funding of emergency service activities provided by Council.	197	52	145
Community Services	This services provides management and administrative support to the community services area.	205	145	60
Planning	This service provides statutory planning services to Council and the community including processing of planning permits, investigations of complaints and illegal works.	292	346	-54
Regulatory Services	This service provides all management and enforcement of Council's Local Laws, including animal registration, control and enforcement.	46	85	-39
Sanitation	This service provides for street cleaning across Council's urban centres and for management and maintenance of Council's public amenities.	283	311	-28
Street Lighting	This service provides for public lighting in Council's urban centres.	24	30	-6
Traffic Management	This service provides for school crossing services.	8	23	-15
Waste Management	This service provides for waste management solutions, including kerbside pickup, disposal and transfer station sites.	761	758	3

Strategic Objective 6	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	Aged and Disability Care Services	This service provides a range of home and community care services for the aged and disabled including home delivered meals, personal care, transport, dementia care, home maintenance, housing support and senior citizen clubs.	47	-136	183
	Libraries	This service provides public library services at Edenhope and Kaniva via a contribution to the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation.	217	213	4
	Public Health	This service provides a range of public health related activities, including Environmental Health inspections and enforcement, and pest and weed control services.	17	111	-94
	Recreation, Sport, Leisure	This service provides maintenance and management of Council's public halls and swimming pools.	259	313	-54
	Sport and Recreation Facilities	This service provides for management and maintenance of sporting facilities across the municipality.	55	46	9

Strategic Objective 7	SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	NET COST \$'000		
			ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	Tourism and Events	This service promotes West Wimmera Shire's natural attractions and provides facilities for visitors to our region.	80	140	-60
	Parks and Reserves	This service provides maintenance and management of all parks and gardens across Council.	504	512	-8

ADVOCACY

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 was divided into actions and advocacy actions to enable more accurate tracking of activity associated with the Plan and to ensure that the activities align with the plan.

In previous years, our Councillors and CEO have attended a series of meetings with state ministers and their senior advisors. Unfortunately, again due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, Council was unable to undertake these meetings face to face. Council continued to maintain its contact with other tiers of government and continues to advocate on behalf of our residents with online meetings and other forms of communication. Some key topics and issues discussed included:

Dr. Anne Webster, MP (24 November 2021 Teams meeting and 18 January 2022 Edenhope)

- West Grampians Pipeline funding
- Border issues accessing medical services (due to COVID-19)
- Financial assistance and funding of certain projects
- Road funding
- Blackspot funding – working with infrastructure providers, State Government, Federal Government, and Rural Councils Victoria to advocate for this.

The Hon. Minister David Littleproud, MP (18 January 2022 Edenhope)

- Roadside vegetation
- Pest and weed funding
- Road funding

The Hon. Minister Jaala Pulford, MP (9 December 2021 Teams meeting)

- West Grampians Pipeline funding

Minister Mary-Ann Thomas, MP (24 January 2022 Teams meeting)

- Roadside vegetation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We pride ourselves on informing our communities with interesting, high-quality publications.

In 2021-2022 we:

- Developed and published fortnightly editions of West Wimmera Shire Council newsletter.
- Published eight editions of the West Wimmera Shire Council Fortnightly Newsletter and sent to 1,022 subscribers
- Published 82 media releases
- Published 1087 Facebook posts, reaching our 2,029 Facebook followers
- We have been steadily building our Instagram audience from March 2022 with 133 followers recorded by June 2022. We published 75 posts.

Innovation Platform

In September 2021, Council developed and launch a new initiative, the West Wimmera Innovation Platform. The Innovation Platform is a tool that captures the ideas from not only Council staff, but our wider Shire community and visitors.

All ideas for ways to improve our service delivery, stimulate economic growth or to improve West Wimmera Shire as a place to live, can be submitted via the online platform, or via a paper form. These ideas are then collected and presented at a monthly Innovation Committee meeting. The Innovation Platform provides our local community members an unrestricted opportunity for their ideas and improvements to be heard.

Media enquiry form

In December 2021, Council developed and implemented an online media enquiry form located on the West Wimmera Shire Council website. The purpose and objective for the implementation was to continue to develop and maintain a positive working relationship with the media and to ensure media enquiries are captured in one location.



The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community. Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

In the 17 categories that the West Wimmera Shire Council are rated against we perform as well or significantly higher than the Small Rural Shire group

and State-wide averages on all measures in 2022. Even in its lowest rated area –unsealed roads (48) Council performs significantly higher than both the group and State-wide averages. Furthermore, Council performance on the lower rated service areas of roadside slashing and weed control and sealed local roads is significantly higher than the Small Rural group average. The table below provides details of all 17 categories and the full report can be found on the WWSC website

Services	West Wimmera 2021	West Wimmera 2020	Small Rural 2021	State-wide 2021	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	60	63	60	61	Aged 18-34 years, Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
 Value for money	58	-	52	54	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
 Overall council direction	48	48	53	53	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
 Customer service	71	77	69	70	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-64 years
 Appearance of public areas	78	78	75	73	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50+ years
 Elderly support services	73	75	72	69	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Waste management	71	69	68	69	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
 Family support services	66	66	66	66	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years
 Local streets & footpaths	66	68	58	59	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Enforcement of local laws	64	66	63	64	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Informing the community	61	62	61	60	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Community decisions	58	58	56	56	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Lobbying	57	57	55	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Consultation & engagement	55	59	56	56	Aged 65+ years, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Sealed local roads	54	55	53	57	Aged 65+ years	Aged 35-49 years
 Slashing & weed control	53	57	49	51	Aged 18-34 years	Women, Aged 50-64 years
 Unsealed roads	46	50	44	45	Aged 65+ years	Aged 50-64 years

Figure 4: WWSC acknowledges JWS Research for the use of this information

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AND OTHER GRANTS PROGRAM

Council's Community Strengthening Grants program is designed to promote and increase participation in community initiatives, to build and strengthen local networks and partnerships and to support community leadership, learning and skill development.

The annual grant program is delivered across two rounds, round one at the start of the financial year and round two mid-financial year. The grants are organised to provide financial assistance to local community organisations to support the provision of programs, activities and services which respond to identified community needs, contribute to the

building of a stronger community, develop innovative approaches and local social issues and are in accordance with Council's strategic objectives.

A total of \$42,093 was granted by council through the Community Strengthening Grants Program

Council's Business Assistance program assisted one business in 2021/2022 financial year and the streetscape program had no applicants.

Council is currently reviewing the guideline and application process for all grant programs and will have a revised program in 2022/2023.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS

2021-2022	Round 1	Community events	Diana Saville	Day of the Dackel Event	\$750.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Community events	Edenhope RSL	Invite Public Anzac Day	\$750.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Community projects	Kaniva & District Progress Assoc	Eat, Stay, Play Community Data Base	\$5,000.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Goroke Bowls Club	Update old scoreboards and provide a scoreboard for every rink	\$2,332.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and Equipment	Kaniva Bowls Club	Upgrade clubhouse switchboard circuits and external lighting	\$5,000.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Kaniva Leeor United Football Club Inc	Upgrade visitors change rooms, add shower	\$3,730.00

				screens meet child safe standards	
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Kowree Tennis Association	Six new tennis nets at Lake Tennis Courts	\$876.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Lockhart Racecourse and Recreation Reserve	Repair & replace western border fence to keep animals out of the golf course	\$1,617.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Serviceton Golf Club	Replacement of entrance and T Block signs	\$788.00
2021-2022	Round 1	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Kaniva Golf Club	Secure mower/cart shed	\$ 5,000.00
2021-2022	Round 2	Community events	Goroke Pre-School Inc	Children's entertainment at Goroke Show	\$750.00
2021-2022	Round 2	Community events	Lawloit Public Hall Inc	Sunday Afternoon Melodies	\$500.00
2021-2022	Round 2	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Connewirricoo Community Centre	Shelter for amenities block	\$5,000.00
2021-2022	Round 2	Facilities upgrades and equipment	Goroke Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	Goroke Rec Reserve goal post project	\$5,000.00
Business Assistance					
2021-22	Business Assistance		Edenhope Pub Pty Ltd	Glass Washer & Split Systems	\$12,000

VAGO Performance Audit

The Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) provides assurance to Parliament on the accountability and performance of the Victorian public sector. They achieve this through an annual program of financial and performance audits of state and local government public sector entities. These performance audits assess whether agencies are meeting their aims effectively, using their resources economically and efficiently, and complying with relevant legislation.

West Wimmera Shire Council was selected as one of 6 Victorian Councils to participate in a performance audit into Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants during the 2021/22 year. The audit commenced in July 2021 and concluded in May 2022, with the final report being tabled in Parliament on 11 May 2022.

VAGO reached the following overall conclusion of the performance audit:

Councils' fraud controls for their grant programs are not always well-designed and operating as intended. In some cases, they are missing. Councils are not consistently identifying conflicts of interest, assessing applications against criteria,

documenting their decisions, checking how funds are used or evaluating their grant programs' outcomes. This unnecessarily increases the risk of fraud and makes it harder for the audited councils to show that their grant programs are transparent, equitable and benefit the community.

The report made 9 recommendations to West Wimmera Shire Council, all of which were agreed or partially agreed with by Council. Council's Action Plan and timeframes for addressing these recommendations are outlined in Appendix A of the attached report.

Council has been working on a review of its community support and has recently engaged a consultant to assist with this process. This process will involve a review of the current arrangements and support provided, benchmarking, policy review, staff engagement & reporting.

Using the data collected from the independent review along with the recommendations from the VAGO performance audit, Council aims to build a framework to ensure all community support is provided in line with best practice and the Council Plan



CAPITAL WORKS

Table 6: Capital Works Expenditure Table

Property	\$'000		
Land improvements	\$ 137		
Buildings	\$ 737		
Total property	\$ 874		
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment	\$ 920		
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	\$23		
Total plant and equipment	\$ 943		
Infrastructure			
Roads	\$ 5,942		
Bridges	\$ 80		
Footpaths and cycleways	\$ 68		
Drainage	\$ 31		
Total infrastructure	\$ 6,121		
Total capital works expenditure	\$ 7,938		
		Represented by:	\$'000
		New asset expenditure	\$91
		Asset renewal expenditure	\$ 7,318
		Asset upgrade expenditure	\$ 529
		Total capital works expenditure	\$ 7,938

MAJOR PROJECTS

Council has had yet another busy year with projects. Projects this past year have been undertaken with the assistance of funding sources from the state and federal governments, 'in kind' and financial support from local community groups, and funds committed from Council's budget. The COVID-19 pandemic has

continued to impact our major projects with skills and labour shortages, material shortages and long lead times. As a result, the team has been required to be innovative to ensure they have been able to make the most of available funding and still able to delivery on projects with the funding guideline.

Goroke Recreation Reserve and Pavilion

Preparations for this redevelopment began in mid-to-late 2020. The construction contract was awarded to Locks Construction from Horsham, and site works began in early April 2021. The project was delayed for six months due to timber shortages but will be completed by October 2022. The completed building will have four player changerooms, umpire change rooms, a gym, public toilets, social room, and a kitchen.

Funding for this project is made up of \$1.755 million from the State Government (Sports and Recreation Victoria), along with \$145,000 from the community and \$50,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council.



Kaniva Caravan Park

Improvements are underway at the Kaniva Caravan Park, including a new amenities block and landscaping works. The amenities block will include a camp kitchen, accessible toilet and shower, baby change facilities, and a laundry. The project is funded by \$574,000 from the State Government (Regional Development Victoria) and \$19,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council.

This upgrade was also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has required Council to act as owner-builder on the project. Although this has delayed the project completion until December 2022, this has allowed many local contractors to be involved in the construction.

Outdoor Eating Entertainment package and the Outdoor Activation and Outdoor Precinct Establishment

Three phases of funding from the State Government have allowed for many improvements in our towns and in front of hospitality businesses. This included new table settings, umbrellas, and café barriers throughout the towns. Street cleaning and a safer environment for outdoor dining with a new footpath in front of the Menzies Hotel at Dergholm. Existing outdoor chairs were refurbished along with the Edenhope main street shelter undergoing a facelift. New waste bins for all towns will be installed in the coming months. New outdoor spaces including shelters, table settings and landscaping at the Silo Art viewing areas are also underway.

Kaniva Kindergarten

The Kaniva Kindergarten is undergoing a major renovation to update the room's bathroom, laundry, and storage facilities. The room's current bathroom will be moved and a new all-abilities bathroom for adults and children will be installed. Works started in May 2022 and will be completed in October 2022. Funding for this project is made up of \$123,867 from the Department of Education and Training and \$40,000 from the kindergarten's Parent Advisory Group.

Shovel Ready Projects

Council has committed funding to prepare many 'shovel-ready' initiatives. This will allow Council to capitalise on possible future opportunities. Currently shovel-ready projects that we are working on include:

- Browns House replacement
- Aspley, Harrow, and Goroke netball/tennis courts
- Edenhope town entrance footing designs
- Edenhope Playground Strategy
- Apsley Playground Strategy

Future projects

Council has been successful in a number of funding applications over the past 12 months. The following projects have received funding and works will start in 2022-23.

- Regional Cabins Project
- Edenhope Lakeside Caravan Park upgrade
- Edenhope Equine Facility
- Apsley Netball Tennis Court and Lighting Upgrade
- West Wimmera Sport and Recreation Plan

We look forward to seeing these major community developments take shape in the near future.

Other projects that Council has been continuing to work on in 2021/2022 include the Edenhope and District Community Centre and Serviceton Silo Art.



CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Council considers all staff as Customer Service Officers whether serving at the counter of our offices or mowing our lawns and fixing our roads. Each member of Council has a part to play in ensuring your questions are answered, your services are maintained, and your rates are expended appropriately.

The 2021-2022 year has presented several challenges to our customer service team with COVID-19 being front and centre again. Continual adaptations and alternate service delivery options were required to ensure service could be maintained to the community at the highest level possible. Our team have shown resilience and have managed to keep the service delivery available to the community with great flexibility. They often must redirect phones to work from home, take long and complicated messages, as well as learning multiple tasks so that information can be relayed in the most efficient manner possible. In addition, our customer service roles have extended their support to other areas and Council projects,

working from home during lockdown periods to fill in where necessary, keep other departments maintained, and ensure Council is meeting a wide range of objectives. The annual Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken for Local Government across the state has shown that the customer service team have maintained high results that were above the state average and above the average across all small rural councils. 2022 saw the introduction of a new finance software system across the whole of Council and the customer service team was at the forefront of this roll out. Many hours of training, along with identifying shortfalls in the system, kept the team busy with all staff mastering the new software prior to it going into full service on 1 July 2022. With their manager, the customer service team is currently writing a Customer Service Charter so that their work is transparent and can be fully understood by our community. Benchmarking and continually reviewing their operations will provide an ongoing level of service our community has come to expect.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

West Wimmera Shire Council has both a legal and moral obligation to provide a safe workplace for all its employees, contractors, and volunteers. Council's software program Elumina continues to be a key driver in achieving Council's commitment to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).

