



## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 9 JUNE 2021 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

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**HELD:** Wednesday 9 June 2021

**LOCATION:** Edenhope Council Chamber & online via Microsoft Teams

**COMMENCED:** 10:00am

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Recording made available on Council's website [www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au](http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

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<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Senior Officers</b>
Bruce Meyer OAM, Mayor Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor Trevor Domaschenz Tom Houlihan Tim Meyer	David Bezuidenhout Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  Vin McKay Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS)  John Griffiths Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)
	<b>Officers:</b> Kaddie Cother Governance Support Officer  Melanie Jordan Finance Coordinator  Sarah Ellis Manager Business Performance & Development

*The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules  
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 4.0 Questions from the Gallery.*

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

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

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### 1.0 WELCOME

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

#### 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 will be limited to viewing of recording via Council's website.

**Moved:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**Seconded:** Cr Tim Meyer

**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 will be limited to viewing of recording via Council's website.**

**Carried (5/0)**

### 2.0 OPENING PRAYER – CEO

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



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### 3.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

### 3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None Declared.

*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 CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2021/22 PROPOSED BUDGET

**FILE NUMBER: FM0070**

**REPORT AUTHOR: MELANIE JORDAN, FINANCE COORDINATOR**

#### **FOR DECISION**

##### Introduction

This report presents all submissions received by West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) as per the resolution made at the Council Meeting held 5 May 2021.

In accordance with Council's public advertisement inviting submissions, any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission was given to opportunity to present to Council at the Special Council Meeting held at the Edenhope Community Hall on 28 May 2021 at 10:00am.

It is noted in this report also that several minor changes have been made to the proposed 2021-22 budget since the time of public advertisement due to new information being made available to Council. A summary of these changes is outlined below.

##### Declaration of Interests

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

##### Background

As part of its 2021/22 budget process West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) resolved at its Council Meeting on 5 May 2021:

**Moved: Cr Tim Meyer**

**Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

- 1. That the Draft 2021/22 Budget attachment be Council's Proposed Annual Budget 2021/2022 (Budget) prepared for the purposes of Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020.**



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- 2. That in accordance with Section 158 of the Local Government Act 1989 Council proposes to declare a General Rate of 0.1920 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value within the municipal district for all rateable land for the rating period commencing 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2022.**
- 3. That Council notes that the General Rate of 0.1920 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value as noted in recommendation 2 is subject to confirmation from the Valuer General of Victoria of the valuations within West Wimmera Shire and the issuance of a Certificate 7A under the Valuation of Land Act 1960. Should valuations change materially, there will be a requirement to amend the General Rate in the dollar in order to ensure compliance with the Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015. However, this will have no impact on the total rates revenue raised.**
- 4. That Council proposes that all rates for rateable land be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of the rateable land by the relevant General Rate indicated at recommendation 2 above.**
- 5. That in accordance Section 167 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989, the general rates and service charges be payable by:**
  - a. Four instalments for which the gazetted instalment dates as fixed by the Minister are as follows: 30 September 2021, 30 November 2021, 28 February 2022 and 31 May 2022; or,**
  - b. Lump sum by 15 February 2022.**
- 6. That in accordance with Section 159 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council proposes to declare that a municipal charge of \$157.93 will be levied against any rateable land on which a municipal charge may be levied for the rating period commencing on 1 July 2021 and ending on 30 June 2022.**
- 7. That in accordance with Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council proposes to declare the following annual waste management service charges for the period commencing 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2022:**
  - a. Urban 120 litre bin collection \$326**
  - b. Rural 120 litre bin collection \$315**
  - c. Commercial 240 litre bin collection \$424**
- 8. That Council notes that in accordance with Section 158 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, detailed information concerning General Rates and Charges is included in the Budget document.**
- 9. That in accordance with Section 96(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Budget is being developed in accordance with the Council’s community engagement policy:**
  - a. The Budget will be made available for inspection at Council’s Customer Service Centres in Edenhope and Kaniva. An online**



