



West Wimmera Shire Council

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 20 March 2024
2:00 pm

Council Chambers
Edenhope Council Offices
49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope Vic
3318



Councillors and Shire Map



MAYOR
Cr. Tim Meyer



**DEPUTY
MAYOR**
**Cr. Tom
Houlihan**



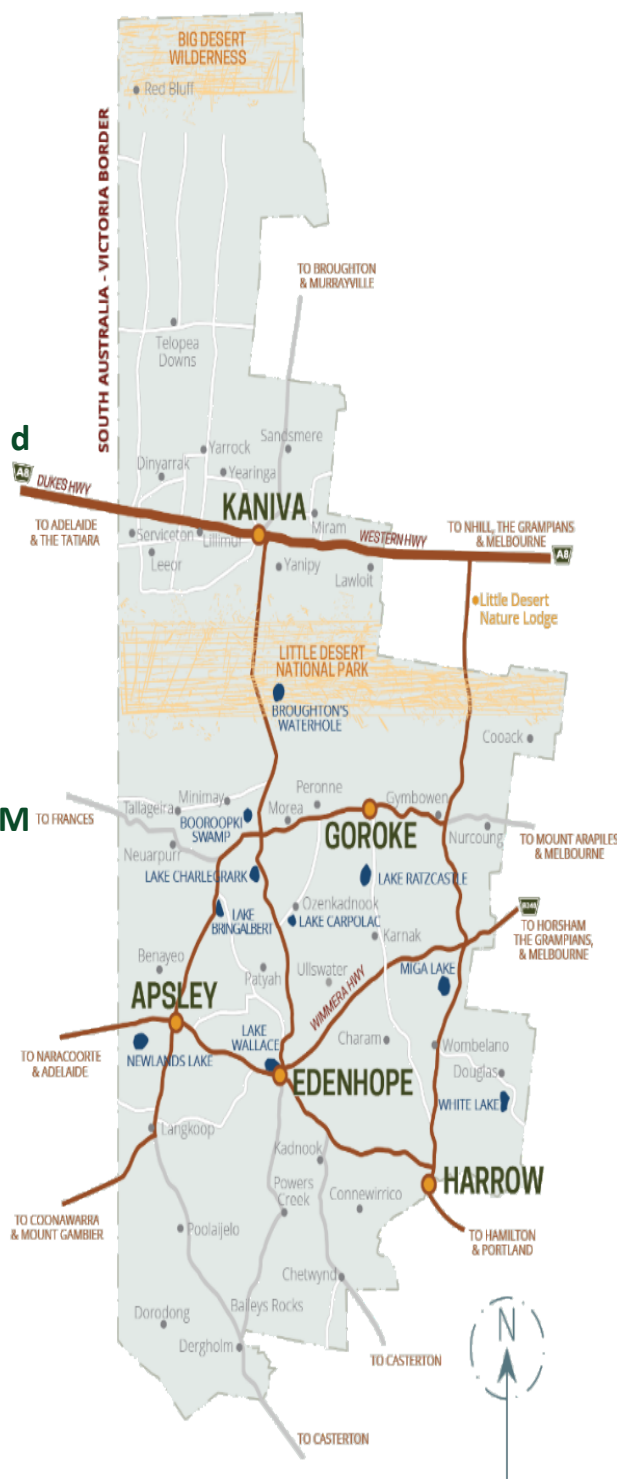
**Cr. Richard
Hicks**



**Cr. Bruce
Meyer OAM**



**Cr. Jodie
Pretlove**





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
Tom Houlihan, Deputy Mayor
Richard Hicks
Bruce Meyer OAM
Jodie Pretlove

Executive Leadership Team:

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

Officers:

Kaddie Cother - Governance Coordinator
Philippa Hicks - Executive Assistant to the CEO
Abbas Mehr - Chief Financial Officer
Katie Frost - Governance Manager
Louise Gabbe - Quality & Facilities Manager



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1 Welcome

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 - Grant Application, Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities, stating that she has a perceived conflict with the Edenhope/Apsley Football Club.



