

# West Wimmera Shire Council

# MINUTES

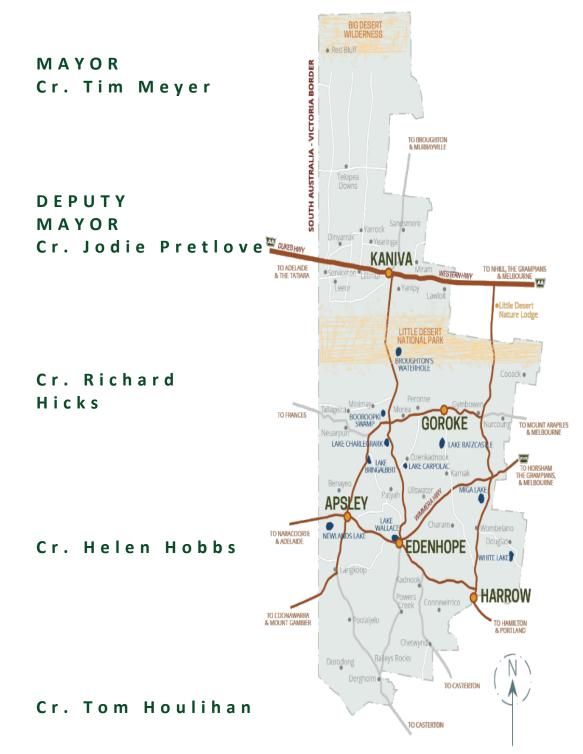
## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 20 November 2024 2:00 pm

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







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### **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**



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#### 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.

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#### **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.

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#### In Attendance:

#### **Councillors:**

Tim Meyer, Mayor Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor Richard Hicks Helen Hobbs Tom Houlihan

#### **Executive Leadership Team:**

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

#### Officers:

Kaddie Cother - Governance Coordinator Philippa Hicks - Executive Assistant to the CEO John Hutchins - Community Development & Tourism Manager

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### 1 Welcome

### 2 Acknowledgement of Country

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

### **3** Opening Prayer

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

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

### 4.1 Apologies

Nil

### 4.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

### 4.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

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### **5** Questions from the Gallery

### 5.1 Written Questions on Notice

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

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### 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)

#### Alan Sambell- Edenhope

What is the compulsion from wages to rates collected?

Director CCS - Take question on notice to get the exact figures but the wages bill is in excess of the rates revenue.

*Can Council give an example of any project that came to fruition through the Innovation Platform?* 

Cr Tim Meyer - Had several small projects and other projects currently waiting for funding.

CEO - Once projects are in the Innovation Platform, they are scoped properly and placed in the system for when grant funding is available. Can be a frustrating process, but all the projects sit there and projects team are actively trying to find funding sources for those innovation platform ideas.

#### Helen Mulraney Roll - Edenhope

Can the Mayor and Deputy Mayor confirm that they have visited the fire-ground at Kadnook and have spent time supporting our community volunteers and CFA staff?

Cr Jodie Pretlove - Haven't been able to visit as the site is unsafe.

CEO - Community catch-up has been arranged for all Councillors and senior staff members at 6pm Friday 22nd November. At the moment no one can visit voluntarily until the area is declared safe.

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Could Council consider free entry to our swimming pools like Hindmarsh Shire Council?

Cr Tim Meyer - This option is currently being discussed in Council and will be considered. Can be difficult as we have contracts in place with caretakers and the fees collected are essentially part of their contract.

