



WELCOME

TO THE WEST

West Wimmera Shire Council

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 1 November 2023
9:00 am

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

PUBLIC ACCESS

Open to the public and Live streaming from
Council's website:

www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au





Councillors and Shire Map



MAYOR
Cr. Tim Meyer



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



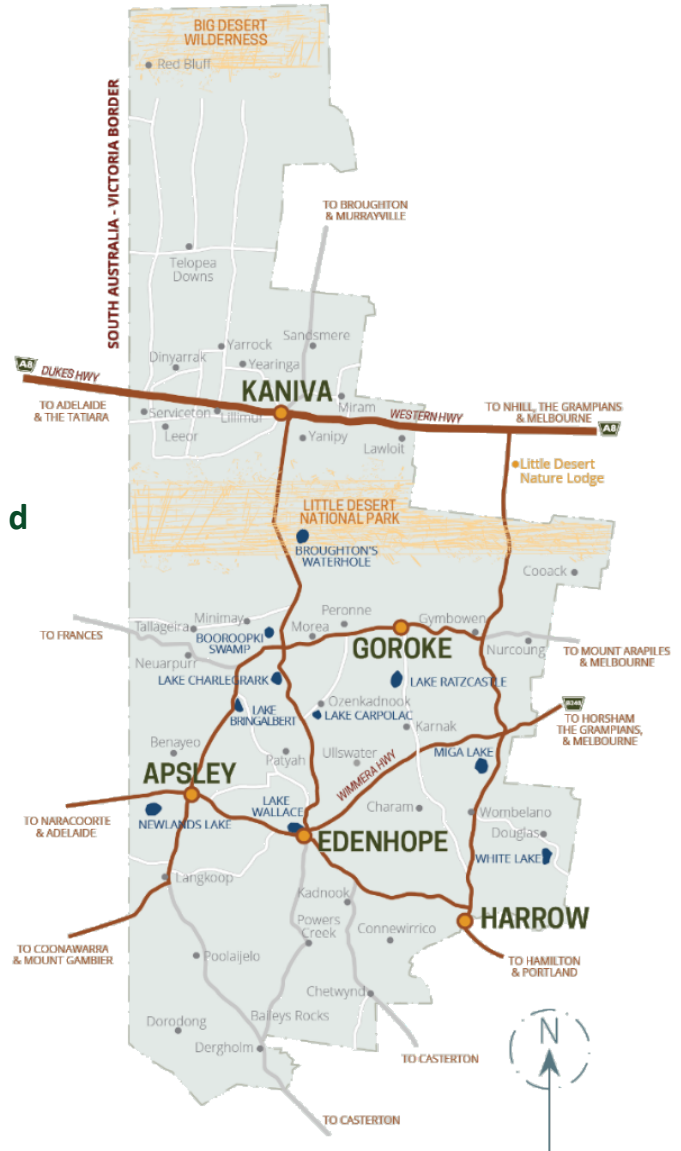
**Cr. Richard
Hicks**



**Cr. Tom
Houlihan**



**Cr. Bruce
Meyer OAM**





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.

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.



REQUIRED TO ATTEND:

Councillors:

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

Executive Leadership Team:

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



Table of Contents

1 Welcome	7
2 Acknowledgement of Country.....	7
3 Opening Prayer.....	7
4 Apologies, Leave of Absences, Declaration of Conflict of Interest.....	7
4.1 Apologies	7
4.2 Leave of Absence	7
4.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	7
5 Chief Executive Officer	8
5.1 Election of Mayor	9
5.2 Appointment of Deputy Mayor	11
5.3 Date & Place of Council Meetings - Schedule for 2024	13
5.4 Appointments to Regional & State Bodies	17
5.5 Audit & Risk Committee (Advisory Committee) - Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020	19
5.6 Appointment to Advisory & Community Committees.....	21
6 Close of Meeting	23



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

4.2 Leave of Absence

4.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

All Councilors have a personal responsibility to ensure they are aware of the provisions mandated in the Local Government Act 2020 with regard to Conflict of Interest disclosures.



5 Chief Executive Officer

5.0 Mayoral Term

Directorate: Chief Executive Officer
Report Author: Governance Coordinator
Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Local Government Act 2020 Section 26(3) Before the election of the Mayor, a Council, other than the Greater Geelong City Council, must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a 1 year or a 2 year term.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor of West Wimmera Shire Council be elected for a one year term.

Attachments

Nil



5.1 Election of Mayor

Directorate: Corporate & Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Governance Rules Part B 4. Election of the Mayor

The CEO must facilitate the election of the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Method of Voting

The election of the Mayor must be carried out by a show of hands or such other means as the CEO allows.

Determining the election of the Mayor

Unless Council resolves otherwise, the election of the Mayor will occur at a meeting held specifically to:

6.1.1 elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

6.1.2 appoint Councillors to various committees;

6.1.3 determine the schedule of meetings (including locations and format) for the coming year.

6.2 This meeting will be held at a time and place determined by resolution of Council.

6.3 The CEO must open the meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected, and invite nominations for the office of Mayor.

