



West Wimmera Shire Council

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 15 March 2023
2:00 pm

Council Chambers
Kaniva Council Office
25 Baker Street, Kaniva Victoria
3419





Councillors and Shire Map



MAYOR
Cr. Tim Meyer



**DEPUTY
MAYOR**
**Cr. Jodie
Pretlove**



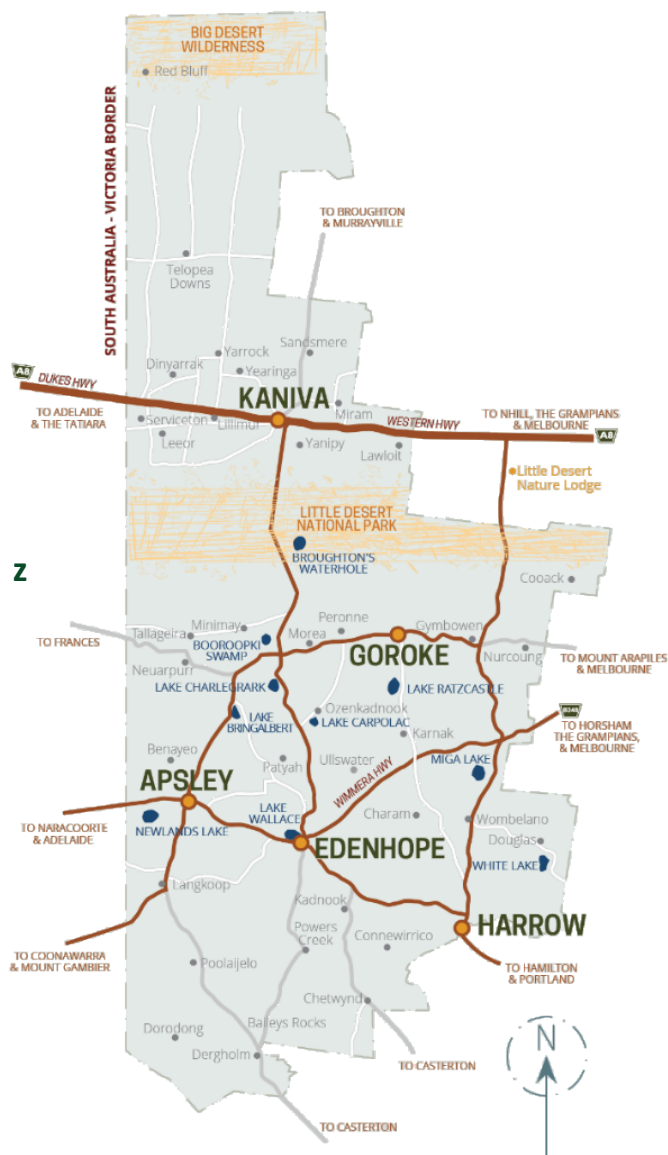
**Cr. Trevor
Domaschenz**



**Cr. Tom
Houlihan**



**Cr. Bruce
Meyer OAM**





COUNCIL VISION

Our West Wimmera community is healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious, prosperous, and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity.

OUR VALUES

INNOVATIVE – We will proactively respond to change, are optimistic about our future and pursue continuous improvement in everything that we do.

ACCOUNTABLE – We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency, achievement of goals and advocating for our community

UNITED – We will do everything within our ability to encourage and form trusting relationships, to work together as one team to achieve our goals and advocate for ‘One West Wimmera’.

COLLABORATIVE – We will actively and openly consult with you and work constructively with community organisations, agencies, the business community and other levels of government to our community’s benefit.

OUR GOALS





Purpose of Council meetings

- (1) Council holds scheduled meetings and, when required, unscheduled meetings to conduct the business of Council.*
- (2) Council is committed to transparency in decision making and, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Council and Delegated Committee meetings are open to the public and the community are able to attend.*
- (3) Meetings will only be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66 of the Act, if:*
 - (a) there are clear reasons for particular matters to remain confidential; or*
 - (b) a meeting is required to be closed for security reasons; or*
 - (c) it is necessary to enable the meeting to proceed in an ordinary manner.*
- (4) A meeting closed to the public for the reasons outlined in sub-rule 3(b) or 3(c) will continue to be livestreamed. In the event a livestream is not available:*
 - (a) the meeting may be adjourned; or*
 - (b) a recording of the proceedings may be available on the Council website*

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 5 Questions from the Gallery.

This Council meeting will be recorded for live streaming.

Councillors pledge

As Councillors of West Wimmera Shire Council, we solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that we will consider each item on this agenda in the best interests of the whole municipal community.



In Attendance:

Councillors:

Tim Meyer, Mayor
Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor
Trevor Domaschenz
Tom Houlihan
Bruce Meyer OAM

Executive Leadership Group:

David Bezuidenhout - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
James Bentley - Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS)
Ram Upadhyaya - Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)

Officers:

Kaddie Cother - Governance Coordinator
James Magee - Assets & GIS Coordinator
Edwin Irvine - Senior Planning Officer



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1 Welcome

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 2:07 pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

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.

3 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.

4 Apologies, Leave of Absences, Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4.1 Apologies

Nil

4.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

4.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Cr Jodie Pretlove declared a conflict of interest in item 15.3 - Funding Application - Goroke Irrigation, due to her involvement in the Border Districts Football Netball Club.

Cr Tom Houlihan declared a conflict of interest in item 16.5 - Harrow Netball/Tennis Courts & Lighting Upgrade Tender Recommendation Report, due to being the President of the Harrow Recreation Reserve.



5 Questions from the Gallery

5.1 Written Questions on Notice

No questions on notice were received for inclusion in the agenda.



5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice



6 Delegates Reports

Delegate Reports are for information only and the following have been provided by Councillor's to the Governance Support Officer prior to Agenda Being Issued.

6.1 Councillor Tim Meyer (Mayor)

Date	Event
17/02/2023	Rail Freight Alliance AGM
24/02/2023	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting
01/03/2023	Councillor Forum
03/03/2023	Edenhope Lions Club Op Shop Opening
07/03/2023	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
10/03/2023	We Are One Event
15/03/2023	Council Meeting

6.2 Councillor Jodie Pretlove (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
01/03/2023	Councillor Forum
03/03/2023	Edenhope Lions Club Opening
07/03/2023	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
15/03/2023	Council Meeting

6.3 Councillor Trevor Domaschenz

Date	Event
28/02/2023	Wimmera Development Association Meeting
01/03/2023	Councillor Forum
03/03/2023	Edenhope Lions Club Op Shop Opening
08/03/2023	Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting
15/03/2023	Council Meeting



6.4 Councillor Tom Houlihan

Date	Event
01/03/2023	Councillor Forum
03/03/2023	Edenhope Lions Club Op Shop Opening
15/03/2023	Council Meeting

6.5 Councillor Bruce Meyer OAM

Date	Event
17/02/2023	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Meeting
01/03/2023	Councillor Forum
03/03/2023	Edenhope Lions Club Op Shop Opening
15/03/2023	Council Meeting

7 Condolences



8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th February 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th February 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th February 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 / 0)

Attachments

Nil

9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

Nil

10 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion submitted for the agenda.

None Received

11 Councillor Forum Record

11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1st March 2023

RECOMMENDATION:



That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1st March 2023 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1st March 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 / 0)

12 Deputations and Petitions

None Received

13 Chief Executive Officer

No Reports



14 Corporate and Community Services

14.1 Grant Policy and Guidelines

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development and Tourism Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Each year, Council operates several grant program streams which enable Council to work in partnership with the community by providing financial support to extend the capacity of groups, businesses, and organisations to implement and sustain a wide range of local recreational, cultural, social, community and business support initiatives that make a positive contribution to the West Wimmera community. Eligibility for each of the grant streams is determined in accordance with the relevant grant Guidelines. These Guidelines operate under the overarching umbrella of the Council Grants Policy.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

After discussion in the February Council forum, a meeting was held with Councillors to workshop each of the individual grant Guidelines. Following this workshop, Councillors provided officers with direction regarding the relevant evaluation criteria for each of the grant Guidelines. These grant Guidelines are now presented to Council for adoption. The Guidelines establish a framework by which grant applications can be assessed under the overarching Council Grants policy, which is also attached for consideration and adoption by Council.

