

HELD:

Wednesday 18 July 2018

LOCATION:

Serviceton Bowling Club

COMMENCEMENT:

2.00pm

IN ATTENDANCE:		
Councillors	Senior Management Group	
Jodie Pretlove, Mayor Trevor Domaschenz	Ashley Roberts Acting Chief Executive Officer	
Richard Hicks Tom Houlihan	Andrea Gash Acting Director Corporate & Community Services	
Bruce Meyer	Mark Marziale Director Infrastructure Development & Works	

Vision Statement:

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



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1.0 WELCOME

2.0 **OPENING PRAYER**

3.0 APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3.1 APOLOGIES

David Leahy, CEO (Annual Leave)

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

None declared

4.0 **QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY (maximum of 30 minutes)**

4.1 WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

4.2 VERBAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil



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

5.1 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (MAYOR)

- 25/06/2018 Understanding Social Enterprise Workshop, Goroke
- 25/06/2018 Peronne Memorial Hall Reserve Committee Public Meeting
- 26/06/2018 Understanding Social Enterprise Workshop, Goroke
- 28/06/2018 Wimmera Primary Care Partnership, Horsham
- 29/06/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting with CEO
- 03/07/2018 CEO David Leahy
- 03/07/2018 CEO David Leahy & Councillor Tom Houlihan
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 09/07/2018 Dunkeld Community Centre & Tourist Information Centre
- 12/07/2018 Kaniva Probus Club Meeting
- 13/07/2018 Goroke Senior Citizens' AGM & Award Presentation
- 18/07/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting & Community Forum, Serviceton

5.2 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

- 25/06/2018 Understanding Social Enterprise Workshop, Goroke
- 28/06/2018 Apsley Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Public Meeting
- 29/06/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting with CEO
- 03/07/2018 Poolaijelo Soldiers' Memorial Hall Committee Public Meeting
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 09/07/2018 Dunkeld Community Centre & Tourist Information Centre
- 17/07/2018 Wimmera Mallee Tourism, Nhill
- 18/07/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting & Community Forum, Serviceton

5.3 COUNCILLOR RICHARD HICKS

- 26/06/2018 Business Breakfast with Damien Tomlinson, Horsham
- 26/06/2018 Rail Futures Conference Reception, Melbourne
- 27/06/2018 Rail Futures Conference, Melbourne
- 29/06/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting with CEO
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 09/07/2018 Dunkeld Community Centre & Tourist Information Centre
- 18/07/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting & Community Forum, Serviceton

5.4 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

- 23/06/2018 Presented West Wimmera Shield at Football match
- 24/06/2018 Horsham Sports & Community, Horsham
- 26/06/2018 South West New Energy Conference, Warrnambool
- 27/06/2018 South West New Energy Conference, Warrnambool



- 29/06/2018 GWM Water Customer & Stakeholder Workshop, Horsham
- 03/07/2018 CEO David Leahy & Mayor Jodie Pretlove
- 04/06/2018 Harrow Steering Committee Meeting
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 09/07/2018 AFL Meeting, Horsham
- 10/07/2018 Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Meeting
- 11/07/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Meeting
- 18/07/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting & Community Forum, Serviceton

5.5 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER

- 22/06/2018 North West Municipalities Association Meeting & AGM
- 29/06/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting with CEO
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 06/07/2018 Goroke Lions Club Annual Changeover Dinner
- 10/07/2018 Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Meeting
- 18/07/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting & Community Forum, Serviceton

5.6 DAVID LEAHY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

- 22/06/2018 North West Municipalities Association Meeting & AGM
- 25/06/2018 Senior Management Group
- 25/06/2018 Shared Services Project, Horsham
- 26/06/2018 Post-Council Staff Meeting
- 26/06/2018 Wimmera Regulatory Services, Horsham
- 27/06/2018 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnerships, Horsham
- 27/06/2018 White Ribbon Australia, Horsham
- 28/06/2018 Kaniva Visit with Mark Marziale
- 28/06/2018 Edenhope Remembrance Day Committee
- 29/06/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting with Councillors
- 02/07/2018 Senior Management Group
- 03/07/2018 Mayor Jodie Pretlove
- 03/07/2018 Flood Project Planning Meeting
- 03/07/2018 Mayor Jodie Pretlove & Councillor Tom Houlihan
- 04/07/2018 Councillor Forum, Kaniva
- 04/07/2018 Harrow Recreation Reserve Project Meeting
- 05/07/2018 Commenced Annual Leave (returning Mon 23 July 2018)

