



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD:	Monday 14 September 2020
LOCATION:	Edenhope Council Chamber & Zoom
COMMENCEMENT:	2.00pm
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Live Streaming from Council's website www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au

REQUIRED TO ATTEND:	
Councillors	Senior Management Group
Bruce Meyer OAM, 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)

*The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules –
which were adopted on 19 August 2020 and commenced on 1 September 2020 –
set out the meeting procedure rules for this Council Meeting.*

*Members of the public are reminded that they are required to remain silent
during this meeting, except during Section 4 Questions from the Gallery.*

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That in view of the current COVID-19 Pandemic and the social distancing restrictions put in place by the Australian and Victorian Governments, public access to this meeting be limited to live streaming via Council's website.

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 2020 with regard to Conflict of Interest disclosures.



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4.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY (maximum of 30 minutes)

4.1 WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Governance Rules – Division 8 Section 53:

53.4 Questions submitted to Council can be submitted as follows:

53.4.1 in writing, stating the name and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council; and

53.4.2 placed in the receptacle designated for the purpose at the place of the meeting at least two hours prior to the Council meeting, or be lodged electronically at the prescribed email address at least two hours prior to the Council meeting.

The Question on Notice template is available from the Edenhope and Kaniva Council Offices, and from Council's website.

Written Questions on Notice submitted to Council no later than the deadline of 5:00pm on the Monday in the previous week to the relevant Council Meeting, will be included in the Agenda.

Written Questions on Notice submitted subsequent to that deadline can be lodged electronically to govmanager@westwimmera.vic.gov.au, no later than two hours prior to the Council Meeting.

4.1.1 INDUSTRIAL AREA, HARROW ROAD, EDENHOPE – GREG BUTTLE, EDENHOPE

Subject: Very poor visual state of industrial area, Harrow Road, Edenhope

Question:

Could the Council please do something about the state of the nature strips and the eyesore state of the corner block on Harrow Road and George Street. Also lay some bitumen on the part unsurfaced section of road in front of houses nos 26 to 34.

Some general tidying up of fences and bring it up to a level that befits the Council main office being located in Edenhope.

Visitors coming into town think we are on our knees financially.



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4.1.2 FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING AND KANIVA SHIRE HALL – MARLENE CARTER, KANIVA

Questions:

1. Could you please provide a breakdown of how Council will be utilising the \$1.5m Grant from the Federal Government?
2. Could Council please provide a summary of the works completed at the Kaniva Shire Hall during the upgrade project?

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, following the removal of standing orders and when prompted by the Mayor (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.3)

Members of the Gallery providing verbal questions without notice at a Council Meeting must state their name, to be recorded in the minutes (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.4)

No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.5)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resume Standing Orders.



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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 OAM (MAYOR)

21/08/2020	CEO David Leahy
21/08/2020	Wimmera Southern Mallee Media & Council Liaison Meeting
24/08/2020	VicRoads / Dept of Transport Meeting with Michael Bailey, Angela Daraxoglou (DOT) & David Leahy
26/08/2020	Minister Shaun Leane, Minister for Local Government & David Leahy
27/08/2020	Mayoral Gathering
28/08/2020	CEO David Leahy
28/08/2020	North West Municipalities Association NWMA Meeting
02/09/2020	Councillor Forum
04/09/2020	Victorian Grants Commission – Local Council Information Session
04/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
09/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	MAV Representative Online Forum (instead of MAV State Council)
11/09/2020	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting
11/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	Council Agenda Review with SMG
14/09/2020	Council Meeting

5.2 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (DEPUTY MAYOR)

02/09/2020	Councillor Forum
09/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	Council Agenda Review with SMG
14/09/2020	Council Meeting

5.3 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

26/08/2020	Kaniva & District Progress Association Meeting
02/09/2020	Councillor Forum
08/09/2020	Wimmera Development Association Board Meeting
09/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	Council Agenda Review with SMG
14/09/2020	Council Meeting



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5.4 COUNCILLOR RICHARD HICKS

26/08/2020	Kaniva & District Progress Association Meeting
01/09/2020	Kaniva & District Progress Association Special Meeting
02/09/2020	Councillor Forum
04/09/2020	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting
09/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	Council Agenda Review with SMG
14/09/2020	Council Meeting

5.5 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

02/09/2020	Councillor Forum
09/09/2020	CEO David Leahy
11/09/2020	Council Agenda Review with SMG
14/09/2020	Council Meeting

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

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 19 AUG 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 2:00pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES



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9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 WEST WIMMERA TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NOM 2020/03 – CR T DOMASCHENZ

Preamble

Four years ago the West Wimmera Tourism Advisory Committee was resolved by West Wimmera Shire Council to remain in place as a committee.