5 Questions from the Gallery

5.1 Written Questions on Notice

Council Watch - Waste Enforcement

Question 1

What amount of **waste enforcement costs** in the current financial year 2023/24 has the Council included in its waste levies charged to residents? (if any)

Question 2

What amount of revenue has council included in the current financial year 2023/24 from **waste enforcement actions**?

Response:

Cr Tim Meyer - Questions to be taken on notice.



5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice

Moved: Cr Tom Houlihan

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of receiving questions without notice from the members of the Gallery.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Katherine Shurvell - Kaniva

Could Council please provide feedback on the maintenance and improvements of the Kaniva Shire Hall Facilities?

Response:

Cr Tim Meyer - Still awaiting appropriate costings.

CEO David Bezuidenhout – As per notice of motion, the matter was presented to Council at the March forum. Additional questions were raised, officers continue with gathering of information to finalise concept scoping and costing. The matter will follow normal project lifecycle and decision-making processes to determine project justification.

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)



6 Delegates Reports

Delegate Reports are for providing feedback on formal council business and are for information only

6.1 Councillor Tim Meyer (Mayor)

Date	Event
22/02/2024	MAV Local Government Reforms 2024
23/02/2024	Western Highway Action Committee
26/02/2024	Rail Freight Alliance Executive Catch-up
27/02/2024	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board Meeting
05/03/2024	Rural Councils Victoria
06/03/2024	Councillor Forum
06/03/2024	Cemeteries Trust Meeting
12/03/2024	CEMAC Meeting
12/03/2024	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting
13/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
14/03/2024	WSMCH MAV Meeting
20/03/2024	2024/25 Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	Citizenship Ceremony
20/03/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/03/2024	Council Meeting

6.2 Councillor Tom Houlihan (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
22/02/2024	MAV Local Government Reforms 2024
06/03/2024	Councillor Forum
06/03/2024	Cemeteries Trust Meeting
12/03/2024	CEMAC Meeting
12/03/2024	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting
13/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	Citizenship Ceremony
20/03/2024	Pre Council Meeting
20/03/2024	Council Meeting



6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
22/02/2024	MAV Local Government Reforms 2024
26/02/2024	Rail Freight Alliance Executive Catchup
06/03/2024	Councillor Forum
06/03/2024	Cemeteries Trust Meeting
12/03/2024	CEMAC Meeting
12/03/2024	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting
13/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
14/03/2024	VLGGC Circular 1 – Statewide Sessions
20/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	Citizenship Ceremony
20/03/2024	Pre Council Meeting
20/03/2024	Council Meeting

6.4 Councillor Bruce Meyer OAM

Date	Event
22/02/2024	MAV Local Government Reforms 2024
23/02/2024	MAV Delegate Induction
06/03/2024	Councillor Forum
06/03/2024	Cemeteries Trust Meeting
12/03/2024	CEMAC Meeting
12/03/2024	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting
13/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	Citizenship Ceremony
20/03/2024	Pre Council Meeting
20/03/2024	Council Meeting



6.5 Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Date	Event
22/02/2024	MAV Local Government Reforms 2024
06/03/2024	Councillor Forum
06/03/2024	Cemeteries Trust Meeting
12/03/2024	CEMAC Meeting
12/03/2024	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting
13/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	2024/25 Budget and Annual Plan Discussion
20/03/2024	Citizenship Ceremony
20/03/2024	Pre Council Meeting
20/03/2024	Council Meeting

7 Condolences

Nil



8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED (4/0/1)

1 Abstention

Attachments

Nil

9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

10 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion submitted for the agenda.



11 Councillor Forum Record

11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 6th March 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 6th March 2024 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 6th March 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

12 Deputations and Petitions

There were no Petitions or Deputations submitted for the agenda.

13 Chief Executive Officer

No Reports



14 Corporate and Community Services

14.1 S6 Instrument of Delegations

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The Local Government Act 2020 provides that a council and its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) may, by *Instrument of Delegation*, delegate to a member of staff, any power, duty or function of the Council other than some powers (such as adoption of the budget), that are reserved for Council decision.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council approve a new S6 Instrument of Delegation from the Council to various positions in the organisation. The delegations are made to the position rather than to the staff member occupying the position.

