



# West Wimmera Shire Council

## AGENDA

### COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 17 September 2025  
2:00 pm

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](http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au)



## Councillors and Shire Map



**MAYOR**  
**Cr. Tim Meyer**



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



**Cr. Richard  
Hicks**



**Cr. Helen Hobbs**



**Cr. Tom Houlihan**







## 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, 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.*





## **REQUIRED TO ATTEND:**

### **Councillors:**

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

### **Executive Leadership Team:**

David Bezuidenhout - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Dalton Burns – Director Corporate and 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 Councillors and Council Staff 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 Questions from the Gallery

### 5.1 Written Questions on Notice

*Governance Rules – Division 8 Section 53:*

*53.4 Questions submitted to Council can be submitted as follows:*

*53.4.1 In writing, stating the name and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council; and*

*53.4.2 Placed in the receptacle designated for the purpose at the place of the meeting at least two hours prior to the Council meeting, or be lodged electronically at the prescribed email address at least two hours prior to the Council meeting.*

*53.5 No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting.*

The Question on Notice template is available from the Edenhope and Kaniva Council Offices, and from Council's website.

Written Questions on Notice submitted to Council no later than the deadline of 5:00pm on the Monday in the previous week to the relevant Council Meeting, will be included in the agenda.

Written Questions submitted subsequent to that deadline can be lodged electronically to [Katiefrost@westwimmera.vic.gov.au](mailto:Katiefrost@westwimmera.vic.gov.au), no later than two hours prior to the Council Meeting.

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



## 5.2 Verbal Questions without Notice

### RECOMMENDATION:

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

*Time permitting, this section of the Agenda allows members of gallery to ask verbal questions of Councillors, following the removal of standing orders and when prompted by the Mayor (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.3)*

*Members of the Gallery providing verbal questions without notice at a Council Meeting must state their name, to be recorded in the minutes (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.4.4)*

*No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting (Governance Rules Division 8 S53.5)*

### RECOMMENDATION:

**That Council resume Standing Orders.**





## 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
21/08/2025	Timber Towns Victoria General Meeting
03/09/2025	Councillor Forum
10/09/2025	LTFP & Council Plan Meeting
16/09/2025	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
17/09/2025	Pre Council Meeting
17/09/2025	Council Meeting

### 6.2 Councillor Jodie Pretlove (Deputy Mayor)

Date	Event
03/09/2025	Councillor Forum
10/09/2025	LTFP & Council Plan Meeting
16/09/2025	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
17/09/2025	Pre Council Meeting
17/09/2025	Council Meeting

### 6.3 Councillor Richard Hicks

Date	Event
26/08/2025	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting
03/09/2025	Councillor Forum
10/09/2025	LTFP & Council Plan Meeting
17/09/2025	Pre Council Meeting
17/09/2025	Council Meeting

### 6.4 Councillor Helen Hobbs

Date	Event
03/09/2025	Councillor Forum
10/09/2025	LTFP & Council Plan Meeting
17/09/2025	Pre Council Meeting



17/09/2025

Council Meeting

## 6.5 Councillor Tom Houlihan

Date	Event
03/09/2025	Councillor Forum
10/09/2025	LTFP & Council Plan Meeting
17/09/2025	Pre Council Meeting
17/09/2025	Council Meeting

## 7 Condolences

Nil



## 8 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 8.1 **Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 August 2025**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Minutes of the Unscheduled Confidential Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 August 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.**

#### **Attachments**

Nil

### 8.2 **Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 August 2025**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 August 2025 be taken as an accurate record and confirmed.**

#### **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 - Nil**

## **12 Deputations and Petitions**

There were no Petitions or Deputations submitted for the agenda.



## 13 Chief Executive Officer

### 13.1 Draft Annual Report of Operations, Performance Statements and Financial Statements 2024-25

*Directorate:* Corporate and Community Services

*Report Author:* Chief Financial Officer

*Report Purpose:* For Decision

#### **Purpose**

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) is required under s 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to prepare an Annual Report on the operations of Council in respect of each financial year.

The draft 2024-25 Annual Report including the Financial Statements and Performance Statement are presented to Council for the purposes of:

1. A Council resolution to approve 'in principle' the 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement
2. Authorisation for the 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement to be submitted to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for final audit approval
3. Endorsement of two Councillors to certify Council's 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form
4. Adoption of the Draft 2024-25 Annual Report, with authorisation given to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial changes as required

Following audit approval, Council will include the certified Financial Statements and Performance Statement in the 2024-25 Annual Report.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. **Approve in principle the 2024-25 draft Financial Statements and Performance Statement pending any material changes from the Victorian Auditor-General and:**
  - a. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit the 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement to the Victorian Auditor-General for final audit approval**
  - b. **Nominates two Councillors to sign and authorise the 2024-25 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form**



- c. **Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to make any material changes to the 2024-25 Financial Statements and Performance Statement arising from the completion of audit procedures and reporting the changes to Council.**
- 2. Adopts the attached draft 2024-25 Annual Report**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor editorial changes to the Annual Report as required.**

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

The Annual Report summarises Council operations and provides general information about Council's activities over a 12 month period to 30 June 2025. The report contains statutory requirements and various local government indices along with the audited Financial Statements and the Performance Statement.

The Annual Report also provides a number of departmental reports which provide additional information regarding Council's activities throughout the 2024-25 financial year.

Section 98 (2) of the Act requires that Council produce as part of its annual report, a set of audited Financial Statements and audited Performance Statement for the financial year. Council's external auditors, Crowe Australasia, acting as agents for VAGO, have conducted their 2024-25 final audit.

Following this, Section 99 (3) of the Act requires that the Financial Statements and Performance Statement be certified by two Councillors in their final form after any agreed changes recommended by audit have been undertaken.

Therefore, to complete its legislative requirements, the procedure is as follows:

1. Council receives and approves in principle the draft Financial Statements and Performance Statement, following review by the Audit and Risk Committee;
2. Council passes a resolution in accordance with S.99(2) of the Act authorising two Councillors to sign the Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final (post-audit) form;
3. After review by the Victorian Auditor General's contractor, and after any required and recommended changes to the draft statements are undertaken, the statements are then signed by the two nominated Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer;



4. The Victorian Auditor General issues an audit opinion on the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement;
5. The Financial Statements and Performance Statement are inserted into the Annual Report in their final post-audit form
6. Council holds a meeting to consider the Annual Report in accordance with section 100 of the Act by 31 October 2025

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified: Business continuity risk

Financial risk

Information risk

Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Strategic risk

Council may be exposed to multiple forms of risk by not adopting its Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement.

Failure to follow the process as set out under the Act will result in Council breaching its legislative requirements.

Council may be exposed to reputational risk if it fails to comply with legislative requirements and/or fails to report on its operations, including its financial performance and position. Council's reputation would be negatively impacted if the Annual Report was not submitted and presented in a professional manner.

Council may also be subject to financial and resource risk if it fails to provide Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement by failing to identify financial issues and opportunities, and an inability to be able to effectively plan resource allocation.

### **Legislative Implications**

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Section 98(1) of the Act requires Council to prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year. Section 98(2) prescribes that the annual report must contain;

- (a) a report of operations of the Council;
- (b) an audited performance statement;



- (c) audited financial statements;
- (d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;
- (e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*;
- (f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Per section 99(2) Council, after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, must submit the statements to the auditor for reporting on the audit. Section 100 of the Act prescribes that Council must hold a meeting to consider the Annual Report within 4 months of the end of the financial year.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

The draft Annual Financial Statements contain information on Council's financial performance and variances to the adopted budget for the 2024-25 financial year.

A summary of the outcomes contained within the Annual Financial Statements is as follows:

### **Financial Summary 2024-25**

Council's financial position continues to remain sound with sustainable indicators in all of Council's operations and service delivery. Council's audited Financial Statements and Performance Statement are included herein as part of our annual report.

### **Operating Position**

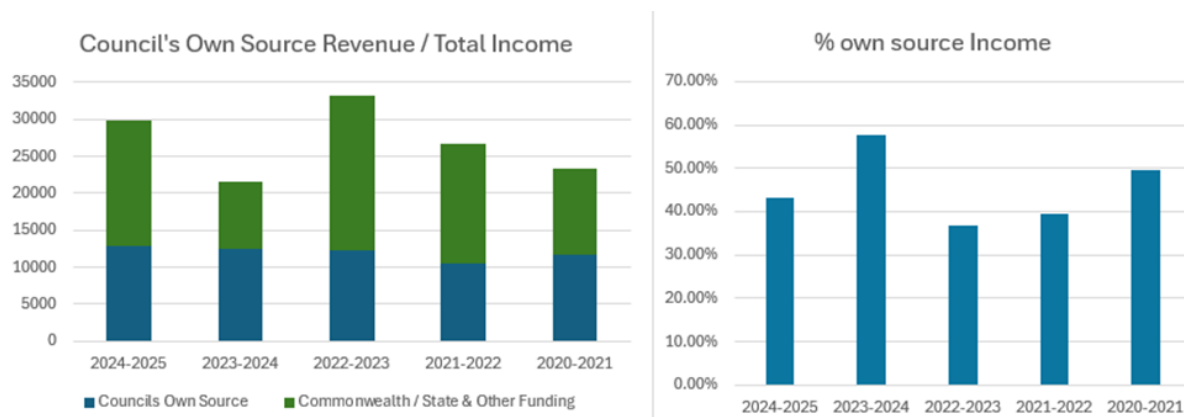
Council's operating results reflect a deficit of \$2.857 million (FY 2023-24: \$ 11.528 million deficit) for the year, the result includes a prepayment of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) by the Commonwealth for 2025-2026. This allocation of \$3.956 million was budgeted as cash inflow for 2025-26 in accordance with historical funding policy. Additionally, the Council has also delivered \$6.695 million in capital projects – as part of Council's Annual Plan and these projects are vital for community wellbeing and recreation activity needs of the community.

The Commonwealth has released \$3.956 of the 2025-2026 FAGs during June 2025 with balance to be funded in four equal instalments during the year. Due to this early payment of



FAGs, the Council has reported \$10.840 million in cash reserves and reflects Council's strong ability to meet its current liabilities.

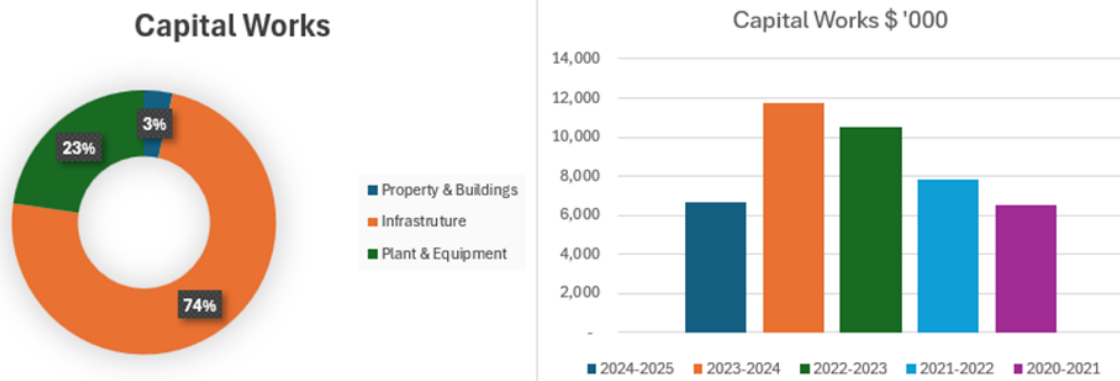
Council's own source income for the year is reported at 43.17% of the total income aggregating to \$12.909 million with another \$16.914 million received in Commonwealth and State grants and subsidies. Council raised \$8.936 million in Rates and Charges, \$2.155 million in reimbursements and other income, \$0.834 million in User Fees, \$0.390 million in interest and \$0.435 million in gain on sale of Council assets. Council has demonstrated significant year on year growth in utilisation of its assets and generating better financial outcome for the Council.



Operating Grants aggregated to \$14.466 million – exceeding the budgeted estimates due to FAGs released in June 2025 and as per directive released for accounting, this amount has been recognised in financial year 2024-25. Capital Grants for FY 2024-25 are reported at \$2.448 million and have also remained lower than our budgeted projections. Council continues to rely on grants and funding from Commonwealth and State for sustainable delivery of its operations and services to the community. Commonwealth and State have endorsed their commitment towards regional and rural Councils in Victoria due to their limited capacity to generate funds from own sources and Council considers its sustainable position in the region with strong delivery and community satisfaction statistics.

Council has achieved a high delivery of capital works program during FY 2023-24 with over \$6.695 million completed and delivered projects. This program delivery includes \$4.330 million spent on Council roads and infrastructure and another \$2.365 million spent on community projects. Council highly values the significance of these community projects and has prioritised community wellbeing in delivering these sporting and recreational activity projects. This has another high level of capital works delivered and Council continues to set higher delivery benchmarks in the region.





Council's reported expenses for the year are represented by Employee Costs of \$11.544 million and account for 35% of the total expenses. Materials & Services aggregate to \$9.587 million and considering the value of capital works delivery for the year, the combined total of Employee Costs and Materials & Services have made a significant value-added contribution towards Council's objectives and commitments to the community.

Depreciation for the year is reported at \$10.826 million, and the Council has a well-integrated mechanism of its asset management plan, and the renewals linked to our critical infrastructure assets. Council has over \$261.586 million worth of assets and has a comprehensive condition assessment and management plan to maintain these assets over their useful life.

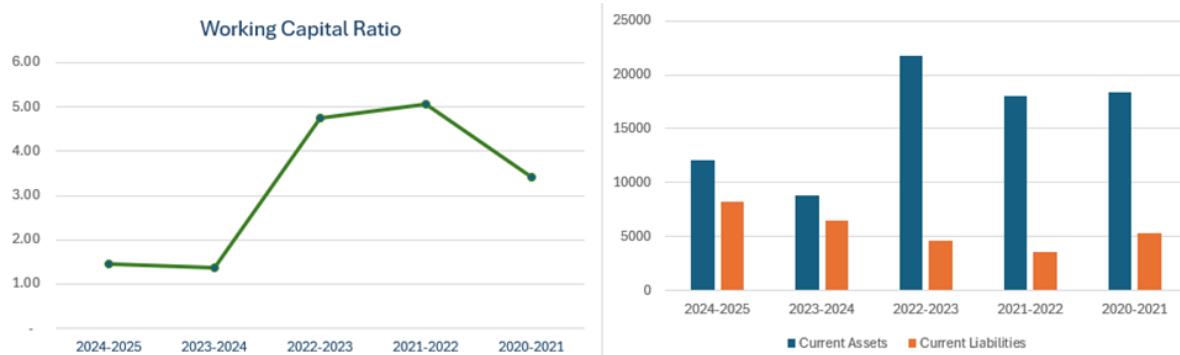
Council's current assets of \$12.085 million provide a fair capacity to meet our current liabilities of \$8.286 million and demonstrate a balanced current ratio of 1.46. Our cash reserves stand at \$10.840 million.

Current liabilities at close of financial year remained \$8.286 million represented by \$2.141 million in trade and other payables. The project's completion and other work completed in Q4 and towards the end of the financial year are reflected in this liability and settled in accordance with terms of trade. The amount of \$2.180 million in our current liabilities provides coverage to employee leave entitlements and other financial obligations expected to be settled within the next financial year. Contract liabilities of \$1.360 million reflect initial funding released for projects planned for FY 2025-26 and community contributions towards these projects. These funds have not been recognised as income in this financial year in accordance with provisions of Australian Accounting Standard Board AASB 1058 and AASB 15.

Council's non-current assets have indicated steady growth to aggregate at \$262.014 million with the highest representation from our infrastructure assets worth \$231.974 million. Council gauges the importance of these infrastructure assets as critical and allocates its financial resources to maintain these assets. A recent statewide condition assessment comparison demonstrates that WWSC is amongst the top performing Council for road and infrastructure assets conditions. The community surveys also reflect higher satisfaction level for Council's delivery services to its residents and rate payers.



Council's working capital adequacy is reflected by our current assets adequacy to meet our financial obligations. The working capital adequacy for FY 2024-25 is considered optimum and is reflective of changes in grants disbursements by the Commonwealth, but Council's financial indicators demonstrate the sustainability measure.



### Policy Implications

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

- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Asset Disposal Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Borrowings Policy
- Communications Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Community Support Fund Policy
- Corporate Credit Card and Purchase Cards Policy
- Council Grants Policy
- Fraud & Corruption Control Policy
- Guarantor Policy
- Investment Policy
- Procurement Policy

### Council Plan Implications

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

#### **Goal 4 – Good Governance**

- 4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.
- 4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.
- 4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.



4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organization.

4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

### **Communication Implications**

Upon audit clearance of the Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement, these documents will be appended to the 2024-25 Annual Report and will become freely available to the public.

In accordance with section 100 of the Act, public notice via local media and Council's website will be provided 14 days prior to the Council Meeting to consider the Annual Report that Council will consider the Annual Report for 2024-25 at a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

This document will be available for inspection by the public and will be published on Council's website. Copies will also be on display at Councils' Edenhope and Kaniva Customer Service Centres.

### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

### **Conclusion**

In summary, this report recommends that Council approves in principle the 2024-25 draft Financial Statements and Draft Performance Statement and authorises them to be submitted to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for final audit approval. Following audit approval, Council will include the certified Financial Statements and Performance Statement in the 2024-25 Annual Report.

### **Attachments**

1. 2024-25 annual report Final draft 7 small file [**13.1.1** - 110 pages]
2. 2024-25 performance statement Final Draft [**13.1.2** - 11 pages]
3. Annual Financial Statements-2024-2025 Final Draft [**13.1.3** - 59 pages]

# DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025







### Acknowledgement of Country

West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pays respect to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

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## About our Annual Report

The 2024/2025 Annual Report reviews our strategic, operational, and financial performance for the financial year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. This important document demonstrates our commitment to open and accountable governance, showing our community how we have performed and whether we fulfilled our promises.

The report aligns our highlights and achievements with the strategic goals and strategies set out in our Council Plan 2021-2025. It meets legislative and compliance reporting requirements under section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Annual Report contains the following:

- (a) a report of operations of the Council
- (b) an audited performance statement
- (c) audited financial statements
- (d) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under part three of the Audit Act 1994
- (f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

This year, our Annual Report goes beyond statutory requirements, providing a comprehensive and engaging account of our activities. It serves as an essential tool to inform all stakeholders of our performance and plans, reflecting our vision to create a community where people choose to live, work, visit, and invest.

The Annual Report 2024/2025 includes:

- An overview of the shire, including a message from the CEO and mayor
- Information on our council and governance
- Organisational structure
- Detailed performance and financial statements
- Case studies highlighting key projects and initiatives



Photo: New councillors being sworn in

## Our Shire

**West Wimmera Shire is located along the Victorian-South Australian border, covering 9108 square kilometres. The region spans from the southern towns of Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow to Geroke, Kaniva and Serviceton in the north.**

Home to about 4,000 residents, the shire is known for its welcoming communities, thriving local industries and diverse natural landscapes.

A defining feature of West Wimmera is its environmental variety. The Little Desert National Park runs through the region and marks a natural divide between landscapes. Northern areas are characterised by western mallee country, bordering the Big Desert National Park and renowned for producing some of Australia's finest durum wheat. In contrast, the southern part of the shire is red gum country, rich in wetlands, lakes, and the Glenelg River.

With its high environmental diversity and low population density, much of West Wimmera is native environment. It is home to rare and regionally significant flora and fauna, including the critically endangered spiny rice-flower and the recently rediscovered golden-rayed blue butterfly. Nature-based tourism is steadily growing as visitors seek out the region's wildlife, open spaces, and unspoilt beauty.

Agriculture and forestry remain the backbone of the local economy, contributing an estimated \$518.8 million of West Wimmera's total economic output of \$788.2 million. Fertile soils and reliable rainfall continue to support these key industries.

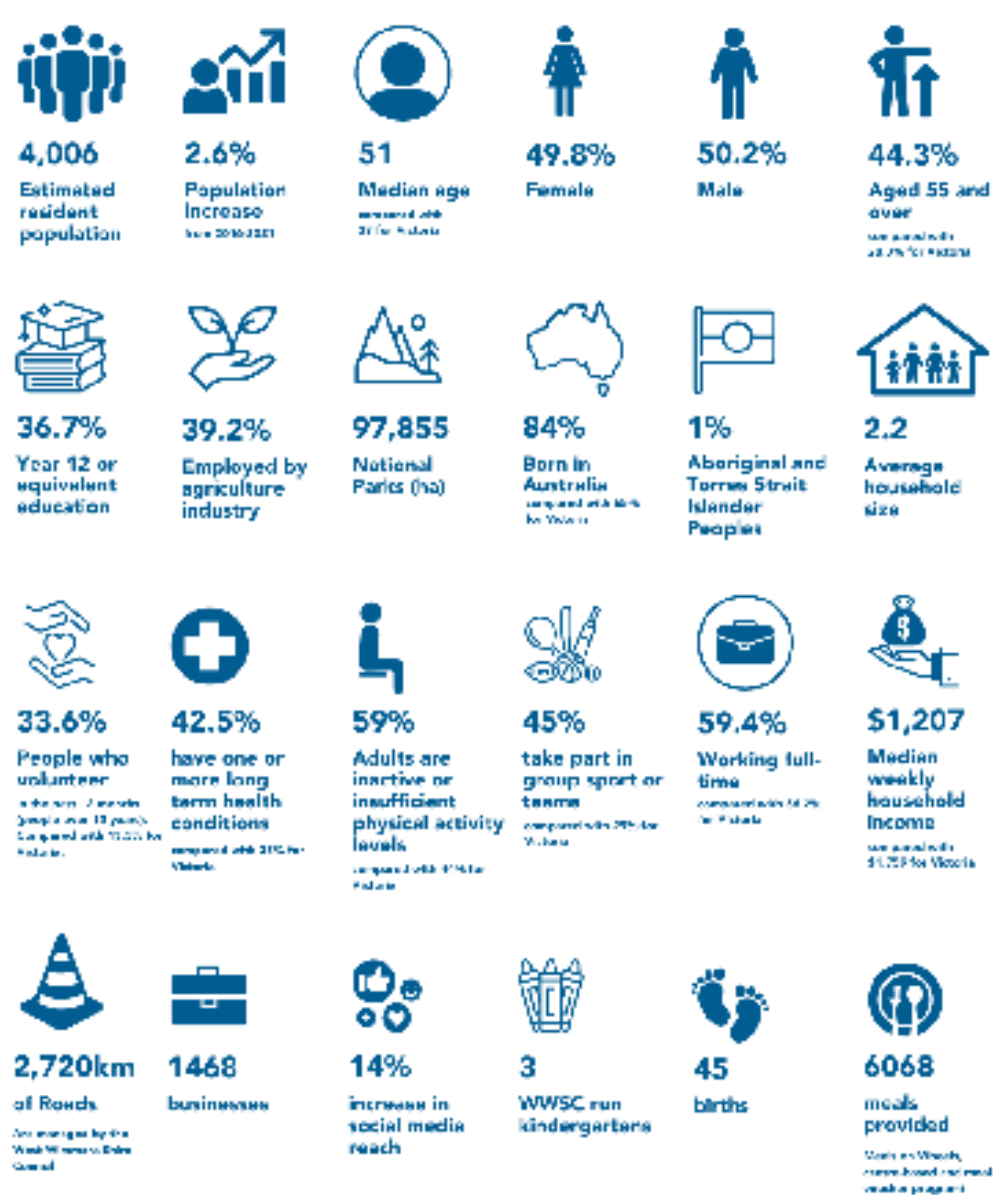
The region boasts high quality education, healthcare services, alongside a range of sporting and recreational facilities. These include motorsports venues, equestrian complexes, and netball, football, hockey and tennis clubs.

A Mediterranean-style climate, strong community spirit and high levels of volunteerism make West Wimmera a healthy and connected place to live, work and play.





## About West Wimmera





## Mayor and Chief Executive Officer's message

It is with pride that we present the 2024-2025 Annual Report, reflecting on a year of delivery and achievement across West Wimmera Shire.

During 2024/25, Council completed several major projects that have strengthened our community facilities and services. Recreation spaces were enhanced with the successful delivery of AFL lighting upgrades at both Harrow and Kaniva Recreation Reserves, officially opened in June 2025. These projects were made possible through by substantial council contribution, along with strong partnerships with local clubs, committees, and State Government funding.

The Edenhope Lake Wallace boat ramp extension was also completed, providing improved access for anglers, boaters, and visitors to the lake. Meanwhile, the West Wimmera Cabins Project was finalised, with eight new cabins delivered across caravan parks in Lake Charlegrark, Kaniva, Harrow and Gorokey. These cabins have already proven valuable for seasonal workers and visiting tourists, adding to the region's capacity to welcome guests.

Investment in essential infrastructure was another feature of the year. Road reconstruction works were completed on Mooree Road and South Lillimur Road, along with bridge and kerb upgrades across the shire. Footpath improvements in Edenhope and Gorokey enhanced safety and accessibility for pedestrians, while Council's resealing and maintenance programs contributed to keeping the local road network safe and reliable.

Council also played an important role in emergency response and recovery during the Chetwynd, Little Desert and Diggers Lane fires. The dedication of staff,

volunteers and emergency services during these events demonstrated the resilience of our community and the value of strong partnerships in times of need.

Community voices remained central to our work. The 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey reflected steady results across most measures, with strong ratings for customer service and overall performance, and valuable feedback that will guide further improvements. Engagement with residents and community groups throughout the year also ensured that projects and services reflected local priorities.

In addition to completed projects, Council secured funding and progressed planning for a range of initiatives to benefit the community. Funding was secured for upgrades at Gorokey Recreation Reserve, Kaniva Bowling Club, and the Kaniva Dog Park, with project planning underway for new lighting, irrigation, fencing, and accessible facilities.

Planning commenced for Gorokey Swimming Centre upgrades, including schematic designs for future improvements. At Gorokey Kindergarten, funding was secured for a new inclusive playground. Remediation and planning works progressed at the Kaniva Depot, and construction on the Edenhope Recreation Reserve changerooms began. Edenhope Aerodrome received infrastructure upgrades, including a bore, solar pump, and taxiway improvements. These actions during 2024/25 demonstrate Council's commitment to strengthening community infrastructure, supporting local clubs and groups, and enhancing the liveability of West Wimmera.

These projects and efforts also highlight Council's ongoing commitment to working with the community, local organisations, and government partners to deliver meaningful outcomes.

We thank our Councillors, staff and community members for their dedication throughout the year. Together, these achievements demonstrate the strength and resilience of West Wimmera and our shared commitment to building a vibrant and connected community.

**Cr Tim Meyer**  
Mayor

**David Bezuidenhout**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Our 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.

### **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.

### **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'.

## Major changes

### **Aged and Disability Services**

Council resolved to withdraw from delivering the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) due to increasing regulatory and governance requirements.

- April 2025 – Department of Health (DH) appointed West Wimmera Health Service (WWHS) as the new CHSP provider from 1 July 2025.
- June 2025 – Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) appointed Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) as the new HACC PYP provider from 1 July 2025.

Council worked closely with both providers to ensure a smooth transition for clients and staff and will continue to collaborate to support continuity of care and service delivery.

## Major achievements

- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Amplify and Engage 2025-27 successful funding application.
- Steampunk Festival High Tea held at Serviceton Railway Station
- Successful grant applications to multiple community groups and organisations
- Support to the community following the Little Desert National Park Fires
- Completion of the Cabins at Goroke, Harrow and Lake Charlegrark
- Successful funding applications for the Kaniva Bowls Synthetic Green, Accessible Amenities, and Sports Lighting Upgrade, Goroke PreSchool - Playground upgrade and Goroke AFL Sports Lighting and Oval Upgrade projects
- Application submitted for additional Worker Accommodation through the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund
- Completion of the Edenhope Equine Facility Upgrade, Harrow Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade and Kaniva Recreation Reserve AFL Lighting Upgrade projects.
- Advocacy plan developed and pushing hard on advocacy matters



*Photo: Goroke Cabins Project*



## Our Council

This section presents the profiles of the elected members and a financial summary for 2024/2025. It outlines the Council's financial position. The report covers key aspects such as cash reserves, income sources, and the completion of capital works projects. It also highlights the Council's ongoing investment in infrastructure and community initiatives, aimed at maintaining assets and supporting community needs, while indicating a focus on long-term financial sustainability.



## Elected Member Profiles



### Mayor Tim Meyer

First term: 18 Oct 2020

Current term: 2024-2028

Mayor since: Nov 2023

M | 0437 219 818

E | TimMeyer@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

- o West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- o Rural Councils Victoria
- o Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)
- o Northwest Municipalities Association
- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o Audit and Risk Committee
- o Timber Towns Victoria
- o Wimmera Southern Mallee Development



### Deputy Mayor Jodie Pretlove

First term: 22 Oct 2016

Current term: 2024-2028

Deputy Mayor since: Nov 2024

M | 0437 238 902

E | JodiePretlove@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

- o West Wimmera Shire Cemetery Trust
- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o Audit and Risk Committee



### Councillor Helen Hobbs

First term: 7 Nov 2024

Current term: 2024-2028

M | 0476 220 186

E | HelenHobbs@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- o Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group
- o Kaniva Community Sporting Complex



### Councillor Tom Houlihan

First term: 22 Oct 2016

Current term: 2024-2028

Deputy Mayor since:  
Nov 2023 - Nov 2024

M | 0437 219 881

E | TomHoulihan@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre Inc
- o Local Government Statewide Forum – Recycling & Waste Matters
- o West Wimmera Rural Water Supply Project Steering Committee
- o West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- o West Grampians Community Consultative Committee



### Councillor Richard Hicks

First term: 22 Oct 2016

Current term: 2024-2028

M | 0408 906 033

E | RichardHicks@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o Rail Freight Alliance
- o West Wimmera Cemetery Trust
- o Western Highway Action Committee



### Councillor Bruce Meyer

First term: 1993, Shire of Kaniva

Last term: 18 October 2020

- o Audit and Risk Committee
- o CEO Performance Planning Advisory Committee
- o Kaniva Community Sporting Complex
- o West Wimmera Shire Cemetery Trust

# 2024/2025 Financial Summary

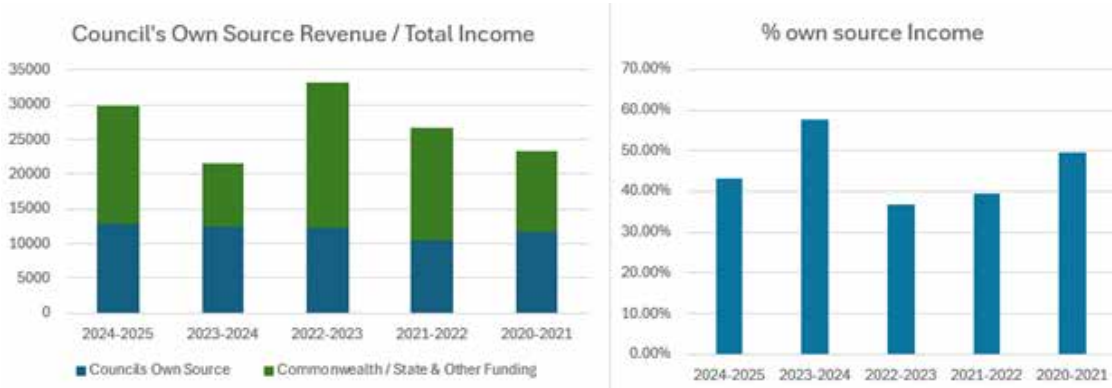
Council’s financial position continues to remain sound with sustainable indicators in all of Council’s operations and service delivery. Council’s audited Financial Statements and Performance Statement are included herein as part of our annual report.

## OPERATING POSITION

Council’s operating results reflect a deficit of \$2.857 million (FY 2023-24: \$ 11.528 million deficit) for the year, the result includes a prepayment of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) by the Commonwealth for 2025-2026. This allocation of \$3.956 million was budgeted as cash inflow for 2025-26 in accordance with historical funding policy. Additionally, the Council has also delivered \$6.695 million in capital projects – as part of Council’s Annual Plan and these projects are vital for community wellbeing and recreation activity needs of the community.

The Commonwealth has released \$3.956 of the 2025-2026 FAGs during June 2025 with balance to be funded in four equal instalments during the year. Due to this early payment of FAGs, the Council has reported \$10.840 million in cash reserves and reflects Council’s strong ability to meet its current liabilities.

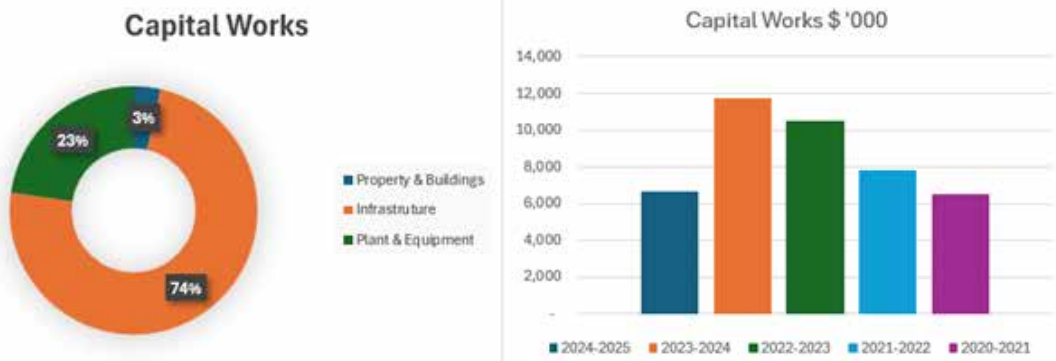
Council’s own source income for the year is reported at 43.17% of the total income aggregating to \$12.909 million with another \$16.914 million received in Commonwealth and State grants and subsidies. Council raised \$8.936 million in Rates and Charges, \$2.155 million in reimbursements and other income, \$0.834 million in User Fees, \$0.390 million in interest and \$0.435 million in gain on sale of Council assets. Council has demonstrated significant year on year growth in utilisation of its assets and generating better financial outcome for the Council.



Operating Grants aggregated to \$14.466 million – exceeding the budgeted estimates due to FAGs released in June 2025 and as per directive released for accounting, this amount has been recognised in financial year 2024-25. Capital Grants for FY 2024-25 are reported at \$2.448 million and have also remained lower than our budgeted projections. Council continues to rely on grants and funding from Commonwealth and State for sustainable delivery of its operations and services to the community. Commonwealth and State have endorsed their commitment towards regional and rural Councils in Victoria due to their limited capacity to generate funds from own sources and Council considers its sustainable position in the region with strong delivery and community satisfaction statistics.



Council has achieved a high delivery of capital works program during FY 2023-24 with over \$6.695 million completed and delivered projects. This program delivery includes \$4.330 million spent on Council roads and infrastructure and another \$2.365 million spent on community projects. Council highly values the significance of these community projects and has prioritised community wellbeing in delivering these sporting and recreational activity projects. This has another high level of capital works delivered and Council continues to set higher delivery benchmarks in the region.



Council's reported expenses for the year are represented by Employee Costs of \$11.544 million and account for 35% of the total expenses. Materials & Services aggregate to \$9.587 million and considering the value of capital works delivery for the year, the combined total of Employee Costs and Materials & Services have made a significant value-added contribution towards Council's objectives and commitments to the community.

Depreciation for the year is reported at \$10.826 million and the Council has a well-integrated mechanism of its asset management plan, and the renewals linked to our critical infrastructure assets. Council has over \$261.586 million worth of assets and have a comprehensive condition assessment and management plan to maintain these assets over their useful life.

Council's current assets of \$12.085 million provide a fair capacity to meet our current liabilities of \$8.286 million and demonstrate a balanced current ratio of 1.46. Our cash reserves stand at \$10.840 million.

Current liabilities at close of financial year remained \$8.286 million represented by \$2.141 million in trade and other payables. The projects completion and other works completed in Q4 and towards end of financial year are reflected in this liability and settled in accordance with terms of trade. An amount of \$2.180 million in our current liabilities provide coverage to employee leave entitlements and other financial obligations expected to be settled within the next financial year. Contract liabilities of \$1.360 million reflect initial funding released for projects planned for FY 2025-26 and community contributions towards these projects. These funds have not been recognised as income in this financial year in accordance with provisions of Australian Accounting Standard Board AASB 1058 and AASB 15.

Council's non-current assets have indicated steady growth to aggregate at \$262.014 million with highest representation from our infrastructure assets worth \$231.974 million. Council gauges the importance of these infrastructure assets as critical and allocates its financial resources to maintain these assets. A recent statewide condition assessment comparison demonstrates that

WWSC is amongst the top performing Council for road and infrastructure assets conditions. The community surveys also reflect higher satisfaction level for Council’s delivery services to its residents and rate payers.

Council’s working capital adequacy is reflected by our current assets adequacy to meet our financial obligations. The working capital adequacy for FY 2024-25 is considered optimum and is reflective of changes in grants disbursements by the Commonwealth, but Council’s financial indicators demonstrate the sustainability measure.

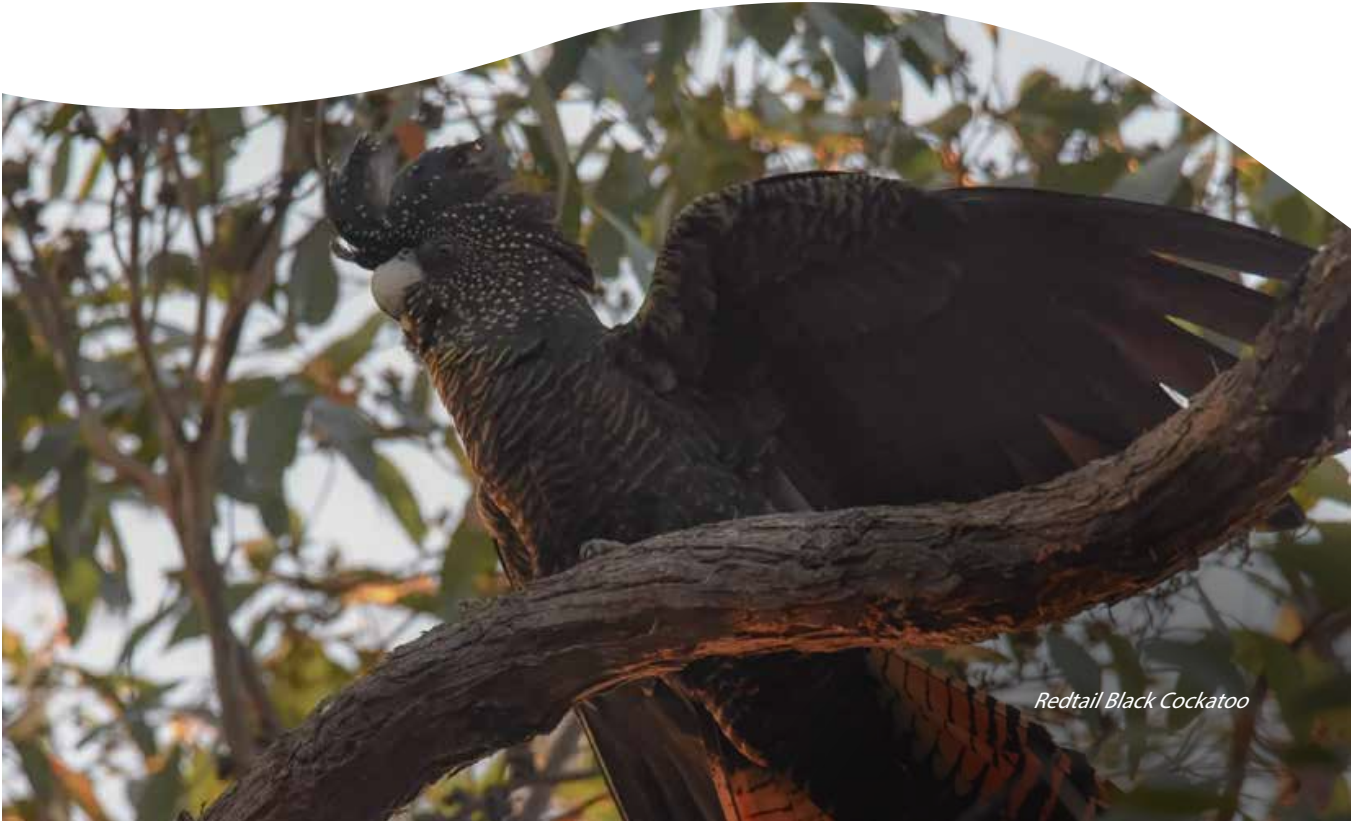
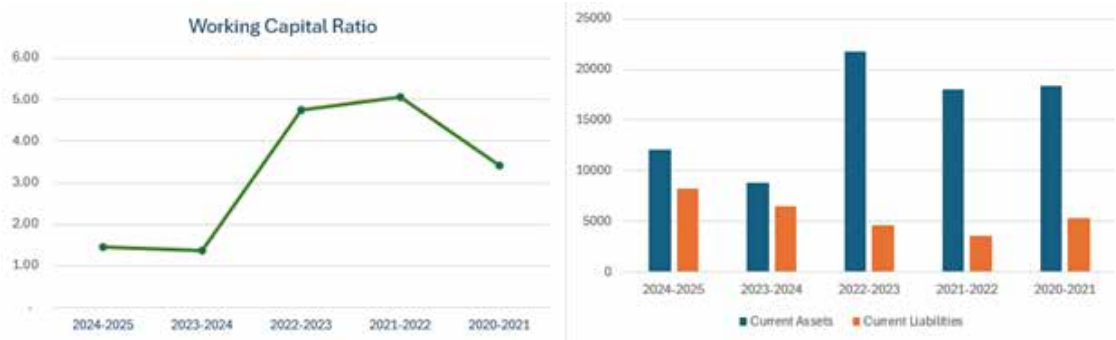




Photo: West Wimmera Shire Council Edenhope Customer Service Centre

# Our Organisation

This section provides an overview of West Wimmera Shire Council's structure and leadership, focusing on the roles within the Executive Leadership Team and business units. It highlights Council's commitment to occupational health and safety, gender equality, and equal employment opportunity. Detailed human resource data, including employee distribution and workplace diversity, is presented through diagrams and tables to offer a clear picture of the organisation's workforce.

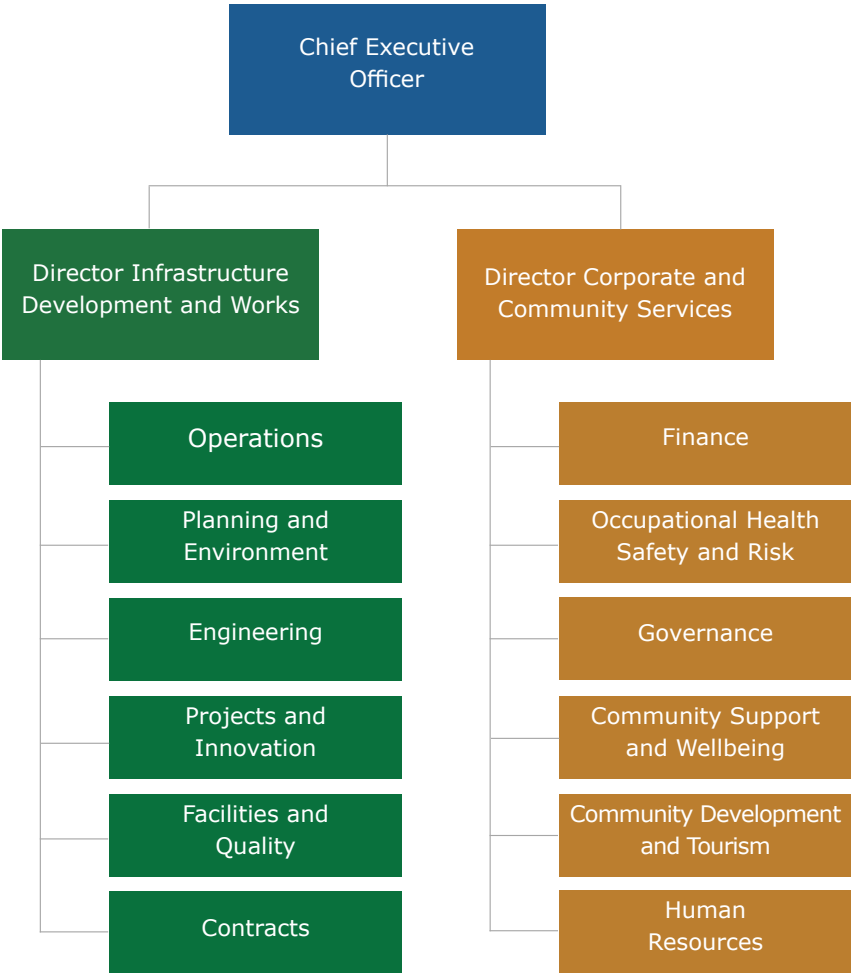


# Organisational structure

West Wimmera Shire Council is divided into two directorates: infrastructure, development and works; corporate and community service, each led by a director who reports to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Each directorate includes a number of business units, led by a business unit manager, each overseeing thier individual areas of responsibility while working collaboratively across the organisation. Council is the governing body that appoints the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. Two directors and the CEO form the Executive Leadership Team.

Organisational chart as at 30 June 2025





## Governor of Victoria visits West Wimmera Shire

West Wimmera Shire Council hosted the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, for a two-day tour of the shire, covering Kaniva, Gorokey, and Harrow. The visit offered a detailed view of the region's community initiatives, local businesses, and essential services.

The tour began in Kaniva with a Council briefing, followed by a visit to Hannaton Poll Merinos and White Suffolks to observe advanced agricultural practices in a family-run enterprise. In Gorokey, the Governor joined a round table discussion with local emergency services, toured the Gorokey CFA/SES shed, and visited the Gorokey Silo Art. The day also included a visit to Miga Lake Flowers to see sustainable flower farming in action.

In Harrow, the Governor visited the Bush Nursing Centre to learn about local health services and toured the Harrow Discovery

Centre, gaining insight into the region's Indigenous cricket history and upcoming Harrow Sound and Light Show. The tour concluded in Kaniva at the Wetlands and Fauna Park, where the Governor planted a tree and met volunteers from the Kaniva Lions Club.

During the visit, the Governor was briefed on key local issues including road conditions, housing, and childcare needs. The tour highlighted the innovation and dedication of local businesses and volunteers while drawing attention to the ongoing challenges faced by rural communities.

This visit provided a platform to showcase the shire's assets, celebrate community achievements, and engage in discussions about critical infrastructure and service priorities, reinforcing the importance of local advocacy and support for regional development.



## Executive profiles

### David Bezuidenhout

Chief Executive Officer



Master of Project Management  
Graduate Company Director  
Law degree

Admitted as Legal Practitioner in Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia.

David Bezuidenhout was born in South Africa and spent nearly 20 years in the defence force. David is qualified as a lawyer and worked in private practice for 16 years in South Africa and later in Queensland after migrating to Australia in 2006. Over the next 12 years, David worked in both the legal space and in senior projects and general management roles for firms including, Worley Parsons and Spotless in Queensland.

David made the transition into the public sector in 2015 as Head of Capital Projects for the Gladstone Area Water Board and in 2018 joined Cloncurry Shire Council in northwest Queensland as its CEO.

### Brendan Pearce

Director Infrastructure  
Development and Works



Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

Brendan Pearce was born in Hopetoun and was raised on a wheat/sheep farm near Woomelang. He attended school at Woomelang Primary School and Sea Lake High School (now Tyrell College).

Since graduation, Brendan has worked in engineering roles for councils in Victoria (Bairnsdale Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire), Queensland (Kilcoy Shire, Burnett Shire, North Burnett Shire, Cloncurry Shire) and Northern Territory (Katherine Town Council).

Brendan has two children, who are now young adults and live in Brisbane, and a small dachshund that is probably too spoiled. Brendan enjoys living in 'real' Australia and throughout his career and travels has gravitated to smaller country communities.

#### Areas of responsibility:

- Infrastructure & Assets – roads, footpaths, drainage, buildings, facilities, aerodrome, quarries
- Environment & Community Services – waste, recycling, health, local laws, emergency management, parks, pools
- Planning & Development – statutory and strategic planning, building, property, economic growth
- Projects & Innovation – project delivery, innovation

James Bentley

Director Corporate and  
Community Services



Master of Professional Accounting

After starting his career in corporate risk and underwriting in Sydney, James transitioned to Local Government in 2006. He has held senior roles in customer experience, finance and revenue in councils across New South Wales and Queensland and brings with him genuine enthusiasm about the power of positive culture to deliver improvement for our community.

James believes that working in Council is one of the most satisfying ways to contribute to the prosperity and sustainability of the place we call home.

Dalton Burns

Director Corporate and  
Community Services



Bachelor of Commerce  
Master of Business Administration

Dalton grew up in Horsham and spent much of his spare time at the family farm at Douglas with both his mother and father growing up on properties in Douglas and Harrow respectively.

He attended Deakin University studying a Bachelor of Commerce and later obtained his CPA and more recently a Master of Business Administration. During his working life he has spent time in financial and business management in education, training and public health. Spending time in rural and remote parts of the Wimmera leading to developing a particular understanding of the challenges facing rural and regional communities.

At home he is a devoted dad and enjoy sport, where he still plays football for Harrow Balmoral Football Netball Club.

Dalton is following in his grandfather's footsteps where he was 'president' of the shire in the mid 1970s.

Areas of responsibility:

- Finance, rates and revenue
- Customer service
- Human resources
- Governance
- Occupational health, safety and risk
- Kindergartens, early years services
- Risk management, audit committee
- Maternal and Child Health Service
- Youth services
- Home and Community Care Services
- Community and volunteer support
- Information technology
- Cemeteries
- Community development and tourism



## Our people

West Wimmera Shire Council is divided into two directorates: infrastructure, development and works; corporate and community service, each led by a director who reports to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Council continues to maintain its commitment to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity through recruitment and selection and employment arrangements.

Council continued to implement its Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) and submitted a Progress Report to the Gender Equality Commission in February 2024. The progress report documented Council's work towards the strategies and measures outlined in the GEAP and progress in relation to the workplace gender equality indicators.

Equal Impact Assessment training was delivered to the Senior Leadership Group, facilitated by Women's Health Grampians. The training assisted Council staff to ensure the principles of gender equality are embedded in our policy and program development, according to the requirements of the Gender Equality Act.

