



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - 15 JUNE 2022 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD:	Wednesday, 15th June 2022
LOCATION:	Kaniva Council Chambers
COMMENCEMENT:	2.00pm
PUBLIC ACCESS:	Open to the public and Live Streaming from Council's website www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au

REQUIRED TO ATTEND:	
Councillors	Executive Leadership Group
Bruce Meyer OAM, Mayor Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor Trevor Domaschenz Tim Meyer Tom Houlihan	David Bezuidenhout Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ram Upadhyaya Director Infrastructure, Development and Works (DIDW) James Bentley Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS)
	Senior Leadership Group Sarah Ellis Manager Projects and Innovation David Pietsch Manager Planning and Environment Leilani Dawes Revenue Manager Louise Gabbe Quality and Facilities Manager Katie Frost Governance Manager



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*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.*

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

1.1 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.

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.

53.5 No person may submit more than two questions at any one 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 KatieFrost@westwimmera.vic.gov.au, no later than two hours prior to the Council Meeting.

None received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of receiving questions without notice from the 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)

01/06/2022	Councillor Forum
07/06/2022	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
07/06/2022	Lockhart Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
09/06/2022	MAV State Council Briefing
09/06/2022	Lions and Partners Change over Dinner
12/06/2022	Apsley Cup
14/06/2022	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
15/06/2022	Cemetery Trust Meeting
15/06/2022	Council Meeting

5.2 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE (DEPUTY MAYOR)

30/05/2022	Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Inc. Committee of Management Meeting
01/06/2022	Councillor Forum
07/06/2022	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
12/06/2022	Apsley Cup
14/06/2022	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
15/06/2022	Cemetery Trust Meeting
15/06/2022	Council Meeting

5.3 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

24/05/2022	Wimmera Development Association Meeting
24/05/2022	Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting
29/05/2022	Lake Bringalbert Foreshore Committee Meeting
31/05/2022	Wimmera Development Association Meeting and WDA Stakeholder Event
01/06/2022	Councillor Forum
12/06/2022	Apsley Cup
15/06/2022	Cemetery Trust Meeting
15/06/2022	Council Meeting



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5.4 COUNCILLOR TIM MEYER

27/05/2022	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group (WSM RTG)
30/05/2022	Goroke Recreation Reserve Pavilion and Change Rooms Project Update
01/06/2022	Councillor Forum
07/06/2022	Lockhart Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
12/06/2022	Apsley Cup
15/06/2022	Cemetery Trust Meeting
15/06/2022	Council Meeting

5.5 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

01/06/2022	Councillor Forum
12/06/2022	Apsley Cup
15/06/2022	Cemetery Trust Meeting
15/06/2022	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



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7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th May 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

10.0 CONFIRMATION OF ITEM 9.1 OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL COUNCIL MEETING, UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING AND COUNCILLOR FORUM RECORD

10.1 CONFIRMATION OF ITEM 9.1 OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 20TH APRIL 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters under Item 9.1 from the minutes of the Council Meeting held Wednesday 20th April 2022 be considered and if correct, be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.



**10.2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL
MEETING – 9TH MAY 2022**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Unscheduled Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th May 2022 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

10.3 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCILLOR FORUM RECORD – 1ST JUNE 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 1st June 2022 be received and noted.

11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil

12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nil



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13.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

13.1 MINUTES OF AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 APRIL 2022

FILE NUMBER: FM0021

REPORT AUTHOR: MELANIE JORDAN, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

This report presents West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) with the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2022 (see Attachment 1).

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Section 53 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that each Council establish an Audit and Risk Committee. The Audit and Risk Committee is a formally appointed Advisory Committee of Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations relevant to its charter in order to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities. The Audit and Risk Committee plays a key role in assisting Council to fulfil its governance and overseeing responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control, risk management systems, ethical accountability and the internal audit function.

The Audit and Risk Committee (The Committee) does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibility. The Committee does not have any management functions and is therefore independent of management. The Committee does not have any role in relation to issues normally addressed by Council or a sub-committee of Council, which may have delegated powers and financial management responsibilities in relation to budgets, financing decisions and expenditure priorities. The Committee is a separate activity and acts independently of Council and does not have any role in relation to financial management issues or have any executory role or powers.



