



WELCOME

TO THE WEST

West Wimmera Shire Council

AGENDA

ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

Tuesday 12 November 2024
10:00 am

Council Chambers
Kaniva Council Office
25 Baker Street, Kaniva Victoria
3419

PUBLIC ACCESS

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

www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au





Councillors and Shire Map

Cr. Richard Hicks

Cr. Helen Hobbs

Cr. Tom Houlihan

Cr. Tim Meyer

Cr. Jodie Pretlove





COUNCIL VISION

Our West Wimmera community is healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious, prosperous, and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity.

OUR VALUES

INNOVATIVE – We will proactively respond to change, are optimistic about our future and pursue continuous improvement in everything that we do.

ACCOUNTABLE – We will be responsible, take ownership of our actions and are committed to good governance, excellence, transparency, achievement of goals and advocating for our community

UNITED – We will do everything within our ability to encourage and form trusting relationships, to work together as one team to achieve our goals and advocate for ‘One West Wimmera’.

COLLABORATIVE – We will actively and openly consult with you and work constructively with community organisations, agencies, the business community and other levels of government to our community’s benefit.

OUR GOALS





Purpose of Council meetings

- (1) Council holds scheduled meetings and, when required, unscheduled meetings to conduct the business of Council.
- (2) Council is committed to transparency in decision making and, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Council and Delegated Committee meetings are open to the public and the community are able to attend.
- (3) Meetings will only be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66 of the Act, if:
 - (a) there are clear reasons for particular matters to remain confidential; or
 - (b) a meeting is required to be closed for security reasons; or
 - (c) it is necessary to enable the meeting to proceed in an ordinary manner.
- (4) A meeting closed to the public for the reasons outlined in sub-rule 3(b) or 3(c) will continue to be livestreamed. In the event a livestream is not available:
 - (a) the meeting may be adjourned; or
 - (b) a recording of the proceedings may be available on the Council website

The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules set out the meeting procedure rules for this Council Meeting.

Members of the public are reminded that they are required to remain silent during this meeting.

This Council meeting will be recorded for live streaming.

Recording of Meeting and Disclaimer

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



Councillors pledge

As Councillors of West Wimmera Shire Council, we solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that we will consider each item on this agenda in the best interests of the whole municipal community.



REQUIRED TO ATTEND:

Councillors:

Richard Hicks
Helen Hobbs
Tom Houlihan
Tim Meyer
Jodie Pretlove

Executive Leadership Team:

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



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1 Welcome

2 Acknowledgement of Country

The West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

3 Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask your blessing upon this Council. Guide and prosper our decisions to the advancement of Your Glory and the true welfare of the people of West Wimmera Shire. Amen.

4 Apologies, Leave of Absences, Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4.1 Apologies

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

5.1 2024 Local Government Election

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Information

Purpose

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020*

Section 30 Oath or Affirmation of Office

*(1) A person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor **until** the person has taken the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.*

(2) The oath or affirmation of office must be—

(a) administered by the Chief Executive Officer; and

(b) dated and signed before the Chief Executive Officer; and

(c) recorded in the minutes of the Council, whether or not the oath or affirmation was taken at a Council meeting.

The declaration of the 2024 Local Government election was held Thursday, 7 November 2024, 3:30pm at the Edenhope & District Community Centre.

The following councillors were declared elected:

- Richard Hicks
- Helen Hobbs
- Tom Houlihan
- Tim Meyer
- Jodie Pretlove

Policy Implications

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

Councillor Code of Conduct Policy

Attachments

Nil



5.2 Mayoral Term

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

Purpose

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 ____ term.

Attachments

Nil



5.3 Election of Mayor

Directorate: Corporate & Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

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.

5. 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.

6. Determining the election of the Mayor

6.1 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.

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

6.6 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.*

NOMINATIONS:

The CEO declared Councillor _____ as Mayor of the West Wimmera Shire Council for the _____ term.

Attachments

Nil



5.4 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

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).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to elect/not to elect a Deputy Mayor for 2024-2025.

NOMINATIONS

The CEO declared Councillor _____ as Deputy Mayor of West Wimmera Shire Council for the 2024-2025 year.



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.