A further resolution was passed in June 2018:

That the West Wimmera Tourism Committee be asked to provide to Council a report detailing possibilities of street and outdoor art.

Very recently we had a brilliant presentation to the September 2020 Forum from the newly formed West Wimmera Tourism Committee on that street and outdoor art resolution.

The committee has gone from a concept to a very active committee with a good geographical spread of Shire wide members since its first meeting in late July this year.

I believe we have all realised the value of local, regional, interstate and international tourism to our Shire with the collapse of tourism in West Wimmera. We have realised the important role that the previous tourism committee had to play. We need that broad Shire wide representation to assist with a recovery and to take advantage of any opportunities that arise as the West Wimmera Shire, Victoria and Australia gradually open up.

Motion

1. That the West Wimmera Shire Council recognise the reformed West Wimmera Tourism Committee as an advisory body.
2. That the West Wimmera Shire Council consider supporting an application to the Creative Activation Fund.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
09.1.1	Notice of Motion 2020/03	E20/000310



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10.0 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND COUNCILLOR FORUM RECORD

10.1 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 11AM 19 AUG 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at 11:00am on Wednesday 19 August 2020, to hear submissions to the draft Governance Rules and draft Local law No.8 of 2020 – Use of the Common Seal, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

10.2 COUNCILLOR FORUM RECORD – 2 SEP 2020

Summary of matters discussed at the Councillor Forum:

a)	Presentation and Discussion – Kaniva Hostel
b)	Kaniva Community Hub
c)	Hospitality Business COVID-19 Relief Request
d)	Community Strengthening Grants Program Round 1
e)	Community Representative to Wimmera Development Association
f)	Proposed Tree Removal – Wendy Garton
g)	Senior Citizen of the Year 2020
h)	Building Better Regions Fund
i)	Presentation – West Wimmera Tourism
j)	COVID-19 Recovery Pathway
k)	Swimming Pool and Spa Registration Requirements
l)	West Wimmera Indigenous Trail

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 2 September 2020 be received and noted.



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11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS



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12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE

12.1 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO WIMMERA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WDA)

FILE NUMBER: ED0002

REPORT AUTHOR: ELIZABETH MATUSCHKA, GOVERNANCE MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Council's Community Representative position on the Wimmera Development Association (WDA) Board became vacant on 4 August 2020, and a new representative now needs to be selected.

Expressions of interest were first called for in April and May 2020, however none were received. Re-advertising subsequently took place during July and August 2020.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* 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 pays an annual membership subscription to WDA, along with surrounding Local Councils. Council's CEO and one Councillor are the Shire's nominated representatives to WDA.

The position of West Wimmera Shire Council's Community Representative to WDA became vacant on 4 August 2020, when the two-year appointment of Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll concluded. This was her second term as Community Representative to WDA, totalling four consecutive years of service.

The Community Representative role involves attending monthly meetings of WDA in Horsham, however during COVID-19 this has been changed to video link meetings.



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Advertising for expressions of interest to attract a new Community Representative to WDA commenced in late April 2020, with a closing date of Friday 12 June 2020. Notices were lodged in the local newspapers, flyers were distributed throughout the Shire, and the website and Facebook page also promoted this opportunity. No expressions of interest were received.

A further round of advertising for expressions of interest took place in July and August 2020, with a closing date of 19 August 2020. 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.

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.

If the Community Representative lives in or near Edenhope, they can travel to meetings in Horsham with Council's CEO, in his vehicle, once face to face meetings resume.

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.



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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.

Communication Implications

The identity of the new Community Representative to WDA will be publicised on Council's website, and the WDA will also be formally notified in writing.

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:

1. That Council appoint Ms Josie Sangster as the West Wimmera Shire Council Community Representative to the Wimmera Development Association for a two-year term, commencing on 14 September 2020.
2. That Council write a thank-you letter to Mrs Helen Mulraney-Roll, acknowledging her 4 year contribution as the West Wimmera Shire Council Community Representative to the Wimmera Development Association.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
12.1.1	Expression of Interest from Ms Josie Sangster	ED0002



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13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

13.1 PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL – WENDY GARTON

FILE NUMBER: PSO389

REPORT AUTHOR: BERNIE MADDERN, CONTRACTS MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Consideration of a report on a street tree removal application received from Wendy Garton of 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope, for the removal of one large Gum tree adjacent to her property.