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Risk Management Implications

There are significant risk management implications from not providing governance and overseeing responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control, risk management systems, ethical accountability and the internal audit function.

Legislative Implications

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that each Council establish an Audit and Risk Committee.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not commented on.

Policy Implications

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

Fraud & Corruption Control Policy
Risk Management Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 – Good Governance

Communication Implications

Not commented on.



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Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

Conclusion

The minutes of the previous Audit Committee meeting are attached for Councillor's information.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 5 April 2022 (Attachment 1).

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.1.1	2022 04 05 Audit Committee MINUTES	
13.1.2	Gender Impact Assessment - Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Minutes	



13.2 RATE RECOVERY AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

FILE NUMBER: FM002

REPORT AUTHOR: LEILANI DAWES, REVENUE MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) has a Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy due for review June 2022.

This report presents the updated Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy to Council for consideration and comment. The revision proposes to split the current Policy into two distinct policies. A Rate Recovery Policy (see Attachment 1) and a Financial Hardship Policy (see Attachment 2). A final draft version of the policies is attached for adoption.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy provides Council with clear parameters around the effective collection and recovery of outstanding rates and charges, whilst providing mechanisms to assist ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship.

During policy review, benchmarking and comparison with other municipalities was undertaken. Recommended changes included in the policy review include:

1. Separation of the Policy into two policies;
 - a. Financial Hardship Policy
 - b. Rate Recovery Policy

The intent of Policy separation is to provide documentation which is easier to navigate to the community. A specific policy dealing with Financial Hardship aims to enhance the clarity to a ratepayer needing to access this support, making the information easier to find.

2. Mandatory requirement for Financial Hardship applicants to engage financial counselling.

A ratepayer needing to access financial hardship provision, is likely to have other financial obligations and strain. The requirement to access a financial counsellor is to ensure agreements reached are sustainable, meaningful and wholistic to the



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ratepayer. Council does not have internal financial counselling, and local free services are available to meet this requirement.

3. Introduction of penalty interest waivers for Special Payment Arrangements clearing arrears before the end of a current financial year.
Ratepayers who identify within a financial year, that the standard payment options are unable to be met and wish to have an alternate arrangement may do so by agreement, without penalty if all balances are cleared by the end of the current financial year.
4. Refinement of Special Payment Arrangement terms for transparency and consistency.
Special Payment Arrangements for current and arrears balances can be accepted for amounts that clear the balance at the time of the agreement within 12 months. No interest reduction is offered on these, however escalation through recovery options will only continue in the instance of arrangement default.
5. Simplification of interest section.
Interest will accrue daily in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and no 'grace periods' will be applied. Increased transparency with regards to write-off due to admin error, and guidance for what will not be considered reasonable circumstance for officers.
6. Simplification of first and final notice parameters.
Increase in first and final notice threshold to \$500 to align with referral threshold.

These recommendations aim to improve transparency in the rating and revenue recovery process, provide a framework for objective, consistent application of processes by rating officers.

The Rate Recovery Policy outlines the steps and methodology Council will use in the recovery of outstanding rates. Put simply, this process includes:

1. The payment options for rates accounts;
2. The charging of interest on overdue rates;
3. The issue of first and final notices;
4. Referral of the debt to Council's contract debt collectors;
5. Legal action.

The Financial Hardship Policy outlines the steps for entering payment arrangements for rates accounts that extend beyond those in the Rate Recovery Policy. The document provides clear requirements to the ratepayer and Council officers, to ensure consistent, transparent, fair application of these provisions across the community without bias. Information is included to direct ratepayers to the local services that provide financial counselling support.



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Risk Management Implications

Council is subject to significant risk arising from unpaid rates and the methodology implemented to recover unpaid rates.

Financial Risk – Where Council is unable to raise or receive revenue, resulting in Council spending being placed in jeopardy.

Operational Risk – Where Council is unable to fund its operational commitments; and

Reputational Risk – Where Council suffers severe reputational risk arising from:

- the inability to continue its necessary operations; or
- from the use of inappropriate debt collection methodologies; or
- from compliant ratepayers becoming frustrated that the obligation to pay is not upheld by Council if arrears accounts are not addressed.