Incident reporting has shown an increase of 280 per cent, thus providing Council with the opportunity to effectively address occupational health safety and risk issues in their infancy stage. This in turn reduces the risk of injuries to employees, contractors, and volunteers.

The West Wimmera Shire Council Occupational Health Safety and Risk Policy states:

The West Wimmera Shire Council will work towards achieving ZERO HARM by focusing on four key areas:

LEADERSHIP

Provide direction and support in the pursuit of improved workplace health and safety and environment standards

1

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

Provide an organized and consistent approach to all OHS matters across the organization

2

ACTIVE OHS CULTURE

Ensure continued improvement in performance occurs

3

WORKPLACES AND EQUIPMENT

Ensure there is within the workplace a deep understanding of the nature of hazards with Council work, activities, and undertakings.

4

Council has a Health and Safety Committee, which was formed in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*. The committee meets quarterly and consists of seven management representatives and six elected health and safety representatives.

For 2021-22 year there was an 80 per cent attendance rate recorded.

Key deliverables for the 2021-22 year included:

- Skin cancer checks for employees
- Snake awareness training
- QR codes for instant incident notification on mobile devices
- Trialled GPS tracking device for working remotely/alone
- Review OHS Manual and Drug and Alcohol Policy

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

West Wimmera Shire Council Community Support Services employs fourteen part time/casual Community Support Workers and two Administration Officers.

Our workforce is on the frontline every day and contributes to the overarching care and wellbeing of vulnerable people in the Shire.

Our Community Support Worker team empowers people to have more control in their lives to maintain their independence at home and in their community. A little help is sometimes all that's needed to keep people independent at home and involved in what is most important to them.

We partner with consumers and their carers to maintain a healthy and active life, through providing support with household tasks, social activities, accessing the community, personal care, maintaining a safe home, meals, or support for carers.

During 2021-2022 financial year West Wimmera Shire Council supported 291 consumers.



Number of Consumers	Funding Source
199	Commonwealth Home Support Program
24	Home and Community Care Program for younger people
28	Home Care Package
40	Consumers on Post-Acute Care

Community Support Services delivered in West Wimmera Shire FY 2021/22

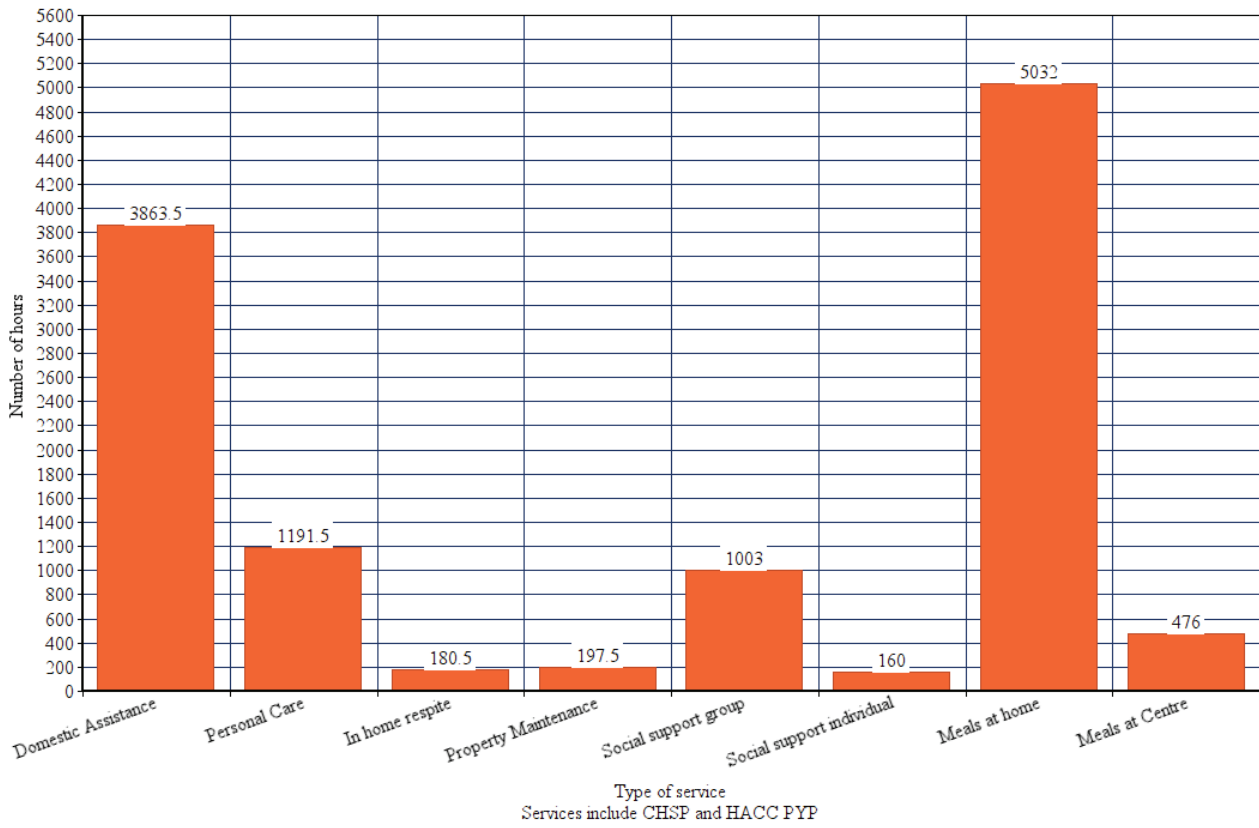


Figure 5: Community Support Services delivered in the West Wimmera Shire FY 2021/22

Community Services Highlights for 2021/2022

- Launch of Volunteer Companion Program in Harrow
- Implementation of mobile phones for Community Support Workers
- Goroke seniors bus outings to Rainbow and Bordertown
- Online seniors' concert
- Tania Kernaghan seniors' concert
- Me 'N Me Mates concert
- Relocation of community services from the Edenhope Business Centre to the main office in Edenhope
- Mobility scooter education and awareness days in Goroke, Edenhope and Kaniva

Our Community Support Team provide a bag of safe to use cleaning products to Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and Home and Community Care Program (HACCPYP) consumers who receive domestic assistance to help them clean their home.

Pictured is Community Support Worker Norelle Witmitz supplying products to Roger Hendy.



VOLUNTEERING

On 1 December 2021, an International Volunteers Day morning tea was held in Kaniva. West Wimmera Shire Council hosted this event in collaboration with the Kaniva LINK Neighbourhood House as well as the Centre For Participation. A number of our volunteers share their time between these three organisations, which is certainly something to celebrate.

In conjunction with the morning tea event, Kaniva LINK launched its book, *Tales of the Overland*, a series of short stories and experiences of many locals who have caught the Overland train to either Melbourne or Adelaide. West Wimmera Shire Council Mayor Bruce Meyer spoke of how invaluable volunteers are to our communities, and of the phenomenal amount of work they do to keep our communities ticking along.

EVENTS



Australia Day Ceremonies 2022

On the 26th January 2022, several ceremonies were held throughout the West Wimmera Shire. This year we were extremely honoured to host 3 Australia Day Ambassadors, who attended all 6 Australia Day Ceremonies between them. Dr. Duncan Stalker attended the Edenhope and Dergholm ceremonies, Mr. Dominic Barbuto attended the Goroke and Harrow ceremonies, while Mr. Peter Langkamp attended the Kaniva and Apsley ceremonies. Mayor Bruce Meyer said the three ambassadors brought a wealth of knowledge to the shire, and he enjoyed hearing them speak "These people are highly motivated to make a difference in the world and in the lives of others," he said. "We were privileged to have hosted such accomplished and enthusiastic community contributors as our Australia Day Ambassadors in 2022."

The Australia Day Award for West Wimmera Shire's Australia Day Citizen of the Year was awarded to Apsley resident Rob Carberry.

Mayor Bruce Meyer said Mr Carberry was a deserving winner of the Citizen of the Year Award. Over the years, Mr Carberry has been involved with the football club, golf club and tennis club. He is involved in the RSL, organising all Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events. He is an Edenhope Hospital board member, Apsley Recreation Reserve committee member, and has been the Apsley Progress Association president for more than 20 years.



“He is described as a pillar of the community, and someone who has a positive rapport with everyone he meets.”

The Senior Citizen of the Year Award was won by Edenhope’s Annie Osborn. Mrs Osborn is involved in many health and sporting organisations in the town. She is an Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital board member and registered volunteer, a regular blood donor. Mrs Osborn is the leader of Edenhope Sing Australia, and she is involved with the bowling club, hockey club, probus club and the lions club.

She also knits beanies for KOGO (Knit One Give One), which distributes

beanies to people in need. Mayor Bruce Meyer said Mrs Osborn was a wonderful contributor to the Edenhope community and was always looking for a way to help others.

Other Australia Day award winners included, Event of the Year Awarded to the Kaniva A & P Society’s Lexus Melbourne Cup tour; and Community Group of the Year Awarded to Edenhope’s Men’s Shed.



Seniors Concert with Tania Kernaghan

On 31 March 2022, award-winning country music star Tania Kernaghan entertained the crowd at Kaniva Recreation Reserve as Council celebrated its senior residents.

It was an extremely well-received and a fantastic turnout event.

Several busloads of people, coming from all throughout the Shire were in attendance. It was a wonderful concert and Tania was a great entertainer, the crowd loved listening to her music. The senior’s concert was a great opportunity for residents from all over West Wimmera Shire to come together and enjoy a great day out.

Seniors make up just over a third of the population of our Shire and our senior residents are great contributors to our communities. We like to take the

opportunity to thank them whenever we can, and unfortunately, we have not been able to have a senior’s concert for the past several years due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was fantastic to be able to offer a concert this year, in a COVID-safe environment.

Following the concert, Council provided afternoon tea to attendees.

The concert hosted more than 300 people, and many hours of preparation went into making the day possible.





Trakmaster Caravan Club Annual Gathering

Trakmaster Off-Road Caravan Club had its annual gathering at Kaniva from 30 March to 6 April 2022. The visiting caravan club injected more than \$40,000 into West Wimmera Shire's economy, with about 200 people and 100 caravans gathering in the town.

Over the week, club members toured the Shire, visited local attractions, and shopped at West Wimmera businesses. While they were in the Shire, they also raised money and donated it to various community groups. There was a buzz within the Shire the entire week. Shops were full and many businesses extended their trading hours to take advantage of the visitors. It was exceptional to have such an influx of tourists and they provided an incredible boost to the local economy.

Many community groups were also given the chance to fundraise through catering for the caravan club during their stay. Club members raised money during their visit and awarded it to the following community groups:

Kaniva LINK Neighbourhood House - \$1,000 for a children's art and multi-media program

Purple Starfish Community Shop - \$1,000 for a new cash register and solar light project

Rogerson Street Community Playground - \$960

Kaniva Community Sporting Complex - \$960 for mirrors and an equipment rack

Kaniva Hockey Club - \$960 for fencing and lighting

Kaniva Gun Club - \$960 for toilet doors



Kaniva businesses were encouraged to decorate their shop windows for the Trakmaster gathering. Gary Mills Plumbing's display was voted best window by club members, followed by The Salvation Army's display. It was great to see all the local businesses getting behind the event.

Special thanks to Gary and Sheryl Coad (Trakmaster Club Members) who organised for this event to come to Kaniva and closely liaised with the West Wimmera Shire Council and the businesses throughout the area for the past three years.



White Ribbon Day Events – Edenhope and Kaniva

White Ribbon Day is an important day on the West Wimmera Shire Council's calendar. We aim to raise awareness and prevention of violence against women. White Ribbon Australia is part of a global social movement working to eliminate gendered violence.

In December of 2021 an event was held in Kaniva our guest speaker was Police member, Senior Constable Adrian Hogg. Adrian spoke about the importance of the prevention of violence against everyone and how extremely important it is to treat those nearest and dearest to you with the greatest respect. He was very passionate about this and challenged those who witnessed disrespect to call it out. The Lions Club of Kaniva cooked a sausage sizzle for those who attended.

A White Ribbon Day event was also held in Edenhope, the West Wimmera Shire



Council and the Edenhope Tourism Committee collaborated, with the group cooking a sausage sizzle as part of their monthly cake stall. Our guest speaker was Pete Robertson, Detective Senior Sergeant of the Family Violence Investigation Unit. He spoke about their involvement in family violence. A good crowd supported this event with many asking questions about his role.



Bernie Maddern's Retirement after 46 Years of Service.

The end of an era as the West Wimmera Shire Council farewelled Bernie Maddern. Bernie Maddern commenced his career in local government on the 31 of June 1975 with the Kaniva Shire. When the Kaniva Shire and the Kowree Shire amalgamated in 1995 he continued his career with the West Wimmera Shire Council, taking on many different roles within Council during this time. After 46 years Bernie decided it was time to retire and enjoy more time with his wife Lyn, his family and have the opportunity to travel. Mayor Bruce



Meyer thanked Bernie for his 46 years of Service to Council during Bernie's farewell which was held in December 2021.



Terry Ough's Retirement after 39 Years of Service.

The West Wimmera Shire Council farewelled Works Manager, Terry Ough in December 2021. Terry Commenced at the Council on the 15 of June 1982, he commenced work on the outdoor staff

works team, eventually taking on a leadership role within the Council. During his farewell speech he entertained us with many stories of the events and mishaps he experienced during that time. Terry worked for Council for 39 years.



Acknowledgement of Past West Wimmera Shire Council Councillors BBQ

On Monday, 4 April 2022, West Wimmera Shire Council paid tribute to its previous Councillors at a special event in Edenhope. The event at Henley Park was attended by many former and current Councillors and was a way to acknowledge their years of service, along with their hard work and dedication to the West Wimmera Shire and community.

The evening particularly acknowledged former Councillor Warren Wait, who was a long-serving Councillor for West Wimmera Shire. Warren was a Councillor for 33 years. He served on the Shire of Kowree from 1977 to 1983 and again

from 1986 to 1994. Past and current Councillors spoke glowingly of Warren and the positive impact his contribution had on the Shire. Warren was awarded with a framed photograph of Lake Wallace and a certificate of appreciation for his service.

