



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 20 NOVEMBER 2019 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

**TO BE HELD:** Wednesday 20 November 2019

**LOCATION:** Goroke Memorial Hall

**COMMENCEMENT:** 2.00pm

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REQUIRED TO ATTEND:	
Councillors	Senior Management Group
Bruce Meyer, Mayor Trevor Domaschenz	David Leahy Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Richard Hicks Tom Houlihan Jodie Pretlove	Ashley Roberts Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS)
	Mark Marziale Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)

*Members of the Gallery are advised that the following Local Law applies to this meeting:*

*West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2017*

*42. Gallery to be silent*

- (1) Any member of the public asking a question of the Council or in attendance in the gallery must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates*
- (2) Visitors must not interject or take part in the debate and must take direction from the Chairperson whenever called upon to do so.*

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### ***Vision Statement:***

*Our Wimmera Shire communities are healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious,  
prosperous and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity*



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### 1.0 WELCOME

### 2.0 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.

### 3.0 APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### 3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

*All Councillors have a personal responsibility to ensure they are aware of the provisions mandated in the Local Government Act 1989 with regard Conflict of Interest disclosures. The Conflict of Interest – A Guide for Councillors (October 2012) has been made available to all Councillors in hard copy form and is available via Docs On Tap.*

### 4.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY (maximum of 30 minutes)

#### 4.1 WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Questions on Notice are to be submitted to Council no later than the Monday nine days prior to the relevant Council Meeting. The template for Questions on Notice is available from the Edenhope and Kaniva Council offices, and from the Shire's website.*

None received



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### RECOMMENDATION:

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

### 4.2 VERBAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

*Time permitting, this section of the Agenda allows members of gallery to ask verbal questions of Councillors, through the Mayor. At all other times during the meeting, members of the gallery are required to be silent, pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Local Law No.7, 2017.*

### RECOMMENDATION:

**That Council resume Standing Orders.**

## 5.0 DELEGATES REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) AS PROVIDED BY COUNCILLORS PRIOR TO AGENDA BEING ISSUED

### 5.1 COUNCILLOR BRUCE MEYER (MAYOR)

16/10/2019	Seniors Concert & Senior Citizen Award, Goroke
21/10/2019	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting
23/10/2019	Kaniva & District Progress Association Meeting
31/10/2019	West Wimmera Groundwater Committee Meeting
06/11/2019	Annual Statutory Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Cemeteries Trust Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
08/11/2019	Tammy Smith, HR Manager
08/11/2019	CEO David Leahy
13/11/2019	CEO David Leahy
13/11/2019	Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Committee
19/11/2019	CEO David Leahy
20/11/2019	Council Meeting & Community Forum, Goroke



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### 5.2 COUNCILLOR TREVOR DOMASCHENZ

16/10/2019	Rural Councils Victoria Forum, Melbourne
17/10/2019	MAV Annual Conference, Melbourne
17/10/2019	MAV Awards Dinner, Melbourne
06/11/2019	Annual Statutory Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Cemeteries Trust Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
07/11/2019	Rural Pipeline Project – Community Consultative Committee
08/11/2019	Lake Wallace Strategic Plan Advisory Committee
11/11/2019	Remembrance Day, Edenhope
19/11/2019	Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting
20/11/2019	Council Meeting & Community Forum, Gorokey

### 5.3 COUNCILLOR RICHARD HICKS

16/10/2019	Seniors Concert & Senior Citizen Award, Gorokey
25/10/2019	Western Highway Action Committee, Ararat
06/11/2019	Annual Statutory Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Cemeteries Trust Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
14/11/2019	Rail Freight Alliance Site Visit, Wodonga
15/11/2019	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting, Wodonga
18/11/2019	ALGA National Local Roads & Transport Congress, Hahndorf
19/11/2019	ALGA National Local Roads & Transport Congress, Hahndorf
20/11/2019	Council Meeting & Community Forum, Gorokey

### 5.4 COUNCILLOR TOM HOULIHAN

06/11/2019	Annual Statutory Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Cemeteries Trust Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
07/11/2019	Rural Pipeline Project – Community Consultative Committee
20/11/2019	Council Meeting & Community Forum, Gorokey

