



West Wimmera Shire Council

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 21 February 2024
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. Tom
Houlihan**



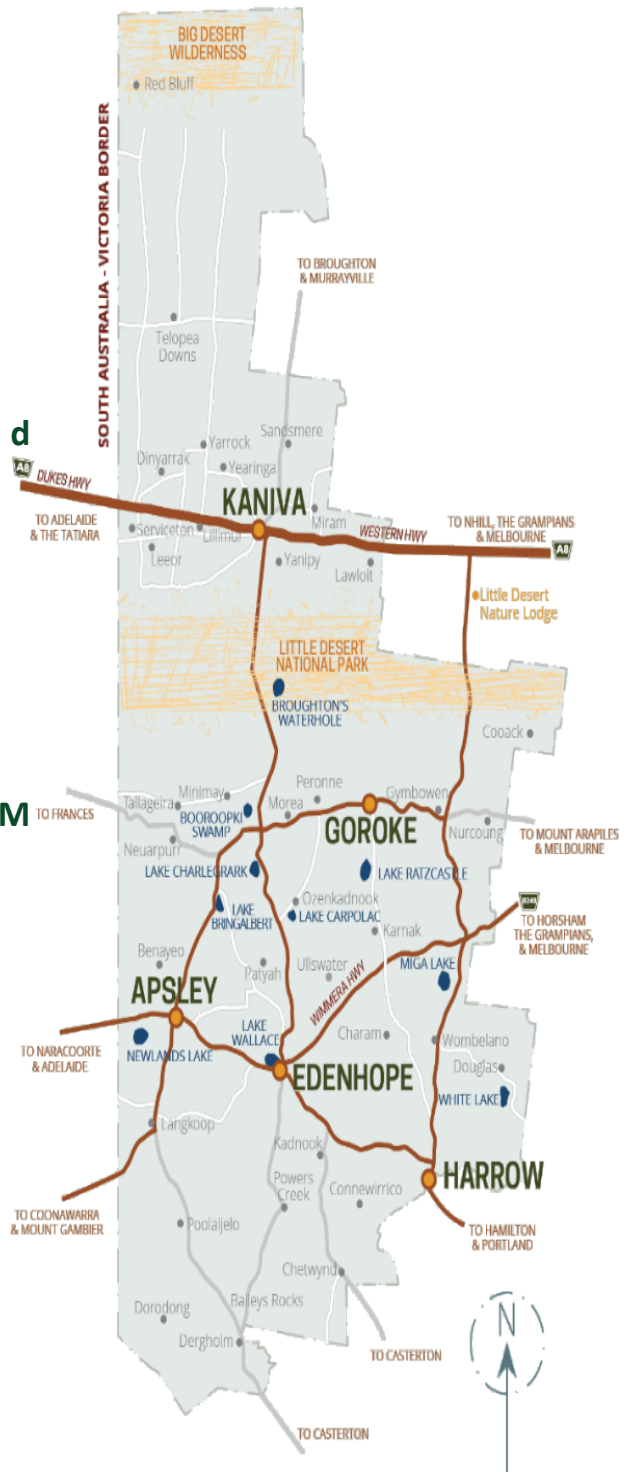
**Cr. Richard
Hicks**



**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

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
John Hutchins - Community Development & Tourism 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

Cr Jodie Pretlove

4.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

4.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared



5 Questions from the Gallery

5.1 Written Questions on Notice

5.1.1 Nicole Winking - Cat Desexing Program

Question:

Could the Council consider supporting a cat desexing program similar to the one that neighbouring shires have (e.g. Hindmarsh Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council)?

Response:

Cr Tim Meyer - We have looked into the desexing programs offered by other councils, they appear to be funded through the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program offered by Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. We have signed up to receive notifications of new grant funding opportunities when they open and this is something that we can consider if we are able to secure appropriate funding for the program.



5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Helen Hobbs - Could Council consider installing a cleaning schedule into the public toilets at the Windmill toilets in Kaniva?