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**version of the Budget will also be published and made available for download via Council’s website and promoted on social media.**

- b. Public notice be given that the Budget has been prepared and is available for public inspection and submissions will be received until 5.00pm Friday 21 May 2021.**
- c. Submissions may be included in an agenda for a meeting of the Council that will be made available to the public.**

**10. Schedule any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission to the proposed budget, to be heard by Council on Friday 28 May 2021 at a meeting to be held in the Edenhope Community Hall.**

**11. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial changes to the proposed annual budget 2021/2022 if required.**

**12. Consider a recommendation to adopt the proposed annual budget 2021/2022 (including any amendments made as a result of community engagement and public submissions on the proposed budget) at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 16 June 2021.**

**Carried (5/0)**

All budget submissions received by Council by the deadline of 5.00pm Friday 21 May 2021 are attached for Councillors information and discussion.

The purpose of this Special Council Meeting is for Council to resolve which, if any, of the submissions received they wish to be included in the final 2021-22 Budget, scheduled for adoption at the Council Meeting on 16 June 2021. Further information will be provided to Councillors prior to the meeting in the form of an Addendum report.

A summary of changes made to the proposed 2021-22 budget since the time of public advertisement is outlined below:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Budget Impact</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Editorial	none	The role of CEO has been updated to reflect the appointment of David Bezuidenhout on 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021.
Income	\$47,480 increase	The final estimated VGC allocations were communicated to Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2021. Council’s allocation is slightly higher than original estimates.
Capital Expenditure	\$10,000 increase to capital, \$10,000	Preliminary works for stonewall entrances added to capital works schedule.



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	decrease to operating	
Capital Expenditure	\$8,184 increase	Final seal to Patyah Rd Ch. 3220 - Ch. 3440 - 6.2m added to capital works schedule.

### Risk Management Implications

Not commented on.

### Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1989:

- Sections 154 – 181 – Rates and charges

Local Government Act 2020:

- Section 94 – The budget
- Section 95 – Revised budget
- Section 96 – Preparation of budget or revised budget

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020:

- Regulation 7 – The financial statements
- Regulation 8 – Other information to be included

Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015

- Capped rate increase

Valuation of Land Act 1960

- Valuation of all properties within the Shire

Under section 55(d) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to apply its Community Engagement Policy to the Annual Budget Development. Members of the public are entitled to make a submission to the budget under section 94 of the Act. Council has now complied with these requirements of the Act for the 2021/22 budget.

### Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

The 2021/22 budget has direct and significant financial implications. It highlights Council's revenue and spending for the coming four financial years and outlines Council's short and medium term sustainability.

Should Council elect to include any of the attached public submissions in the final adopted budget, this will have an impact on Council's financial performance and position. The effect of each submission will be spoken to at the time of discussion.





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### Policy Implications

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

Advocacy Policy  
Asset Capitalisation Policy  
Asset Management Policy  
Borrowings Policy  
Building Fee Refunds Policy  
Community Engagement Policy  
Fraud Control Policy  
Investment Policy

### Council Plan Implications

This report supports all sections of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 1: A proactive, well governed, professional and financially sustainable organisation that encourages community participation.
- Strategic Objective 2: Meaningful partnerships to support advocacy priorities and service provision.
- Strategic Objective 3: Quality sustainable community services and infrastructure.
- Strategic Objective 4: Building on our agricultural and business strengths and supporting economic development.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- 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

The public submission process allows interested members of our community to have a direct impact on Council's budget process and service delivery.

The outcomes of any public submissions made will be communicated to the parties making the submissions.

Under section 55(d) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council is required to apply its Community Engagement Policy to the Annual Budget Development. Members of the public are entitled to make a submission to the budget under section 94 of the Act. Council has now complied with these requirements of the Act for the 2021/22 budget.