Risk Management Implications

The recent VAGO audit identified potential governance risks relating to the assessment and approval of grant applications received by Council. The Grants Policy and Guidelines submitted for Council adoption seek to ensure best practice standardisation and transparency in the grant assessment and approval process, thereby mitigating any perceived or actual risk in the grant process.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:
Local Government Act 2020



Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Transparency in the Grants Policy and associated Guidelines ensure that grant applications and approvals are determined in accordance with Council's budgetary arrangements.

Policy Implications

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

Council Grants Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

- 1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.
- 1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.

Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

- 2.1 Encourage and support the establishment and expansion of innovative, creative and sustainable businesses.
- 2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.
- 2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.

Goal 3 – Sustainable Environment

- 3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.
- 3.2 Promote sustainable environmental management practices.
- 3.3 Protect and promote public open space and natural assets.
- 3.4 Pursue alternative and sustainable energy sources.

Goal 4 – Good Governance

- 4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality



Not Applicable

Conclusion

The Council Grants Policy and associated Guidelines are required for good governance in relation to facilitate Council's commitment to the effective and targeted application of Community, Business, Streetscape, and future grant programs for maximum responsiveness to community need. The Policy and Guidelines will expedite support to the business and community sector in a timely and efficient manner in accordance with the Council's adopted budget and transparency principles.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Grants Policy and the accompanying Grants Guidelines.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council postpones the Grants Policy and the accompanying Grants Guidelines until it can be discussed further at the next Councillor Forum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. Business Assistance Grant Guidelines 2023 [**14.1.1** - 8 pages]
2. Business Streetscape Grant Guidelines 2023 [**14.1.2** - 12 pages]
3. Quick Response Grant Guidelines 2023 v 2 [**14.1.3** - 7 pages]
4. Community Strengthening Grant Guidelines 2023 Template 1 [**14.1.4** - 12 pages]
5. Sponsorship and Contributions Grant Guidelines 2023 Template 1 [**14.1.5** - 7 pages]
6. WWSC Council Grants Policy 2023 with track changes [**14.1.6** - 5 pages]



14.2 Aged Care Services in West Wimmera Shire

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Like most Councils in Victoria, West Wimmera Shire Council has provided home-based care services to its community for many years. This report seeks to provide Councillors with information to facilitate a direction from Council regarding its future role in delivering aged care and support at home services (known as Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP) services to people living in the West Wimmera Shire.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Home and Community Care (HACC) program was introduced in Victoria in 1985 and was designed to provide low level assistance to help people to remain independent in their homes and communities. Council delivers the program on behalf of the Commonwealth, via the State Government, which established the program criteria and administered the provision of funding. In Victoria, local government provides a co-contribution to ensure the successful delivery of a high quality program.

West Wimmera Shire Council has a team of dedicated and passionate staff who provide support to our community under this program. The aged care reforms currently being implemented are a response to the Productivity Commission's report: Caring for Older Australians (August 2011) and came into full effect on 1 July 2015. The aged care service system in Victoria moved to two systems in 2016 with the introduction of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). People over 65 years of age receive services through the Commonwealth-funded CHSP and those under 65 years of age from the State-funded Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP).

With the introduction of this split in the service system, service providers receive funding from the Commonwealth for CHSP and from the State for HACC-PYP. This coincided with the



introduction of the NDIS program as another form of funding for people with a disability eligible to enter that service system. The original reform timing was due to transition by 30 June 2018; this has been the subject of five extensions: one to 2019, then to 2020, again to 2022, to 2023 and now to 2024.

The Commonwealth's continuing reform of the aged care service system will introduce comprehensive changes over the next five years, aimed at creating a nationally consistent and integrated aged care program that provides older Australians with more choice, easier access and better continuity of care. Many of these changes, being progressively introduced, directly impact on the funding and regulation of aged care services currently delivered by Council on behalf of the Commonwealth.

National Aged Care Reform

Home-based aged-care services support almost one million senior Australians. Research has shown that older Australians want to remain at home for as long as possible before entering a residential aged care facility, and this is a more economical option for funding bodies than early entry into residential care.

Australia's national aged care program has been undergoing significant reforms over the past decade, following Commonwealth agreement to take full responsibility for aged care in August 2011 and establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme at around the same time.

The Commonwealth Government is now implementing significant changes in the aged care industry that will have a direct impact on the ability of councils to continue delivery of services. The reforms are motivated by the desire to find an Australia-wide, efficient, and effective model of service to meet increasing demand for aged care services, including introducing a standardised national and competitive approach to service delivery, and a shift to a model where the consumer controls their own care and how much they are willing to pay for it - including who delivers it, where and when it is delivered.

The existing CHSP will change to a new "Support at Home Program" providing an across-the-board model of support needed for residents aged 65 and over to continue to live independently and provide greater choice to clients between providers. These changes will see eligible residents receive Commonwealth-funded support packages that enable them to purchase services directly from providers, which has the potential to result in an increase of



available providers operating within the Shire and exposing Council to market-based competition on cost and quality. Further detail is provided in the Commonwealth's Support at Home Overview (refer attachment 14.2.1).

Council's current funding agreement as a service provider to the Commonwealth government expires on 30 June 2023. The new service system will see the combination of CHSP, Home Care Packages and the Short Term Restorative Care Program to become the new In-Home Aged Care program, reforming all aspects of the delivery of in-home aged care. The introduction of the new In-Home Aged Care program concludes the long-standing funding, service agreements, and contracted roles and responsibilities that Victorian local government has participated in for more than 35 years.

The release of the Commonwealth's "5 Pillars over 5 Years" blueprint (refer attachment 14.2.2) provides the direction of the reform activities and timeframes, including those that will directly impact Council's current funded aged care service arrangements. The Commonwealth released the Support at Home Program Overview in January 2022. This provided the first opportunity to assess the architecture of the future aged care program in more detail. The program had been slated for introduction on 1 July 2023; this has since been extended to 1 July 2024. In line with this extension, the Commonwealth will review some components of the previous Support at Home Program model, and released 'A New Program for In-Home Aged Care' discussion paper in October 2022 (refer attachment 14.2.3).

The January 2022 overview confirms that the proposed program will be significantly different from the existing CHSP program and will include:

- individualised support plans for clients linked to funding that is based on assessed need
- a new integrated assessment tool that controls access to all aged care services, from home based to residential care services
- an increased reliance on technology and digital services for clients, business systems and payment platforms
- a service list that will better define the outputs and allow flexibility for clients
- clients being provided greater choice and control over the time and place services are provided, assuming multiple providers are available
- the cessation of block funding and transition to payment in arrears for units of service delivered



- introduction of regulated competition between providers

The release of the program architecture has prompts the reconsideration of Council's response to this comprehensive reform of the aged care service system, as well as an assessment of the best way it can contribute to the well-being of our older residents and maximise its ability to foster a positive ageing experience now and into the future.

A review of Council's ability to continue its involvement in the delivery of funded aged care services has been informed by the following considerations:

- The new Aged Care Act will embed an extensive range of new provider, system and service level requirements that will be legislated to ensure the delivery of a safe, high quality and sustainable aged care service system.
- The likely investment required to introduce and establish new systems, structures, processes and practices to meet requirements under new governance, accountability and program arrangements.
- The clear orientation of the reforms to improve the interface between health and aged care systems, founded upon a strengthened focus for aged care to align with clinical governance and operating models.
- The introduction of a competitive market driven structure and Council's responsibilities and obligations under the National Competition Policy, the Victorian Competitive Neutrality Policy and the Local Government Act Service Performance principles.
- The reliance on income generated on a fee for service basis with an established schedule of fees, a competitive market and the impact of these on the ability to reach economies of scale that support a sustainable business model. The influence of the change in the funding model for CHSP on Council's ability to deliver other funded programs such as HACC-PYP.
- The program details being provided by the Commonwealth and the ability to participate and influence a smooth transition to the new In-Home model of aged care for the community.
- Recognition of the unique role Council has in the delivery of outcomes for older residents that is not defined simply by involvement in the delivery of Commonwealth funded aged care services. Considering what opportunity Council has to provide locally responsive positive ageing supports in the advocacy space that complement Commonwealth and State funded services, thereby facilitating the connection and engagement of older residents with their local community.



The information released to date by the Commonwealth, reviewed in light of the above matters, strongly suggests that effective operation under the new In-Home Aged Care Program would necessitate substantial investment by Council in clinical and governance-related areas, as well as fundamental changes to its existing operating model including a reduction in operating costs.