Moved:Cr Jodie PretloveSeconded:Cr Richard Hicks

That Council resume Standing Orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

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### 6 Delegates Reports

Delegate Reports are for providing feedback on formal council business and are for information only

### 6.1 Councillor Tim Meyer (Mayor)

Date	Event
23/10/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting – Adopt Annual Report
24/10/2024	Seniors Expo & Concert
07/11/2024	Declaration of 2024 Elections
11/11/2024	Kaniva Remembrance Day Service
12/11/2024	Oath & Affirmations
12/11/2024	Annual Statutory Meeting
12/11/2024	Councillor Forum
15/11/2024	Opening of Edenhope Early Learning Services
20/11/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/11/2024	Council Meeting

### 6.2 Councillor Jodie Pretlove (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
23/10/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting – Adopt Annual Report
24/10/2024	Seniors Expo & Concert
07/11/2024	Declaration of 2024 Elections
11/11/2024	Apsley Remembrance Day Service
12/11/2024	Oath & Affirmations
12/11/2024	Annual Statutory Meeting
12/11/2024	Councillor Forum
20/11/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/11/2024	Council Meeting

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#### 6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
18/10/2024	Rail Freight Alliance
23/10/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting – Adopt Annual Report
24/10/2024	Seniors Expo & Concert
07/11/2024	Declaration of 2024 Elections
11/11/2024	Edenhope Remembrance Day Service
12/11/2024	Oath & Affirmations
12/11/2024	Annual Statutory Meeting
12/11/2024	Councillor Forum
20/11/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/11/2024	Council Meeting

#### 6.4 Councillor Helen Hobbs

Date	Event
07/11/2024	Declaration of 2024 Elections
11/11/2024	Edenhope Remembrance Day Service
12/11/2024	Oath & Affirmations
12/11/2024	Annual Statutory Meeting
12/11/2024	Councillor Forum
20/11/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/11/2024	Council Meeting

#### 6.5 Councillor Tom Houlihan

Date	Event
23/10/2024	Unscheduled Council Meeting – Adopt Annual Report
24/10/2024	Seniors Expo & Concert
07/11/2024	Declaration of 2024 Elections
11/11/2024	Harrow Remembrance Day Service
12/11/2024	Oath & Affirmations
12/11/2024	Annual Statutory Meeting
12/11/2024	Councillor Forum
20/11/2024	Pre-Council Meeting
20/11/2024	Council Meeting

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### 7 Condolences

None Received.

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### 8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

#### 8.1 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 October 2024

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 October 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks
Seconded:	Cr Helen Hobbs
That the Minutes	of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 October 2024 be taken as an
accurate record a	nd confirmed.
	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

#### Attachments

Nil

#### 8.2 Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 October 2024

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved:

**Cr Richard Hicks** 

Seconded: Cr Helen Hobbs

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

#### Attachments

Nil

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### 8.3 Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks	
Seconded:	Cr Helen Hobbs	
That the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2024 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.		
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0		

#### Attachments

Nil

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### 9 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

### **10 Notices of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion submitted for the agenda.

### **11 Councillor Forum Record**

#### 11.1 Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 12 November 2024

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 12 November 2024 be received and noted.

Moved:

Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That the Record for the Councillor Forum Record Wednesday, 12 November 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

### **12** Deputations and Petitions

There were no Petitions or Deputations submitted for the agenda.

### **13 Chief Executive Officer**

No Reports

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### **14 Corporate and Community Services**

#### 14.1 Community Strengthening Grant Applications

Directorate:Corporate and Community ServicesReport Author:Community Development and Tourism ManagerReport 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 determines the following Community Strengthening Grant applications:

•	Edenhope Tourism	\$3,333.00
٠	Goroke Golf Club	\$5,000.00
•	Henley on Lake Wallace	\$2,231.00
•	Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre	\$4,662.52
•	Kaniva Senior Citizens	\$532.00
•	Serviceton Bowls Club	\$666.67
•	Crossroads Tennis Club	\$1,246.00
•	Edenhope Men's Shed	\$614.00
٠	Lake Bringalbert Foreshore Committee	\$1,273.00
•	Apsley Action Group	\$2,133.33

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Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks	
Seconded:	Cr Jodie Pretlove	
That Council approves the following Community Strengthening Grant applications:		
• Edenhope	Tourism	\$3,333.00
Goroke Go	olf Club	\$5,000.00
Henley on	Lake Wallace	\$2,231.00
Johnny M	ullagh Interpretive Centre	\$4,662.52
Kaniva Sei	nior Citizens	\$532.00
Servicetor	n Bowls Club	\$666.67
Crossroad	s Tennis Club	\$1,246.00
• Edenhope	Men's Shed	\$614.00
• Lake Bring	albert Foreshore Committee	\$1,273.00
Apsley Act	tion Group	\$2,133.33
		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 2024/25 financial year is as follows:

