

A photograph of a large, cylindrical water tower. The tower is painted with a mural. The upper part of the tower is blue with white clouds. The middle part is yellow with a brown landscape. A kookaburra is perched on a wooden post in the foreground. The tower has a metal ladder and a platform at the top.

# **West Wimmera Shire Council**

## **MINUTES**

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 15 October 2025  
2:00 pm

Douglas Memorial Hall  
Douglas



## Councillors and Shire Map



**MAYOR**  
**Cr. Tim Meyer**



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



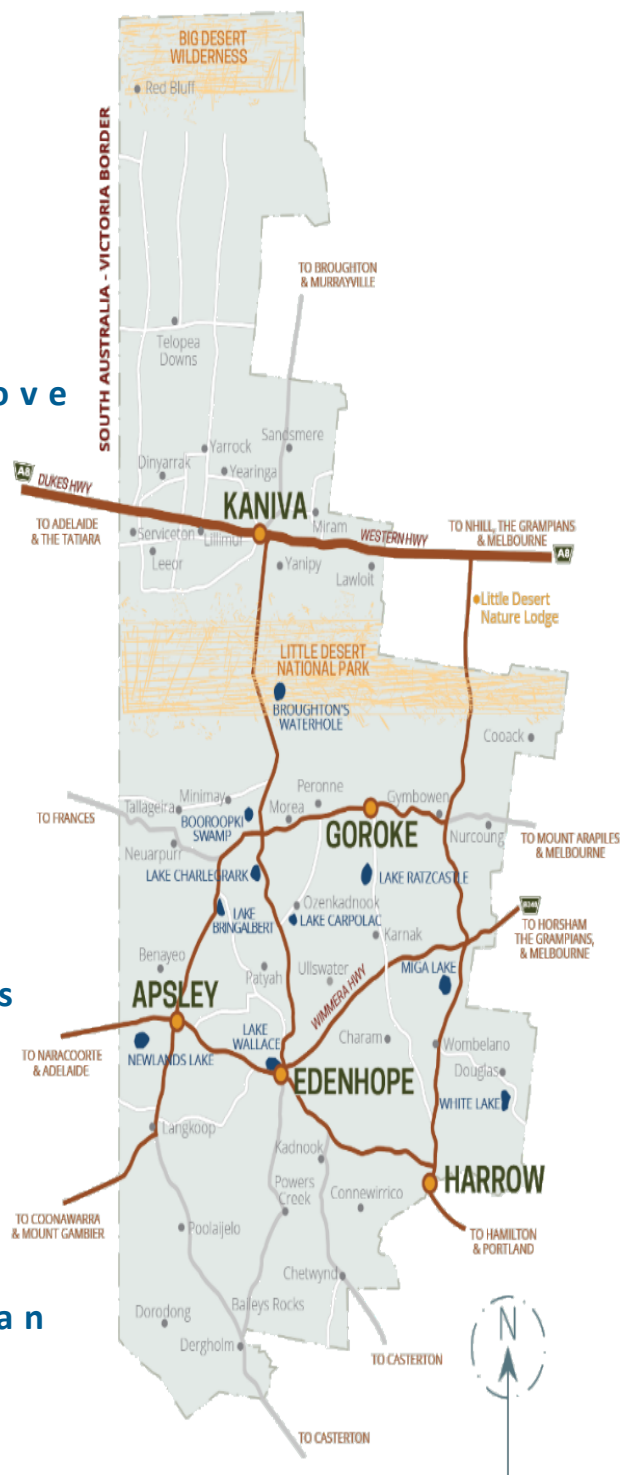
**Cr. Richard  
Hicks**



**Cr. Helen Hobbs**



**Cr. Tom Houlihan**





## 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.

### **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  
Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor  
Richard Hicks  
Helen Hobbs  
Tom Houlihan

**Executive Leadership Team:**

Dalton Burns – Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS)  
Brendan Pearce - Director Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)