### 5.5 COUNCILLOR JODIE PRETLOVE

16/10/2019	Rural Councils Victoria Forum, Melbourne
17/10/2019	MAV Annual Conference, Melbourne
17/10/2019	MAV Awards Dinner, Melbourne
18/10/2019	MAV State Council, Melbourne
22/10/2019	CEO David Leahy
28/10/2019	CEO David Leahy
31/10/2019	Edenhope & District Community Centre Project Advisory Group



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01/11/2019	Wimmera Mayoral Gathering Lunch, Warracknabeal
04/11/2019	CEO David Leahy
06/11/2019	Annual Statutory Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Cemeteries Trust Meeting, Edenhope
06/11/2019	Councillor Forum, Edenhope
20/11/2019	Council Meeting & Community Forum, Goroke

### **5.6 GENERAL DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Councillors to provide delegates reports to Council meeting in relation to meetings attended in last month for which they have been appointed as Council representative. Verbal or written delegates' reports.

### **6.0 CONDOLENCES**

### **7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 14 OCT 2019**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 14 October be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.**

### **8.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **9.0 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil



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### **10.0 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD & ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING MINUTES**

#### **10.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD – 6 NOV 2019**

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Assembly of Councillors Record for the Councillor Forum held Wednesday 6 November 2019 be received and noted.**

#### **10.2 ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING MINUTES – 6 NOV 2019**

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Wednesday 6 November 2019 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.**

### **11.0 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**



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### **12.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GOVERNANCE**



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### 13.0 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS

#### 13.1 CORELLA MANAGEMENT

**FILE NUMBER: AD0183**

**REPORT AUTHOR: DAVID PIETSCH – MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

#### **FOR DECISION**

##### Introduction

This report seeks a decision from Council in relation to Corella management options for affected townships within the West Wimmera Shire during the 2019 – 2020 season.

This report also outlines Council's past practices, relevant legislation, various options and recommended actions by Council officers for the up-coming Corella season and beyond.

##### Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.

##### Background

Each year, thousands of Long-billed Corella species (*Cacatua Tenuirostris*) migrate into the West Wimmera Shire.

The Corella roosting period generally commences in October through to April depending on seasonal weather conditions. During this time, large flocks of birds migrate to townships where they have access to water and feed. In significant numbers, Corellas cause damage to trees, create noise issues and can potentially damage buildings and infrastructure.

There is a range of opinions within the community around the migration of Corellas. Some residents see this as being a natural phenomenon which occurs each year and residents simply need to accept this. They see the thousands of birds flying in large flocks and roosting in trees turning them white as impressive and something to be appreciated and promoted.

Other residents within the Shire consider these birds to be a menace. They complain that they are noisy, messy and damage trees, lawns and recreation reserves. As such, pressure



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is placed on Council each year to manage Corella numbers within townships to reduce their impact.

Over the past decade, there has been various attempts by Council to manage the issue. This includes taking action around scaring and shooting birds to reduce their numbers and advocating to the State Government to assist Councils in the region to manage the issue.

In 2013, Council adopted a *West Wimmera Shire Council Corella Management Policy 2013-2017*. This policy outlines a number of actions to be undertaken over the 2013–2017 period including the development of a Corella Management Plan. This was not formally undertaken.

Other actions within the Policy that were completed include:

- The purchase of a laser light to disperse roosting Corellas.
- Removing some roosting trees within the Edenhope Caravan Park.
- Shooting non – lethal bird frightening cartridges to scare Corellas.
- Shooting with live ammunition to reduce Corella numbers.

Since 2016, 14 complaints have been registered on Council's CRM system although anecdotally, there have been more complaints made over this time by residents and visitors.

Complaints have also been received around the appropriateness of culling Corellas, in particular, Council officers shooting birds within township areas.

It is noted that this issue has been reported to Council previously (including 21 Nov 2018 and 19 December 2018). Motions include; identifying and developing comprehensive and measureable programs for the control of Corellas; reporting to Council the effectiveness of alternative Corella control measures; applying for all necessary permits to cull and disperse problem Corella flocks and implement such measures should alternatives not be deemed effective or practicable.

It is noted that due to staff turnover in the Planning and Environment and Local Laws Departments following these resolutions, many of these actions were not completed. This report seeks to identify the opportunities available to Council at this point in time and to seek clear direction for the up-coming Corella season and to implement actions identified within Council's resolution.

The current staff within the Planning & Environment and Local Laws teams are pursuing the provision of permits as listed in the previous Council resolution.



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### Discussion

Wildlife control must be lawful, thoughtful and well planned. It must consider the needs of residents to protect their land, property and safety and it must also ensure animal welfare is protected.