Background

This tree is a large Gum tree and is situated on the nature strip adjacent a block of units at 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope. The tree is very well established and is quite old. The tree is situated between the kerb & channel and the footpath in alignment with other street trees.

The initial tree removal request for this tree was received from Frances Ryan dated 13 May 2015, and was discussed at an Ordinary Council meeting in July 2015.

The second tree removal request has been received from Wendy Garton dated 8 July 2020.

This request has been referred to Council as a result of the second tree removal application, and due to the first application not being resolved.

Risk Management Implications

Any street tree can pose a potential risk to the general public, however this risk is mitigated through Council's street tree management program through its annual inspection and maintenance program.

The applicant has stated a number of risks such as tree roots protruding from the ground, cracks in building, poor vision when reversing out of driveway and the tree being directly under powerlines.

There are transmission powerlines along this side of the street and the tree in question has been trimmed by Powercor several times in the past.



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Legislative Implications

Compliance with the Electrical Safety Victoria (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010.

Environmental Implications

This tree has been heavily trimmed to allow clearance for power lines that pass through the top part of the tree. The trees removal would have a minimal negative impact on the streetscape, as there is another similar sized tree in close proximity in the road pavement.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The cost of the tree removal will be allocated against the street tree vegetation removal budget if Council decided that the tree is to be removed.

Cost of removal	\$2,000.00	(approx.)
Cost of stump removal	<u>\$300.00</u>	(approx.)
Total Cost	\$2,300.00	

Policy Implications

The removal of this tree has been assessed as falling within clause 5.2.1 the Tree Removal criteria in Council's Street Tree Policy.

- The tree poses an extreme public nuisance because of its species, size, location or attributes.

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.

Communication Implications

The initial tree removal request dated 13/5/2015 was received from Frances Ryan stating that *"the tree is causing damage to the kerb, holding water back. Due to the severe method of pruning for powerlines, the tree is at risk of dropping large limbs onto the neighbouring unit. It is also an eyesore as it has a large "u" shape cut into the middle of it"*.

A tree removal report dated 21 May 2015 was provided stating that the tree poses an extreme public nuisance and recommending it be removed because of its species, size, location or attributes, and that Vemco, Powercor's vegetation control contractors, has highlighted the tree to be unsuitable situated directly under powerlines.



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A Council tree risk assessment was carried out on 17 June 2015 stating that re growth is a weaker point of attachment to the main trunk with potential for breaking off in heavy wind falling onto roof of unit. Continued kerb & channel damage and further footpath distortion.

A report was tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on 16 July 2015 recommending that the tree be removed advising that the reasons for removal fall within the criteria of Councils Street Tree Policy.

The resolution was “That Council approve the application by Frances Ryan to remove the gum tree situated on the nature strip adjacent 21 Elizabeth Street Edenhope, conditional on the cost of removal, including stump removal, to be met by the applicant”

The motion lapsed and a second resolution stated “That Council officers report back to Council on alternative options that don’t involve removing the tree”

Following the Council meeting the tree was trimmed back to the adjacent fenceline, however, further investigation and alternative options was not followed up by officers at the time due to staff on leave. However officers have recently reviewed and concluded that there are no alternative options that would remove the risks without removing the tree.

A further letter was received from Wendy Garton on 11 June 2020 which has prompted another review of this tree.

The applicant has requested Council to re consider the tree removal advising “*the roots are protruding from the ground, it is a trip hazard to the elderly lady who will be living in my unit. There are no other trees as big as this along the nature strip. I am worried about more cracks appearing in my unit. The leaves and gum nuts are a nuisance, it cuts vision when backing out, and powerlines go straight through the middle*”.

Conclusion

This Gum tree is quite old and an unattractive specimen.

Officers have recommended the removal previously on the basis of risk to public and property, and it being an inappropriate variety under power lines, evidenced by continual heavy pruning by Powercor contractors to provide satisfactory line clearance.