Attachments

Nil



5.5 Date & Place of Council Meetings - Schedule for 2025

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

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.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the dates and venues for the formal Council Meetings for 2025 (as per attached schedule), noting that all Council Meetings will commence at _____**
- 2. Note that the Councillor Forums will generally commence at 9:00am but the time and location may be varied as required.**
- 3. Adopt the inclusion of _____ as the March Community Forum location and _____ as the August Community Forum location.**

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 2025 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.

As with the meetings below, 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	2025
Apsley														
Benayeo														
Charam														
Connewirreco o														
Dergholm														
Dinyarrak Fireshed														
Dorodong														
Douglas														
Goroke														
Gymbowen														
Harrow														
Lawloit														
Lillimur														
Minimay														
Nurcoung														
Peronne														
Poolajjelo														
Serviceton														
Telopea Downs														



Month	Date	Meeting	Venue
February	Wed 5 Feb 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 19 Feb 2025	Council Meeting	Edenhope
March	Wed 5 Mar 2025	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 19 Mar 2025	Council Meeting & Community Forum	TBC
April	Wed 2 Apr 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 16 Apr 2025	Council Meeting	Edenhope
May	Wed 7 May 2025	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 21 May 2025	Council Meeting	Kaniva
June	Wed 4 Jun 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 18 Jun 2025	Council Meeting	Edenhope
July	Wed 2 Jul 2025	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 16 Jul 2025	Council Meeting	Kaniva
August	Wed 6 Aug 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 20 Aug 2025	Council Meeting & Community Forum	TBC
September	Wed 3 Sep 2025	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 17 Sep 2025	Council Meeting	Kaniva
October	Wed 1 Oct 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 15 Oct 2025	Council Meeting	Edenhope
November	Wed 5 Nov 2025	Council Meeting to elect Mayor	Edenhope
	Wed 5 Nov 2025	Councillor Forum	Edenhope
	Wed 19 Nov 2025	Council Meeting	Kaniva
December	Wed 3 Dec 2025	Councillor Forum	Kaniva
	Wed 17 Dec 2025	Council Meeting	Edenhope

Attachments

Nil



5.6 Appointments to Regional & State Bodies

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Governance Coordinator

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

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 2023/2024	PROPOSED REPRESENTATIVE/S 2024/2025
Local Government State Wide Forum – Recycling & Waste Matters	Cr Houlihan Alt: -	Cr. Alt: -
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)
North West Municipalities Association (NWMA)	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)	Mayor Dept. Mayor (if any)
Rail Freight Alliance (RFA)	Cr. Hicks Alt: Cr T Meyer	Cr. Alt:
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Mayor CEO Alt: Dept. Mayor (if any)	Mayor CEO Alt: Dept. Mayor (if any)
Timber Towns Victoria	Nil	Cr. Alt:
West Wimmera Rural Water Supply Project Steering Committee	Cr Houlihan Alt: Cr Pretlove	Cr. Alt:



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 Hicks	Cr. Director IDW Alt:
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (Director)	Cr T Meyer Alt: -	Cr. Alt.
Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance (WMSA)	Cr Houlihan Alt:	Cr. Alt:
Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group (WSMRTG)	Cr Pretlove Director IDW Alt: Cr Hicks	Cr. Director IDW Alt:

Attachments

Nil



5.7 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

Purpose

Under Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020, 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 2024/2025.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES 2023/2024	PROPOSED 2024/2025 REPRESENTATIVES
Councillors	Cr B Meyer Cr Pretlove Alternate: Cr T Meyer	Cr. Cr.
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



5.8 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 2023/2024	PROPOSED REPRESENTATIVES 2024/2025
CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC)	All Councillors Kelvin Spiller – Independent Chair	All Councillors Kelvin Spiller – Independent Chair
West Grampians Community Consultative Committee	Cr. Houlihan	Cr. Cr. -
Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre Inc.	Cr. Houlihan CEO Alt: Cr. T Meyer	Cr. CEO Alt: Cr.
Kaniva Community Sporting Complex	Cr. B Meyer Director CCS Alt: Cr Hicks	Cr. Director CCS Alt: Cr.



6 Close of Meeting

Next Meeting:

November 2025

Mayor Signature