The combination of all these factors mounts a credible argument against West Wimmera Shire entering into a new service delivery contract with the Commonwealth, and instead relinquishing its existing service delivery functions at the conclusion of the current contract period, namely 30 June 2023. Should such a relinquishment occur, it would be incumbent on Council to manage the transition in the best interests of its clients and their families, its staff and the broader community. This would involve active participation in an oversight role to help ensure that the new In-Home Aged Care program functions in the best interests of its older residents. Such participation could also include assisting residents to navigate the new In-Home Aged Care system, as well as implementing its own programs focused on positive aging and greater connectedness for those who are not conversant with modern technology.

Council has the opportunity to consider a broader contribution to improving outcomes for older residents through positive ageing activities available to all older people in the Shire. This opportunity could be realised through the development of a new access and inclusion strategy to empower and engage older residents.

Current Service Delivery Overview

Council is currently contracted by the Commonwealth Government to deliver the CHSP which provides the following support services:

- In-home support services including domestic and personal care
- Respite support
- Social support – individual and group
- Delivered meals
- Home maintenance program
- Transport

The existing CHSP contract with the Commonwealth expires on 30 June 2023. Notification has been received that a one-year extension is being offered to 30 June 2024. Council submitted the intention to continue until 30 June 2024, but, as this matter is under consideration by Council, officers held a meeting with the funding body assistant director



(Department of Social Services - Community Grants Hub) to ascertain that exiting CHSP at an earlier date is an easy process and creates no issues.

In addition, Council currently provides the Regional Assessment Service (RAS) under contract to the Victorian Government, which in turn is the contract holder for this service for the Commonwealth Government. Council's existing contract for the RAS also expires on 30 June 2023 with a one-year extension to the end of June 2024 also on offer.

Current Services

West Wimmera Shire Council is currently contracted to provide services on behalf of the Commonwealth Government under the CSHP and on behalf of the Victorian Government under HACC-PYP and Regional Assessment Services (RAS). Council provides services to approximately 19 clients under the Victorian Government HACC-PYP and approximately 210 clients under the Commonwealth Government's CHSP. Due to the small client base, it is not feasible to provide services to HACC-PYP should Council not accept the CHSP contract extension. As RAS is fully funded by the Victorian Government, it is recommended that Council accept the contract extension to 30 June 2024.

Engagement and Consultation

Preliminary discussions have commenced with neighbouring Councils who have already relinquished the service. Meetings have been convened with representatives from local health providers. Further discussions will continue with providers with the aim of ensuring that in the event of service relinquishment, Council will have the capacity to transition clients smoothly to a new provider well in advance of any changeover on 1 July 2024.

It is the Commonwealth's preference to ensure client continuity of care. The most practical way of achieving this objective is to ensure that local providers assume service provision should Council make the decision to relinquish. Since those providers are currently assessing enquiries from other councils who have already resolved to relinquish the service, it makes practical sense to inquire if the local providers would be interested in providing their services to West Wimmera Shire as well. This will allow them to make provision for West Wimmera Shire's clients in their plans for expanded service provision. There is a risk that local providers may not be in a position to accommodate West Wimmera's needs if they have already made commitments and commenced the planning process with our neighbouring councils. This would most likely result in a large city-based provider assuming the service in our local government area.

Risk Management Implications



A number of high level risks have been identified, including:

- Service demand and ability to achieve an economy of scale: the current cost structure is based on receipt of block funding and a consistent demand for service. The introduction of competition and consumer directed care will likely increase the cost of future service delivery and reduce Council's service user market share. Council will be challenged by the inability to expand beyond geographic boundaries, inherent cost structures and the limited range of service offerings able to be made.
- Responsibilities and obligations under the National Competition Policy (NCP) and the Victorian Competitive Neutrality Policy: The NCP and the Competitive Neutrality Policy would apply to the provision of aged care services by Council under the individualised model of care as Council's aged care services are a 'significant business activity' to which NCP applies. Hence, were Council to remain a provider in the new In-Home Aged Care program, Council would be required to implement competitive neutrality measures, most likely in the form of a public interest test to address its competitive advantage created by rate payer subsidies, to be able to offer competitive pricing in a commercial industry. Likely interest from other providers may result in Council being challenged to establish a policy position that would be tested through a public interest test. This means that Council would be required to charge cost reflective pricing, which would be financially prohibitive to clients, and ultimately unsustainable for Council.
- Commonwealth Home Support is delivered by Council on behalf of the Commonwealth government. If Council is to remain a service provider, a funding co-contribution will be required. This could be considered cost shifting to local government and exacerbates issues of inequity experienced by smaller local government areas.
- Ability to deliver the increased level of service: the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recommended that providers of the Care at Home category of services be required to demonstrate a coordinated and integrated range of care and support across domains not currently reflected in Council's role as a service system entry-level provider. This includes care management, clinical oversight, enabling and therapeutic care, nursing care, allied health, palliative care and end of life care. Council is not currently equipped to deliver a clinical model of care, nor to implement a broader staffing profile including nursing and other allied health disciplines.



- Should Council relinquish the service, it will be required to manage individual client transition. Transition at the end of the current contract on 30 June 2023 will provide Council with the opportunity to participate in a structured transition to a new service provider.
- Should Council continue service provision until 1 July 2024 upon implementation of the fully-commercialised model, it is foreseeable that there will be a degree of flux in the industry owing to the final activation of wholesale change in the sector. This risk will be mitigated should Council decide to relinquish service provision effective 30 June 2023.
- Addressing vulnerability: most clients are anticipated to transition with minimal Council support. However, clients with increased vulnerability may require additional resources to help facilitate a smooth transition.
- Thin market: A thin market results in few or no alternative providers to deliver the new In-Home Aged Care program. Such a market puts client continuity of care at risk, and therefore officers have commenced discussions with neighbouring councils and local health providers in order to ascertain potential interest in a regional approach to responding to the challenges faced as a result of the aged care reforms.
- Council's Community Care team of 18 dedicated people are highly valued by the organisation, community and their clients. In accordance with Council's Enterprise Agreement no.10, if Council resolves to relinquish service provision, some redeployment opportunities may be available. If staff seek to enter employment with another provider servicing West Wimmera Shire, Council would seek to support a smooth and expedited transition for those staff to their new employer.

Enterprise Agreement Implications

Council's Enterprise Agreement No 10 Section 16 Managing Change in the Workplace requires Council to notify and consult with relevant employees following the decision to introduce a major change. In addition, the Agreement mandates that Council must communicate with relevant employees when it is "seriously considering implementation of major change." Officers have already briefed relevant employees that Council's provision of aged care services has been referred to Council for a decision regarding its future direction. The relevant provisions of the Agreement follow:



16. MANAGING CHANGE IN THE WORKPLACE

- 16.1 This clause applies if the employer:
- (a) is seriously considering a major change to production, program, organisation, structure or technology in relation to its enterprise that is likely to have a significant effect on the employees; or
 - (b) proposes to introduce a change to the regular roster or ordinary hours of work of employees.

Major change

- 16.2 For a major change referred to in paragraph 16.1(a):

- (a) the employer must notify the Union and relevant employees of the decision to introduce the major change; and
- (b) subclauses 16.3 to 16.9 apply.

- 16.3 The relevant employees if not represented by a Union, may appoint a representative for the purposes of the procedures in this term.

- 16.4 If
- (a) relevant employee appoints, or relevant employees appoint, a representative for the purposes of consultation; and
 - (b) the employee or employees advise the employer of the identity of the representative;
- the employer must recognise the representative.

- 16.5 When the employer is seriously considering implementation of major change, the employer must:

- (a) discuss with the relevant employees:
 - the introduction of the change; and
 - the effect the change is likely to have on the employees; and
 - measures the employer is taking to avert or mitigate the adverse effect of the change on the employees; and
- (b) for the purposes of the discussion—provide, in writing, to the relevant employees:
 - all relevant information about the change including the nature of the change proposed; and
 - information about the expected effects of the change on the employees; and
 - any other matters likely to affect the employees.

- 16.6 However, the employer is not required to disclose confidential or commercially sensitive information to the relevant employees.

- 16.7 The employer must give prompt and genuine consideration to matters raised about the major change by the relevant employees.



16.8 If a term in this agreement provides for a major change to production, program, organisation, structure or technology in relation to the enterprise of the employer, the requirements set out in paragraph 16.2(a) and subclauses 16.3 and 16.5 are taken not to apply.

