



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 18 MARCH 2020 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD: Wednesday 18 March 2020

LOCATION: Edenhope Council Chamber

COMMENCEMENT: 2.00pm

REQUIRED TO ATTEND:	
Councillors	Senior Management Group
Bruce Meyer, Mayor	David Leahy Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor	
Trevor Domaschenz	Ashley Roberts Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS)
Richard Hicks	
Tom Houlihan	Mark Marziale Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)

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. Amen.

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.



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RECOMMENDATION:

That Council suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of receiving questions without notice from members of the Gallery.

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.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resume Standing Orders.

5.0 DELEGATES REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) AS PROVIDED BY COUNCILLORS TO GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICER PRIOR TO AGENDA BEING ISSUED

5.1 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER (MAYOR)

26/02/2020	Mr Stuart Grimley MP
26/02/2020	Kaniva & District Progress Association
26/02/2020	Kaniva & District Progress Association Silo Art Trail Meeting
28/02/2020	Mayoral gathering (hosted by Horsham)
28/02/2020	CEO David Leahy
02/03/2020	Michael Bailey, Regional Roads Victoria & David Leahy
04/03/2020	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
06/03/2020	CEO David Leahy
07/03/2020	JB Greenhill Edenhope Cup
07/03/2020	Riordans Goroke Apex Club Rodeo
08/03/2020	Mullagh Championship's, Harrow
10/03/2020	WWSC Audit Committee Meeting
11/03/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/03/2020	Museum New Committee Formation Meeting, Kaniva
18/03/2020	Citizenship Ceremony & Ordinary Council Meeting, Kaniva



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5.2 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (DEPUTY MAYOR)

04/03/2020	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
07/03/2020	JB Greenhill Edenhope Cup
10/03/2020	WWSC Audit Committee Meeting
16/03/2020	Wimmera PCP Executive Meeting
18/03/2020	Citizenship Ceremony & Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.3 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

04/03/2020	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
07/03/2020	Riordans Goroke Apex Club Rodeo
10/03/2020	Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting
11/03/2020	West Grampians Pipeline Consultative Group Meeting
12/03/2020	LifeForce Edenhope Strategic Planning Meeting
17/03/2020	Wimmera Mallee Regional Tourism Association Meeting
18/03/2020	Citizenship Ceremony & Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.4 COUNCILLOR RICHARD HICKS

04/03/2020	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
18/03/2020	Citizenship Ceremony & Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.5 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

04/03/2020	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
18/03/2020	Citizenship Ceremony & Council Meeting, Kaniva

5.6 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



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7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 19 FEB 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 19 February 2020, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

10.0 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD – 4 MAR 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 4 March 2020 be received and noted.

11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS



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12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 DELEGATIONS REVIEW

FILE NUMBER: AD0186

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY – CEO

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Council is required to review and update its delegations in a number of different categories periodically and this report and attachments provide the reviewed and updated delegations for the S6, S7 and S11 (Authorised Officers) and S13 instruments of delegations.

The S6, S11 and S13 delegations are presented for Council endorsement and the S7 delegations are presented for Councillors information.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

An update to the various delegations was provided via Maddock's web-site in January 2020 and the suggested adjustments have been made to the attached documents using the Reliansys Delegations Module.

The delegations that have been reviewed are S6 (Council to members of staff), S7 (CEO to staff), S11 (Authorised Officers update) and S13 (Instrument of delegation of CEO powers, duties and functions).

There are considerable changes to a number of areas in the S6 delegations and the S7 delegations. To assist in highlighting the alterations, the areas that are new or have been changed have been included in separate attachments.

There are also a number of modifications provided within the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and these will be required to be reviewed again once the new Local Government Act is adopted.

Due to a number of staff movements and the realignment and title change to a number of roles, there is a requirement to update the S11 delegations to authorise officers by the



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correct title, who will be undertaking duties as Authorised Officers, in accordance with the various sections of legislation.

