



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 15 AUGUST 2018 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD: Wednesday 15 August 2018

LOCATION: Kaniva Council Chamber

COMMENCEMENT: 7.00pm

REQUIRED TO ATTEND:

Councillors	Senior Management Group
Jodie Pretlove, Mayor Trevor Domaschenz	David Leahy Chief Executive Officer
Richard Hicks Tom Houlihan	Ashley Roberts Director Corporate & Community Services
Bruce Meyer	Mark Marziale Director Infrastructure Development & Works

Members of the Gallery are advised that the following Local Law applies to this meeting:

West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2017

42. Gallery to be silent

- (1) Any member of the public asking a question of the Council or in attendance in the gallery must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates*
- (2) Visitors must not interject or take part in the debate and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called upon to do so.*

Vision Statement:

*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

Almighty God, we humbly ask your blessing upon this Council. Guide and prosper our decisions to the advancement of Your Glory and the true welfare of the people of West Wimmera Shire.

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

3.1 APOLOGIES

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

4.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY (maximum of 30 minutes)

4.1 WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice are to be submitted to Council no later than the Monday nine days prior to the relevant Council Meeting. The template for Questions on Notice is available from the Edenhope and Kaniva Council offices, and from the Shire's website.

4.2 VERBAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Time permitting, this section of the Agenda allows members of gallery to ask verbal questions of Councillors, through the Mayor. At all other times during the meeting, members of the gallery are required to be silent, pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2017.



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

5.1 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (MAYOR)

24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
24/07/2018	CEO David Leahy
26/07/2018	Wimmera Primary Care Partnership
27/07/2018	Wimmera Mayoral Gathering Lunch
30/07/2018	CEO David Leahy
30/07/2018	Event with Emma Kealy MP & Peter Walsh MP
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
31/07/2018	Regional Telecommunications Review, Hamilton
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
06/08/2018	CEO David Leahy
13/08/2018	CEO David Leahy
14/08/2018	Presentation at Adult Day Centre, Kaniva Hospital
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.2 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
30/07/2018	Event with Emma Kealy MP & Peter Walsh MP
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
14/08/2018	Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance Meeting
14/08/2018	Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.3 COUNCILLOR RICHARD HICKS

23/07/2018	Harrow Recreation Reserve Upgrade Project Steering Committee
24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
30/07/2018	Harrow Recreation Reserve Upgrade Project Steering Committee
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
13/08/2018	RoadSafe Wimmera AGM, Horsham
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva



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5.4 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
26/07/2018	Combined Municipal Emergency Management Planning Meeting
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
07/08/2018	Dorodong Public Hall Reserve Committee – Public Meeting
14/08/2018	Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Committee
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.5 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER

24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
25/07/2018	Kaniva Museum Committee Meeting
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
14/08/2018	Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Committee
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.6 DAVID LEAHY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

19/07/2018	<i>Annual Leave</i>
20/07/2018	<i>Annual Leave</i>
23/07/2018	Senior Management Group
23/07/2018	Harrow Recreation Reserve Upgrade Project Steering Committee
24/07/2018	Post-Council Staff Meeting
24/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project
24/07/2018	Mayor Jodie Pretlove
26/07/2018	Wimmera CoRE Community of Practice, Horsham
27/07/2018	Worked in Kaniva
27/07/2018	Shared Services Meeting, Horsham
30/07/2018	Senior Management Group
30/07/2018	Mayor Jodie Pretlove
30/07/2018	Harrow Recreation Reserve Upgrade Project Steering Committee
31/07/2018	Edenhope Community Hub Project with Emma Kealy MP
01/08/2018	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
02/08/2018	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnerships
02/08/2018	Armistice Day Anniversary Committee
03/08/2018	Worked in Kaniva
06/08/2018	Senior Management Group



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06/08/2018	Special Meeting of Council, Edenhope
06/08/2018	Mayor Jodie Pretlove
09/08/2018	Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting, Horsham
10/08/2018	Worked in Kaniva
13/08/2018	Mayor Jodie Pretlove
14/08/2018	Senior Management Group & Managers Meeting
14/08/2018	Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting
15/08/2018	Worked in Kaniva
15/08/2018	Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva

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

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 18 July 2018, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION



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10.0 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES & ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

10.1 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – 21 JUNE 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

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

10.2 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD – 1 AUGUST 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 1 August 2018 be received and noted.