16.9 In this term, a major change is likely to have a significant effect on employees if it results in:

- (a) the termination of the employment of employees; or
- (b) major change to the composition, operation or size of the employer's workforce or to the skills required of employees; or
- (c) the elimination or diminution of job opportunities (including opportunities for promotion or tenure); or
- (d) the alteration of hours of work; or
- (e) the need to retrain employees; or
- (f) the need to relocate employees to another workplace; or
- (g) the restructuring of jobs.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council receives funding to deliver CHSP and HACC-PYP services and subsidises the service to pick up any shortfall in funding. With the change in funding model for CHSP to an activity-based payments-in-arrears funding model, along with the introduction of competition in the local market, the future cost of services will increase with the volatility of demand, resulting in higher risk. Investment would be required by Council to comply with new operational, quality and governance obligations.

In line with the key directions of the aged care reforms, existing block funding arrangements are being replaced with a competitive market model involving fee for service payments in arrears and full cost reflective pricing (client contributions meeting the gap between funding and service cost).

As a result, there is uncertainty of future funding levels for Council, and as other providers enter the service system, Council's market share will most likely reduce.

Whilst the schedule of fees has not been finalised by the Commonwealth, current information indicates that the unit price for in-home services will fall within the current range of unit price funding. Traditionally, Council has budgeted for a co-contribution to



offset the difference between the actual cost of the delivery of in-home care services and the funding received.

The new Support at Home Program will end the long-standing funding arrangements currently in place. Funding changes started from 1 July 2022 with agreed funding levels for activities delivered now paid retrospectively, upon provision of invoice by Council. Formerly, block grants were awarded at the start of a financial year based upon negotiated target service levels. This is already a fundamental change in the funding model with long-term implications on cash flow and a lack of forward budgeting certainty

In the event a decision is made to relinquish the service, staff redundancy costs are anticipated to amount to approximately \$200,000.

Policy Implications

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

Not applicable

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.

Goal 4 – Good Governance

4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.

4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.

Goal 5 – Our Commitment Values

Accountability - We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency and advocating for our community.

Communication Implications

Consultation with affected staff members has been undertaken. Council's decision regarding this matter will be communicated with staff, clients and the community in general.

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



Under the reform process, new governance arrangements and obligations on providers have been implemented, namely a new Code of Conduct for Aged Care (from 1 January 2023) and a change in regulation to strengthen provider governance (from 1 December 2022) have been introduced. These changes place significant new requirements on providers including leadership responsibilities, provider accreditation and approval requirements, new governance standards, public provider performance reporting, liquidity, and capital adequacy reporting requirements.

Provider governance obligations from 1 December 2022 include a requirement to assess the suitability of key personnel annually, continuous disclosure requirements for material changes (including key personnel and corporate structure changes), and annual reporting on operations. Providers must also set up and continue a quality care advisory body and consider the establishment of a consumer advisory body.

Under the future Support at Home model, all services - from entry level (West Wimmera Shire is currently at this level) to complex needs support - will be consolidated and delivered through contracted providers. This means that to be a provider, Council must operate under a governance framework analogous to specialist aged care service agencies that deliver clinical and allied health services. The reforms will require significant operational adjustments to be made and additional specialist skills recruited.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

OPTION 1

That Council,

Continue to be a service provider for Commonwealth Support at Home Program services and State Home and Community Care Program for Younger People Services and will commit with the additional resources required for clinical governance compliance obligations.

OR

OPTION 2

That Council,

- 1. No longer be a service provider of the following programs from 30 June 2023, including all:**
 - (a) Commonwealth Home Support Program services**
 - (b) State Home and Community Care Program for Younger People services**



- (c) assessment services
- (d) brokered services.
- 2. Commits to working with the Commonwealth and Victorian governments to negotiate timing and transition processes that will support the interests of clients, their families, staff, and the broader community.
- 3. Notes that under its service agreements, all processes and matters related to the transition process will remain confidential until the Commonwealth and Victorian governments provide consent for release of information.
- 4. Reaffirms that in taking this decision, Council will maintain an active role in advocating that the new aged care service system delivers high quality service and meets the needs of the community.
- 5. Will provide a staff resource to support improved positive ageing outcomes for the broader community.
- 6. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, or their nominee, to undertake or commission all tasks and activities related to the implementation of this Council resolution.
- 7. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a short-term extension if it is identified that this is required to provide better client or staff transition outcomes.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That Council,

Continue to be a service provider for Commonwealth Support at Home Program services and State Home and Community Care Program for Younger People Services and will commit with the additional resources required for clinical governance compliance obligations, for the financial year 2023/2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

- 1. support-at-home-program-overview [14.2.1 - 16 pages]
- 2. five-pillars-over-5-years [14.2.2 - 1 page]
- 3. a-new-program-for-in-home-aged-care-discussion-paper 0 [14.2.3 - 34 pages]





15 Infrastructure Development and Works

15.1 Planning Application PA1133 for the removal of native vegetation at Grants and Richs Road, Kaniva (Crown Allotment 22, Section 4, Parish of Kaniva)

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Ebony Cetinich, Contract Town Planner

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The Following report presents Planning Application PA1133 for the Removal of Native Vegetation at Grants and Richs Rd, Kaniva (Crown Allotment 22, Section 4, Parish of Kaniva)

This planning application is being presented to Council for consideration as two objections have been received against the proposal.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Preliminary planning advice was provided to the applicant (PAR0495) on 19 September 2022 outlining that a planning permit is required for the removal of five native trees (subject of this application) and that any future application must demonstrate the 'avoid' and 'minimise' principles in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

Proposal

Council received a planning application for the removal of native vegetation on 10 January 2023.

The proposal consists of the removal of five native trees to facilitate the development of a shed to store agricultural machinery associated with cropping of the land. An aerial image of the trees proposed to be removed as well as a site plan and photographs are contained within Figures 1 to 3 on the following page.

A copy of the application and supporting documentation is provided as an attachment to this report (Attachment 1).



Figure 1 – Site Plan (trees to be removed highlighted in yellow)



Figure 2 – Aerial image of trees proposed to be removed



Figure 3 – Photographs of trees proposed to be removed

Subject land

The subject land is known as Grants and Richs Road, Kaniva, being Crown Allotment 22, Section 4, Parish of Kaniva. The site has a total area of approximately 129 hectares and a frontage of approximately 1.6km to Grants and Richs Road. The site is used for broadacre cropping and contains a small pocket of agricultural buildings surrounded by remnant native vegetation adjacent to Grants and Richs Road. The site and surrounding land is situated within the Farming Zone and Environmental Significance Overlay.

The surrounding land is also used for broadacre cropping and typically contains a dwelling, agricultural buildings and minimal scattered native vegetation.

An aerial image of the site and surrounding area is contained within Figure 4 and a zoning map is contained within Figure 5 on the following page.



Figure 4 – Aerial image of the site and surrounding area

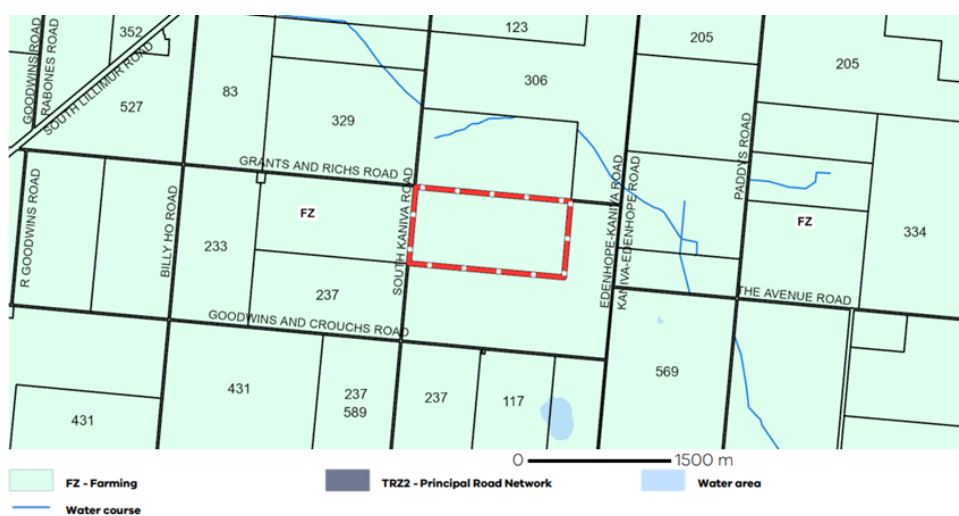


Figure 5 – Zoning map

Further Information

No further information was requested during the assessment of this application.

Public Notice



The application was advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and two objections were received. Copies of the objections are provided as an attachment to this report (Attachment 2).