The proposed 2021/22 budget has been displayed at Council's service centres in Edenhope and Kaniva and also on Council's website. Public advertisements were conducted in newspapers, on Council's social media and displayed on public notice boards. Council also held two public information drop-in sessions on the proposed 2021/22 budget on 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Edenhope Community Centre and 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Kaniva Hall.



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### Conclusion

Per Council's Engagement Policy and in accordance with section 55(d) of the Act, the proposed 2021/22 budget was released for public consultation for the period between 22 April 2021 and 21 May 2021.

Submissions were received from six community groups and/or community members and are attached for Councillors' consideration and decision about inclusion in the final 2021/22 budget. A Special Council meeting was held on 28 May 2021 at the Edenhope Community Hall for Council to receive and consider these submissions, with any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission given the opportunity to present to Council.

The Officer recommendations as outlined below seek for Council to resolve which, if any, of the submissions received they wish to be included in the final 2021-22 Budget, scheduled for adoption at the Council Meeting on 16 June 2021.

*The following Officer Recommendations were included in the original report but were not considered in the meeting.*

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;
  - a. Cr Trevor Domaschenz: proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 to establish a Wetlands Centre of Excellence, and;
2. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;
  - a. Vision and Voice of Edenhope: proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 for playground equipment at Lions Park, Edenhope, and;
  - b. Vision and Voice of Edenhope: proposed budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of Stage 1 of the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan, and;
3. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;
  - a. Friends of Lake Wallace: proposed budget allocation of \$5,000 to acquire engineering designs for a weed cutting machine for the weeds in Lake Wallace, and;
4. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;



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- a. Alysha Jacobson and Shelley Hartle: proposed budget allocation of \$50,000 to conduct business planning & feasibility activities into establishing a childcare service in Edenhope, and;**
- 5. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;**
  - a. Edenhope Tourism Inc.: proposed budget allocation of \$9,700 to cover operating costs as listed in submission, and;**
  - b. Edenhope Tourism Inc.: proposed budget allocation of \$4,000 to paint the SES shed, and;**
- 6. That Council resolve to include or omit in the final 2021/22 Budget the following public submission;**
  - a. Apsley and Districts Action Group: various projects as outlined in submission.**

*Councillors were provided with an addendum report prior to the meeting which has revised officer recommendations for consideration by Council.*



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**SUBMISSION 1 – CR T DOMASCHENZ**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council resolves**

- a) **Not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 to establish a Wetlands Centre of Excellence, and;**
- b) **That the proposal to develop a Wetland Centre of Excellence be considered for inclusion in the Council Plan 2021-2025 which is currently in development**

**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**That \$20,000 be allocated from West Wimmera Shire Council to a virtual Wetlands Centre of Excellence display in the Centre including a touch screen.**

**Lost (1 for/ 4 against)**

**Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**Seconded: Cr Tim Meyer**

1. **That Council resolves not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 to establish a Wetlands Centre of Excellence.**
2. **That Council staff investigate and begin the process of developing costings for a Wetlands Centre of Excellence with the possibility of including a whole Shire perspective to be considered in next year's budget.**
3. **The proposal to develop a Wetland Centre of Excellence be considered for inclusion in the Council Plan 2021-2025 which is currently in development**

**Carried (5/0)**



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**SUBMISSION 2 – VISION & VOICE**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council resolves**

- a. **Not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 for playground equipment at Lions Park, Edenhope, and;**
- b. **Not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of Stage 1 of the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan, and;**
- c. **Council completes the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan, Edenhope Playspace Strategy prior to allocating further funds to these projects and notes that the \$70,000 which has been allocated as part of the 2020/21 budget for the new toilet block is rolled over into the 2021/22 budget**

**Moved: Cr Tim Meyer**

**Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan**

**That Council resolves**

- a. **Not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$20,000 for playground equipment at Lions Park, Edenhope, and;**
- b. **Not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of Stage 1 of the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan, and;**
- c. **Council completes the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan, Edenhope Playspace Strategy prior to allocating further funds to these projects and notes that the \$70,000 which has been allocated as part of the 2020/21 budget for the new toilet block is rolled over into the 2021/22 budget**