Every six months our RelianSys program is updated by Maddocks with any new, changed or deleted provisions. A review was completed in January and three new provisions have been added to the S6 Instrument of Delegations relating to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2020*. In addition, officers have made amendments to ensure that any refusals of permit applications be presented to Council for decision.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Delegations are essential to enable Council staff to carry out operational duties particularly in areas which involve enforcement, such as town planning, local laws, environmental health, animal management and parking control. The current delegation from Council to various positions in the organisation was approved on 20 September 2023.

The proposed delegation (see Attachment 1) is based on a document prepared by Council's solicitors and is similar to that used by many Victorian municipalities. Council's solicitors provide a twice-yearly update service.

The delegations referred to must be approved by Council as distinct from some others which can be delegated by the CEO.



The proposed delegations have been discussed with relevant staff.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Regulatory risk

Delegations are essential to enable the daily operations of the Council to be carried out. Not having up to date delegations can involve risks, for example:

- a. powers, duties and functions being exercised without the necessary legal power, thereby bringing into question the validity of permits etc;
- b. compromise Council's insurance coverage;
- c. exposure by:
 - i. a government agency such as Local Government Victoria, the Ombudsman, the Local Government Inspectorate or the Victorian Auditor General;
 - ii. a "whistleblower";
 - iii. the media; or
 - iv. an aggrieved member of the community.

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Council is responsible for ensuring that its delegations are current at all times. Under section 11(8) of the LGA 2020, the Register of Delegations is a public document. While there is no statutory requirement for the Register to be on the Council website, it has been posted on the website in the interests of good governance and transparency.



Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not applicable

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 4 – Good Governance

4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

Council is responsible for ensuring that its delegations are current at all times. The proposed update of the delegations from Council is necessary in order to ensure compliance essential to comply with the Local Government Act 2020.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the proposed S6 Instrument of Delegation (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Authorise the Council Seal to be affixed to the S6 Instrument of Delegations.**

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the proposed S6 Instrument of Delegation (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Authorise the Council Seal to be affixed to the S6 Instrument of Delegations.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

- S 6 Instrument of Delegations Review February 2024 [14.1.1]



14.2 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes and November 2023 Chair Report

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Chief Financial Officer

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

This report presents West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) with the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2023. In addition, Mr Mick Jaensch, Chair of the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee, has provided Council with the November 2023 Audit and Risk Committee activity report relating to the Committee meetings held on 13 June 2023 and 27 September 2023. This report has been provided for information and includes confirmation from the Audit and Risk Committee that there are no matters under its purview which are not being appropriately responded to.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

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

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

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



separate activity and acts independently of Council and does not have any role in relation to financial management issues or have any executory role or powers.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Financial risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Strategic risk

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not applicable

Policy Implications

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

Fraud & Corruption Control Policy

Risk Management Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 4 – Good Governance

4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

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



No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

The minutes of the previous Audit Committee meeting as well as the Chair's Activity Report are attached for Council's information.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Receives the draft minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held 12 December 2023.**
2. **Receives the November 2023 Audit & Risk Committee Chair Activity Report relating to the committee meetings held on 13 June 2023 and 27 September 2023.**

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council:

1. **Receives the draft minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held 12 December 2023.**
2. **Receives the November 2023 Audit & Risk Committee Chair Activity Report relating to the committee meetings held on 13 June 2023 and 27 September 2023.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. West Wimmera ARC Half Yearly Report November 2023 [**14.2.1** - 4 pages]
2. 2023 12 12 Audit Risk Committee Minutes DRAFT [**14.2.2** - 8 pages]



14.3 Appointment of External Members to Audit and Risk Committee

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) employs the Audit and Risk Committee as an advisory committee of the Council in accordance with S.53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter) requires that the Committee consist of a mix of Councillors and independent members. Currently the Charter allows for two Council members and at least three independent members.

Mr. Mick Jaensch and Mr Andrew Johnson were appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee in December 2020 and Ms Celeste Gregory was appointed in June 2019. All three members will need to be reappointed to continue in their roles as external members on the Audit and Risk Committee.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Council's Audit and Risk Committee is constituted in pursuance to S.53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires that the Audit and Risk Committee consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors.