Community Strengthening Grants					
Grant	Budget	Applications for determination	Approved applications		Total remaining budget
Financial	\$40,000.00	\$21,691.52	\$0.00		\$40,000.00

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#### Applications have been received from the following organisations:

Community Group	Amount requested	Comments
Edenhope Tourism	\$3,333.00	A geophysical survey utilising ground- penetrating radar of the monumental section of Edenhope Cemetery will identify the location of unmarked graves.
Goroke Golf Club	\$5,000.00	Installation of Bluetooth controllers to allow sprinklers to be programmed to start and stop each day without volunteers having to do so
Henley on Lake Wallace	\$2,231.00	The Henley on Lake Wallace Committee would like to purchase equipment for use at the annual festival that is held. This equipment would be marquees, tables and chairs for the safety and protection of volunteers on gates and sun protection for the event.
Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre	\$4,662.52	The primary objective of the project is to gather enough 2-metre picket fence panels to enclose the entire circumference of the Johnny Mullagh Oval. This effort aims to enhance the overall cricketing experience and entice more teams to play on iconic, historically significant ground. By improving the infrastructure, particularly the cricket facilities, this initiative will make the oval more appealing and boost Harrow's historical and cultural narrative, tied closely to Unaarrimin Johnny Mullagh and the First XI of 1868.
Kaniva Senior Citizens	\$532.00	The Kaniva Senior Citizens would like to purchase 12 light weight chairs to use in the Kaniva Senior Citizens building. The chairs they currently use are very heavy to pick up and move around. The chairs they wish to purchase weigh 4.5kg per chair they are commercial grade plastic chairs with sides to enable people to leaver themselves up.

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Serviceton Bowls Club	\$666.67	To maintain our community facility in a good state of repair the blind needs to be replaced. The club is available to the whole community to use for bowls or for private functions. It is extensively used during the summer months for the sport of bowls and during the months of February and March we hold a competition for non-members which is very popular. The blind to be replaced faces the West so protects our kitchen and workers from the summer sun.
Crossroads Tennis Club	\$1,246.00	Purchase a playground for the Crossroads Tennis Club to enable increased senior and junior participation to have children occupied whilst parents are playing tennis.
Edenhope Men's Shed	\$614.00	The bench grinder and sharpening jig will allow us in the Men's Shed to accurately grind and sharpen tools (particularly lathe tools). This is normally a specialised job requiring us to outsource it at considerable expense. The jig allows one- handed use, making it easier for people with disabilities.
Lake Bringalbert Foreshore Committee	\$1,273.00	New signage for both entrances for Lake Bringalbert to show what facilities are at this location along with bank account details for donations for camping fees. To promote our beautiful lake to the community and tourists from afar.
Apsley Action Group	\$2,133.33	Apsley has a very well sign posted historical walk around town, and it is now time to expand on this. We are seeking funding for five new signs to go at the Old Woolstore, Uniting Church, Corner Shop, Current Primary School, and the Flowering Gum. Funding would cover the artwork and printing of the signage, metal display poles and the erection of these.
Total Requested	\$21,691.52	

The Community Strengthening Grant stream is designed to promote and increase participation of residents in community initiatives, to build and strengthen local networks

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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.

Grant of up to \$10,000 are available in one stream: Major Community Project, Facilities upgrade and Equipment Grant – Maximum of \$10,000 on a \$1 to \$1 basis with a limit of 10% of the total applied grant being in kind. Maximum of one successful application every six funding rounds per organisation.

#### **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**

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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.

1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.

#### **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

#### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

#### Conclusion

All applications for this round of the Community Strengthening grants have been assessed by officers as eligible for determination by Council.