The provision of the Rate Recovery Policy and Financial Hardship Policy sets out a structured set of parameters around mitigating this risk.

Legislative Implications

The *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)* sets out strict guidelines around the raising of rates, the application of penalty interest on overdue rates, and the collection of unpaid rates.

The Act also requires that Council allow for relief for ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship.

This policy fulfils these legal requirements.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council is subject to significant financial risk from unpaid rates and charges. These may have major financial and budgetary implications if not mitigated.

Policy Implications

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

Rate Recovery Policy

Financial Hardship Policy

Complaints Policy

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

Revenue and Rating Plan



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Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy
- Goal 4 – Good Governance
- Goal 5 – Our Commitment

Communication Implications

The Policies will be subjected to communication and consultation aligned with West Wimmera Shire Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Purpose and Scope: To inform the community of the updated Rate Recovery policy and Financial Hardship Policy.

Level of Engagement: Inform

Type of Engagement: Publication on website and in Council Meeting Agenda.

The Policies will be available on Council's website and accessible to the community.

Council officers and Council's debt collection contractors are made aware of all provision of this policy and are instructed to inform all ratepayers with outstanding balances as to the assistance and obligations provided for by these Policies.

Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

Conclusion

The Rate Recovery Policy and Financial Hardship Policy provide Council with clear parameters around the effective collection and recovery of outstanding rates and charges, whilst providing mechanisms to assist ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship.

It updates the provisions of our current Rate Recovery & Financial Hardship Policy by removing unnecessary constraints, enhancing transparency and improving clarity to the community with the separation into two defined policies.



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After receiving feedback, it is recommended that at the June Council Meeting, Council revoke the current Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy and formally adopt the draft Rate Recovery Policy and the draft Financial Hardship Policy.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council revoke the current Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy and formally adopt the draft Rate Recovery Policy (Attachment 1) and the draft Financial Hardship Policy (Attachment 2).

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.2.1	WWSC_Council Policy_Rate Recovery Policy_Draft	C22/002844
13.2.2	WWSC_Council Policy_Financial Hardship Policy_Draft	C22/002845
13.2.3	Gender Impact Assessment – Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policies	C22/002846



13.3 VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S CHARTER

FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: JANET WATT, HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The Victorian Local Government Women's Charter (the Charter) was established in 1998 to recognise the need for increased women's participation in local community decision-making and to increase the number of female elected representatives in the local government sector. Currently, 73 of 79 Victorian councils are signatories to the Charter. VLGA and MAV are currently responsible for the coordination of the Charter.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Charter provides clear strategic goals and a framework to assist councils in the promotion of their existing efforts towards achieving gender equality and improvement outcomes for women and men by:

- Promoting the principles of gender equity, encouraging diversity in representation and participation and women's active citizenship.
- Ensuring that gender equality remains a critical consideration with respect to the work that councils do in supporting communities.
- Aligning with councils' gender equality strategies and family violence prevention plans, as well as community capacity building (diversity and active participation in local decision-making and the local democratic process).

In order to become a signatory to the Charter, it is necessary for Council to pass a resolution formally confirming that council will progress actions in support of the Charter's three principles: gender equity, encouraging diversity in representation and participation and women's active citizenship. An Officer Charter Champion may be appointed to drive momentum on gender equality within Council.



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Risk Management Implications

The Charter has been adopted by 92 per cent of Victorian councils. Continuing to remain a non-signatory to the Charter may involve a reputational risk to Council through an inference that that Council is indifferent to actively advancing the participation of women in the local government sector and in community decision-making.

Legislative Implications

The Charter principles are pertinent to the Gender Equality Act (2020) which requires councils to audit their gender equity status, including the gender composition of their governing body.

Environmental Implications

Nil.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil.

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 – Good Governance

Communication Implications

The Charter is published online by the VLGA, and can be referenced on Council's website, social media channels and general external communications.

Gender Equality

Becoming a signatory to the Charter is strategically aligned with obligations for defined entities set out by the Gender Equality Act (2020).