All three members bring outstanding and complimentary skill sets to the Audit and Risk Committee and accordingly management recommends that all three be reappointed as independent members to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Regulatory risk

Legislative Implications

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



Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Not applicable

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 4 – Good Governance

4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.

4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

In accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, Independent members may be appointed for an initial term of three years and may serve for a maximum of nine years.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Re-appoints the following independent members to the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term:

- Mr Mick Jaensch
- Mr Andrew Johnson
- Ms Celeste Gregory

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council:

1. Re-appoints the following independent members to the West Wimmera Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term:

- Mr Mick Jaensch
- Mr Andrew Johnson
- Ms Celeste Gregory

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

Nil



14.4 Quarterly Finance and Annual Plan Report

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Chief Financial Officer

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The financial report for Q2 FY 2023-24 is presented here for consideration of the Council. The financial reports included herein are un-audited and are presented for statutory reporting purposes. The report includes the Draft Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Progress Report on Capital Works Program, and information pertaining to Council investments.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Council adopted its budget for FY 2023-24 with a target revenue of \$27.650 million for the year with an estimated \$27.323 million in expenses to generate a surplus of \$327K at the end of fiscal year.

Based on the 12 months budget spread, the target results for first half of the budget year were budgeted to have a revenue generation of \$14.447 million and expenses worth \$14.458 million resulting in a small deficit of \$11.526K

The consolidation of actual financial results indicates a revenue shortfall primarily due to Commonwealth's strategic change in Financial Assistance Grant's disbursement prior to the start of new financial year. There is a shortfall of \$961.282 K which relates to grants received already and were accounted for the in FY 2022-23.

The consolidated actual expenses of \$13.328 million against budgeted \$14.459 million for first half of FY 2023-24 reflect another positive variance of \$1.131 million which reflects 7.820% in terms of savings to originally planned costs for this period.

The aggregate result for this quarter remains a surplus of \$157.906K compared to a budgeted deficit of \$11.526 K for the same period.

These operational results include depreciation charged for the first half of the financial year amounting to \$3.932 million which is subject to any audit estimation and adjustments at end of the fiscal year.



The attached report provides further information with respect to the different classifications of revenue and expenses where these values have been generated.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Business continuity risk

Financial risk

Regulatory risk

Strategic risk

Legislative Implications

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

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Low

Policy Implications

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

Business Continuity Policy

Investment Policy

Council Plan Implications

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

Goal 4 – Good Governance

4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.

4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.

4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

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

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

The Council's financial results for second quarter are indicative of our well-tracked progress in line with the adopted budget and it is projected that the Council will achieve its financial objectives and budgeted milestones.

The Capital Works have commenced and progressed well during first half of the fiscal year. With \$11.709 million of budgeted Capital Works, the momentum gained on these projects reflects target completion of the committed works during the year.

Our surplus cash reserves are performing profitable through investments into secured interest-bearing instruments with the annual budgeted investment income having been earned in the first half of FY2024.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receives the quarterly financial report for Q2 FY 2023-24 and the quarterly Annual Plan Update for Q2 FY 2023-24.
2. Authorises the quarterly financial report for Q2 FY 2023-24 and the quarterly Annual Plan Update for Q2 FY 2023-24 to be tabled at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting scheduled for 12 April 2024.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council:

1. Receives the quarterly financial report for Q2 FY 2023-24 and the quarterly Annual Plan Update for Q2 FY 2023-24.
2. Authorises the quarterly financial report for Q2 FY 2023-24 and the quarterly Annual Plan Update for Q2 FY 2023-24 to be tabled at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting scheduled for 12 April 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. WWSC Q 2 Financial Report - Council Forum March 2024 [14.4.1 - 22 pages]
2. WWSC Annual Plan Quarterly Update 2023 24 Q 2 Dec 2023 Feb 2024 [14.4.2 - 8 pages]



15 Infrastructure Development and Works

15.1 Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park - relinquish of licence and become COM

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Facilities and Quality Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council to relinquish the licence of tenure 0208085, Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park at 2 Baker St, Kaniva, and become the Committee of Management (COM). (map attached).