5.7 GENERAL DELEGATES REPORTS

Councillors to provide delegates reports to Council meeting in relation to meetings attended in last month for which they have been appointed as Council representative. Verbal or written delegates' reports.

6.0 CONDOLENCES

Nil



7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 21 June 2018, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 21 June 2018, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Carried (5/0)

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 HARROW RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADE PROJECT - NOM 2018/03

- CR DOMASCHENZ

That Council appoint the Mayor (or another Councillor as nominated by the Mayor) to represent Council on the Project Steering Committee of the Harrow and District Recreation Reserve Amenities Upgrade Project.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That the Council appoint a Councillor representative to attend steering committee meetings for all major projects involving WWSC and that all meetings be noted in the Councillor Diary.

Carried (5/0)

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
9.1.1	NOM 2018/03 – Harrow	18/002517
	Recreation Reserve Upgrade	
	Project	



10.0 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 4 July 2018 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 4 July 2018 be received and noted.

Carried (5/0)

11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil



12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS FILE NUMBER: AD0183 REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY – CEO

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

The following report is provided as a summary of the results of the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The survey was conducted by JWS Research and is undertaken at the same time every year. A total 400 residents were surveyed across various age groups and a mix of both mobile and fixed line phone interviews were undertaken, to cater for the diversity of residents.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

JWS Research conducted Community Satisfaction Survey interviews during the period between 1 February and 30 March 2018. A total of 400 interviews were completed and the results of the interviews / surveys is attached to this report.

The sample size of residents to be surveyed was determined by matching the demographic profile of West Wimmera as derived from the latest ABS population estimates. Contact information was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records and this included up to 10% mobile numbers.

West Wimmera Shire Council's overall performance rating decreased by three index points on the 2017 result. This result still represents a figure slightly above the State-Wide average (59 index points) and a number of points above the Small Rural Shire average (56 index points).

The rating of 61 index points indicates that there are very few changes in the ratings of the core categories. The areas of note that have generated the slight decreased overall rating



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are in community consultation, advocacy and overall Council direction. Interestingly these areas still rate above the State-Wide and Small Rural Shire category averages.

The areas of "core measures" returning the most positive survey results are in the areas of sealed local roads and customer service, which have both returned figures higher than the previous year's survey and the small rural group averages.

Ratings for customer service have risen to 76 points which is well above the state-wide (70 index points) and small rural group average (69 index points).

The lowest rating was provided to the maintenance of unsealed roads, which returned an index point score of 46. This low rating has a major effect on the overall score of 61. It is also an area (along with sealed local roads) that Council has identified as requiring investment within the 2018/19 budget.

Areas that rated particularly well in the 2017 survey have again rated highly with the appearance of public areas, elderly support services and waste management all receiving very positive ratings.

Risk Management Implications

Nil

Legislative Implications

Councils are required to undertake the survey and results are posted on the know your council website.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

A small cost is associated with the survey being completed and the cost is controlled by the number of questions asked and level of analysis within the report.

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy: Advocacy Policy Customer Service Policy Media Relations 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 2: Meaningful partnerships to support advocacy priorities and service provision.
- Strategic Objective 3: Quality sustainable community services and infrastructure.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.

Communication Implications

Following the presentation of results to Councillors, a media release can be developed for further communication of the results and any actions agreed upon to remedy low scores.

Conclusion

The community satisfaction survey is undertaken independent of Council operations and provides an opportunity for residents to provide their opinion of the service levels provided by way of a score.

While the survey does not get to every resident, JWS Research attempt to cover all age demographics and have achieved a sample size that is commensurate with the Shire population.