All native wildlife is protected in Victoria. It is an offence to kill, take, control or harm wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. It is also an offence to use poisons to kill, destroy or take wildlife.

Anyone wishing to control wildlife must have an authorisation from DELWP. The most common authorisation is an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW). This authority is required when wildlife control activities occur on DELWP managed land. It is not required for Council to control wildlife on Council managed or owned land.

For the 2019–2020 Corella season, the following options have been considered. These include:

- Do nothing

It is evident that there is an expectation within the local community that Council should be involved in the management of Corella numbers within the township areas of the Shire. This involvement should occur in consultation with DELWP and the local community. Any planned activities during this up-coming season should be clearly communicated to the community.

- Poisoning

There is debate around the effectiveness of poisoning programs. It is also problematic targeting a particular species. It is noted that DELWP do not issue authorisations to poison wildlife. Given the above, this option is not supported.

- Trapping

Trapping is also understood to be ineffective. As there are thousands of birds that migrate into townships, trapping does little to reduce their numbers. Disposal of birds is also an issue as birds need to be correctly disposed of at a facility in Horsham. Given this process is considered to be ineffective and impractical, this option is not supported.

- Removing trees

In recent years, two key Red Gum roosting trees were removed from the Edenhope Caravan Park. Although this action reduced the number of birds within the immediate park area, it simply displaced them to other trees within Edenhope and around Lake Wallace. The removal of the trees impacted on the visual amenity of the area and the lake. It is also noted



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that a planning permit would be required to remove additional native trees and this would be unlikely to be supported by Council's Planning Scheme.

- Shooting with live ammunition

In the past, Council's Ranger/Local Laws officer has used live ammunition within township areas to shoot Corellas in an attempt to reduce their numbers. The effectiveness of this has been questioned and concern has been raised surrounding the use of firearms within township areas.

Prior to such an activity occurring, Council insurers advise that a Risk Management Plan needs to be developed with stringent risk measures to avoid the risk of harm to people, animals or damage to property. This would also need to address Council officers being approached by concerned community members during shooting activities who oppose the destruction of native wildlife. There is also a risk around negative publicity about West Wimmera Shire actively shooting native birds.

A permit for shooting within a populous place needs to be acquired through the Victorian Policy Licencing Branch. It is considered that substantial work would need to occur if any shooting was to occur again. Given the above, this option is not supported for this coming Corella season.

- Seeking support from surrounding farmers

In past years, support from local farmers was sought to reduce the numbers of Corellas. Farmers have an exemption from DELWP to shoot Corellas should they be damaging their crops. Discussions have been held around utilising this exemption to encourage farmers to shoot birds to reduce their numbers before they come into towns.

This option is not supported as farmers will be undertaking this work whether there is an added incentive or not and it is argued that shooting birds in farming areas further encourage Corellas to resort to township areas. It is also not the intent of the DELWP exemption and the process can be tested by objectors to such a program. This option is not supported.

- Disturbing Corellas with Drones

A drone being flown to scare Corellas was tested this time last year on roosting birds in the red gum trees around Lake Wallace. It was found that the drone didn't make enough noise or could be flown close enough to the branches of the trees where the birds were roosting to sufficiently scare them. This option is not supported.



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- Raptor-based bird removal

Council officers have approached Full Flight Centre based in Miners Rest to gain an understanding of using raptor birds to displace Corellas. Raptor birds are currently used to scare Seagulls from the MCG and the Tennis Centre in Melbourne and were also used at Flemington for the Melbourne Cup Carnival. The company has a number of raptor birds including Wedge tail Eagles, Barking Owls and Falcons which can be effective in scaring off unwanted species, including Corellas.

This is a non-lethal intervention which provides visual deterrent to keep these unwanted birds away. This service costs approximately \$1140 per day not including accommodation and travel. An initial meeting would occur to discuss the most effective solution to disperse the Corellas. It is likely that Falconers would be stationed for a 7 to 14 day period to be effective.

Corellas have generational memories and therefore are one of the harder species to discourage. This option can be considered, however, it is expensive and the effectiveness of the activity is currently unknown.

- Scaring

It is understood that any method to try to reduce the numbers of Corellas is generally ineffective due to the number of birds migrating into the Shire. It is likely that any attempts to reduce population numbers would be insignificant. It is therefore considered that the most effective method of control is to simply attempt to disperse the birds in problem areas, particularly early in the season and at roosting times (early in the morning and in the evenings).

