

## Melanie Jordan

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**From:** Paul Brumby  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 May 2021 11:17 AM  
**To:** Melanie Jordan  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to Council on Lake Wallace weeds

**Kaddie Cother | Governance Support Officer | Mon-Thurs each week**

West Wimmera Shire Council

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**From:** Andrew Farran [mailto:[afarran@bigpond.net.au](mailto:afarran@bigpond.net.au)]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 May 2021 3:16 PM  
**To:** Paul Brumby <[PaulBrumby@westwimmera.vic.gov.au](mailto:PaulBrumby@westwimmera.vic.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** A Farran <[afarran2@bigpond.com](mailto:afarran2@bigpond.com)>  
**Subject:** Submission to Council on Lake Wallace weeds

# West Wimmera Shire Council Proposed Budget 2021/22

## Submission:

Proposed Budget submissions must be received by Council by **no later than 5pm on Friday 21 May 2021**. Please address submissions to:

**To: Chief Executive officer**

**West Wimmera Shire Council**

**PO Box 201**

**EDENHOPE VIC 3318**

**Email:** [paulbrumby@westwimmera.vic.gov.au](mailto:paulbrumby@westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

Note: all written submissions lodged with the Council will become public documents available for inspection by the public in accordance with s.94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Name: Andrew Farran**

**Organisation: Friends of Lake Wallace**

**Address: PO Box 222, EDENHOPE, 3318**

**Contact number: 0429 146 580**

**Email: [afarran@bigpond.net.au](mailto:afarran@bigpond.net.au)**

Please note that separate forms are required if you are making multiple submissions.

Any person/s who have made a written submission to Council are entitled to be heard in person or to have a specified person appear on their behalf before a meeting of the Council.

Do you wish to be heard in person or have a person acting on your behalf before a proposed budget submission meeting in support of your written submission?

Yes, I will appear before a meeting of the proposed budget submissions.

Yes, someone will appear on behalf of me, their name is: Maxine Domaschenz [maxine.domaschenz@gmail.com](mailto:maxine.domaschenz@gmail.com), if not myself.

No, I will not appear.

Submissions will be heard:

**Friday 28 May 2021 / time: TBA**

Edenhope Community Hall

76 Elizabeth Street

Edenhope VIC 3318

I/we under s.94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Right to Make a Submission) are hereby making a formal written submission in relation to the 2021/22 Proposed Budget.

Submission should include a descriptions, costings and any other relevant detail.

Please document your written submission within the space provided (if you require more space please attach additional pages to this form).

Summary of Submission
Lake Wallace urgently requires the effective control of weed growth in order to return the lake as a safe and usable attraction for visitors and locals alike. This would best be achieved by using a custom built weed-cutting and harvesting device.
The 2020 Street Ryan report into the Socio Economic Value of Recreational and Environmental water (June 2019- June 2020) indicates that there was a massive \$450,000

(58%) drop in direct spend by overnight visitors in Edenhope last year. Although visitor numbers were stable over the last three years, the number of nights that visitors stayed was down from 25,870 to 10,576. Lake Wallace is the shire's most popular destination but visitors are no longer staying overnight at our caravan park, motel, pub, Airbnb etc., and will not do so until the lake is stabilised, made safe and the weed growth contained. Because they are not staying overnight every business is suffering not just the accommodation side. Essentially, visitors are not staying because they can't use the lake due to the weed growth.

This year is likely to see a lower spend again, due to Covid-19 and the impact of border restrictions. Edenhope's economy has had a triple hit from the pandemic, from border closures where half our visitors haven't been allowed here, and because our main attraction cannot be accessed. This is incredibly frustrating as there would still be lots of water and fish to engage them.

The real impact has been from not being able to use or enjoy the lake primarily because this weed growth impacting boat motors, kayak paddles and fishing equipment, as well as endangering swimmers. There is still 2 metres of water in the lake, even now at the end of summer. It is full of fish and deep enough for most if, not all, water-based activities.

The community has held numerous meetings and made investigations into trying to find the one-time weed-cutter and looking at alternatives. There are weed-cutters in other public lakes and a number of people have travelled to Ballarat to view Lake Wendouree's weed handling; talking to the operators to get an understanding of the issues; and investigating the machinery used there. There have been discussions with GWMWater and WCMA with encouragement from those agencies to tackle the weed issue. There appears to be no real regulatory hurdle in the way of cutting the aquatic vegetation in order to be able to use the lake.

Relevant regulatory agencies have expressed the possibility of co-use and co-funding of a weed-cutter. We are not the only regional lake with weed issues so we are proposing to design a locally made transportable weed cutting machine – with potential financial benefits to the Shire from hiring fees. There is also the probable creation of an industry from the by-product of cut lake weed. Ribbon weed is the predominant aquatic vegetation. Nutritional tests already completed by Friends of Lake Wallace through a feed testing laboratory indicate a feed value higher than Lucerne. Based on the industry at Lake Wendouree we could expect 500 tonnes if 50% of the weed surface was cut. That puts an annual value of \$150,000, if it could be harvested and marketed, together with all the benefits of a clear, healthy lake.

In discussions with engineers it is believed that \$5,000 would cover creating engineering designs for a machine that could be portable with the cutting deck, able to be carried on a comb trailer or similar. Once designed, we would seek co-operation and funding support from the Shire for the construction and use of the machine.

This is all the more imperative as it appears that this Lake of such critical importance has missed out otherwise from the Council Budget when its well-being needs are growing exponentially.