10.3 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – 6 AUGUST 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Monday 6 August 2018, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS



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12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 MOVING OCTOBER 2018 COUNCIL MEETING DATE

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: ELIZABETH MATUSCHKA, GOVERNANCE OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report is provided to enable Councillors to alter the date and time for the October 2018 Council Meeting and Community Forum, which is currently scheduled for Wednesday 17 October 2018 at the Charam Hall.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Wednesday 17 October 2018 Council Meeting and Community Forum now clash with the following series of events in Melbourne:

Wednesday 17 October 2018 from 10am:	Rural Councils Victoria Forum & AGM All Councillors and CEO are invited
Thursday 18 October 2018 from 9am:	MAV Annual Conference All Councillors and CEO are invited
Friday 19 October 2018 from 9am:	MAV State Council Mayor to attend and vote CEO and remaining Councillors are invited

Alternate options for the October 2018 Council Meeting include holding the meeting on:

- Monday 15 October 2018 at 2:00pm (the week the meeting is scheduled),
- Tuesday 16 October 2018 at 10:00am (the week the meeting is scheduled).
- Wednesday 24 October 2018 at 4:00pm (the following week).
- Wednesday 10 October 2018 at 4:00pm (the previous week).



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The preferred option is to hold the meeting during the week that it is currently scheduled, as this provides for reasonable spacing between meetings (Assembly of Councillors and Ordinary Council) to prepare informed reports.

It is not practical to delay the decision until the September 2018 Council Meeting, as this will not allow adequate time for arrangements to be made with the Charam Hall Committee regarding catering and the use of the Hall. More lead time is also required to invite local residents and receive RSVPs for the community meal.

Risk Management Implications

From a governance perspective, moving the meeting date removes the risk associated with the lack of a quorum.

Legislative Implications

Council is required to advertise any change of Council Meeting date.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:
Communications Policy
Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
Media Relations 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

Any proposed schedule changes for Council Meetings will be advertised to enable the public to attend or submit questions on notice.



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Conclusion

The rescheduling of the October 2018 Council Meeting and Community Forum is required, to accommodate Councillor and Chief Executive Officer attendance at Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) and Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) meetings in Melbourne.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to alter the date of the October 2018 Council Meeting at the Charam Hall to Monday 15 October 2018, commencing at 2:00pm.

Attachments: Nil



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12.2 STATUS REPORT – COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY - CEO

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

The following report is provided in accordance with Chief Executive Officer KPI# 1 and as an update on the progress of actions contained within the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021.

Information provided within the report is derived from the projects listed within the resource plan, in the agreed format as presented to Councillors in November 2017.

The status report in spreadsheet form has been provided in hard copy to all Councillors as it is easier to follow in hard copy.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan commenced development in February 2017 and underwent a series of workshops and discussions prior to being opened up for public comment.

To enable the plan to be implemented where possible, a resource plan was also developed and presented to Councillors, along with an advocacy plan.

The purpose of the resource plan is to identify where external resources are required, to break-down the large aspirational objectives into smaller, manageable projects and to assign responsibility to certain staff and departments.

It also provided a suggested timeline for activities to occur and this has been further highlighted in the attached reporting format.



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The attached document provides a spreadsheet for each strategic objective. Each spreadsheet has the current volume of work completed per action (expressed as a percentage), any potential hurdles to completing the task and suggested completion dates.

The report is colour coded to enable areas of concern to be highlighted easily and information provided on the status has been provided by the nominated officer.

This report has been provided to Council Assemblies in May and August and changes have been made to the previous version at each presentation. The proposal for an outreach program and the successful attainment of up to \$200K (provided to the health provider) has been added in to the document and the status of a number of items has been updated along with supporting comments.

Risk Management Implications

Not reporting on the status of the Council Plan presents a risk of not adhering to the agreed strategic direction of the organisation.

By not following the agreed strategic direction as set out in the Council Plan, a significant financial risk is faced by Council.

