

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 19 August 2026
2:00 pm

Edenhope Council Offices
49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope Vic
3318



Councillors and Shire Map



MAYOR
Cr. Tim Meyer



**DEPUTY
MAYOR**
Cr. Helen Hobbs



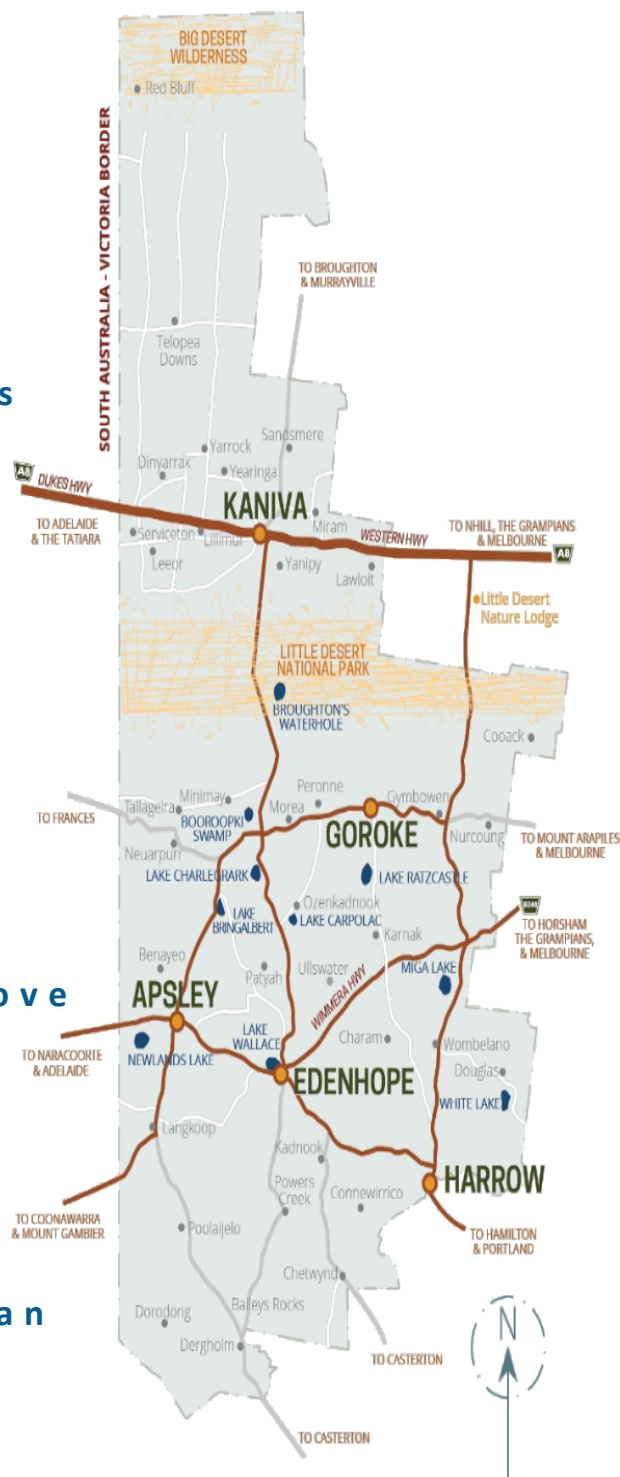
**Cr. Richard
Hicks**



Cr. Jodie Pretlove



Cr. Tom Houlihan





COUNCIL VISION

In 2041 West Wimmera is a great place to live, work, and play. We are growing and we are known for our natural environment, resilience and sense of community. We are proud of our heritage and are building new economic capacity based on innovation and tourism, which is creating local employment. Our towns are vibrant and welcoming, offering the services and facilities that meet the needs of our community and visitors. We are a confident community and will empower everyone to be part of our future.

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
Helen Hobbs, Deputy Mayor
Richard Hicks
Jodie Pretlove
Tom Houlihan

Executive Leadership Team:

David Bezuidenhout - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Dalton Burns – Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS)
Brendan Pearce - Director Infrastructure Development and Works (DIDW)

Officers:

Philippa Hicks - EA to the CEO
Katie Frost - Governance Manager
John Hutchins - Community Development 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	12
6.1	Councillor Tim Meyer (Mayor)	12
6.2	Councillor Helen Hobbs (Deputy Mayor).....	12
6.3	Councillor Richard Hicks	12
6.4	Councillor Jodie Pretlove	13
6.5	Councillor Tom Houlihan	13
7	Condolences.....	13
8	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	14
8.1	Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2026.....	14
8.2	Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026	14
9	Business Arising From Previous Minutes	16
10	Notices of Motion	16
11	Councillor Forum Record.....	16



11.1 Nil	16
12 Deputations and Petitions.....	16
13 Chief Executive Officer	16
14 Corporate and Community Services.....	17
14.1 Community Sponsorship and Contributions Grant Application	17
14.2 Request to utilise Kaniva Recreation Precinct - The Big Rigs Clan - Mobile Home Club	20
15 Infrastructure Development and Works	24
16 Sealing Schedule.....	25
17 Late Items of Business.....	25
18 Confidential Reports	25
19 Close of Meeting	26



1 Welcome

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 2:03 pm.