Council officers intend to purchase two (double barrel) gas guns to be strategically located within Kaniva and Edenhope townships on Council managed land. These guns would be moved regularly to ensure birds do not become complacent with the noise. In addition, a hand held laser light would be used in key areas to startle the Corellas and further disperse the birds.

It is also noted that Council officers are in the process of acquiring fire arms licences which are required for the use of laser lights and hand held scare guns. The use of these techniques will begin once the required permissions are in place.

It is also noted that EPA have requirements around the use of scare guns including operation times and setbacks from residential areas.

### Risk Management Implications

Risk management is a key issue when considering the control of Corellas, in particular, the option of using live ammunition to reduce bird numbers and disperse problem flocks. This



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is why shooting Corella's is not recommended for this season without a detailed risk management plan being developed and implemented.

Council officers are also in the process of acquiring firearms licences for the use of the hand held laser gun and the hand held flare gun. This equipment will not be used until the appropriate licences have been issued by the Firearms Licencing Branch.

### Legislative Implications

There is no regulatory requirement for Council to undertake Corella control measures.

The following Acts are relevant to this report:

- Wildlife Act 1975
- Firearms Act 1996
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1994
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

### Environmental Implications

Corellas are birds native to Victoria. Their migration patterns have been consistent for years, varying slightly according to climatic conditions, water availability and food sources. Any Council management program is unlikely to reduce population numbers of the birds but can at best disperse the birds influencing where they settle and roost.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

The cost of purchasing two gas scare guns is approximately \$1600. Council can purchase these locally.

Council already owns a hand held laser gun and a hand held scare gun with adequate ammunition (flares) for the season.

The cost of implementing the program will be absorbed within the current Local Laws budget and resource allocation.

### Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policies:

- West Wimmera Council Plan 2017 – 2021 (2.6.2)
- Communication Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Environmental Policy



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### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following sections of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 2: Meaningful partnerships to support advocacy priorities and service provision.
- Strategic Objective 7: Providing access to and promoting the natural environment.

### Communication Implications

Prior to the implementation of any control measures, Council's actions will be communicated to the affected communities. Communication Strategies will include but not limited to:

- Council's website
- Council's Facebook Page

### Conclusion

This report identifies that there is reasonable community expectation that Council is involved in the management of Corellas for the upcoming season. A number of options have been explored and it is considered that the most feasible approach for this season is scaring Corellas on Council managed and owned land in strategic locations by the use of gas scare guns, hand held scare (flare) guns and the use of hand held laser lights.

It is also recommended that the use of professional Falconers is investigated, and if possible, tested for this coming Corella season. Other options identified within this report are deemed to be ineffective or carry substantial risk to Council officers and the organisation. Given the above, the following is recommended to Council.



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### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That:**

- 1. For the 2019–2020 Corella season, Council officers undertake a Corella scaring program on Council managed land in strategic locations within the Shire (Edenhope and Kaniva). This program will utilise gas scare guns, hand held laser lights and hand held scare (flare) guns in the morning and evenings to disperse roosting birds.**
- 2. In addition to the above, Council officers to investigate the possibility of engaging professional Falconers, to assess their effectiveness in deterring problem flocks of Corellas.**
- 3. Council update the West Wimmera Shire Corella Management Plan in consultation with DELWP and the local community. The Plan is to be endorsed by Council prior to the 2020–2021 Corella season and may include some of the additional identified options.**

**Attachments: Nil**



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 20 NOVEMBER 2019 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

### 14.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### 14.1 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND POLICY

**FILE NUMBER: AD0068**

**REPORT AUTHOR: ASHLEY ROBERTS, DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

#### **FOR DECISION**

##### Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) allocates an amount of funding annually to a Community Support Fund which enables Council to be able to identify and quickly respond to small funding initiatives and/or requests which provide a community benefit in line with Council's goals, and which have not been specifically included in Council's budget.

The Community Support Fund Policy ('the Policy') provides a framework for Council to effectively manage this fund. Council adopted the current Community Support Fund Policy at its Ordinary Meeting held 21 November 2018. The policy is to be reviewed annually.

This report requests Council formally adopt the revised Community Support Fund Policy.

##### Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.