The issues identified in the objections have been summarised, as follows:

- Trees classified as endangered should not be removed.
- Cumulative impacts of native tree removal within the Municipality.
- Loss of habitat for birds and animals.
- Removal goes against restoration and preservation of vegetation policies and action undertaken within the Municipality.
- Insufficient off-set trade off.

A detailed response to the issues raised in the objections was provided by the applicant/planning consultant and is contained within Attachment 3.

Planning controls

- Clause 35.07 - Farming Zone (FZ)

There are no permit triggers under the FZ that involve removal of native vegetation. As such, the FZ will be discussed no further in this report.

- Clause 42.01 - Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) – Schedule 2

Under Clause 42.01-2, a planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation, including dead vegetation, unless a schedule to the Overlay specifically states that a permit is not required.

Clause 3.0 under Schedule 2 to the ESO states that a permit is not required to remove vegetation unless it is any of the following:

- A hollow bearing eucalypt tree.
- Buloke with a trunk diameter of greater than 20 centimetres at 1.3 metre above ground level.
- Buloke with a density of more than 1 tree per 10 hectares of development.
- Stringybark with a trunk diameter of greater than 30 centimetres at 1.3 metre above ground level.

Preliminary advice was obtained from Council's Environmental Services Coordinator which outlines that the trees proposed to be removed are likely Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) and no hollows are evident. As such, the proposal meets the permit exemption under Clause 3.0 under Schedule 2 to the ESO. The ESO will be discussed no further in this report.



- Clause 52.17 – Native Vegetation

Pursuant to Clause 52.17-1, a planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, including dead native vegetation, unless the table to Clause 52.17-7 specifically states that a permit is not required. The table to Clause 52.17-7 contains an exemption for new buildings within the Farming Zone provided that the building is associated with agricultural production and removal is the minimum extent necessary to enable construction of the building.

It is considered that the subject land provides ample opportunity for the development of a new agricultural building without requiring vegetation removal. As such, the proposed removal is not considered to be to the minimum extent necessary and a planning permit is required under Clause 52.17-1 of the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)

The relevant policies of the MPS that have been considered are as follows:

Clause 02.03 Strategic Directions

Clause 02.03-2 Environmental and landscape values

Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

The relevant policies of the PPF that have been considered are as follows:

Clause 12.01-1S – Protection of biodiversity

Clause 12.01-1R – Protection of biodiversity -Wimmera Southern Mallee

Clause 12.01-1L – Protection of biodiversity -West Wimmera

Clause 12.01-2S – Native vegetation management

Clause 52.17 – Native Vegetation

Purpose

To ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. This is achieved by applying the following three step approach in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017) (the Guidelines):

1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.



2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact if a permit is granted to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

To manage the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation.

52.17-4 Decision Guidelines

Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider the decision guidelines specified in the Guidelines as appropriate.

Table 1 - The Decision Guidelines specified in the Guidelines.

Number	Decision guidelines to be considered
1	<p>Efforts to avoid the removal of, and minimise the impacts on, native vegetation should be commensurate with the biodiversity and other values of the native vegetation and should focus on areas of native vegetation that have the most value. Taking this into account consider whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the site has been subject to a regional or landscape scale strategic planning process that appropriately avoided and minimised impacts on native vegetation.• the proposed use or development has been appropriately sited or designed to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation. <p>feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal.</p>
2	<p>The role of native vegetation to be removed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting water quality and waterway and riparian ecosystems, particularly within 30 metres of a wetland or waterway in a special water supply catchment area listed in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.• Preventing land degradation, including soil erosion, salination, acidity, instability and water logging particularly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- where ground slopes are more than 20 per cent



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- on land which is subject to soil erosion or slippage- in harsh environments, such as coastal or alpine areas.• Preventing adverse effects on groundwater quality, particularly on land:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- where groundwater recharge to saline water tables occurs- that is in proximity to a discharge area- that is a known recharge area.
3	The need to manage native vegetation to preserve identified landscape values.
4	Whether any part of the native vegetation to be removed, destroyed or lopped is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.
5	The need to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation to create defensible space to reduce the risk of bushfire to life and property, having regard to other available bushfire risk mitigation measures.
6	Whether the native vegetation to be removed is in accordance with any Property Vegetation Plan that applies to the site.
7	Whether an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured in accordance with the Guidelines.
9	<p>For applications in both the Intermediate and Detailed Assessment Pathway only – consider the impacts on biodiversity based on the following values of the native vegetation to be removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent.• The condition score.• The strategic biodiversity value score.• The number and circumference of any large trees.• Whether it includes an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class.• Whether it includes sensitive wetlands or coastal areas

Clause 65.01 – Approval of an Application or Plan (Decision Guidelines as relevant)



Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- The matters set out in section 60 of the Act.
- Any significant effects on the environment, including the contamination of land, may have on the use or development.
- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.
- Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.
- The orderly planning of the area.
- The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area.
- Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.
- The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.
- Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.

Assessment

Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Planning Policy Framework (PPF)

Clause 02.03-2 highlights that the decline and fragmentation of indigenous vegetation and loss of biodiversity is a major environmental issue in the Shire. Further, it is recognised that large areas of the Shire have been cleared for agriculture, resulting in limited areas of natural vegetation cover and there is a risk that scattered trees on farms will die out and the roadside vegetation will be all that remains.

Whilst private land in the Shire has been substantially altered during the past 150 years, small pockets of remnant habitat still exist and these areas have become increasingly important with the realisation that only 3 per cent of the original vegetation remains intact.

The Strategic Directions relevant to the assessment of application include:

- Conserve the Shire's biologically diverse natural environment.
- Encourage development to increase indigenous vegetation cover.
- Minimise impacts on areas with high habitat value.
- Retain high quality vegetation stands throughout the municipality.

Similarly, the intent of Clause 12.01-1S, Clause 12.01-1R and Clause 12.01-1L is to protect and enhance Victoria's biodiversity, specifically habitat for the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo and Jumping Jack Wattle within the Municipality. Clause 12.01-2S is more specific as it seeks to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. The strategy under Clause 12.01-2S requires decision making to apply the three-step approach in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal,



destruction or lopping of native vegetation (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017), as follows:

- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
- Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation

The three-step approach (avoid, minimise, offset) is the key policy in relation to the removal of native vegetation to achieve no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. It is a precautionary approach that aims to ensure that the removal of native vegetation is restricted to only what is reasonably necessary, and that biodiversity is appropriately compensated for any removal of native vegetation that is approved.

As discussed in greater detail under Clause 52.17 below, the proposal fails to appropriately respond to the three-step approach or provide evidence that biodiversity will not be harmed as a result of the proposed tree removal. As such, the proposal cannot be supported by the relevant provisions of the MPS and PPF, as listed above. A full native vegetation assessment is found under Clause 52.17 below.

Clause 52.17 – Native Vegetation

The purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 52.17 and the Guidelines focus strongly on the three-step approach (avoid, minimise, offset), as highlighted above. The applicant provided an avoid and minimise statement which outlines that the proposed vegetation removal is required to accommodate a new farm machinery storage shed. A summary of the reasons for the location of the new shed is as follows:

- The location is amongst existing buildings where an existing shed will be replaced and existing infrastructure and accessways will be utilised. Furthermore, it will be close to existing staff amenities/first aid and being consolidated with existing buildings increases security and surveillance.
- The location will have minimal impacts on productive agricultural land.
- Alternative locations have a significant rise and would require significant earthworks and increased costs.
- An existing power line also restricts relocating the position of the new shed.

Figure 6 on the following page contains a photograph supplied with the application to show the powerline and slope of the land.



Figure 6 – Photograph supplied with application

It is clear within the Guidelines that an application to remove native vegetation must demonstrate or provide appropriate evidence to show that no options exist to further minimise the impacts of native vegetation removal, that will not undermine the objectives of the proposed use or development. A photograph and generic statements are not considered to be sufficient to demonstrate that there are no options available to relocate the shed to avoid loss of native vegetation. An example of such evidence would include a contour plan and supporting quotes to demonstrate that the earthworks necessary to provide a benched area would not be economically viable.