Other former Councillors that were acknowledged at the event included:

Katrina Rainsford (1997 – 2000); Richard Hicks (2016 – 2000); Annette Jones (2012 – 2016); Eveline Van Breugel-Ord (2008 – 2012); Linda Guthridge (2000 – 2008); Carlyne Whitehead (1989 – 1995 Shire of Kowree and 1997 – 2000 West Wimmera Shire); Darren Rayner (2003 – 2012); Ron Hawkins (1995 – 1997 and 2000 – 2016); Geoffrey Carracher (1983 – 1995 Shire of Kowree and 1997 – 2003 West Wimmera Shire).



REGIONAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE

In the past 12 months the West Wimmera Shire Council Regional Assessment Service (RAS) has completed 63 new assessments and 108 support plan reviews. These assessments and reviews help our older population access services that help them remain independent at home. The service was impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2021, with assessments being completed over the phone instead of in person. However, with the easing of restrictions, face-to-face assessments recommenced in 2022. The service works closely with the local Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS) team to ensure appropriate and timely referrals for comprehensive

assessments. The West Wimmera Shire RAS has provided locum cover to neighbouring councils when extra staffing has been required.

There have been 10 Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) assessments completed with both short term and ongoing services implemented to assist younger people at home. HACC PYP services are open to people under the age of 65 and who need some help at home. These services can be short term, to help with recovery from a significant illness or surgery, or ongoing services to assist people with long-term health issues



KINDERGARTENS

In 2022, West Wimmera Shire had 74 children attending kindergarten. All kindergartens were operating two days, 7.5-hour sessions, with combined three- and four-year-old groups. The introduction of before- and after-kindergarten care and additional days of childcare for three to five-year-olds commenced at Edenhope Early Childhood Service.

Table 7: Kindergarten enrolments 2022

Kindergarten	Goroke	Kaniva	Edenhope
4-year-old	8	15	14
3-year-old	6	14	17
Total enrolments	14	29	31

Goroke Kindergarten was successful in a Department of Education and Training (DET) Minor Works Grant in 2021. This grant contributed to landscaping works, which improved accessibility in the service for all families and will contribute to a sustainable yard into the future. The Parent Advisory Group fundraised to contribute to shade sail structures.

The Kaniva Kindergarten inclusion refurbishment project is to be completed by term four 2022.

The children are enjoying a term using the Kaniva Shire Hall for their sessions.



Two Department of Education and Training Building Blocks Grants have also been submitted to contribute to inclusion and accessibility improvements at Edenhope Kindergarten.

Council commends the staff at all early childhood services with contributing to setting up childcare and ongoing implementation of COVID-safe practices throughout the year.

SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

Facilitated Playgroup and in home coaching.

Facilitated playgroup has reached out to rural and remote areas by starting playgroup in Dergholm in the far south, and Serviceton the far west of our Shire. This provides residents living with babies and children an opportunity to connect with each other. Over 16 families living in remote areas have used West Wimmera Shire Council supported programs.



Edenhope hosted a reconciliation picnic on the banks of Lake Wallace, and it was well attended. A welcome and smoking ceremony was followed by activities and lunch. Many families from many different regions of

the Shire have had access to in-home playgroup and small talk coaching.

Playgroup is now running in Goroke during term three at the Goroke Kindergarten.

CHILDCARE

Council entered into arrangements with the Murdoch Research Institute and the By Five project, auspiced by Wimmera Development Association (WDA), to undertake a study that informed Council about future actions in early years.

On recommendation of Councillors and the study results, West Wimmera Shire Council was approved as a service provider for childcare. The Edenhope Early Childhood Service began operating childcare for eight children under three years old, four days a week, and wrap around childcare for kindergarten-aged children, on 6 June 2022.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

We have welcomed long-standing Maternal Child Health (MCH) Nurse Monica Feder back to the team. Monica, having been the sole practitioner of the MCH team for two decades, is enjoying the comradery and peer support, we now share as a team of four. Monica, Mardi, Adrienne, and Judy continue to provide a wonderful service to the families in our Shire.

Our Perinatal Emotional Health Practitioner Adrienne Caldwell has continued to provide in-home and telephone support services to families in West Wimmera Shire. This has been an immense help to the families. Referrals continue to arrive for those in the antenatal period, and once delivered. Adrienne also offers a baby massage course over several weeks; baby massage has numerous health benefits for both the infant and parent. This has been very popular for those families involved.

Parent group education sessions have continued to be well received, these have been run at Edenhope, Goroke and Kaniva. A variety of guest speakers have been able to discuss their areas of expertise, including an occupational therapist, dietician, speech therapist, podiatrist, paramedic, and the CFA.



Our MCH Team supported Red Nose Day in August, with babies and infants donning red noses to raise awareness of SIDS. Those infants at parent groups participated willingly.



IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations have continued to be made available to all families in the shire, as well as those who have called in for a catch up, while visiting. The paediatric flu vaccination program has had a great take up, with many of the younger children being vaccinated. All Council staff have been offered the flu vaccination, as well as ensuring the School Immunisation Program at the three secondary schools in the Shire has been completed. The MCH team were also able to vaccinate teaching staff at all five primary and secondary schools across the Shire.

BY FIVE WSM EARLY YEARS PROJECT

The By Five WSM Early Years project (in partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital) continues to provide an important telehealth service for families, eliminating not only the long wait for an appointment at the Royal Children's Hospital, but also the travel to Melbourne. MCH Nurses continue their fortnightly education with paediatrician Amy Williamson. This in turn enhances the high level of expertise that is delivered to the families in the Shire. These paediatricians are available for free, shared telehealth appointments with families, and their GP / MCH Nurse.

YOUTH SERVICES

The youth space has changed significantly over the past four years.

Starting from scratch in 2018 was difficult, forging new relationships with young people and their parents, establishing stakeholder partnerships, and developing programs that were meaningful and engaging for as many people as possible.

2022 in many ways has been like starting from the beginning again.

Many of the young people who were engaged in the program pre-COVID are now either in senior school or have left school all together.

West Wimmera youth have been subject to more than two years of social disconnection and disruption, home schooling, cancelled events, no sporting participation, and limited opportunities to expand their horizons. There is no disputing the evidence that this has had damaging effects on their lives. Work going on in the background during this time has ensured that new opportunities will be plentiful.

Fresh rounds of State Government funding 2022-2024 has seen a substantial increase over three years, which is both exciting and challenging, but a major win for our young ones.

FReeZA funding, which has been the basis of the program budget for the past four years, has increased from under \$20,000 per year in 2018 to \$25,000 per year for the past three years, and now \$38,000 per year for the next three years.

In addition, Youth Services has secured State Government Engage! funding worth \$50,000 per year for the next three years. This is a funding stream we have never received before, and it is exciting to be able to offer a wide range of social, vocational, learning and celebration events that will enrich the experiences that encourage young people to take hold of every opportunity that comes their way.

We secured \$2,000 from the State Government Youth Fest Funding 2022, which will see interactive events in Kaniva and Edenhope in the form of a Youth Health and Wellbeing Carnival and a Youth Fest event in September 2022.

Most recently, Youth Services West Wimmera has received VicHealth Jumpstart funding worth \$35,000 which will include predominately primary school-aged children, and younger, to build skills in music, arts, and interacting with the outdoors in a creative way.

The budget increase from 2015-2017, to the current 2022-2024, is a difference of \$247,000.

It is now up to us to deliver the best and most relevant programs, services, training, social and learning opportunities that we can.

One of the major highlights of the 2021-2022 year was the Goroke 2021 Halloween FReeZA held just one week after COVID-19 restrictions eased enough to hold a public event. There was a junior event for under 12's full of music, food, face-painting, and parents, and friends catching up with one another for the first time in a long time. The 12+ FReeZA saw Goroke, Kaniva, Harrow, Rainbow, Nhill, Jeparit, and Dimboola young people get together and have a wonderful night dressing up and looking amazing (yet hideous!) dancing, meeting new people, and playing games. It gave a number of local young people the opportunity for paid employment as first aid officers, bus supervisors and face painters, which was an added bonus.

Since then, there have been opportunities for music lessons, Drop Zones – informal catch ups, youth teams established, youth-led community events, art and craft workshops, hip-hop workshops, movie days, drive in movies, and skate park events - just to name a few.

There is such a broad scope of exciting opportunities on which to build over the next three years.

We welcome, suggestions, opportunities for partnerships, and of course new Youth Action Team members and FReeZA groups, who can come onboard at any time to organise one-off events or be

a part of the big picture, to cater for as many people as possible.

Now it's time to get excited and get involved. The future is bright for our kids!!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Business Development team has continued to work closely with Regional Development Victoria, Business Victoria, Wimmera Development Association (WDA), West Vic Business and Rural Financial Counselling Service to provide support and assistance to our businesses. This includes toolkit programs, online upskilling workshops, updated industry information and financial advice.

Utilising Business Better Approvals we have assisted several new businesses. The Business Concierge Officer provides one point of contact for the planning, building, environmental health and local laws departments. Permits required can be identified and applied for simultaneously. By streamlining the process and assisting by ensuring submitted applications are complete, Council has significantly reduced the regulatory burden and saved local businesses time and money.

There continues to be a housing shortage across West Wimmera, which impacts our ability to attract new residents into the Shire and continues to make attracting staff to our current businesses difficult. Council has been working with WDA, who have established a Housing Taskforce with an aim to identify and action initiatives to increase housing availability in the region. These include setting positive growth targets for adoption by Council for planning and service delivery and establishing new housing structures (or housing delivery models) to build, own, rent and sell affordable housing for the region's ageing residents, low-income families, relocating workers and lifestyle migrants. The project is also compiling a list of vacant lots available for

residential development and associated infrastructure needs and costs. Strategies for attracting more construction skills and businesses to the region is another component of the project. Additionally, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has provided further support to assess potential future residential land availability, or housing supply potential, through the Regional Planning Hubs program.

The 2021-2022 year saw the continual impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continue across the West Wimmera. In the first half of the year with recurrent lockdowns, a reduction in business hours for many of our regional businesses and a significant decline in traffic and the visitor economy.

The second half of the year has seen a slow opening of the economy as confidence has grown with the new COVID-normal, visitors have returned however as COVID-19 has spread through the community this has continue to impact businesses with staff shortages.

Council has continued to support businesses with their recovery from COVID-19 into a 'COVID-normal' world. Council secured funding from the State Government, to improve our streetscapes with new outdoor dining furniture, bins, and other improvements to encourage the community and visitors to stop and spend time at our hospitality venues.

Council has joined forces with a new grant search engine Grant Guru to deliver a free one-stop-shop website for business and community grants. The website allows residents to use a search engine to find available grants. Grants can also be filtered by a specific location, industry, or project type. The website

can also give tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.

Electric vehicle (EV) charging coming to West Wimmera, in Edenhope and Kaniva. The team has been working with an electric vehicle charging

TOURISM

Tourism has been placed under a new portfolio of Community Development and Tourism. Council understands the economic and social importance of supporting tourism within the Shire and because of this we are working side-by-side with Wimmera Mallee Tourism on the following projects:

- Mallee Silo Art Trail Mega-Project
- Silo Art Trail Signage Audit and Design
- Cabins Across the WM: Enhancing the Visitor Experience
- Food and Beverage Experiences in Wimmera Southern Mallee
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality Strategy
- Colours Marketing Campaign
- Eclectic Accommodation
- Supporting Regional Tourism Program
- Stay West Marketing Campaign (including website)
- Round 1 of the Tourism Pilot Program: West Wimmera Business – 4WD and Motorcycle Tours

Council was successful in securing funding of \$21,500 from Sprots Australia to assist with hosting the Victoria off-road motorcycle championship round five - six. Completion of the West Wimmera Official Visitor Guide and A3 maps. Unearth Amazing Campaign has been extended and will produce a 30-second advertisement highlighting the West Wimmera.

company who were successful in receiving State Government funding to establish two fast charges in Edenhope and Kaniva. This will provide opportunities and the confidence for EV operators to visit the West Wimmera.

Council has furthered its commitment to tourism by commissioning a Strategic Tourism Plan specifically for West Wimmera Shire, that will provide a master plan in tourism marketing with recommendations on infrastructure and tourism destinations. With this plan we hope to attract further funding for existing and potential tourism opportunities. The community will have opportunities to be consulted throughout the planning stage.

West Wimmera Tourism has engaged social media influencers with followers ranging from 6,000 to 10,000 people to help get the message out there that West Wimmera is the go-to destination for families, older couples, and singles. This message was also given at the Adelaide Caravan and Camping show in August and will appear in up-and-coming edition of the Caravanning Australia magazines.

While it's exciting to look out across the Wimmera as a whole, Council has been supporting smaller tourism initiatives with assistance via community grants for a start-up business in motorcycle and 4WD tours. This business will be specifically targeting the adventure motorcyclists, tag-a-long four-wheel-drivers and those who might wish to be chauffeured around 4WD tracks in a fully kitted-out 4WD.

2022-23 has us excited with the return after a COVID-19 induced break to some of West Wimmera Shires most popular events.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

ENGINEERING AND WORKS

The past 12 months have been busy for the infrastructure, engineering and work team. A large capital works program was delivered, as well as ongoing improvements to the asset management systems and geographic information systems.

Council undertook its routine maintenance program including, sealed and unsealed roads, bridges, council-owned buildings and reserves, playgrounds, footpaths, kerb and channel, and parks and gardens.

Council has a contract for maintenance of VicRoads arterial roads within the municipality, this includes

sections of the Wimmera and Western highways and other arterial roads including the Kaniva-Edenhope Road, Serviceton North-Telopea Downs Road and Nhill-Harrow Road.

The capital works program was boosted by the inclusion of the Federal Government \$1.119 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, in addition to the \$1.528 million Roads to Recovery program along with Council's normal road funding allocation.

ASSET MANAGEMENT AND GIS

There has been continuous improvement within the Assets and GIS Department including:

- An external audit of Council's building structures was undertaken with defects identified, renewal items costed and listed, and preliminary work on a valuation for Council's finance team completed,
- The data with Council's asset maintenance system AssetAsyst was updated as was the version being utilised by staff,
- Secured two graduate civil engineers in the assets/design area and they have received professional training to enhance the capabilities of the engineering team,
- Continued to use drone data capture for investigation and project design,
- Consolidation of a structured traffic monitoring program, where traffic counts are completed throughout the network providing good data for future planning,
- Council's first organisation-based Asset Management plan was developed and adopted, which was a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*,
- In association with the OHS department there were additional evacuation diagrams completed and approved for Council buildings or where Council activities occur.

CONTRACTS

The Contracts and Procurement department guide and oversee the following:

- Contract and specification document development,
- Request for quote process,
- Request for tender process,
- Quote and tender evaluation process.