Both the applicant and Council officers have identified a number of risks with this tree and believe its removal will eliminate these risks and recommend the removal at Council’s cost and replacement with a more appropriate species.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves of the tree removal request from Wendy Garton to remove the Gum tree adjacent to her property at 121 Elizabeth Street Edenhope at Council's cost, and replaces it with a more appropriate tree species.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.1.1	Tree Removal Request Ryan	EDOC/5211
13.1.2	Tree Report	EDOC/5211
13.1.3	Tree Risk Assessment	C20/006717
13.1.4	Council Report 16/07/2015	EDOC/5629
13.1.5	Tree Removal Request Garton	C20/005133
13.1.6	Map	C20/006716
13.1.7	Photos	C20/006718



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13.2 SWIMMING POOL AND SPA REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID PIETSCH, MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT, & MARK MARZIALE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT & WORKS

FOR DECISION

Introduction

On 1 December 2019, The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne introduced new Regulations, approved by the Governor in Council, to improve swimming pool and spa safety came into effect in Victoria. Those initial amendments to the Regulations were recently further amended on 26 May 2020 to change the Compliance Dates, now deferred to November 2020.

These new building Regulations make it now mandatory for owners of land where a swimming pool or spa is located to register their pool or spa with the relevant council.

The new laws apply to swimming pools and spas that are capable of holding more than 300 mm (30 cm) of water. This includes permanent pools, above ground pools, indoor pools, hot tubs, bathing or wading pools and some relocatable pools.

Relocatable pools that do not consist of multiple components and do not require any assembly are not subject to the barrier requirements. An example of such a product is a small inflatable pool that requires no assembly other than inflation.

Declaration of Interests

The authors of this report declares no conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Background

The new laws have been introduced to improve swimming pool and spa safety in Victoria.

The new provisions apply to swimming pools and spas that are capable of holding more than 300 mm (30 cm) of water. This includes permanent pools, above ground pools, indoor pools, hot tubs, bathing or wading pools and some relocatable pools.



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Relocatable pools that do not consist of multiple components and do not require any assembly are not subject to the barrier requirements. An example of such a product is a small inflatable pool that requires no assembly other than inflation.

The new regulations require the owner of land on which a pool or spa is located, to register their pool or spa with Council. They are required to complete a registration form and pay the registration fee. For pools and spas constructed or commenced before 1 November 2020, an information search fee is also payable.

Pool and spa owners are now also required to obtain and lodge compliance certificates for their safety barriers

Risk Management Implications

The new registration requirements will ensure that pools and spas throughout Victoria are inspected by Council building inspectors to ensure that they have appropriate safety barriers in place to reduce the risk of accidental drownings.

Legislative Implications

The new requirements for Swimming Pools and Spas safety were Gazetted as an amendment to the Statutory Rules:

S.R. No. 42/2020,

Building Act 1993 - Building Amendment (Registration of Swimming Pools and Spas and Other Matters) Regulations 2020

By The Governor in Council, which made the Regulations: Dated: 26 May 2020
for the Responsible Minister: RICHARD WYNNE Minister for Planning

The Act sets out the framework for the regulation of building construction, building standards and the maintenance of specific building safety features.

The objective of these new Swimming Pool & Spas Regulations is to amend the Building Regulations 2018—

(a) to change the dates—

(i) by which applications for registration of swimming pools or spas must be made;
and

(ii) in relation to the lodgement or issue of certificates of pool and spa barrier compliance; and

(b) to change the date on which certain prescribed fees will be revoked.

Environmental Implications

The new regulations do not have any significant environmental implications.



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Financial and Budgetary Implications

The new Statutory Fees and Charges, for Registration and Compliance Inspections of all Swimming Pools and Spas, have been prescribed by the Minister for Planning, as set out below:

Type of fee or penalty	Amount
Pool or spa registration fee A one-off fee payable to the relevant council for the registration of your pool or spa.	\$31.84*^
Information search fee This fee enables the council to conduct the appropriate searches to determine the date of construction of your pool or spa and any associated building permits, which in turn determines the applicable barrier standard. The information search fee only applies to pools or spas constructed before 1 November 2020.	\$47.24*^
Failure to register swimming pool or spa within relevant timeframe	up to \$1,652.20^

To meet the new building legislation requirements, a variation to Council's Municipal Building Surveyor Services Contract, with *Gov Shared Services*, will be required to provide suitably qualified personnel to administer and assess the Swimming Pool Registrations, additional inspections, enforcement and administration work required by the new regulations. The contract variation is currently being negotiated with our contract MBS Gov Shared Services, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council. The new registration fees will also contribute to covering the additional costs involved.

It has been estimated that there are approximately 800 affected swimming pools and spa structures in the combined Local Government areas of Horsham Hindmarsh and West Wimmera, and of those, c.50 are expected to be found in West Wimmera. Costs to operate the required statutory registration and compliance services are expected to be apportioned accordingly.