**Officers:**

Philippa Hicks - EA to the CEO  
Katie Frost - Governance Manager



## Table of Contents

1	Welcome .....	9
2	Acknowledgement of Country .....	9
3	Opening Prayer.....	9
4	Apologies, Leave of Absences, Declaration of Conflict of Interest .....	9
4.1	Apologies .....	9
4.2	Leave of Absence .....	9
4.3	Declaration of Conflict of Interest .....	9
5	Questions from the Gallery .....	10
5.1	Written Questions on Notice .....	10
5.2	Verbal Questions without Notice .....	11
6	Delegates Reports .....	13
6.1	Councillor Tim Meyer (Mayor) .....	13
6.2	Councillor Jodie Pretlove (Deputy Mayor).....	13
6.3	Councillor Richard Hicks .....	13
6.4	Councillor Helen Hobbs .....	13
6.5	Councillor Tom Houlihan .....	14
7	Condolences .....	14
8	Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....	15
8.1	Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 .....	15
9	Business Arising From Previous Minutes .....	15
10	Notices of Motion .....	15
10.1	Notice of Motion - Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).....	15
11	Councillor Forum Record.....	20
11.1	Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 3 September 2025.....	20





11.2 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1 October 2025 .....	20
12 Deputations and Petitions.....	20
13 Chief Executive Officer .....	21
14 Corporate and Community Services.....	22
14.1 Community Strengthening Grant - applications - Round 1 2025/26 .....	22
15 Infrastructure Development and Works .....	27
15.1 Decommissioning of Kaniva Aerodrome as an Authorised Landing Area .....	27
16 Sealing Schedule.....	45
17 Late Items of Business.....	45
18 Confidential Reports .....	45
19 Close of Meeting .....	46





## **1 Welcome**

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 2:08pm.

## **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**

David Bezuidenhout - Chief Executive Officer

### **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

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



## 5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice

**Moved:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**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)**

### **Zolton Galambos - Harrow**

*What happened to the community consultation where Harrow you had quite a large turnout, apparently one of the record turn outs that you had in Harrow but certainly have not listened at all to anyone in that town, what was the decision based on to reduce that township by half ?*

Cr Tim Meyer - The township boundaries have not been halved, that is a complete fallacy. There has never been a realignment of the township boundaries in Harrow since the West Wimmera Shire has been in place and that's over 30 years. You are looking at zoning maps and they have been in existence for quite some time. You can go back and look at a 1950s township boundary map which might show none of that but that is just an ancient map. You could look at a map of Europe and ask where is Czechoslovakia, it doesn't exist anymore. These things have been changed overtime. The township planning zones have been in place for over 30 years for Harrow. This is not something that happened, not something that Council can do, it's not something we have the power to do, we can't go and just change a township boundary. We have to go through an almost three-year process and it costs nearly a hundred million dollars and you have got to get minister's approval. You obviously think Council has gone and changed a township boundary.

Zolton Galambos was asked to leave due to disrupting the Council Meeting and the livestream was stopped due to inappropriate language.



**Josie Sangster - Harrow**

*How many complaints has Council had about people living in the main street of Harrow without correct permits?*

Cr Tim Meyer - I have had a lot come personally to me, we've also received several emails and they have been from both a mixture of residents as well as tourists, who are quite appalled when they drive down the main Street of Harrow. I think we can all agree that Harrow is quite an attractive town and that they are quite shocked to see the state of that order. I can't tell you exactly but it is over 10 complaints received directly to me and a substantial number to Council and there have been CRMs (customer requests).