Table 1: Employee distribution by organisational structure by employment type by gender

Row Labels	Corporate and Community Services	Executive	Infrastructure Development and Works	Total
<b>Casual</b>	<b>3.80</b>		<b>2.50</b>	<b>6.30</b>
Female	3.80		1.00	4.80
Male			1.50	1.50
<b>Full time</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>56.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>
Female	14.00	1.00	9.00	24.00
Male	1.00	3.00	47.00	51.00
<b>Part time</b>	<b>17.22</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>25.70</b>
Female	15.82	1.00	3.20	20.02
Male	0.60		4.29	4.89
Unspecified	0.80			0.80
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>36.02</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>65.98</b>	<b>107.01</b>

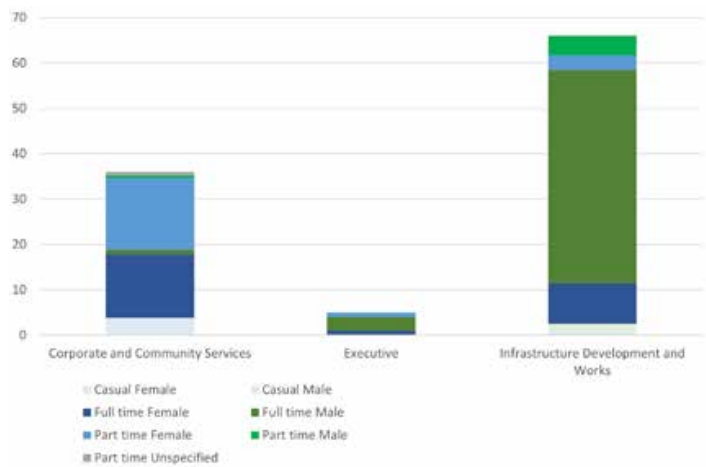


Figure 1: Employee distribution by organisational structure by employment type by gender (CEO, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

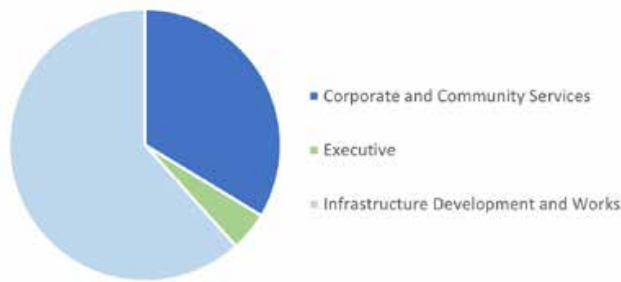


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of enrolment type within organisational structure (Executive, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

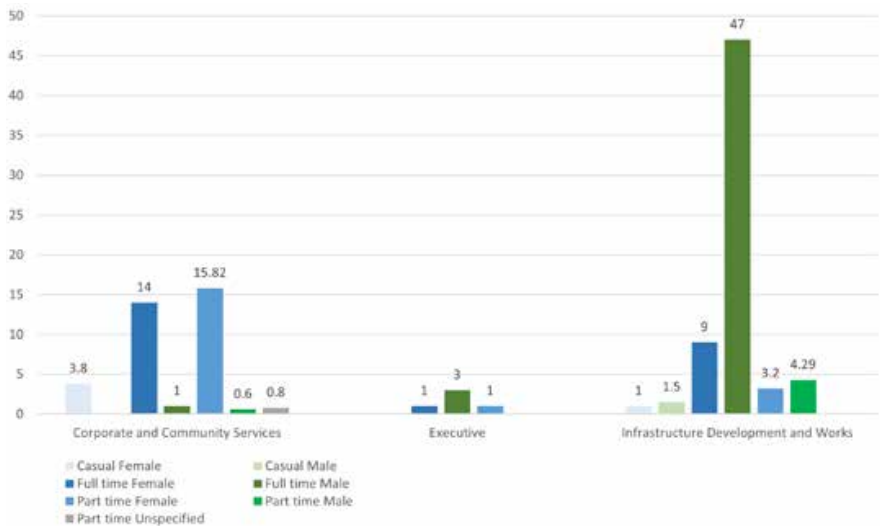


Figure 3: Distribution of employees by organisational structure, employment type and gender (Executive, Corporate and Community and Infrastructure Development and Works)

Table 2: Employee distribution by banding by gender

Row Labels	Female	Male	Unspecified	Total
Band 2	4.54	10.03		14.56
Band 3	2.30	19.60		21.90
Band 4	7.38	6.00	0.80	14.18
Band 5	8.47	7.60		16.07
Band 6	5.00	3.00		8.00
Band 7	4.50	1.80		6.30
Band 8	4.60	5.76		10.36
Band not applicable	12.03	3.60		15.63
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48.82</b>	<b>57.39</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>107.01</b>

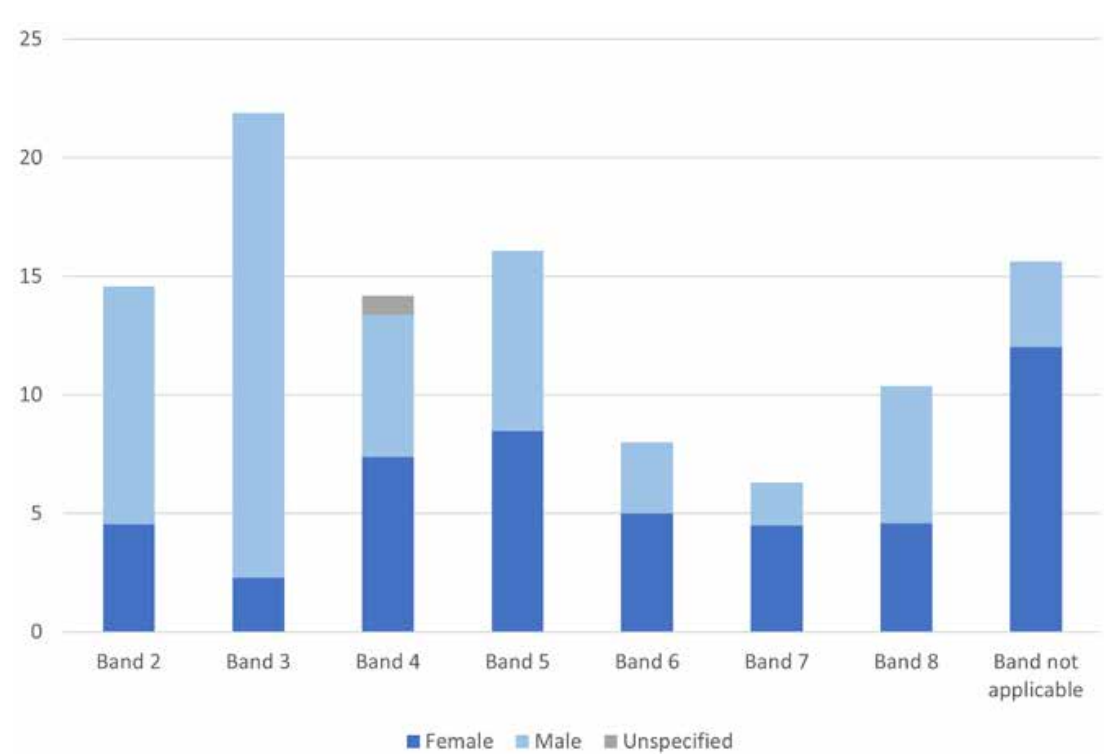


Figure 4: Employee distribution by banding by gender

## Occupational Health and Safety

West Wimmera Shire Council continued its partnership with AEGIS Risk Management Services during 2024/25, receiving targeted support in return-to-work strategies. This collaboration has significantly reduced return-to-work timeframes, enabling staff to resume pre-injury duties and hours more efficiently. AEGIS delivered a four-hour training session for the senior leadership team, coordinators and supervisors on positively influencing claim liability.

A strong focus remained on contractor safety, with 265 online inductions completed by contractors and their employees throughout the year.

The Elumina software system remains Council's Occupational Health and Safety Management System, providing online incident reporting accessible via the intranet and mobile devices. Incident reporting has continued to rise, supporting a downward

trend in both the number and severity of injuries, which has contributed to a reduction in Council's WorkCover premium.

Council's OHS committee, established under the OHS Act 2004, includes seven management representatives and six elected health and safety representatives. The committee met four times during 2024/25 on 13 August 2024, 18 November 2024, 4 March 2025 and 20 May 2025.

Council continued to deliver an extensive OHS training program to maintain staff skills and compliance. Training covered a range of areas including construction induction (white card), first aid, chemical handling, health and safety representative training, truck licences, forklift operation, traffic management and fire warden responsibilities.

Additional initiatives included an internal OHS trivia competition in October to coincide with WorkSafe week, and quarterly OHS safety awards, which recognise individuals who have demonstrated exceptional safety practices or initiatives.



Photo: WWSC southern works crew





## Our Community

This section highlights West Wimmera Shire Council's role in supporting and engaging with the community. It covers the celebration of community events, advocacy efforts on behalf of residents, and the Council's communication strategies, including newsletters, social media, and website. The section also provides insights from the Community Satisfaction Survey and other data, offering an overview of how these efforts have supported the community.



# Our communications

West Wimmera Shire Council remains focused on ensuring residents and ratepayers are kept informed and connected through a range of communication channels and engagement opportunities.

Our stakeholders include:
Residents
Ratepayers
Community groups and volunteers
Customers
Government
Visitors

In 2024/25, communications and engagement supported a wide range of projects across Council. Major initiatives and milestones included AFL lighting upgrades at Kaniva and Harrow ovals, and new cabins at many of the shire's caravan parks. Key campaigns and civic events such as 16 Days of Activism, National Volunteer Week, and Australia Day Awards were also supported through coordinated communications and promotional activity.

Engagement and communications also played a vital role in the development and delivery of strategic documents including Council's Onsite Wastewater Management Plan, Road Management Plan and Community Engagement Policy.

The fortnightly electronic newsletter continues to serve as a core communications tool, sharing news and updates with 988 subscribers. A monthly printed version is also produced and distributed to post offices across the shire, ensuring residents who prefer a hard copy can access current Council information. Each edition includes project updates, service information, engagement opportunities and a calendar of upcoming community events.

Findings from the 2025 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey highlight a shift in communication preferences, with email newsletters now the most preferred method of receiving Council news and event information (31%), followed by newsletters via mail (22%). This marks the first time email has overtaken mail as the leading communication channel. Social media continues to be a valued source of information, particularly among residents under 50, and remains an important part of Council's communications mix.

Council issued 82 media releases during the year, shared with media outlets and community subscribers, and also published on the Council website. Regular advertising continued in key regional and local publications, including the Nhill Free Press, Kaniva Times, Edenhope and District Echo, Wimmera Mail-Times, Weekly Advertiser, Goroke Free Press, Servi Snippets, Maggie Chatter (Apsley), Harrow Happenings and Casterton News.

## WEBSITE

The Council website and tourism microsite remain important platforms for information and access to services. These websites continue to see strong engagement, with the most visited pages including:

- Employment
- Landfill and transfer stations
- Contact us
- Mayors and councillors
- About us

Council's event calendar remains open to community submissions, and over 70 local events were featured in the past year, supporting local participation and tourism.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Council’s social media presence continues to grow. Key figures from Council’s social media platform in 2024/25 included:

Platform	Description
Facebook	Facebook followers increased by 14.4% to 2996, with 889 posts shared across the year
Instagram	Council increased its Instagram follows by 14.9% per cent and published 42 posts
Other	Other Council-affiliated social media accounts include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit West Wimmera Facebook Page (205 followers)</li><li>• Visit West Wimmera Instagram Page (309 followers)</li></ul>

These channels support Council’s efforts to communicate in real time, promote events and services, and share community updates with a broad audience.

Advocacy

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 was divided into actions and advocacy actions to enable more accurate tracking of activity associated with the plan and to ensure that all activities align with the plan.

The plan contain several advocacy points, which include advocacy to various stakeholders (federal and state governments, state departments, members of parliament and other organisations).

Our councillors, CEO and directors have attended a series of meetings with these stakeholders during the past financial year.

Main advocacy points were on the following:

- Road infrastructure and condition of roads
- Connectivity (internet and mobile)
- Secure potable water, including water pressure
- The West Grampians Pipeline Project
- Access to health and community services
- Improvements in public transport
- Support with development with childcare solutions
- Incentives to attract the required skilled workforce for the region
- Additional external funding for roads and bridges

Maragaret Gardner Governor of Victoria  
(15 -16 August 2025)

Work has begun this year as per the Local Government Act 2020 Requirement Councils to preparing a new 4-year Council Plan, Community Vision, 10-year financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Plan.

The revenue and rating plan was adopted in June 2025 along with the Annual Budget and Annual Plan for FY25/26





## Serviceton's Angela Heinrich recognised as Senior Citizen of the Year

West Wimmera Shire Council has named Serviceton's Angela Heinrich as the 2024 Senior Citizen of the Year. She received the award at the Seniors Concert in Edenhope.

Angela has been a dedicated volunteer for many years, continuing to make an outstanding contribution to both the Serviceton and Kaniva districts. She has served on numerous local committees, helping to keep facilities running smoothly and encouraging younger members to step into volunteering roles.

Since 1986, she has been spokesperson for the Serviceton Railway Station Committee, regularly offering guided tours and promoting the town's history. She also plays a central role in the Serviceton and District Action Group as secretary and treasurer, and is one of three editors of the Servi Snippets newsletter, which has kept the community informed for nearly two decades. As president of the Serviceton Recreation and Sports Association, Angela manages the

local clubrooms and camping grounds, often stepping in to ensure the community's needs are met.

Her contributions extend further as secretary of the Serviceton Rural Fire Brigade and vice president of the Serviceton Ladies Fellowship. Alongside these roles, Angela also drives the community bus from Kaniva to Horsham and volunteers at the Kaniva Purple Starfish community shop.

Presenting the award, West Wimmera Shire Council CEO David Bezuidenhout praised Angela's exceptional contribution, describing her as "an outstanding example of dedication and service." He commended her ability to bring people together and inspire the younger generation.

The Senior Citizen of the Year award recognises residents aged 60 years or more who make a difference to community wellbeing, remain active, and encourage others to do the same.

## Innovation Platform

The Innovation Platform initiative continues to capture ideas from both the community and Council staff. In 2024/25, 84 submissions were received. Of these, 63 focused on business improvements designed to enhance service delivery. The remaining 21 submissions related to projects, some of which aligned with existing initiatives, while others proposed new, standalone concepts.

One example is the proposal for a new playground for the Goroke Kindergarten. Council collaborated with the kindergarten educators and Goroke Parents Advisory Group to submit a successful application to the 2024-25 Building Blocks Inclusion Grant. This project, jointly funded by the Department of Education and Training and the Goroke Parents Advisory Group, is scheduled for completion in late 2025.

Other major infrastructure-related submissions, such as increasing the availability of worker accommodation and proposed upgrades to the Kaniva Memorial Swimming Pool, have been incorporated into Council's advocacy planning. These initiatives guide engagement with state and federal governments to attract investment and support. From these potential projects that have been submitted, these are assessed through a concept planning process to, where feasible, seek out a suitable funding opportunity for future delivery.

All submissions are assessed through a concept planning process (assessed by PMO and councillors). Where feasible, suitable funding opportunities are sought to progress ideas toward delivery.

## Community satisfaction survey

West Wimmera Shire Council has once again performed strongly in the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey, achieving results well above the state average across multiple key areas.

The independent survey, conducted annually by JWS Research on behalf of Local Government Victoria, asked residents to rate Council performance on a range of core measures including overall performance, community consultation, decision making, lobbying, customer service, sealed local roads and overall direction.

Council's overall performance index score was 60, surpassing both the small rural council average (54) and the state-wide average (53). This marks the fifth consecutive year Council has scored above 58 on overall performance, highlighting continued service stability and consistent delivery across the organisation.

Customer service remained Council's top-performing core measure, with an index score of 72. Among residents who had contact with Council over the past year, 71 per cent rated their experience as either 'very good' or 'good'.

The appearance of public areas, elderly support services, enforcement of local laws and waste management were identified as Council's best performing service areas.

While roads, slashing and weed control were rated as the lowest performing areas, these categories still showed improvement on last year's results and exceeded both the small rural and state-wide averages.

## Our volunteers

West Wimmera Shire continues to have one of the highest rates of volunteerism in Victoria. Volunteers contribute to nearly every aspect of community life, driving the success of sporting clubs, interest groups, events, and emergency services. Their efforts are critical to the shire's ongoing vitality.

To recognise this vital contribution, Council hosted a morning tea in Edenhope during National Volunteer Week in May 2025. The event, at the Edenhope & District Community Centre, was open to all community volunteers and served as a celebration of the many individuals who give their time and skills to the region.

Kaniva marked International Volunteer Day on 5 December 2024 with a game of bowls followed by a community lunch. These events celebrated the positive impact of volunteering in building strong, connected communities.

### KANIVA FAUNA PARK

Kaniva Fauna Park remains a popular destination for travellers and locals. During 2024/25, the park welcomed two fawns to its animal population. The young deer attracted interest from visitors and residents alike. The animals are cared for by dedicated volunteers from the Kaniva Lions Club, who tend to their needs on a weekly basis.

### WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE BUS

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Bus, a partnership between West Wimmera Shire Council and the Centre for Participation, continues to provide vital transport links for residents. Since 2018, the service has run every Wednesday, transporting passengers from Kaniva, Nhill, Dimboola, and Pimpinio to Horsham.

The service is made possible by committed volunteers who donate their time to drive the bus and assist passengers. Over 100 people accessed the service in 2024/25.



Photo: Local historian and volunteer Les Milikin narrating the history of Serviceton Railway Station

## Community grants

Council's community grant programs continued to support local groups and initiatives throughout 2024/25, with a strong focus on building connection, inclusion and wellbeing across the shire. In 2025, the grant framework was reviewed and refined to better reflect community priorities and ensure funding reaches the projects that make the greatest social impact.

	Total spend 2024/25
Community Strengthening Grants	\$39,318.83
Community Support Grant contributions	\$25,000.00
Community Support Grant insurances	\$20,000.00 building and contents \$12,000.00 public and products liability
Quick Response Grant	\$2,500.00
Support for Events Grant	\$32,251.00 (in-kind support directly from Council)
Sponsorship and Contributions Grant	\$3,200.00 direct financial support \$970.00 direct in-kind support
The total spend on community grants:	\$73,462.52 (financial support) \$33,221.00 (In-kind support)

A total of \$73,462.52 in community grants was distributed, supporting a diverse range of local events, programs, and initiatives. Projects funded contributed to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the region, enhancing quality of life and fostering a strong sense of community.

In addition to direct financial support, Council provided \$33,221 in in-kind assistance to help bring community events to life. This practical support included:

- Provision of additional rubbish bins
- Traffic signage and event notifications
- Traffic management plans prepared by Council staff

These contributions reduced the burden on event organisers and allowed volunteers to focus on delivering safe and successful activities for their communities.

As part of the program refresh, Council also updated its grant guidelines to make the application process clearer and more accessible. The revised criteria aim to support projects that:

- Strengthen social cohesion
- Promote inclusion and participation
- Build local capacity and leadership
- Create positive health and wellbeing outcomes

To support applicants through these changes, Council will deliver a series of interactive community grant workshops in Kaniva and Edenhope. These sessions will guide community members through the application and acquittal process, explain the updated requirements, and provide space for questions and discussion.

The community grants program remains a key way Council supports grassroots action, helping residents to shape and lead the projects that matter most in their towns and communities.



Photo: Edenhope Artists Residency open day



# Events

## Wimmera Steampunk Festival high tea at Serviceton Railway Station

Council hosted a High Tea at the historic Serviceton Railway Station in April 2025, in collaboration with Seymour Heritage Railway and the Wimmera Steampunk Festival. The event brought 165 guests to the 1888 landmark, many dressed in steampunk attire, to enjoy afternoon tea, live music by Probably Guilty, and heritage tours.

Local volunteers, including members of the Serviceton and District community, helped serve and host the event. Les Milliken led guided tours, sharing the rich history of the station.

## Victoria Seniors Festival

Council secured funding through the 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival Active Living Fund to deliver a range of events throughout October. Collaborating with local men's sheds in Edenhope, Goroke, Kaniva and Harrow, events included open days, community health sessions, and guest speaker presentations from organisations such as Grampians Health, Western District Health Services and Ambulance Victoria.

On the day of the Seniors Concert, a mini expo was held in the Edenhope & District Community Centre, with presentations on aged care, cyber safety, active living, and emergency preparedness. This was followed by lunch and a live performance by Wendy Stapleton, celebrating the Swinging Sixties.



Photo: Wimmera Steampunk Festival High Tea at Serviceton

## R U OK? Day

On 12 September, events took place in Edenhope and Kaniva to promote mental wellbeing. Speakers included Sviko Jinga from Rural Outreach and Mal Coutts, who shared insights into the importance of checking in with others and building strong social connections.

## 16 Days of Activism

Running from 25 November and 10 December 2024, this campaign promoted gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence. Events in Edenhope and Kaniva featured presentations by Angela Murphy (Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service) and Melissa Morris (Women's Health Grampians), highlighting available support services and local advocacy opportunities.

## Remembrance Day

Services were held across Kaniva, Edenhope, Harrow and Apsley to commemorate those who served. In Goroke, Australian flags were placed at the cemetery in honour of the fallen.

## Other events

Council supports a wide range of community-led events across the municipality, powered by volunteers. These events foster community connection and attract visitors to the region.

- **Henley on Lake Wallace** – continues to bring locals and former residents together for a day of family-friendly activities.
- **Lake Charlegrark Country Music Marathon** – drew attendees from across the country, with performances by headliners Adam Harvey and Beccy Cole.
- **Goroke Rodeo** – run by the Goroke Apex Club, attracted crowds for an evening of rodeo events, music and entertainment.
- **Day of the Dackel** – held at Henley Park in Edenhope, celebrated dachshunds and their owners with races, stalls and family entertainment.



## Kaniva's Kaye Bothe Named Citizen of the Year

Kaniva's Kaye Bothe has been named West Wimmera Shire's Citizen of the Year in recognition of her tireless dedication and service to the community. As Secretary of the Kaniva Agricultural and Pastoral Society, Kaye has played a pivotal role in enhancing the Kaniva Show, securing funding for new attractions, and bringing the 2024 Victorian Agricultural Shows State Convention to Kaniva.

Her contributions extend beyond the showground. Kaye has been actively involved with the Bill's Gully Welfare Group and the Kaniva Community Advisory Committee, where her leadership and commitment have supported projects that strengthen local connections and benefit residents across the shire.

Kaye's unwavering passion for her community and her ability to inspire collaboration among volunteers and organisations make her a standout recipient of this year's award. Her work not only celebrates the spirit of volunteerism but also highlights the positive impact that dedicated individuals can have on regional communities.

In addition to Kaye's recognition, West Wimmera also celebrated Bonnie Gordon as Young Citizen of the Year, the Edenhope Flora Reserve Committee as Community Group of the Year, and the Kaniva A&P Society for hosting the 2024 Victorian Agricultural Shows State Convention, acknowledged as Community Event of the Year.



Photo: Harrow oval lighting



## Our Performance

This section reviews West Wimmera Shire Council's performance, highlighting how it meets its strategic goals and legislative requirements. It covers the Council Plan 2021-2025 and its alignment with community priorities. Performance is assessed through various indicators and measures, with detailed reports on each of the Council's five strategic goals: Liveability and Healthy Community, Diverse and Prosperous Community, Sustainable Environment, Good Governance, and Our Commitment. Detailed reports on major initiatives and service delivery provide insights into the Council's achievements and focus areas.

# Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework

Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to prepare the following:

- A community vision (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- A council plan (for at least the next four financial years)
- A financial plan (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- An asset plan (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- A revenue and rating plan (for at least the next four financial years)
- An annual budget (for the next four financial years)
- A quarterly budget report
- An annual report (for each financial year) and

- Financial policies

The Act also requires councils to prepare:

- A Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least four years).

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework for Local Government.

Diagram 4: Integrated planning and reporting framework



# Council Plan 2021-2025 at a glance

The preparation of a council plan is a legislative requirement. Under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, a council plan must be prepared every four years and submitted to the Minister for Local Government. The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan is our key strategic document and incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan with our commitment to health and wellbeing reflected throughout.

The Council Plan and indicators are reviewed each year to ensure that they reflect the priorities of the Council and our community. Council will also report quarterly on an annual plan which will contain more detail on the projects and actions to be delivered each year.

The Council Plan has been developed in accordance with relevant legislation and reflects the outcomes of consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders over the past year. The plan is a roadmap for West Wimmera Shire Council, outlining where we are heading and what we all need to do to get there.

The Council Plan:

- States the Council's long-term vision and goals
- Integrates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, emphasising health and wellbeing
- Reviews and updates indicators annually to align with Council and community priorities
- Reports quarterly on detailed annual projects and actions
- Reflects community and stakeholder consultation outcomes
- Complies with legislative requirements under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020

Five goals have been identified as the focus for Council and community activity to achieve the vision:



The Council Plan is available to view on Council's website [www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au](http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au). The implementation of the Council Plan will drive improvements in service delivery and contribute to achieving the community's vision for West Wimmera Shire as a vibrant and sustainable region.

**Goal 1: Liveable and Healthy Community**

**Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy**

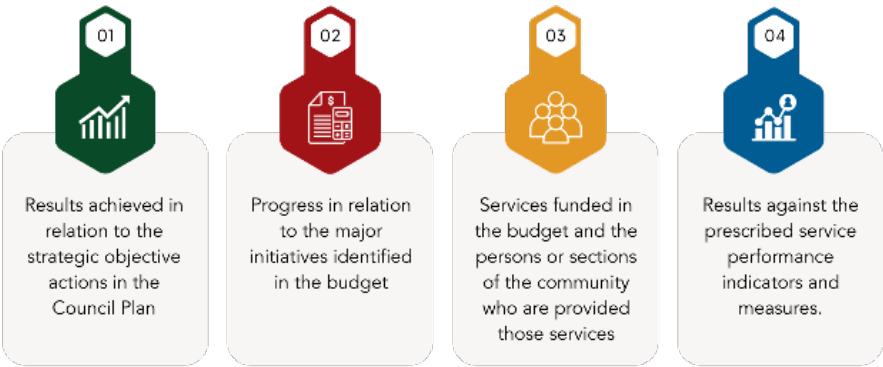
**Goal 3: Sustainable Environment**

**Goal 4: Good Governance**

**Goal 5: Our Commitment**

# Reporting performance

Council’s performance for the 2024/25 year has been reported against each strtaegic goal and strategy to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2021-2025 Council Plan. Performance can be measured as follows:



# Description of operations

Council delivers a wide range of business-as-usual (BAU) services that keep our Shire running, meet statutory requirements, and support community wellbeing. These are our ongoing responsibilities and differ from the special initiatives listed in this Plan.

## DIRECTORATE: INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING

### Engineering

- Strategic and technical asset management
- Civil design and engineering support
- Road, bridge and drainage planning
- Delivery of Capital Works Program

### Operations

- Maintenance of 2,751 km of local roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage
- Parks, gardens, recreation reserves, and public amenities upkeep (X number)
- Fleet and plant management
- Delivery of VicRoads Maintenance Contract

## Waste Management

- Operation for Transfer Stations across the shire
- Management of roadside collection service

## Quality & Facilities

- Maintenance of Council buildings, halls, and public facilities
- Cleaning, safety and asset compliance checks
- Continuous improvement of service standards
- Optimise and make available the use of council facilities

**Contract & Procurement**

- Purchasing, contracts and tenders
- Supplier compliance and probity management

**Projects & Innovations**

- Delivery of capital works program
- Project management and design coordination
- Innovation in service delivery and infrastructure renewal
- Strategic Development Projects

**Planning & Development**

- Statutory planning and building permits
- Local laws administration
- Environmental health and compliance (food safety, septic, housing health)

**DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Human Resources (HR)**

- Workforce planning, recruitment, and training
- Payroll, employee relations, and staff wellbeing
- Organisational culture development

**Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)**

- Workplace safety management
- Risk assessments and incident response
- Compliance with WorkSafe and legislative standards

**Community Support Services**

- Early Years services (Childcare, Kindergarten, Playgroups)
- Youth engagement and inclusion programs

**Community Development & Tourism**

- Community & Business grants and event support
- Tourism marketing, visitor information and regional partnerships

- Emergency management coordination and recovery

**Finance & Transactions**

- Financial planning, budgets and audits
- Rates and property valuation
- Treasury, accounting and reporting

**Governance & Compliance**

- Council meetings, decision-making and records management
- Policy, risk and audit oversight

**Communiations**

- Community engagement, customer service and communications

**Customer Service**

- Customer service (phone & in person)
- Vic Roads Agency
- Centrelink Agency
- Hosting Court

**Library**

- Open Access Library Services across Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke & Harrow

This broad range of community services and infrastructure for residents, supports the wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Council's vision, strategic goals and strategies to further improve services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2021-2025. The associated Annual Plan 2024/25 and the Budget 2023/24 are guided and reported upon in this document.

Refer to the section on Our Performance for more information about Council services. The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the strategic goals and strategies is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures. Council also has a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Australian legislations.

# Council Goal 1

## Liveability and Healthy Community

### Strategic Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
West Wimmera population (ABS)	2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census indicated population growth for West Wimmera Shire Council from 3,810 to 4,006.
Primary Care Partnership – Wimmera Community Profile	The data set has previously been provided by Wimmera Primary Care Partnership, who have now joined the Grampians Region Public Health Unit within Grampians Health. Western Victoria Primary Health Network now provide LGA data set. The data set is provided on a four yearly basis.
Annual Local Government Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for elderly support services for the West Wimmera Shire was 68 compared with the state-wide score of 63. Appearance of public areas remains Council’s second-best performing area (index score 70).

## Major initiatives

### Goal 1: Liveable & Healthy Community

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/ Actions
1.1 Create a healthy, active, and vibrant community.	1.1.1 Review and implement a revised Community Strengthening Program to ensure programs, clubs and infrastructure are supported equitably across the Shire.	2021-2022	Overarching Grants Policy was reviewed and updated in April 2023 and includes associated guidelines for each grant category. SmartyGrants and Grant Guru has been implemented.
	1.1.2 Seek funding for and prepare a Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy to guide sport and recreation infrastructure and activities in the Shire.	2021-2023	Funding applied for and received. Sport and Recreation Strategy adopted June 2024.
	1.1.3 Implement Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy.	Ongoing from 2023	Strategy adopted and implementation commenced.
	1.1.4 Advocate for improved access to health and community services within the Shire.	2021-2025	Ongoing.
	1.1.5 Work with other sporting, education, and health service providers to promote and deliver accessible healthy and active lifestyle programs.	2021-2025	Ongoing.
	1.1.6 Work with local health providers to provide long term mental health services.	2021-2025	Ongoing.
	1.1.7 Work with state, regional and local sporting associations to offer socially modified forms of sport and recreation that cater to all ability levels.	2021-2025	Commenced discussions with some sporting codes within the Shire to offer modified forms of recreation and sport. Also discussions with Grampians Health regarding the identification of safe access areas within the Shire for people with mobility issues.
	1.1.8 Support and promote volunteering opportunities within the organisation with local community groups.	2021-2025	On the website, volunteer opportunities are listed and prospective volunteers are encouraged to call Events and Volunteering Officer to discuss opportunities. Website includes volunteer handbook and application form. Event held to recognise volunteers across the Shire.
1.2 Support a safe and inclusive community.	1.2.1 Maintain supported playgroups across the Shire.	2021-2025	Supported Facilitator operates two supported playgroups each week. Funding maintained with DFFH; additional pop-up intergenerational playgroups have been implemented.
	1.2.2 Provide a range of youth focused activities that provide a diverse range of safe and inclusive experiences across the Shire.	2021-2025	Ongoing through FreeZa and Engage state government funding.
	1.2.3 Partner with relevant local and regional organisations to promote and deliver domestic violence awareness campaigns.	2021-2025	Ongoing.



	1.2.4 Support relevant regional and local agencies in promotion of mental health, drug, and alcohol awareness programs and also, advocate for increased resources.	2021-2025	Ongoing through MCH and youth services.
	1.2.5 Ensure Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Action Plan is maintained and being implemented.	2021-2025	CoRE Action Plan implemented
	1.2.6 Actively participate in road safety awareness programs.	2021-2025	Completed. Specific road safety awareness programs delivered in all kindergartens in 2023 and an integrated component of Early Years Learning Framework programs ongoing.
	1.2.7 Prepare and implement an action plan to reflect and incorporate the new Child Safe Standards in Council governance and operations.	2021-2025	Completed.
	1.2.8 Develop and promote intergenerational wellbeing activities in cooperation with other relevant agencies.	2021-2025	Pop-up intergenerational programs have been implemented with local aged care facilities.
1.3 Provide well-planned and sustainable community infrastructure.	1.3.1 Actively support committees of management in management of community facilities.	2022-2023	Council continues to liaise and support and provide guidance to committees of management to provide good governance and leadership. The refund of the Fire Service Property Levy (FSPL) was obtained through the State Revenue Office (SRO), as reserves were not eligible to pay. Ongoing consultation and support provided.
	1.3.2 Ensure key infrastructure (roads and buildings) is maintained and renewed as required to support our economy, community use and involvement.	2021-2025	Council budget adopted with consideration of ongoing asset management plans.
	1.3.3 Actively assist community groups in applying for funding to upgrade sport and recreation community infrastructure in line with the Municipal Sport and Recreation Strategy.	Ongoing	Council continues to support Committees of Management and apply for funds for upgrades to community infrastructure.
	1.3.4 Continue to extend Council's footpath network in towns and seek funding to develop and extend trails in accordance with Recreational Trails Strategy.	Ongoing	New footpath sections completed Elizabeth Street-Edenhope, Compston St, Goroke.
	1.3.5 Advocate for improvements in public transport services for West Wimmera Shire.	2021-2025	Partnership with Centre for Participation to provide the Wimmera Southern Mallee bus service from Kaniva to Horsham, which has been heavily utilised.
	1.3.6 Review and improve Council's Asset Management System to manage Council buildings and facilities in accordance with legislative requirements.	Ongoing	Valuation of buildings completed. Access to building data on POZI has been improved.

1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.	1.4.1 Partner with key stakeholders to complete a study of current and future childcare requirements across the shire and define Council's role in the planning, service development and facility provision requirements.	2021-2022	Completed, childcare service is now provided in Edenhope.
	1.4.2 Advocate for funding support from state and federal governments to assist with development and ongoing childcare solutions.	2021 - ongoing	State Government approval for Childcare Subsidy. Childcare service implemented in Edenhope. Kaniva childcare (Uniting Vic Tas) has ongoing non-competitive funding to ensure viability. Family Day Care in venue at Goroke kindergarten has been encouraged.
	1.4.3 Support the implementation of childcare initiatives across shire.	2022-2025	Childcare service continues to be provided in Kaniva and Edenhope. Draft designs for Goroke Kindergarten Facility Upgrades include a stage 2 to support Family Day Care.
	1.4.4 Work with key partners to encourage rural employment.	Ongoing	Continuing to focus on housing to remove barriers to attracting people to West Wimmera.
	1.4.5 Partner with other agencies in attracting additional training opportunities for short courses.	Ongoing	Business Training Calendar is now live on Council's website.
	1.4.6 Collaborate with local schools to assist with funding advocacy where required.	Ongoing	Worked with schools to get feedback and support on council housing and pool project.
	1.4.7 Secure ongoing, flexible, rural appropriate funding to support Maternal and Child Health and other early years initiatives.	Ongoing	Annual funding received.
	1.4.8 Prepare a community events manual to support safe, sustainable, and inclusive community activity.	2021-2022	Completed. New events diary on Facebook.
	1.4.9 Advocate for secure provision of potable water for our towns.	Ongoing	Included in GWMWater review. Attendance at GWM stakeholder forums. Pipeline supply for Kaniva underway.
1.5 Support and encourage our events, cultural and arts communities.	1.5.1 Through membership of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation continue to provide library services that are relevant and contemporary.	Ongoing	Library services continue to be delivered in Kaniva, Edenhope, Harrow and Goroke.
	1.5.2 Seek funding for the development of a Community Arts Strategy.	2022-2023	No state or federal funding for Local Government Community Arts Strategies available.
	1.5.3 Develop an annual events program.	2022-2025	Events are listed on website
	1.5.4 Review and improve Council's event support program to encourage local and regional events in the shire.	2021-2022	New event support process established and new website page to assist event organisers and events handbook implemented. SmartyGrants developed to assist in event administration.
	1.5.5 Work with local and regional organisations to develop and implement a range of initiatives that promote performing and visual arts within the shire for the benefit of locals and tourists.	2022-2025	Ongoing

1.6 Support a prepared and resilient community.	1.6.1 Promote community participation in municipal emergency management planning.	Ongoing	Regular quarterly Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee meetings.
	1.6.2 Partner with communities, agencies, and neighbouring municipalities to strengthen emergency and disaster planning, awareness and preparedness.	Ongoing	Combined Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee meetings held with four neighbouring municipalities annually. Employment of Wimmera Emergency Team shared by the four neighbouring Councils, which also incorporates combined training with other municipalities and other agencies.
	1.6.3 Plan for and deliver emergency response, relief and recovery as required in conjunction with Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) partners.	Ongoing	Municipal Emergency Management Plan development complete. Municipal Fire Management Plan currently awaiting the assurance process by REMPC.
	1.6.4 Support local emergency services agencies. Plan for and deliver emergency services as required in conjunction with REMPC.	Ongoing	Ongoing emergency management planning through MFMP Committee and MEMP Committee through quarterly meetings.
1.7 Improve the livability of the shire to assist in growing our population into the future.	1.7.1 Partner with state and regional bodies to improve the availability of housing options in the shire.	2021-2025	Submitted Application to State Government Key Regional Worker Accommodation Fund for 6 houses and planning for 46 additional blocks in Edenhope & Kaniva. Support for WSMD WHIP program to support community groups to develop housing.
	1.7.2 Assist emergency housing agencies. Partner with state and regional bodies to improve the availability of housing options in the shire.	Ongoing	Continued to work with WSMD on housing projects
	1.7.3 Undertake a Planning Scheme review to identify options for increased residential development in and around townships.	2021-2022	Planning Scheme review completed.
	1.7.4 Implement findings of the Planning Scheme review through an amendment to the Planning Scheme.	2022-2023	Recommendations presented to Council and a priority list developed which is being implemented.
	1.7.5 Partner with Wimmera Development Association (WDA) to implement a livability framework to connect our community and to help develop a region that thrives in social, economic, and environmental aspects.	2021-2022	Closed out in previous year

## Services funded in budget

Goal 1: Liveable & Healthy Community	Service Area	Net Cost (\$ '000)		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
	Aged & Disability Care	(22)	0	22
	Events, Art & Culture	(164)	(121)	43
	Cemeteries	(2)	0	2
	Childcare	39	(1)	(40)
	Pre School	26	(20)	(46)
	Community Development	(574)	(517)	57
	Fire Prevention and Emergency Services	(25)	(46)	(21)
	Libraries	(187)	(195)	(8)
	Maternal and Child Health	166	117	(49)
	Regulatory Services	(437)	(376)	61
	Stormwater Drainage	(177)	(365)	(188)

Liveability and Healthy Community

## Service performance indicators

Results					
Service / indicator / measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comments
LIBRARIES					
Utilisation					
Loans per head of population [Number of library collection item loans / Population]	New	New	4.14	43.73	
Resource currency					
Recently purchased library collection [Number of library collection items purchased in the last five years / Number of library collection items] x100	38.98%	42.14%	36.43%	37.81%	
Participation					
Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	New	New	23%	24.02%	
Library visits per head of population [Number of library visits / Population]	New	New	2.10	2.00	
Service cost					
Cost of library service per population [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$57.76	\$48.90	\$55.59	\$77.00	

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH)					
Service standard					
Infant enrolments in the MCH service [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	96.77%	202.21%	145.16%	160.87%	
Service cost					
Cost of the MCH service [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	\$55.08	\$63.18	\$58.21	\$92.11	Additional education sessions and additional hours for staff to ensure enhanced clients are supported across the shire and additional staff hours to implement education sessions for parents
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	86.83%	93.10%	100.00%	77.24%	Decrease in number of enrolled clients from previous year
Participation					
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	
Satisfaction					
Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	116.13%	116.28%	122.58%	147.83%	

Photo: Lake Wallace Boardwalk



Liveability and Healthy Community

## Community Support and Wellbeing

The Community Support and Wellbeing team has delivered a wide range of essential services, including early years education, youth engagement, aged care and disability support across West Wimmera Shire. These services are primarily funded by government programs and must meet strict regulatory compliance. In 2024/25, our work continued to support residents of all ages across the region. Council continues to investigate the most appropriate models for all service delivery to ensure the safest, most effective and sustainable support for residents. Staff and community consultation are part of this process.

# Kindergartens

West Wimmera Shire Council delivered 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten in Goroke, Edenhope, and Kaniva, with a total of 89 children enrolled in 2025.

- Goroke Kindergarten secured funding through the 2024–25 Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) Building Blocks Inclusion Grant – buildings and playgrounds stream. The grant will enable the redevelopment of part of the outdoor space into an inclusive play area, featuring accessible equipment that supports universal play. Construction is scheduled to begin later in 2025
- All three kindergartens received funding through the 2024 Building Blocks Improvement Stream – IT grant, allowing for the purchase of additional laptops to support teaching and learning
- Each kindergarten was also successful in a \$10,000 grant through the 2024–25 Building Blocks Inclusion Grant program to enhance support for children with additional needs, ensuring meaningful participation regardless of individual circumstances or abilities.

## PRE-PREP ROLLOUT (2027-2031)

Planning commenced for the State Government’s staged rollout of 30 hours of play-based, teacher-led pre-prep for 4-year-olds by 2031. This reform builds on the current delivery of 15 hours of free kindergarten for 3-year-olds.

### Kindergarten Enrolments:

Kindergarten	3yo	4yo	Total
Edenhope	16	23	37
Goroke	7	9	12
Kaniva	15	19	29
Total	38	51	89

# Childcare

## EDENHOPE CHILDCARE

Edenhope Childcare operates four days a week and continues to experience high demand:

Care type total enrolments per week	
Under 3s	32
Over 3s	29
Before K	6
After K	11

The over 3s room, integrated into the kindergarten program, operates at full capacity on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The waiting list ranges from 18–23 children depending on the day.

Kaniva Early Learning Centre, delivered by Uniting Victoria Tasmania, also operated four days per week and experienced staffing-related closures alongside a growing waitlist, reflecting continued national childcare shortages.

## EARLY YEARS WORKFORCE – PLACE-BASED TRAINING

To strengthen the early years workforce, Council continued to support a place-based training model. In 2024/25:

- Five local trainees undertook Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Four trainees completed Certificate III
- Two of those enrolled in diploma-level study
- One is considering progression to a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.
- One trainee is on track to complete Certificate III by the end of 2025.

This program supports sustainable service delivery in rural communities, ensuring continuity of care and education, and providing long-term career pathways for residents.



## Youth Service

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The 2022–2024 Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Engage! and FReeZA funding concluded on 31 December 2024. Council successfully secured new funding through the DFFH Engage! and Amplify Grants Programs for 2025–2027.

As part of this new funding period, Council partnered with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation to deliver youth initiatives for people aged 12 to 25 years. Programs will be developed in collaboration with local schools and organisations, with a focus on skill development and fostering meaningful participation across the municipality.

The program is guided by four key pillars:

- Health and wellbeing
- Youth leadership
- Diversity
- Social inclusion

The contribution of young people to community vibrancy and resilience is valued and supported through these initiatives.

## Supported Playgroup

Council-supported playgroups funded by DFFH delivered early development support to families across the shire. Initiatives in 2024/25 included:

- Green Thumbs Playgroup at Edenhope Community Garden (including intergenerational sessions)
- Harrow supported playgroup
- In-home support and Smalltalk coaching for families in remote areas
- Community-led playgroups in Kaniva, Apsley and Edenhope

The supported playgroup facilitator concluded their role to focus on a teaching career. A recruitment process is underway to appoint a new facilitator.



Photo: CFA talk at Kaniva Kindergarten

# Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) clinics were provided in Goroke, Edenhope, Kaniva, and Harrow, with an additional perinatal emotional health outreach service supporting families from pregnancy through to their child’s third birthday. In 2024/25:

- 36 births were recorded in the shire
- More than 204 families accessed MCH consultations
- 70+ families received referrals to external health and wellbeing providers
- A five-week baby massage course was delivered
- Parent group education sessions were conducted across the region, with guest speakers from health and emergency services
- 473 immunisations were administered

Clinical consultations:	Count
Key ages & stages (2 weeks to 3.5 years)	Approx 400
Additional consultations	46
Vision screening (MIST) referrals	7
Child/family wellbeing referrals	59
Family violence assessments (MARAM)	40

## PERINATAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Council’s Perinatal Emotional Health Practitioner (PEHP) has provided invaluable in-home and telephone support to families in West Wimmera Shire. Additionally, the practitioner offered a five-week baby massage course, which has numerous health benefits for both infants and parents.

## IMMUNISATIONS

Staff continued to provide opportunistic childhood immunisations to the families. Paediatric flu immunisations were offered again in 2024/25. The new RSV vaccine was offered to all eligible babies as guided by the Department of Health in 2025. Council staff were able to receive the flu vaccination, provided at pop up clinics in each town. Secondary school immunisations were provided at the three secondary schools in the shire, while education staff flu immunisations were offered at pop up clinics at five schools.. A total of 500 paediatric immunisations were given in 2024/25.

## BY FIVE WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE EARLY YEARS INITIATIVE

Council continued its involvement in this regional partnership to improve early childhood outcomes, including initiatives to address childcare shortages and workforce development in collaboration with four neighbouring LGAs.

Funding for the By Five initiative concluded in 2025. Council noted the lack of ongoing investment by the State Government, with current funding falling short of addressing the complex, locally informed challenges faced by rural children, who are more likely to start school developmentally vulnerable. Advocacy for continued support remains a priority.



Photo: First Aid Session Kaniva

# Aged and Disability

## IN-HOME SUPPORT

More than 300 residents received support through aged and disability programs during 2024/25. Services delivered under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) included:

Service	Delivery units
Social support (individual/group)	1868 hours
Domestic assistance	1927 hours
Personal Care	442 hours
Flexible respite	24 hours
Meals provided	7058 meals
Home maintenance	131 hours
Transport trips	23

Clients supported	
Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)	250
Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP)	29
Home Care Packages (HCP)	22
Post-acute care	9

Volunteer transport and companionship programs continued in partnership with local organisations, including Harrow Bush Nursing Centre.

## HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE (HACC-PYP)

A total of 29 clients received assessment and support through the HACC-PYP program, which assists people under 65 years of age (or Aboriginal people under 50) who need help with daily activities to maintain their independence at home.

## TRANSITION OF AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES

On 30 June 2025, Council formally exited its role as a provider of CHSP and HACC-PYP services. This decision responded to increasing regulatory requirements and the need for specialist service delivery and governance.

Following the transition:

- West Wimmera Health Service (WWHS) was appointed as the CHSP provider for people aged over 65
- Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) was appointed by DFFH as the HACC-PYP provider for people under 65

Council remains committed to community wellbeing and will continue working with service providers to support quality service delivery.



Photo: Edenhope Speech Pathology Session

## Customer service

The 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey found that West Wimmera Shire Council delivered the one of the highest standards of customer service in the state. This outstanding service delivery is consistently demonstrated across the organisation. At Council offices, customer service staff provide a welcoming and professional experience. Outdoor staff maintain parks and gardens to a high standard in all conditions. Community engagement staff work closely with residents on projects, business support, and tourism development. Meanwhile, senior leadership continues to collaborate with the community to improve liveability and services across the shire.

## Emergency management

Council's emergency management team continues to work in collaboration with Wimmera Emergency Management staff to strengthen preparedness and community safety.

Fire-ready guides were expanded to include Edenhope, Kaniva, Harrow, Dergholm, Gorokey, and Apsley. These guides are available at Council offices, on the website, and in selected local stores.

### COUNCIL'S SUPPORT IN MAJOR INCIDENTS

Council staff provided essential support during several emergency events:

#### Chetwynd fire – 16 November 2024

- One home lost
- Relief support provided to two displaced people and their dogs
- Assistance delivered at the Incident Control Centre in Horsham, including road closures and traffic management

#### Little Desert Fire – 27 January 2025

- Multiple roads closed
- Council provided water tankers, graders, fuel tankers, operators, emergency management staff and recovery personnel
- Coordinated the return of thousands of litres of water to landholders
- Recovery officers engaged with affected residents on water replacement, tank cleaning, fencing and health referrals

#### Diggers Lane Fire – 27 January 2025

- Two homes lost
- Council supported road closures and deployed water tankers
- Impacted roads were inspected for safety

During these events, Council staff contributed significant time and effort to fire response, relief and recovery across both the Little Desert and Grampians complex fire zones. The priority remained minimising impact and enabling timely community recovery.





## Official opening of upgraded Edenhope Early Childhood Service

West Wimmera Shire Council officially opened the newly upgraded Edenhope Early Childhood Service in November, marking a significant milestone for the community. The \$400,000 redevelopment has transformed both the building and outdoor spaces, enhancing the experience for all children who attend the service.

The facility houses Edenhope's kindergarten, childcare services, and before-and-after kindergarten care. Interior upgrades included renovations to the bathrooms, laundry, and storage areas, improving safety, hygiene, privacy, and accessibility for children of all abilities. The updated design also enhances supervision and storage options, supporting the smooth daily operation of the service.

The outdoor learning environment was redeveloped to provide all-abilities access and a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. These improvements create an inclusive and engaging environment that encourages exploration, learning, and play.

Funding for the project came primarily from two Department of Education and Training Building Blocks grants, with \$342,199.77 allocated to the building upgrades and \$70,000 to the yard redevelopment. The Edenhope Kindergarten Parent Advisory Group also contributed \$6,000 towards the works.

The official opening was celebrated with a special ceremony, highlighting the importance of early childhood services in supporting children and families. The redevelopment strengthens West Wimmera's commitment to providing high-quality learning environments, ensuring that every child has the tools and spaces they need to thrive.

This project follows similar upgrades across the shire, including yard updates at Gorokey Kindergarten in 2022 and Kaniva Kindergarten in 2020, along with building renovations at Kaniva completed in 2022.

# Council Goal 2

Diverse and prosperous community

## Services funded in budget

Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy	Service Area	Net Cost (\$ '000)		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
	Aerodrome	(9)	(16)	(7)
	Buildings Control	(208)	(129)	79
	Buildings & Property	(1,049)	(2,757)	(1,708)
	CEO Office	(560)	(604)	(44)
	Depot, Plant & Fleet Operations	(1,960)	(1,425)	535
	Human Resources	(388)	(76)	312
	Planning	(633)	(777)	(144)
	Roads	(981)	(1,534)	(553)

## Major initiatives

### Goal 2: Diverse and Prosperous Economy

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/ Actions
2.1 Encourage and support the establishment and expansion of innovative, creative, and sustainable businesses.	2.1.1 Develop strategies and then prepare and implement a campaign to attract businesses and families.	2021-2022	Economic Development Strategy adopted in March 2024
	2.1.2 Undertake a review of the planning scheme to ensure appropriate zonings are in place to support business development and livability.	2021-2022	Planning Scheme review completed.
	2.1.3 Implement the findings of the planning review through an amendment to the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.	2022-2023	Recommendations presented to Council with a priority list developed which is being implemented.
	2.1.4 Deliver a Business Assistance Program that supports businesses to establish and grow.	2023-2024	Business Concierge Program implemented and promoted via social media.
	2.1.5 Work with the agricultural sector to support the continued development of cutting-edge farming.	2023-2024	Continued support of the Birchip Cropping Group program Young Farmers program.
	2.1.6 Include a local planning policy in the Planning Scheme Review to protect agricultural land and provide diverse opportunities across the shire.	2021-2022	Will be completed in conjunction with the recommendations as they are implemented.
	2.1.7 Seek funding to assist with COVID-19 recovery for local businesses and the community.	2021-2022	Closed in previous years.
2.2 Promote the shire as a great place to visit, live and invest	2.2.1 Prepare a Tourism Strategy to guide Council's and our community's roles in supporting tourism activity.	2021-2022	Tourism Strategy developed and adopted by Council at the June 2023 Council meeting.
	2.2.2 Actively participate in regional tourism planning and promotional campaigns.	Ongoing	Ongoing interaction with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and Wimmera Development Association.
	2.2.3 Implement Council's actions from Tourism Strategy.	2022-2023	Tourism Strategy adopted by Council at the June Council Meeting 2024 and implementation of Council's actions has commenced.
	2.2.4 Design and implement a marketing campaign to encourage tourists to visit the shire, based on recommendations from the Tourism Strategy.	Ongoing	To be commenced. Advertising campaigns in collaboration with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.
	2.2.5 Investigate options to advocate for incentives to attract the required skilled workforce to the region eg. health care, childcare, agriculture.	2022-2024	Partner with RDV to identify opportunities to attract businesses to grow, set up new businesses in industrial estates and increase housing supply across the shire.



2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.	2.3.1 Review and update the Economic Development Strategy to maximise economic activity in the shire.	2023-2024	Economic Development Strategy adopted March 2024.
	2.3.2 Work with government, employers, and regional bodies to find solutions to fill skill shortages and create jobs in West Wimmera.	Ongoing	Continuing to work with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Ltd & RDV on associated on skill shortages.
	2.3.3 Lobby and promote agricultural development in the West Wimmera Shire.	Ongoing	Continuing to work with RDV
	2.3.4 Advocate for aquaculture opportunities including the possible re-establishment of the facility near Lake Charlegrark.	2021-2022	Closed out in previous year.
2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.	2.4.1 Seek funding and partnership opportunities to implement streetscape plans for Edenhope and Kaniva.	2023-2024	Streetscape Plans have been completed for both Kaniva and Edenhope with funding opportunities continually investigated.
	2.4.2 Continue to maintain and expand footpaths and shared paths in town centres.	Ongoing	Extension of footpath in Elizabeth Street, Edenhope and Compston Street, Goroke
	2.4.3 Facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in Edenhope and Kaniva.	2022-2023	Installation of EV Chargers in Edenhope and Kaniva installed and active. Project complete.
	2.4.4 Review Local Law to assist business opportunities in the shire and ensure the safety and amenities of our towns are preserved.	2021-2022	New 10 year Local Law in place
	2.4.5 Complete streetscape master plans for Harrow, Apsley, Serviceton, Dergholm and Goroke.	2024-2025	Continually seeking funding to enable these works.
	2.4.6 Actively work to improve the appearance of main streets and town entrances across the shire.	2024-2025	Sealed parking on Elizabeth Street, Edenhope.
2.5 Enhance the local road network and explore transport options.	2.5.1 Review the Road Management Plan (RMP) within 12 months of the Council elections.	2021-2022	Completed and adopted in November 2021.
	2.5.2 Continue the programmed maintenance of the sealed and unsealed road network in accordance with the RMP and Moloney Report.	Annually	Inspections undertaken as required under the RMP to inform maintenance requirements. Annual capital works program developed using Moloney report to establish reseal, re-sheet and reconstruction program.
	2.5.3 Implement the Annual Capital Works program in line with the RMP and road network reporting requirements.	Annually	Capital Works Program completed successfully.
	2.5.4 Implement an Asset Management System to monitor and plan road and asset maintenance and renewal.	2022-2023	Asset condition inspection and valuation of roads, footpaths and kerbing completed By Moloney Management Systems. AssetAsyst defect mapping improvements done.