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Policy Implications

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

Asset Management Policy
Building Fee Refunds Policy
Building Permit Information Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Customer Service Policy
Investment 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 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- 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.

Communications Implications

The new requirements will be promoted on Council's Website and Facebook page.

Building inspectors will also be proactively identifying properties with pools and spas within the Shire and work directly with property owners to explain the new requirements, provide information and ensuring compliance.

Conclusion

Council officers are working with our contract Municipal Building Surveyor [Gov Shared Services], Hindmarsh Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council to understand the extent of additional regulatory work required to fulfil the new Victorian State legislative requirements for mandatory swimming pools and spa registrations and barrier compliance and, vary the contract accordingly to ensure adequate service provisions.

Although this new legislation imposes additional requirements on pool and spa owners, it will ensure an accurate record of the number and location of pools and spas within the Shire and requires that they all have Australian Standard Safety barriers in place to avoid accidental drownings of children.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council supports the Authorised Officers in negotiating and approving the necessary Variations to the Contract for Municipal Building Surveying Services, in accordance with the requirements of the Amendment to the Regulations by the Minister for Planning, S.R. No. 42/2020, Building Act 1993 - Building Amendment (Registration of Swimming Pools and Spas and Other Matters) Regulations 2020.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
	Further Information and FAQs at https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools/registration-requirements	N/A



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14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

14.1 COVID-19 RECOVERY PATHWAY

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

REPORT AUTHOR: ASHLEY ROBERTS, DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council), along with the rest of Victoria, has been subject to a number of restrictions arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic (including the closure of the South Australian border) which has impacted our community and economy. It is considered prudent to prepare a high level strategic pathway to provide guidance in the development of recovery plans in the medium and longer term.

This report presents a high level response pathway document to Council for consideration. It is designed to spark debate and support more detailed planning.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Background

The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted the social and economic fabric of society in a way unprecedented since the Second World War. Repeated lockdowns and border closures have had serious negative impacts to community wellbeing and particularly to business confidence and trading.

While there are a number of Commonwealth and Victorian Government support packages available to businesses in particular, Council should play a leadership role in the relief and recovery process. Part of this is to provide a planning framework around the recovery process.

While at this point our community is still very much in the relief (Survive) stage of the process, it is important to provide at least an outline for recovery to some sort of normality.



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The attached Covid-19 Recovery Pathway provides this high level guidance to ensure that Council may produce a targeted and efficient response program.

It needs to be made very clear that the Recovery Pathway is a living document – it will start off somewhat aspirational at the later stages – these will be populated with more defined practices as the relief and recovery process evolves. It should also be noted that other more detailed item specific documentation will exist and inform the Recovery Pathway document.

The Pathway document breaks the recovery process into four stages:

Survive → Stimulate → Recover → Thrive

The Survive stage involves the immediate response and relief activities that are initiated to ensure that as much of Council's community and economy survives the initial impacts of the Pandemic.

The Stimulate stage involves short term responses designed to ensure what has survived the initial impact shock (the Survive stage) continues to have support and survives. This phase is where business confidence begins to be rebuilt. Council's ongoing investment into our economy is critical in this phase.

The Recover phase is where Council can act upon analysis from the Survive and Stimulate Stages of the Pathway. This phase involves planning, support and projects which enable the post-covid economy and community service levels to reach a level and standard close to those which existed pre-covid pandemic.

It should be noted here that this does not mean that Council will see *exactly* the same economy or community services return as existed before the pandemic, but that output and involvement should be at similar levels.

This phase will likely involve partnerships with Commonwealth and State governments and potentially private sector organisations. It should also be highlighted that a state wide recovery program will be initiated by Victorian Government, with which Council will be expected to be involved in.

The Thrive stage is where Council can facilitate the activation of opportunities and lessons learned from the recovery process. It is aimed at providing our local economy and community with an enhanced level of diversity and resilience and to be able to take on new opportunities as they present.

Risk Management Implications

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed high levels of risk on all areas of Council's operation.



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Council may certainly be exposed to financial risk from the Covid-19 pandemic from reductions in collected revenue, including potentially rates. This may be offset somewhat by additional relief and recovery funding from other levels of government.

This of course may lead to operational risk where Council may not be able to successfully maintain its regular services – this may be exacerbated if relief and recovery funding is targeted to particular areas, leaving Council potentially resource poor for the maintenance of regular functions.