Conclusion

Should Council become a signatory to the Charter, it will continue to progress actions in support of the Charter's three principles: gender equity, diversity and active citizenship.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the history and progress of the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter.**
- 2. Become a signatory to the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter.**
- 3. Continues to progress actions in support of the Charter's three principles: gender equity, diversity and active citizenship;**
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint a Charter Champion.**
- 5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to promote Council's Charter signatory status.**
- 6. Sends a copy of this Council resolution to the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), notifying the VLGA of Council's affirmation of the Charter.**

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref



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13.4 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS PROGRAM 2021-22 - ROUND 2

FILE NUMBER: PR0118

**REPORT AUTHOR: JOHN HUTCHINS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
& TOURISM MANAGER**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

Round two of the 2021-22 West Wimmera Shire Council Community Strengthening Grants Program closed Monday 9 May 2022. Five applications were received across the three categories. One application was deemed ineligible and four applications are recommended to Council to support through this Program.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

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

Through the program, 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.

Council has received the outcome of the VAGO Audit into 'Fraud control over local government grants' and as previously discussed with Councillors following this grant round, the Community Strengthening Grant Program will be reviewed. This grant process has already implemented some of the recommendations from the audit including the way conflicts of interest are managed. In the 2022/23 draft budget there is funding to implement a grant management software which will also improve our transparency and processing of all grant programs. An update of all audit recommendations and actions will be presented to Council at the July Councillor forum, following the June Audit & Risk Committee meeting.



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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.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

A total of \$111,701.84 is remaining in the 2021-22 budget for the current Community Strengthening Grants. Approximately \$15,000 is still required to close out outstanding grants. This funding has been divided between the three categories as follows:

- Community Events \$13,606
- Community Projects \$37,283.45
- Facilities Upgrades and Equipment \$60,812.39

The total value of request for funding in Round 2 2021-22 is \$11,250 which will deliver a total project value of \$29,192 to the community.

Policy Implications

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

- 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 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

Communication Implications

The Community Strengthening Grants program was promoted through advertisements on the Council website, local newspapers, community newsletters, and social media.



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In previous rounds, Community Information Sessions have been poorly attended, so these were replaced with one-on-one sessions as requested. No requests for assistance with the application were received and actioned this round.

Successful applicants will be provided with constructive feedback as appropriate. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback should they wish.

Further media will take place following the confirmation of successful applications, as well as media associated with individual applications.

Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been completed.

Conclusion

Round Two of the Community Strengthening Grants Program 2021-22 has been under subscribed, however strong applications and projects have been submitted for consideration.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council allocates funding to the following applications under Round 2 of the 2020-2021 West Wimmera Shire Council Community Strengthening Grants:

- **Goroke Pre-School Inc. - \$750.00**
- **Lawloit Public Hall Inc. - \$500.00**
- **Connewirricoo Community Centre - \$5,000.00**
- **Goroke Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc. - \$5,000.00**

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
13.4.1	West Wimmera Shire Community Strengthening Grant applications 2021-22 - Round 2 Summary	PR0118



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14.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

14.1 COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES POLICY

FILE NUMBER:

**REPORT AUTHOR: LOUISE GABBÉ, QUALITY AND FACILITIES
MANAGER**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) policies are scheduled for regular review. This report presents the reviewed “Community and Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings and Structures Policy” (the policy) (see Attachment 1).

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Policy allows for Council to make a structured response to requests from community entities, commercial and business entities to advertise on Council buildings and structures. The purpose of the policy is to provide Council with a methodology to respond to requests and to ensure that advertising is appropriate and does not bring Council into disrepute or exposes Council to other risks.

Risk Management Implications

Written permission is required from Council and any advice will be obtained from Councils Planning department to mitigate any risks.

Legislative Implications

Not commented on.

Environmental Implications

N/A



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Financial and Budgetary Implications

Individual applications would be assessed on merit and may or may not have small positive benefit to Council finances.

Policy Implications

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

- Community and Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings and Structures
- Pricing Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 – Good Governance

Communication Implications

The Community and Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings and Structures Policy provides a structured framework for Council to consider applications to advertise on Council owned facilities.

Gender Equality

Not commented on.

Conclusion

The Community and Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings and Structures Policy provides a framework for Council to consider applications to advertise.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the draft Community and Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings and Structures Policy (Attachment 1).