	2.5.5 Advocate for additional external funding for roads and bridges.	Ongoing	Funding application submitted under SLRIP for reconstruction and widening of Kadnook Connewirricoo road.
	2.5.6 Advocate for VicRoads to improve the quality of state roads throughout our shire.	Ongoing	Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group (WSMTG) and Western Highway Action Committee and regular meetings with DTP.
	2.5.7 Seek funding to upgrade local roads throughout the shire to support freight routes, heavy vehicles, and high traffic volumes.	Ongoing	Application submitted under SLRIP Tranche 2C
2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.	2.6.1 Campaign for improved access to quality digital connectivity.	Ongoing	NBN fiber is now rolled out in Kaniva. Submitted blackspot sites on whiteboard for consideration in round 8 mobile blackspot program for consideration in telco industry application. (Lemon Springs, Patyah, Dergholm/Poolaijelo & Telopea Downs) Letters of support from Anne Webster, Emma Keally and Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Advocated to Telstra for
	2.6.2 Advocate for the West Grampians Pipeline Project.	Ongoing	Continuing to work with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water on updated pricing and advocacy for pipeline.
	2.6.3 Advocate for improved water pressure within towns.	Ongoing	Consultation continuing with Grampians Wimmera Mall Water. Kaniva works proceeding to provide treated potable water and new reticulation system. Water pressure upgrades occurring in Edenhope.
	2.6.4 Advocate for the improvement of roads to meet requirements for road trains.	2021-2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group (WSMTG) and Western Highway Action Committee hold regular meetings with DTP. Ongoing advocacy and applications for funding. Regular Meetings with Department of Transport
	2.6.5 Advocate for a gas pipeline extension into West Wimmera.	Ongoing	Closed out in previous years.
	2.6.6 Advocate for the continued sale and promotion of unallocated groundwater in the areas identified as still having sustainable water for sale.	Ongoing	Closed out in previous years.
	2.6.7 Advocate for recreational water.	Ongoing	Consultation continuing with Grampians Wimmera Mall Water

## Strategic indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results												
West Wimmera Shire unemployment rate	2021 Australia Bureau Statistics show unemployment rate at 3.2% for West Wimmera Shire Council.												
Number of businesses in shire	The total number of employees in the West Wimmera Shire is 1,842. Number of businesses in the West Wimmera Shire is 1,387. Number of West Wimmera Shire residents who are employed is estimated at 1,932. Employed in the agriculture sector is sitting at 53%.												
Annual tourism related visitation	In 2023, the municipality of West Wimmera Shire Council attracted an estimated 110,000 visitors, of which 52.4% were domestic day trip visitors, 47% domestic overnight visitors and 0.4% international visitors. It is encouraging to see international visitors back after the pandemic and visitation into the municipality increase from 103,000 visitors in 2021.  Welcoming an increase in visitor numbers, the municipality has additionally experienced a boost in visitor spend, from \$22.2 million in 2021 to \$29.1 million in 2023, with domestic overnight visitors contributing \$22.5 million to our economy. This demonstrates the incredible yield of the overnight visitor, whilst only compromising 47% of visitation, they generate 77% of total spend.  West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to increasing tourism related visitation and visitor spend in the municipality, and in 2023 adopted the West Wimmera Tourism Strategy to assist Council in ongoing development and growth of West Wimmera’s visitor economy.  *Stats: Tourism Research Australia												
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for sealed local roads for the West Wimmera Shire was 52 compared with the state-wide score of 45 and small rural Council’s score of 44. The index score recorded for unsealed roads for the West Wimmera Shire was 46 compared with state-wide 38 and small rural 40. The index score recorded for lobbying for the West Wimmera Shire was 55 compared with state-wide 49 and small rural 51.												
Moloney’s Road Asset Report	<div>The Moloney Management System (MMS) sets projected renewal expenditure for various assets to ensure Council allocates capital expenditure each year to maintain its assets. For 2023/24 the recommended expenditure by MMS and the corresponding actual expenditure are displayed:</div> <table><tr><td>Asset class</td><td>MMS recommended exp</td><td>Actual exp</td></tr><tr><td>Sealed Rd Reconstruction</td><td>\$2,605,000</td><td>\$1,766,204</td></tr><tr><td>Sealed Road resealing</td><td>\$1,195,000</td><td>\$1,070,733</td></tr><tr><td>Gravel road resheeting</td><td>\$1,235,000</td><td>\$1,787,539 (including neighbouring Council contribution)</td></tr></table>	Asset class	MMS recommended exp	Actual exp	Sealed Rd Reconstruction	\$2,605,000	\$1,766,204	Sealed Road resealing	\$1,195,000	\$1,070,733	Gravel road resheeting	\$1,235,000	\$1,787,539 (including neighbouring Council contribution)
Asset class	MMS recommended exp	Actual exp											
Sealed Rd Reconstruction	\$2,605,000	\$1,766,204											
Sealed Road resealing	\$1,195,000	\$1,070,733											
Gravel road resheeting	\$1,235,000	\$1,787,539 (including neighbouring Council contribution)											

## Service performance indicators

Results					
Service / indicator / measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comments
<b>STATUTORY PLANNING</b>					
Timeliness					
Time taken to decide planning applications [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	41.00	40.00	43.00	35.50	Council has engaged new planning contractors in July 2024, this has seen a quicker turn around time for planning application decisions.
Service standard					
Planning applications decided within required time frames [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	83.33%	80.65%	62.50%	87.50%	Council engaged new planning consultants in July 2024, this has seen an increase in the speed that applications are reviewed and processed.
Service cost					
Cost of statutory planning service [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$8,266.00	\$7,820.40	\$3,015.77	\$8,575.33	A change in the contractor that assists in the provision of planning services has increased the cost and the quality and timeliness of supplying planning services.
Decision making					
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

## Capital works

	\$
Newmans Rd Bridge Repairs	\$19,953
Building renewal	\$70,265
Edenhope Lakeside Caravan Park	\$43,020
Edenhope Kindergarten Renovation	\$92,546
Kaniva Depot Upgrade Scoping	\$39,377
ICT Device and Equipment Management	\$33,660
Footpaths Compston St, Goroke, Kindergarten (Barrack St) - Church St	\$41,920
Footpaths - Elizabeth St, Edenhope, Anne St. - Churchill St	\$41,193
Footpaths renewal	\$19,314
Kerbs & Channels - Dungey St, Kaniva, Budjik - Young St	\$44,471
Kerb and Channel renewal	\$4,240
Land Improvements - other	\$40,060
Edenhope Lake Wallace Boat Ramp	\$25,823
Kaniva Rec Res AFL Lighting Upgrade	\$328,071
Edenhope Aerodrome Upgrade	\$65,810
Plant and Equipment	\$1,519,001
Road renewals - other	\$338,999
Kadnook-Connewirricoo Rd. reconstruction & Widening Ch. 5300 - Ch. 5800 x 6.2m seal	\$53,649
Farmers St Reseal, Kaniva, Rail X'g(620) to Western HWY(845) & Budjik (1155) to End	\$23,772
Alexanders Rd Reseal, Murrawong Rd (0) to Cove Estate Rd (4690)	\$102,073
Kiely St Reseal, Main St to End of Seal	\$17,705
Minimay Goroke Reseal, Seal Change (1040) to Seal Change (2370)	\$31,566
R Walkers Rd Reseal, Natimuk Francis Rd (0) to Gate (846)	\$25,269
Service Road Nth Reseal, Apsley, Splatt St (0) to end (310)	\$20,570
Dorodong Rd Reseal, Seal Change (13920) to Seal Change (15290)	\$48,619
Harrow Clear Lake Rd Reseal, Seal Chg. (560) to Seal Chg. (9120) & Seal Chg. (21635)	\$202,850
Commercial St Sth Reseal, Kaniva, Madden St (1025) to Progress St (1310)	\$25,651
Powers Ck Bourkes Bridge Rd Reseal, Seal Change (4150) to Seal Change (7240)	\$65,695
Phillips St Reseal, Kaniva, Madden St (0) to Baker St (458)	\$37,550
Benayeo Rd Reseal, Seal Change (2990) to Seal Change (6920)	\$113,650
Apsley Natimuk Rd Reseal, Seal Change (2370) to seal Change (4185)	\$55,864
Broughton Rd Reseal, Seal Chg. (21360) to Seal Chg. (21910) & Seal Chg (22270)	\$46,831
Goroke Harrow Rd Ch. 5900 - Ch. 7700 x 6.2m seal	\$24,177
Mooree Rd Ch. 3400 - Ch. 4500 x 6.2m seal	\$46,073
Mooree Rd Ch 7640 - Ch 9840 x 6.2m seal	\$81,522
Minimay Frances Rd (Ch. 6265 - Ch. 6645)	\$18,193
South Lillimur Rd (Ch. 21640 - Ch. 22540)	\$211,225
A Wallis Rd Resheeting, Western Hwy to 1000m	\$42,413
Har Clr Lk Rd Shldr Shtg, Ch 2.9-3.1F 3.29-3.815F 4.17-6.26R 4.32-4.87F 5.16-5.88F	\$51,543
Koolomurt Rd Resheeting Ch4.2-5.0	\$35,627
Hawkers & Goodwins Rd Resheeting Ch2.28-4.96	\$115,833

Mooree Road, Reconstruction and Widening, (Stage 1 Ch5800 - Ch7600)	\$384,170
Goroke Nurcoun, Reconst. and Widening Ch 1200 - Ch 2600 x 6.2m seal	\$389,670
Elizabeth St, Edenhope, Parking Lane construct, Anne St-Mollison St, Sou	\$45,305
Birmingham St, Harrow - DESIGN ONLY	\$26,980
Boundary Rd South, Ch 0 - 400, 840 - 950, 1680 - 1930, 2300 - 2500 (Resheet)	\$50,854
Chappel Rd, Ch 23050 - 24050 (Resheet)	\$50,449
Murrawong Nth Rd, Ch 10030 - 11030 (Resheet)	\$52,342
Ferris Rd, Ch 2430 - 3480, 4310 - 4870 (Resheet)	\$77,617
Miram Nth Rd, Ch 9500 - 10610 (Resheet)	\$68,782
K Clarks Rd, Ch 320 - 1170 (Resheet)	\$28,148
Grants & Richs, Ch 0 - 500, 3040 - 4060 (Resheet)	\$78,788
Dave Dodsons, Ch 50 - 650 (Resheet)	\$21,091
Goodwins Crouchs, Ch 430 - 1010 (Resheet)	\$30,118
D Hawker Rd, Ch 1550 - 2490, 2890 - 3010 (Resheet)	\$46,213
Billyho Rd, Ch 3410 - 4370 (Resheet)	\$40,403
Minimay Neuarpurr Rd Ch 400 to 1250 (Resheet)	\$45,069
The Avenue, Ch 0 - 360, 3380 - 3840, 5150 - 56670 (Resheet)	\$97,187
Yanipy Rd, Ch 6180 - 7180, 8055 - 8355 (Resheet)	\$54,931
Cooak Settlement Rd, Ch 300 - 700, 5500 - 6400 (Resheet)	\$57,562
H Mitchell Rd, Ch 0 - 670, 870 - 970 (Resheet)	\$22,319
H Walters Rd, Ch 300 - 1150 (Resheet)	\$27,100
B Redfords Rd, Ch 450 - 1430 (Resheet)	\$46,963
Hannafords Rd, Ch 750 - 970, 1100 - 1650 (Resheet)	\$23,636
Capelthornes Rd, Ch 0 - 1200 (Resheet)	\$53,864
Patyah Rd, Ch 20800 - 21800 (Resheet)	\$48,684
Mary Welsh Rd, Ch 700 - 1000, 2000 - 3200 (Resheet)	\$50,692
Muddy Lake Rd, Ch 2200 - 2650 (Resheet)	\$20,232
Rueben Burns Rd, Ch 900 - 1900 (Resheet)	\$52,690
Rex Hobbs Rd, Ch 1750 - 2490 (Resheet)	\$26,745
E Burns Rd, Ch 0 - 1000 (Resheet)	\$35,115
Camerons & Lampards Rd, Ch 2150 - 3260 (Resheet)	\$42,936
Hobbs Rd, Ch 0 - 550 (Resheet)	\$23,540
Pinehills No. 2, Ch 0 - 700 (Resheet)	\$22,076
Woodacres Rd, Ch 0 - 850 (Resheet)	\$30,075
Tea Tree Creek Ch 7000 - 7800, 7935 - 9000, 9400 - 10000, 10655 - 12155 (Resheet)	\$82,200
Sandsmere Hall Rd Shoulder Resheet ( Ch 2330 - 3380 F)	\$23,865
Yanipy Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch 2300 - 3300 F, Ch 2300 - 3300 R)	\$28,238
Miram Sth Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch0-720 F, Ch0-720 R, Ch 1800-2070 R, Ch 3300-5500	\$30,727
Patyah Bringalbert Nth Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch2285-2600 R,Ch2770-2900R,Ch6885-7615R)	\$27,927
Ullswater Mortat Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch 7715 - 8850 F)	\$25,897
HarrowClear Lake Rd Shldr Rsht (Ch15870-17000 R,Ch24000-24430R,Ch24440-24940F,Ch	\$71,822
Goroke Harrow Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch13425-14000 R,Ch 17590-18110 R,Ch 18650-20510R)	\$61,146
Scrubby Lake Rd Shoulder Resheet (Ch4725-5775 R, Ch4830-5380 F, Ch 7800 - 8700 F)	\$62,972

## Projects

### HARROW AFL LIGHTING

Upgrades to the lighting at the Harrow Recreation Reserve were completed and officially opened on 5 June 2025. The project involved removing the existing light towers and installing new towers and sport-compliant lighting.

Funding contributions included \$250,000 from the State Government through the 2023/24 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, \$50,000 from the Harrow Recreation Reserve Committee, and \$33,334 from West Wimmera Shire Council.

### KANIVA AFL LIGHTING

Lighting upgrades at Kaniva Recreation Reserve were also completed and officially opened on 5 June 2025. Works included the removal of existing towers and installation of new sport-compliant lighting.

Funding was provided through \$250,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria via the 2023/24 Country Football Netball Program, \$45,000 from Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club, and \$38,334 from West Wimmera Shire Council.

### GOROKE KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND

Planning is underway for a new playground at the Goroke Kindergarten, with project delivery expected in late 2025. The upgrades include new play equipment and surfaces to support inclusive play and developmental needs.

Funding for this project includes \$197,900 from the Department of Education and Training and \$2000 from the Goroke Parents Advisory Group.

### KANIVA DEPOT

Over the past 12 months, planning has progressed for remediation works at the Kaniva depot, including resolving issues related to an underground storage tank. Works will commence in late 2025, with additional planning for an amenities and office building also underway.

### EDENHOPE LAKE WALLACE BOAT RAMP

The Lake Wallace boat ramp extension was completed in June 2025, following delays due to lake water levels. The project extended the main boat ramp by more than 20 metres and added 10 metres to the secondary ramp.

Funding for this project included \$24,999 from the Victorian Fisheries Authorities Better Boating Victoria program.

### KANIVA DOG PARK

The Kaniva Dog Park received \$90,000 in funding through round two of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's new and upgraded dog parks program.

The park will be located at the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna ark, and will include a fenced off-leash area, pathways, seating, an airlock entry, and conversion of a garden space into lawn. Works are scheduled for late 2025.

### KANIVA RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN

A master planning process is underway at Kaniva Recreation Reserve to align Council and community values. Widespread consultation has been completed, and a draft masterplan will be released for feedback early in the 2025/26 financial year. This process supports future funding opportunities for strategic community infrastructure.

### EDENHOPE OFFICE UPGRADE

Renovations at the Edenhope Council office have transformed a former library space into a modern workspace. Works include new carpet, lighting and glass partitioning to improve the working environment for staff.

### WEST WIMMERA CABINS PROJECT

The West Wimmera Cabins Project has been completed, delivering eight new cabins across caravan parks in Lake Charlegrark, Kaniva, Harrow and Goroke. The cabins have been well received by visitors including interstate travellers and seasonal workers.

Funding for this project included \$1.68 million from the State Government (Regional Development Victoria), along with \$500,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council.



#### KANIVA BOWLING CLUB

Council secured \$710,000 in funding to upgrade the Kaniva Bowling Club. Additional contributions include \$123,750 from the Kaniva Bowling Club and \$41,250 from West Wimmera Shire Council. A further \$50,000 will support participation initiatives.

The project includes installation of a synthetic green, accessible toilet facilities, improved lighting, and other accessible infrastructure. Planning will commence in mid-to-late 2025.

#### GOROKE AFL LIGHTING, IRRIGATION, FENCING & DRAINAGE

Funding of \$608,000 has been secured for upgrades at Goroake Recreation Reserve. Contributions include \$140,600 from the Goroake Recreation Reserve Committee and \$11,600 from West Wimmera Shire Council. Project planning will commence in mid-to-late 2025.

Upgrades will include AFL-compliant lighting (minimum 100 lux), irrigation, drainage, and new fencing.

#### GOROKE POOL PLANNING

Design planning for future upgrades to the Goroake Swimming Centre will begin in mid-to-late 2025. Funding includes \$40,000 from external sources and \$10,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council.

The project includes schematic designs for future upgrades to the facility, informed by

geotechnical testing and a site survey. Planned upgrades include a pool ramp, wet deck, amenities, and improved plant and equipment.

#### EDENHOPE AERODROME PROJECT

Upgrades to the Edenhope Aerodrome support increase use by the Country Fire Authority. Completed works include a bore, solar pump, taxiway improvements, and fire tank pads. Installation of fire tanks and construction of a new service building, including amenities, a store shed, kitchen and radio shed, are scheduled to follow.

Funding includes \$220,000 from the Country Fire Authority, \$135,000 from the Federal Government's Regional Airports Program, and \$50,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council, totaling \$405,000.

#### EDENHOPE RECREATION RESERVE CHANGEROOM PROJECT

Construction is underway on the Edenhope Recreation Reserve Changeroom project, with completion expected by mid-2026. The new facility will include two changerooms with shower and toilet amenities, umpire changerooms, a first aid room, accessible car parking, and a storeroom.

Funding includes \$1 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, \$360,000 from the Edenhope Apsley Football Netball Club, and \$240,000 from West Wimmera Shire Council.



Photo: West Wimmera Cabins Project Lake Charlegrark

## Tourism

Tourism continues to be a vital part of the West Wimmera economy. The visitor economy is defined by the spending of people travelling to and within the region, regardless of the services or goods they use. According to Tourism Research Australia, visitor spending across the shire totalled an estimated \$10.914 million in 2024–25, with year-on-year growth continuing.

Under Council's strategic objective of building a diverse and prosperous economy, the visitor economy is supported through dedicated staff and Council's membership in regional tourism partnerships.

### GRAMPIANS WIMMERA MALLEE VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

West Wimmera Shire Council is an active financial member of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, a formal regional tourism body responsible for destination marketing and industry development across eight partner councils.

Highlights from this collaboration include:

- Creation of the Wimmera Mallee Official Visitor Guide and Touring Guide
- Local Area Action Plan specific to West Wimmera
- Business mentoring programs for local tourism operators
- Delivery of the Wimmera Mallee Destination Plan
- Ongoing regional rebranding work
- Participation in state and interstate travel shows
- Representation in international and domestic tourism markets

### AT A LOCAL LEVEL

At a local level, Council supports the tourism sector through:

- Marketing support and collateral reproduction for local businesses
- Maintaining the Visit West Wimmera website and social media channels
- Distributing the official visitor guide throughout Victoria and the Limestone Coast
- Participating in campaigns such as the Melbourne to Adelaide Touring Map
- In-kind event support, advice and promotion
- Cross-border tourism collaboration with South Australian councils and Limestone Coast Tourism

Council also attends industry forums and events that strengthen partnerships and promote the region.

### BUSHFIRE IMPACT TO GRAMPIANS AND LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARKS

In early 2025, major bushfires impacted the Grampians and Little Desert National Parks. In response, a State Government recovery package funded a dedicated Recovery Officer within Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism. Recovery efforts have included marketing campaigns and identifying new tourism opportunities, in collaboration with Visit Victoria, Business Victoria and local government partners.



Photo: West Wimmera Cabins Project Kaniva

VISITOR ECONOMY PROJECTS:

Council continues to pursue tourism-related projects through grant funding and regional collaboration.

**In conjunction with Grampians Tourism**  
(prior to Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism partnership)

- Installed at Lake Tyrell, Halls Gap and Dunkeld, these off-grid kiosks promote tourism across the entire Grampians and Wimmera Mallee regions.

**In conjunction with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development**

- Eight new cabins have been installed across Gorokey, Harrow, Kaniva and Lake Charlegrark.
- The project has delivered strong occupancy rates and is supported by upcoming marketing materials and a cross-regional campaign.

**Projects supported by State Government funding**

*Regional Development Victoria (RDV)*

- Stage 1 of the West Wimmera Digital Explorer app is now live in Edenhope and Gorokey.
- Council is seeking additional funding to expand the app with augmented reality experiences in Apsley, Harrow and Kaniva.

*Public Record Office Victoria (PROV):*

- 'A history of the Serviceton Railway Station with Les Millikin'.
- Local historian Les Millikin was recorded by StoryTowns, with video and audio to be shared via signage, the Council website, and the Digital Explorer app.

# Economic development

The economic and business development department focused throughout 2024-25 on investigating key issues across the shire and identifying new and emerging opportunities to support long-term, inclusive, and sustainable growth. In alignment with the West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy 2024-2029, housing remained a priority. Significant effort was directed toward securing investment and funding for residential development projects in Edenhope and Kaniva to build future capacity and economic resilience.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Council's Business Better Approvals Service continued to offer dedicated concierge support to new business owners. This service assists with compliance-related queries, permit requirements, and the application and approval process. Additional support for businesses included access to Grant Guru, a dedicated grants search engine, and a suite of resources available on Council's website, including information about training sessions, online upskilling workshops, free toolkits, and other business development programs.

BUSINESS GRANTS

The Business Assistance and Business Streetscape grant programs continued to support local businesses, with two successful grant applications approved during 2024/25.

# Council Goal 3

## Sustainable Environment

### Services funded in budget

Goal 3: Sustainable Environment	Service Area	Net Cost (\$ '000)		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
	Parks & Reserves	(303)	(576)	(273)
	Tourism	(100)	(17)	83
	Waste Management	(361)	(446)	(85)

## Major Initiatives

### Goal 3: Sustainable Environment

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/Actions
3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.	3.1.1 Prepare a Waste Management Plan to guide waste management activities and to maximise recycling and resource recovery.	2022-2023	In progress.
	3.1.2 Review West Wimmera Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan.	2022-2023	Completed.
	3.1.3 Review West Wimmera Shire Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.	2022-2023	Completed.
	3.1.4 Review and update Council's fleet policy for the use of electric and hybrid vehicles.	2022-2023	Motor Vehicle Policy reviewed and adopted 21 May 2025.
	3.1.5 Explore potential exemptions, offsets, and land banking opportunities to compensate for native vegetation removal on farms and roadsides.	2022-2023	Offsets are to be sought through registered third party offset brokers that are registered through the State Government and who have reporting requirements and land management requirements for managing the land that they sell offsets from. First party offsets require land owners to prepare management plans with annual requirements about managing weeds, fencing and the use of the land. The requirement to seek these offsets either through a third-party broker or through managing an offset on their own land is the requirement of property owners.
	3.1.6 Advocate to GWMWater to complete part two of the Goroke Sewer Scheme.	2021-2025	Complete
	3.1.7 Advocate to relevant stakeholders to maintain safe infrastructure (i.e roads, furniture, signage) on public land for recreation (lakes, parks, and natural environments).	2021-2025	Followed up again with Parks Victoria, currently there is still no funding to upgrade/ improve these assets.
3.2 Promote sustainable environmental management practices.	3.2.1 Support activities to control pest animals in farming and township areas.	2021-2025	Annual rollout of corella management plan and roadside weeds and pest funding activities.
	3.2.2 Work with partner agencies on roadside vegetation management.	2021-2025	Delivery of annual Roadside Weeds and Pest Management Program.
	3.2.3 Support initiatives to assist with disposal of waste products from agricultural activity.	2021-2025	EPA to develop a farm waste disposal project.

	3.2.4 Continue to look at circular economy opportunities.	2021-2025	Contribute to shared regional glass crushing facility – agreement signed. Funding application submitted and funding received under Transfer Station Upgrade Program to introduce glass collection facility in transfer Stations. Complete Introduction of glass recycling stream through kerbside collection and drop off Facilities. Complete Assisting the State Government with site selection for container deposit scheme setup. Complete
3.3 Protect and promote public open space and natural assets.	3.3.1 Identify opportunities to improve safe access and use of natural areas for recreational purposes.	2022-2023	Closed out in previous years
	3.3.2 Explore opportunities to define, scope and develop a Wetlands Centre of Excellence.	2023-2024	Project closed as not currently feasible.
	3.3.3 Investigate the feasibility of establishing a man-made lake at the Kaniva racecourse site.	2024-2025	Concept plan completed and the recommendation is to hold the project until significant external funding is available.
	3.3.4 Partner with key stakeholders to support the implementation of the Lake Wallace Strategy where funding permits.	2021-2025	Lake Wallace Strategic Plan adopted.
3.4 Pursue alternative and sustainable energy sources	3.4.1 Promote alternative and sustainable energy projects in the shire.	2021-2025	Included in Planning Scheme review.
	3.4.2 Investigate the potential for micro-grids in industrial areas and towns.	2024-2025	Closed out in previous years.

## Strategic Indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for waste management for the West Wimmera Shire was 64 compared with the state-wide score of 65 and the small rural score of 66. The index score recorded for slashing and weed control for the West Wimmera Shire was 50 compared with state-wide 47 and small rural 49.
Reportable environmental impacts	Council has not been notified of any reportable environmental impacts.

## Service Performance Indicators

Results					
Service / indicator / measure	2022	2023	2024	2024	Comments
<b>ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>					
Timeliness					
Time taken to action animal management requests [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	1.22	1.61	1.45	1.33	
Service standard					
Animals reclaimed [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	31.48%	10.37%	37.93%	53.33%	Councils Local Laws Officer has been working hard with councils communications team to ensure a wide variety of advertising to ensure collected animals are returned to their rightful home.
Animals rehomed [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100	61.11%	32.59%	44.44%	85.71%	Councils Local Laws Officer has worked with multiple local animal welfare groups to ensure that suitable animals are rehomed if they cannot be returned to their owners.
Service cost					
Cost of animal management service per population [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$21.26	\$18.04	\$5.48	\$41.63	
Health and safety					
Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>					
Timeliness					
Time taken to action food complaints [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Service standard					
Food safety assessments [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	54.72%	75.00%	81.13%	102.00%	Councils EHO has a well developed inspection schedule that ensures all premises receive at minimum one required food assessment per year.

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Food safety samples [Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] × 100	New	New	100%	100%	
Service cost					
Cost of food safety service [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	\$686.57	\$167.93	\$173.84	\$463.75	
Health and safety					
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non- compliance notifications about a food premises] ×100	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>					
Service standard					
Kerbside collection bins missed [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] ×10,000	1.20	0.68	0.68	0.46	
Service cost					
Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$104.62	\$206.88	\$114.61	\$153.93	
Service cost					
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$85.92	\$104.73	\$70.41	\$71.63	
Waste diversion					
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] ×100	20.43%	19.98%	12.87%	15.71%	

## LOCAL LAWS AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Council's sole Local Laws Officer/Ranger has spent the previous 12 months enjoying his role within the council helping the community with animal management through community consultation, having further developed the wide variety of skills required for this multiskilled role. Trainings attended include animal mortality training, Law enforcement with Russell Kennedy lawyers & Municipal Fire Prevention Officer training.

Time also spent working on adding Crisis works for fire management to west wimmera shire councils management system to ensure the correct ongoing management of fire prevention and data for this area. Regular tasks undertaken in this area

Include:

- Removing abandoned cars from council roads
- Responding to wandering stock on roads
- Responding to roaming /menacing dogs
- Discussions with landowners regarding fencing to contain animals
- Issuing notices to comply for unsightly properties
- Issuing fire prevention notices
- Dealing with barking dog complaints
- Dealing with neighbourhood disputes
- Organising treatment of roadside weeds
- Organising ripping of roadside rabbit burrows
- Rehoming cats and dogs with Phoenix Animal Welfare/Horsham Paws
- Managing an increasing number of cats at large (feral, domestic, and abandoned)
- Corella management activities
- Supported Agriculture Victoria and the RSPCA on animal welfare issues
- Responding to after-hours call out

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Council's environmental health officer (EHO) safeguards public health and wellbeing by monitoring compliance with relevant legislation and promoting safe practices across the shire. This includes inspection of food premises, tobacco retailers, accommodation sites, and personal care businesses such as hair, beauty and tattoo establishments, as well as the collection of food samples for testing.

In 2024/25, the EHO gained full qualification, enabling more inspections and assessments with a full-time, qualified staff member in place.

Key activities undertaken during the reporting period included:

- 83 food assessments and inspections under the Food Act 1984
- Five permits issued to install or alter septic tanks under the Environment Protection Act 2017
- 19 inspections completed under the Tobacco Act 1987
- 26 inspections completed under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- 100% satisfactory result from 19 statutory food samples taken under the Food Act 1984

Public health education remains a priority, with the EHO continuing the regular 'Dear EHO...' column in the Council newsletter to inform and educate the community on health and hygiene matters.

In 2024/25, Council adopted the West Wimmera Shire Council Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029, aligning with current environment protection legislation and supporting effective onsite wastewater management. Environmental health officers also assisted bushfire recovery in November 2024 and January-February 2025, completing 73 secondary impact assessments in Kadnook and Little Desert to manage safety and health risks.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Wimmera Mallee Waste Management (WMWM), on behalf of the West Wimmera Shire Council, conducted an audit of glass and co-mingle recycling across the shire during November 2024. This audit was aimed at identifying community recycling trends and how effectively residents are using their recycling services.

Key findings

**Glass**

From September 2023 to November 2024, contamination in glass recycling increased from 1.3% to 1.7%. This suggests a slight rise in incorrect materials being placed in glass bins.

**Co-mingle** (yellow lid recycling bin)

Contamination in co-mingle recycling increased from 15.1% to 26.2% in the same period. Glass made up 2.4% of the co-mingle recycling, which is a decrease from the previous year's 3%.

**Recycling contamination**

Glass recycling (purple lid recycling bin)

Common contaminants in glass recycling include wine collars, loose jar and bottle lids, and other non-glass materials. It is unclear whether these materials were attached to glass containers during disposal or if residents placed them in the bin separately. Another significant issue was the presence of animal waste, which could have originated from a single source.

Co-mingle recycling

Despite the availability of glass recycling bins, 2.4% of materials in co-mingle bins were glass. This suggests some residents may still be unaware of the correct process for glass disposal. Other contaminants found in co-mingle recycling included bagged waste, general waste, and green waste. The presence of these materials indicates that while residents are making an effort to recycle, some are not following the correct guidelines.



Figure 5: Glass contaminants in 2024 audit

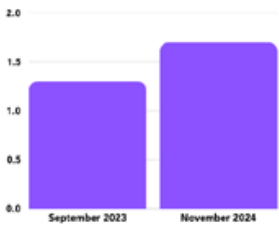


Figure 6: % Glass contaminants increase from 2023 to 2024



Figure 7: % Glass in co-mingle recycling from 2023 to 2024

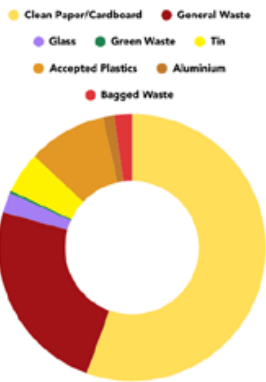


Figure 8: Co-mingle Recycling categories and weight %



Sustainable Environment

Photo: Billyho Bushwalk

# Council Goal 4

## Good Governance

### Major Initiatives

#### Goal 4: Good Governance

Strategies	Initiatives	Timing	Achievements/Actions
4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.	4.1.1 Prepare and implement a 10-Year Financial Plan.	2021-2022	Adopted October 2021.
	4.1.2 Prepare and implement long term Asset Plan.	2021-2022	Adopted May 2022.
	4.1.3 Provide quarterly financial reports tracking Council performance including Annual Plan performance measures and Capital Works Program.	Quarterly	Ongoing. Quarterly financial reports and Annual Plan updates provided.
	4.1.4 Prepare and implement a Fees and Charges Strategy.	2021-2022	Fees and Charges Strategy implemented.
	4.1.5 Maximise income from alternative sources.	2021-2025	Continuing to apply for external grants.
	4.1.6 Implement the West Wimmera Shire Council Revenue and Rating Strategy.	2021-2025	Reviewed and adopted 27 June 2025.
	4.1.7 Undertake continuous improvement initiatives to look for cost efficiencies and savings.	2021-2025	Continuing to receive and implement innovation platform ideas.

4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.	4.2.1 Implement the Community Engagement Policy.	2021-2025	Implemented.
	4.2.2 Live stream Council meetings.	Ongoing	Completed.
	4.2.3 Regularly provide information to the community via the website and other channels to ensure Council's program and activities enjoy a high level of awareness.	Ongoing	Fortnightly West Wimmera Shire Council newsletter distributed to the community. Regular social media updates.
	4.2.4 Implement an Innovation Platform.	2021-2022	Completed. Innovation Platform committee meetings held monthly.
4.3 Advocate for our community on issues important to our future.	4.3.1 Prepare a document setting out key advocacy issues for West Wimmera Shire.	Ongoing	Draft Advocacy Plan underway.
4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.	4.4.1 Develop and implement the Workforce Plan.	2021-2022	Completed and adopted December 2021.
	4.4.2 Prepare and implement an Information Technology Strategy to support efficient Council operations and community interaction.	2022-2024	Completed and implementation underway.
	4.4.3 Review procurement policies and processes to maximise accountability, value for money, and encourage local procurement.	2021-2022	Adopted December 2021.
	4.4.4 Implement the action plan for the implementation of the Gender Equality Act.	2021-2022	Completed and implementation underway.
	4.4.5 Implement a cultural awareness training program for all Councillors and Council staff.	2022-2023	Cultural Awareness Training provided to staff and Councillors.
	4.4.6 Prepare an Annual Business Plan to identify and track financial and operational performance.	Annually	FY2025-26 Annual Plan developed.
	4.4.7 Implement a Project Management Framework.	2023-2024	Project Management framework developed and implemented
	4.4.8 Develop and implement a Council intranet.	2022-2023	Completed. Continuous improvement and development.
	4.4.9 Develop a framework and/or relevant management plans for key management areas in Council to ensure accountability and a clear understanding of responsibilities, processes, systems, and procedures.	2021-2025	Ongoing.
	4.4.10 Investment in Council staff and Councillors to enable them to be the best leaders for their communities.	2021-2025	Councillor Induction Training December 2024 5 day OHS Course One day refreshers for HSR representatives Educator Specific Professional boundaries, Confidentiality and Code of Conduct
	4.4.11 Review and implement a records management system, strategy and policy that ensures good organisational governance.	2021-2025	Electronic data records management system implemented (Microsoft Teams). Records Management Policy adopted.

4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.	4.5.1 Support the activities of the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee.	Ongoing	Key recommendations implemented.
	4.5.2 Prepare and implement an annual internal audit program.	Annually	Completed.
	4.5.3 Review and update the Business Continuity Plan.	2021-2022	Business Continuity Plan reviewed 9 May 2025 and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee Audit of Business Continuity Plan conducted 31 July 2024 with key stakeholders.
	4.5.4 Prepare and maintain a register of Council's statutory obligations including reporting and public registers.	Annually	Completed.

## Services funded in budget

	Service Area	Net Cost (\$ '000)		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
Goal 4: Good Governance	Customer Service	(493)	(423)	70
	Elected Members	(265)	(2)	263
	Finance & Rates	4,120	3,994	(126)
	Governance	(376)	(718)	(342)
	Information Technology	(537)	(156)	381
	Corporate Services	(328)	5,231	5,559
	Infrastructure Development & Works	(362)	(636)	(274)
	Records Management	(112)	(266)	(154)



## Strategic indicators

Indicators/measures	Comments/results
Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	The index score recorded for consultation and engagement for the West Wimmera Shire was 56 compared with the state-wide score of 50 and small rural score of 51.
Annual Council Audit	Council's external auditors, Crowe Australasia, are acting as agents for VAGO and have completed the 2024/25 final audit pending approval from VAGO.

## Service Performance Indicators

Results					
Service / indicator / measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comments
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>					
Transparency					
Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councilors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councilors ] x100	13.59%	35.23%	32.86%	39.39%	Council considered the same contract three times as there was no suitable tenderers. Council have considered transitioning three different services to external providers which have necessitated confidential discussions.
Consultation and engagement					
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement ]	54.00	54.00	56.00	56.00	
Attendance					
Councilor attendance at council meetings [The sum of the number of Councilors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councilors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	98.82%	98.89%	92.94%	97.39%	
Service cost					
Cost of elected representation [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councilors elected at the last Council general election]	\$37,469.00	\$40,258.00	\$43,311.40	\$48,205.60	
Satisfaction					
Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	54.00	55.00	59.00	56.00	

# Council Goal 5

## Our Commitment

### Major initiatives

#### Goal 5: Our Commitment

To put the right emphasis and importance on how we deliver on the Council Plan, Council has created a fifth goal; making a commitment to deliver the goals based on the following values.

- Innovation
- Accountability
- United
- Collaborative

## Service performance indicators

Results					
Service / indicator / measure	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comments
<b>AQUATIC FACILITIES</b>					
Service standard					
Health inspections of aquatic facilities [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]	0.67	0.00	0.67	1.00	
<b>Utilisation</b>					
Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.06	2.91	3.41	2.87	The pool visits were down 2195 from 2023-24 as the Edenhope and Kaniva pool had a delayed opening due to the changing of contractors at the last minute. Before opening contractors had to acquire appropriate insurance and engage lifeguards. The Goroke pool attendances increased by 991 as it was open the full season.
<b>Service cost</b>					
Cost of aquatic facilities [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$17.43	\$22.67	\$21.10	\$28.38	
<b>ROADS</b>					
<b>Satisfaction of use</b>					
Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometers of sealed local roads] x100	4.48	2.74	3.75	3.39	
<b>Condition</b>					
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometers of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometers of sealed local roads] x100	99.83%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
<b>Service cost</b>					
Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square meters of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$44.80	\$45.39	\$47.76	\$33.46	The road construction activities undertaken were less complex compared to the previous financial year as well as the weather conditions remained dry, there were no interruptions caused by wet weather during the construction period hence the decrease in costs
<b>Service Cost</b>					
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square meters of sealed local roads resealed]	\$4.27	\$5.79	\$5.69	\$6.10	
<b>Satisfaction</b>					
Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	54.00	53.00	51.00	51.00	

# Engineering and works

Council has completed the following capital works projects during 2024/25:

Roads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mooree Road construction</li><li>South Lillimur Road construction</li></ul>
Footpaths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compston Street, Goroke</li><li>Elizabeth Street, Edenhope</li></ul>
Kerb and channel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compston Street, Goroke</li><li>Elizabeth Street, Edenhope</li></ul>
Bridges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Newmans Bridge repairs.</li></ul>
Aerodromes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Construction of a new taxiway completed</li></ul>
Design for future projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Birmingham Street, Harrow. A detailed design was developed to transform the unsealed road into a sealed road with improvements to drainage</li></ul>

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Over the past 12 months, Council’s infrastructure, engineering and works teams delivered a substantial capital works and maintenance program, while continuing to enhance asset management and geographic information systems (GIS) to improve operational efficiency.

The majority of design and construction work was delivered by in-house staff, with additional support provided by external consultants and contractors as required.

Routine maintenance was carried out across the shire and included sealed and unsealed roads, bridges, Council-owned buildings and

reserves, playgrounds, footpaths, kerb and channel, and parks and gardens.

A traffic analysis study commenced in the Kaniva urban precinct, focused on improving pedestrian and vehicle safety. This project was supported by funding from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

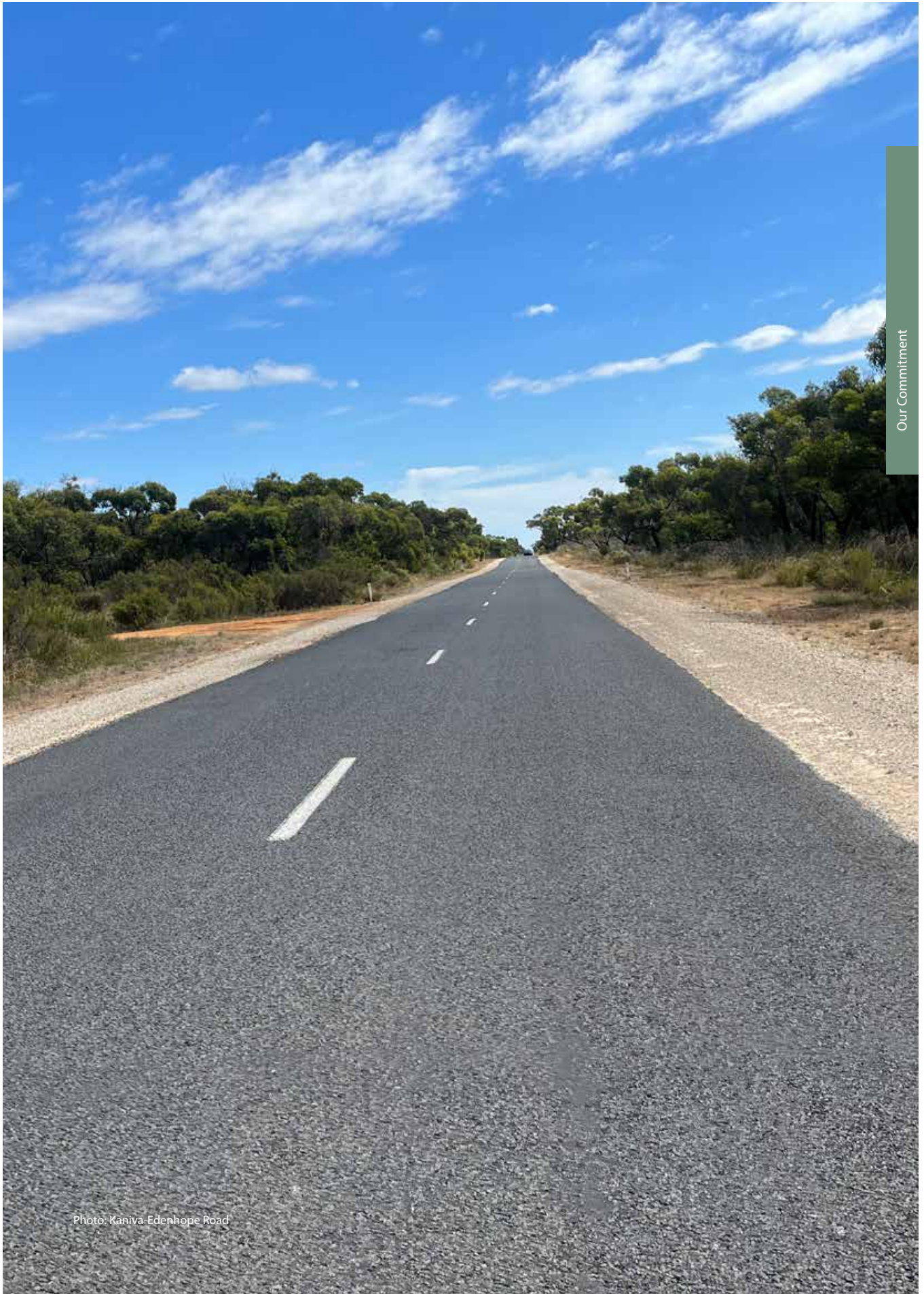
Council’s contract for maintenance of Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) arterial roads within the municipality has been extended to 30 June 2026. This includes sections of the Wimmera Highway and other arterial roads including the Kaniva-Edenhope Road, Casterton Apsley Road, Edenhope Penola Road, Wombelano Road, Serviceton North-Telopea Downs Road and Nhill-Harrow Road. Under this contract, Council conducts routine inspections, reporting, emergency call-outs (such as trees down, traffic accidents, etc) and minor maintenance each month. Council submits larger maintenance projects to DTP for ‘provisional’ funding. Approved works included a stabilisation patching program delivered by contractors and Council’s works teams completed 25km of shoulder resheeting and edge break repairs on Kaniva-Edenhope Road.

Gravel resheeting of various roads was completed to the value of \$1.6 million while the shoulder resheeting program was undertaken on sealed roads at a budgeted cost of \$600,000. The annual resealing of sealed roads was also successfully completed with the value of works approximating \$1 million.

The capital works program was further supported by Federal Government funding, including:

- \$881,390 through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program
- \$1,986,420 through the Roads to Recovery Program





## Asset management and GIS

A variety of activities have been undertaken during the year to maintain or improve asset and GIS functions:

- Commenced the Local Roads Data Reconciliation Project, which will provide robust information to the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission
- Annual inspection of playground infrastructure was undertaken by an external consultant
- Council's building portfolio was assessed for condition and valuation. This is completed on a three-yearly basis
- Prepared applications for five separate projects under the Safer Local Roads and Streets Program
- Continued compilation of photographic record of road assets for natural disaster purposes
- Worked toward a cloud-based platform for the GIS viewing portal known as POZI
- Reviewed the Road Management Plan and prepared it for community consultation and final adoption by Council
- Reviewed the Asset Management Policy and the Asset Management Strategy with subsequent formal adoption by Council
- Progressed a safety review of the Kaniva urban precinct toward community consultation and final adoption by Council
- Developed a policy for remotely piloted aircraft systems (drone operations) as Council utilises a drone for some engineering activities
- Completed an audit on Asset Management as required by Council's Audit Committee

## Planning and building services

Council's Planning Department is responsible for preparing and administering the West Wimmera Planning Scheme under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Their responsibilities under the Act include issuing planning permits for use and development of land, planning scheme amendments, strategic planning and enforcement. Throughout the shire, 27 applications for planning permits were received and 23 planning permits were issued in the 2024/2025 year. Council also responded to 155 customer requests for planning matters. As with permits, these requests were wide ranging, including the use of premises for business purposes, native vegetation regulations, and subdivisions.

Beyond the core responsibility of providing planning services for the community, there have been several additional areas of focus. Council officers have been working towards completing multiple actions identified in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme Review, currently in train there are Flood Studies for Edenhope and Apsley, a small towns plan and a targeted settlement strategy for the Kaniva township, implementing flood controls for Harrow and Chetwynd, implementing policy neutral scheme changes. Enforcement issues have continued, with illegal native vegetation removal being an ongoing area of concern.

With the shortage of planning services and planning professionals across the state, the planning department has endeavored to implement the most effective services possible for the community. Council's Senior Planner has continued to respond to many planning enquiries as well as progress Council's Strategic work and allocate statutory work to Council's contract planners.

During the 2024/2025 reporting period, Council's building department responded to 26 Building/Property Information requests, conducted 41 building inspections, received 15 building permit applications, issued nine building notices, issued 10 reports and consents and private Building Surveyors issued 45 building permits across the shire.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT  
CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, a council that is a collecting or developing agency must prepare a report to the Minister for Planning outlining infrastructure and development contributions, including levies and works in-kind. This information must also be published in Council's annual report.

For the 2024/25 financial year, Council received \$11,250 in public open space contributions. These funds will support the maintenance and improvement of public open spaces in Edenhope, the town from which the contribution was collected.

# Contracts and procurement

In 2024/25, procurement practices were strengthened through a continued focus on transparency, accountability, and value for money. All tenders were evaluated in accordance with probity principles to ensure fairness and compliance.

- Key achievements included:
- Completion of the four-year review of Council's Procurement Policy
- Preparation of the updated policy for consideration by the Audit and Risk Committee and adoption in early 2025/26
- Expressions of Interest conducted to explore alternative arrangements for cleaning and town maintenance contracts
- Use of Microsoft Teams expanded to centralise contract records and improve governance
- Internal processes and documentation streamlined to support consistent outcomes
- All contracts valued above \$150,000 were awarded through a competitive process, in accordance with Section 186(5)(a) and (c) of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Procurement Policy.

CONTRACTS AWARDED

Capital Plant

- **C-JUL2024-P008** - Supply and delivery of one Cat 12M motor grader
- **C-JUL2024-P009** - Supply and delivery of one 18,000L water tanker
- **C-OCT2024-P012** - Supply and delivery of one prime mover

Projects

- **C-JAN2025-C001** - Edenhope Recreation Reserve changerooms

Operational services

- **C-NOV2024-S013** - Management and operation of the Kaniva Memorial Swimming Pool
- **C-NOV2024-S014** - Management and operation of the Edenhope Swim Centre
- **C-NOV2024-S015** - Management and operation of the Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park
- **C-MAR2025-W003** - Arterial road stabilisation works
- **C-MAR-W004** - Arterial road pavement stabilising and shoulder works

As part of a broader review of organisational needs and resourcing, the position of Contracts and Procurement Manager was made redundant in May 2025. Procurement responsibilities are now delivered through a decentralised model, reflecting a reduced capital works program and a more constrained funding environment.

# Facilities and Quality

In 2024/25, West Wimmera Shire Council maintained its focus on effective land and facilities management through the preparation and administration of leases, licences, and user agreements. Council acts as custodian of land on behalf of the community. This includes Council-owned property, Crown land where Council is appointed as the committee of management, and land leased or licensed for identified purposes.

#### LEASES

- **Kaniva Racecourse and Recreation Reserve lease:** A lease was issued to a community group to crop and maintain this key recreational facility, with proceeds supporting local sporting activities.
- **Windmill Café and Visitor Information Centre:** A new tenant was secured to operate the café and visitor centre, providing hospitality and tourism services in a central, high-visibility location.

#### LICENCES

- **Elders Real Estate – 55 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope:** The commercial licence for this property was renewed, maintaining a business presence on Edenhope's main street.
- **Unused road licence - Apsley:** Council continued to oversee this arrangement to ensure appropriate land use and compliance with relevant regulations.

#### CONTRACTORS AND MANAGED FACILITIES

Three new contractors were engaged during 2024/25 to operate key community amenities, including Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park, Kaniva Swimming Pool, Edenhope Swimming Centre, and Goroke Swimming Centre. These partnerships support the delivery of vital recreational services that contribute to health, wellbeing, and liveability in West Wimmera communities.

#### ONGOING SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Council continues to provide support to committees of management, user groups, and other stakeholders to ensure local facilities are managed in accordance with relevant legislation and Council policies. This guidance helps maintain the safety, quality, and sustainability of important public assets.



Photo:



## Lighting upgrades officially opened in Kaniva and Harrow

Two major lighting upgrades have been completed at Harrow and Kaniva recreation reserves, marking a significant boost to local sports infrastructure in West Wimmera.

The Harrow AFL Lighting Upgrade and Kaniva AFL Lighting Upgrade projects were officially opened in June 2025, with the support of Council, community members, and funding partners. Each project received \$250,000 from the State Government, alongside contributions from Council and local community groups.

In Harrow, the \$333,334 project was jointly funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria, West Wimmera Shire Council, and the Harrow Recreation Reserve Committee. Works included removing outdated infrastructure and installing four new lighting poles with 150 lux LED lights around the oval.

Kaniva's \$333,334 project delivered a similar upgrade, with four new lighting poles providing 150 lux lighting for the football oval. This project was supported by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Council, and the Kaniva Leeor United Football Netball Club.

Both projects significantly improve safety and extend the usability of the ovals, enabling sports clubs, schools, and the wider community to make greater use of these facilities throughout the year. The upgrades also enhance the experience for players and spectators, ensuring recreation reserves remain central to community life.