Clearly there is significant reputational risk for Council in its handling of the covid-19 pandemic. It will be impossible for Council to satisfy all requests and community desires over this period and there will almost certainly be dissent at some of Council's handling of the process. Council will need to be clear in its communications around having a planned response process.

Legislative Implications

Any response plans and actions will be in accordance with relevant legislation – i.e *Local Government Act 2020, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Fair Work Act, etc.*

Environmental Implications

There is potential for relief and recovery work to have environmental impacts. These will be required to be assessed at the time of planning the individual works.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are potentially high impacts to Council's budgets and finances arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The obvious issue concerns income sustainability. Council anticipates that there will be a number of applications for rate relief when the 2020-21 Rate notices hit people's mailboxes. Whilst it is difficult to predict where the requests for rate relief may come from and the exact amounts involved due to the nature of rating variable valuations, a 1% reduction in rates and municipal charges collected (excluding Waste Collection Charge) would be approximately \$73,900 – a 1% reduction in waste charge income may add approximately \$5,000 to this.

The complications from this arise in that Council has little other own sourced revenue (i.e revenue other than grants) with which to assist with covering this loss of income/cash flow. The uncertainty in being able to predict the value of rate hardship applications is that this in turn causes particular uncertainty around the funding of Council's operations. It is likely that Council may need to trim some operational expenditure to cover any significant loss of rate cash inflow, or dip into cash reserves.



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Council has introduced its Covid-19 Rates Relief Policy which enables deferment and long term payment options to eligible ratepayers. Ratepayers who are suffering severe hardship may opt to apply directly to Council for a waiver of all or part of their rates under s.171 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Evidence of extreme hardship will be required to support such an application.

It is also possible that Council could look to broaden or re-purpose one or more of its existing support policies, such as the Business Assistance Scheme, Community Support Fund or Community Grants Scheme to enable funding of direct assistance packages.

Policy Implications

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

Advocacy Policy
Building Fee Refunds Policy
Business Assistance Scheme Policy
Business Continuity Policy
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Community Support Fund Policy
Council Grants Policy
Rate Recovery & Financial Hardship 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.



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Communication Implications

The Covid-19 Recovery Pathway document will be released to the public, via website and social media. It is likely that we will receive significant feedback on the document. It is important to note that this is a working document and will undergo many iterations as different needs and opportunities arise. Nonetheless there is opportunity to undergo a community engagement process around Covid-19 recovery.

Conclusion

The Covid-19 Pandemic has presented Council with generationally unprecedented conditions both socially and economically.

It is important for Council to prepare a measured and considered approach to relief and recovery. The Covid-19 Recovery Pathway provides a base framework on which to develop further detailed recovery programs and activities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Covid-19 Recovery Pathway document.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.1.1	Covid-19 Recovery Pathway	AD0183



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14.2 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANT PROGRAM 2020-2021 ROUND 1

FILE NUMBER: AD0183

**REPORT AUTHOR: SARAH ELLIS, MANAGER BUSINESS PERFORMANCE
AND DEVELOPMENT**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) Community Strengthening Grants program is designed to promote and increase participation of residents in community initiatives, to build and strengthen local networks and partnerships and to support community leadership, learning and skill development.

Council provides financial assistance to community groups and organisations to support the provision of programs, activities and services which respond to identified community needs, contribute to the building of a stronger community, develop innovative approaches and local social issues and are in accordance with Council's strategic objectives.

Round one grants closed Friday 31 July 2020. Three applications for grants were received, two for community infrastructure/equipment, and one community project. The grants have been assessed and a recommendation is included within this report.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report, or the assessment of the applications for grant funding.

Background

Community strengthening grants are open for application twice per financial year, round one being in the first quarter (July – September) and round two in the third quarter (January – March). Grants must be submitted on the published forms and submitted within the opening period to be eligible for assessment by the panel.

Applications must be from eligible applicants (community based not for profits, incorporated or sponsored by an incorporated organisation). They are then assessed against a number of selection criteria as well as the requirements of the specific funding categories. The criteria are tabulated below.