There have been some major changes to the Contracts and Procurement department in 2021-2022

- In November 2021 Council adopted a new Procurement Policy that has led to new processes and documentation being introduced to the procurement process as a whole.

Our current contracts include:

- CM0 496 Bituminous sealing of roads, first year of a two-year contract extension, this continues to be one of Council's larger contracts,
- CM0 550 Meals for delivery,
- CM0 563 Cleaning of municipal buildings,
- CM0558 Street and pit cleaning services Kaniva,
- CM0 555 Supply and delivery of one water truck,
- CM0 551 Green waste shredding services,
- CM0 547 Water tower demolition,
- CM) 543 Hire of plant and equipment,
- CM0 542 and 541 Supply and delivery of two highway maintenance tractors,
- CM0540 Harrow Clear Lake Road Bridge.

As part of the role of the Contracts and Procurement Department, we offer support and guidance for all Council deliverables that require services or goods to be procured.

LOCAL LAWS AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Council's Local Laws Department has been consistently busy over the reporting period. Donna Gurney (Council's Ranger/Local Laws Officer) took leave in November 2021 and the role was taken by Paul Cameron who provided part-time relief performing many duties including and not limited to:

- Responding to wandering cattle and sheep on roads (including after hours),
- Responding to roaming dogs (including after hours),
- Discussions with landowners regarding fencing,
- Dealing with stock and carcass disposal during truck roll overs,
- Issuing Notices to Comply for unsightly properties,
- Issuing Fire Prevention Notices,
- Responding to dog attacks on stock and domestic animals,
- Dealing with barking dog complaints,
- Dealing with neighbourhood disputes,
- Organising spraying of roadside weeds,
- Organising ripping of roadside rabbit burrows,
- Rehoming cats and dogs with Phoenix Animal Welfare/Horsham Paws/RSPCA (in excess of 100 animals have been rehomed),
- Managing an increasing number of cats at large (feral, domestic, and abandoned)
- Euthanising animals when required,
- Issuing Schedule 12 Permits to burn (CFA),
- Corella management activities,
- 10 -yearly review of Council's Local Laws,
- Supported Agriculture Victoria and the RSPCA on animal welfare issues.

The number of animal registrations has decreased from 912 last year to 872 registrations processed.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) undertakes tasks to ensure the public health of our community. This involves inspections of food premises and taking food samples for analysis.

Our EHO has continued to be heavily involved in the COVID-19 Pandemic Sub-Committee, as well as overseeing the State Government-funded position and activities of the Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program. This program was designed to provide advice to many businesses and community organisations on the ever-changing Chief Health Officer directions in relation to COVID-19.

During the 2021-2022 year Council's EHO undertook:

- 54 food assessments and inspections under the *Food Act 1984*,

- Issued four permits to install or alter septic tanks under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*,
- Completed 19 inspections under the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

At the request of the state government and Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), the EHO participated in a state-wide Tobacco Retailer Audit additional to the regular Tobacco Act compliance activities that occur.

Council's EHO has also spent considerable time over the past 12 months understanding the large-scale changes that are soon to be implemented by the State Government with regard to the *Food Act 1984* and food premises requirements.



PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

Council's Planning Department is responsible for preparing and administering the West Wimmera Planning Scheme under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Their responsibilities under the Act include issuing planning permits for use and development of land, planning scheme amendments, strategic planning and enforcement.

Throughout the shire, 25 planning permits were issued in the 2021-22 year. These permits covered a wide range of developments, from sheds for sporting clubs, to dwellings and business signage. Council also responded to 104 enquires for formal, written planning advice. As with permits, these requests were wide ranging, including the use of premises for business purposes, native vegetation regulations, and subdivisions. One noticeable trend in 2021-22 was the upswing in enquires regarding 'moveable' housing, such as transportable homes and shipping container dwellings.

Beyond the core responsibility of providing planning services for the community, there have been several additional areas of focus. Council officers have worked with DELWP and consultants to begin working on a Planning Scheme review, aimed at ensuring that the strategic planning and long-term development needs of the West Wimmera are considered. Enforcement

issues have continued, with illegal native vegetation removal being a particular area of concern. With the shortage of planning services and planning professionals across the state, the planning department has endeavoured to implement the most effective services possible for the community. They engaged with DELWP and took part in the Better Planning Approvals process to update the website and streamline the planning permit approval process. The Planning Department has also advocated for increased support from State Government to address the enforcement and strategic planning needs of the West Wimmera community.

Council's building service is provided by Government Shared Services (GovSS). GovSS also fills the role of Council's Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS). Council's building service operates in accordance with the Victorian Building Regulations pursuant to the *Building Act 1993*.

During the 2021-2022 reporting period, Council received 27 building permit applications. Private building surveyors also received a total of 68 building permit applications across the shire. Council's MBS are also responsible for responding to complaints regarding illegal building activity and unsafe buildings and structures.

GOVERNANCE

West Wimmera Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.

Council has several roles including:

- Considering the diverse needs of the local community in decision making,
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements,
- Ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner,
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments,
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration

meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums attended by Councillors, community forums, submissions via the Innovation Platform, the ability to make deputations at Council meetings, and through representation on Council committees.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff and these delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies. Council is authorised to make decisions in only one of two ways:

1. By formal resolution at Council meetings
2. By Council officers under delegated authority

There are certain powers that Council cannot delegate. These include the adoption of the Council Plan and Council Budget.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council conducts open public meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question or verbally ask a question to Council. For the 2021–2022 year Council held 17 Council meetings.

Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council conducted several meetings virtually via electronic teleconference, accessible to the public via livestream, recorded and available on the Council webpage, along with Council meeting agendas, minutes and policies and strategies.

Council Meetings: Councillor Attendance

Table 8: Scheduled Council Meetings Attendance Record 2021-2022

Date	Cr. Bruce Meyer, OAM Mayor	Cr. Jodie Pretlove Deputy Mayor	Cr. Trevor Domaschenz	Cr. Tom Houlihan	Cr. Tim Meyer
18/08/2021	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
15/09/2021	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
18/10/2021	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
17/11/2021	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
15/12/2021	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
16/02/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
16/03/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
20/04/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
18/05/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
15/06/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended

Table 9: Unscheduled Council Meetings Attendance Record 2021-2022

Date	Cr. Bruce Meyer, OAM Mayor	Cr. Jodie Pretlove Deputy Mayor	Cr. Trevor Domaschenz	Cr. Tom Houlihan	Cr. Tim Meyer
03/11/2021 Election of Mayor	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
26/08/2021 Public Submission of Community Vision, Council Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
29/09/2021 Adoption of the 2020/21 Annual Report, Financial Statements and Performance Statements	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
27/01/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended

Special Council Meeting					
02/02/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Special Council Meeting					
09/05/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Unscheduled Council Meeting					
27/06/2022	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Adoption of WWSC 2022/23 Budget					

COMMUNITY FORUMS

West Wimmera Shire Council Community Forums are scheduled twice a year in conjunction with the monthly Council meeting. Community forums are held within the smaller community towns located within the Shire and gives the Councillors the opportunity to have a meal with residents and discuss local issues in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. The community is provided with the opportunity to lodge customer requests, which are followed up by the relevant council officers, and outcomes communicated back to the community.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only one community forum was held for the 2021-2022 financial year. This was in Apsley. It was a successful day, with several residents in attendance.

LOCAL LAWS

Council adopted Local Law No. 8 – Use of Common Seal in August 2020

Local Law No. 6 was scheduled to cease to operate in October 2022 and is currently being reviewed and will be presented to Council for consideration.

REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

West Wimmera Shire Council undertook a complete review of all delegations in January 2022 to meet the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The next review is scheduled in July 2022.

Delegations are available for viewing on Council’s website.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

West Wimmera Shire Council policies are reviewed regularly in accordance with a rolling review schedule. The review includes compliance with relevant legislation, removal of any procedural items and tailoring of policies to current activities and reformatting to current template styles.

As policies are reviewed and endorsed by Council, they are uploaded onto Councils website where public access is available. Plans and policies are also managed within Councils document control system, ensuring review cycles are maintained and managed.

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Council has a Councillor Code of Conduct, which was adopted on the 17 February 2021. The Councillor Code of Conduct outlines the following principles.

- Assist Councillors to maintain the highest standards of conduct and behaviour as well as provide a means to deal with problems they might encounter,
- Attract the highest level of confidence from Council's stakeholders,
- Assist the Mayor and Councillors to discharge the responsibilities of their public office appropriately.

In addition to setting out the Councillor Conduct Principles, the code also outlines:

- Other conduct definitions under the Act, such as those relating to misuse of position, improper direction, breach of confidentiality and conflict of interest,
- Roles and relationships,
- Dispute resolution procedures.

The existing code is available on the West Wimmera Shire Council website.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community and are committed to making decisions impartially and in the best interests of the municipal community. They therefore recognise the importance of fully observing the requirements of the Act and Council's Governance Rules in regard to the disclosure of conflicts of interest. This is a position of trust that requires councillors to act in the public interest. When a Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest could compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no

improper act results from it. Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest.

Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee meetings. While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflict of interests.

During 2021-2022, 13 conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings, all recorded in the Council minutes.

DELEGATE COMMITTEES

The *Local Government Act 2020* allows Councils to establish one or more delegated committees consisting of:

- Councillors,
- Council officers,
- Other persons,
- Any combination of the above.

West Wimmera Shire Council has not established any delegate committees in the 2021 -2022 financial year.

Committee Name and constituents	Purpose of the committee
<p>Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>Cr. B Meyer OAM</p> <p>Cr. J Pretlove</p> <p>Independent Members:</p> <p>M Jaensch (Chair)</p> <p>C Gregory</p> <p>M Revell</p> <p>A Johnson</p>	<p>The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations relevant to its charter in order to facilitate decision-making by Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities. The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in assisting Council to fulfil its governance and overseeing responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control, risk management systems, ethical accountability and the internal audit function.</p>
<p>CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee</p> <p>All Councillors</p> <p>Chair: Kelvin Spiller</p>	<p>The role of the CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Council on the appointment, performance review and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer. (CEO)</p>
<p>West Wimmera Shire Kaniva Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee</p> <p>Cr B Meyer</p> <p>Alt: Cr Houlihan</p> <p>Director Corporate Community Services</p> <p>Community Members:</p> <p>Kaniva Community Sporting Complex, Kaniva Cricket Club, Kaniva Hockey Club, Kaniva Leeor United Football Club, Kaniva Leeor United Netball Club, Kaniva Lions Club</p>	<p>Council is the DELWP committee of management of the reserve.</p>

<p>West Wimmera Shire Sustainability Advisory Committee</p> <p>Cr T Houlihan</p> <p>Cr J Pretlove</p> <p>Director Infrastructure Development & Works</p>	
<p>West Wimmera Shire Tourism Advisory Committee</p> <p>Cr T Domaschenz</p> <p>Alt: Cr. J Pretlove</p> <p>Council Officer</p> <p>Community Members:</p> <p>Tanya Turner, Gianna Saba, Leanne Lucas, Georgina Campbell, Helen Mulraney, Greg Buttle, Valerie Collins, Lorraine Oliver, Jenny Chenhall, Deb Crawford, Heath McClure, Michelle Penrose, Josie Sangster, Lyn Powell, Helen Hobbs, Julie Finch, Kelvin Moar, Graham Carter, Jane Craig</p>	<p>West Wimmera Shire Tourism Advisory Committee has been set up to provide tourism advice to Council.</p>

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE AND EXPENSES

An important reform of the *Local Government Act 2020* (2020 Act) was the transfer of responsibilities in determining mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Remuneration Tribunal).

On 7 March 2022, in accordance with section 23A of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* (Vic) (VIRTIPS Act), the Tribunal made the allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022.

The determination applies to all Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors (Council members) in all Victorian councils and saw an increase to mayoral and councillor allowances, which are to be phased in over five years (for Mayors and Deputy Mayors) and three

years (for Councillors). A separate allowance was established for Deputy Mayors.

The new allowances applied retrospectively from 18 December 2021, and Council members were paid in accordance with the tribunal’s determination. The determination also set a remote area travel allowance for Council members and provided eligibility criteria for claiming it.

The determination sets a base allowance for each Council member. The value of the base allowance payable to a Council member varies depending on the role (Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or Councillor) and the Council allowance category assigned to Council as specified in the determination. The tribunal has assigned each Council to one of four Council allowance categories. West Wimmera Shire Council falls under category 1 (see table below).

Category 1	
Alpine Shire Council	Mansfield Shire Council
Ararat Rural City Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Benalla Rural City Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
Buloke Shire Council	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council
Corangamite Shire Council	Borough of Queenscliffe
Gannawarra Shire Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Hepburn Shire Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Towong Shire Council
Indigo Shire Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
Loddon Shire Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council

The determination allows for further scheduled annual increases to allowance values until 18 December 2025. The next increase will take effect on 18 December 2022. The transfer of responsibility was made to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and a determination was to be made on the 18 December 2021, however the determination was delayed until 7 March 2022.

Table 10: Councillor Allowances and Reimbursements 2021/2022

	Type	Amount
Mayor Cr Bruce Mayer OAM	Mayoral Allowance	\$ 58833.50
	Super Allowance	\$ 5787.25
	Reimbursement	\$ -
Dept Mayor Cr Jodie Pretlove	Councillor Allowance	\$ 27725.94
	Super Allowance	\$ 3080.66
	Reimbursement	\$ 174.26
Cr Trevor Domaschenz	Councillor Allowance	\$ 20757.64
	Super Allowance	\$ 2306.40
	Reimbursement	\$ 4608.81
Cr Tom Houlihan	Councillor Allowance	\$ 20757.64
	Super Allowance	\$ 2306.40
	Reimbursement	\$ 2556.75
Cr Tim Meyer	Councillor Allowance	\$ 20757.64
	Super Allowance	\$ 2306.40
	Reimbursement	\$ -

Remote Travel Allowance

If a Council member normally resides more than 50 kilometres by the shortest possible practicable road distance from the location or locations specified for the conduct of ordinary, special or committee meetings of Council, or any municipal or community functions that have been authorised by Council resolution for the Council member to attend, the Council member is entitled to be paid an allowance of \$44 for each day on which one or more meetings or authorised functions were attended by the Council member, up to a maximum of \$5,500 per year.

Allowance inclusive of superannuation entitlements

The value of the allowance payable to a Council member is inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution amount, or equivalent, that may be payable under Commonwealth Law to the Council member with respect to their service in that office (for example, due to the Council member's Council being an eligible local governing body).

For the period 18 December 2021 until 17 December 2022 the allowance payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillors is set out below:

Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
\$74,706	\$37,353	\$24,080

Note* These values are inclusive of any Superannuation Guarantee Contribution amount.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance to the Audit and Risk Committee that appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council.