Native vegetation removal within the West Wimmera Shire has been explored at VCAT in the case *McDonald v West Wimmera SC (Red Dot) [2019] VCAT 70 (16 January 2019)*. This case involved the review of a decision to grant a permit by West Wimmera Shire Council for the removal of 23 scattered Grey Box *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* trees from a 257 hectare farming property west of Kaniva. The property is currently farmed under crops, with the purpose of removing the trees to allow for easier, more efficient and safer access for agricultural machinery for cropping activities. Council's decision was set aside and no permit was granted. The findings of this case are particularly relevant in the assessment of this application as it explores native vegetation removal for agricultural gain and examines the legislation changes over time and increasing importance placed on the protection of scattered large native trees. The following paragraphs are of relevance:

12. In December 2017 the native vegetation regulations were further amended under Amendment VC138. State policy and Clause 52.17 provisions were changed and the



Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation, 2017 (the 2017 Guidelines) were introduced as an incorporated document into the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.

13. The 2017 Guidelines now introduced a basic, intermediary and detailed assessment pathway approach together with a shift in the emphasis of the three-step approach back towards the consideration of native vegetation generally and irrespective of its contribution to the value of the State's biodiversity in decision making. In addition, the 2017 Guidelines includes additional recognition, particularly through decision guidelines on:

- The value of native trees, where they are identified as large trees [7]. Large trees are often the oldest part of an ecological system and are difficult to replace in the short term.*
- The value of EVCs that have a bioregional conservation status of endangered.*

14. This change represents a pendulum swing with native vegetation management through a greater recognition of both scattered native trees and bioregional conservation status of EVCs.

33. The proposal relies heavily on the scores relating to extent and condition and to the SBS, which for the trees individually are mostly low at around 0.14 with one exception, which is 0.7. DELWP and Council appear to have relied on these types of scores and numbers to form conclusions to offer no objection and to support the granting of a permit.

34. However, the shift in policy and the application of the avoidance principle to native vegetation per se, rather than only to native vegetation which is significant to Victoria's biodiversity, represents a wider application and strengthening of the requirement to avoid removal and minimise impacts and which is regardless of the SBS. This places greater emphasis on recognising how the proposed change (in this case improved cropping efficiency) that is pursued can be planned commensurate with the impacts (in this case tree removal and effects on biodiversity) that may occur. In this regard, the presence of large trees from an endangered EVC highlights that loss from the removal of these trees is significant and that avoidance is possible because of the choices that are available (in this case a choice of either continuing to



crop amongst the trees unchanged or to reduce or avoid cropping around and amongst these trees).

44. *Policy under Clause 12.01-1S supports the protection of scattered trees where they provide a habitat function and where decision making is required to take into account the impacts of development on Victoria's biodiversity including consideration of cumulative impacts and fragmentation of habitat. I find the proposal fails to satisfy this policy direction.*
45. *Similarly, the endangered EVC, to which the trees belong and the proposed clearing compromises the higher value where the local area has experienced a decline in the number of large trees and they are infrequent in the landscape. The site contains a relatively small number of scattered trees, certainly well below the EVC 66 benchmark tree density of 20 per hectare (the current tree density is around 4.5 per hectare for the cluster of trees subject to the majority of proposed clearing). This heightens and contributes to my findings.*
46. *It appears that although the clearing of the trees would improve farming operations, the loss of the large Grey Box trees is effectively irreversible and does not produce a strong net community benefit or an acceptable outcome, in terms of policy and biodiversity impacts for the area.*

A full copy of the VCAT case is contained within Attachment 4.

As demonstrated by the findings of the VCAT case, large scattered trees within cleared rural landscapes are increasingly important to local biodiversity and their importance may not be adequately reflected in the Strategic Biodiversity Score (SBS) automatically generated on Native Vegetation Removal Reports. In this case, the SBS for the trees proposed to be removed is relatively low at 0.151 out of 1. However, the location of the trees proposed to be removed is classified as endangered Ecological Vegetation Class, meaning that less than 10% of pre-European extent remains in existence or more than 90% has been cleared, as per the expert evidence presented in the VCAT case. In the absence of a detailed ecological assessment undertaken by a qualified ecologist, the trees proposed to be removed are considered to be important to biodiversity given their maturity and the heavily cleared rural environment.

Taking into consideration the above, it cannot be said that all reasonable steps have been undertaken to avoid the removal of native vegetation to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity. Consequentially, the proposal cannot be supported under the provisions of Clause 52.17.



Clause 65 Decision Guidelines

The proposal does not accord with the MPS, PPF and Clause 52.17, as discussed above. The proposal will result in the removal of native vegetation at a cost to biodiversity within the Municipality and environmental harm. As a result, the proposal cannot be viewed as an example of orderly planning.

Response to Objections

The objectors concerns broadly relate to biodiversity loss and environmental harm within the Municipality as a result of the proposed native vegetation removal. Their concerns generally align with the issues raised within the planning assessment above and are supportive of the recommendation to refuse this application, as outlined in the officers recommendation below.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified: Environmental risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Council is the responsible authority for the administration of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The assessment of this application is conducted by Council officers in accordance with this legislation.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:
Local Government Act 2020

Environmental Implications

Environmental Risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The operation of Council's regulatory planning and building services are conducted within the adopted 2022 – 2023 Council budget.

Policy Implications



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

Community Engagement Policy
Environmental Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.7 Improve the liveability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.

Goal 3 – Sustainable Environment

3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.

3.2 Promote sustainable environmental management practices.

Goal 5 – Our Commitment Values

Accountability - We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency and advocating for our community.

Communication Implications

Consultation has already been undertaken in the development of the plans.

The application was advertised by mail to surrounding property owners and occupiers and two objections were received. The issues identified within the objection have been summarised above.

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 proposed removal of native vegetation does not comply with the relevant provisions of the West Wimmera Planning Scheme, particularly, the MPS, PPF and the purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 52.17 and Clause 65.

There is strong local policy encouragement for the retention of native vegetation within the Municipality given extensive clearing that has occurred over the past 150 years as a result of agricultural production. Native vegetation policy has also adapted over time to place increased importance on the significance of large trees within cleared rural environments and emphasis on the three-step approach (avoid, minimise, offset) in decision making. As discussed in detail within the assessment above, the application fails to demonstrate that all



reasonable steps have been undertaken to avoid the removal of native vegetation or provide evidence that biodiversity will not be harmed as a result of the proposed tree removal.

Having regard to the above, it is recommended that Council refuse Planning Application PA1133 and issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for the removal of native vegetation, for the reasons outlined within the Officers Recommendation below.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Planning Permit for the Removal of Native Vegetation at Grants and Richs Road, Kaniva (Crown Allotment 22, Section 4, Parish of Kaniva), for the following reasons:

- 1. The application does not meet the strategic directions of Clause 02.03-2 (Environmental and landscape values). The proposal will not conserve the Shire's biologically diverse natural environment, encourage development to increase indigenous vegetation cover, minimise impacts on areas with high habitat value or retain high quality vegetation stands throughout the Municipality.**
- 2. The application does not meet the Objectives or Strategies of Clause 12.01-1S (Protection of biodiversity), Clause 12.01-1R (Protection of biodiversity -Wimmera Southern Mallee) and Clause 12.01-1L (Protection of biodiversity - West Wimmera). The proposal does not protect or enhance biodiversity within the Municipality where it is recognised that small pockets of native vegetation are of high importance (Clause 02.03-2).**
- 3. The application does not meet the Objective or Strategies of Clause 12.01-2S (Native Vegetation Management). The application fails to demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been undertaken to avoid vegetation removal and there will be no net loss to biodiversity.**
- 4. The application is inconsistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 52.17, which seek to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal of native vegetation. As stated above, the application fails to demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been undertaken to avoid vegetation removal and there will be no net loss to biodiversity.**



Should the officer's recommendation not be supported and Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit, the following Conditions should be included:

1. The Native Vegetation removal as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered or modified without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 2.
3. To offset the removal of 0.228 hectares of native vegetation, the permit holder must secure a native vegetation offset, in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017) as specified below:
 - a. A general offset of 0.041 general habitat units:
 - located within the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority boundary or West Wimmera Shire municipal district with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of at least 0.151.
 -
 -
 - b. The offset(s) secured must provide protection of at least 5 large trees.
4. Before any native vegetation is removed, evidence that the required offset for the project has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible authority. The offset evidence must be:
 - a. An established first party offset site including a security agreement signed by both parties, and a management plan detailing the 10 year management actions and ongoing management of the site; and/or
 - b. credit extract(s) allocated to the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit Register.
5. Before works start, a native vegetation protection fence must be erected around native vegetation to be retained on site to clearly delineate vegetation that is not to be removed. This may take the form of temporary fencing, rope lines, paint marks or similar to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The protection fence must remain in place until all works are completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.