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



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Protected Disclosures Policy
Temporary Street Closures 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 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 and the Delegations Software package of Reliansys, has enabled a more streamlined and accurate review to be completed. It also assists in providing an individual delegation folder to each relevant officer.

Following the passing of the Local Government Bill into legislation and it becoming an act, the full suite of delegations will be required to be reviewed and updated to ensure that the various provisions align.

In addition to the new Local Government Act, the new EPA Act and Regulations will also require a number of delegations to be assigned and it discussions on ensuring the delegation requirements are undertaken at the same time are underway.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. **In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 98(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached S6 instrument of delegation, West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) RESOLVES THAT:**

- a) **There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff*, the**



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powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.

- b) The instrument comes into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
- c) On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
- d) The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
- e) The instrument be signed and sealed.

2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached S11 instrument of appointment and authorisation (the instrument), West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) RESOLVES THAT:

- a) The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- b) The instrument comes into force immediately the Common Seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.
- c) The instrument be signed and sealed.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.1.1	Reviewed S6 Delegations (Council to staff)	AD0186
12.1.2	S6 Delegations – changed and new	AD0186
12.1.3	Reviewed S7 Delegations – (CEO to staff) (for Councillors information)	AD0186
12.1.4	S7 Delegations changed and new	AD0186
12.1.5	S11 Delegations – Authorised Officers	AD0186
12.1.6	Reviewed S13 Delegations (CEO powers, duties and functions)	AD0186



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12.2 FUTURE OF SENIOR CITIZENS HALL – EDENHOPE

FILE NUMBER: PS0356

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID LEAHY – CEO

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The following report is provided to enable Council to make a decision on the future of the Senior Citizens Hall in Edenhope, by deciding whether or not to advertise for expressions of interest to purchase or acquire the facility.

Council also has the opportunity to provide direction on where funds received through a sale or future savings realised through programmed maintenance, can be assigned.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

During discussion and debate on the funding to construct the Edenhope and District Community Centre (formerly the Mechanics Hall), Council resolved to investigate the potential sale or exchange of ownership of the facility.

The intention was to avoid future budgeted costs associated with the facility and potentially allocate any funds that may be realised through a sale, to the construction project of the Edenhope and District Community Centre.

To enable the investigations to progress, Council staff arranged to present to the Edenhope Lions Club and the Edenhope Senior Citizens Club members. Due to a delay in arranging the meeting with the Senior Citizens, the process has been pushed back further than first anticipated.

The CEO has also had a subsequent meeting with the Edenhope Lions Club, to update them on the progress of the discussions.

At the meetings, the Council Staff explained the process that is required under section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989, pertaining to restrictions on power to sell land and section 191, transfer exchange or lease of land without consideration.



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The initial meetings with the groups were very different, with the Lions Club expressing a desire to stay in the building and invest in its future and the Senior Citizens, looking towards winding up the group. The subsequent meeting on 4 March 2020, was also very positive, with the Lions Club members in attendance very committed to having the Senior Citizens building remain as their home base.

The Lions Club have undertaken some improvements since basing themselves in the facility, which include, a new stove and oven, general repairs to the kitchen, minor painting works and some minor works on the grounds. They expressed a desire to continue to improve the facility and build storage sheds on site to house their catering van and various stock items that are currently stored in members' homes.

The Senior Citizens are prepared to work with the Lions Club on their exit from the site and handover items such as crockery and cutlery to the Lions. The Council staff invited the Senior Citizens to utilise the new Edenhope and District Community Centre to ensure that they can continue to meet, without the worry and responsibility for the building.

To enable the process to commence, Council is required to resolve to dispose of the facility from its asset register. It is also required to direct that a valuation of the facility is attained from a suitably qualified valuer and consider the valuation prior to any decision. It is also required to publicly advertise its intention to sell or exchange the land, at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land.