These projects form part of Council's ongoing commitment to investing in high-quality sporting and recreation facilities. By partnering with community groups and funding bodies, Council continues to strengthen opportunities for active, healthy lifestyles across the shire while ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with community needs.





Photo: Community Forum Teloopa Downs

## Our Governance

This section covers West Wimmera Shire Council's governance approach, highlighting its role in providing leadership, managing resources responsibly, and advocating for community interests. It includes details on decision-making processes, conflict of interest policies, councillor attendance, and adherence to governance and management standards. The section also addresses Council's commitment to effective democratic and corporate governance through audits, policy reviews, and maintaining transparency.



West Wimmera Shire Council is constituted under the Local Government Act to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and local community. Council plays a number of important roles, including:

- Considering the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making
- Providing leadership by setting strategic objectives and monitoring outcomes
- Managing resources responsibly and accountably
- Advocating for the interests of the community to other levels of government
- Fostering community cohesion and supporting civic participation

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance to ensure that both Council and its administration meet the priorities of the community. Residents and ratepayers have multiple opportunities to contribute to Council's decision-making processes, including through consultation activities, community forums and formal submissions.

Council's formal decisions are made during Council meetings, while most operational decisions are delegated to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with Council's adopted policies and procedures.

#### Council meetings: Councillor attendance

Table 3: Scheduled Council meetings attendance record 2024/25

Date	Cr. Tim Meyer, Mayor	Cr. Jodie Pretlove Deputy Mayor	Cr Bruce Meyer OAM	Cr. Tom Houlihan Deputy Mayor	Cr Richard Hicks	Cr Helen Hobbs
24/07/2024	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
21/08/2024	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
18/09/2024	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
16/10/2024	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
20/11/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
18/12/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
19/02/2025	Attended	Apology	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
19/03/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
16/04/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
21/05/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
18/06/2025	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillors are elected to act in the best interests of the municipal community and are required to make decisions impartially, guided by the principles of good governance. This position of trust requires adherence to the provisions of the Local Government Act and Council's Governance Rules, particularly in relation to the disclosure and management of conflicts of interest.

Conflicts of interest may arise when personal or private interests could influence, or appear to influence, decisions made in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper conduct occurs.

At all Council and committee meetings, declaration of conflicts of interest is a standing agenda item. The process generally involves disclosing the relevant interests and removing oneself from the decision-making process. These procedures also apply to Council officers and committees where powers have been delegated.

A conflict-of-interest register is maintained to ensure transparency and accountability. During 2024/25, a total of 33 conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings and all were recorded.

Table 4: *Unscheduled Council meetings attendance record 2024/25*

Date	Cr. Tim Meyer, Mayor	Cr. Jodie Pretlove Deputy Mayor	Cr Bruce Meyer, OAM	Cr Tom Houlihan/ Deputy Mayor	Cr Richard Hicks	Cr Helen Hobbs
09/08/2024 Unscheduled Council meeting CEMAC meeting	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
09/08/2024 Unscheduled Council meeting Financial statements and performance statement	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
16/09/2024 Unscheduled Council meeting performance statement	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
24/09/2024 Unscheduled Council meeting draft annual report	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
23/10/2024 Unscheduled Council meeting annual report	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	-
12/11/2024 Annual statutory Council meeting	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
29/01/2025 Unscheduled Council meeting Workers' accommodation	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
12/03/2025 Unscheduled confidential Council meeting Grant applications	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
28/03/2025 Unscheduled Council meeting Budget revision	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
24/04/2025 Unscheduled Council meeting CEMAC meeting	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
16/05/2025 Unscheduled Council meeting Draft annual plan and budget	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended
27/06/2025 Unscheduled Council meeting Annual plan and budget	Attended	Attended	-	Attended	Attended	Attended



## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council conducts open public meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Community members are welcome to attend these meetings in person or view the livestream. Council meetings provide the opportunity for residents to submit written questions or ask questions directly during the meeting.

During 2024/25, a total of 23 Council meetings were conducted.

Recordings of meetings, along with agendas, minutes, policies and strategies, are available on Council's website.

## COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community forums are scheduled three times per year in conjunction with Council meetings. These forums take place in smaller towns across the shire, giving councillors an opportunity to share a meal with residents and discuss local issues in an informal setting.

In 2024/25, forums were hosted in:

- Telopea Downs – August 2024
- Gymbowen – March 2025
- Lillimur – June 2025

## LOCAL LAWS

Local Law No. 8 – Use of Common Seal was adopted by Council in August 2020.

Local Law No. 9 – Community Local Law was adopted by Council on 17 May 2023

## REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

Council continues to review all delegations every six months in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. A full review is also conducted within 12 months after a general election. This process includes updates to reflect legislative changes and any structural or procedural adjustments within Council.

Delegations are publicly available on Council's website.

## REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Council policies are reviewed regularly under a rolling review schedule. Each review assesses compliance with current legislation, removes outdated procedural content, and ensures alignment with Council's template and operational practices.

Endorsed policies are published on Council's website and managed through the document control system to maintain accountability and ensure timely updates.

## COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Council adopted its current Councillor Code of Conduct on 17 February 2021. However, following changes to the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 and the Local Government Act 2020, which came into effect on 26 October 2024, all Councillors now operate under the Model Councillor Code of Conduct developed by Local Government Victoria.

## COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE AND EXPENSES

The Local Government Act 2020 transferred responsibility for determining mayoral and councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT).

On 7 March 2022, the Tribunal issued Determination No. 01/2022 under the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019 (Vic). The determination established new allowance rates for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors, with a phased implementation period – three years for councillors and five years for mayors and deputy mayors. A separate allowance was also introduced for deputy mayors.

Allowances were backdated to 18 December 2021. The determination includes a remote area travel allowance with defined eligibility criteria.

West Wimmera Shire Council is classified under Council Allowance Category 1. Annual adjustments to allowance values will continue until 18 December 2025. The most recent increase took effect on 18 December 2024.

For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the allowances payable to the mayor, deputy mayor and councillors are outlined below:

	Type	Amount
Mayor	Mayoral allowance	\$82,059.36
Cr Tim Meyer	Reimbursement	\$ 145.45
Dept Mayor	Deputy mayor allowance	\$35,826.53
Cr Jodie Pretlove	Reimbursement	\$ 3,851.01
Councillor	Councillor Allowance	\$31,286.56
Cr Tom Houlihan	Reimbursement	\$ 5,562.57
Councillor	Councillor Allowance	\$26,084.17
Cr Richard Hicks	Reimbursement	\$ 3,033.56
Councillor	Councillor Allowance	\$16,592.68
Cr Helen Hobbs	Reimbursement	\$ 230.41
Councillor Cr	Councillor Allowance	\$ 9,491.49
Bruce Meyer	Reimbursement	\$ 137.68

\* includes back payments relating to FY 2023/24 in accordance with LGA 2020

#### REMOTE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

Council members who reside more than 50 kilometres by the shortest practicable road distance from meeting locations or authorised municipal or community functions are entitled to a travel allowance. The allowance is \$47.50 per day on which one or more meetings or authorised functions are attended, up to a maximum of \$5,937.50 per year.

#### INTERNAL AUDIT

The internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance to the Audit and Risk Committee that appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council operations.

As part of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Program, reviews were undertaken for:

- Human resources management
- Cyber security

#### EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) is responsible for external audits of Council. For the 2024/25 year, Crowe Australasia acted as VAGO's appointed audit service provider for the annual audit of Council's financial statements and performance statement.

#### DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Under the Local Government Act 2020, councils may establish delegated committees made up of councillors, Council officers, other persons, or any combination of these.

No delegated committees were established by West Wimmera Shire Council during the 2024/25 financial year.

## Audit and risk committee

In accordance with Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council maintains an Audit and Risk Committee to monitor financial management, corporate governance, internal controls, risk management, and ethical practices.

The committee includes two Councillors and three external independent members: Celeste Gregory, Andrew Johnson, and Richard Ainio (appointed February 2025, following Mick Jaensch's resignation in December 2024)

Councillors Tim Meyer and Jodie Pretlove represented Council on the committee.

Meetings were convened on the following dates in 2024/25:

- 19 September 2024
- 10 December 2024
- 18 March 2025
- 10 June 2025

## Statutory information

Council has a number of statutory reporting obligations under various acts. The following outlines these key responsibilities and compliance for 2024/25.

### Freedom of information

As required under sections 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, Council must publish certain statements in its Annual Report. The Act provides a legally enforceable right for members of the public to access documents held by Council. All requests must be in writing and accompanied by the relevant application fee.

For the reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:

- Six requests were received
- One request was granted in part
- One was invalid
- One had no documents
- Three were processed outside the act
- No applications for review were received
- No disciplinary action was taken in relation to the administration of the act
- \$32.70 in fees was collected, and \$130.80 was waived

A report on the operation of the act is prepared annually and made available for public inspection at Council offices. Publications under sections 7 and 8 of the Act can be requested from the Freedom of Information Officer.

### Disability Action Plan

In accordance with Section 38 of the Disability Act 2006, Council must report on the implementation of its Disability Action Plan. Council continues to deliver initiatives through its Council Plan 2021–2025, which includes:

- Aged care and disability referrals
- Services
- Social support groups
- Personal care and home care

- Emergency support
- Property maintenance
- Living at home assessments
- Delivered meals (Meals on Wheels)
- Community transport programs
- Respite care

### Documents available for inspection

Under Section 57 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to adopt and maintain a public transparency policy that:

- gives effect to the public transparency principles
- describes how Council information is made publicly available
- Specifies the type of information that must be available to the public, including all policies, plans and reports

Council information is accessible via the Council website or in some instances, by request. Requests are handled in accordance with:

- the Local Government Act 2020, including the public transparency principles
- the Public Transparency Policy
- Part II of the Freedom of Information Act 1982

The Public Transparency Policy is publicly available on Council's website

### Public Interest Disclosure Procedures

Section 69 of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 requires councils to publish details of procedures for making disclosures and to report on the number and types of disclosures received.

The act promotes accountability and encourages individuals to report improper conduct in the public sector. Council's policy on disclosures is available on the Council website.

For the 2024/25 financial year, no disclosures were reported to Council officers or to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

### **Road Management Act Ministerial Direction**

In accordance with Section 22 of the Road Management Act 2004, Council must include a summary of any ministerial directions received in the Annual Report.

No such directions were received during the 2024/25 financial year.

Infrastructure and development contributions

Under sections 46GM and 46QD of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, councils acting as collecting or development agencies must report on infrastructure and development contributions.

There were no contributions received by Council during the 2024/25 financial year.

### **Contracts and Procurement**

In line with section 10(d)(i) of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, Council must disclose contracts entered into that exceed the threshold requiring a public tender or expression of interest, as outlined in the Council's procurement policy (adopted November 2021).

#### **Contract Categories**

- **Capital Plant Purchases**  
*C-JUL2024-P008 Supply and Delivery of one Cat 12M Motor-Grader*  
*C-JUL2024-P009 Supply and Delivery of one 18,000 Litre Water Tanker*  
*C-OCT2024-P012 Supply and Delivery of one Prime Mover*
- **Project Tenders**  
*C-JAN2025-C001 Edenhope Recreation Reserve Changerooms*
- **Operational Contracts**  
*C-NOV2024-S013 Management and Operation of the Kaniva Swimming Pool*  
*C-NOV2024-S014 Management and Operation of the Edenhope Swimming Pool*  
*C-NOV2024-S015 Management and Operation of the Kaniva Poolside Caravan Park*  
*C-MAR2025-W003 Arterial Road Stabilisation Works*  
*C-MAR-W004 Arterial Road Pavement Stabilising and Shoulder Works*

### **Domestic Animal Management Plan**

In accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council is required to prepare and implement a domestic animal management plan every four years and report on its implementation in the annual report. This plan outlines a structured program of actions designed to meet statutory requirements while progressing Council's strategic objectives for responsible animal management in the West Wimmera Shire.

Initial implementation stages have included community education on responsible pet ownership, promotion of pet registration and microchipping, and early investigation into designated on-leash and off-leash areas within the shire.

The current domestic animal management plan was adopted on 16 November 2022.

### **Privacy and data protection**

The Privacy and Data Protection (PDP) Act 2014 outlines principles for how personal information must be collected, managed, and disposed of. Council has adopted an information privacy policy that explains how compliance with the act is achieved. This policy is available on Council's website.

### **Food act ministerial directions**

No ministerial directions were issued under the Food Act 1984 during the 2024/25 financial year.

### **Local government elections 2024**

Local government elections take place every four years. The West Wimmera Shire Council general election was in October 2024 and the Victorian Electoral Commission declared the results at 3:30pm on Thursday 7 November 2024 at the Edenhope and District Community Centre.

The following candidates were declared elected until October 2028:

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

## Governance and management checklist

Governance and management items		Assessment
1	<b>Community engagement policy</b> (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. Date of adoption: 02/17/2021
2	<b>Community engagement guidelines</b> (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Current guidelines in operation. Date of commencement: 02/17/2021
3	<b>Financial Plan</b> (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act. Date of adoption: 10/18/2021
4	<b>Asset Plan</b> (plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. Date of adoption: 05/18/2022
5	<b>Revenue and Rating Plan</b> (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act. Date of adoption: 06/27/2025
6	<b>Annual budget</b> (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Budget adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act. Date of adoption: 06/27/2025
7	<b>Risk policy</b> (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Current policy in operation Date of commencement: 02/15/2023
8	<b>Fraud policy</b> (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Current policy in operation Date of commencement: 04/20/2022
9	<b>Municipal emergency management planning</b> (Participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.)	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meetings attended by one or more representatives of Council (other than the chairperson of the MEMPC) during the financial year. Dates of MEMPC meetings attended:
10	<b>Procurement policy</b> (policy outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act. Date of commencement: 11/17/2021
11	<b>Business continuity plan</b> (plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in operation Date of commencement: 05/09/2025
12	<b>Disaster recovery plan</b> (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	No plan. Reason for no plan:
13	<b>Complaint policy</b> (Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.)	Policy developed in accordance with section 107 of the Act. Date of commencement: 12/15/2021

14	<b>Workforce plan</b> (Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation.)	Plan developed in accordance with section 46 of the Act. Date of commencement: 12/01/2021
15	<b>Payment of rates and charges hardship policy</b> (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.)	Current policy in operation
16	<b>Risk management framework</b> (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Current framework in operation Date of commencement: 07/24/2024
17	<b>Audit and Risk Committee</b> (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act. Date of commencement: 05/16/2013
18	<b>Internal audit</b> (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Internal auditor engaged Date of engagement: 04/21/2024
19	<b>Performance reporting framework</b> (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Current framework in operation Date of adoption: 07/01/2015
20	<b>Council Plan report</b> (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Current report Date of report: Annual Plan Quarterly updates completed. In addition, monthly progress reports for each department completed and presented to Leadership meetings.
21	<b>Quarterly budget reports</b> (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Quarterly reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act. Date of report: Q3: 24/07/2024, Q4: 21/08/2024, Q1&2: 19/02/2025, Q3 21/05/2025
22	<b>Risk reporting</b> (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Risk reports prepared and presented Dates of reports: Presented to Audit and Risk Committee Meetings: 19/09/2024, 10/12/2024, 18/03/2025, 10/06/2025
23	<b>Performance reporting</b> (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	No reports. Reason for no reports:
24	<b>Annual report</b> (annual report under sections 98 and 99 of the Act containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Annual report presented at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act. Date of presentation: 10/23/2024
25	<b>Councillor Code of Conduct</b> (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.)	Code of conduct reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act. Date reviewed and adopted: 02/17/2021 New Model Code of Conduct came into effect 26/10/2024

26	<b>Delegations</b> (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act. and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act. Date of review: 12/18/2024
27	<b>Meeting procedures</b> (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Date rules adopted: 11/16/2022

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Bezuidenhout  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cr Tim Meyer  
Mayor  
Dated:



# Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024



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## Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

**Jason Cay Bachelor of Commerce and CPA**

**Principal Accounting Officer**

**Dated: 17 September 2025**

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the West Wimmera Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate. We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.

---

Cr Tim Meyer

Mayor

Dated: 17 September 2025

---

Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Deputy Mayor

Dated: 17 September 2025

---

David Bezuidenhout

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 17 September 2025

## VAGO'S REPORT TO BE INSERTED FOLLOWING APPROVAL

# Description of municipality

West Wimmera Shire is located in the western part of Victoria, adjacent to South Australia’s border. It spans an extensive area of approximately 9,200 square kilometres, encompassing a diverse landscape that includes rich agricultural land, significant water bodies, numerous State and National Parks and vibrant small communities. Just over 4000 residents call West Wimmera home.

Key townships include Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva, each with their own unique attractions and character. The shire’s economy is primarily driven by agriculture, with broadacre cropping and livestock farming being the main industry. The Shire is known for high quality grain, wool, and meat significantly contributing to Victoria’s agricultural output. Additionally, the region has a growing interest in tourism, with visitors attracted to its natural and untouched beauty, historical sites, outdoor activities, and silo art.

# Operational summary

In 2024-25, Council maintained strong performance across key indicators, ensuring sustainable service delivery for the community. Council successfully delivered a capital works program of \$6.695 million, including \$4.456 million on Council-owned assets and \$2.239 million on other community assets. This investment reflects Council’s commitment to enhancing community wellbeing, providing healthy sporting and recreational opportunities.

Council has consistently supported business and economic development, fulfilling its service performance goals and receiving positive feedback on service quality from residents and ratepayers. A proactive approach to maintaining critical roads and infrastructure has ensured safer, more reliable assets for the community.



## Section 2 - Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Service / Indicator / Measure (Formula)	Results					Comment
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Target as per budget	2025 Actual	
<b>Aquatic Facilities</b>						
<b>Utilisation</b> Utilisation of aquatic facilities  (Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population)	3.06	2.91	3.41	N/A	2.87	The pool visits were down 2195 from 2023-24 as the Edenhope and Kaniva pool had a delayed opening due to the changing of contractors at the last minute. Before opening contractors had to acquire appropriate insurance and engage lifeguards. The Gorge pool attendances increased by 991 as it was open the full season.
<b>Animal Management</b> <b>Health and safety</b> Animal management prosecutions  (Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions) x 100	0%	0%	0%	N/A	0%	
<b>Food Safety</b> <b>Health and safety</b> Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications  (Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises) x 100	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	N/A	100.00%	
<b>Governance</b> <b>Consultation and engagement</b> Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement  (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement)	54	54	56	-	56	
<b>Libraries</b> <b>Participation</b> Library membership  (Number of registered library members / Population) x 100	N/A	N/A	23.37%	N/A	24.02%	
<b>Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</b> <b>Participation</b> Participation in the MCH service  (Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service) x 100	86.83%	93.10%	100.00%	N/A	77.24%	Decrease in number of enrolled clients from previous year
<b>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</b>  (Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service) x 100	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	N/A	100.00%	
<b>Roads</b> <b>Condition</b> Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards  (Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads) x 100	99.83%	100.00%	100.00%	-	100.00%	
<b>Statutory Planning</b> <b>Service standard</b> Planning applications decided within required time frames  (Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made) x 100	83.33%	80.65%	62.50%	-	87.50%	Council engaged new planning consultants in July 2024, this has seen an increase in the speed that applications are reviewed and processed.
<b>Waste Management</b> <b>Waste diversion</b> Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill  (Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins) x 100	20.43%	19.98%	12.87%	-	15.71%	Waste diverted from landfill is likely result of increased participation by residents in the Container Deposit Scheme and other recycling programs.

### Section 3 - Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Dimension / Indicator / Measure (Formula)	Results				Forecasts					Material Variations and Comments
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		
<b>Efficiency</b>										
<b>Expenditure level</b> Expenses per property assessment (Total expenses / Number of property assessments)	\$5,106.20	\$6,046.40	\$6.92	\$4,897.39	\$6,869.53	\$6,143.22	\$6,020.54	\$6,215.98	\$6,416.02	Note 2024 comparison figure is incorrect it should be \$6,919.76
<b>Revenue level</b> Average rate per property assessment (Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments)	\$1,495.60	\$1,529.00	\$1.66	N/A	\$1,708.74	\$1,760.33	\$1,813.14	\$1,867.53	\$1,923.56	Note 2024 comparison figure is incorrect it should be \$1,660.17
<b>Liquidity</b>										
<b>Working capital</b> Current assets compared to current liabilities (Current assets / Current liabilities) x100	506.80%	470.62%	159.94%	426.00%	145.85%	142.22%	159.76%	174.29%	185.93%	Current ratio of 145.85% is consistent if Councils Long Term Financial Plan and the target benchmark of 426% is no longer applicable.
<b>Unrestricted cash</b> Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities (Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities) x100	476.45%	407.31%	133.63%	N/A	130.82%	128.53%	144.96%	156.29%	170.73%	
<b>Obligations</b>										
<b>Loans and borrowings</b> Loans and borrowings compared to rates (Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	22.27%	37.90%	31.54%	28.52%	19.82%	\$2 million of borrowings were taken out during 2024-2025 to cover cash requirements until grant funding for completed projects is received.
<b>Loans and borrowings repayments</b> compared to rates (Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	6.28%	6.01%	5.76%	5.51%	
<b>Indebtedness</b> Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue (Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue) x100	1.75%	1.64%	2.03%	N/A	2.32%	17.35%	20.90%	21.11%	16.52%	Non-current liabilities has remained consistent, own source revenue was down in 2024-2025 as external grants funding increased in 2024-2025.
<b>Asset renewal and upgrade</b> Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation (Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation) x100	88.57%	80.71%	128.49%	98.75%	60.82%	37.70%	50.98%	40.09%	35.62%	A significant increase in depreciation in 2024-2025 has decreased the % of overall asset renewal.
<b>Operating position</b> <b>Adjusted underlying result</b> Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) (Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue) x100	2.78%	3.45%	-60.94%	N/A	-11.25%	19.71%	30.87%	18.07%	17.55%	There was a significant improvement in the adjusted underlying result in 2024-2025 as Council focuses on improved financial sustainability
<b>Stability</b>										
<b>Rates concentration</b> Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue (Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue) x100	30.71%	26.32%	42.17%	38.52%	30.50%	25.31%	22.90%	27.08%	27.19%	Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant payments have been unevenly paid between the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years resulting in year to year variances in total revenue received.
<b>Rates effort</b> Rates compared to property values (Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality) x100	0.22%	0.15%	0.14%	N/A	0.14%	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%	



## Section 4 - Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Results				Comment
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	
<b>Population</b>					
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$6,808.27	\$7,546.68	\$8,397.66	\$8,371.07	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$60,227.47	\$72,115.58	\$67,370.96	\$66,850.50	
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.36	1.46	1.39	1.42	
<b>Own-source revenue</b>					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$2,806.40	\$2,999.50	\$3,162.73	\$3,299.00	
<b>Recurrent grants</b>					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$3,360.53	\$3,791.31	\$1,266.55	\$3,979.81	Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant payments have been unevenly paid between the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years resulting in year to year variances in total grants received.
<b>Disadvantage</b>					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage by decile]	5	5	5	5	
<b>Workforce turnover</b>					
Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	10.70%	15.80%	34.60%	17.20%	Note 2023-24 comparison figure is incorrect and should be 20.93%

# Notes to the Accounts

## BASIS OF PREPARATION

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29 by the council's financial plan.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

## Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and</li> <li>· non-monetary asset contributions; and</li> <li>· contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above</li> </ul>
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984 , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

# Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024



Edenhope Customer Service Office  
49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope Victoria 3318  
Kaniva Customer Service Office  
25 Baker Street, Kaniva Victoria 3419  
Postal address  
PO Box 201, Edenhope Victoria 3318

Office hours  
Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5.00pm

---

West Wimmera Shire Council  
13 99 72 | [council@westwimmera.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

   
[westwimmera.vic.gov.au](https://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

# Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025





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## Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

**Jason Cay Bachelor of Commerce and CPA**

**Principal Accounting Officer**

**Dated: 17 September 2025**

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the West Wimmera Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate. We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.

---

Cr Tim Meyer

Mayor

Dated: 17 September 2025

---

Councillor Jodie Pretlove

Deputy Mayor

Dated: 17 September 2025

---

David Bezuidenhout

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 17 September 2025

## VAGO'S REPORT TO BE INSERTED FOLLOWING APPROVAL

# Description of municipality

West Wimmera Shire is located in the western part of Victoria, adjacent to South Australia’s border. It spans an extensive area of approximately 9,200 square kilometres, encompassing a diverse landscape that includes rich agricultural land, significant water bodies, numerous State and National Parks and vibrant small communities. Just over 4000 residents call West Wimmera home.

Key townships include Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva, each with their own unique attractions and character. The shire’s economy is primarily driven by agriculture, with broadacre cropping and livestock farming being the main industry. The Shire is known for high quality grain, wool, and meat significantly contributing to Victoria’s agricultural output. Additionally, the region has a growing interest in tourism, with visitors attracted to its natural and untouched beauty, historical sites, outdoor activities, and silo art.

# Operational summary

In 2024-25, Council maintained strong performance across key indicators, ensuring sustainable service delivery for the community. Council successfully delivered a capital works program of \$6.695 million, including \$4.456 million on Council-owned assets and \$2.239 million on other community assets. This investment reflects Council’s commitment to enhancing community wellbeing, providing healthy sporting and recreational opportunities.

Council has consistently supported business and economic development, fulfilling its service performance goals and receiving positive feedback on service quality from residents and ratepayers. A proactive approach to maintaining critical roads and infrastructure has ensured safer, more reliable assets for the community.



## Section 2 - Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Service / Indicator / Measure (Formula)	Results					Comment
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Target as per budget	2025 Actual	
<b>Aquatic Facilities</b>						
<b>Utilisation</b> <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i>  [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.06	2.91	3.41	N/A	2.87	The pool visits were down 2195 from 2023-24 as the Edenhope and Kaniva pool had a delayed opening due to the changing of contractors at the last minute. Before opening contractors had to acquire appropriate insurance and engage lifeguards. The Goro pool attendances increased by 991 as it was open the full season.
<b>Animal Management</b> <b>Health and safety</b> <i>Animal management prosecutions</i>  [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0%	0%	0%	N/A	0%	
<b>Food Safety</b> <b>Health and safety</b> <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>  [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	N/A	100.00%	
<b>Governance</b> <b>Consultation and engagement</b> <i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i>  [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	54	54	56	-	56	
<b>Libraries</b> <b>Participation</b> <i>Library membership</i>  [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	#N/A	#N/A	23.37%	N/A	24.02%	
<b>Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</b> <b>Participation</b> <i>Participation in the MCH service</i>  [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	86.83%	93.10%	100.00%	N/A	77.24%	Decrease in number of enrolled clients from previous year
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>  [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	N/A	100.00%	
<b>Roads</b> <b>Condition</b> <i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i>  [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	99.83%	100.00%	100.00%	-	100.00%	
<b>Statutory Planning</b> <b>Service standard</b> <i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i>  [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	83.33%	80.65%	62.50%	-	87.50%	Council engaged new planning consultants in July 2024, this has seen an increase in the speed that applications are reviewed and processed.
<b>Waste Management</b> <b>Waste diversion</b> <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>  [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	20.43%	19.98%	12.87%	-	15.71%	Waste diverted from landfill is likely result of increased participation by residents in the Container Deposit Scheme and other recycling programs.

### Section 3 - Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results			Forecasts						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments	
Dimension / Indicator / Measure (Formula)	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
<b>Efficiency</b>										
<b>Expenditure level</b> Expenses per property assessment (Total expenses / Number of property assessments)	\$5,106.20	\$6,046.40	\$6.92	\$4,897.39	\$6,868.53	\$6,143.22	\$6,020.34	\$6,215.98	\$6,416.02	Note 2024 comparison figure is incorrect it should be \$6,919.76
<b>Revenue level</b> Average rate per property assessment (Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments)	\$1,495.60	\$1,528.00	\$1.66	N/A	\$1,708.74	\$1,760.33	\$1,813.14	\$1,867.53	\$1,923.56	Note 2024 comparison figure is incorrect it should be \$1,660.17
<b>Liquidity</b>										
<b>Working capital</b> Current assets compared to current liabilities (Current assets / Current liabilities) x100	506.80%	470.62%	159.94%	426.00%	145.85%	142.22%	159.76%	174.29%	185.93%	Current ratio of 145.85% is consistent if Councils Long Term Financial Plan and the target benchmark of 426% is no longer applicable.
<b>Unrestricted cash</b> Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities (Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities) x100	476.45%	407.31%	133.63%	N/A	130.82%	128.53%	144.96%	159.29%	170.73%	
<b>Obligations</b>										
<b>Loans and borrowings</b> Loans and borrowings compared to rates (Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	22.27%	37.90%	31.54%	25.52%	19.82%	\$2 million of borrowings were taken out during 2024-2025 to cover cash requirements until grant funding for completed projects is received.
<b>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</b> (Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	6.28%	6.01%	5.76%	5.51%	
<b>Indebtedness</b> Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue (Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue) x100	1.75%	1.64%	2.03%	N/A	2.32%	17.35%	20.90%	21.11%	16.52%	Non-current liabilities has remained consistent, own source revenue was down in 2024-2025 as external grants funding increased in 2024-2025.
<b>Asset renewal and upgrade</b> Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation (Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation) x100	88.57%	80.71%	128.49%	98.75%	60.82%	37.70%	50.98%	40.09%	38.62%	A significant increase in depreciation in 2024- 2025 has decreased the % of overall asset renewal.
<b>Operating position</b>										
<b>Adjusted underlying result</b> Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) (Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) Adjusted underlying revenue) x100	2.78%	3.45%	-60.94%	N/A	-11.25%	19.71%	30.87%	18.07%	17.55%	There was a significant improvement in the adjusted underlying result in 2024-2025 as Council focuses on improved financial sustainability
<b>Stability</b>										
<b>Rates concentration</b> Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue (Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue) x100	30.71%	26.32%	42.17%	38.52%	30.50%	25.31%	22.90%	27.08%	27.19%	Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant payments have been unevenly paid between the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years resulting in year to year variances in total revenue received.
<b>Rates effort</b> Rates compared to property values (Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality) x100	0.22%	0.15%	0.14%	N/A	0.14%	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%	

## Section 4 - Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Results				Comment
	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	
<b>Population</b>					
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$6,808.27	\$7,546.68	\$8,397.66	\$8,371.07	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$60,227.47	\$72,115.58	\$67,370.96	\$66,850.50	
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.36	1.46	1.39	1.42	
<b>Own-source revenue</b>					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$2,806.40	\$2,999.50	\$3,162.73	\$3,299.00	
<b>Recurrent grants</b>					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$3,380.53	\$3,791.31	\$1,286.55	\$3,979.81	Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant payments have been unevenly paid between the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years resulting in year to year variances in total grants received.
<b>Disadvantage</b>					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	5	5	5	5	
<b>Workforce turnover</b>					
Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	10.70%	15.80%	34.60%	17.20%	Note 2023-24 comparison figure is incorrect and should be 20.93%



# Notes to the Accounts

## BASIS OF PREPARATION

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29 by the council's financial plan.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

## Definitions



Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and</li> <li>· non-monetary asset contributions; and</li> <li>· contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above</li> </ul>
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984 , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

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49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope Victoria 3318  
Kaniva Customer Service Office  
25 Baker Street, Kaniva Victoria 3419  
Postal address  
PO Box 201, Edenhope Victoria 3318

Office hours  
Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5.00pm

---

West Wimmera Shire Council  
13 99 72 | [council@westwimmera.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

   
[westwimmera.vic.gov.au](https://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au)

# Annual Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2025



West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

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Content Overview

These financial statements are General Purpose Financial Statements and cover the consolidated operations for West Wimmera Shire Council

All figures presented in these financial statements are presented in Australian Currency.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Council on dd MMMM yyyy  
Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.



West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

**Dalton Burns**

**Responsible Accounting Officer**

**Dated:** dd MMMM yyyy

Edenhope

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of West Wimmera Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

**Tim Meyer**

**Mayor**

**Dated:** dd MMMM yyyy

Edenhope

**Jodie Pretlove**

**Councillor**

**Dated:** dd MMMM yyyy

Edenhope

**David Bezuidenhout**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Dated:** dd MMMM yyyy

Edenhope

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report

Insert VAGO Report here

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report (continued)

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Comprehensive Income Statement  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Income / Revenue</b>			
Rates and charges	3.1	8,936	8,605
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	159	132
User fees	3.3	834	743
Grants - operating	3.4	14,466	5,568
Grants - capital	3.4	2,448	3,514
Contributions - monetary	3.5	76	26
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	435	292
Other income	3.7	2,545	2,664
<b>Total income / revenue</b>		<b>29,899</b>	<b>21,544</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	4.1	11,544	10,687
Materials and services	4.2	9,587	13,829
Depreciation	4.3	10,826	8,052
Borrowing costs		1	—
Other expenses	4.4	764	504
Share of net losses of associates and joint ventures	6.3	34	—
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>32,756</b>	<b>33,072</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(2,857)</b>	<b>(11,528)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>(2,857)</b>	<b>(11,528)</b>

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	10,840	8,052
Trade and other receivables	5.1	1,101	578
Prepayments	5.2	20	21
Other financial assets	5.1	17	18
Inventories	5.2	107	135
Other assets	5.2	—	17
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>12,085</b>	<b>8,821</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.3	428	462
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	261,586	265,833
Other assets	5.2	—	1
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>262,014</b>	<b>266,296</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>274,099</b>	<b>275,117</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5.3	2,141	2,997
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	605	94
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	1,360	1,102
Provisions	5.4	2,180	2,301
Interest-bearing liabilities		2,000	—
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>8,286</b>	<b>6,494</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	5.4	299	252
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>299</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>8,585</b>	<b>6,746</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>265,514</b>	<b>268,371</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		33,403	36,139
Reserves	9.1	232,111	232,232
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>265,514</b>	<b>268,371</b>

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Total \$ '000	Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Revaluation Reserves \$ '000	Other Reserves \$ '000
<b>2025</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of the financial year</b>		268,371	36,139	229,868	2,364
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		(2,857)	(2,857)	—	—
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.2	—	—	—	—
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		—	—	—	—
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		(2,857)	(2,857)	—	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	—	(1,407)	—	1,407
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	—	1,528	—	(1,528)
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		265,514	33,403	229,868	2,243
<b>2024</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of the financial year</b>		279,899	46,064	229,868	3,967
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>		279,899	46,064	229,868	3,967
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		(11,528)	(11,528)	—	—
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.2	—	—	—	—
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		—	—	—	—
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		(11,528)	(11,528)	—	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	(1,603)	—	—	(1,603)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	1,603	1,603	—	—
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		268,371	36,139	229,868	2,364

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Statement of Cash Flows  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Rates and charges		8,843	8,520
Statutory fees and fines		159	132
User fees		834	743
Grants - operating		14,933	6,254
Grants - capital		2,448	3,514
Contributions - monetary		76	26
Interest received		390	602
Trust funds and deposits taken		511	—
Other receipts		1,725	2,882
Employee costs		(11,618)	(10,766)
Materials and services		(11,340)	(12,529)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		(23)	(5)
Other payments		(6)	(231)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	9.2	<b>6,932</b>	<b>(858)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	(6,695)	(11,774)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		551	536
Payments for investments		(34)	—
Proceeds from sale of investments		35	49
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(6,143)</b>	<b>(11,189)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Trust Funds & Other Deposits		(1)	—
Proceeds from borrowings		2,000	—
<b>Net cash flow provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>		<b>1,999</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>2,788</b>	<b>(12,047)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		8,052	20,099
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>10,840</b>	<b>8,052</b>
Financing arrangements	5.5		

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Statement of Capital Works  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Property</b>			
Land improvements		460	311
<b>Total land</b>		<b>460</b>	<b>311</b>
Buildings		181	1,649
<b>Total buildings</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>1,649</b>
<b>Total property</b>		<b>641</b>	<b>1,960</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>			
Plant, machinery and equipment		950	1,638
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		34	148
Motor Vehicles		570	257
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		<b>1,554</b>	<b>2,043</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Roads		4,330	6,751
Bridges		20	37
Footpaths and cycleways		102	139
Drainage		—	56
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		—	73
Capital Works in Progress		—	715
Kerbs & Channels		4	—
<b>Total infrastructure</b>		<b>4,456</b>	<b>7,771</b>
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	6.2	<b>6,651</b>	<b>11,774</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
New asset expenditure		111	583
Asset renewal expenditure		5,675	10,053
Asset upgrade expenditure		909	1,138
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>		<b>6,695</b>	<b>11,774</b>

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 1. Overview

##### Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20th January 1995 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope VIC 3318.

##### Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

##### Accounting policy information

###### 1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2.)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2.)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4.)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- whether or not *AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Overview (continued)

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

## Note 2. Analysis of our results

### Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

#### 2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025 \$ '000	Actual 2025 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
<b>Income / Revenue</b>					
Rates and charges	8,942	8,936	(6)	(0.07)%	
Statutory fees and fines	150	159	9	6.00%	
User fees	779	834	55	7.06%	
Grants - operating	10,271	14,466	4,195	40.84%	1
Grants - capital	4,028	2,448	(1,580)	(39.23)%	2
Contributions - monetary	189	76	(113)	(59.79)%	3
Contributions - non monetary	—	—	—	∞	
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(263)	435	698	(265.40)%	4
Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	—	—	—	∞	
Other income	1,886	2,545	659	34.94%	5
<b>Total income / revenue</b>	<b>25,982</b>	<b>29,899</b>	<b>3,917</b>	<b>15.08%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee costs	11,385	11,544	(159)	(1.40)%	6
Materials and services	10,080	9,587	493	4.89%	7
Depreciation	8,050	10,826	(2,776)	(34.48)%	
Borrowing costs	—	1	(1)	∞	
Share of net losses of associates and joint ventures	—	34	(34)	∞	
Other expenses	464	764	(300)	(64.66)%	7
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>29,979</b>	<b>32,756</b>	<b>(2,777)</b>	<b>(9.26)%</b>	
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(3,997)</b>	<b>(2,857)</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>(28.52)%</b>	

continued on next page ...

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Explanation
1.	Financial Assistance Grants for 2025-2026 prepaid 3.956m.
2.	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Budgeted 1.334m in 2024-2025 to be received in 2025-2026. Kaniva Recreation Reserve Grant budgeted 2024-2025 225k to be received in 2025-2026.  Edenhope Recreation Reserve contribution budgeted 2024-2025 deferred to 2025-2026.
4.	Higher sale proceeds than budgeted for plant sold.
5.	Roadworks income 204k above budget, Interest received 83k greater than budget.
6.	Fringe Benefits Tax 140k greater than budgeted.
7.	Materials and Services savings offset items costed into other expense including Audit Fees 105k, Legal Costs 70k, ATO 70k, Rates & ESVF Expenses 50k.



West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2025 \$ '000	Actual 2025 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
<b>Property</b>					
Land improvements	385	460	75	19.48%	1
<b>Total land</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>19.48%</b>	
Buildings	701	181	(520)	(74.18)%	2
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>(520)</b>	<b>(74.18)%</b>	
<b>Total property</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>(445)</b>	<b>(40.98)%</b>	
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,096	950	(146)	(13.32)%	3
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	23	34	11	47.83%	4
Motor Vehicles	547	570	23	4.20%	
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>(112)</b>	<b>(6.72)%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	5,340	4,330	(1,010)	(18.91)%	5
Bridges	20	20	—	0.00%	
Footpaths and cycleways	156	102	(54)	(34.62)%	6
Drainage	12	—	(12)	(100.00)%	7
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	—	—	—	∞	
Capital Works in Progress	—	—	—	∞	
Kerbs & Channels	55	4	(51)	(92.73)%	8
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>5,583</b>	<b>4,456</b>	<b>(1,127)</b>	<b>(20.19)%</b>	
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>8,335</b>	<b>6,651</b>	<b>(1,684)</b>	<b>(20.20)%</b>	
<b>Represented by:</b>					
New asset expenditure	—	111	111	∞	
Asset renewal expenditure	7,180	5,675	(1,505)	(20.96)%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,155	909	(246)	(21.30)%	
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>8,335</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>(1,640)</b>	<b>(19.68)%</b>	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Explanation  
Ref

- Edenhope Fuel Tank Replacement 22k and Lake Wallace Boat Ramp 26k capitalised into Land improvements, but budgeted for in Buildings in 2024-2025.
- Edenhope Aerodrome Upgrade 344k, Kaniva Town Hall painting 70k, staff housing 50k carried forward to 2025-2026.
- Net savings on plant purchases and 42k minor plant purchases not purchased in 2024-2025.
- 11k additional spent on ICT Device and Equipment management.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

- 
- 5. Roads savings and unspent for construction 490k, Reseals 132k, Shoulder Sheeting 167k, resheeting 110k, Final Seals 30k.
  - 6. Kaniva footpaths Budjik St 54k unspent.
  - 7. Dungey St, Kaniva 42k spent budgeted in Kerb and Channel.
  - 8. Dungey St, Kaniva 42k spent capitalised into Drainage.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

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##### 2.2.1 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

###### **Community Services**

Community Services provides high quality community focused programs, service delivery and communication to residents. Community Services is comprised of community care, connected communities, family services, youth, early childhood care, kindergarten, health communities, leisure and recreational services and social planning and investment.

###### **Corporate Services**

Corporate Services provide management of number of shared services across various functions. Important services including Finance, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, Operational Health & Safety, Risk, Customer Services operate and are managed under Corporate Services. These services aim to deliver important objectives in effective and efficient manner for smooth operations for other functions in the Council.

###### **Development and Environmental Services**

Development and Environmental Services conducts all planning and regulatory services in the shire and includes the assessment of town / rural developments, health and local laws, planning strategy and urban growth, environmental projects, management of weeds, pests and other similar functions.

###### **Engineering**

Engineering is an important part of the Infrastructure, Development and Works Directorate and responsible for planning, design, construction, maintenance, upgrades of all assets throughout the shire. All of our critical road and infrastructure assets, building, land and land improvements, sporting and recreation facilities are managed by Engineering.

###### **Governance**

Governance provides important support of monitoring and reporting Council wide activities within legal and regulatory framework. Coordination with several State and Commonwealth reporting channels, matters relating to Councillors and Management, Periodic and adhoc reporting and to ensure that Council is in compliance with its operational mandate.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program (continued)

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

Functions/activities	Income / Revenue \$ '000	Expenses \$ '000	Surplus / (Deficit) \$ '000	Grants included in income / revenue \$ '000	Total assets \$ '000
<b>2025</b>					
Community Services	2,510	4,446	(1,936)	1,915	60
Corporate Services	15,462	3,059	12,403	6,884	20,966
Development and Environmental Services	619	2,144	(1,525)	51	120
Engineering	11,288	21,395	(10,107)	8,064	248,207
Governance	20	1,712	(1,692)	–	4,746
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>29,899</b>	<b>32,756</b>	<b>(2,857)</b>	<b>16,914</b>	<b>274,099</b>
<b>2024</b>					
Community Services	2,614	3,754	(1,140)	2,039	5
Corporate Services	9,618	6,242	3,376	222	22,413
Development and Environmental Services	696	1,011	(315)	496	16
Engineering	8,616	21,800	(13,184)	6,325	248,850
Governance	–	221	(221)	–	3,833
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>21,544</b>	<b>33,028</b>	<b>(11,484)</b>	<b>9,082</b>	<b>275,117</b>

## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services

	2025	2024
	\$ '000	\$ '000

##### 3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its current market value determined by Valuer General Victoria.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2024/25 was \$ 6,254 million (2023/24: \$ 6,194 million).

General rates	7,640	7,421
Municipal charge	506	491
Waste management charge	792	700
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	3	12
Pensioner Concessions	(5)	(19)
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<b>8,936</b>	<b>8,605</b>

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2024 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2024.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

##### 3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Regulatory Services	58	60
Town planning fees	39	30
Land information certificates	7	5
Permits	55	37
<b>Total statutory fees and fines</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>132</b>

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

##### 3.3 User fees

Aged and health services	189	186
Child care/children's programs	324	299
Waste management services	119	80
Other fees and charges	202	178
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>743</b>

##### User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised at a point in time	834	743
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>743</b>

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$ '000	\$ '000

#### 3.4 Funding from other levels of government

Grants were received in respect of the following:

##### Summary of grants

Commonwealth funded grants	14,126	3,821
State funded grants	2,788	5,261
<b>Total grants received</b>	<b>16,914</b>	<b>9,082</b>

##### (a) Operating Grants

##### *Recurrent - Commonwealth Government*

Financial Assistance Grants	11,388	—
Other	121	641
Commonwealth Home Support Programme	348	—

##### *Recurrent - State Government*

Aged care	61	215
School crossing supervisors	8	8
Community Support	41	65
Maternal and child health	407	443
Recreation	—	3
Regulatory Services	91	94
Preschool Operating	885	907
Youth Initiatives	88	86
Immunisations	—	—
Other	66	108
<b>Total recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>13,504</b>	<b>2,570</b>

##### *Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government*

Other	—	344
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##### *Non-recurrent - State Government*

Other	15	1
Economic Development	—	52
Waste Management Funding	—	17
Apsley Netball Tennis Court Upgrade	56	—
Harrow & District Recreation Reserve	299	—
Kaniva Recreation Reserve	261	—
West Wimmera Cabins	191	649
Preschools	43	—
Infrastructure	97	1,603
Council Flood Support	—	332
<b>Total non-recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>2,998</b>

##### **Total operating grants**

<b>14,466</b>	<b>5,568</b>
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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>(b) Capital Grants</b>		
<b>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>		
Roads to recovery	1,957	1,528
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Projects	112	964
<b>Total recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>2,492</b>
<b>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>		
Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program	200	–
Other	–	344
<b>Non-recurrent - State Government</b>		
Other	179	678
<b>Total non-recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>1,022</b>
<b>Total capital grants</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>3,514</b>

**(c) Recognition of grant income**

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

<b>Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</b>		
General purpose	13,659	5,261
Other specific purpose grants	2,448	3,172
<b>Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</b>		
Specific purpose grants	807	649
	<b>16,914</b>	<b>9,082</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner:</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Balance at start of year	686	7,262
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	910	561
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(686)	(7,137)
<b>Balance at year end</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Capital</b>		
Balance at start of year	–	16
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	243	–
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	–	(16)
<b>Balance at year end</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>–</b>

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$ '000	\$ '000

#### 3.5 Contributions

##### Monetary contributions

Monetary	76	26
<b>Total monetary contributions</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26</b>

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

#### 3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

##### Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	551	536
Written down value of assets disposed	(116)	(244)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>292</b>

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

#### 3.7 Other income

Interest	390	602
Reimbursements - Roads	1,360	1,751
Reimbursements - Other	139	12
Insurance / Workcover	215	127
Rent	84	52
Fuel Tax Refund	37	16
Other	320	104
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,664</b>

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 4. The cost of delivering services

	2025	2024
	\$ '000	\$ '000

#### 4.1 Employee costs

##### (a) Employee costs

Wages and salaries	8,696	8,069
WorkCover	423	339
Superannuation	1,095	1,044
Fringe benefits tax	173	30
Other	1,157	1,205
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>11,544</b>	<b>10,687</b>

##### (b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

##### Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	46	27
	<b>46</b>	<b>27</b>

##### Accumulation funds

Employer contributions - other funds	1,049	1,017
	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,017</b>

Employer contributions payable at reporting date	89	173
<b>Total superannuation costs</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>1,044</b>

Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

#### 4.2 Materials and services

Contract payments	4,360	8,331
General maintenance	82	74
Utilities	415	433
Office administration	44	14
Information technology	766	463
Insurance	446	1,008
Consultants	824	877
Expenses from short term leases	23	5
Materials and Services	2,254	2,160
Plant and equipment maintenance	373	464
<b>Total materials and services</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>13,829</b>

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>4.3 Depreciation</b>		
<b>Property</b>		
Land improvements	267	266
Heritage buildings	–	2
Buildings - specialised	1,060	1,021
Buildings - non specialised	–	38
<b>Total depreciation - property</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,327</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Plant machinery and equipment	905	969
Fixtures fittings and furniture	98	93
Motor Vehicles	157	181
<b>Total depreciation - plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,243</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Roads	7,870	5,020
Bridges	50	49
Footways and cycleways	103	103
Drainage	183	178
Kerbs & Channels	133	132
<b>Total depreciation - infrastructure</b>	<b>8,339</b>	<b>5,482</b>
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>10,826</b>	<b>8,052</b>

Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

#### 4.4 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	75	44
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	24	13
Councillors' allowances	223	211
Operating Rental Leases	12	11
Community Grants	205	118
Other	225	107
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>504</b>

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>5.1 Financial assets</b>		
<b>(a) Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	10,839	6,544
Term deposits	—	1,507
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>10,840</b>	<b>8,052</b>
<b>(b) Other financial assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Other	17	18
<b>Total current other financial assets</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>8,070</b>

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>(c) Trade &amp; Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	418	325
Other debtors	697	321
Allowance for expected credit loss	(14)	(68)
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>578</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>578</b>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**(d) Ageing of receivables**

The ageing of the Council's trade & other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	680	115
Past due by up to 30 days	2	115
Past due between 31 and 180 days	7	15
Past due between 181 and 365 days	3	63
Past due by more than 1 year	5	13
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>321</b>

**(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables**

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$ 14k (2024: \$ 68k) were impaired. Council has completed a detailed assessment into quality of these debtors and they individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025	2024
	\$ '000	\$ '000

5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Inventories

Current

Inventories held for distribution	107	135
<b>Total current inventories</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>135</b>

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets

Current

Other	–	17
<b>Total current other assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17</b>

Prepayments	20	21
<b>Total current Prepayments</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

Non-current

Other	–	1
<b>Total non-current other assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

Current

Non-statutory payables

Trade payables	897	2,803
Accrued expenses	149	48
Payroll / Entitlements Payable	919	216
Superannuation Payable	89	173
Net GST / FBT payable	83	(243)
Other	4	–
<b>Total current trade and other payables</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>2,997</b>

(b) Trust funds and deposits

Current

Refundable deposits	436	–
Fire services levy	169	94
<b>Total current trust funds and deposits</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>94</b>

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>(c) Contract and other liabilities</b>		
<b>Contract liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<b>Grants received in advance:</b>		
Unspent Grants - Operating (Note 3.4 d)	1,153	686
<b>Total grants received in advance</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Total current contract liabilities</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Other liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Retention on Contracts	207	416
<b>Total current other liabilities</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Total current contract and other liabilities</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,102</b>

#### *Trust funds and deposits*

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

#### *Contract liabilities*

Contract liabilities reflect grants received in advance and are subject to AASB 1058 and will be recognised as income upon successful completion of liked projects. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

#### *Other liabilities*

Other Liabilities include retention money held against contracts which are subject to successful completion and quality assurance in accordance with the relevant contracts. Other liabilities also include community contributions towards community projects which are subject to successful funding application and final delivery of the projects and will be recognised upon completion of the projects.