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Council officers have been communicating with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and they have agreed it would be in Council's best interest to handover the licence and take the necessary steps to become the COM.

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Asset risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 (CLRA)

Environmental Implications

Nil



Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

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 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

2.1 Encourage and support the establishment and expansion of innovative, creative and sustainable businesses.

Communication Implications

Nil

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

If Council were to relinquish the licence as suggested and become the Committee of Management, there would be more flexibility to lease this area in the future to a third party other than engaging a contractor.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to progress with the necessary arrangements to appoint the West Wimmera Shire Council as the Committee of Management of the area outlined in orange on the map attached.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council

1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to progress with the necessary arrangements to appoint the West Wimmera Shire Council as the Committee of Management of the area outlined in orange on the map attached.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

1. Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park - tenure 0208085 licence [15.1.1 - 1 page]



15.2 Economic Development Strategy

Directorate: Infrastructure, Development & Works

Report Author: Economic & Business Development Officer

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) engaged Stafford Strategy (Stafford) to develop a West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy (WWEDS). The WWEDS focuses on initiatives which Council can realistically deliver on, advocate for and aims to encourage real opportunities that the municipality and its stakeholders can resource and achieve.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The WWEDS captures the ideas, thoughts and aspirations of our business and community groups to build upon our strong foundations and capitalise on the new and emerging opportunities to deliver long-term, inclusive, and sustainable growth for Council and its community.

The input received from the community and industry provided a key resource for the WWEDS preparation. Industry consultation (one-on-one sessions) along with several workshop and focus group sessions with a variety of stakeholders including town progress associations, and local community members and committees. A community business survey received 100 responses.

The WWEDS is deliberately aligned to the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region prepared by the Victorian State Government and the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan.

The economic profile will be updated to reflect the most recent 2023 REMPLAN data before document publication.

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

Not Applicable

Environmental Implications

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Nil

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 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.

2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

Communication Implications

Significant community and stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in development of the strategy. In the document we have included in the tables when key actions have been sourced from the community, existing council plans which have also had community consultation or from other government plans.

As per the request of council at its February 2024 forum the draft strategy was advertised for community feedback from Thursday 8-20 February 2024. Council received feedback from one individual, Kaniva & District Progress Association and Edenhope Tourism Inc, and Council had the opportunity to consider the responses received.

All responses received during this additional period thanked the council for this opportunity and overall all were supportive of the document.



Conclusion

The WWEDS sets out the strategies and actions to achieve our vision for the economy of West Wimmera. Four Economic Development pillars will guide opportunities across our shire. They are a commitment to:

1. Continue to support the growth of the Agricultural sector
2. Enhance livability to increase amenity and grow the appeal of the municipality towns
3. Support small business growth
4. Focus on the introduction of additional commissionable tourism products.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

Adopts the revised / attached West Wimmera Shire Council Economic and Development Strategy 2024- 2029.

Moved: Cr Bruce Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the revised West Wimmera Shire Council Economic and Development Strategy 2024-2029.**
- 2. Any future applications for funding relating to any part of this strategy must be brought back to Council for consideration.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy 2024 - 2029



15.3 Grant Application - Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Innovation and PMO Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

This report is intended to obtain a Council resolution in regard to the potential submission of the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund on 27th March 2024. This application would be for the construction of a new set of change rooms that would meet AFL sporting guidelines, umpires' rooms and public amenities.

The Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund's objectives are to:

- Ensure Victoria has modern, accessible and welcoming places and spaces for sport and active recreation
- Contribute to achieving a wide range of community socio- economic outcomes
- Strategically aligns with regional priorities
- Increase the participation of all community members by providing facilities inclusive to all

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Edenhope Changerooms are some of the oldest facilities in the shire and do not meet current AFL standards. In June 2020, Council submitted an application for the Edenhope Football Changerooms Upgrade project to a state government funding stream, however this application was unsuccessful. The project has been waiting at P2 P3 Scoping & Planning gate awaiting further funding opportunities. This project is currently listed in the Council 22/23 Annual Plan.

The Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund which closes on the 27th of March 2024 is the result of the cancellation of Victoria's part in the Commonwealth Games and is the only funding round in recent times to be a possible fit for this project. This project would be applied for under the 'Community Facilities' stream of this funding round which has a SRV 4:1 LOCAL funding ratio up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.



This project aims to provide compliant AFL football change facilities at the Edenhope Recreation Reserve. This would include providing the following:

- 2 changerooms including 3 toilets and 4 shower cubicles each
- Umpire changerooms
- Fully accessible First Aid room
- Public amenities (3 units)

This is a reduction from the 2020 project removing an office space, extra storage and extra floor space in each changeroom area. These changes have been made with consideration to the costs associated with construction of such a facility. The removal of this significant amount of floor space has meant this building will meet all standards and codes but is at the minimum levels.

This facility would be constructed in a new location in between the netball courts and the football oval and will not alter the existing unsafe change rooms. This project does not include the removal of the existing facility. The location of the new facility will be on crown land which is currently managed by the Edenhope Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management. The key user group of the facility at this point in time will be the Edenhope Football and Netball Club and they are therefore the key community group required to provide a financial contribution towards this project. Along with football and netball this facility would improve and be used by many community events that are held at the recreation reserve annually providing an important outdoor venue with supporting infrastructure such as first aid, public amenities and changerooms that are not available at any other location in Edenhope.

Edenhope Recreation Reserve is connected to 3Phase 100Amp power which has been confirmed by Laser Electrical. The power usage of this building will be minimal and easily covered by current available power. A possible future oval lighting upgrade project will reduce the overall use of power at the site if it occurs as by using better cabling and light fixtures that draw less power.

Project Name	Funding Body	Total Project Amount	Funds from funding body	Funds from council 15% TPC	Funds from Community 19% TPC	Project shortfall
Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project	Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund - Sport and Recreation Victoria	\$1,600,000	\$1,000,000	\$240,000	\$300,000	\$60,000

Council funds (\$240,000) have been included in the draft 24/25 budget.



The Edenhope Football Netball Club are currently able to commit to \$300,000 (19% TPC) for this project. \$150,000 of this amount will be provided to council to hold in trust on submission of the grant application. The committee would find it very difficult to find avenues to raise the extra \$60,000.

The project, if successful through the funding application, will move to the execution phase starting in the 24/25 financial year and concluding in 25/26 financial year. The expected full completion of the project would be ready for the 2026 Football Season.

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

Nil

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

WWSC Community Projects Contribution Policy

Community Contribution – Proposed Project cost \$1.6M

If the project is not on Council Land and or Council is not the COM for crown land, the Council may contribute up to a maximum of 15% - \$240K

If the project is not on Council land and or Council is not the COM the community contribution will be a minimum of 15% - \$240K

In recognition of the increase contribution that the community are prepared to make to 19% - \$300K it is for the council to determine if they support an increase in their contribution to a matching 19% - \$300K

The project costings have been provided by a quantity surveyor and a \$200K contingency costs has been included in the total project costs.

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

- 1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.
- 1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.
- 1.7 Improve the liveability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

If successful this funding will allow West Wimmera Shire to implement the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project. Meaning one of the oldest and most outdated community sport facilities meets standards and increase usability of this important recreation reserve. This project would complement the works that have occurred over the last few years at Apsley, Harrow, Kaniva and Goroke recreational facilities.

This is the best funding ratio and amount of external funding that has been available for such a facility and is unlikely to be presented in the future as Regional Package Funding is not an annual funding stream.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Approve a submission for the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project application to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund March 2024.**
- 2. Authorise a Council contribution of up to \$300,000 and underwrites any co-contribution.**

OR

That Council:

- 1. Approves a submission for the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project application to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund subject to the financial community contribution being confirmed for the \$360,000**
- 2. Authorise a Council contribution of up to \$240,000 and underwrites any co-contribution.**

OR

That Council:

- 1. Does not approve the submission of an application for the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project application to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund as the contribution by both the council and the community is too significant.**
- 2. Request council to continue to seek funding opportunities.**



Cr Jodie Pretlove left the meeting at 2:43 pm.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council:

- 1. Approves a submission for the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Change Facilities Project application to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund subject to the financial community contribution being confirmed for the \$360,000**
- 2. Authorise a Council contribution of up to \$240,000 and underwrites any co-contribution.**
- 3. That Council authorises, subject to Edenhope Apsley Football Netball Club ratification, a loan of up to \$60,000, for a period of up to five years, with the first year being interest free, and the remainder period of eight equal half yearly payments including an interest rate of 5% per annum.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Cr Jodie Pretlove returned to the meeting at 2:54 pm.