##### Background

The revision to the Community Support Fund makes only a small number of administrative amendments:

- Replacing the responsible officer from 'Finance Manager' to 'Manager Business Performance'. This is in line with the revised Corporate Services structure.
- A grammatical correction to the first line of Section 4 of the Policy ('For *an* initiative...' replacing 'For *a* initiative ...').
- Replacing 'Finance Manager' with 'Finance Coordinator' under Section 6.



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### Risk Management Implications

There is potential for Council to be exposed to risk from any application of the Community Support Fund. This risk may arise from:

- Financial risk through funding being misappropriated
- Reputational risk through being associated with projects which fail to deliver community benefits or are mismanaged
- Operational risk through resources being tied up to administer minor items.

To mitigate the potential of this risk all initiatives under the Community Support Fund must be accompanied by a risk assessment and basic business case outlining the resource requirements and anticipated outcomes of the initiative to be funded.

Council must also receive an acquittal at the end of each project funded outlining how the provided funding was spent and identifying the outcomes of the funded project.

Council must also ensure that any applicant is made aware of any permit or regulatory requirements that may be applicable to funding applications.

### Legislative Implications

The Community Support Fund allows for funding for a multitude of small events. This potentially leaves Council open to liability on the legislative front via activities undertaken with Council funding potentially breaching some legislation, inadvertently or otherwise.

As part of the risk analysis required by Council for each funding application the relevant legislative implications must be assessed.

### Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental impacts from the Community Support Fund Policy, however, many varied projects may be funded under the Policy, some of which may have environmental impacts. As a result the risk analysis required for all funding applications must regard environmental impact.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

Council has a current year (2019/20) budget of \$10,000.00 per annum for the application to the Community Support Fund. Council must ensure that no more than the budgeted amount is provided to initiatives under this fund.



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The Policy allows for a maximum funding of \$2,000.00 per individual or \$5,000.00 per group or organisation to apply to any one initiative funded under the Community Support Fund.

In the current year to date there has been \$1,000.00 allocated from the Community Support Fund – this was applied to the ‘Save our Tracks’ campaign of the regional rail advocacy group.

During the 2018/19 financial year there was \$5,000.00 allocated out of the Community Support Fund, being to cover the costs of involvement in the Operation Flinders program by local youth.

### Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policy:  
Community Support Fund Policy

### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 1: A proactive, well governed, professional and financially sustainable organisation that encourages community participation.
- Strategic Objective 4: Building on our agricultural and business strengths and supporting economic development.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.

### Communication Implications

The Community Support Fund Policy is a publicly accessible document under section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

### Conclusion

The attached revision of the Community Support Fund Policy updates the version of the Policy adopted by Council at the November 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Only minor changes have been made to the Policy as highlighted above.



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### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopts the revised Community Support Fund Policy, and continues to review this Policy annually.

### **Attachments:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>RecFind Ref</b>
14.1.1	Draft 2019 revised Community Support Fund Policy	C19/008461



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA – 20 NOVEMBER 2019 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

### 14.2 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANT PROGRAM 2019-2020 ROUND 1

#### FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: NOLA MCFARLANE MANAGER COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### FOR DECISION

##### Introduction

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) Community Strengthening Grants Program is designed to promote and increase participation of residents in community initiatives, to build and strengthen local networks and partnerships and to support community leadership, learning and skill development.

Council will provide financial assistance to community groups and organisations to support the provision of programs, activities and services which respond to identified community needs, contribute to the building of a stronger community, develop innovative approaches and local social issues and are in accordance with Council's strategic objectives.

Round one grants closed Monday 30 September 2019. Three applications for grants were received, one for community events and two for community infrastructure/equipment. The grants have been assessed and recommendations were made at the Council October 2019 Council Meeting, when two of the applications were awarded grants and additional information was requested on the third.

This report provides the additional information supporting the application from the Lake Charlegrark Country Music Marathon for a community infrastructure grant.

##### Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report, or the assessment of the applications for grant funding.

##### Background

Community strengthening grants are open for application twice per financial year, round one being in the first quarter (July – September) and round two in the third quarter (January – March). Grants must be submitted on the published forms and submitted within the opening period to be eligible for assessment by the panel.



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Applications must be from eligible applicants (community based not for profits, incorporated or sponsored by an incorporated organisation). They are then assessed against a number of selection criteria as well as the requirements of the specific funding categories. The criteria were tabulated in last month's report.