Members of the public are entitled to lodge a submission on the sale or exchange in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

If Council chooses to sell the land, an expression of interest process would be sufficient for the sale. It was also a concern of the Lions that the site may be sold to a developer, who would remove the building and carve it up for a unit development. It was explained the Lions that Council would prefer a community use as it is now and is only obliged to consider the valuation and the expressions of interest and the ultimate decision on the sale or exchange is Councils.

During the meeting of 4 March, the CEO once again explained that the Council is not obliged to sell to the highest bidder and during previous discussions, have placed a high value on the community benefit of the site being available for various functions.

It was also explained that Council acknowledges the community service provided to the district by the Edenhope Lions Club.

Provided Council does not object, staff will commence the process of obtaining an up to date valuation of the site and Council has the opportunity to resolve to progress with the sale or exchange of the site.



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Risk Management Implications

There is a risk that any decision Council makes re: sale or exchange is challenged which would create a delay in the process.

Legislative Implications

Council is currently required to adhere to sections 189 and 191 of the Local Government Act 1989.

There are similar provisions within the Local Government Bill that is before parliament now, but the 1989 Act what Council will be required to abide by.

Environmental Implications

Ensuring that the premises remain in a suitable condition.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

There will be costs associated with the appointment of a valuer and negotiations around any outstanding building items, should a sale go ahead.

Council has also funded any conveyancing costs associated with the sale or exchange of other community hall facilities that have been sold.

Policy Implications

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

- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Asset Disposal Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Building Fee Refunds Policy
- Building Permit Information Policy
- Communications Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Community Halls Policy
- Council Major Hall Hire Policy



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

Communication Implications

There are specific requirements within the Act to ensure suitable communications are implemented prior to any decision to sell or exchange occurs.

Conclusion

The membership numbers of the Edenhope Senior Citizens Club have been declining for a number of years and the burden of responsibility associated with the hall building has contributed to this.

A high percentage of the use of the site is for Council training sessions and meetings of various groups associated with Council activities. It is envisaged that most of these meetings and training sessions will occur in the Edenhope and District Community Centre, which will make the Senior Citizens Hall surplus to Council's needs.

Council should also discuss and decide where the proceeds of any sale may be directed.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to:

1. Commence the process to remove the Edenhope Senior Citizens Club from the Council Asset Register in accordance with section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989.
2. Direct the CEO to seek a valuation of the Edenhope Senior Citizens building from a suitably credentialed valuer.
3. Advertise its intention to dispose of the property through sale or exchange.
4. Receive and consider submissions provided on the proposed sale or exchange, in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
5. Direct any funds received via a sale or savings made through building maintenance cost savings to the fit-out of the Edenhope and District Community Centre project.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.2.1	S189 Local Government Act 1989	PS0356
12.2.2	S191 Local Government Act 1989	PS0356



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13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

13.1 TOWNSHIP AMENITY PLAN

FILE NUMBER: AD0186

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID PIETSCH – MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

FOR DECISION

Introduction

In May 2015, Council adopted the West Wimmera Shire Council Township Amenity Plan (the Plan).

The Plan sought to provide a framework for long term planning and major project design in townships. The Plan states that the:

‘West Wimmera Shire Council’s vision is to deliver the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer.’

‘Towns within West Wimmera municipality boast a unique sense of character and heritage and the West Wimmera Shire Council is aiming to conserve and enhance these attributes by implementing this Township Amenity Policy within a long-term sustainability framework.’

The Plan seeks to promote an attractive community that is well designed and maintained.

The Plan is due to be reviewed, however, it is noted that the Plan currently does not have any statutory weight. Consequently, the objectives within the Plan would be more effectively implemented through Council’s planning and local law processes.

Issues identified within the Plan relating to unsightly land, storage of unregistered vehicles, vermin, burning of waste material, storage of materials and rubble can be effectively managed through the enforcement of Council local laws and the matters raised within the Plan can be included within the local laws review which will be initiated later this year.

Matters pertaining to heritage, building design, township precinct planning, land use and development should be managed through the implementation of the West Wimmera Planning Scheme. It is recommended that the information within the Plan be used to inform Council’s Planning Scheme review which is scheduled to commence later this year.