#### **Purpose and nature of items**

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Annual Leave \$ '000	Long Service Leave \$ '000	Rostered Days Off \$ '000	Time in Lieu \$ '000	Total \$ '000
<b>5.4 Provisions</b>					
<b>2025</b>					
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	1,058	1,380	64	51	2,553
Additional provisions	458	206	129	49	842
Amounts used	(643)	(70)	(145)	(58)	(916)
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,479</b>
<b>Provisions</b>					
Provisions - current	873	1,217	48	42	2,180
Provisions - non-current	—	299	—	—	299
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,479</b>
<b>2024</b>					
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	1,084	1,457	54	37	2,632
Additional provisions	668	95	136	72	971
Amounts used	(694)	(172)	(126)	(58)	(1,050)
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,553</b>
<b>Provisions</b>					
Provisions - current	1,058	1,128	64	51	2,301
Provisions - non-current	—	252	—	—	252
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,553</b>
				<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
				<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>

(a) Employee provisions

Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months

Annual leave	230	740
Long service leave	1,147	336
Rostered Days Off	48	64
Time in Lieu	42	51
	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,191</b>

Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months

Annual leave	643	318
Long service leave	70	792
	<b>713</b>	<b>1,110</b>

Total current employee provisions

<b>2,180</b>	<b>2,301</b>
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Non-Current

Long service leave	299	252
<b>Total Non-Current Employee Provisions</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>252</b>

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions:		
Current	2,180	2,301
Non-current	299	252
<b>Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>2,553</b>

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

##### Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

##### Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

##### Key assumptions:

- discount rate	3.30%	4.20%
- index rate	2.50%	4.10%

#### 5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2025.

Bank overdraft	2,000	2,000
Credit card facilities	26	16
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>2,016</b>
Used facilities	4	7
<b>Used facilities</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Unused facilities</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,009</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year \$ '000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ '000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ '000	Later than 5 years \$ '000	Total \$ '000
<b>2025</b>					
<b>Operating</b>					
Kaniva Caravan Park / Swimming Pool Maintenance	350	350	—	—	700
Waste / Recyclables Collection	813	813	1,288	1,288	4,202
Street Cleaning Services - Edenhope	6	—	—	—	6
IT Support & Management Services	173	—	—	—	173
Building Control Services	660	660	—	—	1,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>6,401</b>
<b>2024</b>					
<b>Operating</b>					
Kaniva Caravan Park / Swimming Pool Maintenance	350	350	350	—	1,050
Cleaning of Council buildings	106	112	—	—	218
Waste / Recyclables Collection	535	541	573	—	1,649
Town Maintenance - Kaniva	71	75	—	—	146
Town Maintenance - Edenhope	112	119	—	—	231
Street Cleaning Services - Kaniva	68	73	5	—	146
Street Cleaning Services - Edenhope	138	138	138	—	414
IT Support & Management Services	225	239	—	—	464
Goroke Swimming Pool	93	93	—	—	186
Edenhope Swimming Pool	137	145	—	—	282
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,786</b>

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage

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6.1 Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"

There are no reportable Non current assets classified as held for sale

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Contributions \$ '000	Revaluation \$ '000	Disposal \$ '000	Depreciation \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Carrying amount 30 June 2025 \$ '000
Property	24,827	640	–	–	–	(1,327)	–	501	24,641
Plant and equipment	4,538	1,553	–	–	(115)	(1,160)	–	(4)	4,812
Infrastructure	235,753	4,501	–	–	–	(8,339)	–	59	231,974
Work in progress	715	159	–	–	–	–	–	(715)	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,833</b>	<b>6,853</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(115)</b>	<b>(10,826)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>261,586</b>

Summary of Work in Progress	Opening WIP \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Closing WIP \$ '000
Property	621	120	–	(621)	120
Plant and equipment	–	4	–	–	4
Infrastructure	94	35	–	(94)	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(715)</b>	<b>159</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Land specialised \$ '000	Land improve- ments \$ '000	Total land and land improve- ments \$ '000	Heritage buildings \$ '000	Buildings \$ '000	Total buildings \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total work in progress \$ '000	Total property \$ '000
<b>Property</b>									
At fair value 1 July 2024	864	4,881	5,745	180	58,845	59,025	621	621	65,391
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	—	(2,439)	(2,439)	(155)	(37,349)	(37,504)	—	—	(39,943)
	<b>864</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21,496</b>	<b>21,521</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>25,448</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>									
Additions	—	460	460	—	181	181	120	120	761
Contributions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revaluation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disposal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Write-off	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	—	(67)	(67)	(180)	748	568	(621)	(621)	(120)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>—</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>(180)</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>(501)</b>	<b>(501)</b>	<b>641</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>									
Depreciation and amortisation	—	(267)	(267)	—	(1,060)	(1,060)	—	—	(1,327)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	—	—	—	155	(155)	—	—	—	—
	<b>—</b>	<b>(267)</b>	<b>(267)</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>(1,215)</b>	<b>(1,060)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,327)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2025	864	5,274	6,138	—	59,774	59,774	120	120	66,032
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	—	(2,707)	(2,707)	—	(38,564)	(38,564)	—	—	(41,271)
<b>Carrying amount</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>2,567</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>21,210</b>	<b>21,210</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>24,761</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Plant machinery and equipment \$ '000	Fixtures fittings and furniture \$ '000	Motor Vehicles \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total plant and equipment \$ '000
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>						
At fair value 1 July 2024	10,956	1,936	961	13,853	–	13,853
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(7,377)	(1,611)	(327)	(9,315)	–	(9,315)
	<b>3,579</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>4,538</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,538</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>						
Additions	950	34	569	1,553	4	1,557
Contributions	–	–	–	–	–	–
Revaluation	–	–	–	–	–	–
Disposal	(495)	–	(257)	(752)	–	(752)
Write-off	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfers	(4)	–	–	(4)	–	(4)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	–	–	–	–	–	–
	<b>451</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>801</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>						
Depreciation and amortisation	(905)	(98)	(157)	(1,160)	–	(1,160)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	486	–	151	637	–	637
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfers	–	–	–	–	–	–
	<b>(419)</b>	<b>(98)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(523)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(523)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2025	11,407	1,970	1,273	14,650	4	14,654
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(7,796)	(1,709)	(333)	(9,838)	–	(9,838)
<b>Carrying amount</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>4,812</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4,816</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Roads \$ '000	Bridges \$ '000	Footpaths and cycleways \$ '000	Drainage \$ '000	Kerbs & Channels \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total work in progress \$ '000	Total infra- structure \$ '000
<b>Infrastructure</b>									
At fair value 1 July 2024	326,347	4,535	5,151	15,990	9,083	361,106	94	94	361,200
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(108,212)	(2,112)	(1,225)	(10,310)	(3,494)	(125,353)	—	—	(125,353)
	<b>218,135</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>5,680</b>	<b>5,589</b>	<b>235,753</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>235,847</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>									
Additions	4,330	20	102	—	48	4,500	35	35	4,535
Revaluation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disposal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	82	—	(19)	—	(4)	59	—	—	59
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>4,412</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4,559</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4,594</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>									
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,870)	(50)	(103)	(183)	(133)	(8,339)	—	—	(8,339)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	(94)	(94)	(94)
	<b>(7,870)</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>(183)</b>	<b>(133)</b>	<b>(8,339)</b>	<b>(94)</b>	<b>(94)</b>	<b>(8,433)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2025	330,759	4,555	5,234	15,990	9,128	365,666	35	35	365,701
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(116,082)	(2,162)	(1,328)	(10,493)	(3,627)	(133,692)	—	—	(133,692)
<b>Carrying amount</b>	<b>214,677</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>231,974</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>232,009</b>

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

*Acquisition*

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer also to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period years	Threshold Limit \$ '000
<b>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</b>		
<b>Land and land improvements</b>		
land		5
land improvements	6 - 50 years	5
<b>Buildings</b>		
buildings	30 - 120 years	5
building and leasehold improvements	30 - 120 years	5
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
plant, machinery and equipment	3 - 10 years	1
others	3 - 10 years	1
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
roads - pavements, substructure, formation and earthworks	17 - 75 years	5
roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts and other	75 years	5
bridges - deck and substructure	75 years	5
bridges - others	50 - 70 years	5
footpaths and cycleways	35 - 80 years	5
others	25 - 50 years	5

*Depreciation and amortisation*

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

*Repairs and maintenance*

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

*Valuation of land and buildings*

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Sandy Muir BE (Civil) Grad Dip AM, MIEAust, APEC Engineer, IntPE (Aus) from Australian Geographic Information Systems (AGIS). The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserved) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The Council's Buildings and Structures have been assessed for their condition and age for revaluation during this financial year. This valuation has been conducted by an independent accredited professional valuer and the impact of revaluation has been incorporated in this years financial statements. Any surplus arising as part of this revaluation has been reflected in the relevant asset valuation reserves.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Specialised land	—	864	—	Nov/22	Full
Land improvements	—	—	2,567	Nov/22	Full
Buildings	—	—	21,210	Nov/22	Full
<b>Total</b>	—	<b>864</b>	<b>23,777</b>		

Valuation of Infrastructure

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation. Council has engaged licensed valuer Peter Moloney MIEAust from Moloney Asset Management Systems for detailed condition assessment and valuation of its infrastructure assets. The condition assessment phase has been completed and a detailed valuation report will be completed during FY 2025-26.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	—	—	214,677	Jun/23	Unit Rate Index
Bridges	—	—	2,393	Jun/23	Unit Rate Index
Footpaths and cycleways	—	—	3,906	Jun/23	Unit Rate Index
Drainage	—	—	5,497	Jun/23	Unit Rate Index
Kerbs & Channel	—	—	5,501	Jun/23	Unit Rate Index
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>231,974</b>		

**Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations**

**Specialised land and land under roads** is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 30% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently Council records no land under roads.

**Specialised buildings** are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$350 to \$1700 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 40 years to 60 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

**Infrastructure assets** are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 1 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Reconciliation of specialised land</b>		
Municipal Office Land	90	90
Community Services Land	88	73
Infrastructure and Works Operations Land	177	113
Recreational and Sundry Council Land	509	500
<b>Total specialised land</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>776</b>

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
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#### 6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries

##### (a) Investments in associates

Investments in associates and joint arrangements accounted for by the equity method are:

Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	298	298
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited (formerly Wimmera Development Association)	130	164
<b>Total investments in associates and joint arrangements</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>462</b>

##### Wimmera Regional Library Corporation

Wimmera Regional Library Corporation provides and manages library services across regional areas. As part of strategic change, Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is under dissolution and the provision of library services is currently being managed by Horsham Rural City Council.

Council's investment in the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is based on the equity method of accounting. <sup>1</sup>

	29.27%	29.27%
<b>Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Regional Library Corporation</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>298</b>

##### Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	—	3
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	—	10
Transfers (to) from reserves	—	(59)
<b>Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(46)</b>

##### Council's share of reserves

Change in equity share apportionment	—	—
<b>Council's share of reserves at end of year</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

##### Movement in carrying value of specific investment

Carrying value of investment at start of year	298	354
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	—	(56)
Change in equity share apportionment	—	—
<b>Carrying value of investment at end of year</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>298</b>

(1) The dissolution of Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is in progress and during the year, the Library services were provided and managed Horsham Rural City Council and there has been a quarterly payment made to Horsham Rural City Council in accordance with a Service and Funding Agreement signed between Horsham Rural City Council and West Wimmera Shire Council.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited (formerly Wimmera Development Association)</b>		
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited works with communities, industries and all levels of governments to enable growth, remove barriers and build resilience and sustainability across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. The regional encompasses Horsham Rural City and the Buloke, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shires.		
Council's investment in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited (formerly Wimmera Development Association) is based on the equity method of accounting.	8.39%	6.89%
<b>Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited (formerly Wimmera Development Association)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)</b>		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	164	154
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	(34)	(10)
<b>Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Council's share of reserves</b>		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	21	21
Transfers (to) from reserves	11	–
<b>Council's share of reserves at end of year</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Movement in carrying value of specific investment</b>		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	164	174
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	(34)	(10)
<b>Carrying value of investment at end of year</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>164</b>

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

(b) Asset Management Committees

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as committees of management, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

The Council is the Asset Management Committee for the Edenhope, Goroke and Kaniva Cemeteries. The assets and liabilities of the Committees have been included in Council's financial statement and are summarised below:

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Edenhope Cemetery</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	57	43
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees and Charges	78	66
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Other Materials & Services	36	63
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Surplus(Loss) for period</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Summarised Statement of Cash Flows</b>		
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	42	3
<b>Goroke Cemetery</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	15	36
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees and Charges	21	23
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Other Materials & Services	41	11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Surplus(Loss) for period</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Summarised Statement of Cash Flows</b>		
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	(20)	12

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>Kaniva Cemetery</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	136	131
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees and Charges	37	55
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Other Materials & Services	40	41
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Surplus(Loss) for period</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Summarised Statement of Cash Flows</b>		
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	(3)	10
<b>Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>14</b>

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

*Parent entity*  
West Wimmera Shire Council is the parent entity.

*Subsidiaries and Associates*  
Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of West Wimmera Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors

Mayor Tim Meyer  
Cr. Jodie Pretlove  
Cr. Richard Hicks  
Cr. Tom Houlihan  
Cr. Helen Hobbs (commenced 7th November 2024)  
Cr. Bruce Meyer (ceased 26th October 2024)  
Chief Executive Officer David Bezuidenhout  
Director Infrastructure Development & Works Brendan Pearce  
Director Corporate & Community Services Dalton Burns  
(commenced 2 June 2025)  
Director Corporate & Community Services James Bentley  
(ceased 23 April 2025)

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Total Number of Councillors	6	5
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	4	3
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	10	8

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

**Short-term employee benefits** include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

**Other long-term employee benefits** include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

**Post-employment benefits** include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

**Termination benefits** include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	842	676
Other long-term employee benefits	–	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>745</b>

	2025 No.	2024 No.
--	-------------	-------------

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

\$1 - \$9,999	2	–
\$10,000 - \$19,999	1	1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	2	2
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	–
\$170,000 - \$179,999	–	2
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	–
\$250,000 - \$259,999	–	1
\$280,000 - \$289,999	1	–
	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

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7.2 Related party disclosure

**(a) Transactions with related parties**

During the period Council has no reportable transactions with related parties.

**(b) Outstanding balances with related parties**

There are no outstanding balances or outstanding transactions with the related parties reportable for this financial year.

**(c) Loans to/from related parties**

There are no loans during this financial year between Council and related parties.

**(d) Commitments to/from related parties**

There are no commitments to / from related parties for this financial year.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 8. Managing uncertainties

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##### 8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

###### (a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.  
At balance date the Council are not aware of any contingent assets.

###### (b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
  - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
  - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

###### Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

###### Landfill

Council does not operate a landfill site within its boundaries. There are no former licenced landfill sites within the shire.

###### Insurance claims

Council does not have any outstanding insurance claim as at 30 June 2025.

###### Legal matters

There are no known matters under litigation or a legal settlement which may result in any contingent costs to the Council.

###### MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six-year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). At the end of the liability period, an adjustment payment may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payment is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria.

###### (c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

The Council has not acted as a Guarantor for any liabilities against any other entities and / or Community Groups. Therefore there is no reportable matters or any financial obligation arising in future.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

##### 8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact Council.

In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and Council will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

##### 8.3 Financial instruments

###### (a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and TCV borrowings. Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

###### (b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of Council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

###### **Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes Council to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

###### (c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities Council deals with;

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

- Council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- Council only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in Council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provides a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

#### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of Council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- has a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- has readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- has a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- sets limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

All financial liabilities as presented in Note 5.3 are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

#### (e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.10%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

### 8.4 Fair value measurement

#### *Fair Value Hierarchy*

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

Council has considered the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement that apply for the 2024-25 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. For assets, where the Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, the Council now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.

The AASB 13 amendments apply prospectively, comparative figures have not been restated.

The AASB 13 amendments have not resulted in any material impacts to Council's financial statements.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above. In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

#### Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from < > to < > years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset Class	Revaluation frequency
Land	3 to 5 years
Buildings	3 to 5 years
Roads	3 to 5 years
Bridges	3 to 5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	3 to 5 years
Drainage	3 to 5 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3 to 5 years
Waste management	3 to 5 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3 to 5 years
Aerodromes	3 to 5 years
Other infrastructure	3 to 5 years

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increase reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

##### *Impairment of assets*

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

#### 8.5 Events occurring after balance date

The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation ceased to trade on 30 June 2023. The dissolution process is still a work in progress and there has been an equity adjustment for financial year 2024-25.

As of 1 July 2023, Horsham Rural City Council assumed direct management of library services and a five-year service level agreement, with an extension option of 3 years, was entered into with West Wimmera Shire Council. The service level agreement is based on the previous library corporation's funding and service agreement.

West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Increase (decrease) \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
<b>9.1 Reserves</b>			
<b>(a) Asset revaluation reserves</b>			
<b>2025</b>			
<b>Property</b>			
Land and land improvements	767	—	767
Buildings	14,414	—	14,414
	<b>15,181</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15,181</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Roads	202,509	—	202,509
Bridges	517	—	517
Footpaths and cycleways	6,461	—	6,461
Drainage	4,470	—	4,470
Kerbs & Channels	732	—	732
	<b>214,689</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>214,689</b>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>229,870</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>229,870</b>
<b>2024</b>			
<b>Property</b>			
Land and land improvements	767	—	767
Buildings	14,414	—	14,414
	<b>15,181</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15,181</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Roads	202,509	—	202,509
Bridges	517	—	517
Footpaths and cycleways	6,461	—	6,461
Drainage	4,470	—	4,470
Kerbs & Channels	732	—	732
	<b>214,689</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>214,689</b>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>229,870</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>229,870</b>

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Transfer from Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
<b>(b) Other reserves</b>				
<b>2025</b>				
<b>Restricted reserves</b>				
Plant replacement	771	—	(771)	—
Quarry restoration	121	—	—	121
Capital improvement	323	—	(323)	—
Rates revaluation	399	—	(399)	—
Elections	35	—	(35)	—
Carried Forward project Reserve	715	1,164	—	1,879
Unspent Grants	—	243	—	243
<b>Total Other reserves</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>(1,528)</b>	<b>2,243</b>
<b>2024</b>				
<b>Restricted reserves</b>				
Plant replacement	771	—	—	771
Quarry restoration	121	—	—	121
Capital improvement	323	—	—	323
Rates revaluation	399	—	—	399
Elections	35	—	—	35
Carried Forward project Reserve	2,318	—	(1,603)	715
<b>Total restricted reserves</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,603)</b>	<b>2,364</b>
<b>Total Other reserves</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,603)</b>	<b>2,364</b>

Description of nature and purpose of each of Council's discretionary reserves are:

The Plant Replacement is funded by the Plant Operating Surplus and is maintained to replace all major items of Plant and Equipment but excludes utility and fleet replacements.

The Quarry Restoration Reserve was generated via a charge against the sale price of quarry stocks that was retained to restore the quarry sites to natural levels once quarrying has ceased. There have been no further charges (other than nominal interest) generated for this reserve since the 1997/98 financial year as the retained reserve is considered adequate to undertake restoration works.

Capital Improvement Reserve is generated via transfers from Surplus Funds from time to time as determined by Council for use on any significant capital infrastructure projects.

Rates Revaluation Reserve provides funds to undertake each property revaluation for rating purposes every two years.

The Elections Reserve provides funds to undertake Council Elections every 4th year. The scheduled Victorian Council Elections during 2024-25 will result in additional reserves created during the next budget.

The Carried Forward Projects Reserve provides for all budgeted amounts which have not been spent as at 30 June and which are required to be carried forward to the next financial year and are not budgeted in the next financial year.

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## West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

#### Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
<b>9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)</b>		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(2,857)	(11,528)
<b>Non-cash adjustments:</b>		
Depreciation/amortisation	10,826	8,052
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(435)	(292)
Net share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	34	—
Amounts disclosed in financing activities	1	—
<b>Change in assets and liabilities:</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(523)	520
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	28	6
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	1	215
Increase/(decrease) in contract assets	—	215
Increase/(decrease) in other assets	18	(18)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(856)	949
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(74)	(79)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	511	—
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	258	1,102
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>6,932</b>	<b>(858)</b>

#### 9.3 Superannuation

Council makes all of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

##### Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2024, this was 11.0% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2023: 10.5%)).

##### Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of [Employer name] in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

##### Funding Arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was conducted and completed by 31 December 2023. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa  
Salary information 3.5% pa

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

Price inflation (CPI) 2.8% pa.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2023 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2023 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2024, this rate was 11.0% of members' salaries (10.5% in 2022/23). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up. If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2024 while a full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2024 (Interim) \$m	2023 (Triennial) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	108.4	85.7
- A total service liability surplus	141.4	123.6
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	156.7	141.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2024.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2024.

continued on next page ...

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West Wimmera Shire Council

2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2024.

The 2025 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2025 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category.

Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2025 was 110.5%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2025 VBI during August 2025 (2024: August 2024). The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa  
Salary information 3.5% pa  
Price inflation (CPI) 2.6% pa

It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by 31 October 2025.

The 2023 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of these investigations were:

	2023 Triennial investigation	2020 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.7% pa	5.6% pa
Salary inflation	3.50% pa	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation	2.8% pa	2.0% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2025 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000
Vision Super	Defined benefits	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	20	54
Vision Super	Accumulation	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	404	420
Other Super Funds	Accumulation	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	671	612

[In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$(insert amount paid during the 2024/25 year) (2023/24 \$(insert amount paid during the 2023/24 year)).

There were [\$relevant amount/no] contributions outstanding and [\$relevant amount/no] loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 is \$(insert estimated amount to be paid).

Note 10. Changes in accounting policies



There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2024-25 year.

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25 Baker Street, Kaniva Victoria 3419  
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PO Box 201, Edenhope Victoria 3318

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## 14 Corporate and Community Services

### 14.1 S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation

*Directorate:* Corporate and Community Services

*Report Author:* Governance Manager

*Report Purpose:* For Decision

#### **Purpose**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may delegate specific powers, duties or functions to the Chief Executive Officer or to Council staff by way of an Instrument of Delegation. In addition, Council must review, within the period of 12 months after a general election, all delegations which have been made. This review includes updates to legislation and any organisational changes made since the previous review and update.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council in the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached S18 Instrument of Sub- Delegation from Council resolves that:**

- 1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.**
- 2. The Common Seal of Council is affixed to the instrument with the signatures of two Councillors.**
- 3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations are revoked.**
- 4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.**

#### **Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **Background**

The *Local Government Act 2020* allows Council to delegate their powers by resolution to ensure the many decisions required to be made are done so in an efficient way, allowing



Council meetings to remain focused on strategic matters and community leadership rather than being operationally focused. Delegations and sub-delegations are made to a position not an officer, and it is essential that Council's delegations are performed in a manner that is in accordance with the delegation and is compliant with the relevant legislation.

Council reviewed and adopted the S18 Instrument of Sub Delegation on 21 May 2025. Council has since appointed an Environmental Health Technician on 8 September 2025. This Instrument has been updated accordingly to include the role of Environmental Health Technician into the provisions.

The Environment Protection Act 2017, as significantly amended by the Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018 and other Acts, came into effect on 1 July 2021. It includes environmental obligations and protections for all Victorians and changes Victoria's focus for environment protection and human health to a prevention-based approach. It includes the General Environmental Duty (GED). Councils play an important role under the Environment Protection Act 2017 and Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (the Regulations).

In exercising the powers conferred by section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Council has used the template provided through our subscription to Maddocks Lawyers.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified:

Regulatory risk

#### **Legislative Implications**

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

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

#### **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 4 – Good Governance***

4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.

## Communication Implications

No Communication Implications

## Equal Impact Assessment

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

## Conclusion

It is important for Council to consider and review any delegations made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, where Council may delegate specific powers, duties or functions to the Chief Executive Officer or to Council staff by way of an Instrument of Delegation.

## Attachments

1. Draft S18 Instrument of Sub Delegation under the EPA 2017 September 2025 EHT  
[14.1.1 - 5 pages]



Maddocks

Maddocks Delegations and Authorisations

***S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation  
under the Environment Protection Act 2017***

**West Wimmera Shire Council**

**Instrument of Sub-Delegation**

**to**

**Members of Council staff**

**~~Adopted 21 May 2025~~**

S18 Instrument of Sub-delegation to members of Council staff (*Environment Protection Act 2017*)

Adopted 21 May 2025

[628721:44220796\_1]





## Instrument of Sub-Delegation

By this Instrument of Sub-Delegation, in exercise of the power conferred by s 437(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* ('Act') and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, the Council:

1. delegates each duty and/or function and/or power described in column 1 of the Schedule (and summarised in column 2 of the Schedule) to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the office or position described in column 3 of the Schedule;
2. record that references in the Schedule are as follows
  - "MPE" means Manager Planning and Environment**
  - "EHO" means Environmental Health Officer**
  - "LLO" means Local Laws Officer**
  - "EHT" means Environmental Health Technician**
3. this Instrument of Sub-Delegation is authorised by a **resolution of Council** passed on **21 May 2025** pursuant to a power of sub-delegation conferred by the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021;
4. the delegation:
  - 4.1 comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Sub-Delegation;
  - 4.2 remains in force until varied or revoked;
  - 4.3 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in sub-paragraph 5, and the Schedule; and
  - 4.4 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
5. this Instrument of Sub-Delegation is subject to the following limitations:
  - 5.1 the powers, duties and functions described in column and summarised in column 2 of the Schedule are only delegated for the purpose of regulating:
    - 5.1.1 onsite wastewater management systems with a design or actual flow rate of sewage not exceeding 5000 litres on any day; and
    - 5.1.2 noise from the construction, demolition or removal of residential premises;
6. the delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing:
  - 6.1 if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
  - 6.2 if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
    - (a) policy; or

6.4 the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

Date: .....



Maddocks

**SCHEDULE**



Maddocks

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
PROVISION	THING DELEGATED	DELEGATE	CONDITIONS & LIMITATIONS
s 271	Power to issue improvement notice	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	
s 272	Power to issue prohibition notice	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	
s 279	Power to amend a notice	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	
s 358	Functions of the Environment Protection Authority	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	
s 359(1)(b)	Power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of the Environment Protection Authority's functions and duties and to enable the Authority to achieve its objective.	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	
s 359(2)	Power to give advice to persons with duties or obligations	EHO, LLO, MPE <sub>1</sub> <u>EHT</u>	

S18 Instrument of Sub-delegation to members of Council staff (*Environment Protection Act 2017*)

Adopted 21 May 2025

[628721:44220796\_1



## 14.2 Draft Long Term Financial Plan

*Directorate: Corporate and Community Services*

*Report Author: Chief Financial Officer*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

### **Purpose**

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) is required under the Local Government Act 2020 to have in place by 31 October 2025, a Community Vision, 4 year Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long Term Financial Plan.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council endorse the Long-Term Financial Plan to go on public exhibition from Thursday 18 September 2025 until Thursday 9 October 2025.**

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

Council's planning framework comprises the key plans that guide Council's work and decision making and connects the long-term community needs and aspirations. The Community Vision, 4-year Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long Term Financial Plan are key documents of the planning framework.

The Long Term Financial Plan defines the broad financial framework for Council over the next ten years. Assumptions underpinning the Plan are transparent and the decisions that need to be made to resource the services and capital works outlined in the Council Plan are made clear.

To prepare the Community Vision, Council Plan and Long Term Financial Plan, Council has undertaken an extensive and integrated engagement process. The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop or review the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan, and an Asset Plan in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy. Council adopted a Community Engagement Policy on 17 February 2021 which sets out how Council will involve the community in making decisions and planning for the future.



The next step is for the Plan to go on public exhibition for any final comments and also a deliberative panel to meet and review the document prior to being presented to Council for endorsement at the October Unscheduled Council Meeting.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified: Financial risk  
Regulatory risk  
Reputation risk

### **Legislative Implications**

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

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

### **Policy Implications**

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

### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### ***Goal 4 – Good Governance***

- 4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.
- 4.2 Engage with the community in a timely and respectful way.
- 4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.
- 4.5 Maintain a rigorous risk management framework.

### **Communication Implications**

Consultation has already been undertaken in development of the plans



## Gender Equality

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

## Conclusion

Council has prepared the Long-Term Financial Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* for Council to endorse before the document is placed on public exhibition. Once this process is completed the feedback and updated Plan will be presented to Council at an Unscheduled Council Meeting to be held 30 October 2025.

## Attachments

1. Final Draft Long Term Financial Plan 202526 - 203435 [**14.2.1** - 21 pages]



# LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

## 2025/26 - 2034/35



LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

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**LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35**

# INTRODUCTION

Council has developed a Long Term Financial Plan to provide the financial management framework upon which sound financial decisions are made. Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force a Long Term Financial Plan.

## PURPOSE

The Long-Term Financial Plan (the Financial Plan) is a high-level, informing strategy.

The purpose of the Financial Plan is to;

- Aid in decision-making for West Wimmera Shire Council's approach to delivering infrastructure and services to the community in a financially sustainable manner.
- Establish a framework for the next 10 years to plan for the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in the Council Plan.
- To assess and plan for the financial sustainability of Council into the future.

## SCOPE

In accordance with section 91(2) of the Act, the scope of the Financial Plan is for a period of 10 financial years. The Financial Plan covers the years 2025/26 to 2034/35.

A range of conservative assumptions and estimates have been used in projecting Council's long-term financial position. These assumptions are outlined in further sections of the document. The plan will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect the current circumstances of Council.

## OBJECTIVES

The Financial Plan objectives include:

- To ensure Council maintains a sound financial position whilst meeting the service needs of the community now and into the future.
- To enable adequate investment in capital works and meet the asset renewal requirements of Council's infrastructure as outlined in asset management planning.
- To meet the financial requirements of the goals, objectives and initiatives outlined in the Council Plan.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

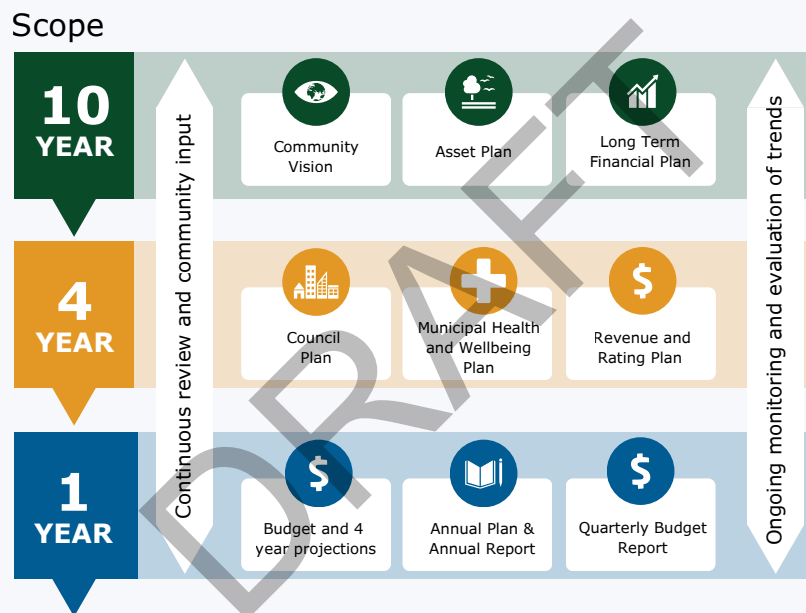
In accordance with section 55(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 2020, the Financial Plan has been developed using deliberative engagement principles consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Community consultation has been conducted in conjunction with the development of the Council Plan 2025-2029 to ensure a strong link between Council's strategic objectives, community vision and the Financial Plan.

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## LINK BETWEEN THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL'S PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Council's planning framework comprises the key plans that guide our work and decision making and connects the long term community needs and aspirations. The Council Plan is aligned with the 2041 Community Vision. The purpose of the Financial Plan is to ensure the financial sustainability of West Wimmera Shire Council and to provide the appropriate level of resources to meet Council's future needs in providing services, infrastructure and facilities to the community.



### Community Vision

The Community Vision describes the community's main priorities and aspirations over the next 20 years.



### Long Term Financial Plan

The Financial Plan defines the broad financial framework for Council over the next ten years. The Financial Plan identifies council's current and projected financial capacity to continue delivering services, facilities and infrastructure to the community, whilst maintaining sound financial management principles.



LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Financial Plan will guide the future strategies and actions of Council to ensure that it continues to operate in a sustainable manner. It is not intended to specifically indicate what services/proposals Council should allocate funds to, rather it identifies Council's current and projected financial capacity to continue delivering high quality services, facilities and infrastructure, whilst operating within its means.

The financial forecast is for Council to be in a balanced financial position for the year ended 30 June 2026, with net assets of \$276.65 million, including \$6.19 million in cash. Of this balance, approximately \$5 million is restricted or subject to intended allocations, leaving an unrestricted cash balance of around \$1.19 million. In applying the assumptions detailed in this document, the Financial Plan forecasts continuing modest cash surpluses to steadily improve Council's long-term financial sustainability and to meet demand for services and infrastructure. With further borrowings conservatively forecast in 2026 financial year to be repaid over the following 5 years.

As outlined in the below projected financial statements, Council is forecasting a continued operating deficit over the life of the Financial Plan. Conservative assumptions have been made with regards to non-recurrent grant funding as these can fluctuate greatly and are largely unknown from year to year.

This Financial Plan highlights the ongoing challenges facing Council into the future. With a very low rates effort when compared with other Councils and the current rate-capping environment, Council's ability to raise own-source revenue is limited. Therefore, external funding for both operational and capital requirements remain vitally important for the future sustainability of Council. In accordance with the Revenue and Rating Plan, Council will continue to actively seek external funding from all available avenues. Council will also continue to focus on improving operating efficiencies in business operations.

Council's largest asset class is our infrastructure and road network, and it is integral to long-term sustainability that Council continues to meet renewal demands of these assets in accordance with asset management plans. Community support and assistance remains Council's top priority.

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## PROJECTED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2035

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Income</b>											
Rates and charges	8,942	9,215	9,427	9,645	9,867	10,096	10,330	10,570	10,816	11,068	11,327
Statutory fees and fines	150	172	175	179	183	186	190	194	198	202	206
User fees	779	596	608	620	632	645	658	671	685	698	712
Grants - Operating	10,271	10,619	10,831	11,048	11,269	11,494	11,724	11,959	12,198	12,442	12,691
Grants - Capital	4,028	4,007	4,087	4,169	4,252	4,337	4,424	4,513	4,603	4,695	4,789
Contributions - monetary	189	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(263)	115	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227
Other income	1,886	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25,982</b>	<b>26,454</b>	<b>27,086</b>	<b>27,617</b>	<b>28,161</b>	<b>28,716</b>	<b>29,283</b>	<b>29,863</b>	<b>30,456</b>	<b>31,062</b>	<b>31,681</b>
<b>Expenses</b>											
Employee costs	(11,385)	(11,071)	(11,204)	(11,208)	(11,211)	(11,214)	(11,218)	(11,222)	(11,226)	(11,229)	(11,233)
Materials and services	(10,080)	(9,047)	(9,273)	(9,505)	(9,743)	(9,986)	(10,236)	(10,492)	(10,754)	(11,023)	(11,298)
Depreciation	(8,050)	(8,369)	(8,400)	(8,610)	(8,825)	(9,046)	(9,272)	(9,504)	(9,741)	(9,985)	(10,235)
Borrowing costs	-	(80)	(32)	(25)	(18)	(11)	(4)	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	(464)	(730)	(748)	(767)	(786)	(806)	(826)	(847)	(868)	(889)	(912)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(29,979)</b>	<b>(29,297)</b>	<b>(29,658)</b>	<b>(30,115)</b>	<b>(30,583)</b>	<b>(31,063)</b>	<b>(31,556)</b>	<b>(32,064)</b>	<b>(32,589)</b>	<b>(33,127)</b>	<b>(33,678)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(3,997)</b>	<b>(2,843)</b>	<b>(2,572)</b>	<b>(2,497)</b>	<b>(2,422)</b>	<b>(2,348)</b>	<b>(2,273)</b>	<b>(2,201)</b>	<b>(2,133)</b>	<b>(2,065)</b>	<b>(1,997)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>											
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods:											
Net asset revaluation increment /(decrement)	5,555	10,296	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>7,453</b>	<b>(2,572)</b>	<b>(2,497)</b>	<b>(2,422)</b>	<b>(2,348)</b>	<b>(2,273)</b>	<b>(2,201)</b>	<b>(2,133)</b>	<b>(2,065)</b>	<b>(1,997)</b>

# PROJECTED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT COMMENTARY

This section outlines the various components of the Projected Comprehensive Income Statement and the financial assumptions which have been used in the development of the Financial Plan.

## INCOME

### Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges income is the amount that Council will receive as a result of property rates and kerbside waste and recycling collection charges. The Victorian State Government introduced the Fair Go Rates System in 2017 which stipulates Councils must adhere to an annual rate cap unless they receive an exemption from the Minister. The annual rate cap for 2025/26 was 3%. Council must also levy rates in accordance with its Revenue and Rating Plan.

- Assumptions:
- 2.5% rate cap projected for future years
  - Waste collection charges to be in line with rate increases

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Rates and Charges	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

### Statutory Fees and Fines

Statutory Fees and Fines comprise income generated for Council as a result of Federal or State legislation or Council by-laws, including planning fees, building fees and animal registrations.

- Assumptions:
- 2.0% increase projected for future years

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Statutory Fees and Fines	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%



**LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35**

**User Fees**

User Fees comprise income in relation to the provision of Council services and facilities, including venue hire, fees and waste transfer station fees.

Assumptions:

- 2.0% increase projected for future years

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
User Fees	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

**Grants - Operating**

Operating Grants are Federal and State Government grants received for operational purposes. To be considered recurrent, the grant funding agreement must be for a term greater than two years. Included within this category is the Grants Commission Financial Assistance funding, Commonwealth Home Support Program funding and funding for aged care, maternal health, children's services and other funding for various Council services. The majority of Council's operating grants are recurrent (meaning the funding is for a period of at least 2 years).

Assumptions:

- Operating Grants are projected to increase at 2% each year for future years

**Grants - Capital**

Capital Grants are those received by Federal and State Government, along with other funding bodies for the purpose of capital works/projects, such as the Roads to Recovery Program funding. As most capital funding programs are non-recurrent, Council traditionally sees significant fluctuations in capital funding levels from year-to-year and uncertainty around future funding availability presents a challenge for financial forecasting.

Assumptions:

- Capital Grants are projected to increase at 2% each year for future years

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Grants - Operating	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Grants - Capital	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

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**Contributions - Monetary**

Contributions are funds received by Council from community groups, funding bodies and other sources generally in relation to contributions towards specific projects.

Assumptions:

- An escalation factor of 2.5% has been applied to monetary contributions for the period of the Financial Plan

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Contributions - Monetary	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

**Net Gain (Loss) on Sale of Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment**

Each year, Council replaces a range of vehicles and items of plant as part of a planned and ongoing replacement program. This is governed through Council's asset management strategies and policies.

Assumptions:

- No escalation factor has been applied to the net gain (loss) on sale of assets for each year

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Net gain on PPE	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**Other Income**

Other income comprises income that cannot be classed into the above categories, and includes items such as reimbursements, investment interest and lease income.

Assumptions:

- Other income is projected to increase at 2% has been applied for the period of the Financial Plan

Escalation factor % Increase	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
Other Income	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

**LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35**

## EXPENSES

### Employee Costs

Employee costs include salaries, wages and other costs of employing staff such as Work Cover, superannuation, leave entitlements and Fringe Benefits Tax. Staff are integral to the successful delivery of Council's services and programs to the community. Council has an Enterprise Agreement in place which governs the annual wage increase for employees. At the time of writing this Plan, a new Enterprise Agreement was in negotiation.

Assumptions:

- 3% increase in Employee costs

Escalation factor % Increase	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Employee costs	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

### Materials and Services

Materials and services expenses comprise goods and services purchased for the general operations and activities of Council and the cost of non-recurrent operational items funded through Council's major projects budget process. Examples of Council's materials and services include contractor payments, maintenance expenditure, administration, insurance, utilities, IT services and consultants.

Assumptions:

- Materials and services is projected to increase by 2.5% each year of the Financial Plan

Escalation factor % Increase	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Materials and services	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

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**Depreciation**

The value of an asset decreases over time due to use, wear and tear or obsolescence. This decrease is measured as depreciation. Depreciation provides an annual allocation of the current replacement cost of Council assets over their remaining useful lives.

Assumptions:

- Depreciation is projected to increase by 2.5% each year of the Financial Plan
- It is critical that Council continues to renew existing assets in the capital works program, as failure to do so may reduce the service potential of assets and increase whole of life costs

Escalation factor % Increase	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Depreciation	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

**Other Expenses**

Other expenses relate to a range of costs incurred to support the wide range of community services delivered by Council that are not classed in the above categories, such as audit fees, elected member allowances and bank fees.

Assumptions:

- Other expenses are projected to increase by 2.5% annually

Escalation factor % Increase	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Other expenses	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## PROJECTED BALANCE SHEET

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2031

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>											
<b>Current assets</b>											
Cash and cash equivalents	5,250	6,195	4,485	4,769	5,287	5,195	5,086	5,108	5,142	5,091	5,062
Trade and other receivables	1,184	525	2,307	2,347	2,400	2,456	2,507	2,558	2,618	2,674	2,729
Inventories	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>6,569</b>	<b>6,855</b>	<b>6,927</b>	<b>7,251</b>	<b>7,822</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>7,895</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,926</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>											
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	271,292	278,011	274,831	271,471	267,946	265,095	262,338	260,234	258,193	256,308	254,473
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>271,292</b>	<b>278,011</b>	<b>274,831</b>	<b>271,471</b>	<b>267,946</b>	<b>265,095</b>	<b>262,338</b>	<b>260,234</b>	<b>258,193</b>	<b>256,308</b>	<b>254,473</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>277,861</b>	<b>284,866</b>	<b>281,758</b>	<b>278,722</b>	<b>275,768</b>	<b>272,881</b>	<b>270,065</b>	<b>268,035</b>	<b>266,088</b>	<b>264,207</b>	<b>262,399</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>											
<b>Current liabilities</b>											
Trade and other payables	2,100	1,800	1,816	1,834	1,862	1,886	1,910	1,930	1,961	1,987	2,014
Trust funds and deposits	480	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
Unearned income/revenue	1,416	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	2,229	2,340	2,454	2,570	2,690	2,812	2,938	3,067	3,199	3,334	3,473
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	500	500	693	700	707	714	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>6,725</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>5,143</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>5,439</b>	<b>5,592</b>	<b>5,028</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>5,666</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>											
Provisions	377	396	415	435	456	477	498	520	543	566	590
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	1,500	3,000	2,121	1,421	714	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>3,396</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8,602</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>7,679</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>6,609</b>	<b>6,069</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>6,256</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>269,259</b>	<b>276,650</b>	<b>274,078</b>	<b>271,581</b>	<b>269,159</b>	<b>266,812</b>	<b>264,539</b>	<b>262,338</b>	<b>260,205</b>	<b>258,140</b>	<b>256,143</b>
<b>Equity</b>											
Accumulated surplus	33,836	30,931	28,359	25,862	23,440	21,093	18,820	16,619	14,486	12,421	10,424
Reserves	235,423	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719	245,719
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>269,259</b>	<b>276,650</b>	<b>274,078</b>	<b>271,581</b>	<b>269,159</b>	<b>266,812</b>	<b>264,539</b>	<b>262,338</b>	<b>260,205</b>	<b>258,140</b>	<b>256,143</b>

# PROJECTED BALANCE SHEET COMMENTARY

This section outlines the various components of the Projected Balance Sheet.

## Assets

Current assets refer to Council 'liquid' assets - cash and cash equivalents include cash held in the bank, petty cash and the value of investments in term deposits.

Trade and other receivables are monies owed to council by ratepayers and other debtors. Inventories refers to Council's stock on hand, including fuel, culverts and quarry stocks.

Other Assets includes items such as prepayments for expenses that Council had paid in advance of service delivery, and accrued income.

Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries refers to the fair value of Council's investment in the Wimmera Library Corporation and the Wimmera Development Association.

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the fair value of Council's property, infrastructure and plant assets as well as capital work in progress.

## Liabilities

Current liabilities refer to the financial obligations of Council which are due to be settled within 12 months. Trade and other payables are those to whom Council owes monies as at 30 June each year.

Trust funds and deposits refer to funds Council is holding as deposit, in trust or on behalf of another entity.

Provisions refer to future employee entitlements and include accrued long service leave, annual leave and other leave entitlements.

## Equity

Reserves contain both discretionary reserves and an asset revaluation reserve. Council maintains several discretionary reserves for which funds are allocated each year to plan for anticipated future expenditure. Council's reserves include quarry restoration, election expenditure, plant replacement, capital improvement, rates revaluation and carried-forward capital projects. The asset revaluation reserve represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations. Asset valuations are required to be considered annually and formally revalued if there is a material change.

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## PROJECTED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2031

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>											
Rates and charges	8,742	9,215	8,837	9,629	9,847	10,077	10,311	10,553	10,793	11,047	11,305
Statutory fees and fines	163	172	181	197	200	204	209	213	217	221	226
User fees	779	596	627	681	694	708	723	737	752	767	782
Grants - operating	10,554	9,203	10,154	11,033	11,248	11,476	11,705	11,942	12,176	12,422	12,670
Grants - capital	2,388	4,687	3,831	4,163	4,244	4,330	4,417	4,506	4,594	4,687	4,781
Contributions - monetary	189	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302	302
Interest received	291	-	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309
Other receipts	1,804	1,126	1,163	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261	1,261
Net GST refund / payment	1,520	932	1,174	1,305	1,334	1,441	1,503	1,613	1,674	1,741	1,800
Employee costs	(10,862)	(10,934)	(11,063)	(11,073)	(11,069)	(11,071)	(11,071)	(11,073)	(11,069)	(11,071)	(11,071)
Materials and services	(12,103)	(10,252)	(10,193)	(10,437)	(10,693)	(10,963)	(11,237)	(11,520)	(11,803)	(12,101)	(12,403)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(29)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other payments	(473)	(730)	(822)	(842)	(863)	(885)	(907)	(930)	(952)	(976)	(1,001)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>6,528</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>7,191</b>	<b>7,525</b>	<b>7,913</b>	<b>8,254</b>	<b>8,609</b>	<b>8,961</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>											
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(7,765)	(5,042)	(5,742)	(5,775)	(5,830)	(6,815)	(7,167)	(8,140)	(8,470)	(8,910)	(9,240)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(7,765)</b>	<b>(4,792)</b>	<b>(5,492)</b>	<b>(5,525)</b>	<b>(5,580)</b>	<b>(6,565)</b>	<b>(6,917)</b>	<b>(7,890)</b>	<b>(8,220)</b>	<b>(8,660)</b>	<b>(8,990)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>											
Finance costs	-	(80)	(32)	(25)	(18)	(11)	(4)	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from borrowings	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	-	(500)	(686)	(693)	(700)	(707)	(714)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash &amp; cash equivalents</b>	<b>(2,802)</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>(1,710)</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>(92)</b>	<b>(110)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(51)</b>	<b>(29)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	8,052	5,250	6,195	4,485	4,769	5,287	5,195	5,086	5,108	5,142	5,091
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>6,195</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>4,769</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>5,086</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>5,091</b>	<b>5,062</b>



# PROJECTED CASH FLOW STATEMENT COMMENTARY

This section outlines the various components of the Projected Cash Flow Statement.

## Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Operating activities refers to the cash generated or used in the normal service delivery functions of Council. Cash remaining after paying for the provision of services to the community may be available for investment in capital works.

The net cash flows from operating activities does not equal the operating result for the year, as the expected revenues and expenses of the Council include non-cash items which have been excluded from the Cashflow Statement.

## Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Investing activities refers to cash generated or used in the enhancement or creation of infrastructure and other assets. These activities also include the acquisition and sale of other assets such as vehicles, property, and equipment.

## Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Financing activities refers to cash generated or used in the financing of Council's functions and include borrowings from financial institutions and advancing or repayable loans to other organisations. These activities also include repayment of the principal component of loan repayments for the year.

Council does not currently have borrowings, nor does the Financial Plan propose any new borrowings.

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## PROJECTED STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2031

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections								
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Property</b>											
Land improvements	-	670	600	150	150	270	270	300	300	300	300
<b>Total land</b>	-	670	600	150	150	270	270	300	300	300	300
Buildings	301	594	500	500	500	750	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total buildings</b>	301	594	500	500	500	750	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total property</b>	301	1,264	1,100	650	650	1,020	1,020	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
<b>Plant and equipment</b>											
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,643	-	300	800	800	900	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	23	-	-	50	50	75	75	100	100	100	100
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	1,666	-	300	850	850	975	975	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
<b>Infrastructure</b>											
Roads	5,226	3,672	3,700	3,600	3,600	4,000	4,300	4,500	4,800	5,200	5,500
Bridges	20	-	-	30	30	30	50	50	50	50	50
Footpaths and cycleways	100	66	70	70	70	70	70	100	100	100	100
Drainage	12	40	50	50	50	50	50	200	200	200	200
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	385	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	55	-	-	-	50	50	50	150	150	150	150
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	5,798	3,778	3,820	3,750	3,800	4,200	4,520	5,000	5,300	5,700	6,000
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	7,765	5,042	5,220	5,250	5,300	6,195	6,515	7,400	7,700	8,100	8,400
<b>Represented by:</b>											
New asset expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure	7,180	5,042	5,220	5,250	5,300	6,195	6,515	7,400	7,700	8,100	8,400
Asset expansion expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	585	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total capital works</b>	7,765	5,042	5,220	5,250	5,300	6,195	6,515	7,400	7,700	8,100	8,400

## PROJECTED STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS COMMENTARY

The Financial Plan forecasts to meet 70% of the minimum renewal requirements (based on forecast depreciation) for infrastructure as outlined in the most recent revaluation and condition assessment conducted in November 2023. This report identifies the degradation curve of Council's road assets and is used for the long-term planning of renewal requirements. It is important to ensure existing assets and infrastructure are maintained at appropriate levels to service the community's needs. During this revaluation, it was noted that overall, Council's road network is in excellent condition, reflecting the significant renewal work which has been conducted by Council in prior years.

Expenditure on new and expanded assets is being driven by a number of regular programs derived from strategies and plans, including new footpaths, improved drainage and open space enhancements.

Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop a 10-year Asset Plan for adoption by 31st October 2025. Information from the Asset Plan, in conjunction with Council's existing asset management plans, policies and strategies, will inform Council's capital expenditure priorities. In the absence of the Asset Plan at the time of developing the Financial Plan, estimates and assumptions have been made with regards to longer term projections for buildings and asset classes other than roads. Similarly, as the 2025-29 Council Plan actions and initiatives are yet to be finalised, it is assumed capital works completed in the past are reflective of future investment levels and specific projects identified in the plan will be integrated into the Financial Plan in the future.

External capital funding services include capital grants and contributions. Forecast assumptions for capital funding sources are conservative.

Council's capital works program underpins the needs and priorities as determined by Council's capital evaluation process. It is imperative that Council continue to maintain and improve asset management plans that ensure the community's levels of service are met through the delivery of efficient and effective services.



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## PROJECTED STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2031

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections								
			2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
<b>Staff Expenditure</b>											
Employee costs - operating	11,385	11,071	11,980	12,648	13,353	14,029	14,740	15,486	16,270	17,094	17,959
Employee costs - capital	1,366	1,329	1,438	1,518	1,602	1,684	1,769	1,858	1,952	2,051	2,155
<b>Total staff expenditure</b>	<b>12,751</b>	<b>12,400</b>	<b>13,418</b>	<b>14,166</b>	<b>14,956</b>	<b>15,713</b>	<b>16,508</b>	<b>17,344</b>	<b>18,222</b>	<b>19,145</b>	<b>20,114</b>
<b>Staff Numbers</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Employees	107.0	100.2	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
<b>Total Staff Numbers</b>	<b>107.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.7</b>

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 - 2034/35

## KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

		Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35
<b>Operating position</b>												
Adjusted underlying result		-25.2%	-17.7%	-16.3%	-15.9%	-15.4%	-14.9%	-14.5%	-14.1%	-13.7%	-13.3%	-13.0%
<b>Liquidity</b>												
Working capital	(current assets as a percentage of current liabilities)	97.7%	142.2%	134.7%	137.2%	143.8%	139.2%	153.7%	150.7%	147.9%	143.6%	139.9%
Unrestricted cash	(unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities)	70.9%	54.0%	17.4%	22.3%	31.2%	28.7%	29.7%	29.3%	29.1%	27.3%	26.0%
<b>Obligations</b>												
Loans and borrowings	(as a percentage of rate revenue)	22.4%	38.0%	29.9%	22.0%	14.4%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Indebtedness	(Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue)	16.1%	28.7%	20.8%	15.0%	9.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%
Asset renewal and upgrade	(compared to depreciation)	96.5%	60.2%	62.1%	61.0%	60.1%	68.5%	70.3%	77.9%	79.0%	81.1%	82.1%
<b>Stability</b>												
Rates concentration	(Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue)	37.3%	37.0%	37.0%	37.1%	37.2%	37.3%	37.5%	37.6%	37.7%	37.9%	38.0%
Rates effort	(Rates compared to property values)	0.14%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.16%	0.16%	0.17%	0.17%	0.17%	0.18%	0.18%
<b>Efficiency</b>												
Expenditure level	(expenditure per assessment)	\$ 6,280	\$ 6,137	\$ 6,212	\$ 6,308	\$ 6,406	\$ 6,507	\$ 6,610	\$ 6,716	\$ 6,826	\$ 6,939	\$ 7,054
Revenue level	(average rate per assessment)	\$ 1,873	\$ 1,930	\$ 1,975	\$ 2,020	\$ 2,067	\$ 2,115	\$ 2,164	\$ 2,214	\$ 2,266	\$ 2,318	\$ 2,373

## KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS COMMENTARY

### Adjusted Underlying Result

An indicator of the sustainable operating required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. A steady trend projected over the long-term.

### Working Capital

The proportion of current liabilities represented by current assets. Working capital is slightly in decline due to increasing current liabilities (provisions).