6. Except with the written consent of the responsible authority, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone, during the construction the holder of this permit must:
 - a. Not import and/or create any storage or dumping of any soils (including piles of dirt or gravel), materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products on the work site which is prohibited and not relocate any spoil material to another location nearby. Any fill material required should be either a re-use of the existing road base material or be sourced from a reputable, legal source (eg. nearby certified quarry).
 - b. Ensure that any bulk construction materials do not remain on the ground for longer than 24 hours unless placed upon an existing formed road surface.
 - c. Not clean down of any plant or equipment on-site.
 - d. Ensure all construction vehicles travel upon/park on existing formed road surfaces.
 - e. Ensure any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation such as perform any herbicide spraying not be undertaken.
 - f. Ensure all plant, equipment and machinery is to be clean and free of any soil or plant material which could contain weed seeds before being brought to the site.
7. The above-mentioned planning permit expires if one of the following circumstances arise:
 - a. The vegetation removal works have not commenced within two years of the date of this permit.
 - b. The vegetation removal works have not been completed within four years of the date of this permit.



The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing in accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit, the following Conditions should be included:

1. The Native Vegetation removal as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered or modified without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
- 2.
3. To offset the removal of 0.228 hectares of native vegetation, the permit holder must secure a native vegetation offset, in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017) as specified below:
 - a. A general offset of 0.041 general habitat units:
 - located within the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority boundary or West Wimmera Shire municipal district with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of at least 0.151.
 - b. The offset(s) secured must provide protection of at least 5 large trees.
3. Before any native vegetation is removed, evidence that the required offset for the project has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible authority. The offset evidence must be:
 - a. An established first party offset site including a security agreement signed by both parties, and a management plan detailing the 10 year management actions and ongoing management of the site; and/or
 - b. credit extract(s) allocated to the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit



Register.

- 4. Before works start, a native vegetation protection fence must be erected around native vegetation to be retained on site to clearly delineate vegetation that is not to be removed. This may take the form of temporary fencing, rope lines, paint marks or similar to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The protection fence must remain in place until all works are completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.**
- 5. Except with the written consent of the responsible authority, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone, during the construction the holder of this permit must:**
 - a. Not import and/or create any storage or dumping of any soils (including piles of dirt or gravel), materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products on the work site which is prohibited and not relocate any spoil material to another location nearby. Any fill material required should be either a re-use of the existing road base material or be sourced from a reputable, legal source (eg. nearby certified quarry).**
 - b. Ensure that any bulk construction materials do not remain on the ground for longer than 24 hours unless placed upon an existing formed road surface.**
 - c. Not clean down of any plant or equipment on-site.**
 - d. Ensure all construction vehicles travel upon/park on existing formed road surfaces.**
 - e. Ensure any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation such as perform any herbicide spraying not be undertaken.**
 - f. Ensure all plant, equipment and machinery is to be clean and free of any soil or plant material which could contain weed seeds before being brought to the site.**
- 6. The above-mentioned planning permit expires if one of the following circumstances arise:**



- a. The vegetation removal works have not commenced within two years of the date of this permit.
- b. The vegetation removal works have not been completed within four years of the date of this permit.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing in accordance with Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 [15.1.1 - 43 pages]
2. Attachment 2 [15.1.2 - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 [15.1.3 - 3 pages]
4. Attachment 4 [15.1.4 - 13 pages]



15.2 Local Law - Township Maps

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Manager Planning and Environment

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Council's Community Local Law No 6 of 2012 was made pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989* and "sunset" on 30 September 2022. Accordingly, it needs to be replaced with updated and comprehensive local law. The proposed Local Law went out to community for consultation in 2022. Since the original consultation period the proposed township maps have changed.

The intention of this report is to seek endorsement from the Council on amended township boundary maps and obtain approval to put those maps for community feedback in line with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2020.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Draft West Wimmera Shire Council went to community consultation on the proposed Community Local Law following the November 2022 Council meeting. Following this meeting, further changes have been proposed to the associated township boundaries that relate solely to the new draft of Local Law. Given that the areas proposed to be included in the maps have been amended, these maps are required to go out for another period of community consultation.

The township maps are required to work alongside the Local Law document to ensure that the Council can monitor and manage township amenity issues.

Section 73 (6) of the Local Government Act requires the Council to conduct a further community consultation of any material alterations to the Local Law that has previously been advertised and consulted.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified: Regulatory risk

Reputation risk



The council is committed to ensuring that the townships identified in the township maps have a level of regulation to ensure that amenity issues within the township can be appropriately addressed.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:
Local Government Act 2020

Environmental Implications

Environmental Risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Policy Implications

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

Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy
Township Amenity Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

- 1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.
- 1.2 Support a safe and inclusive community.
- 1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.
- 1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.

Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

- 2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.

Goal 4 – Good Governance

- 4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.
- 4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.

Goal 5 – Our Commitment Values

Accountability - We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency and advocating for our community.



Communication Implications

Consultation has already been undertaken in development of the plans

Community consultation occurred for the entire proposed Local Law following the November Council meeting.

This report proposes to put the township maps back out to community consultation given the changes in the proposed boundaries.

Gender Equality

Not Applicable

Conclusion

Councils Community Local Law is in the process of being created. To ensure township amenity within this Local Law, maps are required to define township boundaries for a number of the township amenity related clauses within the proposed document. The maps that went out to community consultation following the November 2022 council meeting have been altered and the proposed maps are required to go out for a further period of community consultation. The current version of the Local Law has been attached for reference.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

- a. the proposed Community Local Law No 9 Township Maps of 2023 be advertised in accordance with section 73 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;
- b. submissions be invited with a closing date of 12 April 2023;
- c. that any submissions be considered by Council its meeting on 17 May 2023; and
- d. the proposed local law be further considered by Council after the submission process.

Moved:	Cr Jodie Pretlove
Seconded:	Cr Tim Meyer



It is recommended that:

- a. the proposed Community Local Law No 9 Township Maps of 2023 be advertised in accordance with section 73 of the *Local Government Act 2020*;**
- b. submissions be invited with a closing date of 12 April 2023;**
- c. that any submissions be considered by Council its meeting on 17 May 2023; and**
- d. the proposed local law be further considered by Council after the submission process.**

CARRIED (4 / 1)

Attachments

1. Community Local Law 2023 ABS Mk 13 [**15.2.1** - 38 pages]
2. Proposed township Boundaries - West Wimmera Local Laws Review updated 6.3.2023 [**15.2.2** - 13 pages]



15.3 Briefing Report CFNP SRV Funding Application - Goroke Irrigation Fencing Draining Project

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Assets & GIS Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The intention of this report is to obtain the Council's endorsement for the submission of the application to the Country Football and Netball Program for the Upgrade of Goroke Ovals Irrigation, Drainage and Fencing at the Goroke Recreation Reserve. The details of the application are addressed within this report.

The project was specifically identified during the development of the Annual Plan as an action to seek funding when an opportunity arises.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The 2023 Country Football and Netball Program (CFNP) is a competitive Victorian Government investment program in partnership with AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria aimed at providing funding to assist regional football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to upgrade and develop facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.

West Wimmera Shire Council has identified the Goroke Irrigation, Fencing & Drainage project to be progressed to shovel ready and funding application ready status in the FY22/23 Annual Plan.

The project is now ready for a funding application to upgrade irrigation, fencing and drainage. This will ensure the Goroke Football oval is game ready and upgrade key equipment that is past its due date. This will support the Goroke Football Netball Club and Goroke Community as well as allow participation to continue for many years to come.

The Goroke Recreation Reserve Committee has committed \$20,000 towards the project and in line with Council Policy, 50% of this contribution would be provided prior to the application being submitted.

The application for this funding is set to close on 27 March 2023. The officers are working to submit the application in time.



Risk Management Implications

Risk identified: There are no obvious risks for Council to mitigate or eliminate regarding the proposal considered for funding support in this report.

Legislative Implications

Not Applicable

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The CFNP funding round allows for applications of up to \$250,000 on a 1:3 ratio in rural areas. These applications must come from Local Government Authorities to be considered for funding. Given this maximum of \$250,000 the Goroke Irrigation, Fencing and Drainage project is the only shovel ready project suitable for this funding round.

An estimated project budget based on initial quotations is shown below. Design cost portion is included in each section.