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Other matters can be implemented through other mechanisms as detailed within the table attached to this report.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Council's Township Amenity Plan currently does not hold any statutory weight. Should Council be called upon to implement any aspect of the Plan, Council is limited in what it can enforce.

The Plan does, however, provide guidance in relation to the importance of the presentation of our towns, particularly in terms of economic development and investment attraction. The matters raised within the Plan can be effectively incorporated within the upcoming local laws and planning scheme reviews which would provide a statutory mechanism to implement the Plan.

Risk Management Implications

By removing the Plan and incorporating the relevant objectives into Council's local laws and planning scheme, removes the risk of Council Officers being requested to take action against a Plan that is currently unenforceable.

Legislative Implications

There is no regulatory requirement for Council to have a Township Amenity Plan.

Council may make local laws in accordance with Section 111 of the Local Government Act (1989) and must develop a Planning Scheme pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act (1987). The matters raised within the Plan can be effectively managed through this legislation.

Environmental Implications

By using the Township Amenity Plan to inform Council's local laws and planning scheme review will ensure that the environmental outcomes envisaged within the Plan can be achieved and enforced.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The cost of undertaking the local laws review and the planning scheme review will be budgeted for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.



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Policy Implications

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

Any review to Council's local laws or planning scheme will be subject to extensive community consultation prior to being adopted by Council.

Conclusion

Given that the outcomes sought to be achieved through the Plan can be more effectively implemented through Council's local law and planning processes, it is recommended that the Plan not be updated, but deleted and the information provided within the Plan used to inform Council's local law and planning scheme reviews.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to discontinue the Township Amenity Plan and incorporate the relevant information into the next local law and planning scheme reviews.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.1.1	Township Amenity Plan	AD0186
13.1.2	Township Amenity Plan – Allocation of issues table	AD0186



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14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

14.1 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION – BEETANICALS

FILE NUMBER: ED0089

**REPORT AUTHOR: NOLA MCFARLANE, MANAGER BUSINESS
PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) has received a request for business assistance funding to support business development of a start-up business within the Shire to grow the business beyond the current scale.

The business “Beetanicals, nature’s little helper”, is based in Douglas and currently produces a small range of natural balms and bulk honey.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Council provides an amount of funds in the 2019/20 budget \$25,000 was allocated. Businesses can make application (up to \$15,000) through the business assistance scheme to this fund. Applicant businesses are required to support their application with a business plan detailing the nature of the business, a SWOT analysis, and an indication of sustainability. Tanya and Warren Stanley as the owners of the business have provided this supporting document which is attached as commercial in confidence to this report.

Beetanicals was formed as an off shoot to a third-generation family beekeeping business. Producing a range of skin care and honey products, the business owners feel they are ready to enter a significant growth stage and are seeking assistance with promotion and marketing to launch this business expansion. The expansion of the business would see them move to become employers, expand their stockists to 100 in store by the end of 2020 whilst maintaining and growing the online ecommerce presence.



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Beetanicals meets the policy intent by being located in a remote area of the shire, a business that is looking to significantly expand and provide employment opportunities, seeking support with promotion and media profile. They have provided the required supporting documentation.

Risk Management Implications

Council has adopted a policy of supporting businesses to start-up and undertake significant expansion within the shire. This request is in line with Council's Economic Development goals strongly aligning with strategic objective 4 of the Council plan. Council could face reputational risks in not supporting the application.

There are risks that the business will not experience the projected growth, or that the growth in the business will happen at a rate that is faster than projected and but the business at risk of failure through expansion at a rate not forecast. The business plan has given consideration of these risks, and the risk to Council is a small risk of not gaining the predicted economic benefit of awarding the grant funding.

Legislative Implications

None reported

Environmental Implications

None reported

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council has budgeted \$25,000 to the Small Business Support Program. There are \$19,077 remaining unspent and there have been few enquiries in relation to the policy and scheme. The funds are available to grant this fund request

The business plan provides a breakdown of how the requested grant will be used in the promotion of the business and products.