### Unrestricted Cash

This indicator represents unrestricted cash as a percentage of current liabilities. Slight decrease over time projected due to slightly increasing current liabilities.

### Loans and Borrowings

Council does not currently have borrowings and none are projected in the Financial Plan.

### Indebtedness

This indicator looks at non-current liabilities as a percentage of Council's own-sourced revenue. The trend is slightly increasing over time indicating a higher rate of increase in liabilities than that of rate and other internal income.

### Asset Renewal

An indicator to demonstrate if asset renewals and upgrades are in line with annual depreciation. Long-term trend is in slight decline however it is noted that Council is still exceeding the minimum renewal requirements per asset management plans.

### Rates Concentration

Rates concentration is projected to increase slightly over time, predominantly due to no increase to capital grants being projected in years 5-10. The trend indicates that Council will become more reliant on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources.

### Rates Effort

This indicator shows rate revenue as a percentage of Capital Improved Value (CIV) of rateable properties. The long-range decline projected is due to the historic rise in CIV of properties significantly outweighing the increase in property rates.

### Expenditure Level

Expenditure when compared to number of property assessments is increasing over time, noting the number of property assessments is projected to remain constant for the life of the Financial Plan.

### Revenue Level



Revenue level is projected to increase over time, again, noting the number of property assessments is projected to remain constant for the life of the Financial Plan.



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## 15 Infrastructure Development and Works

### 15.1 Asset Management Plan

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Design Engineer*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

#### **Purpose**

The Asset Management Plan is due for review and a final version is presented to Council to consider.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

##### **That Council:**

- 1. Notes that the Asset Management Plan (AMP) 2022–2032 was initially adopted by Council on 30 June 2022, and has since been updated with the latest asset valuation data, Moloney renewal requirements, CRM data, Customer Satisfaction survey data, and the Improvement Plan (Section 7.0).**
- 2. Adopts the updated Asset Management Plan 2022–2032 as presented, to replace the previously adopted version, and keep in force in accordance with section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020.**

#### **Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **Background**

Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan. The scope of an Asset Plan is for a minimum period of ten financial years. The Asset Plan needed to be initially adopted by 30 June 2022. Thereafter, the Council should review and adopt an Asset Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election of Council.

The Asset Plan must include the following:



- Information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure under the control of the Council.

Council has entitled their Asset Plan, the “Asset Management Plan” (AMP).

Council's 10-year AMP was first adopted in 2022. The plan has been updated where they have been reassessed for condition and valuation, so the most recent figures occur within the report. Updated data in AMP includes:

- all valuation data
- the Moloney data including asset renewal requirements
- the Improvement Plan section 7.0
- CRM data
- Customer Satisfaction Survey data

The original financial statements are listed. The original 10-year version commencing in 2021 and contained within the original report remain there for reference, while the equivalent 4-year version from the 25/26 budget has been added as an update.

As referenced throughout the Plan, much is dependent on the LTFP that will be developed by October 2025 and that another review of the AMP may be completed by Council thereafter if required.

The draft Asset Management Plan was advertised for public comment in line with the resolution of Council at the 16 July Council meeting. Submissions closed on 29 August. No submissions were received.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified: The AMP has a section entitled Risk Management Planning. The section details critical assets, risks, and treatment plans. Having an AMP is beneficial in reducing the long-term financial risk to Council and the preservation of assets in the long term

### **Legislative Implications**

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

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable



## **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

The Asset Management Plan provides guidance for future budget decisions by the Council with respect to assets. Some of the actions are already set in the routines and budgeting of Council while others will require specific decision in the appropriate budget year during the ten-year period.

## **Policy Implications**

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

Asset Capitalisation Policy  
Asset Disposal Policy  
Asset Management Policy  
Asset Management Strategy

## **Council Plan Implications**

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

### ***Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community***

1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.

### ***Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy***

2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

### ***Goal 4 – Good Governance***

4.1 Ensure long term financial sustainability.

## **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

The Asset Management Plan was advertised for public comment. There were no submissions received.

## **Gender Equality**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

## **Conclusion**

The draft Asset Management Plan may be amended if required and adopted by the Council.



## Attachments

1. WWS Asset Management Plan 2025 v\_2 [**15.1.1** - 60 pages]

# ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032





ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Document control		Asset Management Plan			
Document ID :					
Rev No	Date	Revision details	Author	Reviewer	Approver
1.0	10/08/2021	Introductory information and specific commentary added to template.	J Magee	J Griffiths	Director
2.0	13/10/2021	Financial data for renewal included.	J Magee	J Griffiths	Director
3.0	15/02/2022	Modifications after workshop consisting of Director Infrastructure Development and Works, Manager Infrastructure Engineering, Manager Financial Services and Assets GIS Coordinator. Inclusion of links to Council Plan 2021-2025 and other minor modifications.	J Magee	J Griffiths	R Upadhyaya
4.0	18/05/2022	Adopted by Council 18/5/22	J Magee	J Griffiths	Council
5.0	27/05/2025	Revise and update original AMP for Manager and Director review	J Magee	C Wilfred	B Pearce

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ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.8 THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Asset Management Plan (AM Plan) details information about infrastructure assets with actions required to provide an agreed level of service in the most cost-effective manner while outlining associated risks. The plan defines the services to be provided, how the services are provided and what funds are required to provide over the 2022-2032 period. The AM Plan will link to a Long-Term Financial Plan, which also reflects the 10-year planning period. The original plan was first adopted in 2022. Its first review is in 2025.

### 1.9 Asset description

This plan covers the following infrastructure assets.

The Council asset network comprises:

- Sealed road pavements
- Sealed road surfaces
- Unsealed road pavements
- Kerbing
- Footpaths
- Buildings
- Land improvements (including parks and playgrounds)
- Fixed assets (including equipment, furniture and fittings)
- Plant and fleet
- Bridges and culverts

The above infrastructure assets have replacement value estimated at \$349,060,224 (current as of May 2025)

#### 1.10 Levels of service

The allocation in each budget should be sufficient to continue providing existing services at current levels for the planning period and to provide renewal at the prescribed intervention level for the 10-year period.

The key desired service requirements with respect to asset management are:

- Fund renewal of road, footpath replacement at a minimum of 90% of projected renewal requirement and higher if external funding allows.
- Continue maintenance at similar levels to current.
- Minimisation of new capital works unless significant supporting funding is available.
- The majority of the capital spend is directed to renewal of current assets.
- Upgrades will occur generally for category 3 roads with significant heavy traffic as well as challenging terrain and alignment, with a view to improving safety and productivity.
- Upgrades and renewal of buildings will generally occur when external funding sources are available, which Council will provide the required contribution.

#### 1.11 Future demand

The factors influencing future demand and the impacts they have on service delivery are created by:

- Steady progression and development of the agricultural industry.
- Gradual increase in the freight task.
- Demand for larger trucks at speed requiring upgrading of sealed width for safety and productivity with desirable seal width being 6.2m minimum.
- Limited urban expansion or subdivision.
- Spasmodic but continuing demand from the timber industry.
- Slight population declines over time.

These demands will be approached using a combination of managing existing assets, upgrading existing assets and providing new assets to meet demand. Provision of new assets will be limited and sustaining those existing will be the priority. Demand management practices may also include a combination of non-asset solutions, insuring against risks and managing failures.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

## 1.12 Lifecycle management plan

### 1.12.1 What does it cost?

The forecast lifecycle costs necessary to provide the services covered by this AM Plan includes operation, maintenance, renewal, acquisition, and disposal of assets. Although the AM Plan may be prepared for a range of time periods, this plan has adopted a long-term financial planning period of 10 years. Therefore, a summary output from the AM Plan is the forecast of 10-year total outlays, with the total expenditure and income for the 10-year period totals \$23,702,200 estimated on average per year. The average capital works per annum for the 10-year period is \$7,813,200, while the corresponding figure allocated for renewal is \$6,893,200.

**Note:** Figures in this paragraph are correct as of adoption of this plan in 2022. It is intended to review these figures at the completion of the 2025 Long Term Financial Plan, which is due to be completed in October 2025.

## 1.13 Financial summary

### 1.13.1 What we will do

Estimated available funding for the 10 year period on average per year for renewal is \$6,893,200, **as per the Long-Term Financial plan in 2022**. This is 100% of the cost to sustain the current level of service and restricting the level of over intervention assets to a similar level to what is current status, which is at a reasonable and sustainable standard. The renewal costs for sealed road pavements, sealed road surfaces, unsealed road pavements, kerbing and footpaths, are ascertained from the Moloney Management System survey and financial analysis. The confidence level for renewal forecast of these assets is quite reasonable.

**A new Long Term Financial Plan will be developed late 2025, which will have impacts on this AM Plan and may facilitate another review of the plan.**

Renewal predictions for other assets have less scientific basis and may be identified specifically in the Improvement Plan (see section 8.0). A key initiative of this plan is to improve the data and confidence level for renewal forecasting for buildings as well as bridges and culverts.

The infrastructure reality is that only what is funded in the long-term financial plan can be provided. The informed decision making depends on the AM Plan emphasising the consequences of planned budgets on the service levels provided and risks.

It is a fact that West Wimmera Shire Council relies heavily on external grants to help fund renewal of its comparatively large asset base. These will be monitored closely as will the asset condition and forecast after each assessment of the Moloney Management System.

### 1.13.2 What we cannot do

We currently do **not** allocate enough budget to provide some upgrades which may be deemed as appropriate by some members of the community, or to provide all new services being sought. Works and services that cannot be provided under present funding levels are:

- Upgrade footpaths or roads if incompatible with road hierarchy.
- Upgrade road widths until time of renewal unless specific safety priority or external funding provided.
- Undertake new construction or major upgrade to buildings without significant external funding.
- Upgrade timber roads without third party financial assistance.
- Install new kerb and channelling as renewal the priority unless
- Construction and or maintenance of timber cartage roads without support from timber industry.
- Broad scale widening of 3.6m seals to 6.2m or wider.
- Maintain gravel surface on roads in category 6.
- Take on additional services that may be a cost shifting exercise by state or federal governments, community groups or other organisations.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

**1.13.3 Managing the risks**

Our present budget levels are sufficient to continue to manage risks in the medium term.

The main risk consequences are:

- large, unprecedented impacts by the timber industry
- being impacted by large natural disaster events without support being provided by government for rectification of damage
- decline of asset base earlier than predicted life span
- loss of external funding for road rehabilitation.

We will endeavour to manage these risks within available funding by:

- Having agreements in place with timber industry stakeholders to rectify damage caused to roads
- Ensure that photographic evidence is obtained for all paved and sealed roads to satisfy natural disaster funding criteria.
- Ensure that the annual reseal program is appropriately funded to protect the large pavement asset under the sealed road network
- Developing capital works programs with emphasis on prioritising higher priority roads
- Having regular asset life and condition assessments done on major assets (three yearly via the Moloney Maintenance Management System)
- Programming maintenance at an appropriate time to minimise overall cost of subsequent works
- Minimising expenditure on new assets and limiting upgrades with concentration on renewal
- Continue to lobby for continuation of Roads to Recovery funding program and other external capital funding
- Ensuring that required renewal allocations are provided during years when financial resources are available

**1.14 Asset management planning practices**

Key assumptions made in this AM Plan are:

- Annual budget allocations for capital works will be made considering the data provided by the Moloney Asset Management system for the following assets:
  - sealed road pavements
  - reseals
  - unsealed road pavements
  - kerbing
  - footpaths
- AssetAsyst will continue to be utilised for safety defect inspections and maintenance management on roads, footpaths and playgrounds. Alternative asset management software will be taken into consideration as part of ongoing improvement considerations, if such a system is seen as financially viable and the implementation and operation requirements are deemed achievable by a small rural council.
- Plant and fleet replacement budgets will be consistent as far as is practicable to provide certainty for planning practices in the longer term.
- Upgrades and renewal of buildings will occur when external sources of funding are available which Council will provide the required contribution.
- Condition assessment and valuation was undertaken on roads, footpaths and kerbing via the Moloney Management system in 2023, due again late 2026.
- A condition assessment of buildings was undertaken in 2022, 2025 and will be undertaken every three years thereafter.
- A valuation of buildings will be undertaken in September 2025 and every three years thereafter.
- Bridges and culverts have had a level 2 bridge inspection undertaken in 2024 and every three years thereafter targeting condition, safety and maintenance requirements and valuation.
- A smaller subset of major culverts will have a level 2 bridge inspection undertaken within the 2025/26 financial year. These should be undertaken each three years thereafter.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Assets requiring renewal are identified from a combination of asset register data, community requests, road hierarchy, Road Management Plan inspections and regular cyclical inspections for the various assets.

- The timing of capital renewals is usually based upon on the asset condition recorded in latest survey combined with a physical inspection.
- Alternatively, on ground staff, supervisors or community feedback may identify areas requiring rectification or renewal.

The Moloney Asset Management System was used to forecast the renewal lifecycle costs for the majority of assets in this AM Plan.

This AM Plan is based on a high level of confidence with respect to the information provided by the Moloney Management System as the same mechanism for performance of the assets has been utilised consistently since 2003. Less confidence is placed in the data for buildings, parks, reserves and playgrounds however their value is drastically smaller than the “roads” portfolio, so this is thought to be of acceptable risk to Council although improvements items are programmed within this plan to improve asset management in those areas.

The improvement in data and confidence levels for minor assets come at a high cost and resource effort for a small rural Council. This needs to be considered when assessing recommendations from auditors on asset management.

### 1.15 Monitoring and improvement program

The next steps resulting from this AM Plan to improve asset management practices are:

- Continue to engage Moloney Asset Management Systems to undertake the three-yearly asset survey and financial modelling
- Development of an asset acquisition policy
- Development of a resilience register, which includes the type of threats and hazards and the current and future measures that the organisation takes to ensure service delivery resilience
- Update the road hierarchy on an annual basis with a formal review every four years.

- Update AssetAsyst software to cloud based with unlimited licences to improve efficiency of inspection and data recording
- Inclusion of bridges and culvert data onto AssetAsyst
- Development of a 10-year maintenance and operations forecast
- Development of a 10-year renewal program for buildings
- Investigate the use of emerging technology, practices, or equipment to maintain or renew assets or purchase more efficient equipment
- Ensure that photographic evidence is obtained for all paved and sealed roads to satisfy natural disaster funding criteria
- Undertake an external valuation of buildings every three years during the 10-year period of this AM Plan
- Place a focus upon the sourcing of additional funding for rehabilitation or replacement of large assets
- Undertake condition assessment of drainage network to provide renewal information
- Undertake external assessment including updating of valuation of bridges and major culverts every three years
- Implement annual formal documented inspection of Council buildings with a view to improving maintenance practices and renewal information.

### 1.16 Asset ‘control’ and committees of management

This plan includes all building, recreation and open space assets where Council has a ‘control’ of that asset. Where **‘control’ is defined as: Council has the controlling interest, the final say, in decision making.**

Based on differing arrangements of land ownership and who is the facility manager the matrix below generally describes where Council has ‘control’ (shown clear).

Land and buildings can be owned by either:

- Crown
- Council (i.e., Council holds freehold title to the land)
- Road reserve (ownership can be either Crown or Council)

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

If the Crown appoints Council as the committee of management (COM) for crown land, Council inherits the responsibility for the management of facilities on that crown land, and Council then manages the facilities as if they were the owner. This includes situations where Council has entered into agreements with third parties for occupation of all or part of these reserves.

This plan may also address assets where Council has an 'interest' in the asset that may place Council in some form of risk exposure or maintenance responsibility. This might result from circumstances due to:

- Council land occupied by others
- Facility management and/or maintenance responsibility for buildings on land owned by others
- Some other form of possible exposure to liability

Similarly, if the Crown appoints a local COM for crown land, the local COM inherits the responsibility for the management of facilities on that crown land, and not Council.

If Council has facilities on road reserves, then Council is responsible for the management of these facilities.

At present Council does not have any committees of management appointed via section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, however the following table gives an outline of who is responsible in the various management scenarios that can exist.

**1.16.1 Assets not included in this plan**

The AM Plan shall not list assets specifically excluded from the plan;

- non-Council assets
- where Council does not have 'control' of the asset

Occupier/ land ownership	Asset owner			
	Council	Section 65 committee	User committee	Private individual or single club or organisation
<b>Council</b>	Council	Council appointed S65	Council with agreement in place	Council depending on lease conditions Occupier depending on lease conditions
<b>Crown road reserve</b>	Council	Council appointed S65	Council with agreement in place	Occupier with lease from council in place
<b>Crown reserve</b>	Council as DELWP committee	Council as DELWP committee Council appointed S65	DELWP committee of management	Council if lease/licence holder Occupier by lease/licence
<b>Private</b>	Council depending on lease conditions Private owner depending on lease conditions	Private owner	Private	Private

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2023

**1.16.2 Relationship to Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Vision, Long-Term Financial Plan and consultation with the community**

The Shaping West Wimmera consultation process was held during June and July 2021. The consultation was undertaken knowing that Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long-Term Financial Plan would be developed and adopted within the following 12-month period. Council has undertaken an extensive engagement process. Council convened a community panel by inviting expressions of interest from community members to participate on a citizen panel to consider the Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Long-Term Financial Plan. The plans below support and feed into this AM Plan.



**Council Plan 2021-2025**

The Council Plan 2021-2025 went through the community consultation phase during 2021.

The consultation was relevant to the develop of this plan and there are clear links. Key themes of the consultation relating to assets were:

- maintaining and improving the road network was important to the community
- the condition of roads was seen as variable
- attractive and viable town centres are a community focus
- upgrade of community facilities is required
- recreational facilities need to be improved

**(Please note that during 2025 a new Council plan is under development and will be included in subsequent reviews of this plan).**

The following Initiatives from the Council Plan 2021-2025 are directly related to this Asset Management Plan.

1.1.1 Review and improve Council's Asset Management System to manage Council buildings and facilities in accordance with legislative requirements.

1.1.2 Actively support committees of management in management of community facilities.

1.1.3 Ensure key infrastructure (roads and buildings) is maintained and renewed as required to support our economy, community use and involvement.

1.3.1 Review and improve Council's asset management system to manage Council buildings and facilities in accordance with legislative requirements.

1.3.2 Actively support committees of management in management of community facilities.

1.3.2 Ensure key infrastructure (roads and buildings) is maintained and renewed as required to support our economy, community use and involvement.

1.3.3 Actively assist community groups in applying for funding to upgrade sport and recreation community infrastructure in line with the municipal sport and recreation strategy.

1.3.4 Continue to extend Council's footpath network in towns and seek funding to develop and extend trails in accordance with recreational trails strategy.

1.4.1 Partner with key stakeholders to complete a study of current and future childcare requirements across the shire and define Council's role in the planning, service development and facility provision requirements.

1.4.7 Secure ongoing, flexible, rural appropriate funding to support maternal and child health and other early years initiatives.

1.5.1 Through membership of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation continue to provide library services that are relevant and contemporary.

2.4.1 Seek funding and partnership opportunities to implement streetscape plans for Edenhope and Kaniva.

2.4.2 Continue to maintain and expand footpaths and shared paths in town centres.

2.4.5 Complete streetscape master plans for Harrow, Apsley, Serviceton, Dergholm and Goroke.

2.4.6 Actively work to improve the appearance of main streets and town entrances across the shire.

2.5.1 Review the Road Management Plan (RMP) within 12 months of the Council election.

2.5.2 Continue the programmed maintenance of the sealed and unsealed road network in accordance with the RMP and Moloney report.



ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

- 2.5.3 Implement the annual capital works program in line with RMP and road network reporting requirements.
- 2.5.4 Implement asset management system to monitor and plan road and asset maintenance and renewal.
- 2.5.5 Advocate for additional external funding for roads and bridges.
- 2.5.7 Seek funding to upgrade local roads throughout the shire to support freight routes, heavy vehicles, and high traffic volumes
- 2.6.4 Advocate for the improvement of roads to meet requirements for road trains.
- 3.1.7 Advocate to relevant stakeholders to maintain safe infrastructure (i.e., roads, furniture, signage) on public land for recreation (lakes, parks, and natural environments).
- 4.1.1 Prepare and implement a 10-year financial plan.
- 4.1.2 Prepare and implement long term asset plan.
- 4.1.3 Provide quarterly financial reports tracking Council performance including annual plan performance measures and capital works program.
- 4.1.5 Maximise income from alternative sources.



**Community vision**

To prepare the community vision, Council undertook a deliberative engagement process. The learnings of these deliberations have provided the following information that is relevant to the AM Plan.

Two key deliverables of the community vision were:

- improving the road network
- public and community transport

The vision also received the following feedback from the community:

- the condition of our roads is variable, and in some locations very poor. Our roads should enable the safe and efficient transport of goods and people
- our community infrastructure needs to be improved so we can attract visitors and better support our community.

“Future directions” identified during the consultation and listed in the community vision included:

- safe and sustainable road network supporting businesses, community and visitors
- attractive and viable town centres
- taking advantage of our strengths in farming, business and tourism to generate employment and share our prosperity
- sport and recreation facilities that encourage participation in physical activity and add to community life



**Long term financial plan**

The purpose of the financial plan is to;

- aid in decision-making for West Wimmera Shire Council’s approach to delivering infrastructure and services to the community in a financially sustainable manner
- establish a framework for the next 10 years to plan for the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in the Council plan
- to assess and plan for the financial sustainability of Council into the future.

The LTFP objectives include:

- to ensure Council maintains a sound financial position while meeting the service needs of the community now and into the future
- to enable adequate investment in capital works and meet the asset renewal requirements of Council’s infrastructure as outlined in asset management planning
- to meet the financial requirements of the goals, objectives and initiatives outlined in the Council plan.

The data contained in the LTFP is utilised in this AM Plan.

**Further consultation of Council’s asset management plan.**

This plan, in its draft form will be advertised for public comment by resolution at a Council meeting. Council after considering any public submissions will make any necessary changes that the Council sees as necessary or appropriate before final adoption of the AM Plan.

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.17 BACKGROUND

This AM Plan communicates the requirements for the sustainable delivery of services through management of assets, compliance with regulatory requirements, and required funding to provide the appropriate levels of service over the planning period.

The AM Plan is to be read with other West Wimmera Shire Council policy documents as per the following:

- Asset Management Policy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Long Term Financial Plan
- 2021-2025 Council Plan (and any subsequent Council plan adopted).

*The infrastructure assets covered by this AM Plan include roads, footpaths, kerbing, drainage, land improvements, bridges, culverts, fixed assets and buildings. For a detailed summary of the assets covered in this AM Plan refer to table in section 5.*

The infrastructure assets included in this plan have a total replacement value of **\$349,060,224** as of May 2025.

Key stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of this AM Plan are shown in table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Key stakeholders in the AM Plan**

Key stakeholder	Role in Asset Management Plan
West Wimmera Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Represent needs of community/shareholders</li><li>■ Allocate resources to meet planning objectives in providing services while managing risks</li><li>■ Ensure service sustainable</li></ul>
Director Infrastructure, Development and Works	Provision of structure and final approval of plan before submission to Council
Manager Infrastructure, Development and Works	Guidance in development of AM Plan and reviewing of such plan.
Assets GIS Coordinator	Combining data and information from various asset management and financial sources to develop the AM Plan
Director Corporate and Community Services	Oversee that plan aligns with corporate policies
Chief Financial Officer	Development of long-term financial plan

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### 1.18 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF ASSET OWNERSHIP

Our goal for managing infrastructure assets is to meet the defined level of service (as amended from time to time) in the most cost effective manner for present and future consumers, while providing enough budget to allow renewal of assets to at a sustainable rate. The key elements of infrastructure asset management are:

- Providing a defined level of service and monitoring performance
- Managing the impact of growth through demand management and infrastructure investment
- Taking a lifecycle approach to developing cost-effective management strategies for the long-term that meet the defined level of service
- Identifying, assessing and appropriately controlling risks
- Linking to a long-term financial plan to ensure required expenditure can be allocated over the period of the plan

Key elements of the planning framework are:

- Levels of service – specifies the services and levels of service to be provided
- Risk management
- Future demand – how this will impact on future service delivery and how this is to be met
- Lifecycle management – how to manage its existing and future assets to provide defined levels of service
- Financial summary – what funds are required to provide the defined services
- Asset management practices – how we manage provision of the services
- Monitoring – how the plan will be monitored to ensure objectives are met
- Asset management improvement plan – how we increase asset management maturity

Other references to the benefits, fundamentals principles and objectives of asset management are:

- International Infrastructure Management Manual 2015 <sup>1</sup>
- ISO 55000<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Based on IPWEA 2015 IIMM, Sec 2.1.3, p 2 | 13

<sup>2</sup> ISO 55000 Overview, principles and terminology

## 2.0 LEVELS OF SERVICE

### 2.1 CUSTOMER RESEARCH AND EXPECTATIONS

This AM Plan is prepared to facilitate consultation prior to adoption of levels of service by the West Wimmera Shire Council. Future revisions of the AM Plan will incorporate customer consultation on service levels in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. This will assist the West Wimmera Shire Council and stakeholders in matching the level of service required, service risks and consequences with the customer's ability and willingness to pay for the service.

Table 3.4 summarises the results from the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Results from 2020 and 2021 are provided.

### 2.2 STRATEGIC AND CORPORATE GOALS

This AM Plan is prepared under the direction of the West Wimmera Shire Council vision, mission, goals and objectives.

Our vision is:

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

Strategic goals have been set by the West Wimmera Shire Council. The relevant goals and objectives and how these are addressed in this AM Plan are summarised in table 3.2.

**Table 3.2: Goals and how these are addressed in this plan**

Goal	Objective	How goal and objectives are addressed in the AM Plan
Goal 1	Livable and healthy community	The plan provides the data to fund satisfactory renewal of assets is undertaken
Goal 2	Diverse and prosperous economy	Enable the Council to scope and provide the capital funds required to sustain Council and community infrastructure.
Goal 4	Good governance	New and upgrade of assets will sometimes be required as well as renewal, so provision and planning take into account the content of this plan.

### 2.3 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

There are many legislative requirements relating to the management of assets. Legislative requirements that impact the delivery of the asset services are outlined in table 3.3.

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**Table 3.3: Legislative requirements**

Legislation	Requirement
<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Section 92 asset plan requirements
<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Financial plan
<i>Road Management Act 2004</i>	Requirements for road management plan
Road Management (General) Regulations 2016	Review of road management plan
<i>Transport Act 1983</i>	Transport requirements
<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Community engagement requirements
<i>Local Government Act 1989</i>	Provision of appropriate services

## 2.4 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

Service levels are defined in three ways, customer satisfaction scores, customer levels of service and technical levels of service.

West Wimmera Shire Council participates in the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. This helps the Council to identify:

- what aspects of the service are important to the customer
- whether the community see value in what is currently provided
- the likely trend over time based on the current budget provision

**Table 3.4: Community satisfaction survey results**

Customer values	Customer satisfaction score (2023 survey)	Customer satisfaction score (2024 survey)	Average for small rural Councils 2024
Overall performance of Council	59	59	54
Appearance of public places	77	76	68
Waste management	63	68	67
Local streets and footpaths	63	62	51
Sealed local roads	53	51	41
Slashing and weed control on roads	50	49	45
Unsealed roads	43	43	35

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2.5 CUSTOMER LEVELS OF SERVICE

The customer levels of service are considered in terms of:

**Condition**

How good is the service? What is the condition or quality of the service?

**Function**

Is it suitable for its intended purpose? Is it the right service?

**Capacity/use**

Is the service over or under used? Do we need more or less of these assets?

It is Council's intention to specify levels of service for each asset category via individual asset management plans. This will be an improvement action nominated within this AM Plan.

Currently the Council relies upon the annual Community Satisfaction Survey as well as direct consultation with the community by councillors and staff for feedback from the community.

The number of road-related customer requests from the Council's customer request management (CRM) system are also monitored. The results for the 2023/24 financial year were:

Trees/water over road	56
Road maintenance	215
General roads enquiry	65
Footpaths	26
Total	362

2.6 TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE

**Technical levels of service** – To deliver the customer values, and impact the achieved customer levels of service, are operational or technical measures of performance. These technical measures relate to the activities and allocation of resources to best achieve the desired customer outcomes and demonstrate effective performance.

Technical service measures are linked to the activities and annual budgets covering:

- **Acquisition or upgrade** – the activities to provide a higher level of service (e.g., widening a road, sealing an unsealed road, replacing a pipeline with a larger size) or a new service that did not exist previously (e.g., a new library).
- **Operation** – the regular activities to provide services
- **Maintenance** – the activities necessary to retain an asset as near as practicable to an appropriate service condition. Maintenance activities enable an asset to provide service for its planned life (e.g., road patching, unsealed road grading, building and structure repairs),
- **Renewal** – the activities that return the service capability of an asset up to that which it had originally provided (e.g., road resurfacing and pavement reconstruction, pipeline replacement and building component replacement),

Service and asset managers plan, implement and control technical service levels to influence the service outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

Table 3.6 shows the activities expected to be provided under the current 10-year planned budget allocation, and the forecast activity requirements being recommended in this AM Plan.

<sup>3</sup> IPWEA, 2015, IIMM, p 2|28.

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Table 3.6: Technical levels of service

Lifecycle activity	Purpose of activity	Activity measure	Current performance*	Recommended performance **
<b>TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE</b>				
<b>Acquisition or upgrade</b>	Road widening	Upgrade of seal width	Where safety and/or traffic increase triggers upgrade with finance available.	Upgrade to 6.2m seal.
	Upgrade to gravel from unsealed surface	Change in hierarchy or use of road.	Earth formation	Gravel pavement of 100mm depth.
	Footpaths	Extension of, upgrade or new footpath	Council recognises the importance of footpaths within townships. Currently Council endeavors to provide capital allocation each year for new or upgraded path as financial constraints allow	Continue to commit to improving connectivity and standard of footpaths within available resources.
	Kerb and channel		Focus is on replacement of kerbing nearing intervention level	New kerbing may be built into an urban construction or upgrade project or where specific drainage benefits result
	New building or upgrade/renovation.	As specified	Where safety or service level change occurs.	To standard approved by Council. External funding is sought on most occasions
	Upgrade to seal from gravel surface	Change in hierarchy or use of road	Unsealed but paved surface	Seal to appropriate width with approval by Council
<b>Operation and maintenance</b>	Sealed Roads	Potholes	>400mm diameter and 75mm deep	As per Road Management Plan
		Edge breaks	5m long and >300mm wide	As per Road Management Plan
	Unsealed Roads	Potholes	>500mm diameter and 75mm deep	As per Road Management Plan
		Corrugations	>100mm deep over 50m	As per Road Management Plan
		Depression, wheel rut, shoving, scouring >150mm deep over 1.2m traverse or 3m longitudinal	>150mm deep over 1.2m traverse or 3m longitudinal	As per Road Management Plan



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Lifecycle activity	Purpose of activity	Activity measure	Current performance*	Recommended performance **
	All roads	Dead animals	On road or trafficable portion of shoulder	As per Road Management Plan
		Fallen trees/limbs in traffic lane	If presenting a danger to traffic	As per Road Management Plan
		Guideposts	2 in a row missing on outside of curve or more than 20% missing at critical location	As per Road Management Plan
		Ponding of water	>200mm deep in trafficable area	As per Road Management Plan
		Other obstructions, materials or spills	If presenting a danger and in trafficable lane	As per Road Management Plan
		Culverts	Blocked with water over road or showing structural distortion	As per Road Management Plan
		Vegetation	Trees, shrubs, or grass obscuring regulatory or warning signs	As per Road Management Plan
		Line marking	Not visible at critical location	As per Road Management Plan
		Safety barrier	Detached or damaged making substantially ineffective	As per Road Management Plan
		Depression, wheel rut, shoving, scouring	>150mm deep over 1.2m traverse or 3m longitudinal	As per Road Management Plan
		Edge drop off	100mm deep	As per Road Management Plan
		Warning or regulatory signs	Faded or illegible	As per Road Management Plan
Renewal	Gravel road resheeting	Gravel pavement	Resheeting required when condition reaches intervention level 5. Specific site inspection during wet weather will override a condition level as safety or special traffic requirements may take precedence.	Typically apply gravel resheet layer of 100mm thickness. Heavy traffic or specific site conditions may prompt a thicker layer, while in some instances a layer of less than 100mm may be deemed satisfactory. For example, where reasonable depth of pavement is in place, but quality is poor, a 50mm layer of higher quality material may be utilised.

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Lifecycle activity	Purpose of activity	Activity measure	Current performance*	Recommended performance **
	Sealed roads	Pavement	Rehabilitation and overlay if condition reaches intervention level of 7.0 (6.9 for link and collector roads) however early intervention at 6.0 preferred if financial resources allow	Rip and recompact existing, apply gravel overlay minimum 100mm
	Sealed road shoulders	Gravel shoulder	Resheeting is required when condition reaches intervention level of 5. Specific site inspection may be required to ascertain specific onsite conditions and safety requirements and may take precedence to condition rating	Apply gravel resheet layer 100mm thick or as otherwise deemed appropriate when site conditions are considered
	Sealed surface	Bitumen chip seal	Reseal required when condition reaches intervention level of condition rating 7.0 (6.5 for link and collector roads)	Apply 7, 10 or 14mm reseal
	Kerb and channel	Concrete	Replacement if the condition level reaches an intervention level of 7.5	Replace with appropriate standard kerb profile
	Footpaths	Concrete or pavers	Replacement required if condition reaches an intervention level of 6.0	Reconstruct with minimum 100mm reinforced concrete
<b>Disposal</b>	If assets are no longer required or their cost cannot be justified.	Applies to the following assets: -roads -footpaths -buildings -land and land improvements -parks and open space -plant and equipment -bridges -drainage	Assets identified by responsible officers with report to Council and decision by Council	Disposal in accordance with Council's Asset Disposal Policy

Note: Renewal projects may be modified to include improvement. Safety concerns, a focus on reducing ongoing maintenance costs, an endeavor to cater for more efficient freight transport and external funding are facilitators that may prompt a section of asset with a condition rating less than the intervention, being rehabilitated and widened as part of an improvement project.

It is important to monitor the service levels regularly as circumstances can and do change. Current performance is based on existing resource provision and work efficiencies. It is acknowledged changing circumstances such as technology and customer priorities will change over time.

## 3.0 FUTURE DEMAND

### 3.8 DEMAND DRIVERS

Drivers affecting demand include things such as population change, regulations, changes in demographics, seasonal factors, vehicle ownership rates, consumer preferences and expectations, technological changes, economic factors, agricultural practices, environmental awareness, etc.

### 3.9 DEMAND FORECASTS

The present position and projections for demand drivers that may impact future service delivery and use of assets have been identified and documented.

### 3.10 DEMAND IMPACT AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The impact of demand drivers that may affect future service delivery and use of assets are shown in table 4.3.

Demand for new services will be managed through a combination of managing existing assets, upgrading of existing assets and providing new assets to meet demand and demand management. Demand management practices can include non-asset solutions, insuring against risks and managing failures.

Opportunities identified to date for demand management are shown in table 4.3. Further opportunities will be developed in future revisions of this AM Plan.

**Table 4.3: Demand management plan**

Demand driver	Current position	Projection	Impact on services	Demand management plan
Population	Very small population increase	Continuation of current minimal increase.	Little if any change as minimum service levels often apply anyway	Continue to monitor to see if service levels are adequate or assets can be disposed of
Greater freight task with increasing number and size of trucks	Increasing safety requirement to widen narrow sealed roads	Trend to continue	Greater demand for better quality freight routes	Reconstruct priority roads to upgraded standard including greater width at renewal time while seeking external funding support
Securing of employment and retention of staff	Ongoing difficulties.	No change	Greater degree of difficulty in provision of some services and probable increase in unit cost	Upskilling of local employees and utilisation of shared services if available. Utilisation of remote work by professionals
Aging population	Percentage of aged has increased	Continued increase likely	Greater demand for aged care and general care services	Lobby for increased support for aged care from state and federal governments
Production of grain and hay	Increasing with acreage and efficiencies	Efficiency will drive further production increase	Impact on integrity of roads and perception of decreased safety.	Reconstruct priority roads to upgraded standard including greater width at renewal time while seeking external funding support.

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Timber production	Spasmodic but substantial transport of timber product in southern portion of shire	Trend will continue	Can have significant deterioration on specific local roads over a relatively short haulage period	Having agreements in place with timber industry stakeholders to rectify damage caused to roads or upgrade prior to commencement. Also, discussions and agreement on the most appropriate haulage route important
Gravel supply	Decline in availability and quality of local sources	Trend to continue	Increased unit costs as material from further afield is sourced	External gravel sources have been imported in recent years and unit rates for renewal and upgrade have been adjusted. Stabilisation of local material with addition of product to increase its performance can be undertaken where cost effective
Freight	Increase in number of axles allows more freight per trip	Trend to continue with longer, larger vehicles becoming more common	Impact on integrity of roads and perception of decreased safety	Reconstruct priority roads to upgraded standard including width at renewal time, while seeking external funding
Age of assets	Major assets, including roads, drainage and footpaths, are aging	Trend to continue in medium term	Predicted to be an increasing renewal demand over time	Obtain regular condition assessments at least every three years and examine modelling to see if additional budgets are required to reach renewal requirement
Early failure of some assets	Not uncommon for sections of road and other assets	Trend to continue	Predicted to be an increasing renewal demand over time	Obtain regular condition assessments at least every three years and examine modelling to see if additional budgets are required to reach renewal requirement

### 3.11 ASSET PROGRAMS TO MEET DEMAND

The new assets required to meet demand may be acquired, donated or constructed. Additional assets are discussed in section 5.4.

Acquiring new assets will commit the West Wimmera Shire to ongoing operations, maintenance and renewal costs for the period that the service provided from the assets is required. These future costs are identified and considered in developing forecasts of future operations, maintenance and renewal costs for inclusion in the long-term financial plan.

### 3.12 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The impacts of climate change may have a significant impact on the assets we manage and the services they provide. In the context of the asset management planning process climate change can be considered as both a future demand and a risk.

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How climate change impacts on assets will vary depending on the location and the type of services provided, as will the way in which we respond and manage those impacts.<sup>4</sup>

As a minimum we consider how to manage our existing assets given potential climate change impacts for our region.

Risk and opportunities identified to date are shown in table 4.5.1

**Table 4.5.1 Managing the impact of climate change on assets and services**

Climate change description	Projected change	Potential impact on assets and services	Management
Flash flooding	Increased frequency and intensity of storms	Damage to assets	Where assets are severely damaged after storm event, take opportunity to reconstruct to more resilient standard. Additional maintenance or cleaning may be required
Drought	Increased frequency and severity	Less water sources for roadworks increasing cost and decreasing effectiveness. More maintenance may be required	Maintain and upgrade current bores and construct additional bores. Lobby for extension of pipelines into WWSC. Increase unit rates for maintenance and construction
Impact on works staff	Greater difficulty maintaining productivity and efficiency in summer months due to high temperatures	Reduction in amount or quality of maintenance	Provide more mechanised equipment with less reliance for personnel on the ground. Greater capital allocation potentially required in plant replacement
Fire risk	Harsher and longer fire season	Damage to assets or unable to access certain areas during high-risk times to perform works	Undertake works in sensitive fire risk areas outside of the fire season where practicable
Storm intensity	More extreme weather events	Inundation of buildings	Improve stormwater system is maintained. Upgrade might be required

<sup>4</sup> IPWEA Practice Note 12.1 Climate change impacts on the useful life of infrastructure

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Additionally, the way in which we construct new assets should recognise that there is opportunity to build in resilience to climate change impacts. Building resilience can have the following benefits:

- Assets will withstand the impacts of climate change.
- Services can be sustained; and
- Assets that can endure may potentially lower the lifecycle cost and reduce their carbon footprint

Table 4.5.2 summarises some asset climate change resilience opportunities.

**Table 4.5.2 building asset resilience to climate change**

New asset description	Climate change impact on these assets?	Build resilience in new works
Bridges and culverts	Greater capacity required	Design additional capacity where required at renewal or after damage from a natural disaster
Floodways	Potential for more damage during events	More resilient design at renewal or after damage during storm or flood event
Buildings	Fire damage risk	Upgrade design standards
	Increased energy use	Additional insulation and design focus on energy sustainability. Install solar panels or improve insulation
	Increased demand for water and restriction on supply	Installation of water tanks and dual supply considered for all new developments, renovations, and renewals. Water sensitive design utilised for new works
	Greater demand for power and hence increases to operational costs	Solar hot water and photo voltaic panels considered for all new developments, renovations and renewals
Plant	Might be a need to purchase plant with less reliance on labour where personnel are exposed to extreme weather	Utilisation of Jet patcher or similar equipment for bitumen maintenance to be considered. Larger water tankers to be purchased where applicable at changeover of plant
Unsealed roads	Greater maintenance and renewal requirement if greater occurrence of extreme weather	Use of better-quality materials or utilising stabilisation additives to enhance longevity
Sealed roads	Greater drainage requirements.]	Design additional drainage capacity at renewal

The impact of climate change on assets is a new and complex discussion and further opportunities will be developed in future revisions of this AM Plan.

## 4.0 LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The lifecycle management plan details how the West Wimmera Shire Council plans to manage and operate the assets at the agreed levels of service (refer to section 3) while managing life cycle costs.

### 4.8 BACKGROUND DATA

#### 4.8.1 Physical parameters

The assets covered by this AM Plan are shown in table 5.1.1.

- Fixed assets
- Buildings
- Land improvements
- Bridges and culverts
- Footpath
- Kerbing
- Sealed pavements
- Unsealed pavements
- Sealed surface
- Plant
- Fleet

**Table 5.1.1: assets covered by this plan**

Asset category	Description	Replacement value
Fixed assets (furniture and equipment)	Various equipment, furniture and fittings	\$1,596,666
Buildings	Various Council-owned or controlled buildings	\$57,376,000
Land improvements	Playgrounds, bores, streetscape, transfer stations, amenities	\$5,434,000
Bridges and culverts	Bridges and major culverts	\$10,271,015
Footpath	36,908m <sup>2</sup>	\$5,094,808
Kerbing	48,108m	\$9,149,220
Sealed Pavements	4,822,754 m <sup>2</sup>	\$184,599,080
Unsealed pavements	6,309,469 m <sup>2</sup>	\$38,091,018
Sealed surface	4,032,002 m <sup>2</sup>	\$25,530,988
Plant	Heavy plant and equipment	\$10,955,985
Fleet	Sedans, SUVs	\$961,444
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$349,060,224</b>



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All figure values are shown in current day dollars and current at the time of adoption of this plan. (Figures will change as an assessment is undertaken annually with adjusted figures adopted).

**Age profile**

Asset lives have been adopted for the following assets:

<b>Footpaths</b>	49.9yrs
<b>Kerbing</b>	66.5yrs
<b>Sealed pavements</b>	79.6yrs
<b>Unsealed pavements</b>	20.4yrs
<b>Sealed surfaces</b>	16.8yrs

Road (including kerb and bridges) and footpath assets make up 78% by valuation of the total asset portfolio of West Wimmera Shire Council. As such, the asset life and original construction dates and current condition are very important factors that determine the renewal requirements into the future. A peak in construction of road assets occurred in the 1960s, which indicates a lot of renewal might be required in the next 20 years.

West Wimmera Shire Council uses the Moloney Asset Management System to financially model the renewal requirements based on current condition and utilising a degradation curve. The software provides a recommended renewal funding profile that will deliver the cost to maintain assets at a certain condition.

**4.8.2 Asset capacity and performance**

Assets are generally provided to meet design standards where these are available. However, there is insufficient resources to address all known deficiencies. Locations where deficiencies in service performance are known are detailed in table 5.1.2.

**Table 5.1.2: known service performance deficiencies**

Location	Service deficiency
Unsealed roads with sandstone gravel surface	Pavement might have sufficient depth but be of poor quality, being problematic in sustained wet weather and requiring additional maintenance, which might be beyond resources. Resheeting with higher quality alternative material might be solution but subject to budgetary restraints as additional cost is incurred
Sealed roads with 3.6m width	Ideally should be wider where traffic or safety requirements are a trigger, high number of heavy vehicles or where there are horizontal or vertical alignment challenges. The priorities for widening for safety or heavy vehicle productivity are listed in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Strategy. These will be updated as specific conditions or situations arise
Reconstruction of sealed roads	As Council's biggest renewal requirement falls in this sector, external funding to supplement this area is required for Council to approach its renewal target. Sufficient external funding is currently available however if it is reduced or withdrawn Council will be deficient in this area
Knowledge of asset condition of drainage assets	Minimal knowledge of asset condition. Condition assessment required as part of improvement plan

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#### 4.8.3 Asset condition

Condition is currently monitored using the Moloney Management System for the footpaths, kerbing, sealed pavements, unsealed pavements and sealed surfaces.

The purpose of condition surveys of the assets is to evaluate the condition and performance of the asset.

Assets are condition rated on a scheduled frequency based on the risk of failure of the asset and the rate of deterioration. Each AM Plan will specify the:

- asset
- survey name
- survey frequency, which might vary across the asset hierarchy
- the criteria to be evaluated and scored,
- responsibility for undertaking the survey
- dates of any previous surveys completed.

It is important that suitably experienced personnel undertake inspections and surveys to ensure consistency in surveys. Induction and training are provided prior to commencing any inspections and surveys.

#### 4.8.4 Condition rating

Asset condition is rated on a 0 (good) to 10 (poor) system as per below via the Moloney Asset Management System. This rating method is applied to sealed road pavements, sealed road surfaces, unsealed road pavements, kerbing and footpaths.

Rating	Description	
<b>0 = GOOD</b>	New	New or an asset recently rehabilitated back to new condition
<b>1</b>	Near new	Near new, no visible signs of deterioration, often based upon the time since construction
<b>2</b>	Excellent	Excellent. Very slight condition declines obvious, no longer in new condition
<b>3</b>	Very good	Very good, early stages of deterioration minor, no serviceability problems
<b>4</b>	Good	Good, some obvious deterioration evident, slightly impaired serviceability
<b>5</b>	Fair	Fair - obvious deterioration some serviceability loss
<b>6</b>	Fair to poor	Fair to poor. Quite obvious deterioration serviceability would be affected and rising maintenance cost
<b>7</b>	Poor	Poor – severe deterioration serviceability limited high maintenance cost
<b>8</b>	Very poor	Very poor – serviceability heavily impacted. Very high maintenance cost needed
<b>9</b>	Extremely poor	Extremely poor – severe serviceability problems needing rehabilitation immediately. Could also be a risk to remain in service
<b>10 = POOR</b>	Failed	Failed, no longer serviceable and should not remain in service extreme risk

#### 4.8.5 Deterioration curves

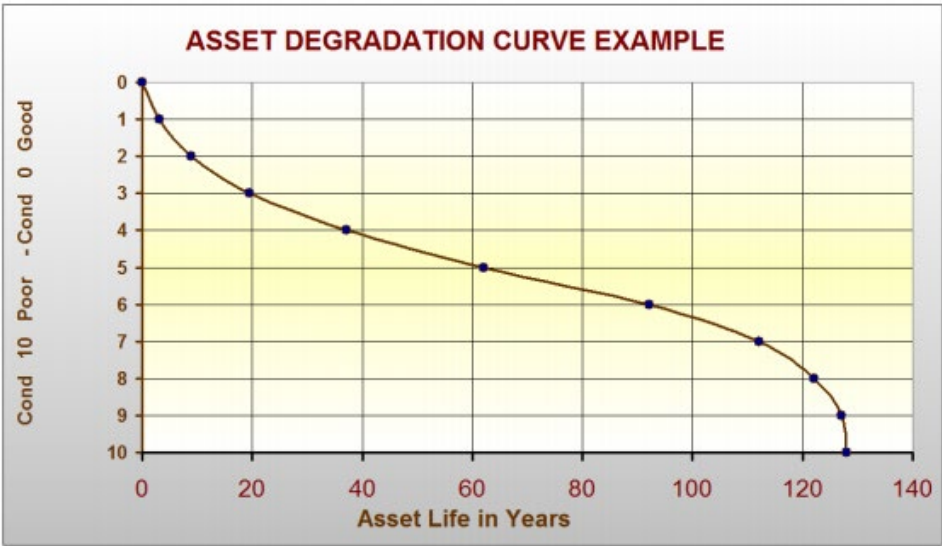
Deterioration curves provide a plot of the condition of the asset against the age of the asset and are best developed from the results of the condition survey. The curve demonstrates the assets performance as it ages.

Asset degradation or performance curves, unique to the district, can be developed once two or more consistent condition surveys have been undertaken. This is done in the Moloney system by examining all assets within a given condition rating following the first survey and determining which have degraded by the time of the second and or subsequent surveys.

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The condition change between surveys is used to predict the annual statistical probability of an asset degrading from one asset condition to the next. In turn this equates to an expected average life within each condition rating. The degradation curves serve two very important functions. Firstly, they are used within the financial modelling section of the Moloney system to predict future asset condition movement and financial demand. Secondly, they should form the basis of the justification for the selection of the depreciation or service life cycled within the accounting system.

The term degradation curve comes from a particular format that the degradation data can be presented in. Figure B1 below is a graphical representation of one of the pavement groups to be modelled and shows how an average asset within the group would perform. In this case it commences at year zero in condition zero at the top left side of the graph and progresses to reach condition 10 after 128 years.



Degradation curves were produced for West Wimmera Shire Council by analysing the change in asset condition over up to six condition surveys between 2003 and 2020.

The degradation curves are specific for sealed pavements, sealed surfaces, unsealed pavements, kerbs and footpaths can be viewed in the 2020 Moloney Asset Management System report.

4.8.6 Asset useful lives and intervention level and basis for adopting useful lives

**Useful life:** The period over which a depreciable asset is expected to be used.

**Intervention Level:** The Intervention Level is that point in time the assets are at the end of their useful life. Ie the condition of the asset no longer meets the agreed level of service and requires renewal or replacement.

The deterioration graph may be used to estimate the useful life of the asset. Based on Council’s adopted condition intervention level the corresponding age will be the useful life.

Intervention levels should be derived from current levels of service.