The following reviews occurred during the 2021/22 year as part of the Internal Audit program:

- Risk Management, November 2021
- Information Technology, November 2021

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).

The 2021/22 annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the VAGO appointed audit service provider – Crowe Australasia.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

In compliance with the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 (SR No.119 of 2015) Regulation 12, the following information is available for public inspection:

a) A document containing details of overseas or interstate travel (other than interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by any Councillor or member of Council staff in the previous 12 months, including:

- the name of the Councillor or member of Council staff,
- the dates on which the travel began and ended,
- the destination of the travel,
- the purpose of the travel,
- the total cost to Council of the travel, including accommodation costs.

b) the agendas for, and minutes of, ordinary and special meetings held in the previous 12 months, which are kept under section 93 of the Act, other than those agendas and minutes relating to a part of a meeting, which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act,

c) the minutes of meetings of special committees established under section 86 of the Act and held in the previous 12 months, other than those minutes relating to a part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act,

d) a register of delegations kept under sections 87(1) and 98(4) of the Act, including the date on which the last review took place under sections 86(6) and 98(6), respectively, of the Act

e) a document containing details of all leases involving land which were entered into by Council as lessor, including the lessee and the terms and the value of the lease,

f) a register maintained under section 224(1A) of the Act of authorised officers appointed under that section,

g) a list of donations and grants made by Council in the previous 12 months, including the names of persons who, or bodies which, have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* provides individuals and organisations the opportunity to access certain information held by the West Wimmera Shire Council, provided they are not exempt under the Act.

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* section 17(2), requests for access to information must be submitted in writing, to the Freedom of Information Officer, West Wimmera Shire Council, mailing address. Access charges might also apply once documents have been processed and a decision on access is made (eg. photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

From July 2021 to June 2022, West Wimmera Shire Council received two Freedom of Information applications.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

In accordance with section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, Council must report on the implementation of the Disability Action Plan in its Annual Report. Council has incorporated initiatives into the Council Plan 2021-2025.

- Referral for aged care and disability
- Services
- Social support groups
- Personal care and home care
- Emergency support
- Property maintenance
- Living at home assessments
- Delivered meals (Meals on Wheels)
- Community transport programs
- Respite care

PROTECTED DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES

In accordance with section 69 of the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*, a Council must include in their Annual Report information about how to access the procedures established by Council under part nine of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosures complaints, investigated during the financial year.

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures.

Council's policy on how to make a disclosure is publicly available on Council's website.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, no disclosures were notified to council officers, appointed to receive disclosures or to IBAC.

ROAD MANAGEMENT ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, a Council must publish a copy or summary of any ministerial direction in its Annual Report. No such ministerial directions were received by Council during the 2021-2022 financial year.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Council that is a collecting or developing agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on Infrastructure and development contributions, including levies and works in-kind. The report must be published in Council's Annual Report. Council had no infrastructure or development contributions for 2021-2022.

CONTRACTS

All service contracts entered into or purchases over \$150,000 in the 2021-22 financial year went through the competitive process in accordance with section 186(5)(a) and (c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the West Wimmera Shire Council Procurement Policy, including the purchase of four large plant items that costed more than \$150,000.

The bituminous sealing contract is the largest service contract that West Wimmera Shire Council participates in, at approximately \$1 million per year. Council entered the first of two one-year extensions at the beginning of the 2022-23 financial year.



DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years and evaluate its implementation in the Annual Report. This plan sets out a program of actions, which aim to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, and to implement the vision and strategic objectives identified for effective animal management control in the West Wimmera Shire.

Council was due to produce a domestic Animal Management Plan in 2021 and has been provided additional time by the State Government to prepare a new plan due in 2022. Council has engaged consultants CT Management Group to produce a new plan continuing with the work that has been completed in previous council plans.

FOOD ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

In accordance with section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any ministerial directions received during the financial year in its Annual Report. No such ministerial direction was received by Council during the financial year.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

In accordance with Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to establish an Audit and Risk Committee to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management and fostering an ethical environment.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee consists of two members of the Council and three external independent members including Celeste Gregory, Andrew Johnson, and Mick Jaensch. Councillors Mayor Bruce Meyer OAM and Deputy Mayor Jodie Pretlove are Council representatives on the committee. During 2021/2022 the Audit Committee met on four occasions.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
1 Community engagement policy (policy under section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. ✓ Date of adoption: 17 February 2021
2 Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Current guidelines in operation. ✓ Date of adoption: 17 February 2021 *Included within Community Engagement Policy.
3 Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next ten financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act. ✓ Date of Adoption: 18 October 2021
4 Asset Plan (plan under section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next ten years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. ✓ Date of Adoption: 18 May 2022
5 Revenue and Rating Plan (plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act, ✓ Date of adoption: 16 June 2021
6 Annual budget (plan under section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act ✓ Date of adoption: 27 June 2022
7 Risk policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to council's operations)	Current policy in operation ✓ Date of commencement of current policy: 17 February 2021

<p>8 Fraud policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)</p>	<p>Current policy in operation ✓</p> <p>Date of commencement of current policy: 20 April 2022</p>
<p>9 Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> for emergency prevention, response and recovery)</p>	<p>Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> ✓</p> <p>Date of preparation: 1 August 2021</p>
<p>10 Procurement policy (policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act ✓</p> <p>Date of adoption: 17 November 2021</p>
<p>11 Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)</p>	<p>No plan ✗</p> <p>Reason for no plan: Business Continuity Policy adopted 14 October 2019. Business Continuity Plan still under review and scheduled to be adopted at the February 2023 Council meeting.</p>
<p>12 Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)</p>	<p>Current plan in operation. ✓</p> <p>Date of commencement of plan: 1 July 2017 *Disaster recovery plan currently under review.</p>
<p>13 Risk management framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the council's operations)</p>	<p>Current framework in operation ✓</p> <p>Date of commencement of current framework: 17 February 2021 *Incorporated into Risk Management Policy</p>
<p>14 Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)</p>	<p>Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act ✓</p> <p>Date of establishment: 16 May 2013</p>
<p>15 Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)</p>	<p>Internal auditor engaged ✓</p> <p>Date of engagement of current provider: 1 November 2021</p>

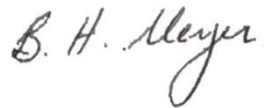
<p>16 Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)</p>	<p>Current framework in operation ✓</p>
<p>17 Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the council against the council plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)</p>	<p>Current report in operation. ✓ Date of Council Plan adoption: 18 October 2021</p>
<p>18 Quarterly budget reports (quarterly reports presented to the Council under section 97(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)</p>	<p>Reports presented to the Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> ✓ Date reports presented: 3 November 2021 2 February 2022 4 May 2022</p>
<p>19 Risk reporting (6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)</p>	<p>No report ✗ Reason for no report: Risk reports are made to Audit Committee and presented to Council with minutes of Audit Committee Meetings.</p>
<p>20 Performance reporting (6-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)</p>	<p>Council produces the Local Government Performance Report Framework annually ✗ Date report submitted to LGV: 22 November 2021</p>
<p>21 Annual report (annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)</p>	<p>Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act ✓ Date statements presented: 30 September 2022</p>
<p>22 Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)</p>	<p>Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act ✓ Date of review: 17 February 2021</p>

<p>23 Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11(7) and 47 of the Act)</p>	<p>Reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act ✓ Date of review: 25 June 2022</p>
<p>24 Meeting procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)</p>	<p>Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act ✓ Date Governance Rules adopted: 19 August 2020 * Governance Rules currently under review and scheduled for adoption 16 November 2022.</p>

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of council's governance and management arrangements.



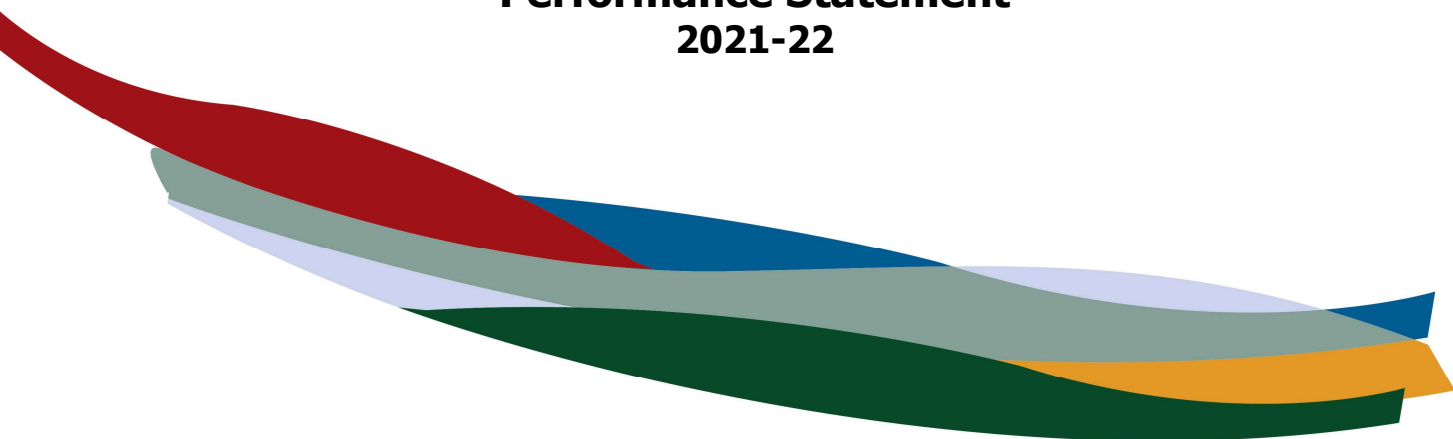
David Bezuidenhout
 Chief Executive Officer
 Dated:



Cr Bruce Meyer
 Mayor
 Dated:



**Performance Statement
2021-22**

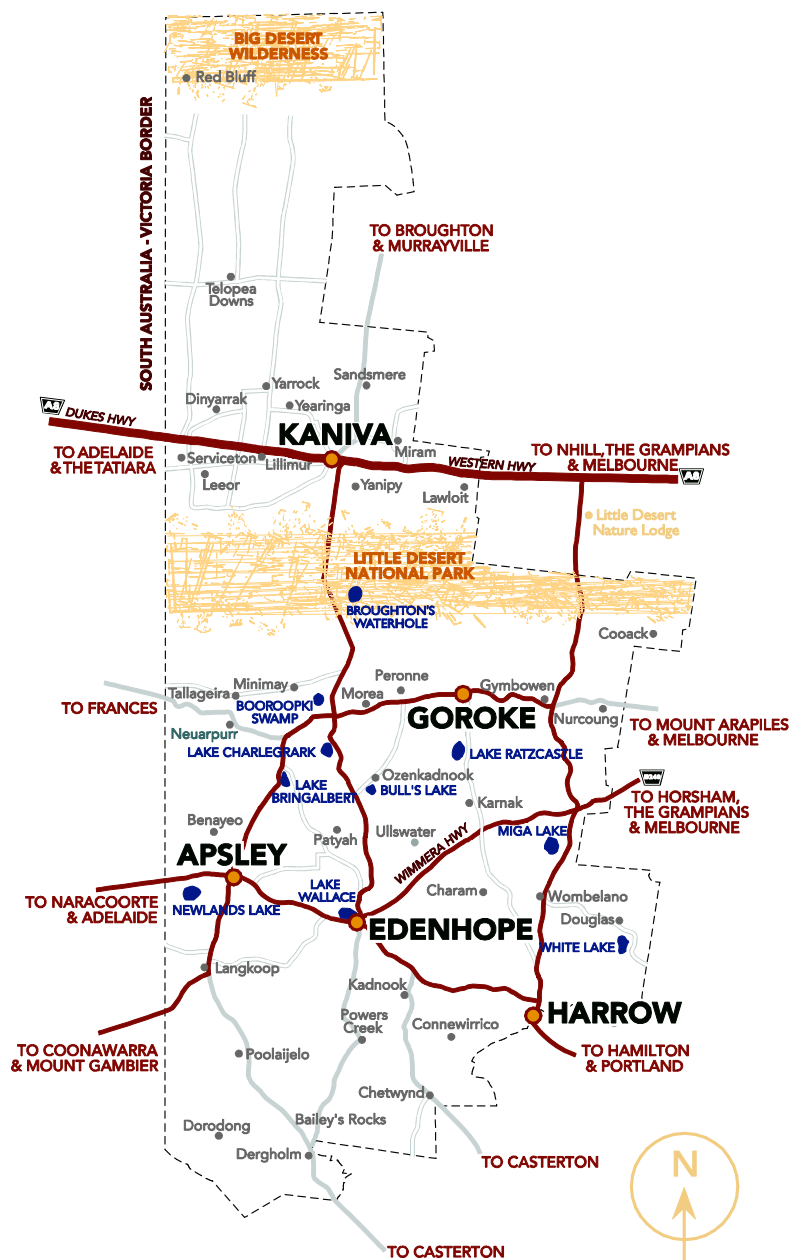


Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Description of municipality

West Wimmera Shire Council is located in Western Victoria and has a strong economy, primarily based on agriculture with growth sectors in health, education and retail. The Shire covers an area of 9,256 square kilometres and includes the townships of Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow to the south of the Shire and Goroke, Kaniva and Serviceton to the north.



Operational Summary

Council has seen the majority of performance indicators remain relatively steady during 2021-22 compared to the prior year.

Council continues to face the challenges of a gradually declining population which is reflected in some of the population-based performance indicators. Council's rates effort continues to decline, due to a combination of significant increases to rural property valuations and the effects of rate-capping.

As external funding contributed to over half of Council's total income in 2021/22, fluctuations in funding levels greatly affect Council's funding-based indicators.

The 2021-22 financial year again brought challenging times for businesses and residents within the Shire with the COVID-19 global pandemic and associated government directives such as border closures continuing throughout the year. Council's leisure and recreation facilities such as libraries, swimming pools, playgrounds and halls were closed for periods of time during year. As such, Council notes relatively steady indicator results for its' recreation and leisure facilities.



Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Indicator / measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Population					
C1 Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$5,995.60	\$5,949.23	\$6,314.17	\$6,808.27	
C2 Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$50,283.01	\$50,533.72	\$59,367.45	\$60,227.73	
C3 Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.41	1.36	1.39	1.36	
Own-source revenue					
C4 Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$2,772.40	\$2,922.16	\$3,059.32	\$2,806.40	
Recurrent grants					
C5 Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$3,076.64	\$2,390.26	\$2,612.34	\$3,380.53	West Wimmera Shire Council received a prepayment of 75% of the 2022/23 allocation of Financial Assistance Grants, substantially increasing the amount of recurrent operating grants for 2021/22
Disadvantage					
C6 Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	No change
Workforce turnover					
C7 Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	15.4%	11.2%	5.2%	10.7%	Council's staff turnover rate has fluctuated over the previous 4 years. Council saw 19 permanent staff commence and 18 terminated during the 2021/22 year



Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website



Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Service Performance Indicators

Service/indicator/measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Aquatic Facilities					
Utilisation					
AF6 <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.99	3.37	3.06	3.06	
Animal Management					
Health and safety					
AM7 <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	New in 2020	0%	0%	0%	No animal management prosecutions during 2021/22
Food Safety					
Health and safety					
FS4 <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non- compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non- compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	No non-compliance notifications issued in 2022.
Governance					
Satisfaction					
G5 <i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	61	58	58	54	
Libraries					
Participation					
LB4 <i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i> [Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100	13.65%	12.49%	11.60%	10.46%	Council has seen a slight decline in active library borrowers during 2021/22. While still within the expected range, it is noted the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have continued to be experienced during 2022.



Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
MC4	<i>Participation in the MCH service</i>	96.23%	96.53%	85.63%	86.83%	
	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Participation						
MC5	<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Council has two families, each with two pre-school aged children. These families have a high participation rate and utilise both Maternal Child Health Services and Childcare services.
	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Roads						
Satisfaction						
R5	<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i>	53	55	54	54	
	[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					
Statutory Planning						
Decision making						
SP4	<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No VCAT Council decisions in relation to planning applications
	[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100					
Waste Collection						
Waste diversion						
WC5	<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	22.22%	10.01%	20.95%	20.43%	
	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					



Definitions

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

"active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act

"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"Community Care Common Standards" means the Community Care Common Standards for the delivery of HACC services, published from time to time by the Commonwealth

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

"HACC program" means the Home and Community Care program established under the Agreement entered into for the purpose of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"HACC service" means home help, personal care or community respite provided under the HACC program

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"target population" has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident" means an incident relating to a council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.



Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations and Comments
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Efficiency									
Expenditure level									
E2 Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$4,631.00	\$4,861.91	\$4,811.40	\$5,106.20	\$6,251.40	\$5,324.09	\$5,450.73	\$5,580.89	Where previously Council did not include funding and associated expenditure for projects in its budget unless the funding was a certainty, Council now includes anticipated projects for accuracy and transparency. As such, an increase in both funding and expenditure is noted from the 2022/23 year.
Revenue level									
E4 Average rate per property assessment [Total rate revenue (general rates and municipal charges) / Number of property assessments]	New in 2020	\$1,544.68	\$1,477.20	\$1,495.60	\$1,527.00	\$1,553.72	\$1,580.91	\$1,608.58	
Liquidity									
Working capital									
L1 Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	515.01%	466.90%	365.54%	506.65%	560.65%	535.42%	507.10%	475.07%	Council has seen in increase in working capital with a lower level of current payables, predominantly income received in advance, at 30 June 2022 as compared with the prior year
Unrestricted cash									
L2 Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	265.60%	427.08%	333.74%	476.32%	508.40%	484.09%	456.61%	425.44%	Council has seen in increase in this indicator with a lower level of current payables, predominantly income received in advance, at 30 June 2022 as compared with the prior year



West Wimmera Shire Council
2021-22 Performance Statement

Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										
O2	Loans and borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council has no loans or borrowings
O3	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council has no loans or borrowings
Indebtedness										
O4	Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	5.41%	5.35%	4.65%	1.75%	5.95%	5.95%	5.97%	5.99%	Council saw a decline in its non-current liabilities, predominantly consisting of non-current employee entitlements
O5	Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	New in 2020	130.26%	81.54%	89.63%	112.19%	97.00%	97.08%	97.10%	Council's capital works program was \$1.4 million higher than the previous year, with the majority of this increase spent on renewals
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result										
OP1	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	3.31%	-10.54%	-6.02%	3.11%	-8.25%	-4.61%	-5.13%	-5.64%	Council's adjusted underlying surplus has fluctuated in recent years in line with fluctuating external funding. External funding forms such a large portion of Council's total income and Council saw a decline in non-recurrent capital funding during 2021/22



Stability										
	Rates concentration									
S1	<i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i>	31.36%	37.69%	35.10%	30.71%	28.54%	32.95%	32.91%	32.87%	<p>Due to Council's higher level of recurrent grant funding, predominantly due to the prepayment of Financial Assistance Grants, paired with the rate cap increase, Council has seen a decline in rates as compared to adjusted underlying revenue</p>
	[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100									
	Rates effort									
S2	<i>Rates compared to property values</i>	0.36%	0.30%	0.26%	0.22%	0.15%	0.14%	0.13%	0.12%	<p>Council has seen a significant increase in property values over the last two years, particularly amongst rural land values which account for over 90% of Council's rateable valuations. This property class has seen a valuation increase of around 50% during the lase valuation. Keeping rate increases to the rate cap levels has resulted in a decline in the calculated Rates Effort over this period</p>
	[Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100									



Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2022

1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Where applicable, the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by council in its four-year budget on 27 June 2022 and which forms part of the council plan. The budget includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The strategic resource plan can be obtained by contacting Council.



Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.



Melanie Jordan, CPA, B. Com, Dip Mgt
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 28/10/2022

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the West Wimmera Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2021 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Mayor Bruce Meyer
Dated: 28/10/2022



Cr Jodie Pretlove
Dated: 28/10/2022



Mr David Bezuidenhout
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 28/10/2022



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of West Wimmera Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of West Wimmera Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2022• operational summary• sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022• service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022• financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2022• other information and• certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of West Wimmera Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2022 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>



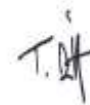
Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit of
the performance
statement

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
17 November 2022



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria



**West Wimmera Shire Council
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022



West Wimmera Shire Council
Financial Report
Table of Contents

FINANCIAL REPORT	Page
Certification of the Financial Statements	1
Financial Statements	
Comprehensive Income Statement	4
Balance Sheet	5
Statement of Changes in Equity	6
Statement of Cash Flows	7
Statement of Capital Works	8
Notes to Financial Statements	
Note 1 Overview	9
Note 2 2.1 Performance against budget	10
2.1.1. Income and expenditure	10
2.1.2. Capital works	12
2.2 Analysis of Council results by program	14
Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services	16
3.1. Rates and charges	16
3.2. Statutory fees and fines	16
3.3. User fees	16
3.4. Funding from other levels of government	16
3.5. Contributions	17
3.6. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	17
3.7. Other income	18
Note 4 The cost of delivering services	18
4.1. Employee costs	18
4.2. Materials and services	18
4.3. Depreciation	18
4.4. Bad and doubtful debts	19
4.5. Other expenses	19
Note 5 Our financial position	19
5.1. Financial assets	19
5.2. Non-financial assets	21
5.3. Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue	21
5.4. Provisions	22
5.5. Financing arrangements	23
5.6. Commitments	24
5.7. Leases	25
Note 6 Assets we manage	26
6.1. Property, infrastructure plant and equipment	25
6.2. Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	32
Note 7 People and relationships	34
7.1. Council and key management remuneration	34
7.2. Related party disclosure	35
Note 8 Managing uncertainties	36
8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities	36
8.2. Change in accounting standards	37
8.3. Financial instruments	37
8.4. Fair value measurement	39
8.5. Events occurring after balance date	39
Note 9 Other matters	40
9.1. Reserves	40
9.2. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	41
9.3. Superannuation	41
Note 10 Change in accounting policy	43

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Melanie Jordan CPA, B.Com, Dip Mgt

Principal Accounting Officer

Date : 28/10/2022

Edenhope, VIC

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the West Wimmera Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2022 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Mayor Bruce Meyer

Councillor

Date : 28/10/2022

Edenhope, VIC



Cr Jodie Pretlove

Councillor

Date : 28/10/2022

Edenhope, VIC



David Bezuidenhout

Chief Executive Officer

Date : 28/10/2022

Edenhope, VIC

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of West Wimmera Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of West Wimmera Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balance sheet as at 30 June 2022• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• statement of cash flows for the year then ended• statement of capital works for the year then ended• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies• certification of the financial statements.
Basis for Opinion	<p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2022 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p> <p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
17 November 2022



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Income			
Rates and charges	3.1	8,066	7,965
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	130	135
User fees	3.3	379	391
Grants - operating	3.4	13,218	8,383
Grants - capital	3.4	2,903	3,319
Contributions - monetary	3.5	85	94
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	87	(145)
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures	6.2	80	87
Reimbursements	3.7	1,350	2,723
Other income	3.7	432	500
Total income		26,730	23,452
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	9,038	8,319
Materials and services	4.2	8,026	7,532
Depreciation	4.3	8,165	7,953
Bad and doubtful debts	4.4	-	11
Other expenses	4.5	302	242
Total expenses		25,531	24,057
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,199	(605)
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.1	-	33,827
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures	6.2	35	11
Total other comprehensive income		35	33,838
Total comprehensive result		1,234	33,233

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	17,197	17,046
Trade and other receivables	5.1	467	1,073
Inventories	5.2	180	136
Other assets	5.2	127	77
Total current assets		17,971	18,332
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	-	10
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.2	661	546
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	226,717	227,054
Total non-current assets		227,378	227,610
Total assets		245,349	245,942
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	961	2,798
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	115	113
Provisions	5.5	2,470	2,460
Total current liabilities		3,546	5,371
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	184	186
Total non-current liabilities		184	186
Total liabilities		3,730	5,557
Net assets		241,619	240,385
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		42,922	40,707
Reserves	9.1	198,697	199,678
Total Equity		241,619	240,385

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

2022	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		240,385	40,707	193,539	6,139
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,199	1,199	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		35	35	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(3,618)	-	3,618
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	4,599	-	(4,599)
		241,619	42,922	193,539	5,158
Balance at end of the financial year		241,619	42,922	193,539	5,158

2021		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		207,152	45,045	159,712	2,395
Adjusted opening balance		207,152	45,045	159,712	2,395
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(605)	(605)	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		11	11	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	33,827	-	33,827	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(4,706)	-	4,706
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	962	-	(962)
		240,385	40,707	193,539	6,139
Balance at end of the financial year		240,385	40,707	193,539	6,139

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2021 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		8,096	7,995
Statutory fees and fines		130	135
User fees		496	256
Grants - operating		13,218	8,354
Grants - capital		2,903	3,348
Contributions - monetary		85	94
Interest received		96	121
Other receipts		1,685	3,106
Employee costs		(9,137)	(8,643)
Materials and services		(9,681)	(5,913)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		7,891	8,853
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	(7,851)	(6,552)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		109	190
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(7,742)	(6,362)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Trust funds and other deposits		2	(119)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		2	(119)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		151	2,372
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		17,046	14,674
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		17,197	17,046
Financing arrangements	5.5		
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1		

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Statement of Capital Works
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Property			
Land improvements		137	18
Total land		137	18
Buildings		737	429
Total buildings		737	429
Total property		874	447
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		920	386
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		23	167
Total plant and equipment		943	553
Infrastructure			
Roads		5,856	5,380
Bridges		80	-
Footpaths and cycleways		68	96
Drainage		31	79
Total infrastructure		6,035	5,555
Total capital works expenditure		7,852	6,555
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		91	70
Asset renewal expenditure		7,232	6,217
Asset upgrade expenditure		529	268
Total capital works expenditure		7,852	6,555

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20th January 1995 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope VIC 3318.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- whether or not *AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

(b) Impact of Covid-19

During 2021-22 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on Council's operations. Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations:

- Additional revenue – an additional \$0.20 million in Covid-19-related funding for community activation and social initiatives
- Revenue reductions – Council experienced slightly reduced revenue from use of leisure facilities during Covid-19 lockdowns.
- Revenue foregone – Council offered free use of swimming pools to assist community members and promote community activation
- Additional costs – Council held several local events and initiatives to alleviate social isolation as Covid-19 restrictions eased

Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income and expenditure

	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income					
Rates and charges	8,080	8,066	(14)	0%	
Statutory fees and fines	131	130	(1)	-1%	
User fees	714	379	(335)	-47%	1
Grants - operating	7,623	13,218	5,595	73%	2
Grants - capital	3,692	2,903	(789)	-21%	3
Contributions - monetary	6	85	79	1317%	4
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	100	87	(13)	-13%	
Other income	1,681	1,862	181	11%	5
Total income	22,027	26,730	4,703	21%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	8,152	9,038	886	11%	6
Materials and services	5,992	8,026	2,034	34%	7
Depreciation	8,019	8,165	146	2%	
Other expenses	297	302	5	2%	
Total expenses	22,460	25,531	3,071	14%	
	-				
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(433)	1,199	1,632	-377%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

1	User fees	<p>User fees are \$0.34m below 2021/22 budget due to the reversal of internal quarry reimbursement transactions</p>
2	Grants - operating	<p>Grants - operating are \$5.60m above original budgeted 2021/22 figures due to several funding sources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepayment of Financial Assistance Grants of 75% of the 2022/23 allocation (\$2.15m above budget) - Funding of \$1.5m for the Goroke Recreation Reserve project received during the 2020/21 year and recognised during the 2021/22 year in accordance with AASB1058 - Funding of \$0.88m received late in the financial year for projects relating to the 2022/23 year - Funding for child and youth services was \$0.37m above budget due to several initiatives unknown at the time of budget preparation - Additional non-recurrent support through various programs such as economic development and Covid-19 support
3	Grants - capital	<p>Grants - capital are \$0.79m below anticipated budget, predominantly due to budget timing differences with the receipt of funds in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure round 2 funding \$0.21 was not yet received by balance date - Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program funding of \$0.69 had not yet been received for two large road projects
4	Contributions - monetary	<p>Contributions - monetary were \$0.08m above budget due to the receipt of community contributions towards the following projects budgeted for in the 2022/23 year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apsley Netball Tennis Court Upgrade - Edenhope Equine Facility
5	Other income	<p>Other income was \$0.18m above 2021/22 budget predominantly due to the receipt of reimbursements for Workcover, Income Protection and maternity leave</p>
6	Employee costs	<p>Employee operating costs are \$0.89m above original 2021/22 budget. It must be noted that capital employee costs, however, were approximately \$0.20m below budget and Council received reimbursement income of \$0.20m in relation to employee costs, which is reflected in Other Income.</p> <p>This is mainly due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A capital recovery amount of \$89,200 was paid following the winding up of the MAV WorkCover Scheme, which was unknown at the time of budget preparation - Staff turnover, including that in Council's Executive Leadership Team, has resulted in an increase due to increased salaries, entitlement payouts and handover period wages - Emergency management employee costs were approximately \$74,000 above budget due to several fire and storm events which occurred in the Shire - The effects of Covid-19 continued in the 2022 financial year which is reflected in the higher than anticipated sick leave expense - Several long-standing staff retired or entered into transition to retirement arrangements during the year - The commencement of organisation restructuring processes as previously approved by Council, along with additional Project Management resourcing - Income Protection insurance of \$0.23m was represented in the budget under Materials and Services but is recognised in the financial
7	Materials and services	<p>Materials and services were \$2.03m above original 2021/22 budget. This is predominantly seen within contract payments being \$1.38m above original budget, mainly due to the expenditure of \$1.55m for the Goroke Recreation Reserve project being carried forward from the 2020/21 year</p>