Response: *The matter will be logged into the Innovation Platform for council to investigate/consider*

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 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
26/01/2024	Australia Day Events – Kaniva & Apsley
05/02/2024	2024/25 Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
06/02/2024	Kaniva College Badge Ceremony
07/02/2024	Councillor Forum
08/02/2024	Regional Mayor & CEO Meeting
12/02/2024	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
21/02/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
21/02/2024	Council Meeting

6.2 Councillor Tom Houlihan (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
26/01/2024	Australia Day Events – Edenhope & Harrow
05/02/2024	2024/25 Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
07/02/2024	Councillor Forum
12/02/2024	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
21/02/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
21/02/2024	Council Meeting

6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
05/02/2024	2024/25 Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
07/02/2024	Councillor Forum
16/02/2024	RFA February Meeting, AGM & Ordinary Meeting
21/02/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
21/02/2024	Council Meeting



6.4 Councillor Bruce Meyer OAM

Date	Event
26/01/2024	Australia Day Event - Kaniva
05/02/2024	2024/25 Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
07/02/2024	Councillor Forum
21/02/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
21/02/2024	Council Meeting

6.5 Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Date	Event
05/02/2024	Budget & Annual Plan Discussion
07/02/2024	Councillor Forum
21/02/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
21/02/2024	Council Meeting

7 Condolences

None Recorded



8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th December 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th December 2023 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, 13th December 2023 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Attachments

Nil

9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

None Received

10 Notices of Motion

None Received



11 Councillor Forum Record

11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 7th February 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 7th February 2024 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 7th February 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

12 Deputations and Petitions

There were no Petitions or Deputations submitted for the agenda.

13 Chief Executive Officer

13.0 No CEO Reports



14 Corporate and Community Services

14.1 Fair Access Policy and Action Plan

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development and Tourism Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Sport and Recreation Victoria has advised through their Fair access policy road map (<https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access>) that no further funding will be available for Councils who do not have a fair access policy in place *“Your council must adopt a policy (or equivalent) by 1 July 2024 to remain eligible for Victorian Government community sports infrastructure funding”*

The Fair Access Policy (the Policy) seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Policy aims to progressively build capacity and capabilities of West Wimmera Shire Council in the identification, and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services in relation to community sports infrastructure.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Sport and recreation are a highly visible and valued feature of West Wimmera Shire Council’s culture and identity. The sport and active recreation sector provide opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair-mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all Victorians. West Wimmera Shire Council is well positioned to design and implement place-based, integrated action plans that progress gender equality in community sport.

The Victorian Government is committed to developing an environment for all Victorians to live in a safe and equal society, have access to equal power, resources, and opportunities, and are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. A reform agenda has been developed to change the systems that have perpetuated gender inequality by designing an enduring structure that requires implementation and tracking of progress over time.

This reform agenda includes addressing the traditional structures and way community sport and recreation organisations operate through the implementation all nine (9)



recommendations from the 2015 Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. This includes recommendation six (6):

“...encourage facility owners and managers to review access and usage policies to ensure women and girls have a fair share of access to the highest quality facilities at the best and most popular times”

and

“Facilitating a universal adoption of the West Wimmera Shire Council Fair Access Policy will drive change further”

Risk Management Implications

Risk identified:

Strategic risk

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 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

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



Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.

2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.

2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

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.

4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.

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.

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

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

Conclusion

This policy establishes the expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all current and future West Wimmera Shire Council’s planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

- West Wimmera Shire Council recognises that gender equality is the attainment of equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women and men.
- West Wimmera Shire Council recognises that gender equity is the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities based on gender. The concept recognises that people may have diverse needs and power related to their gender and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender related imbalances.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the West Wimmera Shire Council Fair Access Policy and approves the Fair Access Action Plan

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council adopts the West Wimmera Shire Council Fair Access Policy and approves the Fair Access Action Plan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Attachments

1. 08122023 - West Wimmera - Fair Access Policy [**14.1.1** - 9 pages]
2. 08122023 - West Wimmera Shire Action_Plan_ [**14.1.2** - 4 pages]



14.2 Sponsorship and Contributions Grant application - Day of the Dackel

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development and Tourism Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council Sponsorship and Contributions Grants provide communities with the opportunity to collaborate with Council to make their locality a better place to live. The Council provides Sponsorships and Contributions to address local needs and provide opportunities to support the community and enhance lifestyles of West Wimmera Shire Council residents. Sponsorship and Contributions may be via application for funds and/or Council in-kind support.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Council will consider requests for sponsorship towards initiatives and/or activities that:
Demonstrate significant community benefit, are inclusive and encourage community participation.

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

Nil



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

1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.

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

The Day of the Dackel team is asking for sponsorship from the West Wimmera Shire for their annual Day of the Dackel which is being held on the weekend of the 6/7 April 2024. They have attached a quote for insurance, they would like covered for their event. They also request in-kind support from the WWSC (West Wimmera Shire Council) in the form of star pickets, bunting, extra bins, dog poo bags, cleaning of BBQ shelters and toilets, use of power at Henley Park and other sundries we may need.