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.1.1	Current policy – marked up	



**14.2 COMMUNITY SHADE GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND 7 2022 – GOROKE
SWIMMING POOL
FILE NUMBER:
REPORT AUTHOR: LOUISE GABBÉ, QUALITY AND FACILITIES
MANAGER**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The Victorian Government will continue its investment and deliver on the election commitment to provide \$15.1 million towards the prevention and early detection of skin cancer, including \$10 million to the Shade Grants Program from 2019 to 2023.

The Shade Grants Program (the Program) is administered by the Department of Health.

Funding under the Program is highly competitive. Based on previous rounds, one in four grant applications were successful. It is expected that more applications will be received than can be funded.

Successful applicants will be notified between July and August 2022, where funding agreements will be signed. Within four to six weeks of the funding agreements being signed, the payments will be made. The project deadline and acquittal completion timeframe is 12 months from notification of funding success.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Eligible community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for shade development and can include up to \$700 for sun protection items (including GST). The Community Shade Grant applications close at 11.59 PM on Friday 24 June 2022.

The Goroke Pool at 109 Main St, Goroke would benefit from this type of funding with its compromised structure and the actual shade cloth that is worn with holes in the fabric. The structure was built by community members well over 25 years ago and is in desperate need of replacement.

Currently, Council covers the insurance for this community Swimming Pool and provides financial assistance for operational expenditures.



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The application is for a new permanent shade and structure, with the contractor removing the existing structure, plus supplying and installing the new one.

Risk Management Implications

The current shade structure and shade cloth that is directly above the children's pool is perishing, it is essential the shade and structure are both appropriate and safe for the community to use. The current shade is a disadvantage to the public and the health and well-being of the Goroke and surrounding communities that utilise the pool.

The aim of the Program is to reduce Victorians' exposure to UV radiation by increasing shade in public places across the state and by promoting the uptake of sun-protective practices.

Legislative Implications

Not commented on.

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

There will be no financial or budgetary implications to Council other than retaining the funds for payments to the contractors.

Policy Implications

Not commented on.

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

Communication Implications

Not commented on.



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Gender Equality

Not commented on.

Conclusion

There will be no direct expenditure costs to the West Wimmera Shire Council. The funding will be sent to Council to auspice the funds to contractors.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provides approval to proceed with the funding application under Community Shade Grants Program Round 7 for the Goroke Swimming Pool.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref



14.3 LAKE WALLACE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2032

FILE NUMBER:

**REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID PIETSCH, MANAGER PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENT**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council, together with the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMW) and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) have developed a draft Lake Wallace Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 (see Attachment 1).

The project was initiated through the local community who have raised a number of issues around the use and management of Lake Wallace and its surrounds.

RMCG Consultants were engaged in 2019 to undertake this strategic planning project which involved extensive community and stakeholder input.

A report was presented to Council in November 2018 who agreed on the governance structure for the development of the strategic plan including the establishment of a Project Advisory Group (PAG) and a Project Control Group (PCG).

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Lake Wallace is widely regarded as one of the most significant natural assets within West Wimmera Shire, which supports the economy by attracting visitors and community events into the Shire. The lake and its surrounds also has significance in relation to landscape, environmental values, cultural heritage and its overall influence on the health and wellbeing of our community.

The Lake Wallace Strategic Plan was initiated by Council following submissions to the 2018 - 2019 Council budget. At this time, Council agreed that this document would be developed and discussed with a number of key stakeholders within the community as potential participants.



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The Lake Wallace Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 identifies a clear vision for Lake Wallace based on six principles identified by the community: Environment, Township Liveability, Lake Levels and Water Supply, Recreation, Tourism and Cultural Heritage.

Risk Management Implications

The development of a strategic plan to guide the long-term use and management of Lake Wallace reduces risk to Council by having a clear framework to guide future actions and investment in and around Lake Wallace. Projects will be delivered in a more cohesive way in line with community need and expectations.

Legislative Implications

The Lake Wallace Strategic Plan is an overarching strategic document. Specific projects including buildings and works, use of land and land and water management practices guided by this strategic plan will be in accordance with the relevant acts and regulations and is likely to include:

- Planning and Environment Act (1987)
- Crown Lands Act (1978)
- Water Act (1989)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988)
- West Wimmera Planning Scheme
- Building Act (1993) and Victorian Building Regulations (2006)

Environmental Implications

The Lake Wallace Strategic Plan is built around six key guiding principles developed by the community. The first of these principles is the environment with the following objectives:

- 1) Optimise catchment and drainage inflows to protect water quality.
- 2) Protect ecological values in and around Lake Wallace.
- 3) Manage pest plants and animals in the reserve.