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



5 Questions from the Gallery

5.1 Written Questions on Notice

No questions on notice were received.



5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Allan Sambel - Edenhope

Question relating to removal of trees at the Edenhope Lions Park and whether the trees could be chopped up and taken down to the tip for someone to have for firewood or for the men's shed to use?

Cr Tim Meyer - Question taken on notice

Question relating to the Edenhope Lions Park Playground retaining wall on the north side and whether concrete and big rocks could be used against the existing wall and covered with dirt so you can mow with the ride on mower without tipping over?

Cr Tim Meyer - Council to take the suggestion on board, we do have master plans to do developments at Lions Park, we are just trying to find some funding to do a fairly major redevelopment there we will take that into consideration when we look at all of that.

Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

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
17/07/2026	VLGA Lunch & Learn – Complaints a Councillors role
17/07/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands MAV Meeting
26/07/2026	Edenhope Lions Club Change over
29/07/2026	Councillor Forum
04/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
04/08/2026	Goroke Lions Club Change over
05/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
12/08/2026	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
19/08/2026	West Wimmera Shire Council Cemeteries Trust Meeting
19/08/2026	Pre Council Meeting
19/08/2026	Council Meeting

6.2 Councillor Helen Hobbs (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
17/07/2026	VLGA Lunch & Learn – Complaints a Councillors role
29/07/2026	Councillor Forum
04/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
05/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
12/08/2026	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting
19/08/2026	West Wimmera Shire Council Cemeteries Trust Meeting
19/08/2026	Pre Council Meeting
19/08/2026	Council Meeting



6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
17/07/2026	VLGA Lunch & Learn – Complaints a Councillors role
24/07/2026	Western Highway Action Committee Meeting
29/07/2026	Councillor Forum
04/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
05/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
14/08/2026	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting
19/08/2026	West Wimmera Shire Council Cemeteries Trust Meeting
19/08/2026	Pre Council Meeting
19/08/2026	Council Meeting

6.4 Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Date	Event
17/07/2026	VLGA Lunch & Learn – Complaints a Councillors role
29/07/2026	Councillor Forum
04/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
05/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
19/08/2026	West Wimmera Shire Council Cemeteries Trust Meeting
19/08/2026	Pre Council Meeting
19/08/2026	Council Meeting

6.5 Councillor Tom Houlihan

Date	Event
17/07/2026	VLGA Lunch & Learn – Complaints a Councillors role
29/07/2026	Councillor Forum
04/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
05/08/2026	Councillor Mandatory Training
19/08/2026	West Wimmera Shire Council Cemeteries Trust Meeting
19/08/2026	Pre Council Meeting
19/08/2026	Council Meeting

7 Condolences

Nil



8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

8.1 **Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2026 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Helen Hobbs

That the Minutes of the Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 July 2026 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

Nil

8.2 **Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026 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, 15 July 2026 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

Attachments

Nil



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 Nil

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 Sponsorship and Contributions Grant Application

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

This report presents an application received from Goroke Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc. for a Community Sponsorship and Contribution Grant for Council's consideration.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves a Community Sponsorship and Contribution Grant of \$1,200 and the requested in-kind support to the Goroke Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc. for the 136th Annual Goroke Show to be held 3 October 2026.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council approves a Community Sponsorship and Contribution Grant of \$1,200 and the requested in-kind support to the Goroke Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc. for the 136th Annual Goroke Show to be held 3 October 2026.

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

West Wimmera Shire Council Community Sponsorship and Contributions Grants supports locally based groups and organisations to deliver initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, encourage participation, bring economic benefit to the municipality and respond to community needs. Support may be provided through financial sponsorship and/or in-kind assistance.



The Goroke Show is an annual agricultural show that celebrates the people, produce and traditions of the West Wimmera. Established in 1889, it attracts families, farmers and visitors for a full day of competitions, horse events, homecraft exhibits, trade displays, children's entertainment, live music and community activities. The show fosters connection, wellbeing and rural pride.