Council provided only in-kind support for their last year's event

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the application from Ms Diana Saville for a financial contribution of \$500.00 plus in-kind support of \$1,784.00 for the Day of the Dackel event.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council approve the application from Ms Diana Saville for a financial contribution of \$500.00 plus in-kind support of \$1,784.00 for the Day of the Dackel event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)



Cr Richard Hicks moved the following motion:

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council takes the Sponsorship and Contributions Grant Guidelines back to a future forum, and a decision be made a future Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 / 1)

1 Abstention

Attachments

1. CSC G 00008 - application - 11311549 - Community Sponsorshi [14.2.1 - 3 pages]
2. CSC G 00008 - assessment - 11377356 - Community Sponsorshi [14.2.2 - 3 pages]



14.3 Community Support Grant Application - Chetwynd

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development and Tourism Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop and support community-based organisations and the wide range of quality recreational, cultural, social and business group initiatives they undertake, to form a positive contribution to the West Wimmera Shire and strengthen the development of a supported, cohesive community.

Each financial year, Council provides financial assistance to community-based organisations to support the provision of programs and services which benefit the West Wimmera Shire community and are in accordance with Council's plans and strategies.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

In recognition of the important contribution that "Not for Profit" community organisations make to the infrastructure and fabric of the townships of West Wimmera Shire, Council will consider an annual financial contribution to assist the identified organisations to continue to support Council in its strategic goal to have supported cohesive communities. (Community Support Contribution).

This grant allows for Committees of Management or hall committees to apply for an annual contribution towards the cost of their facilities insurances (Public and Products Liability and Contents and Building Contribution).

Council will consider a financial contribution to eligible organisations, upon application. If approved by Council eligible associations are encouraged to apply on an annual basis if assistance is required.

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:

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.

1.2 Support a safe and inclusive 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

Chetwynd Community Hall Building and Contents Insurance has, for the past few years, been paid for in its entirety by the WWSC. Due to changes in Council Policy Chetwyn has now applied for 35% coverage of their total building and contents insurance of \$1606.20.

With Council contribution of \$562.17 this will leave Chetwyn hall committee to fund the balance of \$1,044.03



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the application from Chetwynd Community Centre Incorporated for funding of \$562.17 towards the cost of their annual Building and Contents Insurance Policy in accordance with the Community Support Grant guidelines.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Bruce Meyer

That Council approve the application from the Chetwynd Community Centre Incorporated for funding of \$562.17 towards the cost of their annual Building and Contents Insurance Policy in accordance with the Community Support Grant guidelines.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Attachments

1. 23 CSG I 00002 - application - 11203259 - Community Support Gr [14.3.1 - 5 pages]
2. 23 CSG I 00002 - assessment - 11362091 - Community Support Gr [14.3.2 - 2 pages]



15 Infrastructure Development and Works

15.1 Langford Street, Edenhope Committee of Management

Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works

Report Author: Facilities and Quality Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

A report was submitted to Council on 16 August 2023, regarding the Old Shire Depot/Workshop at 67 Langford St, Edenhope and subletting the land to the third party. The recommendation was for Council to give approval to become the Committee of Management and that Council officers to investigate the option of extending the boundary of the old depot site to include the bore/tanks for which Council will also be the Committee of Management.

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 DEECA and they have accepted the initial proposal. They mentioned that the three (3) DEECA licences (attached) on Langford St, Edenhope that Council currently hold, it would be logical for Council to reserve these.

- 0208078 (Edenhope Workshop) yearly fee \$354.31
- 0206323 (Edenhope Patrol Depot Langford St) yearly fee \$531.47
- 0208077 (Edenhope Municipal Depot) yearly fee \$531.47

To become the Committee of Management Council would not have to pay three separate licence fees each year, could lease any parts of these allotments to a third party.

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.

2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Gender Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

If Council were to relinquish the licences as suggested by DEECA and become the Committee of Management there would be no further expenditure for licences and flexibility to lease to a third party.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Approves to extend the area of responsibility of the Committee of Management.
2. 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 red on the map attached at Langford Street Edenhope.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council

1. Approves to extend the area of responsibility of the Committee of Management.
2. 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 red on the map attached at Langford Street Edenhope.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

Attachments

1. DEECA Langford St Edenhope Licences [15.1.1 - 1 page]



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.*



18 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:

18.1 Visitor Economy Partnership

18.2 Major Patching & Stabalisation Arterial Roads

Grounds:

Reason for confidentiality - Local Government Act 2020, Section 3 - Council business Information

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

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 2:38 pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 / 0)

19 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 21st February 2024 was declared closed at 2:42 pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 20th March 2024

Edenhope Council Chamber

Mayor's Signature