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Mandatory Eligibility Criteria	Ineligibility (Council will not fund):
Meets recognised community need	Retrospective funding for projects commenced prior to receipt of grant funding
Will strengthen liveability	Applications for 100% funding, organisations are required to contribute financial and/ or in-kind to the project within the requirements established in each specific grant program guidelines.
Has been designed to foster community engagement and participation	Fundraising activities.
Will primarily benefit the residents in the West Wimmera community, and benefits the broader community rather than just the members of the applicant organisation	Core business and operational responsibilities of the organisation.
Encourages a strong sense of community wellbeing that supports learning, participation, inclusiveness, healthy lifestyles and environmental sustainability	Staff wages and salaries and ongoing operational, maintenance or administrative costs.
The project can stand alone and will not require recurrent funding from council	Ongoing projects or a duplication of existing services.
Wherever possible, goods and services are being sourced from WW suppliers	Support for individual pursuit without community benefit.
	Projects that do not involve the WWSC community.
	Services or activities which are considered to be primarily the responsibility of the State or Federal Governments.
	Applicants that have failed to correctly acquit funding with Council in the past
	Applicants who have received funding from Council within the last 12 months.



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Applicant	Project	Type	Status	Ask	Co-contributi on
Goroke Lions Club	Goroke History Trail - To erect plaques with the early history of particular sites, buildings & businesses in Goroke	Communit y Project	Eligible	\$4940	\$2500
Edenhope Kindergarten PAG	Replacement of Kindergarten Blinds	Facilities Upgrade	Ineligibl e	\$3214	\$1607
Edenhope Adult Riding Club Inc.	All weather access to club grounds and safe parking	Facilities Upgrade	Eligible	\$4500	\$6694

Goroke Lions Club & Edenhope Adult Riding Club are both eligible and met the mandatory selection criteria. Edenhope Kindergarten PAG is not eligible as they are not Incorporated.

Applications are then assessed against the criteria of the particular funding category the application is applying to. Applications were received against the community event and community infrastructure categories which were scored against the criteria listed in the Community Strengthening Guidelines listed below along with the weightings applied to each criterion

Community infrastructure	max	Edenhope Kindergarten PAG	Edenhope Adult Riding Club Inc.
Increase community participation in projects and activities	10	4	7
Demonstrates a high level of community need, or where the service or program is in danger of being discontinued, contributes to a solution	10	7	7
assists groups operate more effectively	10	6	8
encourages and supports the involvement of volunteers	5	3	3
improves OH&S	5	4	4
contributes to environmental sustainability	5	4	3
Goods and services sourced locally	5	3	5
Total	50	31	37



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Community Project	max	Goroke Lions Club
Meets an identified need in one or more of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and cultural development • Sport and recreation • Community health and safety • Environmental improvement 	10	7
Creates a direct benefit to residents of West Wimmera	10	8
Enhances the lifestyle and wellbeing of participants through innovative, learning and/or sustainable opportunities	10	7
Provides opportunities to extend the skills of participants and provides access to a unique and diverse opportunity	5	3
Demonstrated a need for financial support in undertaking the initiative along with the ability to contribute their own resources (financial/ in kind)	3	3
Clearly defined, specific objectives and measurable outcomes	1	1
total	39	29

The evaluation panel comprised of the following members of council staff:

- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Manager Engineering
- Manager Business Performance and Development
- Manager Planning and Environment
- Business Development and Tourism Officer
- Events and Volunteer Administration Officer

Each panel member independently scored the applications against the above criteria and the average scores in the tables above will inform the recommendation

Risk Management Implications

Community Strengthening Grants present minimal risk to council. The policy requires a successful applicant to manage the grant funding themselves. Each application has been assessed against the policy guidelines, ensuring a transparent and equitable process has been followed.



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Legislative Implications

No known implications

Environmental Implications

The projects have no foreseeable Environmental implication.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

A total of \$133,676.00 is allocated in the 2020-21 budget, for two rounds of Community Strengthening Grants. This funding has been divided between the three categories as follows:

- Community Events \$11,200.00
- Community Projects \$34,102.00
- Facilities Upgrades and Equipment \$88,374.00

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:
Council Grants Policy
Support to Community Events 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.

Communication Implications

Community Strengthening grants were promoted through Council's social and media channels. Grant applicants have received an email acknowledgement of their submission of application and will be advised of the outcome of the Council decision once made.

Successful applicants will be asked to provide updates for follow up media on the outcomes of their projects and the impacts for their communities



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Conclusion

The applications from the Edenhope Adult Riding Club Inc. & the Goroke Lions Club are both eligible and good to high quality submissions.