The panel assessed that all applications were eligible and met the mandatory selection criteria. Additional information was requested on the building known as Blowy's wing or the servery and the subject of this application is located on the crown land parcel 2004\PP5101. The land and facilities are managed by the Lake Charlegrark Foreshore Committee of Management with the Lake Charlegrark Country Music Marathon (LCCMM) Committee being a major user of the facility through their annual event.

As a major user of the Facility and precinct the LCCMM contributes financially to the improvement of the area. The recent development project to improve the main amenities and power supply had a \$70,000 contribution from the LCCMM committee.

The building application was lodged by the Recreation Committee of management; however the project was jointly funded by the COM and the LCCMM according to the minutes of both organisations from 2004/05. Minutes from the LCCMM confirm that the LCCMM then took responsibility for the repayment of the loan against the Crabtree fund resulting in the project being jointly financed by the LCCMM even though the Reserve COM was the applicant on the funding application and required permits.

The ownership of the building that is the subject of their grant application has not been able to be determined beyond doubt with both the committee of management and LCCMM contributing funds over time.

The evaluation panel comprised of the following members of council staff:

- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Manager Engineering
- Manager Economic and Community Development
- Occupational Health and Safety and Risk Coordinator

Each panel member independently scored the applications against the above criteria and the average score is presented below:

Project Name	Mandatory	disqual	category assessment	panel score	Ask
	pass/fail	yes/no			
Charlegrark CMM	pass	no	facilities/equipment	25.5/50	\$ 4,913



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### Risk Management Implications

Community Strengthening Grants present minimal risk to council. The policy requires a successful applicant to manage the grant funding themselves. Each application has been assessed against the policy guidelines, ensuring a transparent and equitable process has been followed.

This application (a community infrastructure grant) lists a reduction in community risk as a key deliverable of their projects.

### Legislative Implications

No known implications

### Environmental Implications

This project has no foreseeable Environmental implications or benefits.

### Financial and Budgetary Implications

A total of \$50,000.00 is allocated in the 2019-20 budget, for two rounds of Community Strengthening Grants. This funding has been divided between the three categories as follows:

- Community Events \$4,000.00. (\$500 previously allocated)
- Community Projects \$10,000.00.
- Facilities Upgrades and Equipment \$36,000.00 (\$5000 previously allocated)

### Policy Implications

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

Council Grants Policy

Support to Community Events Policy

### Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Strategic Objective 3: Quality sustainable community services and infrastructure.
- Strategic Objective 5: Thriving, safe and diverse local communities.
- Strategic Objective 6: Participating in activities that address health and wellbeing issues.



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### Communication Implications

Community Strengthening grants were promoted through Council's social and media channels. Grant applicants have received an email acknowledgement of their submission of application and will be advised of the outcome of the Council decision once made.

Given the low application numbers in round one a targeted campaign of promotion will be developed, including opportunities for assistance with the process of applying for the second round in 2020

Successful applicants will be asked to provide updates for follow up media on the outcomes of their projects and the impacts for their communities

### Conclusion

The additional information requested was provide by the Committee of Management and the grant applicant (LCCMM committee) through their respective committee minutes, finance statements and records of permits. The committees are thanked for their time in collating the additional supporting information to the application.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That:**

- 1. West Wimmera Shire Council Community Strengthening Grants round one 2019/20 be awarded as follows:**

Applicant	Category	Grant request
Charlegrark Country Music Marathon	Facilities	\$ 4,913

- 2. The successful applicants be notified of the process for claiming awarded grant funding.**

**Attachments: Nil**



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### 15.0 LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Local Law No.7 (2017), Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2017, West Wimmera Shire Council:

#### *28. Urgent Business*

*Business must not be admitted as urgent business unless it:*

- i. Relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and*
- ii. Cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting.*

### 16.0 SEALING SCHEDULE

Nil

### 17.0 CONFIDENTIAL (PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 LGA 89)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council pursuant to section 89(2) (d) Contractual Matters and (f) Legal Advice of the Local Government Act 1989 close the meeting to members of the public at ..... pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

**17.1 MAINTENANCE OF GRASS AT KANIVA CM0509**

**17.2 STABILIZATION OF VARIOUS ROADS CM0513**

**17.3 PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the resolutions pertaining to Confidential / In-Camera items be adopted and made public (except where the resolution restricts publication) and that the reports for those items remain In-camera and that Council open the meeting to the public at ..... pm.

**MEETING CONCLUDED:**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**WED 18 DECEMBER 2019  
KANIVA COUNCIL CHAMBER**