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Land	23	-	(23)	-100%	1
Land improvements	209	137	(72)	-34%	2
Total land	232	137	(95)	-41%	
Buildings	138	737	599	434%	3
Total buildings	138	737	599	434%	
Total property	370	874	504	136%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,247	920	(327)	-26%	4
Computers and telecommunications	175	23	(152)	-87%	5
Total plant and equipment	1,422	943	(479)	-34%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	5,916	5,856	(60)	-1%	
Bridges	110	80	(30)	-27%	
Footpaths and cycleways	192	68	(124)	-65%	6
Drainage	65	31	(34)	-52%	
Total infrastructure	6,283	6,035	(248)	-4%	
Total capital works expenditure	8,075	7,852	(223)	-3%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	467	91	(376)	-81%	
Asset renewal expenditure	6,755	7,232	477	7%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	853	529	(324)	-38%	
Total capital works expenditure	8,075	7,852	(223)	-3%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Land	Capital expenditure on land was \$0.02m below budget for the 2021/22 year. This was due to the anticipated purchase of Goroke Quarry extension land not going ahead during the year
2	Land improvements	Land improvement capital spend was \$0.07m below 2021/22 budget due to several projects including playground maintenance, tree amenity works and demolition/landscaping being of an operational nature
3	Buildings	Buildings capital expenditure is \$0.60m above budget due to the completion of prior year carried forward projects such as the Edenhope and District Community Centre, Kaniva Wetlands Building. Additionally work in progress budgeted for in the 2022/23 year commenced in 2021/22, predominantly the Wimmera Southern Mallee Caravan Park Upgrades project
4	Plant, machinery and equipment	Capital spend on plant, machinery and equipment was \$0.33m under budget for the 2021/22 year due to several vehicles and a water truck being ordered but subject to production delays, therefore budget to be carried forward
5	Computers and telecommunications	Computers and telecommunications capital spend was \$0.15m under budget due to the cloud/network upgrades being of an operational nature, rather than capital as originally anticipated
6	Footpaths and cycleways	Footpaths and cycleways capital spend was \$0.12m under budget for 2021/22 due to due to the carry forward of several jobs that were in progress at 30 June 2022 and have now been completed, with final expenditure incurred after balance date, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elizabeth St, Edenhope, Footpath, Dundas St. – Bend - Station St Goroke, Footpath, Railway St. - Senior Citizens - Lake Wallace path. Reconstruct section near bowling club

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 Community Services

Community Services provides efficient and effective services to meet the growing needs of the community and is dedicated to the health, safety and amenity of the community. Its services include Aged and Disability Services, Arts and Culture, Children Youth and Family Services, Recreation Sport Leisure and Tourism and Events.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides a range of administrative services to Council, including Customer Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Occupational Health and Safety and Records Management.

Development and Environmental Services

Development and Environmental Services provide for the planning and encouragement of growth and development within the shire. Services include Town Planning, Building Control, Local Laws and Regulatory Services, Environmental Health and Economic Development.

Engineering

Engineering is responsible for constructing new infrastructure and maintaining existing infrastructure across a diverse range of assets that underpin the wellbeing of the community. These assets include capital works engineering services, waste management, parks and gardens, emergency management and infrastructure maintenance.

Governance

Governance provides effective governance oversight of the organisation. Service areas include Community Support, CEO Office and Elected Members.

2.2.2 Summary of income, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Community Services	1,900	(2,558)	(658)	1,667	4
Corporate Services	15,510	(4,330)	11,180	7,647	21,023
Development and Environmental Services	730	(1,853)	(1,123)	302	10
Engineering	8,570	(15,346)	(6,776)	6,505	220,841
Governance	20	(1,444)	(1,424)	-	3,471
	26,730	(25,531)	1,199	16,121	245,349

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2021					
Community Services	1,679	(2,390)	(711)	1,450	69
Corporate Services	11,424	(3,080)	8,344	3,959	19,231
Development and Environmental Services	624	(1,629)	(1,005)	195	41
Engineering	9,722	(15,357)	(5,635)	6,097	223,081
Governance	3	(1,601)	(1,598)	1	3,520
	23,452	(24,057)	(605)	11,702	245,942

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services	2022	2021
3.1 Rates and charges	\$'000	\$'000

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its current market value determined by Council's contract valuer.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2021/22 was \$3.662 million (2020/21 \$3.073 million).

General rates	7,014	6,928
Municipal charge	464	458
Waste management charge	569	551
Interest on rates and charges	19	28
Total rates and charges	8,066	7,965

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2021, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2021.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Animal management	35	37
Building fees	26	49
Permits	18	19
Town planning fees	45	28
Infringements and costs	6	2
Other	-	-
Total statutory fees and fines	130	135

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

3.3 User fees

Refuse disposal fees	59	60
User charges	14	23
Caravan park fees	25	19
Other fees and charges:		
- HACC services	196	179
- Cemetery user fees	79	92
- Other	6	18
Total user fees	379	391

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised over time	-	-
User fees recognised at a point in time	379	391
Total user fees	379	391

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

3.4 Funding from other levels of government

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of grants

Commonwealth funded grants	11,248	8,800
State funded grants	4,873	2,902
Total grants received	16,121	11,702

(a) Operating Grants

Recurrent - Commonwealth Government

Financial Assistance Grants	8,396	5,852
CHSP	396	391

Recurrent - State Government

HACC Programs	159	151
Preschool operating	588	452
Maternal and child health	344	343
Pest and weed control	75	75
Preschool cluster management	99	32
Supported Parent Groups and Playgroups	54	59
Youth initiatives	57	28
Immunisations	48	7
School crossing	6	6
Victorian Apprenticeship Recovery Package	19	9
Childcare subsidy	2	-
Total recurrent operating grants	10,243	7,405

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Sport Australia	22	-
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Fire Services Levy Implementation Grant	44	43
Community Activation & Social Isolation	-	145
COVID-19 Support	200	14
MAV Health Projects	6	7
National Australia Day Council Funding	20	21
Economic Development	248	114
Waste Management Funding	21	10
Goroke Recreation Reserve	1706	382
Silo Art Funding	-	242
Edenhope Equine Facility	225	-
Apsley Netball Tennis Court Upgrade	444	-
Employment Subsidies	9	-
Infrastructure	30	-
Total non-recurrent operating grants	2,975	978
Total operating grants	13,218	8,383

(b) Capital Grants

Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	1,528	1,528
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	906	1,029
Recurrent - State Government		
Total recurrent capital grants	2,434	2,557
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Community Services	-	250
Buildings & Facilities	360	145
Agrilinks	88	263
Indigenous Trail	-	5
ICT Tech Support Package	-	99
Fire Access Road Subsidy	21	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	469	762
Total capital grants	2,903	3,319

(c) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Operating		
Balance at start of year	1,676	-
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	704
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	-	-
Balance at year end	972	1,676
Capital		
Balance at start of year	629	263
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	472
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	-	120
Balance at year end	509	629

(d) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	8,396	5,852
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	-	-
Other specific purpose grants	7,709	4,253
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	16	1,597
	16,121	11,702

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary	85	94
Total contributions	85	94

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	109	190
Written down value of assets disposed	(22)	(335)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	87	(145)

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7 Other income	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Reimbursements - Roadworks	1,248	2,638
Interest	96	121
Reimbursements - other	102	85
Insurance refunds	161	205
Rent	43	47
Fuel tax refund	38	53
Other	94	74
Total other income	1,782	3,223

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Note 4 The cost of delivering services	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	7,693	7,112
WorkCover	214	172
Superannuation	826	711
Fringe benefits tax	76	74
Income protection insurance	229	250
Total employee costs	9,038	8,319

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	49	61
	49	61

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	329	310
Employer contributions - other funds	438	352
	767	662

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Materials and services

Contract payments	4,114	3,961
Plant and equipment maintenance	896	874
Utilities	372	568
Office administration	40	34
Information technology	285	184
Insurance	336	315
Consultants	380	393
Other materials and services	1,603	1,203
Total materials and services	8,026	7,532

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

4.3 Depreciation

Property	823	764
Plant and equipment	715	740
Infrastructure	6,627	6,449
Total depreciation	8,165	7,953

Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
4.4 Bad and doubtful debts		
Other debtors	-	11
Total bad and doubtful debts	-	11
Movement in provisions for doubtful debts		
Balance at the beginning of the year	81	70
New provisions recognised during the year	-	11
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(4)	-
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	(9)	-
Balance at end of year	68	81

Provision for doubtful debt is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	49	32
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	11	9
Councillors' allowances	171	136
Operating lease rentals	15	13
Others	56	52
Total other expenses	302	242

Note 5 Our financial position

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
5.1 Financial assets		
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	221	3,256
Term deposits	16,975	13,789
Total cash and cash equivalents	17,197	17,046
Total financial assets	17,197	17,046

Councils cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

- Trust funds and deposits (Note 5.3)	115	113
- Unspent Grants (Note 3.4)	1,481	2,305
- Cemetery Trust funds (Note 6.2)	187	196
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	1,783	2,614

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

- Cash held to fund carried forward capital works	3,509	4,599
- Cash held to fund long service leave provision	1,454	1,532
- Other discretionary reserves	1,649	1,540
Total funds subject to intended allocations	6,612	7,671

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Rates debtors	254	354
Provision for doubtful debts	(66)	(75)
Other debtors	281	800
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(2)	(6)
Total current trade and other receivables	<u>467</u>	<u>1,073</u>
Non-current		
Prepayments	-	10
Total non-current trade and other receivables	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>
Total trade and other receivables	<u>467</u>	<u>1,083</u>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(c) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	167	775
Past due by up to 30 days	112	7
Past due between 31 and 180 days	-	12
Past due between 181 and 365 days	-	-
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	<u>279</u>	<u>794</u>

(d) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$2,090 (2021: \$6,207) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was -\$4,118 (2021: \$5,711). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Current (not yet due)	-	-
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	-	-
Past due between 181 and 365 days	2	-
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-
Total trade & other receivables	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

5.2 Non-financial assets	2022	2021
(a) Inventories	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for distribution	180	136
Total inventories	180	136

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets

Prepayments	29	56
Accrued income	98	21
Total other assets	127	77

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue	2022	2021
(a) Trade and other payables	\$'000	\$'000
Trade payables	56	780
Net GST payable	(118)	(4)
Accrued expenses	1,007	46
Accrued salaries	-	284
Income received in advance	16	1,692
Total trade and other payables	961	2,798

(b) Trust funds and deposits

Refundable deposits	6	6
Fire services levy	85	86
Other refundable deposits		
Refundable Trust Kaniva Rotary Club	15	15
Refundable Trust Newlands Lake Restoration	3	3
Refundable Trust Lake Wallace Committee proceeds	2	2
Refundable Trust Edenhope Skateboard Park	1	1
Refundable Trust Edenhope Childcare Feasibility	3	-
Total trust funds and deposits	115	113

(c) Unearned income/revenue

Grants received in advance - operating	16	1,597
Grants received in advance - capital	-	-
Other	-	95
Total unearned income/revenue	16	1,692

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a <<monthly>> basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

5.4 Provisions

	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave	Rostered Days Off	Time in Lieu	Total
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
2022					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	1,007	1,532	50	57	2,646
Additional provisions	579	77	144	76	876
Amounts used	(514)	(134)	(146)	(85)	(879)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	31	(20)	-	-	11
Balance at the end of the financial year	1,103	1,455	48	48	2,654
2021					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	999	2,079	71	56	3,205
Additional provisions	548	(310)	200	83	521
Amounts used	(555)	(277)	(221)	(82)	(1,135)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	15	40	-	-	55
Balance at the end of the financial year	1,007	1,532	50	57	2,646

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	666	651
Long service leave	207	113
Rostered Days Off	48	50
Time in Lieu	48	57
	969	871
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	438	356
Long service leave	1,063	1,233
	1,501	1,589
Total current employee provisions	2,470	2,460
Non-current		
Long service leave	184	186
Total non-current employee provisions	184	186
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,470	2,460
Non-current	184	186
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	2,654	2,646

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	3.85%	1.49%
- index rate	3.69%	1.46%

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2022.