#### Attachments

Nil

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#### 14.2 Awards Policy

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services Report Author: Community Development and Tourism Manager Report Purpose: For Decision

#### Purpose

The Community Awards policy sets out the guidelines of the West Wimmera Shire Council annual awards process and is presented to Council for consideration.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopts the proposed Awards policy.

Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks	
Seconded:	Cr Jodie Pretlove	
That Council adopts the proposed Awards policy to include the words '(including any other contributions)' under section 3, School Student Citizenship.		
	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)	

#### **Declaration of Interest**

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

#### Background

This policy provides for Council recognition of significant personal and community achievements and milestones, and specifies relevant criteria for Council to assess and determine award eligibility. The policy specifies the different categories of personal and community contributions and achievements that Council may recognise with the granting of a particular award.

#### **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.

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#### **Legislative Implications**

Not Applicable

#### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Nil

#### **Policy Implications**

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

Not applicable

#### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.
1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.

#### **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

#### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

#### Conclusion

The draft Council Awards policy provides Council with necessary criteria to consider and determine various awards which recognise significant personal and community achievements.

#### Attachments

1. AWARD POLICY DRAFT 31102024 .1 [14.2.1 - 4 pages]

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### **15 Infrastructure Development and Works**

#### 15.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C37wwim

Directorate:Infrastructure Development and WorksReport Author:Senior Planning OfficerReport Purpose:For Decision

#### Purpose

To brief Councillors on the outcomes from exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C37wwim, and to seek a resolution to adopt the amendment and forward it to the Minister for Planning for their consideration.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt Planning Scheme amendment C37wwim and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to forward the amendment to the Minister for Planning for their consideration.

Moved:	Cr Richard Hicks
Seconded:	Cr Jodie Pretlove
That Council lay t February '25 Cou	his item on the table and it be discussed at either the December '24 or ncillor Forum.
	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

On 17 May 2023, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an exhibit Planning Scheme amendment C37wwim.

The amendment was exhibited on Thursday 18 July 2024. No submissions were received.

Amendment C37wwim is a policy neutral amendment that makes a number of changes to the Planning Scheme that were identified in the Planning Scheme Review, and does not make any changes to the use and development rights for any land.

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The changes that are being made to the West Wimmera Planning Scheme have already been presented to Council as part of the Planning Scheme Review.

The amendment was prepared with the assistance of the Department of Transport and Planning's Planning Hub assistance program.

Once Council has adopted the amendment, it can be forwarded to the Minister for Planning for their consideration, prior to gazettal. There is no further work required for this amendment.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified:

There are no obvious risks for Council to mitigate or eliminate in regard to the proposal considered for funding support in this report.

#### Legislative Implications

The report complies with the requirements of the: Local Government Act 2020

#### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Nil

#### **Policy Implications**

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

Not applicable

#### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community

1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.

1.7 Improve the liveability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.

#### Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy

2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.

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#### **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

#### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

#### Conclusion

The proposed amendment is an administrative step that will bring the West Wimmera Planning Scheme into line with the statutory requirements that guide the preparation of Planning Schemes in Victoria and correct some errors and omissions. The effect of the amendment will be to improve the performance of the Planning Scheme.

#### Attachments

1. Binder 1 [**15.1.1** - 98 pages]

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### **16 Sealing Schedule**

Nil.

### **17 Late Items of Business**

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

#### 20. Urgent Business

If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of Council, and only then if it:

- 20.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- 20.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

### **18 Confidential Reports**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

- 18.1 C-OCT2024-P012 6X4 Prime Mover Tender
- 18.2 RFQ-OCT2024-P009 Water Tanker Tender

Moved:

Cr Richard Hicks

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 to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

18.1 C-OCT2024-P012 6X4 Prime Mover Tender

18.2 RFQ-OCT2024-P009 Water Tanker Tender

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

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### **19 Close of Meeting**

#### Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 20 November 2024 was declared closed at 3:10 pm

#### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 18 December 2024

Kaniva Council Chambers

Mayor's Signature

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