**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
01/10/2025	Councillor Forum
07/10/2025	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
09/10/2025	MAV Annual Conference
10/10/2025	MAV State Council
15/10/2025	Pre Council Meeting
15/10/2025	Douglas Community Forum
15/10/2025	Council Meeting

### 6.2 Councillor Jodie Pretlove (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
01/10/2025	Councillor Forum
07/10/2025	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
09/10/2025	Muster Dogs
15/10/2025	Pre Council Meeting
15/10/2025	Douglas Community Forum
15/10/2025	Council Meeting

### 6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
01/10/2025	Councillor Forum
03/10/2025	Western Action Highway Committee Meeting
15/10/2025	Pre Council Meeting
15/10/2025	Douglas Community Forum
15/10/2025	Council Meeting



#### 6.4 Councillor Helen Hobbs

Date	Event
01/10/2025	Councillor Forum
09/10/2025	Muster Dogs
15/10/2025	Pre Council Meeting
15/10/2025	Douglas Community Forum
15/10/2025	Council Meeting

#### 6.5 Councillor Tom Houlihan

Date	Event
01/10/2025	Councillor Forum
15/10/2025	Pre Council Meeting
15/10/2025	Douglas Community Forum
15/10/2025	Council Meeting

## 7 Condolences

Nil



## 8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 September 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

#### Attachments

Nil

## 9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes





## 10 Notices of Motion

### 10.1 Notice of Motion - Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF)

**Notice of Motion Number: 2025/02**

**Submitted by Cr Tom Houlihan**

**MOTION:**

That West Wimmera Shire Council forward a letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, and the relevant Minister containing the following:

In support of the Firefighters Union and the Not In Our Name Committee, West Wimmera Shire Council like to raise our concerns with the Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).

While we acknowledge some adjustments to the ESVF, the scheme continues to place a disproportionate burden on our agricultural and small business sectors. This impact is compounded at the local government level, where councils are facing significant administrative costs and likelihood of financial shortfall from residents who cannot or refuse to pay. These challenges raise serious concerns about fairness, sustainability; and unintended consequences for the communities we serve.

We wish to emphasise that local government strongly supports the proper and sustainable funding of Victoria's frontline emergency services. It is precisely because we value this essential work that we call for:

1. An immediate moratorium on ESVF, and
2. The establishment of an independent public inquiry to determine the most equitable and effective long-term funding model for emergency services.

**EXPLANATION:**

Concerns about impact of Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF) and future funding of our emergency services.

**Attachments**

1. Notice of Motion - Emergency Volunteer Services Fund ( E S V F ) [10.1.1 - 1 page]



**Moved:** Cr Tom Houlihan

**Seconded:** Cr Tim Meyer

**That West Wimmera Shire Council forward a letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, and the relevant Minister containing the following:**

**In support of the Firefighters Union and the Not In Our Name Committee, West Wimmera Shire Council like to raise our concerns with the Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).**

**While we acknowledge some adjustments to the ESVF, the scheme continues to place a disproportionate burden on our agricultural and small business sectors. This impact is compounded at the local government level, where councils are facing significant administrative costs and likelihood of financial shortfall from residents who cannot or refuse to pay. These challenges raise serious concerns about fairness, sustainability; and unintended consequences for the communities we serve.**

**We wish to emphasise that local government strongly supports the proper and sustainable funding of Victoria's frontline emergency services. It is precisely because we value this essential work that we call for:**

- 1. An immediate moratorium on ESVF, and**
- 2. The establishment of an independent public inquiry to determine the most equitable and effective long-term funding model for emergency services.**

Cr Richard Hicks moved the following amendment:

**Moved:** Cr Richard Hicks

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**That West Wimmera Shire Council forward a letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, and the relevant Minister stressing West Wimmera Shire Councils concerns with the Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).**

**Whilst we acknowledge some short term adjustments have been made to the ESVF, the scheme continues to place a disproportionate burden on our agricultural and small business sectors. This impact is compounded at the local government level, where councils are facing significant administrative costs and likelihood of financial shortfall from residents who struggle to pay. These challenges raise serious concerns about fairness, sustainability; and unintended consequences for the communities we serve.**

**Furthermore West Wimmera Shire Council strongly support the proactive development of proper equitable and sustaining funding of Victoria's front line emergency services.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)**



The amendment became the motion

**Moved:** Cr Richard Hicks

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**That West Wimmera Shire Council forward a letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, and the relevant Minister stressing West Wimmera Shire Councils concerns with the Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).**