Council sponsorship will contribute to the general running costs of the event. The application has been assessed against the Support to Community Events Grant Guideline and is considered to meet the eligibility criteria.

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

Nil

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 2025 – 2029:

Goal 1 – Healthy, inviting and connected community

1.4 Provide community development opportunities and volunteer support.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications



Equal Impact Assessment

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

This application for the Community Sponsorship and Contributions Grant has been assessed by officers and are eligible for determination by Council.

Attachments

Nil



14.2 Request to utilise Kaniva Recreation Precinct - The Big Rigs Clan - Mobile Home Club

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

To seek Council's consideration of a request from the Big Rigs Clan to utilise a suitable area within the Kaniva Recreation Grounds precinct, to host its Easter 2027 social gathering.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the use of the Kaniva Recreation Precinct for the Big Rigs Clan – mobile home club event to be held 25-30 March 2027 and permit attendees to occupy the site as free camping for the duration of the approved gathering, subject to any conditions deemed appropriate by the Council Chief Executive Officer.

Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Tom Houlihan

That Council approve the use of the Kaniva Recreation Precinct for the Big Rigs Clan – mobile home club event to be held 25-30 March 2027 and permit attendees to occupy the site as free camping for the duration of the approved gathering, subject to any conditions deemed appropriate by the Council Chief Executive Officer.

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 Big Rigs Clan, has approached Council regarding the possibility of hosting the organisation's Easter 2027 gathering within the West Wimmera Shire.

The Big Rigs Clan is a national group comprising owners and operators of large, converted buses and motorhomes, many of whom travel extensively throughout Australia. The organisation conducts several social gatherings each year, providing members with opportunities to network, share information relating to travel and vehicle operation, and foster social connections.

The group is currently seeking a free camping location near the Victorian-South Australian border for its Easter 2027 event. The event is proposed for the period 25–30 March 2027, including time for site setup and pack-down, and would accommodate approximately 30 - 40 large motorhome buses and recreational vehicles measuring up to 19 metres in length. The organisation prefers community-focused regional towns with suitable open spaces capable of accommodating large vehicles. The group is attracted to locations where members can engage with and support local businesses, including hotels, cafés, supermarkets, markets, fuel outlets, and other service providers.

The Big Rigs Clan has advised that participants collectively contribute significant economic benefits to host communities through local expenditure on accommodation-related services, food, fuel, groceries, and tourism activities. The group also places emphasis on complying with local regulations and ensuring sites are left in a clean and orderly condition following events.

Participants travel in fully self-contained motorhomes and buses equipped with onboard sleeping, cooking, water, toilet and waste storage facilities. As a result, reliance on existing public amenities is expected to be minimal, with attendees generally able to operate independently for the duration of the event.

Whilst it is understood that the Kaniva Recreation Reserve oval itself may not be available for use, the group is seeking advice on whether an alternative area within the recreation reserve or elsewhere within the municipality may be suitable. Key requirements include:

- Capacity for approximately 30–40 large recreational vehicles.
- Space for vehicles up to 19 metres in length.
- Suitable ground conditions capable of supporting heavy vehicles.
- Ability to arrange vehicles in a circular or semi-circular formation around a central meeting area.
- Availability during the period 25–30 March 2027.



- Access to essential services and amenities where possible.

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

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 2025 – 2029:

economic development and industry diversification.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Equal Impact Assessment

No Equal Impact Assessment is required



Conclusion

The Big Rigs Clan has expressed interest in bringing its Easter 2027 gathering to the West Wimmera Shire and is seeking a location capable of accommodating 30–40 large recreational vehicles over a six-day period. The event has the potential to generate tangible economic benefits for local businesses and provide positive exposure for the region as a visitor destination.

Subject to site suitability, operational requirements, and Council approval, the proposal presents an opportunity for the West Wimmera Shire to host a well-organised community-focused event that aligns with the group's commitment to supporting regional towns and respecting local facilities.

Attachments

Nil



15 Infrastructure Development and Works

No Reports



16 Sealing Schedule

Unused Road licence - Lorraine Povey

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 Unused Road Licence – Lorraine Povey

Item 18.2 Child Care Fee Reduction Waiver Request for New Educator

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;



Moved: Cr Jodie Pretlove

Seconded: Cr Richard Hicks

That Council pursuant to Section 66 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 close the meeting to members of the public at 2:29pm to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

Item 18.1 Unused Road Licence – Lorraine Povey

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;

Item 18.2 Child Care Fee Reduction Waiver Request for New Educator

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 / 0)

19 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed:

The Council Meeting - 19 August 2026 was declared closed at 2:43pm

Next Meeting:

16 September 2026

Kaniva

Mayor's Signature