The adoption of this strategic plan will acknowledge, enhance and protect the natural environment of Lake Wallace and its surrounds.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The Lake Wallace Strategic Plan was developed in accordance with the 2021 – 2022 adopted Council budget. The WCMA also contributed financially to assist in the funding of the project.



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Policy Implications

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

- Advocacy Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Communications Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Recreation Policy
- Tourism Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following sections of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community
- Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy
- Goal 4 – Good Governance
- Goal 5 – Our Commitment

Communication Implications

Extensive community consultation occurred during the course of this project including a community survey with over 160 respondents, a well-attended community BBQ and the establishment of a community Project Advisory Group (PAG). The development of the strategic plan has also been reported in local media and project updates have been provided regularly on Council's website.

Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

Conclusion

This strategic plan provides a clear vision for Lake Wallace and its future management. It includes a program of priority projects and a plan to pursue funding for longer term investments until 2032. These investments will develop and protect the lake's township liveability, water level, recreation, tourism, environmental and cultural values.

The strategic plan is a community document – developed by the community for the community. Council officers would like to thank partnership agencies, RMCG consultants for their enthusiasm and dedication to the project, and most of all, the West Wimmera Shire community for their input.



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It is recommended that Council adopt the draft Lake Wallace Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 in accordance with the following recommendation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That Council adopt the presented Lake Wallace Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 (Attachment 1).**
- 2. That Council Officers will annually present the proposed actions for lobbying, maintenance and projects to Council for consideration and potential inclusion in the Annual Plan and Budget.**
- 3. To assist Council with monitoring of implementation, the officers will provide progress reports to Council as stipulated in the plan.**

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
14.3.1	Draft Lake Wallace Strategic Plan 2022 - 2032	
14.3.2	Gender Impact Assessment	



**14.4 HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY AND PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM
FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE UPGRADE OF HAWKERS AND
GOODWINS ROAD**

FILE NUMBER:

**REPORT AUTHOR: RAM UPADHYAYA, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The intention of this report is to obtain a Council resolution to proceed ahead with the funding application under Round 8 of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP) for the upgrade of Hawkers and Goodwins Road.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Communication has recently announced the opening of a new round of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. In the current round, the State, Territory, and Local Government can apply for the project for design and construction for the next 36 months. The participating Councils can seek up to 80% of the project cost through this program with no limitation to the number of projects.

WWSC has been continuously participating in this funding program in the past with two of the road construction jobs funded in round 7 of this program. Officers recently made an application under the current round to fund three road construction projects.

The proposal is to apply for funding to upgrade the section of Hawkers and Goodwins Road between west of S Hawkers Road and Three Chain Road (7.26 KMs) as marked red in the figure below. The section marked green currently serves as an all-weather access road. This upgrade will provide all-weather access throughout this road to trucks and other agricultural implements.

The Council has allocated \$90,000 for the upgrade of this road in the 2022/23 draft budget. If successful, this seed fund will attract an additional \$360,000 taking the total project cost to \$450,000.



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Proposed Upgrade Location



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The funding guideline does not provide the closing date for this grant application. Officers will submit the application soon after the approval from Council.

The Council also needs to be aware that this is not a guaranteed stream of funding. If the funding application is unsuccessful, the officers will utilise the Council component of funding to upgrade approximately 2 kms of the road that is programmed for the 2022/23 financial year.

Risk Management Implications

There is some minor risk that the project might not be delivered in the specified time frame. This risk can be managed by having appropriate project planning in place.

Legislative Implications

- Local Government Act (2020)
- Road Management Act (2004)

Environmental Implications

Not commended on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

No financial or budgetary implications. The matching fund is currently budgeted for in the 2022/23 draft budget and the savings resulting from the success of this funding application can be utilised to fund the infrastructure renewal gap.

