



# **West Wimmera Shire Council**

## **MINUTES**

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 18 September 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**



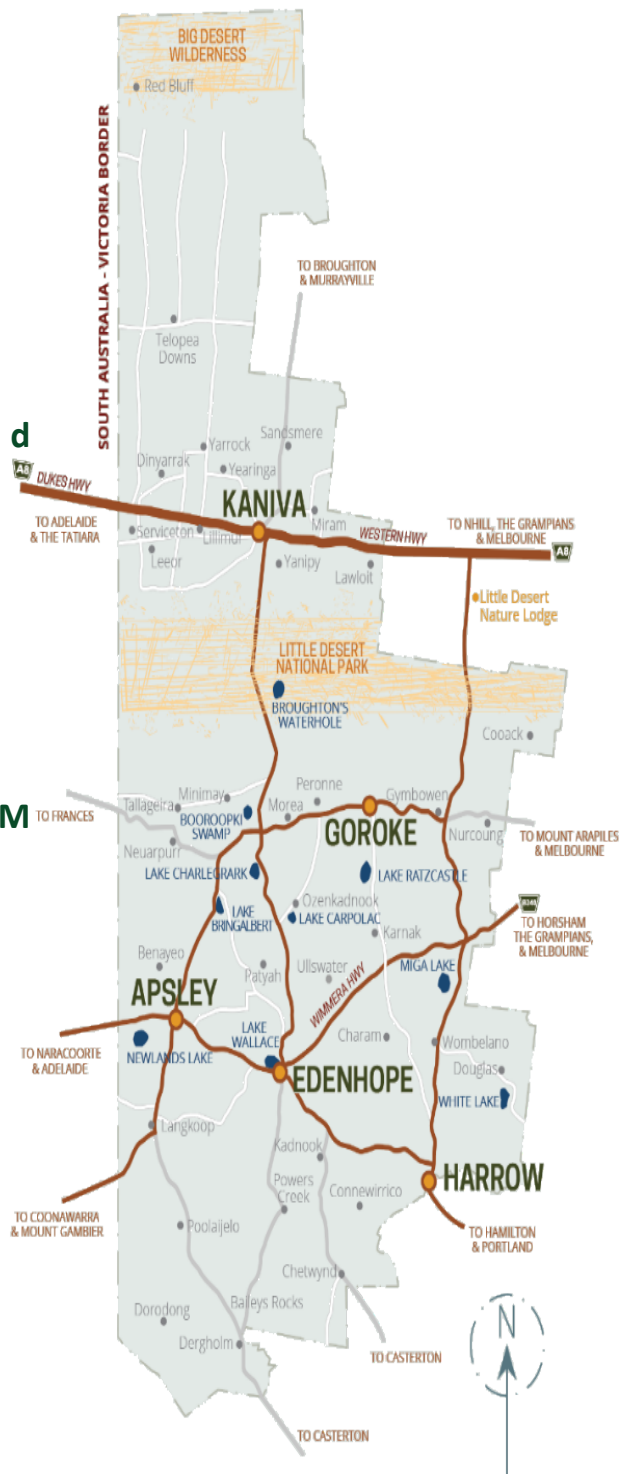
**Cr. Richard  
Hicks**



**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.

This Council meeting will be recorded for live streaming.

### **Recording of Meeting and Disclaimer**

Please note every Council Meeting (other than items deemed confidential under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2020) is being recorded and streamed live on West Wimmera Shire Council's website in accordance with Council's Governance Rules. Live streaming allows everyone to watch and listen to the meeting in real time, giving you greater access to Council debate and decision making and encouraging openness and transparency. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent is given if your image is inadvertently broadcast. Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during a meeting are not the opinions or statements of West Wimmera Shire Council. Council therefore accepts no liability for any defamatory remarks that are made during a meeting.



**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



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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

*None Declared*



## 5 Questions from the Gallery

## 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
23/08/2024	Western Highway Action Committee
04/09/2024	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
04/09/2024	Councillor Forum
12/09/2024	MAV Annual Conference
16/09/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting
18/09/2024	WWS Cemeteries Trust Meeting
18/09/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
18/09/2024	Council Meeting

### 6.2 Councillor Tom Houlihan (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
04/09/2024	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
04/09/2024	Councillor Forum
16/09/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting
18/09/2024	WWS Cemeteries Trust Meeting
18/09/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
18/09/2024	Council Meeting

### 6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
04/09/2024	Councillor Forum
16/09/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting
18/09/2024	WWS Cemeteries Trust Meeting
18/09/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
18/09/2024	Council Meeting



## 6.4 Councillor Bruce Meyer OAM

Date	Event
23/08/2024	MAV State Council
04/09/2024	Councillor Forum
10/09/2024	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
16/09/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting
18/09/2024	WWS Cemeteries Trust Meeting
18/09/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
18/09/2024	Council Meeting

## 6.5 Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Date	Event
04/09/2024	Councillor Forum
10/09/2024	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
16/09/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting
18/09/2024	WWS Cemeteries Trust Meeting
18/09/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
18/09/2024	Council Meeting

## 7 Condolences

None Received



## 8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 August 2024

#### RECOMMENDATION:

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

#### Attachments

Nil

## 9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

Nil

## 10 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion submitted for the agenda.



## 11 Councillor Forum Record

### 11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 4 September 2024

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 4 September 2024 be received and noted.