Policy Implications

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

Council Plan Implications

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



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- Strategic Objective 1: A proactive, well governed, professional and financially sustainable organisation that encourages community participation.
- Strategic Objective 4: Building on our agricultural and business strengths and supporting economic development.

Communication Implications

Beetanicals has offered to promote and partner with West Wimmera Shire Council in the promotion of the area through their attendance at trade shows and fairs.

Council will be able to further promote and provide marketing opportunities through any subsequent success stories that come from the business growth as part of a business attraction and development campaign.

Conclusion

Council has received a request for assistance under the business assistance scheme for support with a business expansion of a family start-up business in the Douglas area into a larger producer who can be an employer as well as provide direct economic benefit to West Wimmera, and the larger Wimmera region

The request complies with the requirements of Council's Business Assistance Scheme Policy. Council has embedded economic development in its Council Plan. This request provides Council with an opportunity to support an agricultural producer to diversify and value add and stimulate economic development.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to grant Tanya and Warren Stanley of Beetanicals – natures little helper a grant from the Business Assistance Fund in the amount of \$ _____.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.1.1	Letter of request from Beetanicals	C20/001490
14.1.2	Business Plan: Beetanicals	C20/001485
14.1.3	Quotes supporting expenditure for requested grant	C20/001492



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14.2 REVIEW OF TOURISM POLICY

FILE NUMBER: AD0186

**REPORT AUTHOR: NOLA MCFARLANE, MANAGER BUSINESS
PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council recognises tourism as an important part of our economy and community.

To ensure that the efforts align with community expectation and the direction provided by the Council Plan, a policy was developed in 2010 and is due for review.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The State is currently undertaking a review of Regional Tourism. The Regional Tourism Review is about finding new ways to support tourism in regional Victoria, enhance private investment and create more regional jobs. The review will help us understand how to leverage local strengths, support communities and increase visitation.

The review of the West Wimmera Tourism Policy was undertaken knowing that this larger review would likely require a further review of the local policy once the State position is finalised. The updated policy is attached for review and discussion with Council.

It is also proposed that the policy be reviewed again once the State review of Regional Tourism is finalised and implemented, to ensure that there is alignment across the levels of policy between state and local approaches and that Council is able to achieve their outcomes within the new state framework.



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Risk Management Implications

Ensuring that all documentation and materials are researched and factual, reduces the risk of inappropriate information or presentations being provided by Council.

Legislative Implications

The new Local Government Act will require a number of policies to be developed or adjusted to provide community engagement strategies along with a transparency policy.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The review of the policy has no financial implications.

Policy Implications

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

Business Assistance Scheme Policy
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Support to Community Events Policy
Media Relations Policy
Tourism 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.



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- 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

Following the final review of the policy and adoption of the reviewed document, all staff are notified of the revised document.

Conclusion

West Wimmera has partnered with Wimmera Mallee Tourism in a number of successful campaigns in recent years, the unearth amazing and silo art trail are two campaigns that West Wimmera is about to feature prominently in.

The current review of regional tourism in Victoria will change the landscape for rural and regional areas and consideration of our policy position will ensure that we are ready to best represent our communities in the new political landscape.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the reviewed Tourism Policy.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.2.1	Reviewed – Council Policy – Tourism March 2020	AD0186



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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

16.1 RENEWAL OF BANK GUARANTEE FACILITY WITH NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED

West Wimmera Shire Council holds a Bank Guarantee Facility with National Australia Bank in the sum of \$150,000, and it is due for renewal. The Facility has been in place for a number of years, and is essentially a bank overdraft facility. To date it has never been used, but remains in place should the need ever arise.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council sign and seal the renewed Bank Guarantee Facility with National Australia Bank Limited

17.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

RECOMMENDATION

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

17.1 WINDMILL CAFÉ LEASE

17.2 WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION UPDATE



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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 at pm.

MEETING CONCLUDED:

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2020