**Whilst we acknowledge some short term adjustments have been made to the ESVF, the scheme continues to place a disproportionate burden on our agricultural and small business sectors. This impact is compounded at the local government level, where councils are facing significant administrative costs and likelihood of financial shortfall from residents who struggle to pay. These challenges raise serious concerns about fairness, sustainability; and unintended consequences for the communities we serve.**

**Furthermore West Wimmera Shire Council strongly support the proactive development of proper equitable and sustaining funding of Victoria's front line emergency services.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)**



## NOTICE OF MOTION WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION No: 2025/02

### MOTION:

That West Wimmera Shire Council forward a letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, and the relevant Minister containing the following:

In support of the Firefighters Union and the Not In Our Name Committee, West Wimmera Shire Council like to raise our concerns with the Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF).

While we acknowledge some adjustments to the ESVF, the scheme continues to place a disproportionate burden on our agricultural and small business sectors. This impact is compounded at the local government level, where councils are facing significant administrative costs and likelihood of financial shortfall from residents who cannot or refuse to pay. These challenges raise serious concerns about fairness, sustainability; and unintended consequences for the communities we serve.

We wish to emphasise that local government strongly supports the proper and sustainable funding of Victoria's frontline emergency services. It is precisely because we value this essential work that we call for:

1. An immediate moratorium on FSVF, and
2. The establishment of an independent public inquiry to determine the most equitable and effective long-term funding model for emergency services.

### Explanation (*word limit of up to 100 words*):

Concerns about impact of Emergency Volunteer Services Fund (ESVF) and future funding of our emergency services.

Councillor's Signature:	<i>Tom Houlihan</i>
Councillor's Name:	Tom Houlihan
Date:	6 October 2025
CEO's Signature:	<i>David Bezuidenhout</i>
Chief Executive Officer:	David Bezuidenhout
Date:	6 October 2025



## 11 Councillor Forum Record

### 11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 3 September 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 3 September 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Helen Hobbs

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 3 September 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

### 11.2 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1 October 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1 October 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Helen Hobbs

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 1 October 2025 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 Community Strengthening Grant - applications - Round 1 2025/26

*Directorate: Corporate and Community Services*

*Report Author: Community Development Manager*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

#### **Purpose**

Council's Community Strengthening Grants Stream is a source of financial support for local projects in West Wimmera Shire communities. There are two rounds of grants each calendar year. Any grant funding for the applications presented in this report will be allocated from Council's 2024/25 grant budget.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council approves the following Community Strengthening Grant applications for a total of \$20,559.30.**

- **Serviceton Golf Club Inc – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$3,904.00
  - Recommended Grant: \$2,602.66
- **Connewirricoo Community Centre – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$12,500.00
  - Recommended Grant: \$5,000.00
- **Kaniva Men's Shed – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$2,901.39
  - Recommended Grant: \$1,934.26
- **Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Inc – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$7,384.40
  - Recommended Grant: \$4,475.38
- **Kaniva Golf Club – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$5,803.00
  - Recommended Grant: \$3,545.00
- **Harrow Neighborhood House – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - Total Project Cost: \$4,502.73
  - Recommended Grant: \$3,002.00





**Moved:** Cr Richard Hicks

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

**That Council approves the following Community Strengthening Grant applications for a total of \$20,559.30.**

- **Serviceton Golf Club Inc – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$3,904.00**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$2,602.66**
- **Connewirricoo Community Centre – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$12,500.00**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$5,000.00**
- **Kaniva Men's Shed – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$2,901.39**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$1,934.26**
- **Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Inc – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$7,384.40**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$4,475.38**
- **Kaniva Golf Club – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$5,803.00**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$3,545.00**
- **Harrow Neighborhood House – Facilities Upgrade and Equipment Purchase**
  - **Total Project Cost: \$4,502.73**
  - **Recommended Grant: \$3,002.00**

**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 amount budgeted for Community Strengthening Grants for the 2025/26 financial year is \$40,000.00.