The Edenhope Kindergarten PAG are not Incorporated which makes them ineligible, although they did present a worthy application for the replacement of 40 year old interior curtains and the installation of exterior patio blinds to provide shelter from extreme weather conditions.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That Council approve the following Community Strengthening Grant applications and authorise Council Officers to process grant payments:**
 - a) Edenhope Adult Riding Club – All weather access and parking \$4,500.00**
 - b) Goroke Lions Club – Goroke History Trail \$4,940.00**
- 2. That Council resolves that under the terms of the Community Strengthening Grants Policy the application from the Edenhope Kindergarten PAG is ineligible for funding, however Council allocates funding of \$3,214.00 to the project under the terms of the Community Support Fund.**

Attachments: Nil



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14.3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FOR INDIGENOUS TRAILS PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

FILE NUMBER: ED0091

**REPORT AUTHOR: SARAH ELLIS, MANAGER BUSINESS PERFORMANCE
AND DEVELOPEMNT**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) entered into a funding agreement with Regional Development Victoria titled the “West Wimmera Indigenous Trail” in mid-2019. The project is jointly funded by RDV and Council for a total budget of \$65,000 (cash and in kind).

A project control group with members from the community and other key stakeholders is being put in place to oversee the project.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Background.

The West Wimmera Indigenous Trail project was funded to establish a tourism trail that celebrates the history of the first XI Aboriginal Cricket Team that toured England in 1868.

From the funding agreement “This was a significant event in Australian history that saw our local Indigenous cricketers represent Australia’s first international sporting team. The trail will involve six sites that are of significance to celebrate the history of the First XI Aboriginal Cricket Team”.

The trail will incorporate locations at Dergholm, Apsley, Bringalbert, Harrow, Edenhope and Gymbowen, giving tourist and visitors the opportunity to not just learn about stories of our first international sporting team members, but also experience the wonders of the West Wimmera Municipality.”

At the August 2020 Council meeting, Council requested expressions of interest be invited from community members from Edenhope, Harrow and Bringalbert to join the Project Control Group for the Indigenous Cricket Trail Project.



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Advertising for expressions of interest for Community Representative to join the project control group commenced Wednesday 26 August 2020, with a closing date of Monday 7 September 2020. Notices were lodged in the local newspapers, and the Council website and Facebook page also promoted this opportunity.

Five expressions of interest were received.

Risk Management Implications

Not commented on.

Legislative Implications

None known

Environmental Implications

None known

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The Community Representative roles on the project control group are voluntary roles.

Policy Implications

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

Communication Implications

The story of the Indigenous Cricket First XI team is an important story to many people in the West Wimmera community and beyond. It is important that we continue to liaise with all interested parties to ensure that the outcome of the project is accurate and understanding of all interested parties.

Covid-19 continues to be a challenge in consultation processes. Online meetings and communication will continue to be used to minimise the risk and meet government guidelines.

Conclusion

Expressions of Interest to be on the committee have been received from:

- Helen Mulraney Roll
- Geoff Langsworth
- Richard Wait
- Lachie Turner
- Sarah-Jane Kennedy

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to appoint as Community Representatives on the Indigenous Trails Project Control Group.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.3.1	Expressions of Interest received from five individuals	AD0183



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15.0 LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules – Division 3 Section 20:

20. Urgent Business

If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of Council, and only then if it:

20.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and

20.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

16.0 SEALING SCHEDULE

16.1 SECTION 173 AGREEMENT – D M & R L STAEHR

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council sign and seal the Section 173 Agreement between West Wimmera Shire Council and D M Staehr and R L Staehr, who are the registered proprietors of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision No.817794D, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 11976 Folio 999 and known as 241 Three Chain Road, Kaniva Victoria 3419.



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17.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO LG ACT 2020 SECTION 66 (2)(a))

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council pursuant to Section 66 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 close the meeting to members of the public at pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

17.1 HOSPITALITY BUSINESS COVID-19 RELIEF REQUEST

17.2 SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2020

2. That as required by Section 66 (5) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council hereby records the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public as follows:

Item 17.1: Hospitality Business COVID-19 Relief Request

Grounds: LG Act 2020 Section 3 Confidential Information:

Definition (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets, or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Explanation: This report contains private commercial information provided by the hospitality business requestors, in relation to their COVID-19 relief requests.

Item 17.2: Senior Citizen of the Year 2020

Grounds: LG Act 2020 Section 3 Confidential Information:

Definition (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Explanation: This report contains personal information regarding the nominees for Senior Citizen of the Year 2020.



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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 21 OCTOBER 2020
KANIVA COUNCIL CHAMBER & ZOOM**