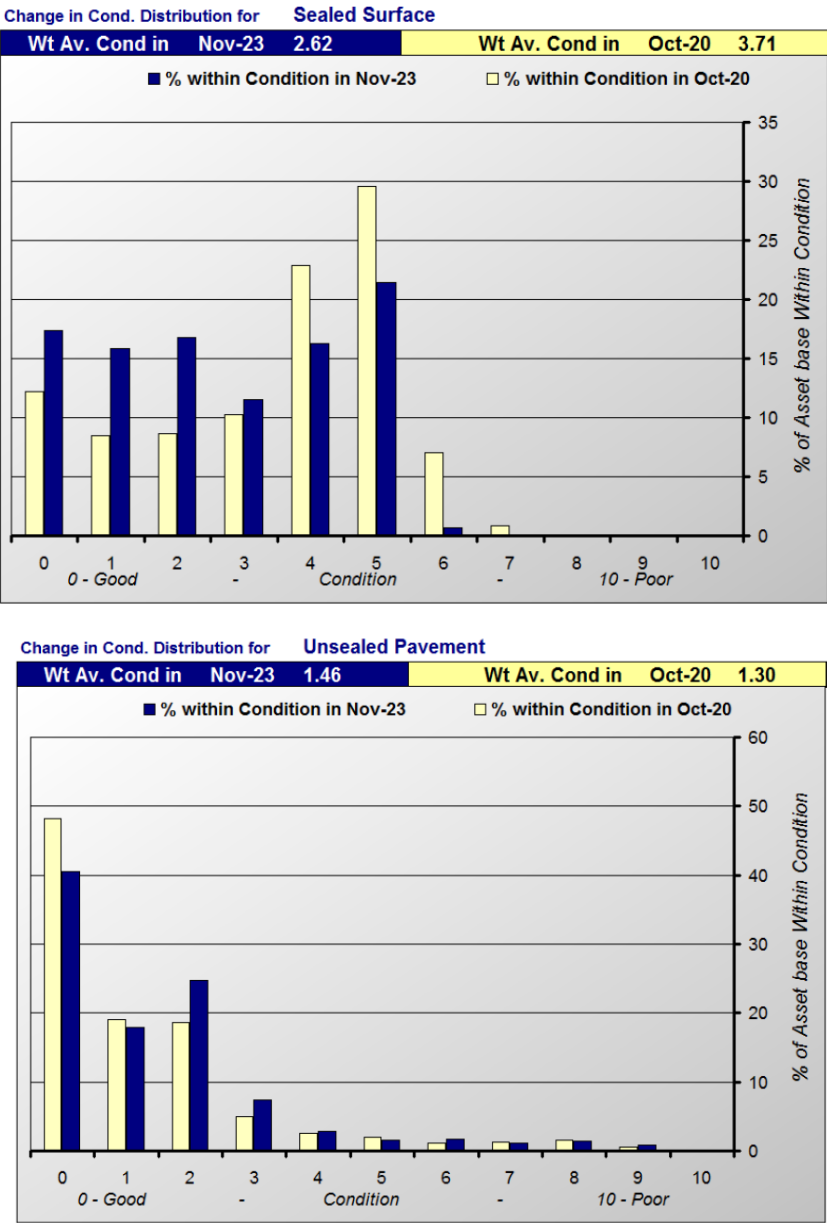
The AM Plan will detail the intervention level and useful life and the basis by which each has been adopted. The asset lives are reviewed annually and are detailed in the Valuations Justification Report.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

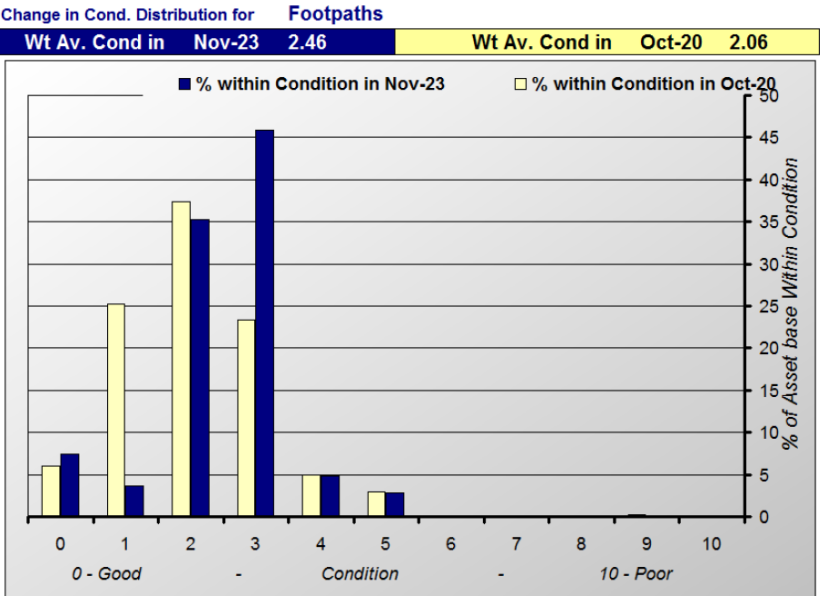
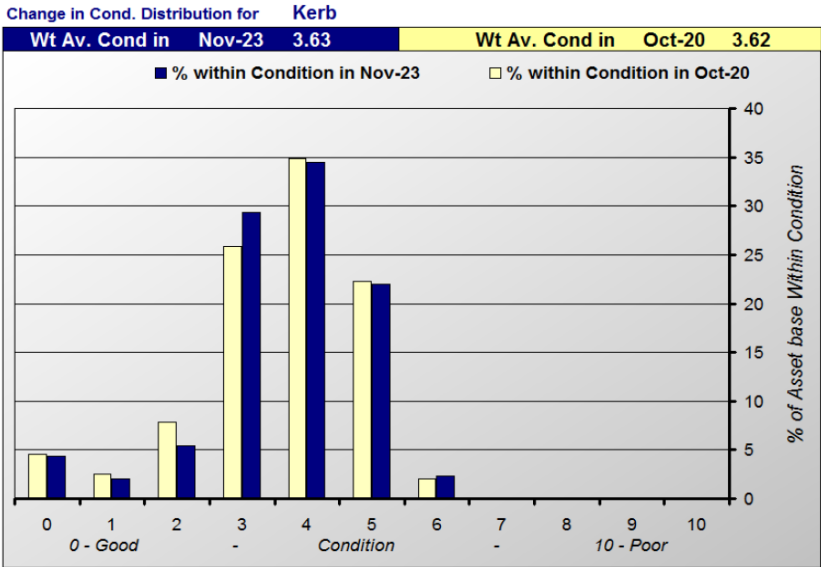
4.8.7 Asset condition

The condition profile of West Wimmera Shire Council major assets is shown below. (The graphs show the condition distribution for the various assets and has a comparison for the last two inspections being in 2018 and 2020)

Asset condition profile



ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032



## ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

### 4.9 ASSET HIERARCHY

An asset hierarchy provides a framework for structuring data in an information system to assist in collection of data, reporting information and making decisions. The hierarchy includes the asset class and component used for asset planning and financial reporting, and service level hierarchy is used for service planning and delivery.

In determining both the standard of road construction and maintenance, as well as the road design standard, it is useful to have in place a hierarchy for the major asset being roads. Standards of road construction and maintenance can then be assigned to the various hierarchy categories. Also, frequencies of inspection as detailed in the Road Management Plan are specific to the hierarchy.

Hierarchies exist for roads, kerbing and footpaths.

#### Road hierarchy

Council has developed the following road hierarchy system for its road network:

- highways – state highways managed by Department of Transport
- arterial roads – declared arterial roads managed by Department of Transport.
- link roads – category 3
- collector roads – category 4
- access-dwelling roads – category 5A
- access-property roads – category 5B
- minor roads – category 6A
- minor roads (not maintained) – category 6B

Link roads	Category 3
Provide a link between highways, main roads, suburbs, or access to major tourist facilities, industrial centres, commercial areas and housing areas. Definition: a link road between townships and major rural communities and the arterial road network. Generally have traffic volumes in excess of 60 vehicles per day. Provide major access routes for heavy vehicles. These are sealed roads.	

Collector roads	Category 4
Provide connection between higher class roads, or access to major public facilities, smaller commercial centres, minor tourist facilities and industrial centres. Definition: A road that links communities to arterial roads and local link roads. These are both sealed and unsealed	

Access-dwelling roads	Category 5a
These roads serve as primary all weather access to at least one dwelling.	
Definition: Serve at least one occupied dwelling and link individual houses to higher classification roads, generally have traffic volumes less than 30 vehicles per day. Most of these roads are unsealed with a small percentage being sealed.	

Access-property roads	Category 5b.
These roads serve as all-weather access to rural, commercial, or industrial properties. Definition: serve as access to non-residential properties only and link those non-residential properties to higher classification roads, they generally have average traffic volumes of less than 30 vehicles per day and have imported pavement material placed upon them.	

Minor roads	Category 6A
Provide dry weather access to rural, commercial or industrial properties. Definition: serve as access to non-residential properties only and link those non-residential properties to higher classification roads, they generally have average traffic volumes of less than 10 vehicles per day and generally have no imported pavement material placed upon them.	

Minor roads (not maintained)	Category 6B
Category 6B roads are not proactively maintained by Council. These roads may be on Council's road register. They are not constructed roads.	
Definition: non-constructed roads within a road reserve which are not proactively maintained by Council.	

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2023

### Footpath hierarchy

Council has developed the following footpath and kerb and channel hierarchy system.

High usage areas	Category 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locations within 100m of commercial areas</li> <li>Locations within 100m of schools and links to commercial areas</li> <li>Links between commercial areas, schools and other high use areas which may include recreational areas</li> </ul>	
Medium usage areas	Category 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other areas where footpaths are constructed</li> </ul>	

### 4.10 RENEWAL PLAN

Renewal is major capital work that does not significantly alter the original service provided by the asset, but restores, rehabilitates, replaces or renews an existing asset to its original service potential. Work over and above restoring an asset to original service potential is considered to be an acquisition or upgrade resulting in additional future operations and maintenance costs.

### 4.11 RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT PLAN

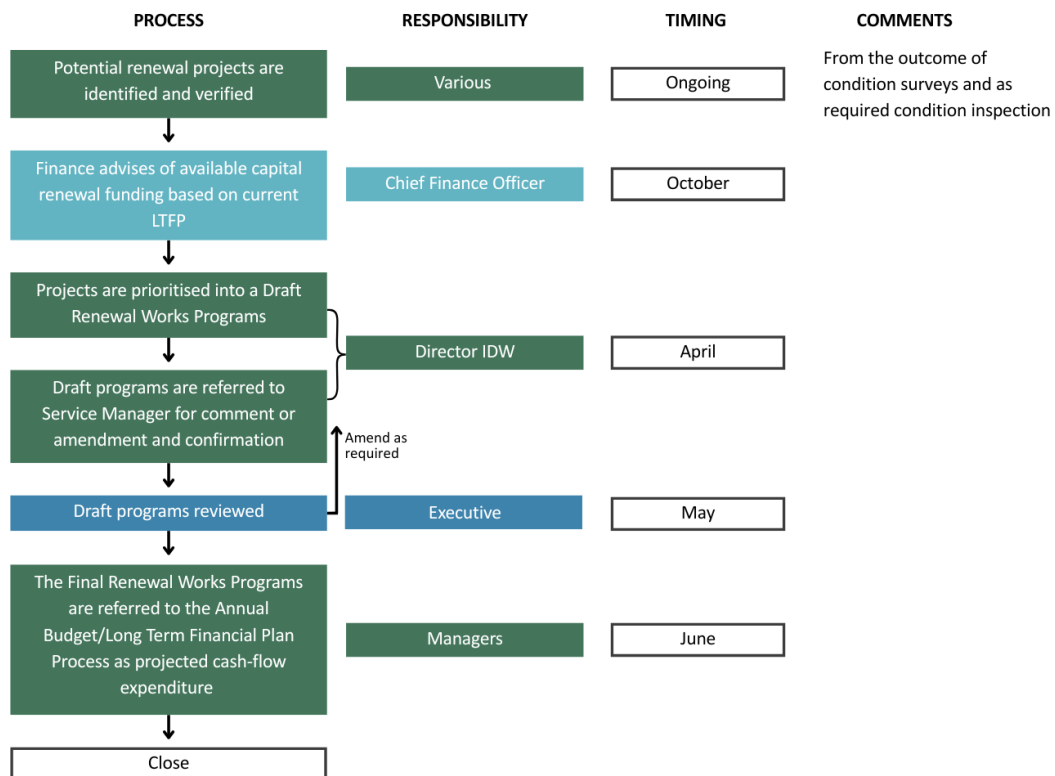
**Renewal:** Major work that does not increase the assets design capacity but restores, rehabilitates, replaces or renews an existing asset to its original capacity. Work over and above restoring an asset to original capacity is new works expenditure.

This section addresses how renewal projects are:

- are identified and planned for
- the standards which apply
- establishing the basis for determining future renewal costs.

#### 4.11.1 Renewal planning process

Council's process for identifying and undertaking renewal works is shown below:





ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

#### 4.11.2 Renewal capital works program

The renewal works programs are developed from the condition ratings, age or priority rankings.

#### 4.11.3 Renewal priority ranking

All renewal works programs are developed based on either of the following.

Typically, the methodology may be based on:

- 'Sorting' by a certain number of criteria. E.g., condition then by hierarchy, etc., or
- 'Weighting' where a range of criteria are each scored against pre-set values, allocated a relative %. The ranking is determined by the sum of the criteria scores multiplied by the weighting %.

#### 4.11.4 Treatment options

Various treatments will be considered for each renewal. Particular attention is given to the possible use of low-cost treatments and utilisation of existing pavements where practicable.

#### 4.11.5 Renewal modelling and renewal rates

To estimate renewal expenditure over the medium- and long-term Council utilises the:

- Moloney Renewal Modeling Software

The model requires the following input data:

Input data	Source
Intervention level	Section 5.1.6
Useful life	Section 5.1.1
Condition rating distribution	Asset register
Annual renewal expenditure	Annual budget/LTFP
Annual maintenance expenditure	Annual budget
Asset quantity	Asset register
Renewal rates	Moloney Management System
Deterioration graph profile	Moloney Management System

Within each asset group Council, based on its asset hierarchy, determines which assets shall be modelled, considering:

- differences in performance (asset life)
- differences in renewal rates
- materiality/total valuation

This AM Plan shall document the asset sets that are modelled and the basis for the renewal rate used. Typically, for budgeting on a year-to-year basis, the renewal rate shall be derived from actual costs incurred by Council in previous years with adjustments for inflation and specific parameters of each individual job where required.

#### 4.11.5.1 Renewal demand and the renewal gap

The Moloney Asset Management System model can forecast the renewal demand and the renewal gap, where:

**Renewal demand:** The predicted renewal funding required to meet the prescribed standards.

**Renewal gap:** The shortfall in renewal funding. The difference between the predicted Renewal Demand and the actual/available funding.

The model produces graphs including:

- the annual renewal demand and gap for the asset group
- the annual renewal demand and gap for each asset set within the asset group
- the cumulative renewal gap over time
- the % of assets that are forecast to exceed the nominated intervention level over time

## ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

The renewal gap provides an indicator of the scale of the funding problem.

The Moloney Model is based estimates of the 'average' performance of assets and produces a high-level forecast of renewal costs. It is useful as a tool for directly creating works programs, but individual assets will perform differently into the future. All works programs shall be subject to verification on the ground.

### 4.11.5.2 Renewal funding solution

The funding required to address the renewal gap forecast is referred to the Long-Term Financial Plan for consideration. Should the available funding be less than the required funding a renewal funding solution must be developed.

However, this might not be achievable based on the available funding.

The model may then be used to test 'what-if' scenarios based on changing the funding scenario and predicting the percentage of assets than will exceed intervention. The Moloney Management System is utilised as detailed in section 5.5.

The manager of the asset shall assess the possible consequences resulting from any underfunding of renewal. These consequences may relate to:

- risk
- customer satisfaction
- increased maintenance costs
- compounding of the required renewal amount in later years

It is noted that the renewal gap forecasts will only substantially change as a result of a new condition survey.

Assets requiring renewal are identified from one of two approaches in the lifecycle model.

- The first method uses Moloney Asset Management System data to project the renewal costs (current replacement cost) and renewal timing (acquisition year plus updated useful life to determine the renewal year). This applies to the assets sealed surfaces, sealed road pavements, unsealed road pavements, footpaths and kerbs.
- The second method uses an alternative approach to estimate the timing and cost of forecast renewal work (i.e., condition modelling system, staff judgement, average network renewals, or other). This is applied to assets not listed for the first method. Sometimes a combination of the two approaches can be used.

The typical useful lives of assets used to develop projected asset renewal forecasts are shown in table 5.3. The asset lives were last reviewed in 2020.

**Table 5.3: useful lives of assets**

Asset (sub)category	Useful life
Footpaths	49.9yrs
Kerbing	66.5yrs
Sealed pavements	79.6yrs
Unsealed pavements	20.4yrs
Sealed surfaces	16.8yrs

The estimates for renewals in this AM Plan were based on the Moloney Management System for sealed surfaces, sealed road pavements, unsealed road pavements, footpaths and kerbs.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

### 4.11.6 Renewal ranking criteria

Asset renewal is typically undertaken to either:

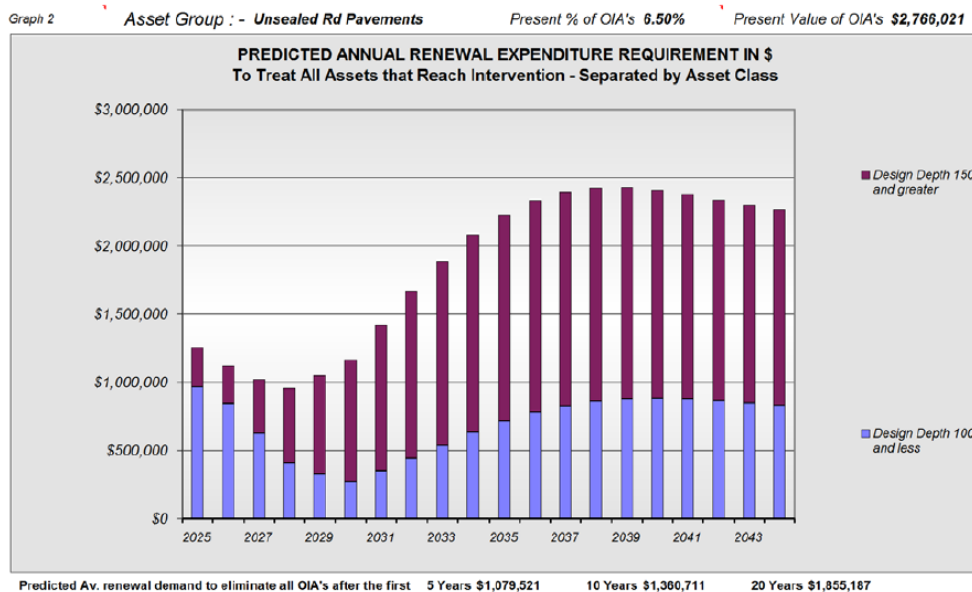
- ensure the reliability of the existing infrastructure to deliver the service it was constructed to facilitate (e.g., replacing a bridge that has a 5-t load limit with a similar capacity bridge)
- to ensure the infrastructure is of sufficient quality to meet the service requirements (e.g., condition of a playground).<sup>5</sup>

It is possible to prioritise renewals by identifying assets or asset groups that:

- have a high consequence of failure
- have high use and subsequent impact on users would be significant
- have higher than expected operational or maintenance costs
- have potential to reduce life cycle costs by replacement with a modern equivalent asset that would provide the equivalent service.<sup>6</sup>

### 4.12 SUMMARY OF FUTURE RENEWAL COSTS

Forecast renewal costs are projected to increase over time if the asset stock increases. The forecast costs associated with renewals are shown relative to the proposed renewal budget in the chart below. A detailed summary of the forecast renewal costs is shown in appendix D.



Forecast graph in today's dollars with no indexation. Formulated October 2023.

<sup>5</sup> IPWEA, 2015, IIMM, Sec 3.4.4, p 3 | 91.

<sup>6</sup> Based on IPWEA, 2015, IIMM, Sec 3.4.5, p 3 | 97.

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All figure values are shown in current day dollars.

Sub Asset Description	Average renewal expenditure since the time of last survey	Average Planned renewal expenditure for the next 5 Years	Average Annual Liability (Based upon modelling lives and valuations) (AL)	Annual Depreciation based on Accounting valuations and lives (AD)	Average Capital Renewal Demand for next 5-years to eliminate all over intervention assets	Year of Condition Inspection	Recommended Year 1 funding level with 0.6% annual compounding increase
Sealed Pavements	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000	\$3,800,611	\$2,556,492	\$2,373,000	2023	\$2,596,000
Sealed Surfaces	\$1,500,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,521,769	\$1,635,349	\$1,110,000	2023	\$1,147,000
Unsealed Pavements	\$1,200,000	\$1,400,000	\$2,225,059	\$1,904,381	\$1,080,000	2023	\$1,240,000
Kerbs	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$97,349	\$134,293	\$52,000	2023	\$61,000
Footpaths	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$75,523	\$100,867	\$20,000	2023	\$21,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,100,000</b>	<b>\$5,065,000</b>	<b>\$7,721,486</b>	<b>\$6,331,382</b>	<b>\$4,635,000</b>		<b>\$5,065,000</b>
<b>C - B Estimated Annual Consumption Rate</b>		<b>\$2,656,486</b>					

The Moloney financial modelling software was used to deliver the following three reports for each of the sub asset sets and to then combine the results into a whole of roads group single report.

1. Prediction of renewal demand to treat all over intervention assets – column E within figure 3.1 (and series 5 graphs in sub asset sections). Note that the figure in column E has been averaged over the first five years to better reflect how the model is structured.
2. Prediction of future asset condition based on the continuation of the planned renewal expenditure level (series 6 graphs in sub asset sections)
3. Delivery of a recommended funding profile – column G (series 7 graphs in sub asset sections). Note that within column G the recommended funding strategy can include in some cases a recommended annual compounding increase in funding (see column heading).

A – This is the planned upgrade or new asset expenditure. You may or may not have this data, but it is often very important to consider and perhaps re-allocate some of this expenditure to the renewal program if you are under funding the renewals in column B

B – The planned average renewal expenditure over the next five years. Note also that column H provides your planned expenditure expressed as a percentage of the annual liability rate in column C.

C – “Average annual liability” is the average annual renewal expenditure needed over the long term in order to maintain your asset base. The figure is similar to the accounting term “annual depreciation”, but is calculated in a different way by directly linking it to the unit renewal rates and life cycles as used within the financial model. It can differ quite markedly from “annual depreciation” because of the requirement for the annual depreciation to comply with Australian and international accounting standards, which promote the delivery a tax deductible figure for “annual depreciation”, often with little regard to what your actual future annual liability is.

D - “Annual depreciation” – This is similar to C above, but is designed to deliver a figure that a business can claim as a tax deduction rather than providing an estimate of your ongoing liability to maintain the capital value of your assets.

E – “Average capital renewal demand over the first five years”. This figure comes from the Moloney “predicted capital requirement” model. It is the estimated renewal expenditure necessary to eliminate all over intervention assets within five years. The average figure over the first five years is used because in some cases where early renew demand is high the model eases in the demand over a five-year period.

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In all cases if this average figure was allocated then the model predicts that all over intervention assets would be eliminated after five years.

F – This is a record of the year that the condition data was collected. It may vary between the asset sets if not all inspected at the same time.

G – The year one recommended commencing funding level. This comes from the Moloney funding scenario finder and mostly aims at the total commencing expenditure that is the same or close to your current expenditure in column B. Note that within the title row there may be an annual compounding future percentage increase that is used to bring down the year one expenditure to more closely match your current total expenditure.

If the current renewal funding level is very low there may be a recommendation to lift the year one spend to a level above the planned total spend in column B. This would be done to avoid excessively high annual compounding percentage increases.

For West Wimmera it was found that the total planned renewal expenditure of \$5,100,000 pa was at an appropriate total level for the next 10 years. This assumes that the total funding level will be lifted in line with the CPI increases as appropriate.

H + I – Two useful comparisons figures relating to the percentage of the annual liability rate being met by the planned renewal expenditure in Column B and the recommended in column G.

4.13 Acquisition plan

Acquisition assets are new assets that did not previously exist or function at the required level. They may require upgrade or improving an existing asset beyond its existing capacity. This may be caused by growth, demand, social or environmental needs. Upgrade may also occur by an increase in design standard or to improve safety.

The predominant reason for upgrade of assets within West Wimmera Shire would occur to improve safety, particularly in the category of sealed roads where the seal width is 3.7m. Having a wider seal has demonstrated safety benefits particularly with high traffic or heavy vehicle counts or a combination of the two. Undulating or winding road alignments can also prompt upgrade for safety and productivity reasons.

Assets may also be donated to the West Wimmera Shire Council. West Wimmera Shire Council would only take on an asset that was deemed to be in reasonable condition that was in the community interest, and at acceptable immediate and ongoing cost to Council. A policy for the acquisition of assets could be considered for development by Council and will be included in the improvement plan.

4.13.1 Selection criteria

Proposed acquisition of new assets, and upgrade of existing assets, are identified from various sources such as community requests, proposals identified by strategic plans or partnerships with others. Changing standards, government or safety requirements could be the trigger for the improvement works. Potential upgrade and new works should be reviewed to verify that they are essential to the entities needs. Proposed upgrade and new work analysis should also include the development of a preliminary renewal estimate to ensure that the services are sustainable over the longer term. Verified proposals can then be ranked by priority and available funds and scheduled in future works programmes.

Outside of plant, fixed assets and fleet, new assets are only occasionally acquired at WWSC. Plant and fleet items are generally replaced at the end of their practical life or at an opportune time to maximise return from sale of trade in.

Restricted urban development means that subdivision or new estates are not required, although some industrial estate development has been undertaken in the past ten years. There are no current plans for industrial development in the next 10 years.

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New assets in the road area are rare but generally upgrades for safety reasons are undertaken each year and are generally achieved at renewal time. External funding in part is often sought for these upgrades.

Upgrade of road assets however is relatively common with widening of narrow sealed roads at renewal time quite common particularly for category 3 roads.

For building assets, new or upgraded assets are generally only supported where there is external funding in collaboration with a Council

contribution. Whole of life costs and alternative solutions such as multi use of existing facilities are to be considered and encouraged.

### Summary of future asset acquisition costs

Forecast acquisition asset costs will be provided in October 2025 when the latest long-term financial plan is adopted. A summary of expected expenditure will be included in this section in the next review of this plan.

Expenditure on new assets and services in the capital works program will be accommodated in the long-term financial plan, but only to the extent that there is available funding.

#### 4.14 Disposal plan

Disposal includes any activity associated with the disposal of a decommissioned asset including sale, demolition or relocation. Assets identified for possible decommissioning and disposal are shown in table 5.6. A summary of the disposal costs and estimated reductions in annual operations and maintenance of disposing of the assets are also outlined in table 5.6. Any costs or revenue gained from asset disposals is included in the long-term financial plan.

Disposal of assets will be undertaken in accordance with Council's asset disposal policy.

**Table 5.6: assets identified for disposal**

Asset	Reason for disposal	Timing	Disposal costs	Operations & maintenance annual savings
Roach St, Kaniva, water tower	Redundant and safety concerns	2021	\$50,000 (demolition and removal of debris)	\$1000
Charam Hall, Charam	Surplus to Council needs	2022	\$4000 (legal costs)	\$3000
Kaniva airstrip	Surplus to Council needs	2026	Identified as little utilised and subject to future development	Investigate closure

Note: The Roach St, Kaniva water tower was demolished in 2021 while the Charam Hall transfer out of Council ownership was completed in 2024.

## 5.0 RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The purpose of infrastructure risk management is to document the findings and recommendations resulting from the periodic identification, assessment and treatment of risks associated with providing services from infrastructure, using the fundamentals of international standard ISO 31000:2018 risk management – principles and guidelines.

Risk management is defined in ISO 31000:2018 as: 'coordinated activities to direct and control with regard to risk'<sup>7</sup>.

An assessment of risks<sup>8</sup> associated with service delivery will identify risks that will result in loss or reduction in service, personal injury, environmental impacts, a 'financial shock', reputational impacts, or other consequences. The risk assessment process identifies credible risks, the likelihood of the risk event occurring, and the consequences should the event occur. The risk assessment should also include the development of a risk rating, evaluation of the risks and development of a risk treatment plan for those risks that are deemed to be non-acceptable.

### 5.8 CRITICAL ASSETS

Critical assets are defined as those which have a high consequence of failure causing significant loss or reduction of service. Critical assets have been identified and along with their typical failure mode, and the impact on service delivery, are summarised in table 6.1. Failure modes may include physical failure, collapse or essential service interruption.

*Table 6.1 critical assets*

Critical asset(s)	Failure mode	Impact
Road network	Deterioration leads to safety concerns and lack of productivity	Loss of productivity, damage to vehicles and safety concerns
Urban drainage system	Blockage or collapse	Water over streets or roads, safety issues and inundation of property
Council offices	Fire/explosion	Customer service interruption
Server/software systems	Failure	Disruption to all services to varying degrees
Bridges and culverts	Collapse or blockage	Large detours, safety concerns, productivity loss
Early learning centres	Fire/explosion	Education service interruption/relocation of services

<sup>7</sup> ISO 31000:2009, p 2

<sup>8</sup> REPLACE with Reference to the Corporate or Infrastructure Risk Management Plan as the footnote



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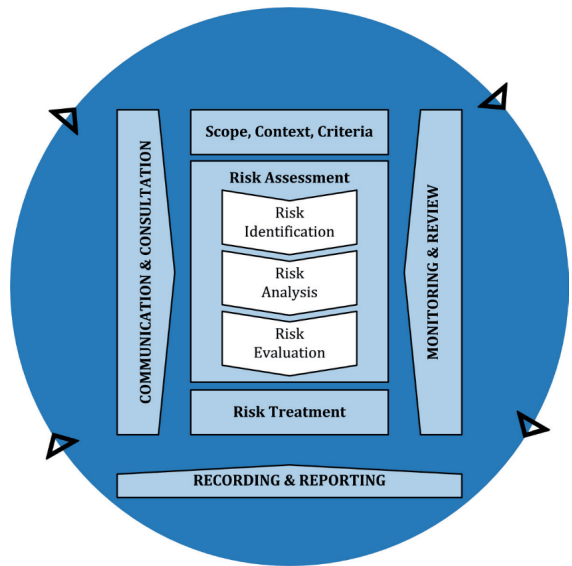
By identifying critical assets and failure modes an organisation can ensure that investigative activities, condition inspection programs, maintenance and capital expenditure plans are targeted at critical assets.

5.9 RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk management process used is shown in figure 6.2 below.

It is an analysis and problem-solving technique designed to provide a logical process for the selection of treatment plans and management actions to protect the community against unacceptable risks.

The process is based on the fundamentals of international standard ISO 31000:2018.



**Fig 6.2 risk management process – abridged**  
*Source: ISO 31000:2018, figure 1, p9*

The risk assessment process identifies credible risks, the likelihood of the risk event occurring, the consequences should the event occur, development of a risk rating, evaluation of the risk and development of a risk treatment plan for non-acceptable risks.

An assessment of risks associated with service delivery will identify risks that will result in loss or reduction in service, personal injury, environmental impacts, a ‘financial shock’, reputational impacts, or other consequences.

Critical risks are those assessed with ‘very high’ (requiring immediate corrective action) and ‘high’ (requiring corrective action) risk ratings identified in the infrastructure risk management plan. The residual risk and treatment costs of implementing the selected treatment plan is shown in table 6.2. It is essential that these critical risks and costs are reported to management and West Wimmera Shire Council.

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**Table 6.2: risks and treatment plans**

Asset at risk	What can happen	Risk rating	Risk treatment plan	Residual risk	Treatment costs
Road network	Deterioration leading to safety concerns and lack of productivity	H	Regular inspections via road management plan and provision of renewal requirement allocation	L	As per renewal forecast requirement via Moloney Asset Management System
Urban drainage system	Blockage or collapse	VH	Consider undertaking asset condition assessment	H	Est. cost \$60,000
Council offices	Fire/explosion	M	Keep an updated business continuity plan. Utilise alternative venue and remote working	L	Ongoing costs in operation budget
Server/software systems	Failure	M	Develop business continuity plan.  (Completed)	L	Ongoing costs in operation budget
Bridges and culverts	Collapse or blockage	VH	Annual inspections and provision of renewal budget	H	Annual budget set in accordance with immediate needs on year-by-year basis
Buildings with community usage (early learning centres)	Deteriorate to a standard not acceptable to public or able to satisfy regulations. Fire	H	Three-yearly asset condition inspections and provision of renewal budget. Relocate service	M	Annual budget set in accordance with immediate needs on year-by-year basis. Include in business continuity plan
Plant	Plant becomes old, noncompliant, unsafe or have high maintenance and running costs	H	Ensure plant replacement budget is adequate and have a five-year replacement plan in place as a minimum or investigate lease	M	Annual budget allocation. Investigate lease option

Note \* The residual risk is the risk remaining after the selected risk treatment plan is implemented.

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**5.10 INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE  
APPROACH**

The resilience of our critical infrastructure is vital to the ongoing provision of services to customers. To adapt to changing conditions we need to understand our capacity to 'withstand a given level of stress or demand', and to respond to possible disruptions to ensure continuity of service.

Resilience is built on aspects such as response and recovery planning, financial capacity, climate change, risk assessment and crisis leadership.

We do not currently measure our resilience in service delivery. This will be included in future iterations of the AM Plan and is included as an Improvement item in this plan.

**5.11 SERVICE AND RISK TRADE-OFFS OF  
ADDITIONAL ASSETS**

The decisions made in adopting this AM Plan are based on the objective to achieve the optimum benefits from the available resources.

**5.11.1 What we cannot do**

There are some operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that are unable to be undertaken within the next 10 years. These include:

- construction and or maintenance of timber cartage roads without support from timber industry
- broad scale widening of 3.7m seals to 6.2m or wider
- maintain gravel surface on roads in category 6
- upgrade of gravel surface to sealed (unless specific criteria exist and approved by Council)

**5.11.2 Service trade-off**

If there is forecast work (operations, maintenance, renewal, acquisition or disposal) that cannot be undertaken due to available resources, then this will result in service consequences for users. These service consequences include:

- reduction in the amount of upgrade works including widening of narrow seals.
- reduction in the annual coverage of the reseal program
- reduction in available contact time for services
- adjustment of renewal rates for all assets
- reduction in maintenance frequencies of all category roads
- possible amendment of Road Hierarchy or Road Management Plan.

**5.11.3 Risk trade-off**

The operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that cannot be undertaken may sustain or create risk consequences. These risk consequences include:

- a decrease in the overall condition of assets
- an increase in the forward projection of renewal requirements
- impact on the cost and efficiency of freight transportation
- community dissatisfaction with level of service provided by Council
- increased safety concerns while utilising Council's assets
- reduction in available contact time for services
- reduced capacity of internal resources meaning use of contractors and higher unit rates making the renewal task harder

## 6.0 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following is the summary of findings from the Moloney Asset Management System after the last asset inspection in October 2023.

### Major Findings

- 1. The road assets within West Wimmera Shire were generally found to be in "Very Good to Excellent" overall condition when benchmarked against all 72 councils assessed by Moloney Asset Management Systems (MAMS). See Figure 2.1 for full details.*
- 2. Your performance since our last survey in 2020 has delivered a solid condition improvement across all asset classes other than the unsealed road pavements where condition had declined a little due to some abnormally wet years.*
- 3. The total present renewal shortfall or backlog of over intervention assets (OIA's) for the whole roads group is estimated at \$4,278,446 representing 1.45% of the total road asset valuation. This equates to 55% of the level of one full year's annual liability for the renewal of the assets and as such is considered to be within the "Excellent" Condition range based on your retreatment intervention levels (see Appendix D - Figure D 1 for details). This condition rating relates only to the extent of OIA's*
- 4. When your overall condition in three above is based on our industry standard intervention levels (Level of service), your "Excellent" condition lifts one ranking up to the "Exceptionally good" level.*
- 5. The current planned future renewal funding level of \$5,065,000 pa for the road assets is considered to be at an appropriate total level for the next 5 - 10 years subject to normal CPI increases.*
- 6. We developed a recommended funding strategy using the Moloney funding scenario finder that delivered a commencing total annual renewal demand of \$5,065,000 pa. This is predicted to result in a very small increase in the total level of OIA's, but you will remain within the Excellent condition range for your level of OIA's.*
- 7. The recommended funding strategy does not include any allowance for asset upgrades as part or the renewal program.*
- 8. The recommended funding level should be considered as an average figure over the next 5 - 10 years. It may vary year to year depending on project size and council priorities. It may also vary between the sub asset classes year to year.*
- 9. Council has done a good job with the management of their road assets since our last survey in 2020 and more particularly over the last 20 years. Your assets are ageing. But your targeting of major maintenance and renewal programs has been excellent, resulting in a general condition improvement (See Fig 2.1 below for more details).*
- 10. We have undertaken 7 condition surveys of your road network over the last 20 years and the long term trend, particularly over the last 10 years demonstrates a mostly continual condition improvement.*
- 11. The one exception to 10 above is the unsealed road pavement sub asset set. Here the long term trend has been very good, but there has been a small condition decline since our last survey in 2020. It is felt that this is directly linked to the wetter than average weather conditions since 2020.*
- 12. The recommended funding strategy is just one available option. With all data now within the Moloney model, different funding scenarios can be examined quite easily. Council is encouraged to use the model to deliver a funding strategy that best meets their needs.*
- 13. All financial reporting within this document is based in today's values with no allowance for any CPI movement. The Moloney software has the capacity to adjust all outputs for an adopted annual CPI increase at the touch of a button. But it is felt that reporting with CPI included can present some difficult to interpret results.*

## ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

### Other important findings

1. Unique degradation curves have been produced based on actual condition change over seven condition surveys undertaken in 2003 and 2023. This has greatly enhanced the financial modelling results within this report.
2. Key performance indicators have been developed at a sub asset level that accurately benchmark asset condition change since the last survey
3. The same key performance indicators have been used to benchmark West Wimmera Shire externally against all 72 councils assessed by MAMS.
4. The report also tracks the movement in the key performance indicators over the last 20 years. The news here is a bit varied but mostly indicates a steady overall condition improvement particularly in recent times.
5. Our unique degradation curves suggest that your accounting service lives for all asset classes tend to be lower than what you are achieving. This is further supported by the measured condition improvement since 2020 with only around 66% of the consumption rate having being met. It is strongly recommended that council review its asset service lives with a view to increasing them. This is a trend that has been evident in the data since our second condition survey in 2008.

### 6.8 Financial sustainability and projections

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are those prescribed by part 3 of schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target Projections			Trend
Liquidity									
Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	5	136%	90%	94%	102%	112%	102%	+/-
Obligations									
Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned)	Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	6	146%	83%	51%	51%	40%	39%	
Stability									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	40%	34%	36%	38%	40%	40%	
Efficiency									
Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	8	\$6,919	\$6,280	\$6,114	\$5,990	\$6,185	\$6,384	

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**6.8.1 Sustainability of service delivery**

The financial performance indicators give an indication of Council's financial position and its ability to renew its assets at the required level and appropriate timing. Some explanation and commentary of the indicators is provided below:

**Key financial indicators summary**

**Adjusted underlying result**

An indicator of the sustainable operating required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. A steady trend predicted over the long term.

**Working capital**

The proportion of current liabilities represented by current assets. Working capital is slightly in decline due to increasing current liabilities (provisions).

**Unrestricted cash**

This indicator represents unrestricted cash as a percentage of current liabilities. Slight decrease over time projected due to slightly increasing current liabilities.

**Loans and borrowings**

Council does not currently have borrowings, and none are projected in the financial plan.

**Indebtedness**

Non-current liabilities as a percentage of Council's own-sourced revenue. The trend is slightly increasing over time indicating a higher rate of increase in liabilities than that of rate and other internal income.

**Asset renewal**

An indicator to see if asset renewals and upgrades are in line with annual depreciation. Long-term trend is slight decline however it is noted that Council is still exceeding the minimum renewal requirements as per the Moloney Asset Management Plan.

**Rates concentration**

Rates concentration is expected to increase slightly over time, predominantly due to no increase in capital grants being projected in years 5-10. The trend indicates that Council will become more reliant on rate revenue compared with all other revenue sources.

**Rates effort**

The indicator shows rate revenue as a percentage of Capital Improved Value (CIV) of rateable properties. The long-range decline is due to the historic rise in CIV of properties significantly outweighing the increase in property rates.

**Expenditure level**

Expenditure when compared with the number of property assessments is increasing over time, noting the number of property assessments is projected to remain constant for the life of the financial plan.

**Revenue level**

Revenue level is projected to increase over time, again noting the number of property assessments is to remain constant for the life of the plan.

**Asset renewal funding ratio**

It is important to note that Council has satisfied the minimum renewal requirements as projected for the first three years of the 10-year period for the roads, kerbing, footpaths and bridges portfolio, which make up 85% of its assets. This will be monitored closely particularly after each asset condition review with the next one due in 2026. This will also be closely scrutinised when the 2025 Long-Term Financial Plan is developed.

**6.9 Funding strategy**

The proposed funding for assets is outlined in the entity's budget and long-term financial plan. The table below is an extract from that plan.

The financial strategy of the entity determines how funding will be provided, whereas the AM Plan communicates how and when this will be spent, along with the service and risk consequences.



ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

**PROJECTED STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS (as identified in 2022 at the commencement of this plan)**

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Budget 2021/22 \$'000	Projections			2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
			2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000						
<b>Property</b>											
Land	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	29	-	-	-	20	20	20	20	20	20
<b>Total land</b>	-	52	-	-	-	20	20	20	20	20	20
Buildings	724	138	140	142	144	350	355	361	366	371	377
<b>Total buildings</b>	724	138	140	142	144	350	355	361	366	371	377
<b>Total property</b>	724	190	140	142	144	370	375	381	386	391	397
<b>Plant and equipment</b>											
Plant, machinery and equipment	828	1,247	1,266	1,285	1,304	986	1,001	1,016	1,031	1,047	1,062
Computers and telecommunications	50	175	51	53	54	50	50	50	50	50	50
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	878	1,422	1,317	1,338	1,358	1,036	1,051	1,066	1,081	1,097	1,112
<b>Infrastructure</b>											
Roads	5,865	5,916	6,005	6,095	6,186	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
Bridges	400	110	112	113	115	-	100	-	100	-	100
Footpaths and cycleways	140	192	195	198	201	100	100	100	100	100	100
Drainage	65	65	66	67	68	50	50	50	50	50	50
Parks, open space and streetscapes	60	180	183	185	188	150	150	150	150	150	150
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	6,530	6,463	6,560	6,658	6,758	6,100	6,200	6,100	6,200	6,100	6,200
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	8,131	8,075	8,017	8,138	8,260	7,506	7,626	7,546	7,667	7,588	7,709
<b>Represented by:</b>											
New asset expenditure	418	467	99	100	102	92	94	93	94	93	95
Asset renewal expenditure	7,386	6,755	7,117	7,225	7,334	6,664	6,770	6,700	6,807	6,737	6,844
Asset upgrade expenditure	327	853	801	813	825	750	762	754	766	758	770
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	8,131	8,075	8,017	8,138	8,260	7,506	7,626	7,546	7,667	7,588	7,709
<b>Funding sources represented by:</b>											
Grants	3,640	3,713	3,747	3,804	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861
Contributions	201	229	264	268	272	247	251	248	252	250	254
Council cash	4,290	4,133	4,006	4,067	4,128	3,398	3,514	3,437	3,554	3,477	3,595
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	8,131	8,075	8,017	8,138	8,260	7,506	7,626	7,546	7,667	7,588	7,709



ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

6.10 Valuation forecasts

6.10.1 Asset valuations

Following the completion of the survey the data was placed into the Moloney asset management system and the table below represents a summary of the overall asset quantities and valuations. The annual depreciation figure of \$6,331,382 pa is based upon the overall asset quantities and valuations. The annual depreciation figure of \$6,331,328 pa is based upon the best available accounting greenfields construction costs and the adopted accounting service lives.

Annual depreciation has not been used within this report as the basis of the average long-term renewal demand. We have adopted what we call the “annual liability” for this purpose. See appendix E for the definitions of both figures.

The annual liability figures are all based on the estimated rehabilitation costs (Not greenfields construction costs) and we have more flexibility to set service lives that are closer to the lives coming out of the degradation curve analysis. In this way our financial modelling results can be more accurate, and we can compare planned or recommended expenditure levels with the actual average annual long-term liability rather than the annual depreciation, which is designed to deliver a tax deductible figure for use in business tax calculations.

ASSET DESCRIPTION	Total Quantity	Units	Replace. Value \$	Asset Life in Years	Written Down Value \$	Accumul. Deprec. \$	Annual Deprec. \$	Average Date of Cond. Assessment	Annual Liability from Modelling inputs
Footpath	21,165	Lin. Met	\$5,094,608	54.2	\$3,840,225	\$1,254,383	\$100,867	20-Nov-23	\$75,523
Kerb	53,069	Lin. Met	\$9,149,220	66.6	\$5,827,211	\$3,322,009	\$134,293	20-Nov-23	\$97,349
Sealed Pavements	829,466	Lin. Met	\$184,599,080	79.5	\$118,940,921	\$65,658,159	\$2,556,492	20-Nov-23	\$3,800,611
Unsealed Pavement	1,496,574	Lin. Met	\$38,091,018	43.2	\$32,538,421	\$5,552,597	\$1,904,381	8-Aug-20	\$2,225,059
Sealed Surface	829,466	Lin. Met	\$25,530,988	17.1	\$18,853,707	\$6,677,282	\$1,635,349	24-Nov-23	\$1,521,769
Sealed Rd Formation	829,466	Lin. Met	\$19,636,297	100.0	\$19,636,297	\$0	\$0	20-Nov-23	\$0
U/S Rd Formation	2,021,213	Lin. Met	\$13,037,435	100.0	\$13,037,435	\$0	\$0	8-Aug-20	\$0
<b>TOTAL VALUATIONS</b>			<b>\$295,138,647</b>		<b>\$212,674,218</b>	<b>\$82,464,429</b>	<b>\$6,331,382</b>		<b>\$7,720,310</b>

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#### 6.11 Key assumptions made in financial forecasts

In compiling this AM Plan, it was necessary to make some assumptions. This section details the key assumptions made in the development of this AM Plan and should provide readers with an understanding of the level of confidence in the data behind the financial forecasts.

Key assumptions made at the commencement of this AM Plan are:

- Capital grant revenue increase at 1.5% for first 4 years but static for years 5-10. A conservative judgement has been made here
- A 1.5% rate cap for the first four years, 2.5% in years 5, 6 and 7 and 3% from year 8
- Operating grants expected to rise by 1.5% each year for the first four years and then increase with CPI
- Employee costs increased by 2.1% for the first four years, 3.5% in year 5, 3% annual increase thereafter
- Materials and services costs increased at 1.5% for first four years and 2.0% thereafter
- Depreciation increases by 1.0% each year
- The number of property assessments will not change much at all
- Subdivision and industrial development will be minimal
- Population will generally be static or a slight decline
- Moloney Management System will be utilised for the assets it is currently servicing for the foreseeable future
- New asset acquisition will be minimal and will often be supported by external income
- Upgrading of road assets will continue on similar levels to existing while externally sourced funds are provided at similar levels to both.

#### 6.12 Forecast reliability and confidence

Council has a moderate to high confidence level in the reliability of the data provided by the Moloney Management System. The same system of inspection and analysis has been utilised six successive times since 2003 building up an accurate data set and being able to monitor the network over this period. This is utilised for the asset's footpaths, kerb and channel, sealed pavements, unsealed pavements and sealed surface.

The forecast costs, proposed budgets, and valuation projections in this AM Plan for other assets are based on the best available data, however there are deficiencies in the data and these are identified and improvements nominated in section 8.0.

## 7.0 PLAN IMPROVEMENT AND MONITORING

### 7.8 Status of asset management practices<sup>9</sup>

#### 7.8.1 Accounting and financial data sources

This AM Plan utilises accounting and financial data. The source of the data is the Long Term Financial Plan, the Moloney Asset Management System, the 2021 Land Register spreadsheet, 2021 2021 Asset Register Buildings spreadsheet and 2021 Plant Register and depreciation spreadsheet as provided by WWSC Chief Financial Officer.

#### 7.8.2 Asset management data sources

This AM Plan also utilises asset management data. The source of the asset data is Moloney Management System, AssetAsyst and various spreadsheets.

### 7.9 Improvement plan

It is important that an entity recognise areas of their AM Plan and planning process that require future improvements to ensure effective asset management and informed decision making. The improvement plan generated from this AM Plan is shown in table 8.2.

**Table 8.2: improvement plan**

Task	Task	Responsibility	Resources required	Timeline
1	Development of an asset acquisition policy	Director Corporate and Community Services	Benchmarking with similar policies from other sources	2026
2	Development of a cyclic annual inspection regime of buildings utilising AssetAsyst for recording of defects and renewal data for budgeting purposes	Assets GIS Coordinator	AssetAsyst software upgrade	2027
3	Development of a strategic risk register, which includes the type of threats and hazards and the current and future measures that the organisation takes to ensure service delivery resilience	Occupational Health, Safety and Risk Coordinator	Analysis by managers and directors	2024 (In progress)
4	Update of the asset management software to allow tablet use by additional users enabling more efficient inspection, data recording and defect signoff	Assets GIS Coordinator	Software upgrade of current system	2023 (Completed)

<sup>9</sup> ISO 55000 Refers to this as the Asset Management System

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5	Development of a 10-year maintenance and operations forecast within LTFP	Works and finance departments	Judgement on future trends for maintenance and operations	2025
6	Development of a 10-year renewal program for buildings	Director of Infrastructure, Development and Works.	Annual inspection data showing costed capital renewal tasks and urgency	2028
7	Asset condition assessment and valuation of underground drainage system	Manager Infrastructure and Engineering	Camera assessment with condition rating	2030 (a camera assessment has been completed in past however no condition ratings exist.)
8	Asset condition assessment and valuation of assets with Moloney Asset Management System	Assets GIS Coordinator	Ensure in budget	2023 (completed, redo in 2026)
10	Asset condition assessment and valuation of bridges and culverts	Assets GIS Coordinator	Ensure in budget	2024 (completed, redo in 2027)
11.	Ensure photographic evidence of existing condition is obtained for all paved and sealed roads to satisfy natural disaster funding criteria	Assets GIS Coordinator	Equipment purchased. Need to implement survey, retrieve and store data	2023 (completed, cyclical updating required)
12.	Develop individual asset management plans with service levels included for each category of asset as deemed necessary by Council	Manager Infrastructure and Engineering	Condition, asset life and depreciation information required	2024 -2029 (asset management plan for buildings due to be completed in 2025)
13.	Develop implementation plan for the roll out of individual asset management plans	Director Infrastructure, Development and Works	Timeline for AMP roll out	2023. (Buildings nominated as first individual AM Plan to be produced. To be completed by late 2025)
14.	Enable computer-generated depreciation for majority of assets	Director Infrastructure, Development and	To satisfy audit recommendation	2029

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		Works and Chief Financial Officer		
15.	Undertake external valuation of all buildings	Chief Financial Officer	Undertaken every three years	2023 (completed in 2022 and 2025)
16.	Undertake condition assessment of all buildings	Director Infrastructure, Development and Works	To enable renewal and depreciation calculations	2024 (completed in 2022 and 2025)
17.	Develop a policy for the replacement of plant and fleet	Contracts and Procurement Manager	Develop policy	2026 (fleet policy adopted by Council May 27, 2025)
18.	Undertake level 2 inspections of remaining subset of major culverts	Manager Engineering	Arrange consultant	2026
19.	Undertake asbestos audit of buildings	Manager Engineering	Arrange consultant	2026

#### 7.10 Monitoring and review procedures

This AM Plan will be monitored during the annual budget planning process and revised if required to show any material changes in service levels, risks, forecast costs and proposed budgets as a result of budget decisions.

The AM Plan will be monitored annually to ensure it represents the current service level, asset values, forecast operations, maintenance, renewals, acquisition and asset disposal costs and planned budgets. These forecast costs and proposed budget are incorporated into the Long-Term Financial Plan or will be incorporated into the Long-Term Financial Plan once completed.

The AM Plan has a maximum life of four years and is due for revision and updating by 31 October in the year following each West Wimmera Shire Council election.