The Community Strengthening Grant stream 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 may provide financial assistance to community groups and organisations to support the provision of projects, activities and services which respond to identified community needs, contribute to the building of a stronger community, develop innovative approaches to local issues and are in accordance with Council's strategic objectives.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available in two streams: Community Projects Funding - maximum of \$5,000 on a \$2 for \$1 basis. Maximum of one successful application every four funding rounds per organisation. Facilities Upgrades and Equipment Purchases - maximum of \$5,000 on a \$2 for \$1 basis. Maximum of one successful application every four funding rounds per organisation.

All grant applications have been assessed against the grant application criteria and deemed to meet the criteria.

## Summary of grant applications

Applicant	Total Project cost	Applicants cash contribution	Applicants in-kind contribution	Grant Application
Serviceton Golf Club Inc	\$3,904.00	\$910.93	\$390.40	\$2,602.66
Connewirricoo Community Centre	\$12,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
Kaniva Men's Shed	\$2,901.39	\$967.14	-	\$1,934.26
Kaniva Community Sporting Complex Inc.	\$7,384.40	\$2,909.02	-	\$4,475.38
Kaniva Golf Club	\$5,803.00	\$1677.00	\$580.00	\$3,545.00
Harrow Neighbourhood House	\$4,502.73	\$1,501.00	-	\$3,002.00



If all applications are approved the remaining in the Community Strengthening grant budget will be \$19,440.70.

### **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**

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Low

### **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.

### **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

### **Conclusion**



Community Strengthening grants are important for the community as it allows for a substantial grant amount allowing community groups to complete major projects.

### **Attachments**

Nil



## 15 Infrastructure Development and Works

### 15.1 Decommissioning of Kaniva Aerodrome as an Authorised Landing Area

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Director Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

#### **Purpose**

To recommend that Council commence steps to formally decommission the Kaniva Aerodrome as an Authorised Landing Area, in order to enable residential development and better utilisation of Council-owned land.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. Commence formal steps to decommission the Kaniva Aerodrome as an Authorised Landing Area under relevant Civil Aviation Safety Authority processes.
2. Progress planning and subdivision of the southern portion of the site (already zoned Township Zone) to enable the proposed residential development at Kelly Street, Kaniva, when funding becomes available.
3. Amend leasing arrangements to reflect current interest in cropping, while excluding the portion of land identified for potential housing development within the next three years.
4. Undertake community consultation to inform residents of the proposed decommissioning.
5. Investigate provision of a helicopter landing site within or near Kaniva township in consultation with Ambulance Victoria and other emergency service providers.

**Moved:** Cr Tom Houlihan

**Seconded:** Cr Richard Hicks

**That Council note the current poor conditions of the Kaniva Aerodrome and resolve to investigate it**

1. Funding for the remediation of the strip
2. Alternative suitable sites for relocation of the aerodrome

**LOST (2 / 3)**



**Moved:** Cr Helen Hobbs

**Seconded:** Cr Tim Meyer

**That Council:**

1. Commence formal steps to decommission the Kaniva Aerodrome as an Authorised Landing Area under relevant Civil Aviation Safety Authority processes.
2. Progress planning and subdivision of the southern portion of the site (already zoned Township Zone) to enable the proposed residential development at Kelly Street, Kaniva, when funding becomes available.
3. Amend leasing arrangements to reflect current interest in cropping, while excluding the portion of land identified for potential housing development within the next three years.
4. Undertake community consultation to inform residents of the proposed decommissioning.
5. Investigate provision of a helicopter landing site within or near Kaniva township in consultation with Ambulance Victoria and other emergency service providers.

**CARRIED (3 / 2)**

Cr Richard Hicks called for a division

For: Cr Helen Hobbs, Cr Jodie Pretlove and Cr Tim Meyer

Against: Cr Richard Hicks and Cr Tom Houlihan

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

Council owns the land currently designated as the Kaniva Aerodrome, located adjacent to the Kaniva township.