Legislative Implications

Council is required to produce a Council Plan and present it to the Minister in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

This requirement will not change under the proposed new 2018 Local Government Act.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

As outlined in the Council Plan.

Policy Implications

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

- Advocacy Policy
- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Borrowings Policy
- Building Fee Refunds Policy
- Building Permit Information Policy
- Business Assistance Scheme Policy



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Business Continuity Policy
Communications Policy
Community & Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings & Structures Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Community Halls Policy
Community Support Fund Policy
Corporate Credit Card and Purchase Cards Policy
Council Grants Policy
Council Major Hall Hire Policy (Kaniva & Edenhope)
Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
Councillor Expense Entitlement & Support Policy
Customer Service Policy
Domestic Firewood Collection Policy
Election Period Policy
Environmental Policy
External Hire of Plant Policy
Fraud Control Policy
Guarantor Policy
Human Rights Policy
Investment Policy
Media Relations Policy
Onshore Unconventional Gas Exploration Policy
Playground Management Policy
Procurement Policy
Protected Disclosures Policy
Recreation Policy
Reserve Risk Management Policy
Road and Street Naming Policy
Social Media Policy
Street Tree Policy
Support to Community Events Policy
Support to Public Art Policy
Temporary Street Closures Policy
Tourism Policy
Township Amenity Policy
Tree Plantations on Unused Road Reserves Policy
Tree Planting on WWSC Road Reserves 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 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 1: A proactive, well governed, professional and financially sustainable organisation that encourages community participation.



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- 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

Status reports on the Council Plan can be communicated via media releases and newsletter articles etc.

Conclusion

Council has the opportunity at any time to adjust sections of the Council Plan and readvertise it for public comment.

It is important to ensure that the overall Council Plan remains as a high level strategic document and that any adjustments are investigated for resource implications and timing implications.

All goals contained within the Council Plan must also align with the long term financial plan of Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept the report and offer any suggestions for inclusion prior to it being re-presented to the October 2018 meeting of Council.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.2.1	Council Plan 2017-2021 Status Report (as at 24 July 2018)	18/002784



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12.3 CAPITAL WORKS STATUS REPORT

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY – CEO

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The following report and attached document is provided in the agreed format as presented to Councillors in March 2018.

The information provided is in accordance with the CEO Key Performance Indicator No. 2

The information included in the report contains accurate comments and the financial information is accurate as at the end of the 2017 / 2018 financial year.

The next version of this report will contain the capital items and large operational items as contained in the 2018/19 financial year budget.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The status of capital works can fluctuate according to seasonal conditions, as most of the capital investment is undertaken to renew existing assets or to upgrade assets that are contained in public spaces.

A more stringent process of monitoring capital works has been implemented, which has enabled status reports on individual projects to be provided more frequently. An example of this is the upgrades at Lake Charlegrark.

The attached spreadsheet is provided as per the format that was agreed to in 2016 and again in 2018. It enables the volume of completed works to be displayed via a bar graph and also expressed as a percentage of completion.

A short status comment is provided and Councillors can seek clarification or further information at any time. The information provided is in addition to verbal updates provided at various meetings.



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Risk Management Implications

Ensuring that tight controls are in place for capital works, mitigates a degree of financial risk.

Legislative Implications

Appropriate financial controls are essential for good governance and are required by the Local Government Act 1989

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Individual budget adjustments will be presented to Council as part of regular financial reporting

Policy Implications

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

Asset Capitalisation Policy
Asset Management Policy
Borrowings Policy
Building Fee Refunds Policy
Building Permit Information Policy
Business Assistance Scheme Policy
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Community Halls Policy
Community Support Fund Policy
Corporate Credit Card and Purchase Cards Policy
Council Grants Policy
Council Major Hall Hire Policy (Kaniva & Edenhope)
Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
Fraud Control Policy
Guarantor Policy
Investment Policy
Playground Management Policy
Procurement Policy
Support to Public Art Policy
Tourism Policy
Township Amenity Policy



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Tree Plantations on Unused Road Reserves Policy
Tree Planting on WWSC Road Reserves 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 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.

Communication Implications

The status of individual projects, including timelines, are regularly reported via newsletters and some projects are reported directly to Council.

