



## SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES – 2 AUGUST 2017 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

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### MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

**HELD:** Wednesday 2 August 2017

**LOCATION:** Kaniva Council Chamber

**COMMENCEMENT:** 1:00pm

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IN ATTENDANCE:	
Councillors	Senior Management Group
Bruce Meyer, Mayor Trevor Domaschenz	Ashley Roberts Director Corporate & Community Services
Richard Hicks Tom Houlihan	Robyn Evans Director Infrastructure Development & Works Acting CEO

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#### ***Vision Statement:***

*Our Wimmera Shire communities are healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious,  
prosperous and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity*



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## **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL MINUTES – 2 AUGUST 2017 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL**

### **1.0 WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed the gallery to the Special Meeting.

### **2.0 OPENING PRAYER**

The Acting CEO read the opening prayer.

### **3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

David Leahy, CEO (annual leave)

Cr. Jodie Pretlove

### **4.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil



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### 5.0 MODIFICATIONS TO PLANS FOR THE KANIVA WETLANDS PLAYSPACE

**FILE NUMBER: PS0206**

**REPORT AUTHOR: MARK FLETCHER, PROJECT MANAGER**

#### **FOR DECISION**

##### Introduction

The Kaniva Cultural and Tourism Precinct (the Precinct) includes a number of elements including a playspace and fitness element. This element has received \$100,000 funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation (the Department.)

The original funding agreement with the Department includes the agreement of the original designs and outcomes for the playspace and fitness element.

Following a Councillor tour of the precinct and community input, the design of the playspace has been amended.

This report seeks formal West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) endorsement of the amendments to the playspace element in order to apply for a variation in contract from the funding Department.

##### Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.

##### Background

#### THE PRECINCT

The Precinct is a project nominated by the Kaniva community through the 2014 “Kaniva and Surrounds Social Infrastructure Study”

The Precinct has been designed to:

- Increase economic activity through –
  - increased visitation numbers to Kaniva and,
  - increased length of visitation stays



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- Increase connectivity between the Kaniva township (and businesses) and the Precinct
- Establish and enhance the natural environment within the Kaniva Wetlands
- Upgrade the existing Fauna Park
- Improve way-making, interpretive and directional signage
- Increase community interaction and visitor appeal
- Develop a new accessible children's active and educational area
- Upgrade amenities to current "all access" standards

The development of the Precinct is a joint undertaking of community groups, education providers, Landcare, and three levels of government.

Four main objective themes drive this project, they are:

- Economic infrastructure
- Building strategic tourism and cultural assets
- Addressing disadvantage
- Attracting investment

These themes resulted in the following project objectives for economic infrastructure:

- To facilitate economic development by offering a strategic, cost-effective and long term infrastructure solution to key cultural and community assets in the region which are currently constrained in terms of capacity and accessibility.
- To facilitate economic growth and development in the local region by investing in quality cultural and tourism infrastructure so that the region transpires into a relevant and competitive participant in the tourism market.

The themes resulted in the following project objectives for building strategic tourism and cultural assets:

- To encourage new, repeat and extended visitation from within and beyond the region by attracting and facilitating an expanded, enhanced and more substantial portfolio of artwork within the region.
- To encourage new, repeat and extended visitation from within and beyond the region by providing a destination for motorists incorporating visitor information, recreational and cultural spaces, physical connection to local environmental attractions and public amenities.
- To create a destination suitable for outdoor active, environmental and educational activities associated with the culturally significant aspects of the region.
- To create social cohesion in the community, cultural vibrancy and liveability in the region by improving the accessibility and capacity of the key community and cultural facilities in the region.



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The themes resulted in the following project objectives for addressing disadvantage:

- To address disadvantage through expansion of existing community and social enterprises, including through a flow on effect of increased visitation to the region, improving mental health and wellbeing in residents and visitors.
- To create an aged and disability friendly experience that addresses the disadvantaged faced by our ageing and disabled people and their families, including volunteer opportunities to assist retirees through retirement.
- To address disadvantage by establishing the region as a desirable location for destination tourism and liveability through a place-based approach to infrastructure and social inclusion.

The themes resulted in the following project objective for attracting investment:

- To construct well planned and visionary public infrastructure and services as part of the implementation of a long term precinct plan designed to attract investment in eco-tourism, accommodation, retail services and education.

The following were determined to be critical success factors to help determine if the project objectives were being met:

- Increase in non-Kaniva overnight and stopover visitor numbers to West Wimmera Shire, resulting in increased tourist spend
- Increase in attendance through the Kaniva Heartfelt Gallery
- A vibrant, activated tourism precinct evidenced by regular use of the wetlands and fauna park for increased visitor stopover activities, community recreation and environmental and educational events and activities
- Enhanced visitor experience
- Increase in population base and new residents
- Increased community connectedness and pride of place and heritage
- Successful expansion of services offered by community enterprises in the West Wimmera Shire
- New private or government investment within 3 years of project completion in tourism, accommodation or retail industries.
- Increase in use by disadvantaged members of the community, ie, aged, school children.