Bank overdraft	2,000	2,000
Credit card facilities	16	16
Total facilities	2,016	2,016
Used facilities	-	-
Unused facilities	2,016	2,016

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2022	Not later than 1	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	year	year and not	years and not	years	
	\$'000	later than 2	later than 5	years	\$'000
		years	years	years	
Operating					
Caravan park caretaker	4	-	-	-	4
Cleaning of Council buildings	320	324	332	-	976
Consultancies	-	-	-	-	-
Garbage collection	101	-	-	-	101
Meals for delivery	-	-	-	-	-
Recycling	52	-	-	-	52
Street cleaning services	157	-	-	-	157
Swimming pool management	10	-	-	-	10
Total	644	324	332	-	1,300

2021	Not later than 1	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	year	year and not	years and not	years	
	\$'000	later than 2	later than 5	years	\$'000
		years	years	years	
Operating					
Caravan park caretaker	20	10	-	-	30
Cleaning of Council buildings	86	-	-	-	86
Consultancies	214	-	-	-	214
Garbage collection	175	-	-	-	175
Meals for delivery	16	11	-	-	27
Recycling	137	-	-	-	137
Street cleaning services	157	-	-	-	157
Swimming pool management	161	15	-	-	176
Total	966	36	-	-	1,002

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2021	Additions	Contributions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Write-off	Transfers	Carrying amount 30 June 2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	17,563	571	-	-	(824)	-	-	91	17,401
Plant and equipment	2,844	943	-	-	(715)	(23)	-	-	3,049
Infrastructure	205,715	5,342	-	-	(6,626)	-	-	711	205,142
Work in progress	932	996	-	-	-	-	-	(802)	1,125
	227,054	7,852	-	-	(8,165)	(23)	-	-	226,717

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP	Additions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	172	303	-	(91)	384
Plant and equipment	27	-	-	-	27
Infrastructure	732	693	-	(711)	714
Total	931	996	-	(802)	1,125

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land improvements	Total Land & Land Improvements	Heritage buildings	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non specialised	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2021	776	88	4,424	5,288	111	33,961	1,265	35,337	172	40,797
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2021	-	-	(1,661)	(1,661)	(104)	(20,570)	(727)	(21,401)	-	(23,062)
	776	88	2,763	3,627	7	13,391	538	13,936	172	17,735
Movements in fair value										
Additions	-	-	137	137	-	434	-	434	303	874
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	7	7	-	84	-	84	(91)	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	144	144	-	518	-	518	212	874
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(255)	(255)	(1)	(547)	(21)	(569)	-	(824)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	(255)	(255)	(1)	(547)	(21)	(569)	-	(824)
At fair value 30 June 2022	776	88	4,568	5,432	111	34,479	1,265	35,855	384	41,671
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2022	-	-	(1,916)	(1,916)	(105)	(21,117)	(748)	(21,970)	-	(23,886)
Carrying amount	776	88	2,652	3,516	6	13,362	517	13,885	384	17,785

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Motor vehicles	Plant & Equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Work In Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2021	599	8,514	1,597	27	10,737
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2021	(271)	(6,200)	(1,395)	-	(7,866)
	328	2,314	202	27	2,871
Movements in fair value					
Additions	168	752	23	-	943
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(100)	(216)	-	-	(316)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-
	68	536	23	-	627
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation and amortisation	(111)	(556)	(48)	-	(715)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	78	215	-	-	293
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
	(33)	(341)	(48)	-	(422)
At fair value 30 June 2022	667	9,050	1,620	27	11,364
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2022	(304)	(6,541)	(1,443)	-	(8,288)
Carrying amount	363	2,509	177	27	3,076

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2021	274,806	3,200	4,104	15,896	732	298,738
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2021	(80,092)	(1,508)	(808)	(9,883)	-	(92,291)
	194,714	1,692	3,296	6,013	732	206,447
Movements in fair value						
Additions	5,163	80	68	31	693	6,035
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	699	-	12	-	(711)	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5,862	80	80	31	(18)	6,035
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation and amortisation	(6,321)	(34)	(82)	(189)	-	(6,626)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(6,321)	(34)	(82)	(189)	-	(6,626)
At fair value 30 June 2022	280,668	3,280	4,184	15,927	714	304,773
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2022	(86,413)	(1,542)	(890)	(10,072)	-	(98,917)
Carrying amount	194,255	1,738	3,294	5,855	714	205,856

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition. Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have been applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
<i>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</i>		
Land & land improvements		
land	-	5
land improvements	6 - 50 years	5
Buildings		
buildings	30 - 120 years	5
building and leasehold improvements	30 - 120 years	5
Plant and Equipment		
heritage plant and equipment	3 - 40 years	1
plant, machinery and equipment	3 - 10 years	1
others	3 - 10 years	1
Infrastructure		
road pavements and seals	17 - 75 years	5
road substructure	75 years	5
road formation and earthworks	75 years	5
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	50 - 70 years	5
bridges deck	35 - 80 years	5
bridges substructure	35 - 80 years	5
footpaths and cycleways	25 - 50 years	5
drainage	70 - 80 years	5
Intangible assets		

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer (Mr Peter Wigg of WBP Group). The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The land and buildings were subject to full independent valuation in June 2020 by accredited independent valuers. Council does not believe there has been a material movement in fair value since the 30 June 2020 valuation date.

The valuation was performed during the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited market activity and low sales volumes. While the valuer's independent valuation report did not indicate impairment of land and buildings, it does present estimation uncertainty regarding the valuation of land and buildings by acknowledging that past cycles indicate a lag for property markets to react to economic events, and that the extent of any decline in value is presently uncertain, and may depend on the length of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, there is not yet any comparable market evidence available to determine what, if any, impact the current COVID-19 pandemic may have on the value or marketability of the subject property, particularly in the short and medium terms.

The fair value assessed may change significantly and unexpectedly over a relatively short period of time (including as a result of factors that the valuer could not reasonably have been aware of as at the date of valuation). Refer to Significant accounting policies under Overview section and Note 8.4 for further information on fair value measurement.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2022 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation
Land	-	776	-	Jun-20
Specialised land	-	-	88	Jun-20
Land Improvements	-	-	2,763	Jun-20
Heritage Buildings	-	-	7	Jun-20
Buildings	-	-	13,929	Jun-20
Total	-	776	16,787	

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been undertaken by Council's Asset Management team and Mr Peter Moloney of Moloney Asset Management Systems in October 2020. Values were updated using information provided by Moloney Asset Management Systems as a result of his condition assessment and unit rate comparison to other similar councils.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An index based revaluation was conducted in the prior year, this valuation was based on unit rate and useful life data analysis.

The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2022 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation
Roads	-	-	194,714	Oct-20
Bridges	-	-	1,692	Oct-20
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	3,296	Oct-20
Drainage	-	-	6,013	Oct-20
Total	-	-	205,715	

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 30% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently Council records no land under roads.

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$350 to \$1,700 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 40 years to 60 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 1 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Municipal Office Land	90	90
Waste Disposal Land	-	-
Community Services Land	73	73
Infrastructure and Works Operations Land	113	113
Recreational and Sundry Council Land	500	500
Total specialised land	776	776

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		
(a) Investments in associates		
Investments in associates accounted for by the equity method are:		
- Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	440	386
- Wimmera Development Association	221	160
Wimmera Regional Library Corporation		
<i>Background</i>		
Council's investment in the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is based on the equity method		
Council's interest in equity	30.54%	27.97%
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	<u>440</u>	<u>386</u>
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	252	230
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	19	4
Transfers (to) from reserves	4	16
Change in equity share apportionment	24	2
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	<u>299</u>	<u>252</u>
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	133	141
Transfers (to) from reserves	(4)	(12)
Change in equity share apportionment	12	4
Council's share of reserves at end of year	<u>141</u>	<u>133</u>
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	386	371
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	19	4
Change in equity share apportionment	35	11
Carrying value of investment at end of year	<u>440</u>	<u>386</u>
Wimmera Development Association		
Council's investment in the Wimmera Development Association is based on the equity method of accounting.		
Council's interest in equity	7.76%	7.76%
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Development Association	<u>221</u>	<u>160</u>
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	120	37
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	63	83
Transfers (to) from reserves	11	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	<u>194</u>	<u>120</u>
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	40	40
Transfers (to) from reserves	(12)	-
Council's share of reserves at end of year	<u>28</u>	<u>40</u>
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	160	77
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	61	83
Carrying value of investment at end of year	<u>221</u>	<u>160</u>

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

(b) Committees of management

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as committees of management, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

The Council is the Committee of Management for the Edenhope, Goroke and Kaniva Cemeteries. The assets and liabilities of the Committees have been included in Council's financial statement and are summarised below:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
(b) Edenhope Cemetery		
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	34	42
Total Current assets	<u>34</u>	<u>42</u>
Non-current assets	-	-
Net Assets	<u>34</u>	<u>42</u>
Income		
Fees and Charges	18	31
Total Income	<u>18</u>	<u>31</u>
Expenses		
Other Materials & Services	27	45
Total Expenses	<u>27</u>	<u>45</u>
Surplus(Loss) for period	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(14)</u>
(c) Goroke Cemetery		
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19	19
Total Current assets	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>
Non-current assets	-	-
Net Assets	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>
Income		
Fees and Charges	20	20
Total Income	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
Expenses		
Other Materials & Services	16	16
Total Expenses	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
Surplus(Loss) for period	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
(d) Kaniva Cemetery		
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	135	135
Total Current assets	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>
Non-current assets	-	-
Net Assets	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>
Income		
Fees and Charges	41	41
Total Income	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>
Expenses		
Other Materials & Services	33	33
Total Expenses	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>
Surplus(Loss) for period	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Note 7 People and relationships		
7.1 Council and key management remuneration		
(a) Related Parties		
<i>Parent entity</i>		
Model Council is the parent entity.		
<i>Subsidiaries and Associates</i>		
Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.2.		
(b) Key Management Personnel		
Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of key management personnel at any time during the year are:		
Details of KMP at any time during the year are:		
Councillors		
Mayor Bruce Meyer		
Cr Jodie Pretlove		
Cr Trevor Domaschenz		
Cr Tom Houlihan		
Cr Tim Meyer		
Chief Executive Officer David Bezuidenhout		
Director - Corporate & Community Services Vin McKay (1 July 2021 - 8 December 2021)		
Director - Corporate & Community Services James Bentley (8 December 2021 - 30 June 2022)		
Director - Infrastructure Development & Works Ram Upadhyaya		
Total Number of Councillors	5	6
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	4	6
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	648	771
Long-term benefits	111	73
Post employment benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	<u>759</u>	<u>844</u>

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:	2022	2021
	No.	No.
\$10,000 - \$19,999	-	2
\$20,000 - \$29,999	3	4
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	-	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	-
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1	-
\$100,000 - \$109,999	-	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	-	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>

(d) Senior Officer Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$151,000

Council had no Senior Officers whose total remuneration exceeded \$151,000 for the year ended 30 June 2022.

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

No transactions with related parties were conducted during the year.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There are no outstanding balances with related parties at balance date.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans during the year between Council and related parties.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

There were no commitments during the year between Council and related parties.

Note 8 Managing uncertainties

8.1 (a) Contingent assets and liabilities

Council has no contingent assets identified at balance date.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council does not operate any landfill site within its boundaries. There are no former licenced landfill sites within the shire.

Insurance claims

Council does not have any pending insurance claims at 30 June 2022.

Legal matters

Council may be subject to future legal costs in relation to the electricity supply to one of its recreation facilities and the sporting club which utilises the facility. At this stage Council is unable to assign any cost to this potentiality.

Council may be subject to further legal costs in relation to a compensation claim by a shire resident who was prosecuted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning over illegal clearing of native vegetation. At this stage, Council is unable to assign any cost to this potentiality.

Council may be subject to legal action regarding two separate alleged workplace injuries by former employees of West Wimmera Shire Council. At this stage Council is unable to assign any cost to these potentialities.

Building cladding

Council does not have any potential contingents that exist in relation to rectification works or other matters associated with building cladding.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is (was) a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). During the liability period, adjustment payments may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payments is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria. If required, adjustments will occur at the 3-year and 6-year points during the liability period, and will affect participating members.

Other Contingent Liabilities

Council might be required to cover for any natural disasters (Fire, flood, or storm event) for any events under the DRFA threshold.

(c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

Council has made no guarantees for loans to other entities.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2022 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2022 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2023 that are expected to impact Council.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

All financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of **2.11%**.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

There have been no significant events occurring after the balance date which may affect the Council's operations or the results of those operations, except for noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact after the reporting date.

Note 9 Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2022			
Property			
Land	569		569
Land and land improvements	198	-	198
Buildings	7,566	-	7,566
	8,333	-	8,333
Infrastructure			
Roads	174,745	-	174,745
Footpaths and cycleways	5,991	-	5,991
Drainage	4,470	-	4,470
	185,206	-	185,206
Total asset revaluation reserves	193,539	-	193,539
2021			
Property			
Land	569	-	569
Land and land improvements	198	-	198
Buildings	7,566	-	7,566
	8,333	-	8,333
Infrastructure			
Roads	141,636	33,109	174,745
Footpaths and cycleways	5,273	718	5,991
Drainage	4,470	-	4,470
	151,379	33,827	185,206
Total asset revaluation reserves	159,712	33,827	193,539

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
(b) Other reserves				
2022				
Plant replacement	692	79	-	771
Quarry restoration	119	3	-	122
Capital improvement	315	7	-	322
Rates revaluation	399	-	-	399
Elections	15	20	-	35
Carried Forward project Reserve	4,599	3,509	(4,599)	3,509
Total Other reserves	6,139	3,618	(4,599)	5,158
2021				
Plant replacement	616	76	-	692
Quarry restoration	116	3	-	119
Capital improvement	308	7	-	315
Rates revaluation	399	-	-	399
Elections	62	21	(68)	15
Carried Forward project Reserve	894	4,599	(894)	4,599
Total Other reserves	2,395	4,706	(962)	6,139

Description of nature and purpose of each of Council's discretionary reserves are:

The Plant Replacement is funded by the Plant Operating Surplus and is maintained to replace all major items of Plant and Equipment. Crabtree Trust Reserve was bequeathed to Council to provide funds for the upgrade of facilities at the Lake Charlegrark Reserve.

The Quarry Restoration Reserve was generated via a charge against the sale price of quarry stocks that was retained to restore the quarry sites to natural levels once quarrying has ceased. There have been no further charges (other than nominal interest) generated for this reserve since the 1997/98 financial year as the retained reserve is considered adequate to undertake restoration. Capital Improvement Reserve is generated via transfers from Surplus Funds from time to time as determined by Council for use on any significant capital infrastructure projects.

Rates Revaluation Reserve provides funds to undertake each property revaluation for rating purposes every two years.

The Elections Reserve provides funds to undertake Council Elections every 4th year.

The Kindergarten Operations Reserve provides that unspent budgeted funds from each year are brought forward and made available for kindergarten spending in future years. In this way negative effects of falling enrolments can be minimised.

The Carried Forward Projects Reserve provides for all budgeted amounts which have not been spent as at 30 June and which are required to be carried forward to the next financial year and are not budgeted in the next financial year.

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,199	(605)
Depreciation	8,165	7,953
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(87)	145
Share of net (profit)/loss of associates	(80)	(87)
Provision for doubtful debts	-	11
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	616	(653)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(50)	232
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(1,741)	2,162
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(44)	19
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(87)	(324)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>7,891</u>	<u>8,853</u>

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2021, this was 9.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of West Wimmera Shire Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

As at 30 June 2021, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category.

The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 109.8%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 4.75% pa
Salary information 2.75% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.25% pa.

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2022.

Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2022 was 102.2%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.5% pa
Salary information 2.5% pa to June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI) 3.0% pa.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2022 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2021 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2022, this rate was 10.0% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2020/21). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2020 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2021 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2021 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2021 (Interim) \$m	2020 (Triennial) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	214.7	100.0
- A total service liability surplus	270.3	200.0
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	285.2	217.8

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2021.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2021.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2021.

Council was notified of the 30 June 2021 VBI during August 2021 (2020: August 2020).

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2022 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2022. Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021).

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	10.0% (2021:9.5%)	49	61
Vision super	Accumulation	10.0% (2021:9.5%)	329	310
Other super funds	Accumulation	10.0% (2021:9.5%)	438	352

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2022.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2023 is \$48,591.85

10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2021-22 year.

There are no pending accounting standards that are likely to have a material impact on council