Conclusion

Council successfully completed key components of the capital works program and was required to carry over works and budget commitments from a number of larger projects that have straddled the financial year.

The 2018 /2019 budget is taking a strong renewal approach to future investment and has targeted key asset areas such as road infrastructure and Council owned and managed buildings to invest in. This will greatly assist in improving the long term sustainable position of the Shire.

The attached document will be regularly updated and presented to Council at regular intervals.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the attached Capital Works Status Report.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.3.1	Capital works status report	18/002784



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12.4 DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM PROJECT ALLOCATIONS

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY – CEO

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The following report is provided to enable the endorsement of the actions taken to nominate projects to receive the remaining Drought Communities Program funds.

West Wimmera Shire Council was granted access to funds of \$1.5m in 2016 and since the announcement, some modifications have been made to the list of projects that were notionally allocated funds.

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 was provided with access to \$1.5m of funds as part of the Drought Communities Program via the Federal Government in 2016.

The funding was announced by the Member for Mallee, Hon Andrew Broad MP and a number of projects were put forward as suitable for an allocation. Council is still required to submit a formal proposal for each project and have it approved by the agency managing the fund.

With all funds to be acquitted by 30 June 2019, the various project proposals are required to be submitted by Friday 10 August.

This has required Council to provide direction to the officers on which projects the funds are to be nominated to. In order for the direction to be provided, Council was provided with a list of possible projects in the Council planning pipeline.

There was also considerable discussion regarding the possibility of completing the demolition and construction of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall and what the possibilities are for securing the funds to improve the site.



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The discussions also centred on the risk of Council facing a significant debt as a result of the project value exceeding expectation.

As a result of these discussions, Council provided direction to speak with the Drought Communities Program about the possibility of allocating the remaining funds in the program as follows;

- \$700K – Edenhope Mechanics Hall & Apsley Hall for restorations and where necessary upgrades to prolong their useful life.
- \$217K - For restorations works at the Kaniva Shire Hall
- \$110K – For works at the Lake Wallace Foreshore (retaining walls, accessible paths, jetty surface treatment)
- \$40K – Harrow Discovery Centre (Painting of interior and exterior, re-roofing, improve egress and replace sections of termite damaged infrastructure)

All of the above mentioned projects have been discussed with the Drought Communities Program managers and applications lodged. Project scopes have been provided and are attached to this report for information.

Risk Management Implications

Council is managing its risk against financial loss, by not committing to a new build of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Part of the project at Apsley is replacing asbestos sheet roofing and removing a significant risk of environmental damage.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

No matching funds are required

Policy Implications

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

Advocacy Policy

Asset Capitalisation Policy

Asset Management Policy

Building Fee Refunds Policy

Building Permit Information Policy

Communications Policy



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Community Engagement Policy
Community Halls Policy
Community Support Fund Policy
Council Major Hall Hire Policy (Kaniva & Edenhope)
Procurement 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 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.

Communication Implications

Council should prepare media releases and be prepared to meet with various stakeholders, particularly on the Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

Conclusion

The landscape has significantly changed since the announcement of the funds from the Drought Community Program in 2016. For example some of the projects initially nominated with a notional sum of allocation, have received funds from other external sources and the ability to complete other projects within the timeframe and financial constraints, has meant that a re-think of the proposed allocations was necessary.

Whilst the ultimate desire for the Edenhope Mechanics Hall is to construct an accessible community hub, the Council would be required to accept a significant risk of overrun and scope creep.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the actions taken under direction by Council Officers, to submit the following projects and project values to the Drought Communities Program for approval:

- Edenhope Mechanics Hall & Apsley Town Hall restorations \$700K
- Kaniva Shire Hall restorations \$217K
- Lake Wallace Foreshore Improvements \$110K
- Harrow Discovery Centre Improvements \$40K

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.4.1	Project Scope, Shire Halls Restoration	18/002784
12.4.2	Project Scope, Kaniva Shire Hall Restorations	18/002784
12.4.3	Project Scope, Lake Wallace Foreshore Improvements	18/002784
12.4.4	Project Scope, Harrow Discovery Centre Improvements	18/002784



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13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS



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14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

14.1 WEST WIMMERA RECREATIONAL TRAILS STRATEGY

FILE NUMBER: PS0267

REPORT AUTHOR: SARAH ELLIS - MANAGER BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) engaged Tredwell Management Services to complete the West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy in October 2017.