Goroke Irrigation, Fencing & Drainage	
Irrigation Upgrade - This incorporates a popup sprinkler system, pump station and large tank.	\$ 105,779.77
Fencing Upgrade & Removal of Old - This is a new black chain mesh fence set to AFL standard height.	\$ 100,000.00
Drainage Upgrade - Post realignment of the oval to reform the new drain around the oval	\$ 13,000.00
Electrical Work for Pumps	\$ 30,290.00
Contingency	\$ 30,000.00
Project Management	\$ 20,930.23
TOTAL:	\$ 300,000.00

Funding - Based on Ratio of 1:3	
Country Football Netball Program Contribution	\$ 225,000.00
Goroke Recreation Reserve Contribution	\$ 20,000.00
West Wimmera Shire Council Contribution	\$ 55,000.00
TOTAL:	\$ 300,000.00

Council Officers are requesting a commitment from the council for up to \$60,000 within the 2023/24 financial year as a matching fund to this funding stream. This value is to allow for secondary pricing to come back higher than initial quotes.



The total project cost in the application is estimated to be \$300,000.

Policy Implications

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

Community Contributions Policy

Community Engagement Policy

Procurement Policy

Risk Management Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

- 1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.
- 1.2 Support a safe and inclusive community.
- 1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.
- 1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.
- 1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.
- 1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.
- 1.7 Improve the liveability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.

Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

- 2.1 Encourage and support the establishment and expansion of innovative, creative and sustainable businesses.
- 2.2 Promote the Shire as a great place to visit, live and invest.
- 2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.
- 2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.
- 2.5 Enhance the local road network and explore transport options.
- 2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

Goal 4 – Good Governance

- 4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.
- 4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.
- 4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.
- 4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.
- 4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

Communication Implications



Consultation has already been undertaken in development of the plans

Gender Equality

Not Applicable

Conclusion

Outcomes of the funding applications are expected to be announced in June 2023. The application will be worked on and submitted only after council endorsement.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That,

1. The Council endorses the funding application to Country Football and Netball Program 2023 for the Upgrade of the Goroke Irrigation, Fencing and Drainage.
2. The council commits up to \$60,000 towards the funding application and underwrites the community's contribution of \$20,000. As a part of this application, it is required that any external contributions are underwritten by the Council.

Cr Jodie Pretlove left the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That,

1. The Council endorses the funding application to Country Football and Netball Program 2023 for the Upgrade of the Goroke Irrigation, Fencing and Drainage.
2. The council commits up to \$50,000 towards the funding application and underwrites the community's contribution of \$20,000. As a part of this application, it is required that any external contributions are underwritten by the Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Cr Jodie Pretlove re-entered the meeting at 3:53 pm.

Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz



Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council staff produce a list of current projects which have community involvement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Cr Jodie Pretlove returned to the meeting at 4:08 pm.

Attachments

1. Goroke Recreation Ground Irrigation Project [**15.3.1** - 1 page]



Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works
Report Author: Facilities and Quality Manager
Report Purpose: For Decision

The intention of this report is to gain approval from the Council on a lease agreement between GWM Water and West Wimmera Shire Council for the construction of a 200 kilolitre water tank on Council land located in Apsley.

The project scope is to supply and install a new ground water tank as shown in the diagram below. Apsley would receive water supply from the new ground water tank once installed. GWM Water will be responsible for funding and delivering the project.





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

Background

The Apsley Water Tank is located on Crown Allotment 5A Section 9, Parish of Boikerbert and this land is Crown Land. GWMWater holds a licence with DELWP (licence number 2001601).

The land parcel to the left which is Crown Allotment 5 Section 9 Parish Boikerbert is owned by the West Wimmera Shire Council.

GWMWater has utilised the above-mentioned Council owned parcel for many years. Both parties searched their records, and no lease appears to be in place.

A letter from Council to the water authority in 1997 stated that Council was aware of water authority assets being on Council land and were happy for existing arrangements to continue.

Currently, Council utilises GWM Water licenced land to stack construction materials. This will be formalised via agreement with GWM Water

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified: There are no obvious risks for the Council to mitigate or eliminate in regard to the proposal considered for funding support in this report.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:
Local Government Act 2020

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The lease is for the term of 20 years with the option for renewal for another 20 years. The lease of land under this proposal is to be given without consideration in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 hence GWM Water will not be required to pay rental to West Wimmera Shire Council.

Policy Implications

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

Asset Management Policy



Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.

Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

Not Applicable

Conclusion

The council is utilising Section 116, Transfer, exchange or lease of land without consideration of the Local Government Act 2020.

(1) A Council's powers to transfer, exchange or lease any land include the power to do so with or without consideration to:

- a) The crown; or
- b) A Minister; or
- c) Any public body; or
- d) The trustees appointed under any Act to be held on trust for public or municipal purposes.

It would be prudent for both parties to have a lease in place to identify respective responsibilities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council authorises the CEO to execute the lease agreement between GWM Water & West Wimmera Shire Council

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That the Council authorises the CEO to execute the lease agreement between GWM



Water & West Wimmera Shire Council

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. GWM Water lease - site lease agreement Laidlaw Street Apsley [**15.4.1** - 21 pages]



15.5 Circular Economy Household Education Fund - Round 3

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Director Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The intention of this report is to obtain the Council's endorsement for the submission of the funding application for Circular Economy Household Education Fund - Round 3. The fund aims to raise awareness in the community to maximise recycling practices.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Sustainability Victoria recently announced Circular Economy Household Education Fund – Round 3 with two main objectives:

- provide councils with financial support to use the Campaign Materials when introducing, improving or promoting household recycling services systems
- educate and help Victorians to understand and use the new, upcoming, or existing services correctly, to achieve low levels of contamination.

The new household recycling services under the Circular Economy (CE) policy are:

- a glass-only recycling service (kerbside bin or drop-off)
- food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service (kerbside bin or drop-off)
- adding food organics (FO) to an existing garden organics (GO) service
- expanding existing opt-in GO or FOGO services to the entire municipality
- changing bin lid colours to be consistent across the state
- achieving a 4-stream household recycling service.

The Council approved the introduction of the Kerbside Glass Collection Service in 23/24 financial year at the November Council Meeting.

The base amount available under this funding stream is \$30,000 for each of the applicant Councils. In addition, there is a variable component is also available which is based on the population and recycling challenges faced by the Council. The maximum funding through this stream is capped at \$106,000 per Council. No contribution is required/proposed from the Council.



Officers are currently developing a funding application. The majority of funding will go towards advertising and media campaigns to circulate awareness on glass separation and proper mixed recycling.

The application deadline is on 17 March 2023.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified: There are no obvious risks for Council to mitigate or eliminate in regard to the proposal considered for funding support in this report.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:
Local Government Act 2020

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The project will be entirely funded by Sustainability Victoria (if successful).

Policy Implications

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

Communications Policy
Community Engagement Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 3 – Sustainable Environment

- 3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.
- 3.2 Promote sustainable environmental management practices.

Goal 4 – Good Governance

- 4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.

Goal 5 – Our Commitment Values



Innovation - We will proactively respond to change, are optimistic about our future and pursue continuous improvement in everything that we do.

Accountability - We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency and advocating for our community.

Uniting - We will do everything within our ability to encourage and form trusting relationships, to work together as one team to achieve our goals and advocate for “One West Wimmera”.

Collaboration - We will actively and openly consult with you and work constructively with community organisations, agencies, the business community and other levels of government to our community’s benefit.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

Not Applicable

Conclusion

The success of funding will assist in maximising recycling practices in the municipality and hence eventually diverting materials from landfill and reducing the dumping cost. The application will be submitted before the deadline of 17 March 2023.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council endorses the funding application for Circular Economy Household Education Fund - Round 3

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That the Council endorses the funding application for Circular Economy Household Education Fund - Round 3

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

Nil



16 Confidential Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

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

16.1 Edenhope Equine Facility Upgrade Tender Recommendation Report

16.2 Management of the Kaniva Caravan Park

16.3 Kaniva Caravan Park Cabins Tender Recommendation Report

16.4 Apsley Netball/Tennis Courts & Lighting Upgrade Tender Recommendation Report

16.5 Harrow Netball/Tennis Courts & Lighting Upgrade Tender Recommendation Report

16.6 CM0 566 – Provision of ICT Services

Reason for confidentiality – Local Government Act 2020, Section 3, Council Business Information

Reason for confidentiality – Local Government Act 2020, Section 3, Private Commercial Information

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council pursuant to Section 66 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 close the meeting to members of the public at 4:14 pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

17 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.*

None Received

18 Sealing Schedule

None Received

19 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting 15th March 2023 was declared closed at 5:59pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 19th April 2023

Edenhope Council Chamber

Mayor's Signature