Policy Implications

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

Asset Management Policy
Asset Management Strategy
Council Grants Policy
Procurement Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy
- Goal 3 – Sustainable Environment
- Goal 5 – Our Commitment



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Communication Implications

Not commented on

Gender Equality

A Gender Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

Conclusion

The success of this funding application is likely to free up funding that can be utilised to fund the infrastructure renewal gap.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Approve the funding application for Hawkers and Goodwins Road to upgrade the 7.26 kilometre section.**
- 2. Approve using the matching funds for 2022/23 to be used for the upgrade of Hawkers and Goodwins Road in a situation where the Council is unsuccessful with the funding application.**
- 3. Resolve to upgrade the hierarchy of the entire section of Hawkers and Goodwins Road between South Lillimur Road and Three Chain Road to Collector Road upon construction completion if successful in the funding application.**
- 4. Resolve to upgrade the hierarchy of the current all-weather section (marked green on the map) and any other future upgraded sections of this road to Collector Road if unsuccessful in the current round of funding application.**

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref



14.5 SUPPORT FOR MURRAY BASIN RAIL PROJECT

FILE NUMBER:

**REPORT AUTHOR: RAM UPADHYAYA, DIRECTOR OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS**

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The intention of this report is to obtain a Council resolution to write a letter to Premier Andrews expressing concern over the Murray Basin Rail Project and request that the Premier honour his government's commitment to complete the Murray Basin Rail Project to its original scope.

Declaration of Interests

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

Background

The Murray Basin Rail Project (MRBP) is a \$440 Million (funded equally by the Victorian and Federal Governments), is a five-part project that was scheduled to be completed by 2018.

The MBRP was to:

- standardise 1,130 kilometres of the Western Victorian Rail Network;
- increase speeds to 80 kph;
- increase Train Axle Loading (TAL) to 21 tonnes;
- increase efficiency by 15%; and
- increase the volume of grain transported by up to 500,000 tonnes per annum.

The Victorian Labour Government announced their commitment to the Murray Basin Rail Project and the development of a fully costed and scoped business case to achieve 80 kph & 21 Tonnes Axle Loading (TAL) across the Network on the 17th of February 2015.

Currently an additional \$244 Million of funding has been allocated, \$195.2 of these funds are from the Federal Government. These funds are assigned to completing stage 2 and some maintenance works within the catchment.

Due to the status of the MBRP:

- The Freight capacity has decreased in the region.
- The region is increasingly reliant on High Productivity Freight Vehicles.
- The region has a mix of broad and stand rail gauges.



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- Transit times by rail have increased.
- Rail Freight has been lost to the road.
- The Road Network is degrading.

Risk Management Implications

Not commented on

Legislative Implications

- Local Government Act (2020)

Environmental Implications

Not commended on

Financial and Budgetary Implications

No implication on finance and budget.

Policy Implications

Not Applicable

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 – Good Governance

Communication Implications

Not commented on

Gender Equality

Not commented on

Conclusion

The letter of support from the Council along with other member councils for Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group will remind the Victorian Government to relook at their current position on this project and the project might potentially be completed to its original scope.



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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorises the CEO write a letter to Premier Andrews expressing concern over the Murray Basin Rail Project and requests that the Premier honour his government's commitment to complete the Murray Basin Rail Project to its original scope.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref



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.



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16.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO LG ACT 2020 SECTION 66

(2)(a))

RECOMMENDATION

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:

ITEM 16.1: UPGRADING OF CURRENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO THE SHAREPOINT PLATFORM

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 16.1: UPGRADING OF CURRENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO THE SHAREPOINT PLATFORM

Grounds: (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

Explanation: This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.

ITEM 16.2: BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACT 18/018

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 16.2: BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACT 18/018

Grounds: (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;



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Explanation: This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.

ITEM 16.3: SUPPLY OF MEALS FOR DELIVERY

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 16.3: SUPPLY OF MEALS FOR DELIVERY

Grounds: (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

Explanation: This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.

ITEM 16.4: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE HEAVY VEHICLE WATER TRUCK

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 16.4: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE HEAVY VEHICLE WATER TRUCK

Grounds: (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

Explanation: This report contains Council business information regarding commercial negotiations and private commercial information.



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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, 20 JULY 2022
EDENHOPE COUNCIL CHAMBER**