



NOTICE OF MOTION WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION No: 2022/02

Preamble:

...West Wimmera Shire Council recently passed a policy called “Flag Flying On Council Buildings And Property Policy” with the definition of a flag being;

A flag is defined as a piece of cloth attached by one edge to a staff, rope or pole, and which bears a distinctive design.

This policy applies to all Council owned property and buildings.

The policy appears unworkable due to the definition as above where we now have many unauthorised flags (by definition) already existing on council property throughout the shire, that the community would be very distressed by their removal.

These two motions are to provide clarity around two specific issues resulting from the new policy. Flying of the Aboriginal flag and the Rainbow (pride) Flag, have been requested by the community.

A subsequent motion may be required to address community concerns about flying promotional flags in townships on council property e.g. The ‘Edenhope’, ‘Kaniva’ and Christmas Seasonal Flags that are currently used in the shire in shopping precincts.

I believe both motions line up with existing WWSC policies like the Human rights policy, various sections of our council plan and this section of the Gender Equality Act.



“Recognise that gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes.”

Aboriginal Flag

We already display the Aboriginal flag on council owned property in Harrow, Edenhope, and other locations but not in or outside the council chambers. The flag is also flown by other organisations within the shire as a sign of a welcoming place.

The first motion will seek to clarify what council owned buildings and property display the Aboriginal flag.

Rainbow Flag (Pride Flag)

The second motion is to display the Rainbow Flag on one day, May 17, annually.

The local display of rainbows, including flying the inclusive rainbow flag, is simple and inexpensive, but meaningful to LGBTIQ+ community. While all parts of the community need to feel safe and included, research shows that LGBTIQ+ youth face greater risk of physical or mental health hazards than their heterosexual or cisgender peers. Factors influencing these negative health outcomes include discrimination, harassment, physical harm, and a lack of family and social support, which culminate in experiences of “minority stress”, a unique set of stressors experienced by those on society’s margins. Given these stressors, symbols of pride are particularly important.



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Research has shown that when young people are exposed to the pride rainbow, they generally express positive feelings, including an attraction to certain areas of their towns, feeling good about themselves, and a desire to incorporate the symbolism into positive visions for the future.

MOTION: That.

(a)

That West Wimmera Shire Council fly the Aboriginal flag in the two council chambers and outside the same buildings and allow the flying of the Aboriginal flag on other council owned buildings and property upon request.

(b)

That West Wimmera Shire Council fly the Rainbow (Pride) Flag in Kaniva and Edenhope on a separate flagpole annually on May 17.

Councillors Name:TREVOR DOMASCENZ.....

Date:11/4/2022.....

Chief Executive Officer:[Signature].....

Date:Received 11/4/2022.....

Trevor Domascenz
11/4/2022