6.4 Nominations for the office of Mayor are to be made by a verbal nomination at the meeting.

Once nominations for the office of Mayor have been received, the following provisions will govern the election of the Mayor.

Single nomination

6.6.1 If there is only one nomination, the CEO must declare the candidate nominated to be duly elected.

6.7 Multiple nominations and candidate elected on the first vote.

6.7.1 If there is more than one nomination, the Councillors in attendance may vote for one of the candidates.



6.7.2 *In the event of a candidate receiving the votes of an absolute majority of Councillors, the CEO must declare that candidate to be elected.*

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council elect Councillor as Mayor of West Wimmera Shire Council for the 2023/24 year term.

Attachments

Nil



5.2 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Local Government Act 2020 20A

Office of Deputy Mayor

(1) A Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

(2) If the Council has established an office of Deputy Mayor, the provisions of this Act relating to the office of Deputy Mayor apply.

Governance Rules

Election of Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Delegated Committees

Any election for:

any office of Deputy Mayor; or

Chair of a Delegated Committee

will be regulated by Rule 6 of the Governance Rules, as if the reference to the:

CEO is a reference to the Mayor; and

Mayor is a reference to the Deputy Mayor or the Chair of the Delegated Committee (as the case may be).

Background

The majority of Local Councils within Victoria elect a Deputy Mayor. West Wimmera Shire Council elected a Deputy Mayor for the first time in its history, for the 2019-2020 year and continued that practice in the years following.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council elect Councillor as Deputy Mayor of West Wimmera Shire Council for the 2023-2024 year.

OR

That Council resolves not to elect a Deputy Mayor for 2023-2024.

Attachments

Nil



5.3 Date & Place of Council Meetings - Schedule for 2024

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

In an election year and pursuant to Council's Governance Rules, Division 1 Section 9, Council determines the schedule for its Council Meetings for the next calendar year at the meeting following the declaration of the Council.

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

Historically Council Meetings have been held on a monthly basis, with the exception of January when there is no meeting. Council Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month commencing at 2.00pm.

The Councillor Forum is also held on a monthly basis, with the exception of January when there is no meeting, and are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month. The venue alternates between Edenhope and Kaniva. The majority of the eleven Council Meetings for the year are held in Edenhope and Kaniva.

Recurrent timing clashes with RCV & MAV Annual Events Each year, there is a trio of annual events which inevitably clash with Council's scheduled Council Meetings. These are the Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) Annual Forum and AGM, the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) Annual Conference, and the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council in Melbourne which is typically held from Wednesday to Friday in the third week of October and attended by the CEO and all Councillors.

At the time of writing this report the RCV/MAV event dates in 2024 had not been confirmed. The meeting schedule included in the Officer Recommendation at the end of this report has not considered these possible necessary variations and will need to be considered and resolved accordingly at a later date.

Another annual three-day event which also usually clashes with a scheduled Council Meeting is the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Congress in Canberra, attended by the Mayor and the CEO, or the Mayor and another Councillor.



As with the meetings above if it becomes necessary to alter council meeting dates to accommodate attendance then Council will need to resolve accordingly in time to give public notice in accordance with the Act.

Community Forums

Councillors are advised that the planning of Community Forums requires at least six weeks of lead time, which includes liaising with the relevant community committee groups regarding their availability to host the Meeting and Forum, organising catering with the committee, generating publicity including the required Council Meeting advertisement, inviting the relevant communities, and receiving RSVPs. Community Forums are open to all residents of the Shire. The following chart shows that among the towns within West Wimmera.

Community Forum Town / Locality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 Covid	2022	2023	2024
Apsley													
Benayeo													
Charam													
Connewirrecoo													
Dergholm													
Dinyarrak Fireshed													
Dorodong													
Douglas													
Goroke													
Gymbowen													
Harrow													
Lawloit													
Lillimur													
Minimay													
Nurcoung													
Peronne													
Poolaijelo													



Serviceton													
Telopea Downs													

Month	Date	Meeting	Venue
February	Wed 7 Feb 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 21 Feb 2024	Council Meeting	Kaniva
March	Wed 6 Mar 2024	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 20 Mar 2024	Council Meeting	Edenhope
April	Wed 3 Apr 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 17 Apr 2024	Council Meeting & Community Forum	Telopea Downs
May	Wed 1 May 2024	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 15 May 2024	Council Meeting	Edenhope
June	Wed 5 Jun 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 19 Jun 2024	Council Meeting	Kaniva
July	Wed 3 Jul 2024	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 17 Jul 2024	Council Meeting	Edenhope
August	Wed 7 Aug 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 21 Aug 2024	Council Meeting	Kaniva
September	Wed 4 Sep 2024	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 18 Sep 2024	Council Meeting & Community Forum	Goroke
October	Wed 2 Oct 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 16 Oct 2024	Council Meeting	Kaniva
November	Wed 6 Nov 2024	Council Meeting to elect Mayor	Kaniva
	Wed 6 Nov 2024	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 20 Nov 2024	Council Meeting	Edenhope
December	Wed 4 Dec 2024	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 18 Dec 2024	Council Meeting	Kaniva



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

- That Council adopt the proposed meeting schedule as listed above with the inclusion of Telopea Downs as the April Community Forum Location and Goroke as the September Community Forum Location.
- That Council adopt the dates and venues for Council Meetings and Councillor Forums for 2023, noting that all Council Meetings will commence at 2.00pm. Councillor Forum Meetings will generally commence at 9:00am but the time and location may be varied as required.