In November 2024, UAV Group Australia was engaged to undertake an aviation assessment of the site. Their report concluded:



- The aerodrome is not registered under Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASRs) and therefore has no recognised commercial aviation purpose.
- The dimensions of the landing strips are inadequate for charter or air transport operators.
- Consultation with aviation operators (Hamilton Aero Club, Ag Airwork Stawell, Sharp Aviation, and Ambulance Victoria) confirmed that the aerodrome is not used for regular or emergency aviation operations.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that the facility has not been used for aircraft landings for a considerable time, with current land use limited to grazing and the local gun club.
- The land is therefore considered to have little to no aviation value, and continued designation as an aerodrome exposes Council to unnecessary liability.

Historically, Council has leased the aerodrome site for sheep grazing. A recent Expression of Interest (EOI) process attracted interest in cropping activities on the land. To accommodate this, Council will need to adjust the lease boundaries to exclude a portion of the site that may be required for residential housing development should external funding become available in the next three years (i.e. the proposed lease term).

In parallel, Council has commissioned a residential subdivision proposal for Kelly Street, Kaniva. The concept plan (prepared by Myers Planning & Associates, August 2024) provides for staged development of the site, including:

- Around 40 residential allotments ranging from 600m<sup>2</sup> to 1,100m<sup>2</sup>.
- Drainage basins, road reserves, and landscaping to support new development.
- Provision for medium-density key worker housing sites.
- The removal of redundant site infrastructure (e.g. Bureau of Meteorology weather station).

The proposed subdivision is located within the aerodrome site and cannot proceed while the land is retained for aviation purposes. Importantly, the southern portion of the site is already zoned Township Zone, meaning no rezoning is required before subdivision can occur.

### **Steps to Decommission the Aerodrome**

While the Kaniva Aerodrome is not a CASA-certified aerodrome, it is still listed as an Authorised Landing Area (ALA). To formally decommission the site, Council would need to:

1. Notify CASA and Airservices Australia – Request removal of Kaniva from aviation publications such as the En Route Supplement Australia (ERSA) and aeronautical charts.
2. Remove aviation markers and infrastructure – Decommission any remaining signage, windsocks, lighting or markers identifying the land as a landing area.





3. Advise emergency services and local aviation users – Ensure Ambulance Victoria, CFA, SES and regional aviation clubs are notified that the site will no longer be available as a landing area.
4. Amend Council records and lease documentation – Formally reclassify the land in Council's property systems and reflect the updated land use in new lease agreements.
5. Community notification – Advise the Kaniva community of the decision, the reasons, and the plan for future use of the land.

This process will remove any expectation that the site remains available for aviation, reduce liability risks for Council, and clear the way for housing development.

#### Issues

1. Aviation Viability – The Kaniva Aerodrome is no longer a functional or viable landing area and is not recognised by CASA as such.
2. Risk and Liability – Maintaining the land as an aerodrome presents ongoing liability risks for Council without delivering community benefit.
3. Leasing Arrangements – The land has been used for grazing but recent EOI responses indicate potential for cropping. To allow for housing development if funding is secured within the next three years, part of the land must be excluded from the new lease.
4. Strategic Land Use – The southern portion of the site is already zoned Township Zone, allowing for residential development without the need for rezoning. Decommissioning will clear the way for subdivision and staged housing delivery.
5. Emergency Access – The UAV Group report suggests Council may consider provision of a basic helicopter landing site in the northeast corner to support emergency services if required.

#### Options

1. Retain the Aerodrome (status quo) – Not recommended due to lack of aviation use and missed development opportunity.
2. Reduce to One Strip – Retains some aviation function but restricts residential development; not supported by evidence of use.
3. Decommission Runways and Provide Helicopter Landing Site – Provides some emergency aviation function while enabling housing development.
4. Fully Decommission and Support Residential Development – Maximises land availability for development, eliminates aviation liabilities, and aligns with updated leasing arrangements.



### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified:

Asset risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Safety risk

### **Legislative Implications**

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

### **Environmental Implications**

Environmental Risk rating has been assessed as: Low

### **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:

Asset Management Policy

Change Management Policy

Community Engagement Policy

### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### ***Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community***

1.2 Support a safe and inclusive community.

1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.