The Draft Background Report & Strategy has now been completed and is ready for public review and feedback prior to the reporting being finalised.

As per the funding agreement this project is to be completed by December 2018,

Proposed Timeline for report review and signoff;

15th August – Council Meeting – Report approved for Community review & Feedback

20th August - 21th September – Community Review and Feedback

24th September – 8th October – Updates to Report & Finalisation of Priority Project Scoping

17th October – Council Meeting – Final Report Accepted

The Strategy is provided to Council for information with an intent that Council endorses the community engagement program at its next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

In June 2017 Council successfully secured funding (\$30,000) from the Sport and Recreation Victoria (Community Sport and Infrastructure – Planning 2017-18 Fund) to go towards a project to 'Deliver a West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy to develop a consistent policy framework over a ten year period to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails' as per the funding ratios Council is to contribute \$15,000 to the project.



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The aim of the West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy is to develop a consistent policy framework over a ten-year period to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails and to provide a vision of what the trail network across West Wimmera will look like in the future.

Ultimately, the West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy will form part of a Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy to guide broader sport and recreation infrastructure development and complement the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with the broad mission, goals and priorities of local government to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing. Achieving strategic alignment of these plans is critical to achieving health and wellbeing outcomes in our local communities.

The West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy will also look to the tourism and economic benefits that can be realised through a strategic approach to the development of tracks and trails infrastructure.

Risk Management Implications

West Wimmera Shire Council have been engaged in the process through active project management and Project Control Group.

Council may be exposed to reputational risk if this process is not followed through correctly and if there is no community engagement.

Legislative Implications

All community consultation and engagement will be in accordance with the provision of the Local Government Act 1989.

Environmental Implications

The contents of the strategy may lead to some level of environmental impact, this impact will need to be fully assessed at the implementation of any project arising from this strategy.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Funding (\$30,000) was received through the Sport and Recreation Victoria (Community Sport and Infrastructure – Planning 2017-18 Fund) to go towards the activity. Council is to contribute \$15,000, as per the funding ratios set out in the program guidelines.

\$27,000 has already been received from Department of Health and Human Services with the balance (\$3,000) due at the completion of the project in December 2018.



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\$35,736 has already been paid to Tredwell with the balance of \$8,934 due at the completion of the report. (total contract with Tredwell Management Services \$44,670 as per Council motion October 17, 2017 Council Meeting)

Policy Implications

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

Asset Management Policy
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Environmental Policy
Recreation Policy
Social Media 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 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.
- Strategic Objective 7: Providing access to and promoting the natural environment.

Communication Implications

To ensure that the community has sufficient time to review the report we will endeavour to make the report available to all members of the community as early as possible. In doing this we will have hard copies available to read at both of Council's Edenhope and Kaniva Customer Service Centres as well as available on Council's website.

We will use the online platform of 'OurSay' to receive feedback as well as an option for a hard copy printed form. The request for feedback will be advertised across media including print, social and notice boards.

Conclusion

The West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy is a consistent policy framework over a ten-year period to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails and to provide a vision of what the trail network across West Wimmera will look like in the future.



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This framework will assist in guiding decisions and supporting funding applications to ensure that recreational trails across the West Wimmera can be maintained and improved to meet sport and recreational requirements as well as the flow on benefits of tourism and economic benefits to the Council area.

To ensure Council makes the most of the strategy and opportunities arising and also our communities desires it is important to undertake rigorous community engagement around the strategy.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report and authorises Public Consultation to commence 20 August 2018.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.1.1	Recreational Trails Strategy Volume II Background	18/002596
14.1.2	Recreational Trails Strategy Volume I Strategy	18/002596



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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.*

16.0 SEALING SCHEDULE

17.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

MEETING CONCLUDED:

NEXT MEETING:

**19 SEPTEMBER 2018
EDENHOPE COUNCIL CHAMBER**