The results are a positive for the Shire (irrespective of the score) as it provides some guidance as to what services are of highest importance and what level of service people are expecting or satisfied with.

A summary of the 2018 survey results has been provided to each Councillor as an attachment to this report and the full report can be provided if Councillors wish to view it in its entirety.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes and accepts the summary report on the customer satisfaction survey results and prepares a media release explaining the outcome of the survey.



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Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council notes and accepts the summary report on the customer satisfaction survey results and prepares a media release explaining the outcome of the survey.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.1.1	Community Satisfaction Survey Results – Summary Report	18/002286



12.2 DELEGATIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS REVIEW FILE NUMBER: AD0183 REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY - CEO

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

Council is required to periodically review and update its delegations and authorisations to the CEO and members of Council staff. In addition to this, delegations made by the CEO to other members of staff are also reviewed and a copy of this document is also attached to this report, for Councillors information.

The instrument of delegation is provided for in section 98 of the Local Government Act 1989 and covers a number of different delegations and authorisations.

The ability to appoint authorised officers with certain delegated authority is contained in section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989.

This report is provided to inform Councillors of the most recent review undertaken on the S-6 Delegations (Council to members of staff)

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

West Wimmera Shire Council subscribes to a delegations update service provided by Maddocks (Law firm specialising in Local Government), which provides information on legislative change that will require a delegations review.

The last review conducted at West Wimmera was 2017 and a minimal number of modifications have been suggested as part of this report.

The subscription service provides template documents on the various Instruments of Delegation, Explanatory Notes and Explanatory Guidelines to assist with the review process.



As updates are provided by Maddocks on a six monthly basis, the reviews will be provided to Councillors for discussion and endorsement on the same timeframe. The latest update was provided by Maddocks in May 2018.

To assist with the review, the explanatory notes and guidelines have been attached to this report along the updated Instruments of Delegation. The documents that are attached include;

- S1 Explanatory Notes
- S6 Instrument of Delegation, Council to other members of staff
- S7 Instrument of Delegation, Chief Executive Officer to members of staff

Risk Management Implications

The largest risk faced by Local Government regarding delegations is the potential for legal action to be taken if delegations are incomplete, incorrect or not contained in a register. Inadequate delegations can result in legal challenges if the formal process of delegating a power is unsatisfactory.

Legislative Implications

The legislative ability to implement Instruments of Delegation is contained in section 98 of the Local Government Act 1989.

The ability to appoint authorised officers with delegated authority / powers is contained in section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Environmental Implications

Not Applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not Applicable

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy: Asset Management Policy Borrowing Policy Building Fee Refunds Policy Building Permit Information Policy Business Assistance Scheme Policy Business Continuity Policy



Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings Policy Community Grants Policy Community Halls Policy Corporate Credit Card and Purchase Cards Policy Councillor Expense Entitlement & Support Policy Councillor Code of Conduct Policy Customer Service Policy Environmental Policy Human Rights Policy Procurement Policy Protected Disclosures Policy Temporary Street Closures Policy Works Unit Road Reserve Risk Management Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2013-2017:

- 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 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.

Communication Implications

Not Applicable

Conclusion

Utilising the subscription service provided by Maddocks enabled all delegations to be reviewed and circulated to senior staff for any potential modifications.

Future reviews will occur at shorter intervals to ensure that any legislative changes are picked up and the appropriate officer has the correct level of delegation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the reviewed S-6 delegations and note the contents of the reviewed S-7 Delegations as attached to this report.



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Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council adopt the reviewed S-6 delegations and note the contents of the reviewed S-7 Delegations as attached to this report.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.2.1	S1 – Explanatory Notes	18/002286
12.2.2	S6 – Council to members of staff July 2018	18/002286
12.2.3	S7 – Staff package July 2018	18/002286



12.3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO WIMMERA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WDA) BOARD FILE NUMBER: ED0002 REPORT AUTHOR: ELIZABETH MATUSCHKA, GOVERNANCE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council's Community Representative position on the Wimmera Development Association (WDA) Board will become vacant on 3 August 2018, and a new representative now needs to be selected.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Wimmera Development Association (WDA) is a vital link between Government and Industry, proactively lobbying for improved regional infrastructure and the attraction of major infrastructure projects to benefit the Wimmera's local economy.