#### ***Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy***

2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

#### ***Goal 4 – Good Governance***



- 4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.
- 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

### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

### **Conclusion**

The Kaniva Aerodrome has not functioned as an operational aviation facility for many years and is no longer viable as an Authorised Landing Area. Independent assessment has confirmed that it provides no aviation or emergency service value, while its continued designation exposes Council to liability without community benefit.

By decommissioning the aerodrome, Council can unlock a strategically located parcel of land already zoned for residential use, address local housing needs, and align future leasing with productive agricultural use while preserving flexibility for development. This approach balances risk management, community growth, and economic opportunity, and positions Council to make best use of its assets in the long-term interests of Kaniva and the broader municipality.

### **Attachments**

1. Considerations for Kaniva Airport - Report [**15.1.1** - 12 pages]

UAV Group Australia:

# Usage & Operational considerations for The residential development of The Kaniva Airport

Prepared for: West Wimmera Shire Council



14--11-2024

## Executive Summary

UAV Group Australia have been engaged to report on the effects of Developing a portion of the existing Kaviva Aerodrome for Residential use in future years. This Report outlines the results of an investigation into this proposal from an Aviation perspective. Covering usage of the existing Aerodrome and recommendations and discussion on the effect of the Development on the Viability of the Aerodrome after Development, by UAV Group Australia Pty Ltd in response to a request from The West Wimmera Shire Council.

The Council own land currently designated as an Airport adjacent to the township of Kaniva and is known as the Kaniva Airport.

The Airport is not a registered as an Aircraft Landing Area under the CASR'S and is currently leased out and a portion of the land is used by a Local gun Club.

The report will outline information revealed by this investigation; -

Status of Airport Registration

Initial Research

Current usage

The effect of the development on the Existing Aerodrome

Options going forward

Verification of Evidence

Disclaimer:

The methodology process was following a sampling process. Due to the nature of the sampling process, it is possible that areas either outside the scoped elements, or items not sampled, may harbor possible deficiencies. Further, the recommendations made to the client in this report are based on UAV Group's expertise, however, the decision to take action as a result of these recommendations is the client's decision and the client takes responsibility for the outcomes of implementing these recommendations.

Page | 1

Table of Contents

Executive Summary ..... 1

Table of Contents ..... 2

Introduction ..... 3

    UAV Group Qualifications ..... 3

Going Forward ..... 5

Do Nothing leave as the statis quo. .... 5

Develop the area and reduce to a one strip landing area removing the current Southwest, Northeast strip. .... 5

Develop the area and decommission all strips and develop a Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) in the Northeast  
Corner of the existing Airport. .... 5

Decommission the Airport and revert the land to another use. .... 5

Verification of Evidence. .... 5

References used during this report ..... 5

Photos ..... 6

## Introduction

### UAV Group Qualifications

UAV Group Australia's team has had 30+ years of aviation auditing experience.

Our Auditor's qualifications, related to auditing aviation operations are as follows:

1. Diploma of Quality Auditing Accreditation (BSB51607)
2. Lead Aviation Auditor Accreditation (BSBAUD402)
3. Management Systems Auditing (BSBAUD504)
4. Auditing Quality Management Systems (BSBAUD501)
5. Leading management system audit teams (BSBAUD503)

Our Auditors CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) qualifications are as follows:

1. CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) Commercial Drone Operator Certificate
2. CASA Remote Pilot License (RePL)
3. CASA Multi Engine Command Instrument rating (IREX), BVLOS CTA and OCTA operations
4. CASA Approved Safety Manager Accreditation for Air Transport & Flight Training School
5. CASA Approved Head of Aircraft Airworthiness & Maintenance Control (HAAMC)
6. CASA Approved Drug & Alcohol Management Plan (DAMP) Supervisor
7. Aviation Manual Writer, having written over 90 CASA approved Aviation manuals
8. Chief Remote Pilot approval



## Initial Investigations Kaniva Airport.

### Status of Airport Registration.

Our investigations have concluded That the land currently designated as the Kaniva Airport is not a registered Aerodrome. As set out in the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations. And therefore, has no commercial purpose as the CASR's require an Aerodrome runway to be of certain dimensions, the dimensions of the strips at Kaniva are not of a size that would facilitate Air transport operators formerly known as Charter operators.