**Carried (4 for/1 abstain)**



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**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**That West Wimmera Shire Council display the \$12,000 for the Lake Wallace Station Section of the Walking Track and the \$20,000 for the Henley Park to Lake Street Foreshore Link as line items in the budget to ensure they are more visible.**

**Carried (4 for/1 against)**



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**SUBMISSION 3 – FRIENDS OF LAKE WALLACE**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council resolves not to include the proposed budget allocation of \$5,000 to acquire engineering designs for a weed cutting machine for the weeds in Lake Wallace, pending the completion of the Lake Wallace Strategic Plan.**

**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**That subject to a Wimmera Catchment Management Authority works on a waterway permit, that West Wimmera Shire Council allocate the sum up to \$20,000 for the scope and design of a compliant transportable weed cutter.**

**The design will be property of the West Wimmera Shire Council.**

**Lost (1 for/4 against)**

**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**That West Wimmera Shire Council allocate \$30,000 for an education program from experts explaining the demerits of the proposal for putting copper sulphate in the lake.**

**Motion declined by CEO & Mayor Bruce Meyer**

***Cr Trevor Domaschenz noted the significant risk with not taking action on the lake.***

**Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**That West Wimmera Shire Council investigate the possibilities for managing the weeds in Lake Wallace, with the possibility of designing and engineering a weed cutting machine.**

**Carried (3 for/2 against)**



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**SUBMISSION 5 – EDENHOPE TOURISM INC.**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That Council resolve to include the proposed budget allocation of \$9,700 to cover operating costs as listed in submission,**
- 2) That Council resolves to not include the proposed budget allocation of \$4,000 to paint the former SES shed.**

**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**That Council resolve to include the proposed budget allocation of \$9,700 to cover operating costs as listed in submission.**

**Carried (5/0)**





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**SUBMISSION 6 – APSLEY & DISTRICT ACTION GROUP**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That Council notes that no further allocation is required in 2021/22 Budget.
- 2) That Council staff continue to work with the Apsley & District Action Group on their collective ambitions

**Moved:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**Seconded:** Cr Tim Meyer

- 1) That Council notes that no further allocation is required in 2021/22 Budget.
- 2) That Council staff continue to work with the Apsley & District Action Group on their collective ambitions

**Carried (5/0)**

**Attachments:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>RecFind Ref</b>
1	Budget Submission 2021-22 - Cr T. Domaschenz	
2	Vision and Voice of Edenhope draft WWSC Budget submission 20.5.21 v1	
3	Friends of Lake Wallace - Submission to Council on Lake Wallace weeds	
4	Budget-Submission-Form-2022- AlyshaJacobsonShelleyHartle-Childcare	
5	Edenhope Tourism Inc Budget Submission	
6	Apsley and Districts Action Group Budget Submission	
7	Addendum Report - Special Council Meeting 9 June 2021	



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**SUBMISSION 4 – CHILDCARE**

**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 12:17 pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

**17.1 SUBMISSION 4 – CHILDCARE**

**Moved:** Cr Tim Meyer

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

1. That Council pursuant to Section 66 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 close the meeting to members of the public at 12:17 pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

**17.1 SUBMISSION 4 – CHILDCARE**

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

**Item 17.1: Submission 4 Childcare**

**Grounds: LG Act 2020 Section 3 Confidential Information**

**Definition - a)** Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

**Carried (4 for/1 against)**

*Cr T Domaschenz – noted that we went against our Public Transparency Policy by not discussing part of the submission in the open council meeting and a motion was prepared for the council meeting but it was moved to go into a Confidential Council Meeting.*



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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 1:10pm.**

**Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**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 1:10 pm.**

**Carried (5/0)**

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 1:11PM**