West Wimmera Shire Council is a member of WDA.

The position of West Wimmera Shire Council's Community Representative to WDA will become vacant on 3 August 2018, when the two-year appointment of Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll concludes.

Advertising for expressions of interest to attract a new Community Representative to WDA commenced on 1 June 2018 with a deadline of 22 June 2018. Notices were lodged in the local newspapers, flyers were distributed throughout the Shire, and the website and Facebook page also promoted this opportunity.

One expression of interest was received, from Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll. Councillors were provided with this documentation at the Wednesday 4 July 2018 Councillor Forum.

Risk Management Implications

Nil



Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The Community Representative to WDA role is a voluntary one. Council will reimburse the Community Representative for travel costs incurred (if any) to attend Board Meetings.

Policy Implications

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

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following sections 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 2: Meaningful partnerships to support advocacy priorities and service provision.
- 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.

Communication Implications

The identity of the new Community Representative to WDA will be publicised through the Shire's website.

Conclusion

The Community Representative position on WDA is an important opportunity for a local resident to contribute to WDA Board Meeting discussions, offering a uniquely grass-roots perspective.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll as the West Wimmera Shire Council Community Representative to the Wimmera Development Association Board for a further two-year term.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council appoint Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll as the West Wimmera Shire Council Community Representative to the Wimmera Development Association Board for a further two-year term.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments: Nil



13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

13.1 STREET TREE POLICY FILE NUMBER: AD0183 REPORT AUTHOR: BERNIE MADDERN, CONTRACTS MANAGER

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

This report is to enable West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) to review the existing Council Street Tree policy.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Council has a Street Tree policy which provides guidelines for the selection, location, retention, maintenance and amenity of street trees for the enhancement of residential and community amenity in townships within the Municipality.

The last Street Tree Policy review was carried out in 2010.

Risk Management Implications

Insurers JLT require that Council develops and adopts a Tree Management Plan for urban street trees to mitigate public liability risk. This plan requires Council to have a traceable link between annual inspections, maintenance reports and verification of completed works.

Council parks and gardens staff conduct annual inspections to mitigate this risk, as well as contracted arborists to access if required

Legislative Implications

Electrical Safety Act 1998



Environmental Implications

The street tree policy and its underlying Street Tree Management Plan ensures that street trees in township zones are managed and maintained to a standard which will not be detrimental to the environment but enhance the environment.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

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

Council Plan Implications

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

- Strategic Objective 3: Quality sustainable community services and infrastructure.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.

Communication Implications

The Street Tree Policy review was carried out on Thursday 14 June by several key Council staff involved in street tree management. The review included the inclusion of Council's Street Tree Management Plan and the Township Tree Management Plan with Powercor, and deleted a number of procedural items which are included in the Street Tree Management Plan.

Conclusion

The draft Street Tree Policy provides the Council Officers with an updated policy providing guidance in the following key areas:

- 1. To provide guidelines for the selection, location, retention, maintenance and amenity of street trees for the enhancement of residential and community amenity;
- 2. To adhere to risk management principles including meeting insurance requirements and the *Electrical Safety Act 1998*;
- 3. Linkage with other documents such as the Street Tree Management Plan, and the Township Tree Management Plan with Powercor.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the reviewed Street Tree Policy.

Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council lays the report on Street Tree Policy on the table for consideration at the August Ordinary Meeting, after review at the 1 August 2018 Councillor Forum.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.1.1	Street Tree Policy	18/002242
13.1.2	Street Tree Management Plan	18/002240
13.1.3	Powercor Tree Management Plan	14/004222



14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

14.1 REPLACEMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBER TO WEST WIMMERA SHIRE AUDIT COMMITTEE FILE NUMBER: AD0185

REPORT AUTHOR: ANDREA GASH, MANAGER FINANCE

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Section 139 of the *Local Government Act (1989)* requires that each Council establish an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is a formally appointed Advisory Committee of Council.