Attachments

Nil



5.4 Appointments to Regional & State Bodies

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Council makes a series of appointments to regional and State bodies as detailed below. Councillors also sit on other State bodies as individuals, but usually receive Council endorsement.

It is appropriate that Council representatives and alternate representatives to these bodies be appointed, as well as the CEO or a Director of Council, in certain cases.

The term of the appointment is twelve months commencing from today's meeting.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the appointments of Council representatives to regional and State bodies, as detailed in the table below, be accepted and the relevant bodies be advised.

REGIONAL / STATE BODY	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVE/S 2022/2023	PROPOSED REPRESENTATIVES 2023/2024
Local Government State Wide Forum – Recycling & Waste Matters	Cr Houlihan Alt: -	Cr. Houlihan Alt: -
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) *	Cr T Meyer Alt: Cr Pretlove	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)
North West Municipalities Association (NWMA) *	Cr T Meyer Alt: Cr Pretlove	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)
Rail Freight Alliance (RFA)	Cr T Meyer Alt: Cr B Meyer	Cr. Hicks Alt: Cr. T Meyer
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) *	Cr T Meyer CEO Alt: Cr Pretlove	Mayor CEO Alt: Dept. Mayor (if any)
West Wimmera Rural Water Supply Project Steering Committee	Cr Houlihan Alt: Cr Domaschenz	Cr. Houlihan Alt: Cr. Pretlove
West Wimmera Shire Cemeteries Trust	All Councillors Sec: Director CCS	All Councillors Sec: Director CCS
Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC)	Cr T Meyer Director IDW Alt: Cr B Meyer	Cr. T Meyer Director IDW Alt: Cr. Hicks
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (Director)	Cr T Meyer Alt: -	Cr. T Meyer
Wimmera Mallee Regional Tourism Association	Cr Pretlove Alt: -	Cr. Pretlove Alt: Cr T Meyer
Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance (WMSA)	Cr Houlihan Alt: Cr Domaschenz	Cr. Houlihan Alt: Cr. -
Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group (WSMRTG)	Cr Pretlove Director IDW Alt: Cr T Meyer	Cr. Pretlove Director IDW Alt: Cr. Hicks



5.5 Audit & Risk Committee (Advisory Committee) - Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

53 Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee

- (1) A Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee.*
- (2) An Audit and Risk Committee is not a delegated committee.*
- (3) An Audit and Risk Committee must—*
 - (a) include members who are Councillors of the Council; and*
 - (b) consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors of the Council and who collectively have—*
 - (i) expertise in financial management and risk; and*
 - (ii) experience in public sector management; and*
 - (c) not include any person who is a member of Council staff of the Council.*
- (4) The chairperson of an Audit and Risk Committee must not be a Councillor of the Council.*
- (5) Sections 123 and 125 and Division 2 of Part 6 apply to a member of the Audit and Risk Committee who is not a Councillor as if the member were a member of a delegated committee.*
- (6) A Council may pay a fee to a member of an Audit and Risk Committee who is not a Councillor of the Council.*



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the representatives to Council's Audit & Risk Committee as detailed in the table below for 2022/2023.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES 2022/2023	PROPOSED 2023/2024 REPRESENTATIVES
Councillors	Cr T Meyer Cr Pretlove Alternate: Cr Houlihan	Cr. B Meyer Cr. Pretlove
Independent members	Mr Mick Jaensch Mr Andrew Johnson Ms Celeste Gregory	Mr Mick Jaensch (Chair) Mr Andrew Johnson Ms Celeste Gregory
Council Officer Contact	Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS) Chief Finance Officer	Director Corporate & Community Services (DCCS) Chief Finance Officer

Attachments

Nil



5.6 Appointment to Advisory & Community Committees

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Introduction

Council has established several Advisory Committees, which are a non-legislated type of committee, and have been set up to provide advice to Council.

Any recommendations from these committees for action or expenditure must be taken by Council in a Council Meeting, by formal resolution of Council.

Council's current and proposed Community and Advisory Committees are stated in the table below.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council elect the representatives to the Community & Advisory Committees as detailed in the table below:

COMMITTEE	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES 2022/2023	PROPOSED REPRESENTATIVES 2023/2024
CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee	All Councillors	All Councillors
West Grampians Community Consultative Committee	Cr. Houlihan	Cr. Houlihan Cr. -
Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre Inc.	Cr. Houlihan CEO Alt: Cr.	Cr. Houlihan CEO Alt: Cr. T Meyer
Kaniva Community Sporting Complex	Cr. B Meyer Director CCS Alt: Cr Houlihan	Cr. B Meyer Director CCS Alt: Cr. Hicks



6 Close of Meeting