



West Wimmera Shire Council

MINUTES UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 25 March 2026
1:00 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.

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:

Morgaan Wilson - Acting Governance Manager
John Huthins - Community Development 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



5 Corporate and Community Services

5.1 Temporary Free RV Camping & Community Hospitality Activation

Directorate: Corporate and Community Services

Report Author: Community Development Manager

Report Purpose: For Decision

Purpose

To seek Council approval for temporary arrangements at the Kaniva Recreation Reserve during the AFL Gather Round period, including free RV and self-contained camping and community-hosted hospitality events delivered by the Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club (KLUFNC). This report also confirms that campfires will not be permitted under any circumstances.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Approve the temporary provision of free RV and self-contained camping at the Kaniva Recreation Reserve for 8–14 April 2026, supporting community activation during the AFL Gather Round.**
- 2. Endorse Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club undertaking community hospitality events, including Thursday Night Schnitzel Night and one BBQ dinner.**
- 3. Require compliance with Council and CFA safety requirements, including a strict prohibition on all campfires, solid-fuel fires, and open-flame devices.**
- 4. Authorise Council officers to work with KLUFNC to ensure appropriate reserve management, including waste, traffic oversight, risk management, and compliance with regulations.**



Moved: Cr Richard Hicks

Seconded: Cr Helen Hobbs

That Council:

- 1. Approve the temporary provision of free RV and self-contained camping at the Kaniva Recreation Reserve for 8–14 April 2026, supporting community activation during the AFL Gather Round.**
- 2. Endorse Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club undertaking community hospitality events, including Thursday Night Schnitzel Night and one BBQ dinner.**
- 3. Require compliance with Council and CFA safety requirements, including all campfires, solid-fuel fires, and open-flame devices.**
- 4. Authorise Council officers to work with KLUFNC to ensure appropriate reserve management, including waste, traffic oversight, risk management, and compliance with regulations.**
- 5. Officers ensure confirmation of appropriate insurance.**

CARRIED (4 / 1)

Declaration of Interest

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

Background

The AFL Gather Round, scheduled for 8–14 April, is expected to increase visitor movement along the Western Highway as spectators travel to and from Adelaide. Kaniva's location as a midway stop between Melbourne and Adelaide presents a reasonable opportunity to attract short-stay travellers.

KLUFNC has expressed its intention to support community activation by offering temporary hospitality options for travellers stopping at or staying within the Kaniva Recreation Reserve.



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 2021 – 2025:

Goal 2 – Diverse and growing economy

2.5 Encourage economic development and industry diversification.

Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

Gender Equality

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

Conclusion

The proposed temporary arrangements at the Kaniva Recreation Reserve during the AFL Gather Round will support community activation and provide a modest economic benefit through increased visitor activity. The initiative by the Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club to offer free RV and self-contained camping, together with community hospitality events, is consistent with Council's objectives to encourage local participation and promote regional development. Subject to compliance with all relevant safety and regulatory



requirements, including the strict prohibition on campfires, the proposal presents minimal risk and is considered appropriate for Council support.

Attachments

Nil



6 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed:

The Unscheduled Council Meeting - 25 March 2026 was declared closed at 1:21pm

Next Meeting:

15 April 2026

Mayor's Signature