The Audit 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.

Council's Audit Committee Charter mandates to have three external members. One of the external members Ms Anne Champness indicated her willingness to step down from Audit Committee due to her appointment as CEO at another Council. This report seeks Council's approval for a replacement for Ms Champness.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Officers of West Wimmera Shire Council and Hindmarsh Shire Council are working collaboratively in various areas. As part of strengthening our working relationships, officers approached the Director Corporate & Community Services Ms Monica Revell to be an external member in the Audit Committee replacing Ms Champness.

Ms. Revell is a Senior Officer at Hindmarsh Shire Council and has relevant skills and experience to be an external member for West Wimmera Shire Council.



Risk Management Implications

A functioning Audit Committee is an essential governance requirement for every Council. It is important to have quality external membership in the Audit Committee. Council Officers are ensuring Council engage quality external Audit Committee members. Legislative Implications

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that each Council establish an Audit Committee.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Budget provisions were made to supports the costs associated with Audit Committee external members. There are no additional costs due to the replacement of Ms Champness with Ms. Revell.

Policy Implications

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

Risk Management Policy Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section 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.

Communication Implications

The West Wimmera Shire Council Audit Committee Chairman and other external members were notified on the proposed replacement and will be informed on Council's decision.

Conclusion

Quality external membership is essential to a functional Audit Committee and officers made efforts to maintain quality external membership of the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit Committee.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- **1.** Approve the resignation of Ms Anne Champness as an external member of West Wimmera Shire Council's Audit Committee; and
- 2. Approves Ms Monica Revell as an external member for the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit Committee.

Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council:

- **1.** Approve the resignation of Ms Anne Champness as an external member of West Wimmera Shire Council's Audit Committee; and
- 2. Approves Ms Monica Revell as an external member for the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit Committee.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments: Nil



14.2 2018/19 BUDGET AMENDMENT – RATE IN DOLLAR FILE NUMBER: FM0021 REPORT AUTHOR: ASHLEY ROBERTS, DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) adopted its 2018/19 Budget at its Ordinary Meeting 21 June 2018. The budget contained a rate increase of 3.5% in line with Council's rate capping variation granted by the Minister for Local Government based upon independent advice from the Essential Service Commission Victoria.

To apply these rates Council needs to apply a 'Rate in the Dollar' (RID) to the 'Capital Improved Value' (CIV) of each individual rateable property across the municipality. The RID is calculated by dividing the total rates to be raised by the total valuation of all rateable properties across the shire. Unfortunately due to a change in confirmed valuations (detailed further into this report), Council is required to lower the RID from that advertised in the adopted 2018/19 Budget. It needs to be noted that the total amount of rates to be raised for 2018/19 **does not change**, only the RID does.

This report requests Council resolve to amend the RID to accommodate the change in valuations and ensure that Council does not raise in excess of 3.5% additional total rates for 2018/19.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Total rates raised by Council in any budget year is calculated by multiplying the total rates raised in the previous year (including annualised supplemental rates) by the rate increase percentage, in Council's case 3.5%. Annualised supplemental rates are simply any additions or subtractions to Council's rateable property listing that occur throughout a year (either by new properties being developed or consolidation of two or more existing properties into one), averaged over a full twelve month period. For Council this is minor, equating to approximately \$11,200 for the whole of 2017/18.



In practice for the 2018/19 Budget year this figure is:

2017/18 Forecast Rates \$6,333,183.47 x (1+3.5%) = \$6,554,844.89

This figure will not change no matter what the RID is.

The RID is the base charge that is used to calculate the level of rates levied on each individual rateable property. Effectively each ratepayers liability is the product of the RID x CIV – that is the valuation as represented by the CIV (the value of each individual property including all improvements) multiplied by the RID.

As Council utilises a uniform rate, without any differentials for differing property uses, to calculate the RID we need to know two things:

- 1. The total amount of rates to be raised which we know is \$6,554,844.89; and
- 2. The total CIV of all rateable properties within the municipality

A problem has unfortunately arisen with the CIV used within the 2018/19 Budget document.