### THE PLAYSPACE AND FITNESS ELEMENT

Under direction from Council, officers sought additional funding for elements of the Precinct to offset the dollar for dollar funding of the Precinct project by the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF)

\$100,000 toward the Playspace and Fitness element was successfully gained from the Department of Sport and Recreation.



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On 15 March 2017, Councillors and officers undertook a tour of projects and initiatives in Kaniva and surrounds. The tour included the Kaniva Flora and Fauna Park. From that inspection Councillors recommended a reorientation of the Fauna Park and clustering of the playspace elements to street frontage. Councillors also requested the addition of a “kick space” area.

Additionally, further consultation with community stakeholders has been undertaken.

From these discussions, site plans have been revised to reflect the feedback from community stakeholder and Councillors’ suggestions, (see attachments.)

### **What has changed?**

At the March Council Forum, Councillors requested the fence to be removed from the currently unused grasslands section of the Fauna Park to open up the highway frontage and better utilise visibility from the highway to attract visitors.

This change integrates all aspects of the nature playspace and fitness element into one area. The adjustment now means that the flying fox, fruit forest, nature playspace, barbecue shelter, toilets and exercise equipment are all immediately accessible from the service road frontage. An added benefit is that visitors and families can undertake different activities in the park while being in the same general location.

The change has also meant that in a couple of places, the proposed walking trails have been located further away from the edge of the main supply dam giving additional safety to users of the park.

In previous plans, a number of sites of the park would have had works being undertaken at one time. An indirect benefit of these changes is for construction, only one section of the park will be affected, therefore delivering efficiencies for the overall Precinct construction.

### **What do we need from Council?**

The above changes need to be ratified by Council in order to seek a variation to contract. Otherwise the original design submitted to the funding Department for the playspace and fitness element must be delivered.

This report asks Council to endorse their revised plan of the nature playspace and open areas to the north of the wetlands.

The endorsement of these plans will allow the works to commence of the tendering of the playspace which needs to be delivered and acquitted by December 2017. As explained at the June Council Forum, as these works are a relocation of design components, therefore



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there is minimal impact on costings expected compared to the original budget, (see financial implications.)

Endorsement of these plans is for Stage one, which is the Nature Playspace component and fitness equipment and does not include any works to the wetlands, curb and channel nor toilet amenities.

The second stage of this project will include the works around the wetlands. There is still planning to be undertaken for Stage 2.

### Risk Management Implications

Council has signed a funding agreement with the Department for \$100,000. If Council is unsuccessful in achieving a variation for its preferred playspace and fitness design, Council has two options:

1. Cover the \$100,000 and deliver Council's playspace and fitness preferred design,  
OR
2. Deliver the original design as originally agreed by Council

### Legislative Implications

Nil

### Environmental Implications

There are no additional environmental implications from the variation to the playspace elements. The relocation of some elements with others, is within the current Precinct footprint.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

If Council endorses the varied plans, the additional budgetary impact is nil.

If Council does not endorse the varied plans, the additional budget impact is either \$100,000 or nil depending on whether Council respectively determines to:

- Cover the \$100,000 and deliver Council's playspace and fitness preferred design,  
OR
- Deliver the original design as originally agreed by Council with the Department

### Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:

Asset Management Policy



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Community Engagement Policy  
Environmental Policy  
Playground Management Policy  
Tourism Policy  
Township Amenity Policy

### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 1: A proactive, well governed, professional and financially sustainable organisation that encourages community participation.
- Strategic Objective 3: Quality sustainable community services and infrastructure.
- Strategic Objective 4: Building on our agricultural and business strengths and supporting economic development.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 7: Providing access to and promoting the natural environment.

### Communication Implications

Other than the Department, there is little communication necessary resulting from this decision as the consultation with community and Councillors has already been undertaken and it is that collective feedback which has informed the revised design.

### Conclusion

Councillor and community feedback have enhanced the Precinct design. The revised playspace and fitness element will deliver advantages over and above the original plans. Endorsing the revised plan will ensure Council can deliver the playspace and fitness element and acquit the funding contribution from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the revised Playspace and Fitness element design,**
- 2. Submit the revised Playspace and Fitness design for a variation to funding contract with the Department of Sport and Recreation.**



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**Moved: Councillor Richard Hicks**

**Seconded: Councillor Trevor Domaschenz**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the revised Playspace and Fitness element design,**
- 2. Submit the revised Playspace and Fitness design for a variation to funding contract with the Department of Sport and Recreation.**

**Carried (4/0)**

### **Attachments:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>RecFind Ref</b>
5.1	Schematic Landscape Design CP02	17/002598
5.2	Schematic Landscape Design CP03	17/002598

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 1.10PM**