### Current usage.

During the course of this investigation, we have contacted:-

- The Hamilton Aero Club.
- Agricultural application operator AG Airwork Stawell.
- Sharp Aviation Air Transport Operator Hamilton
- Ambulance Victoria (Air Ambulance Division).
- Anecdotal evidence from Local Kaviva Residents
- Anecdotal evidence from the current Lessor of the Land Known as the Kaniva Airport.

All Reports came back with in the case of the Aircraft operators contacted we have not and do not use it, and in the case of the Local Anecdotal evidence The Airport has not been used as an airport for a considerable time.

The current Airport appears to be unused and its dimensions and or landing strips are only suitable for small recreational aircraft. It should be pointed out at this point that the Type of Recreational aircraft that would be able to use this Airport are in a lot of cases maintained by the owners not Licenced Aviation Maintenance Engineers {L.A.M.E.} this may reduce their safety standards.

In Fact, the Land appears to have only two uses now. Used by the local gun club and sheep Grazing.

### Effect of Housing Development.

The effect of a housing development in the Southwest Corner of the land would reduce the strip length and put residential properties in the splay or of the take of area of the aerodrome.

## Going Forward.

### Do Nothing leave as the status quo.

While this is the easiest option it does nothing for development and probably ties up an asset that from the evidence sourced does not get used for its intended purpose and is only usable by small Recreational aircraft.

### Develop the area and reduce to a one strip landing area removing the current Southwest, Northeast strip.

Addresses the immediate desire to develop a residential development in the Southwest corner but still ties up an asset that from the evidence sourced does not get used for its intended purpose and is only usable by Recreational aircraft.

### Develop the area and decommission all strips and develop a Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) in the Northeast Corner of the existing Airport.

This would allow for development to possibly an even larger scale and would give the residents the optics of an additional safety net. In the event of emergency services being needed. This could be as simple as a fenced off area to a bituminised lit HLS.

### Decommission the Airport and revert the land to another use.

Decommission the Airport will allow for the development to proceed and reduce any liability the council may have for the airport such as it is. As there is no evidence of it being a well-used asset there is really no need for it to continue as an airport especially when considering its limitations due to size.

### Verification of Evidence.

While the evidence used in the compilation of this document is factual it would be prudent of Council if it feels there may be some resident displeasure to conduct a more detailed survey of the community needs and aspirations.

### References used during this report



## Photos

























## 16 Sealing Schedule

Nil.

## 17 Late Items of Business

**Pursuant to West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules – Division 3 Section 20:**

### 20. Late Business

*If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for late business, business cannot be admitted as late 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

### **OFFICER RECCOMENDATION:**

**That Council considers the confidential reports below in accordance with Section 66 (5) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2020 and records the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public as follows:**

**Item 18.1 C-JUNE2024-S008 Hire of Plant and Equipment Panel of Suppliers**

**Item 18.2 C-AUGUST2025-S008 Contract for Cleaning of Municipal Buildings & Public Toilets 2025**

***(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—***

***(i) relates to trade secrets; or***

***(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;***



**Moved:** Cr Tom Houlihan

**Seconded:** Cr Jodie Pretlove

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

**Item 18.1 C-JUNE2024-S008 Hire of Plant and Equipment Panel of Suppliers**

**Item 18.2 C-AUGUST2025-S008 Contract for Cleaning of Municipal Buildings & Public Toilets 2025**

***(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—***

***(i) relates to trade secrets; or***

***(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;***

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)**



## 19 Close of Meeting

### Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 15 October 2025 was declared closed at 3:45pm

### Next Meeting:

19 November 2025

Kaniva

Mayor's Signature

-----