Attachments

1. Edenhope Football Change DRAFT [15.3.1 - 1 page]



15.4 Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Innovation and PMO Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

This report is intended to obtain a Council resolution to support the submission of the Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project to the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund, Indoor Stadiums and Aquatic Facilities stream. This application would include the installation of a Changing Places facility, upgrades to changerooms, pathways and amenities which will provide for a broader range of abilities to utilize this key community asset.

The Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund's objectives are to:

- Ensure Victoria has modern, accessible and welcoming places and spaces for sport and active recreation
- Contribute to achieving a wide range of community socio- economic outcomes
- Strategically aligns with regional priorities
- Increase the participation of all community members by providing facilities inclusive to all

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The Kaniva Memorial pool is a key community asset providing an important recreational opportunity to Kaniva and district. The facility was constructed a number of years ago and has had ongoing maintenance but not had any works undertaken to adjust its current facilities to meet current day standards or improve operating costs.

In March 2024 WWSC engaged a contractor to undertake an assessment for accessibility compliance, called an Access Audit. This report showed a number of areas that will some funding could be adjusted to make this facility more contemporary and user friendly. Including upgraded changerooms, pathways and outdoor spaces

Through the Innovation Platform council received a request to consider a Changing Places facility in Kaniva. A Changing Places Facility is a high level specialized all abilities toilet and changeroom facility. Currently the closest one is located in Horsham or Adeliade. This facility is available through a national key system and would be available at all times. Locating it



with the pool this compliments the proposed all abilities splash park planned for this location.

This application, if successful would provide funds to undertaken the following:

- Upgrade and improve a number of items related to the daily operating and running of this facility such as roof repairs, chlorine system upgrade and heat pumps
- Upgrades to pathways, shelters and changeroom facilities to improve accessibility for a broader range of our community
- Construct a Changing Places facilities within our region

The project, if successful in funding applications, will move to the execution phase in the 24/25 financial year. Council funds have been included in the proposed 24/25 budget.

Project Name	Funding Body	Total Project Amount	Funds from funding body	Funds from council	Funds from community
Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project	Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund - State	\$900,000	\$675,000	\$225,000	N/A

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

Not Applicable

Environmental Implications

Nil

Water saving strategies are to be considered and implemented.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Low

The council will need to commit to the proposed budget allocation of \$225,000 in the 24/25 budget to match the above-mentioned funding program.

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

1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.

1.1.2 Seek funding for and prepare a municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy to guide sport and recreation infrastructure and activities in the Shire.

1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure

1.3.3 Ensure key infrastructure (Roads & Buildings) is maintained and renewed as required to support our economy, community use and involvement

Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Completed

Conclusion

If successful this funding will allow West Wimmera Shire to implement the Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibilities project. The project will improve accessibility and amenities, including year-round access to Changing Places facilities, enhancing the pool experience for local residents and providing a welcoming destination for tourists and travelers alike.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project application to be submitted to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.**
- 2. Authorise a Council Contribution of \$225,000 to this project.**

OR

That Council:

- 1. Do not endorse the Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project application to be submitted to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.**
- 2. Do not authorise a Council Contribution of \$225,000 to this project.**

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Kaniva Pool Facilities Upgrade and Accessibility Project application to be submitted to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.**
- 2. Authorise a Council Contribution of up to \$225,000 to this project.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

Nil



16 Sealing Schedule

Nil.

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.*

No Late Items submitted for the agenda

18 Confidential Reports

No Confidential Reports submitted for the agenda

19 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 20 March 2024 was declared closed at 3:06 pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Goroke Recreation Reserve

Mayor's Signature