When council officers were preparing the budget Council had not received full certification of the CIV amounts from the Victorian Valuer-General (V-G). We had received preliminary figures from the independent valuer which were used in the budget calculations, pending final certification. It was hoped that certification from the V-G would be received by the time the budget was adopted by Council, and it was assumed that the preliminary figures were accurate.

Unfortunately the valuation figures were not certified until 26 June – which in itself is far too late for Council to achieve legislative compliance with the *Local Government Act 1989* regarding its budget adoption requirements. When Council received notification of the certification it became apparent that the preliminary figures provided to Council were seriously flawed and incorrect, necessitating a re-calculation of the RID figure – it is to re-iterated that the overall rates to be raised will not in any way change. Council officers are in contact with the V-G and independent valuer to attempt to ascertain both why the valuations were not certified earlier, and why the preliminary figures were so inaccurate.

The initial RID calculation as shown in the budget document was:

Rates to be raised \$6,554,844.89 / Total Valuation \$1,841,387,600 = \$0.00355973

To keep the total rate increase to 3.5% this will need to be altered to:

Rates to be raised \$6,554,844.89 / Total Valuation \$2,096,864,300 = \$0.00312602



Risk Management Implications

Council will be at reputational risk no matter what course of action is taken. If Council does not change the RID then significantly higher rates will be raised and it stands to be accused of manipulating data to raise higher revenue. It would also be in breach of the rate capping provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Even doing the right thing and lowering the RID will cause Council some reputational damage as it appears council officers have made a serious error. In mitigation to the officers involved they have acted in good faith with the information provided to them at the time by external parties, however reputational harm has occurred. It is recommended that Council act in a clear and transparent manner in correcting this problem by resolving the lowering of the RID at an open Ordinary Meeting.

Legislative Implications

As mentioned, failure to amend the RID would place Council in breach of the *Local Government Act 1989* if it fails to implement the certified valuations and lower the RID.

A question is whether amending the RID constitutes a material change to the budget and requires a complete revised budget process to be undertaken.

Section 128 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989 states:

"A Council must prepare a revised budget if circumstances arise which cause a material change in the budget and which affects the financial operations and position of the Council."

Discussions with Local Government Victoria resulted in advice to council officers that to comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council must determine whether a lowering of the CIV constitutes a 'material change in the budget and which affects the financial operations and position of the Council'. Unfortunately the *Local Government Act 1989* does not define what a 'material change' is or give guidance. If Council were to refer to the effects of amending the RID on the 'financial operations and position of Council' it would seem that altering the RID does indeed not have any effect on Council's financial results or position as the total rates levied overall will not change.

It is pertinent to point out that if Council resolves to prepare a revised budget then under S.129 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council would be required to advertise the revised budget for public consultation for a period 28 days and the revised budget would be subject to public submissions under S.223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in the same way as the original budget process was.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on



Financial and Budgetary Implications

As previously stated there is no budgetary impact upon the 2018/19 budgeted income levels from modifying the RID.

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy: Fraud & Corruption Control Policy Risk Management 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 2: Meaningful partnerships to support advocacy priorities and service provision.
- 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 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.
- Strategic Objective 7: Providing access to and promoting the natural environment.

Communication Implications

It is important to minimise reputational risk to Council that Council be completely transparent in its response to this problem and provide full details to the public on the proposed rectification of the issue.

Conclusion

Council has unfortunately found itself in a situation where it is required to amend the RID in the published budget in order to comply with the rate capping provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*. This has been the result of the valuations certified by the Valuer-General being significantly different to the preliminary figures submitted to Council by the independent valuer. Council needs to decide whether it wishes to amend the RID by resolution or via the preparation of a revised budget.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to amend the Rate in Dollar as published in the adopted 2018/19 Annual Budget from \$0.00355973 to \$0.00312602.

Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks
Seconded:	Cr Trevor Domaschenz
	uncil resolves to amend the Rate in Dollar as published in the 2018/19 Annual Budget from \$0.00355973 to \$0.00312602.
	ncil publicly advise through media outlets of the change in the rate charge and time frame for objections to the new valuation.
	Carried (5/0)

Attachments: Nil



14.3 TAKING REPORT ON OPERATION FLINDERS FROM TABLE FILE NUMBER: AD0183 REPORT AUTHOR: ASHLEY ROBERTS, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) at its June 21 Ordinary Meeting considered a report requesting funding for support of participants of the Operation Flinders Program for 2018. At that meeting Council resolved to lay that report on the table until such time as more information is given. This report seeks to take up that report from the table.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The June 21 Ordinary Meeting included on its Agenda a report requesting funding to assist participation in Operation Flinders 2018.

Council resolved:

Moved:Cr Richard HicksSeconded:Cr Bruce Meyer

That this item be laid on the table pending the presentation to Council by Acting Sergeant Ferluga on Wednesday 4 July 2018, for future Council consideration.

Carried (4/0)

Acting Sergeant Ferluga attended the July 4 Councillor Forum where he made a presentation on the activities undertaken during the program, and the benefits and success stories resulting from the program.

It is considered appropriate now for the report which was laid upon the table be taken up and considered.



If Council resolves not to take up the report from the table then no decision can be made upon the Operation Flinders Report.

Risk Management Implications

Meeting procedures require Council to resolve to take up an item from the table before any item that has been laid on the table may be considered. Failure to follow meeting procedures represents significant reputational risk to Council. Legal risk also exists where failure to follow correct meeting procedures may result in Council decisions being invalid.

Legislative Implications

As previously state, failure to follow correct meeting procedure may invalidate any decision made by Council. In this instance, failure to resolve to take the report from the table may invalidate any decision Council makes on funding for Operation Flinders 2018.

Environmental Implications

Not Commented On

Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are no direct financial implications from taking the report up from the table. The report to be taken up from the table does include financial implications however.

Policy Implications

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

Communication Implications

The resolution of this report will form part of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting.

Conclusion

At the June 21 Ordinary Council Meeting Council resolved to lay on the table a report which was presented seeking funding support for Operation Flinders 2018 pending Acting Sergeant Ferluga's presentation to the 4 July 2018 Councillor Forum.



Councillor Ferluga subsequently presented to Council at the 4 July Councillor Forum, allowing the report to now be taken up from the table and considered.

Meeting procedure required that a resolution be made allowing the item to the taken up from the table.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to take up the report titled 'Funding Request for Operation Flinders' from the table and add it to the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting 18 July 2018 for consideration.

Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council resolves to take up the report titled 'Funding Request for Operation Flinders' from the table and add it to the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting 18 July 2018 for consideration.

Carried (5/0)

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.3.1	Funding Request to Operation	18/001803
	Flinders (Originally presented to	
	June 2018 Council Meeting)	
14.3.2	Letter from A/Sergeant Ferluga	18/001803



14.4 FUNDING REQUEST FOR OPERATION FLINDERS FILE NUMBER: AD0183 REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY - CEO

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council has for a number of years supported the Operation Flinders program, which is designed to re-engage young people who are considered "at risk" within their communities.

The following report is provided to enable discussion on whether to, firstly continue to support the program and if so, to what level.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Operation Flinders is a program that has run for a number years, that tackles youth engagement for young people considered to be at risk.

The program challenges the young participants in an environment that is out of their comfort zone and tests their adaptability and leadership skills.

West Wimmera Shire has supported the program in previous years by providing funding assistance for young people from West Wimmera to attend. These young people are escorted on the program by a local Police Officer and a number of years ago, the Shire's Youth Officer has also attended.

The previous funding has been provided at a particular rate per young participant and this year, the coordinating police officer has suggested that there are a greater number of participants that he will be responsible for.

Also in previous years it was requested that the names and locations of the proposed participants be provided to assure Councillors that they were being drawn from across the municipality. Last year it was also requested that a presentation to Councillors be provided on the outcomes of the exercise.