**Moved:** Cr Richard Hicks

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 4 September 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

### 13.1 Alteration to November Council Meeting Date

*Directorate: Corporate and Community Services*

*Report Author: Governance Coordinator*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

#### **Purpose**

Since the formal declaration of poll following the 2024 election for West Wimmera Shire Council is scheduled for Thursday 7 November 2024, Council is required to amend the adopted dates for its November Annual Statutory Meeting and the November Councillor Forum in accordance with Section 12 of its Governance Rules.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council reschedule the Annual Statutory Meeting from Wednesday 6 November 2024 to Tuesday 12 November 2024 at the Kaniva Council Chambers at 10:00am**

**Moved: Cr Richard Hicks**

**Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove**

**That Council reschedule the Annual Statutory Meeting from Wednesday 6 November 2024 to Tuesday 12 November 2024 at the Kaniva Council Chambers at 10:00am**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)**

#### **Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **Background**

Under Section 12 of its Governance Rules, Council may alter the dates and times of Council meetings that have been approved at its Statutory Meeting. Accordingly, consideration must be given to the dates of its November Annual Statutory Meeting and November Councillor Forum.

On 30 April 2024, Council was notified that there have been amendments to the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* relating to the 2024 Local Government elections.



The formal declaration of poll following the election will be held on Thursday 7 November 2024. Accordingly, neither the Annual Statutory Meeting nor the November Councillor Forum can be convened before this date.

### **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**

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

### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

### **Conclusion**



Pursuant to section 12 of its Governance Rules, Council must consider altering the dates for the Annual Statutory Meeting and the November Councillor Forum due to the formal declaration of poll following the 2024 election for West Wimmera Shire Council being scheduled to occur on 7 November 2024.

### **Attachments**

Nil



## 14 Corporate and Community Services

**No Reports**



## 15 Infrastructure Development and Works

### 15.1 Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Manager Planning and Environment*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of statutory building fees that change due to the Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024 that came into effect on 30 June 2024 with fee increases to commence on 1 October 2024.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council amends the West Wimmera Shire Council Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024-25, effective from 1 October 2024, to update the following fees in accordance with the Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024:

- Report and Consent – Siting: \$448.30
- Report and Consent – Location of Point of Stormwater Discharge (LPOD): \$231.40.

**Moved:** Cr Bruce Meyer

**Seconded:** Cr Richard Hicks

That Council amends the West Wimmera Shire Council Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024-25, effective from 1 October 2024, to update the following fees in accordance with the Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024:

- Report and Consent – Siting: \$448.30
- Report and Consent – Location of Point of Stormwater Discharge (LPOD): \$231.40.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)**

#### Declaration of Interest

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

#### Background





The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has reviewed some of the fees prescribed in the Building Regulations 2018 (the Regulations). The fees seek to ensure that effective and efficient regulation of building activities in Victoria is promoted.

DTP has evaluated and considered all submissions and feedback received. The Minister for Planning has proceeded with the making of the proposed Regulations with one amendment. The Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024 came into effect on 30 June 2024. The increased fees will commence on 1 October 2024.

The fees will increase for processing report and consent (R&C) applications related to siting matters and stormwater legal points of discharge, which represent the highest volume of R&C activities. This will ensure councils that are significantly under-recovering move closer to cost recovery. The fees for all other R&Cs, requests for information from councils and lodgement of building documents with councils will remain unchanged.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified:

Financial risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

### **Legislative Implications**

Not Applicable

### **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:

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.
- 4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.

**Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

**Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

**Conclusion**

The Victorian Government has completed a review of building fees applicable across the state and have subsequently found a need to increase two fees as charged by local governments to bring them closer in line to a cost recovery model. The Building Amendment (Fees and Other Matters) Regulations 2024 came into effect on 30 June 2024 with fee increases to commence on 1 October 2024. The two fees to increase are Report and Consent – Siting from \$320.25 to **\$448.30** and Report and Consent – Location of Point of Stormwater Discharge (LPOD) from \$159.55 to **\$231.40**

**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.*

## 18 Confidential Reports

Nil.



## 19 Close of Meeting

### Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 18 September 2024 was declared closed at 2:12 pm

### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Kaniva Council Chambers

Mayor's Signature

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