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The names of the participants was provided but at the time of writing, the presentation to Councillors has not been undertaken. A letter has been sent to the Acting Sergeant at Edenhope, asking for him to arrange a suitable time for a presentation to be made, as this will assist Councillors with making a decision regarding the level of support to be provided.

This report also recommends that any funding provided (should Council decide to fund), is allocated conditional on meeting a number of requirements such as the provision of the names of the proposed participants and a presentation to Council on the outcomes and benefits of the program.

Risk Management Implications

Council needs to be assured that the allocated funds are available to participants from across the entire Shire

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

To be determined following a decision at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

Policy Implications

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

Community Support Fund Policy Council Grants 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 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.



Communication Implications

The outcome of any decision to support or not support the event will be communicated via local media

Conclusion

The results of the Operation Flinders program have been quite positive throughout its lifespan and if it can encourage the youth of the shire to challenge themselves, it is a great outcome for all.

Councillors have quite rightly asked to be assured that equal access to the program is provided to young people across the entire shire and Councillors should also be provided with a presentation on the outcome of the exercise.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

- **1.** That Council allocate \$..... in support of participants of the Operation Flinders program for 2018.
- 2. That the funding is provided subject to meeting the following conditions,
 - a. That the names and schools that the participants are drawn from are provided to Council and
 - b. That a presentation on the outcomes of Operation Flinders and the benefits it provides to West Wimmera Shire is undertaken prior to any funds being released.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

- **1.** That Council allocate \$5,000.00 in support of participants of the Operation Flinders program for 2018.
- 2. That the funding is provided subject to meeting the following conditions:
 - a. That the names and schools that the participants are drawn from are provided to Council, and
 - **b.** That a presentation on the outcomes of Operation Flinders and the benefits it provides to West Wimmera Shire is undertaken.

Carried (5/0)



15.0 LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Local Law No.7 (2017), Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2017, West Wimmera Shire Council:

28. Urgent Business

Business must not be admitted as urgent business unless it:

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

15.1 LANDCARE FACILITATOR IN EDENHOPE

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That an urgent item of business regarding a Landcare Facilitator in Edenhope be included in the agenda for discussion.

Carried (5/0)

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That Council lobby our Federal Member to support the re-funding of the Landcare Facilitator position in Edenhope.

Carried (5/0)

16.0 SEALING SCHEDULE

Nil



17.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

RECOMMENDATION

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

17.1 SUPPLY OF ASPHALT CMO469

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council pursuant to section 89(2) (d) Contractual Matters of the Local Government Act 1989 close the meeting to members of the public at 3.20pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

17.1 SUPPLY OF ASPHALT CMO469

17.2 KANIVA CULTURAL AND TOURISM PRECINCT – PLAYSPACE TENDER CM0463

Carried (5/0)

RECOMMENDATION

That the resolutions pertaining to Confidential / In-Camera items be adopted and made public (except where the resolution restricts publication) and that the reports for those items remain In-camera and that Council open the meeting to the public atam/pm.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That the resolutions pertaining to Confidential / In-Camera items be adopted and made public (except where the resolution restricts publication) and that the reports for those items remain In-camera and that Council open the meeting to the public at 3.30 pm.

Carried (5/0)



17.1 SUPPLY OF ASPHALT CMO469

- 1. That Council accepts the tenders submitted by Centre State Asphalting, Fulton Hogan, Smith & Wil and Gambier Earth Movers for Contract CM0469 "Supply of Asphalt" in accordance with the specifications of Contract CM0469 at the tendered rates.
- 2. That the Contract Agreement Documents for Contract CM0469 "Supply of Asphalt" be signed and sealed by Council following their preparation.

17.2 KANIVA CULTURAL AND TOURISM PRECINCT – PLAYSPACE TENDER CM0463

- 1. That Council accept the revised tender for \$219,999.00 from Landscape IT.
- 2. That the Contract Agreement Documents for Contract CM0463 "Kaniva Wetlands Playspace" be signed and sealed by Council following their preparation.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 3.30PM

NEXT MEETING:

15 AUGUST 2018 KANIVA COUNCIL CHAMBER