#### 7.11 Performance measures

The effectiveness of this AM Plan can be measured in the following ways:

- the degree to which the required forecast costs identified in this AM Plan are incorporated into the long-term financial plan
- the degree to which the improvement plan is delivered
- the degree to which the existing and projected service levels and service consequences, risks and residual risks are incorporated into the strategic planning documents and associated plans
- The asset renewal funding ratio achieving the target.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

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- ISO, 2014, ISO 55000:2014, Overview, principles and terminology
- ISO, 2018, ISO 31000:2018, Risk management – Guidelines
- West Wimmera Shire Asset Management Strategy
- West Wimmera Shire Asset Management Policy
- West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

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## 9.0 APPENDICES

### Appendix A Comprehensive Income Statement (10years)

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Budget 2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	Projections					
						2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
<b>Income</b>											
Rates and charges	7,958	8,080	8,201	8,324	8,449	8,661	8,877	9,099	9,372	9,653	9,943
Statutory fees and fines	121	131	133	135	137	140	143	145	148	151	154
User fees	689	714	725	736	747	762	777	792	808	824	841
Grants - Operating	7,611	7,623	7,690	7,805	7,922	8,081	8,242	8,407	8,575	8,747	8,922
Grants - Capital	3,475	3,692	3,747	3,804	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861
Contributions - monetary	182	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	95	100	102	103	105	107	109	111	113	115	118
Other income	1,828	1,681	1,706	1,732	1,758	1,775	1,793	1,811	1,829	1,847	1,866
<b>Total income</b>	<b>21,959</b>	<b>22,027</b>	<b>22,310</b>	<b>22,644</b>	<b>22,984</b>	<b>23,391</b>	<b>23,807</b>	<b>24,232</b>	<b>24,712</b>	<b>25,205</b>	<b>25,710</b>
<b>Expenses</b>											
Employee costs	7,891	8,152	8,323	8,498	8,676	8,980	9,250	9,527	9,813	10,107	10,410
Materials and services	5,681	5,992	6,060	6,150	6,243	6,368	6,495	6,625	6,758	6,893	7,031
Depreciation	7,998	8,019	8,099	8,180	8,262	8,345	8,428	8,512	8,597	8,683	8,770
Other expenses	275	297	300	303	306	312	318	325	331	338	345
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>21,845</b>	<b>22,460</b>	<b>22,782</b>	<b>23,131</b>	<b>23,487</b>	<b>24,005</b>	<b>24,491</b>	<b>24,989</b>	<b>25,499</b>	<b>26,021</b>	<b>26,556</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>(433)</b>	<b>(472)</b>	<b>(487)</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>(614)</b>	<b>(684)</b>	<b>(757)</b>	<b>(787)</b>	<b>(816)</b>	<b>(846)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>											
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</b>											
Net asset revaluation increment /(decrement)	19,828	-	-	-	-	1,960	1,960	1,960	1,960	1,960	1,960
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>	<b>19,942</b>	<b>(433)</b>	<b>(472)</b>	<b>(487)</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>1,114</b>

Comprehensive income statement for four years ending 30 June 2029 (extract from draft 2025/26 budget)



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**Comprehensive Income Statement**  
For the four years ending 30 June 2029

		Forecast Actual 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Income / Revenue</b>						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	8,942	9,226	9,503	9,788	10,081
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	150	172	177	182	188
User fees	4.1.3	779	596	614	632	651
Grants - operating	4.1.4	10,271	10,015	9,137	9,411	9,694
Grants - capital	4.1.4	4,028	3,758	3,865	3,056	3,056
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	189	302	-	-	-
Contributions - non-monetary	4.1.5	-	-	-	-	-
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(263)	115	-	-	-
Fair value adjustments for investment property		-	-	-	-	-
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures		-	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.6	1,886	1,428	1,471	1,515	1,560
<b>Total income / revenue</b>		<b>25,982</b>	<b>25,612</b>	<b>24,767</b>	<b>24,585</b>	<b>25,231</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee costs	4.1.7	11,385	11,301	11,640	11,989	12,349
Materials and services	4.1.8	10,080	8,768	7,496	7,721	7,953
Depreciation	4.1.9	8,050	8,369	8,700	9,044	9,388
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.10	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.11	-	-	-	-	-
Allowance for impairment losses		-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs		-	80	72	64	56
Finance costs - leases		-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	4.1.12	464	705	726	748	770
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>29,979</b>	<b>29,223</b>	<b>28,635</b>	<b>29,566</b>	<b>30,516</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(3,997)</b>	<b>(3,611)</b>	<b>(3,868)</b>	<b>(4,982)</b>	<b>(5,285)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>						
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</b>						
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	10,296	16,114	10,928	11,191
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Items that may be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods (detail as appropriate)</b>						
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>10,296</b>	<b>16,114</b>	<b>10,928</b>	<b>11,191</b>
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>(3,997)</b>	<b>6,685</b>	<b>12,246</b>	<b>5,946</b>	<b>5,906</b>

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Appendix B Projected Balance Sheet (10 years as of 2021)

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Budget 2021/22 \$'000	Projections								
	2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	2022/23 \$'000	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>											
<b>Current assets</b>											
Cash and cash equivalents	14,225	13,821	13,516	13,159	12,744	13,062	13,275	13,581	13,823	14,203	14,521
Trade and other receivables	385	391	397	403	409	415	421	427	434	440	447
Inventories	205	208	211	214	218	218	218	218	218	218	218
Other assets	356	356	356	356	356	356	356	356	356	356	356
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>15,171</b>	<b>14,776</b>	<b>14,480</b>	<b>14,131</b>	<b>13,726</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>14,269</b>	<b>14,581</b>	<b>14,831</b>	<b>15,217</b>	<b>15,541</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>											
Trade and other receivables	160	140	120	100	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries	436	436	436	436	436	436	436	436	436	436	436
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	214,925	214,981	214,899	214,857	214,855	215,977	217,135	218,129	219,158	220,023	220,922
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>215,521</b>	<b>215,557</b>	<b>215,455</b>	<b>215,393</b>	<b>215,371</b>	<b>216,413</b>	<b>217,571</b>	<b>218,565</b>	<b>219,594</b>	<b>220,459</b>	<b>221,358</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>230,692</b>	<b>230,333</b>	<b>229,935</b>	<b>229,524</b>	<b>229,097</b>	<b>230,463</b>	<b>231,840</b>	<b>233,146</b>	<b>234,425</b>	<b>235,676</b>	<b>236,899</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>											
<b>Current liabilities</b>											
Trade and other payables	718	729	740	751	762	762	762	762	762	762	762
Trust funds and deposits	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232
Provisions	2,009	2,058	2,108	2,159	2,209	2,213	2,296	2,381	2,467	2,556	2,647
Lease liabilities	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>3,660</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>											
Provisions	633	646	660	674	688	705	723	741	759	778	798
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>3,684</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>3,835</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>4,031</b>	<b>4,135</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>4,347</b>	<b>4,458</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>227,081</b>	<b>226,649</b>	<b>226,176</b>	<b>225,690</b>	<b>225,187</b>	<b>226,533</b>	<b>227,809</b>	<b>229,012</b>	<b>230,185</b>	<b>231,329</b>	<b>232,443</b>
<b>Equity</b>											
Accumulated surplus	45,664	44,764	44,115	43,451	42,871	44,217	45,493	46,696	47,870	49,014	50,127
Reserves	181,418	181,885	182,062	182,239	182,316	182,316	182,316	182,316	182,316	182,316	182,316
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>227,082</b>	<b>226,649</b>	<b>226,177</b>	<b>225,690</b>	<b>225,187</b>	<b>226,533</b>	<b>227,809</b>	<b>229,012</b>	<b>230,186</b>	<b>231,330</b>	<b>232,443</b>

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Balance Sheet for the four years ending 30 June 2029 (extract from draft 2025/26 Budget)

**Balance Sheet**

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

		Forecast Actual 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents		8,003	7,640	7,642	7,962	8,169
Trade and other receivables		525	525	551	579	608
Other financial assets		-	-	-	-	-
Inventories		135	135	135	135	135
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		-	-	-	-	-
Contract assets		1,446	-	-	-	-
Other assets		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	4.2.1	10,109	8,300	8,328	8,676	8,912
<b>Non-current assets</b>						
Trade and other receivables		-	-	-	-	-
Other financial assets		-	-	-	-	-
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries		-	-	-	-	-
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		271,292	268,634	271,433	269,451	267,388
Right-of-use assets	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Investment property		-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	4.2.1	271,292	268,634	271,433	269,451	267,388
<b>Total assets</b>		281,401	276,934	279,761	278,127	276,300
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
Trade and other payables		2,100	1,800	1,500	1,500	1,500
Trust funds and deposits		480	180	180	180	180
Contract and other liabilities		1,416	-	-	-	-
Provisions		2,229	2,340	2,457	2,580	2,709
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	500	500	500	500	500
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	4.2.2	6,725	4,820	4,637	4,760	4,889
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>						
Provisions		377	396	416	436	458
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	4,500	4,000	3,500	3,000	2,500
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	4.2.2	4,877	4,396	3,916	3,436	2,958
<b>Total liabilities</b>		11,602	9,216	8,553	8,197	7,848
<b>Net assets</b>		269,799	267,718	271,208	269,930	268,453
<b>Equity</b>						
Accumulated surplus		34,376	30,379	26,511	21,530	16,244
Reserves		235,423	245,719	261,833	272,761	283,952
<b>Total equity</b>		269,799	267,778	271,208	269,930	268,453

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Appendix C Cash Flow Statement (10 years as of 2021)

	Forecast	Budget	Projections								
	Actual										
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows
	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities											
Rates and charges	7,827	8,074	8,196	8,319	8,443	8,650	8,866	9,088	9,361	9,642	9,931
Statutory fees and fines	133	144	146	148	151	154	157	160	163	166	170
User fees	689	714	725	736	747	762	777	792	808	824	841
Grants - operating	7,611	7,623	7,690	7,805	7,922	8,081	8,242	8,407	8,575	8,747	8,922
Grants - capital	3,475	3,692	3,747	3,804	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861	3,861
Contributions - monetary	182	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Interest received	120	100	101	101	102	104	106	108	110	112	114
Other receipts	1,828	2,279	2,311	2,346	2,381	2,412	2,443	2,474	2,505	2,537	2,569
Employee costs	(7,891)	(8,152)	(8,323)	(8,498)	(8,676)	(8,980)	(9,250)	(9,527)	(9,813)	(10,107)	(10,410)
Materials and services	(6,078)	(6,580)	(6,655)	(6,754)	(6,856)	(7,005)	(7,145)	(7,288)	(7,433)	(7,582)	(7,734)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other payments	(287)	(310)	(313)	(316)	(320)	(326)	(333)	(339)	(346)	(353)	(360)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7,607	7,590	7,630	7,696	7,760	7,717	7,730	7,741	7,796	7,852	7,909
Cash flows from investing activities											
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8,131)	(8,075)	(8,017)	(8,138)	(8,260)	(7,506)	(7,626)	(7,546)	(7,667)	(7,588)	(7,709)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	95	100	102	103	105	107	109	111	113	115	118
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	(8,036)	(7,975)	(7,915)	(8,035)	(8,155)	(7,399)	(7,517)	(7,435)	(7,554)	(7,473)	(7,591)
Cash flows from financing activities											
Repayment of lease liabilities	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)	(19)
Net increase(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(448)	(404)	(304)	(359)	(415)	318	213	306	243	380	318
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	14,674	14,225	13,821	13,516	13,159	12,744	13,062	13,275	13,581	13,823	14,203
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	14,225	13,821	13,516	13,159	12,744	13,062	13,275	13,581	13,823	14,203	14,521

Statement of Cashflows for four years ending 30 June 2029 (extract from draft budget 2025/26)

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections		
	\$'000 Inflows (Outflows)	\$'000 Inflows (Outflows)	2026/27 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)	2027/28 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)	2028/29 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Rates and charges	8,742	9,226	9,477	9,760	10,053
Statutory fees and fines	163	172	177	182	188
User fees	779	596	614	632	651
Grants - operating	10,554	8,599	9,137	9,411	9,694
Grants - capital	2,388	5,474	3,865	3,056	3,056
Contributions - monetary	416	-	-	-	-
Interest received	291	-	-	-	-
Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-
Trust funds and deposits taken	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	1,577	1,428	1,471	1,515	1,560
Net GST refund / payment	1,520	904	777	772	795
Employee costs	(10,862)	(11,164)	(11,496)	(11,838)	(12,349)
Materials and services	(12,103)	(9,945)	(8,546)	(8,493)	(8,748)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	-	-	-	-	-
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(29)	-	-	-	-
Other payments	(464)	(705)	(726)	(748)	(770)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>4.4.1</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>4,130</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8,355)	(4,275)	(4,425)	(3,616)	(3,616)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	250	250	250	250
Payments for investments	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances made	-	-	-	-	-
Payments of loans and advances	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>4.4.2</b>	<b>(8,355)</b>	<b>(4,025)</b>	<b>(3,366)</b>	<b>(3,366)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Finance costs	-	(80)	(72)	(64)	(56)
Proceeds from borrowings	5,000	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	-	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
Interest paid - lease liability	-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>4.4.3</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>(564)</b>	<b>(556)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(383)	(20)	320	208
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		8,043	7,660	7,540	7,542
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>7,660</b>	<b>7,640</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>7,750</b>

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Appendix D Renewal Forecast Summary (as of October 2020)

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Budget 2021/22 \$'000	Projections 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000			2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
Asset renewal expenditure	7,386	6,755	7,117	7,225	7,334	6,664	6,770	6,700	6,807	6,737	6,844

D.1 – Renewal Forecast Assumptions and Source

The renewal figures are extracted from the Long-Term Financial Plan but are based on the 2020 renewal modelling report provided by the Moloney Asset Management System. The report was provided October 2020 after an on ground assessment at that time.

Asset Renewals by Asset Class

For the 10 years ending 30 June 2031

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$'000	Budget 2021/22 \$'000	Projections 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000			2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000	2030/31 \$'000
<b>Property</b>											
Land	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	24	-	-	-	18	18	18	18	18	18
<b>Total land</b>	-	43	-	-	-	18	18	18	18	18	18
Buildings	658	115	124	126	128	311	315	320	325	330	335
<b>Total buildings</b>	658	115	124	126	128	311	315	320	325	330	335
<b>Total property</b>	658	159	124	126	128	328	333	338	343	348	353
<b>Plant and equipment</b>											
Plant, machinery and equipment	752	1,043	1,124	1,141	1,158	875	889	902	915	929	943
Computers and telecommunications	45	146	45	47	48	44	44	44	44	44	44
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	797	1,190	1,169	1,188	1,206	920	933	946	960	973	987
<b>Infrastructure</b>											
Roads	5,327	4,949	5,331	5,411	5,492	5,149	5,149	5,149	5,149	5,149	5,149
Bridges	363	92	99	101	102	-	89	-	89	-	89
Footpaths and cycleways	127	161	173	176	178	89	89	89	89	89	89
Drainage	59	54	59	59	60	44	44	44	44	44	44
Parks, open space and streetscapes	55	151	162	165	167	133	133	133	133	133	133
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	5,932	5,407	5,824	5,911	6,000	5,416	5,504	5,416	5,504	5,416	5,504
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	7,386	6,755	7,117	7,225	7,334	6,664	6,770	6,700	6,807	6,737	6,844
<b>Represented by:</b>											
New asset expenditure	418	467	99	100	102	92	94	93	94	93	95
<b>Asset renewal expenditure</b>	7,386	6,755	7,117	7,225	7,334	6,664	6,770	6,700	6,807	6,737	6,844
Asset upgrade expenditure	327	853	801	813	825	750	762	754	766	758	770
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	8,131	8,075	8,017	8,138	8,260	7,506	7,626	7,546	7,667	7,588	7,709

D.2 Projected Asset Renewals by Asset Class

As included in the draft 25/26 Budget

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

**Statement of Capital Works**  
For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
<b>Property</b>						
Land		-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total land</b>		-	-	-	-	-
Buildings		701	283	-	-	-
Heritage buildings		-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements		-	-	-	-	-
Leasehold improvements		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>		701	283	-	-	-
<b>Total property</b>		701	283	-	-	-
<b>Plant and equipment</b>						
Heritage plant and equipment		-	-	-	-	-
Plant, machinery and equipment		1,643	-	500	500	500
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications		23	-	-	-	-
Library books		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		1,666	-	500	500	500
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Roads		5,340	3,573	3,865	3,056	3,056
Bridges		20	-	-	-	-
Footpaths and cycleways		156	10	10	10	10
Drainage		12	30	30	30	30
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		385	259	-	-	-
Waste management		-	-	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes		-	110	20	20	20
Aerodromes		-	-	-	-	-
Off street car parks		-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure		55	10	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>		5,968	3,992	3,925	3,116	3,116
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	4.5.1	8,335	4,275	4,425	3,616	3,616
<b>Represented by:</b>						
New asset expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure		7,180	3,992	3,925	3,116	3,116
Asset expansion expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		1,155	283	500	500	500
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	4.5.1	8,335	4,275	4,425	3,616	3,616
<b>Funding sources represented by:</b>						
Grants		3,581	3,478	3,865	3,056	3,056
Contributions		200	299	-	-	-
Council cash		(446)	498	560	560	560
Borrowings		5,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	4.5.1	8,335	4,275	4,425	3,616	3,616



ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Appendix E    Asset disposal summary

E.1 – Disposal forecast

The assets as listed were identified at the timing of development of the plan. Further items will be added as they are identified.

Asset	Reason for disposal	Timing	Disposal costs	Operations and maintenance annual savings
Roach St, Kaniva, water tower	Redundant and safety concerns	2021	\$50,000 (demolition and removal of debris)	\$1000
Charam Hall, Charam	Surplus to Council needs	2024	\$4000 (legal costs)	\$3000



## 15.2 West Wimmera Small Towns Plan

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Manager Planning and Environment*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the updated version of the West Wimmera Small Towns Plan to Council for adoption following a three-week period of community consultation.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council adopts the West Wimmera Shire Small Towns Plan.**

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

Council staff successfully secured \$80,000 in funding from the Regional Planning Hub to support the implementation of recommendations from the West Wimmera Shire Planning Scheme review. This funding is being used to develop two key strategic planning documents: the Small Towns Plan, which is currently underway, and the Kaniva Structure Plan, which will be developed following the completion of the Small Towns Plan.

As part of the early consultation process, Council requested that a blank survey be distributed to the community instead of using pre-prepared consultation materials. This approach allowed for open-ended, community-led feedback.

A total of 74 completed surveys were received, and a summary of the survey results is attached to this report for Council reference. Key themes and priorities identified in the community responses were used to inform updates to the draft Small Towns Plan.

Paul Buxton from Plan2Place consulting presented at the June 2025 Council Forum the plan for discussion with Councillors.

Since the June 2025 Council Forum, Plan2Place have amended the draft to include items discussed at that meeting. The updated draft was presented to Council and put out for a



three-week period of community consultation. From this community consultation process seven further responses were received with feedback on the draft plan.

Attached is an updated document that includes the public feedback. It should be noted that much of this feedback relates to the next level of detail that will be developed through the structure plans for each town.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified:

Reputation risk

Strategic risk

### **Legislative Implications**

The report complies with the requirements of the:  
Planning and Environment Act 1987

### **Environmental Implications**

Environmental Risk rating has been assessed as: Low

### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

The financial risk rating has been assessed as: Medium

### **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***

1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.

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

#### ***Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy***

2.2 Promote the Shire as a great place to visit, live and invest.

2.3 Facilitate the development of the local economy and jobs.



2.4 Create vibrant and attractive town centres.

### **Goal 3 – Sustainable Environment**

3.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment.

#### **Communication Implications**

No Communication Implications

#### **Equal Impact Assessment**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

#### **Conclusion**

The Small Towns Plan is a critical foundation for ensuring that the Settlement Strategy included in Clause 02.03-1 of the West Wimmera Planning Scheme is current and accurate. Updating the Settlement Strategy at Clause 02.03-1 is critical to pursuing future planning scheme amendments that seek to improve conditions for new development.

The Small Towns Plan:

- Guides the role, function and purpose of the five largest towns in the Shire;
- Includes community feedback on what is important in the towns.

The next step in the process will be to draft the Kaniva Structure Plan. The Kaniva Structure Plan will:

- Document community aspirations and preferred growth directions;
- Identify land supply, infrastructure capacity, and potential constraints;
- Provide more detailed planning guidance for Kaniva;
- Establish planning justification that aligns with both local and State planning policies.
- Provide the strategic justification for the introduction of new zones and overlays to the Planning Scheme.

In the absence of a strategic justification, any rezoning proposal is extremely unlikely to gain support through the Planning Scheme Amendment process or be approved by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). These plans are essential in demonstrating that land use changes are part of a coordinated, well-considered strategy with strong community backing.

In summary, finalising the Small Towns Plan is a necessary and foundational step in enabling future strategic land use changes. Council's adoption of this plan is vital to ensure the West Wimmera Planning Scheme can be amended to reflect both community needs and long-term objectives.



## Attachments

1. West Wimmera Small Towns Plan V 8 05092025 clean [**15.2.1** - 82 pages]
2. West Wimmera Small Towns Plan V8 05092025 w tracked changes (2) [**15.2.2** - 84 pages]
3. West Wimmera Small Towns Plan Amendments VC282 and VC283 Required Revisions (1) [**15.2.3** - 3 pages]





# WEST WIMMERA SMALL TOWNS PLAN

September 2025



This report is the Small Towns Plan for the Department of Transport and Planning and West Wimmera Shire Council. It has been prepared with expertise, advice and inputs from the consultant team of Plan2Place Consulting, Tim Nott Economics and Wayfarer Consulting, using background reports and information provided by Council and from other government sources. The report issue date is September 2025.

Every reasonable effort has been made to validate information provided by the client, Department staff, Council staff, stakeholders and other participants in the preparation of this report throughout the project during 2024 and 2025.

The report has been prepared in conjunction with the West Wimmera Shire Council and Department of Planning and Transport and is based upon up-to-date information provided at the time of report preparation and finalisation.

No part of the report can be replicated or reproduced in part or whole (other than by the West Wimmera Shire Council, Department of Transport and Planning or the consultant team) without the permission of Plan2Place Consulting – see [www.plan2place.com.au](http://www.plan2place.com.au).

Version	Date	Notes
V1	20 November 2024	Draft Prepared for Council and DTP Officer Review
V2	28 January 2025	Draft for Council Executive Review
V3	18 June 2025	Draft Prepared for Councillors
V4	20 June 2025	Draft revision for Councillors
V5	30 June 2025	Draft incorporating Councillor comments
V6	7 July 2025	Draft for Councillor endorsement
V7	21 August 2025	Draft for Council adoption following community consultation
V8	5 September 2025	Draft following Cr Briefing





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## ABBREVIATIONS AND LEGISLATION

### *Abbreviations*

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council
BMO	Bushfire Management Overlay
C1Z	Commercial 1 Zone
Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
DEECA	Department of Energy Environment and Climate Change
DELWP	Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DDO	Design and Development Overlay
EPAV	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Development
FZ	Farming Zone
FO	Flooding Overlay
HO	Heritage Overlay
IN1Z	Industrial Zone 1
IN3Z	Industrial Zone 3
LSIO	Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
LDRZ	Low Density Residential Zone
MPS	Municipal Planning Strategy
PCRZ	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
PPRZ	Public Park and Recreation Zone
PPF	Planning Policy Framework
PUZ	Public Use Zone
RRV	Regional Roads Victoria
RLZ	Rural Living Zone
TZ	Township Zone
TRZ	Transport Zone
VIF2023	Victoria in Future 2023
VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions
WWPS	West Wimmera Planning Scheme

### *Numeric Abbreviations*

ha	hectares
%	percent
m <sup>2</sup>	metres squared
kms	kilometres
sqm	square metres

### *Related Legislation and Regulations*

*Planning and Environment Act 1987 (P&E Act)*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Wimmera Small Towns Plan (STP) has been developed to guide the role, function and purpose of the five largest towns in the Shire of West Wimmera (the Shire) and confirm the Municipal Settlement Strategy for West Wimmera.

Despite the significant change in population in the Shire, there have been limited updates to the planning policy framework in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme over the last 10 years. No new settlement policy has been introduced into the planning scheme since the new format schemes was introduced in February 2000.

The existing planning scheme settlement policies for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva are now outdated and do not reflect the population loss and ageing population, the challenges maintaining community services and environmental risks relating to threatened species and climate change. As a result there is a need to review and update the local settlement policies in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme to provide a framework for planning, development and investment decisions based on the current and projected social, environmental and economic context of the Shire.

Key findings and recommendations of the STP include:

- A clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- An updated Strategic Framework Plan at Clause 02.04 that includes a settlement framework.
- A suite of planning scheme amendment documents to support the implementation of the STP, including changes to the MPS and PPF.
- Finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope, Apsley and Harrow.
- Prepare a structure plan for Kaniva to further develop:
  - A vision for the town.
  - Identify key actions and priorities for capital works
  - Identify implementation of any changes to the MPS and PPF of the WWPS.
  - Prepare design guidelines for new development.

- Prepare a structure plan for Edenhope subject to funding.
- Prepare structure plans for Goroke, Harrow and Apsley subject to funding.
- Map flood risks as appropriate, as part of the preparation of structure plans for Edenhope and Harrow.
- Review existing heritage and marketing of Harrow and resident/visitor needs in terms of signage, trails networks, heritage interpretation and promote the experience of Harrow to the visitor market.
- Map fire risk as part of the preparation of structure plans for Harrow, Goroke and Apsley.

The existing settlement strategy for the small towns is identified in the WWPS. This reflects the designations applied in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP and outlined below. While the hierarchy has been analysed and reviewed, no change is recommended to this settlement hierarchy as a result of the STP shown below.

### Current and Proposed Settlement Designations

Town	Existing planning scheme designation	Regional Growth Plan designation	Proposed planning scheme designation
<b>Apsley</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Edenhope</b>	District Town	District Town	District Town
<b>Goroke</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Harrow</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Kaniva</b>	Town	Town	Town

In addition to updating the local settlement policies several recommendations are provided to guide detailed planning for each of the five towns. Future work including structure planning, will provide guidance on the most appropriate planning including zones and overlays for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva. Recommendations specific to each of the five towns are also included.

The Small Towns Plan will be implemented via an update to the MPS and updates to local planning policy and further strategic work.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Context

The West Wimmera Shire straddles the Western and Wimmera Highways, situated midway between Melbourne and Adelaide. It is bordered to the north by the Rural City of Mildura, to the south by the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Shires, and to the east by Hindmarsh Shire and the Rural City of Horsham. To the west, it shares a boundary with the South Australian border.

Approximately 30 percent (%) of the Shire consists of public land, featuring significant natural attractions such as the Big Desert and Little Desert National Parks, part of the Natiumuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes, as well as part of the Mount Arapiles – Tooan State Park. The Shire is home to over 3,000 wetlands, which make up 25% of Victoria's total wetlands, serving as vital natural assets for both the municipality and the wider region.

Covering around 9,000 square kilometres, the Shire ranks among the largest municipalities in Victoria. Despite its expansive area, the Shire had a population of 4,006 people at the 2021 census, a slight increase from 2016 which was 3,903. Prior to that, the Shire experienced population decline, attributed to shifts in agricultural practices, an increase in average farm sizes, and the movement of individuals seeking other educational and employment prospects.

As one of Victoria's most diverse and productive agricultural regions, the local economy is closely linked to the performance of the agricultural sector. With dryland cropping and grazing being the dominant agricultural practice, the trend toward larger farms for greater viability has diminished the demand for services in the small rural towns that support them.

The predominant towns in the Shire are Apsley, Edenhope, Gorokey, Harrow, and Kaniva. There are also several smaller townships located throughout the Shire, including Dergholm, Chetwynd and Serviceton.

The West Wimmera Small Towns Plan (STP) will guide the role, function and purpose of each of the five towns in the Shire and confirm the municipal settlement strategy.

The towns and the Shire's context are shown in **Figure 1**.

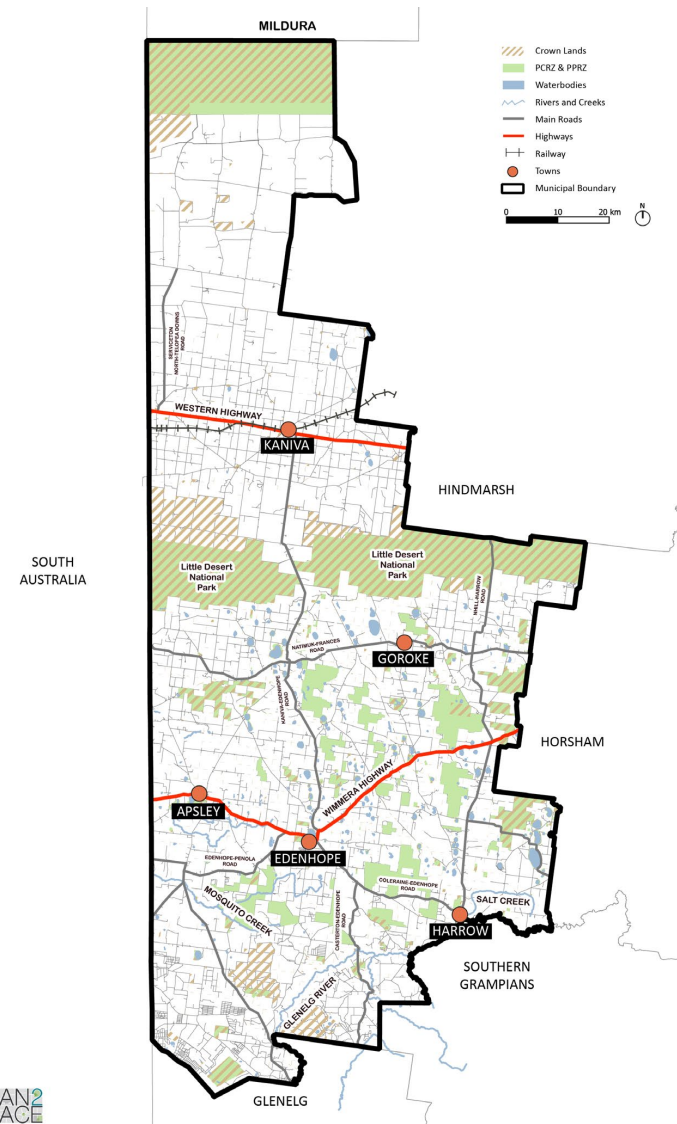


Figure 1: West Wimmera Towns in Shire Context

### 1.2 What Comprises the Small Towns Plan

The STP consists of eleven chapters that address the municipal settlement, policy and planning context, key settlement issues and themes for the towns including:

- Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context.
- Population and Demographics.
- Housing.
- Economic Profile.
- Movement and Transport.
- Physical Infrastructure.
- Community Facilities and Infrastructure.
- Built Form and Heritage.
- Landscape and Environment.
- Issues, Opportunities and Constraints.

### 1.3 What is a Small Town Plan

The STP is a plan that provides direction and guidance on the municipal settlement policies and strategies for the five towns and identifies further strategic work priorities for the towns.

The STP seeks to:

- Identify a clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Provide updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- Form the basis of a planning scheme amendment to update the policies and strategies relevant to the five towns in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.

### 1.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Many key stakeholders and agencies have been consulted in the development of the STP to date. These include:

- Barengi Gadjin Land Council.
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) officers.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) officers
- EPA Victoria.
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.
- Regional Development Victoria.
- VicTrack.
- West Wimmera Shire Council officers.
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

### 1.5 Additional Background Reports

Two reports were commissioned to inform the STP including the:

- West Wimmera Small Towns – Social and Community Infrastructure Analysis (Wayfarer Consulting).
- Small Towns Plan – Economic Input (Tim Nott Consulting).

The evidence and findings of these reports have been included in the STP.

## 2. POLICY AND PLANNING SCHEME CONTEXT

### 2.1 State Policy

#### *A Plan for Victoria*

Plan for Victoria was released in 2025 and is structured around five pillars which are:

- Self-determination and caring for Country: underpinning and informing the other pillars.
- Housing for all Victorians: delivering sufficient affordable homes for all Victorians.
- Accessible jobs and services: making sure you have good access to facilities and good jobs.
- Great places, suburbs and towns: creating thriving places that are attractive, safe and welcoming for everyone.
- Sustainable environments: preserving the natural values of Victoria and addressing climate change.

This plan sets out housing targets for every local government area across Victoria, specifying their share of the extra 2.24 million homes that are forecast. The housing targets that have been set for West Wimmera are for an additional 200 dwellings to 2051.

The plan seeks to deliver more jobs near homes by planning for, protecting and readying commercial and industrial land for development in locations well-serviced with jobs, shops, public transport and community facilities and services.

As part the 2.24 million homes needed in Victoria by 2051, the Victorian Government has set a target to build 425,600 of those homes across the regions. There is a new \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1,300 new homes across regional Victoria. The new homes will include a mix of social and affordable housing. There is also a \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund to provide new housing options for regional communities where key workers are struggling to find affordable places to live. The package will make regional workers' jobs more secure and make it easier for businesses to find and keep staff.

#### *Delivering the Goods: Victorian Freight Plan 2018*

Delivering the Goods 2018 outlines key priorities to support Victoria's freight and logistics infrastructure amidst significant growth, driven by rising demand, global trends, and technological advancements. Freight volumes in regional Victoria are forecast to grow at an annual average rate of 1.5 per cent each year between 2014 and 2051. Towns such as Kaniva are on the Principal Freight Network for both Road and Rail which will mean more trucks on the road.

#### *Victoria's Housing Statement, 2023*

Victoria's Housing Statement has identified housing provision as one of the key challenges of the decade ahead. It aims to refresh Victoria's housing policy settings with a series of initiatives that respond to short-term issues of affordability and supply while still promoting long term economic growth.

The housing statement is supported by Amendments VC242, VC243, VC253, VC267, VC276 and VC282 which aim to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs and to support the delivery of housing in Victoria.

Amendment VC267 revised Clause 55 to include the new Townhouse and Low Rise Code for residential multi-dwelling development. Key design changes include:

- Reduced minimum front setback of 6 metres, replacing the previous average setback rule of 9 metres.
- Private open space requirement reduced from 40 sqm to 25 sqm at ground level.
- Tree canopy coverage requirements introduced:
  - 10 per cent of site area for sites up to 1,000 sqm
  - 20 per cent of site area for sites over 1,000 sqm.
- Maximum site coverage increased to:
  - 65 per cent in General Residential Zone (GRZ)
  - 70 per cent in Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) and Residential Growth Zone (RGZ)
- Overlooking standards removed for bedroom windows only.



The recent changes to Clauses 55 and 57, as informed by the Townhouse and Low-Rise Apartment Code, have implications for the future building envelope and development standards within the West Wimmera LGA.

Amendment VC276 amended all residential zone schedules and Neighbourhood Character Overlay schedules to implement the new residential development planning assessment provisions. Amendment VC282 aligned the single dwelling residential provisions for development on lots less than 300 sqm with the Townhouse and Low Rise Code (where relevant).

## 2.2 Regional Policy

*Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014*

Source: DTPLI, 2014

**Figure 2: Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP – Settlement Hierarchy**

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (RGP) covers the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Although this document was removed as a policy document from the WWPS through Amendment VC283, it was previously endorsed by Council. The RGP provides broad direction for regional land use and development in the region, a more detailed planning framework for the regional city of Horsham and continues to be a background document in the WWPS.

In **Figure 2**, Horsham is the major centre and provides a wide range of services to the whole region and adjoining areas. Edenhope is recognised as a district town supporting surrounding communities of interest. Kaniva is recognised as a key local service centre. The towns of Apsley, Goroke and Harrow are identified as small settlements.

District towns are identified as performing an important sub-regional goods and service role, meeting smaller town and rural district needs including local government, policing and ambulance services to a surrounding rural hinterland. They have a moderately diverse population and housing base and good access to services and retail. These towns may include some higher order services such as medical / hospital services and a variety of education facilities with some larger towns having post-secondary education facilities. District towns will have utility services with some larger towns having access to reticulated gas.

Towns are similar to district towns but generally service a more localised catchment. They will have a greater reliance on other centres for services and employment.

Small settlements have low population levels. They will have access to services such as a small primary school and usually a general store with postal facilities within a small retail area. These settlements may or may not have connection to reticulated water or sewer connections. Some are popular visitor locations and their role may include a low level supply of visitor accommodation and holiday homes resulting in seasonal variations in population.

Land use policies, strategies and actions for district towns and towns are to:

- Encourage the provision and maintenance of a wide range of services and facilities.
- Provide sufficient land to enable residential and employment growth.

- Prioritise infrastructure investment towards supporting growth.
- Support transport systems that provide access.

In smaller settlements, maintaining services where feasible and encouraging limited incremental growth is supported to allow for their ongoing transition.

For all areas, key priorities are protection of the valued character of urban areas and encouraging urban development that promotes and supports high quality streetscapes and urban design and contributes to attractive and healthy urban environments.

Further direction on Edenhope and Kaniva is also provided. This is summarised in the town profiles in this report.

### 2.3 Council Strategies

#### *West Wimmera Council Plan, 2021 - 2025*

The West Wimmera Council Plan sets out a roadmap for West Wimmera Shire, outlining where the municipality is heading and what is needed to get there. The Council Plan is a legislated requirement that is required to be prepared every four years and incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Community Vision and Future Directions outlined in the Council Plan provide a strong platform for the development of the STP as outlined below:

*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.*

## Future Directions

Active, healthy and safe – supporting our community to live full and rewarding lives.

Access to the right services – working confidently with partners to ensure health, education and digital services meet our needs.

The natural environment – valuing the time our community and visitors spend enjoying the natural environment.

Our roads – a safe and sustainable road network supporting businesses, our community and visitors.

Attractive and viable town centres – great places to live, visit and do business.

Thriving economy – taking advantage of our strengths in farming, business and tourism to generate employment and share our prosperity.

Sport and recreation – facilities that encourage participation in physical activity and add to community life.

Source: West Wimmera Council Plan 2021 - 2025

#### *West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy, 2018*

The West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy (Strategy) provides a 10-year plan to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails and to provide a vision of what the trail network across West Wimmera will look like in the future. The Strategy aims to encourage and support active lifestyles in a positive way and address challenges faced by the Shire's residents. This includes issues related to high rates of physical inactivity as well as overweight, obesity and preventable mortality factors compared to the average across Victoria and other Australian districts. The opportunity to grow the visitor economy is also recognised.

The Strategy identifies a range of opportunities available to grow the trail network across the municipality and within the towns. This aims to build on proximity to international and national tourism features, the Shire's natural attributes, landscapes and features, location between Melbourne and Adelaide and diversity of environments.

There are a range of initiatives identified for each town to elevate the quality and extent of trails within each town.

#### *West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy 2024-2029 (WWEDS)*

The WWEDS sets out the West Wimmera community's vision for the municipal economy along with strategies and actions to achieve that vision. It is aligned to the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region of Victoria, which is the umbrella economic development strategy prepared by the Victorian Government. The WWEDS is an overarching framework that will be used to guide economic development in the municipality and articulates the role, priorities and approach. It provides the rationale for engaging with identified priority sectors and delivering outcomes through implementation plans.

There are three pillars in the WWEDS Strategy that will drive the economy. These are:

- Continuing to support the growth of the agricultural sector throughout the municipality.
- Enhancing liveability to increase amenity and grow the appeal of the municipality's towns.
- Supporting small business growth.

There are also a range of initiatives outlined for the towns including:

- The preparation of town settlement plans to facilitate development (particularly for key workers).
- Promoting industrial estates in Kaniva and expanding the Edenhope estate.
- Advocating for road improvements.
- Mainstreet activation plans.
- Supporting development of business hubs.
- Formalising caravan and trailer parking in Kaniva's main street.
- Upgrading holiday visitor parks.

#### *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy, 2022 (REDS)*

The REDS was developed by the (former) Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) for the regional partnership area of West Wimmera Mallee. The

REDS should be used to drive strategic, whole of-government activity in the region, informed by a contemporary understanding of economic performance. The document is designed to communicate innovative capacity in the region, now and in the future, support collaboration with government to better understand regional strengths, challenges and opportunities and attract investment to the region based on clearly identified strategic priorities.

There are four strategic directions defined for economic development of the region. These are:

- Strengthen agriculture and food product manufacturing through diversification.
- Promote growth and development of the visitor economy, leveraging natural assets and Aboriginal heritage.
- Support and expand economic opportunities in growing sectors (health and social services).
- Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources.

#### **2.4 Victoria Planning Provisions**

This section provides an overview of the current clauses within the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) relating to strategic directions, policies, zones, overlays and particular provisions applicable to the five towns in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme (WWPS).

State (S), Regional (R) and Local (L) planning policy and provisions are included and discussed. State and regional planning policies are developed and implemented by state and local governments while local planning policies are developed by local municipalities providing greater local direction in addition to state and regional policies where required.

The most relevant provisions in Council's Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Planning Policy Framework (PPF) are included below. Further background on the Victoria Planning Provisions is provided in Appendix A.

**Clause 02.03-1 Settlement** outlines the distinctive pattern of urban development based on separate townships and settlements, with the predominant towns being Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley, and Harrow.

The towns and settlements in the Shire have important roles as service and business centres and as a focus for the local community, visitors and the surrounding rural hinterland. Population decline within towns is a threat to service provision and liveability.

The Strategic Directions for the five towns are to:

- Provide sufficient land and direct growth to the major townships of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley, and Harrow.
- Enhance the roles of the major townships of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley and Harrow as the service and business centres for the Shire and as focal points for communities.
- Minimise any detrimental impact of development on the landscape, the environment and existing character.
- Avoid encroachment of residential development on industry.
- Promote Kaniva as a key service centre in the northern part of the Shire for the local and surrounding rural community.
- Promote Goroke as the local community service centre within the centre of the Shire.
- Promote development in Apsley that provides opportunities for service provision, new business initiatives and housing.
- Promote Apsley as a dormitory town for Edenhope and Naracoorte.

The strategic framework plan in the MPS at Clause 02.04 is shown in **Figure 3**.

## 2.5 Recent updates to the West Wimmera Planning Scheme

The West Wimmera Planning Scheme (WWPS) commenced on 17 February 2000. Since that time, amendments relating to the overarching policies have included Amendment C007 which made changes to Clause 21 of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) based on a 2006 review of the WWPS. In 2013 Amendment C030 was approved which introduced a new format MSS to the planning scheme. No local planning policy work for settlements across the Shire has been undertaken or implemented since this time.

The Local Planning Policy Framework of the WWPS was translated into the new MPS and PPF. A selected number of new and updated local schedules to

operational provisions were implemented in a manner consistent with changes to the VPP in May 2011.

These include local policies relating to:

- Settlement for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva.
- Protection of biodiversity and indigenous vegetation.
- Protection of agricultural land, location of forestry and timber production, dwellings and quarry buffers.
- Residential subdivision design from content.
- Recreational facilities and infrastructure design.
- The new and revised strategic framework plan.

In June 2022, the Small Planning Local Schedules updated the West Wimmera Planning Scheme to remove inconsistencies in local schedules with the VPP and the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The updated mapping for the Bushfire Management Overlay was introduced into the Planning Scheme in October 2017.

The WWPS was last amended in 2018. The age of strategic planning work underpinning the existing WWPS as well as new challenges and opportunities, makes it timely for the strategic basis of the settlement boundaries for the five towns and their strategic framework to be reviewed through the development of the Small Towns Plan.

### Clause 11 Settlement

**Clause 11.01-1S – Settlement** promotes the sustainable growth and development of Victoria to deliver choice and opportunity through a network of settlements. Strategies plan for the delivery of 2.24 million homes across Victoria by 2051. The settlement framework aims for housing choice and convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities, taking account of regional and municipal contexts and frameworks.

Investment and growth is focused in the Melbourne Central City, Metropolitan Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop Precincts in Metropolitan Melbourne, Priority Precincts (including the Suburban Rail Loop East Precincts), Major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and Regional cities of Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Expansion of settlements is managed by creating and reinforcing settlement boundaries (or to existing urban zoned land), promoting urban renewal and infill redevelopment, limiting urban sprawl with growth in existing settlements and not compromising land for future urban expansion.

Growth in population and development of facilities and services is planned across a regional or sub-regional network in accordance with housing targets with best use of existing and planned transport infrastructure. Transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements are coordinated through the identification of servicing priorities with strengthened national freight networks.

Networks of high-quality integrated settlements, suburbs and towns are to be delivered as well as environmentally resilient settlements. Plan for Victoria and the Victorian Housing Statement are policy documents. The STP should clearly identify the network of settlements across the Shire, directing any new development into the existing settlements with a clear settlement boundary. Settlement should seek to consolidate urban uses to ensure a wide range of sustainable transport, retail, commercial and community facilities and services.

**Clause 11.01-1R – Settlement** seeks to deliver networks of high-quality integrated regional settlements by building on strengths and capabilities of each region to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments plus a range of other factors. The role of Horsham is reinforced as the key population and employment centre for the region. Edenhope is identified as a district town and key service hub where growth and development is encouraged while Kaniva is identified as providing local and some sub-regional services. Easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities is to be provided particularly in Horsham and district towns along with an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land. The regional settlement policy emanating from the RGP is shown in **Figure 3**.

The STP should seek to confirm and support the role of Edenhope as a district town and key service hub while Kaniva should be supported to provide local and some sub-regional services.

**Clause 11.01-01-05L – Settlement** sets out local settlement policies for each town. These are discussed further in the town profiles in the STP.

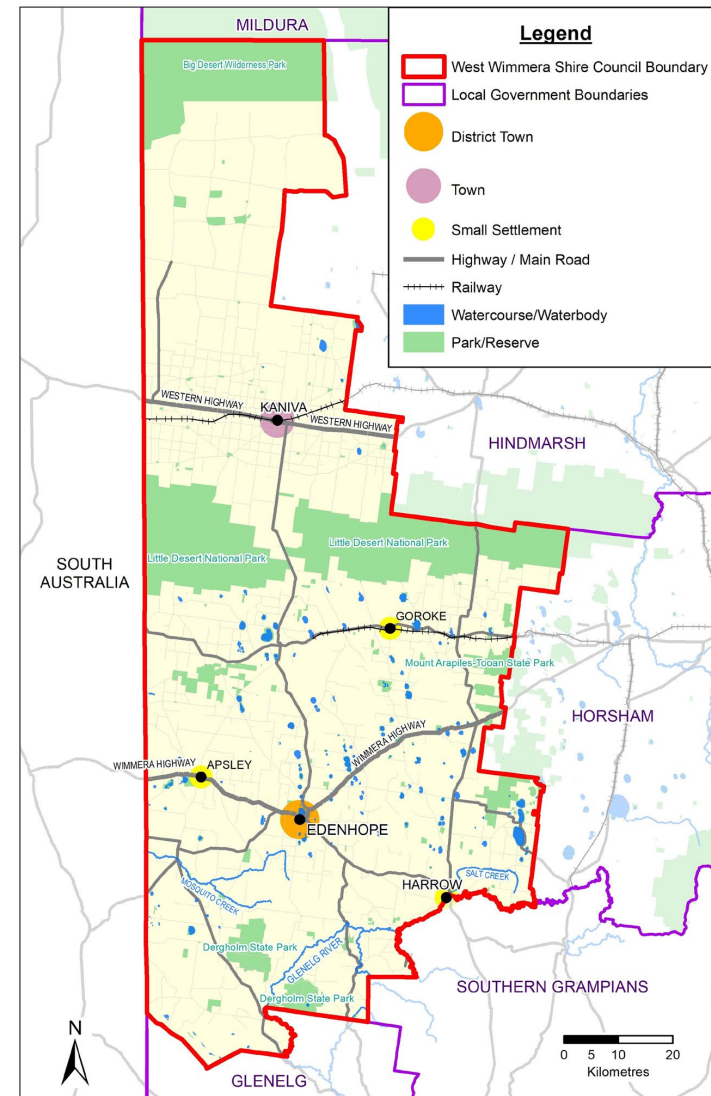


Figure 3: Existing West Wimmera Strategic Framework Plan, WWPS



3. KEY CHANGE FACTORS

This section considers the key socio-economic factors that are influencing population change and the demand for housing in the Shire.

The Shire is a farming district, which is served by several small towns providing a range of day-to-day services such as education, front-line health services and local retailing. It is part of a wider, cross-border agricultural region, often called the Green Triangle, that produces a wide variety of farm and forestry goods and in which larger towns act as resource collection and processing centres. These larger centres – Horsham, Hamilton, Mt Gambier, Naracoorte and Portland - provide more complex services for this region, including technical and further education, regional hospitals and sub-regional retailing.

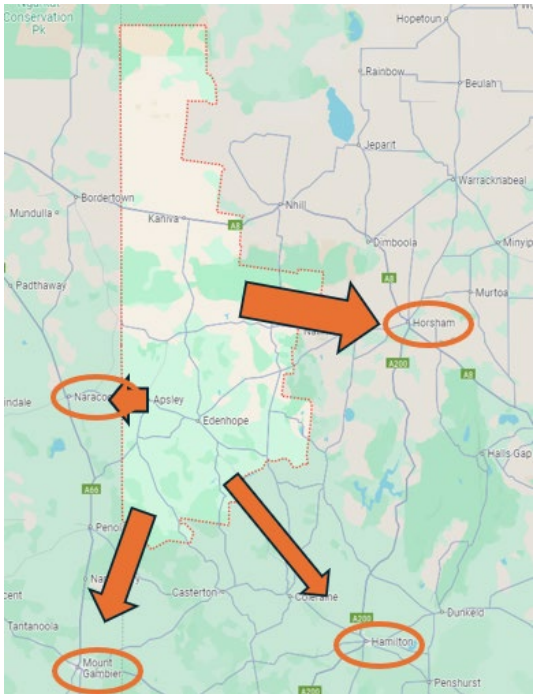


Figure 4: Key External Centres Serving West Wimmera  
(Source: base map from Google Maps)

Horsham is the closest major centre for most of the Shire; however, the geographic shape and position of the municipality means that its communities can be serviced by different larger centres, as shown in **Figure 4**.

The region remains economically robust, based on farming, forestry, mineral sand extraction, processing of primary produce, renewable energy generation and tourism. However, the population of the region as a whole has been falling, with rural areas declining most rapidly as farming becomes less labour intensive.

3.1 Population

The population of the Shire is forecast to decline by 0.7% per year over the period from 2021 to 2036 (VIF 2023, Department of Transport and Planning, 2023). The following chart shown in **Figure 5**, details the forecast population outcomes for the five main towns, assuming they each take a proportionate share of the change. **Table 1** shows the forecast population change for the five main towns.

Table 1: Forecast Population Change, West Wimmera Towns, 2021 to 2036

Change 2021 to 2036 (persons)	Population in 2021	Forecast population in 2036	Total change	Average annual change
Apsley	329	298	-31	-2.1
Edenhope	713	645	-68	-4.5
Goroke	208	188	-20	-1.3
Harrow	184	167	-17	-1.2
Kaniva	683	616	-67	-4.5

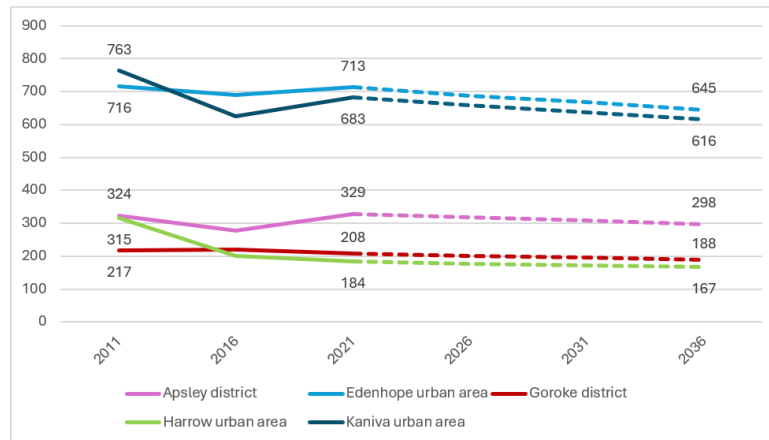
Source: ABS, 2024; VIF23; Tim Nott

Note: Kaniva, Edenhope and Harrow townships have statistical boundaries defined by the ABS as “urban areas”. Apsley and Goroke do not and are defined here by the SA1 of which they form a part, hence the term “district”.

The loss of farm workers through farm amalgamations and mechanisation means reduced enrolment in schools and less spending at retailers. At certain thresholds, reduced demand triggers further loss of jobs and, with other local jobs not available, workers and their families move away. There is also a flow on effect that leads to the contraction of services including health care, social welfare and education.

This can mean a reduction, for example, in the number of volunteers available and in players to support the local sports teams and a general reduction of

community life. This is a process that has been occurring for decades and to which the community has become accustomed. Nevertheless, a halt to population decline would be welcomed by many local people who wish to maintain their levels of service and community networks. It is important to note that some rural municipalities in Victoria have previously reversed population decline through targeted and proactive interventions. The same could eventuate for West Wimmera.



(Source: ABS, 2022; Department of Transport and Planning, 2023; Tim Nott)

**Figure 5: Recent and Forecast Population Change, West Wimmera Towns 2011 to 2036**

While Victorian Government projections are for continued loss of population in the municipality these are largely trend based and could be reversed through an interventionist, proactive and coordinated settlement planning approach.

### 3.2 Housing

Despite a loss of population according to Census data, Victoria in Future (VIF 2023) is forecasting a rise in the number of dwellings required to 2036 because of a decline in the number of people per household and a growth in the vacancy rate. VIF2023 anticipates:

- A total of 47 dwellings in the West Wimmera SA2 – broadly, the area south of the Little Desert - between 2021 and 2036, or approximately 3.1 per

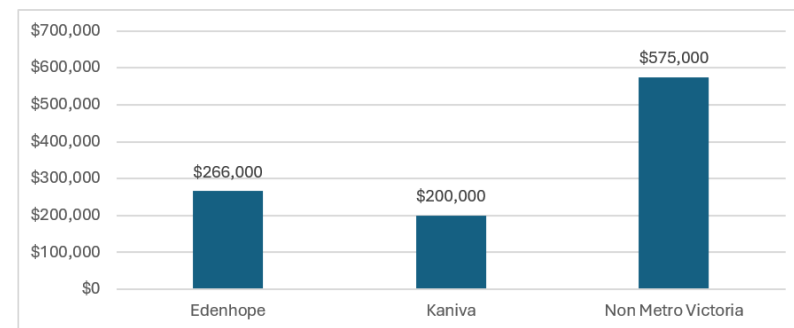
year. Most of these would be likely to be constructed in Edenhope as the largest town in the area, although there may be some demand in the smaller towns of Apsley, Goroke and Harrow and in rural areas.

- A total of 41 dwellings in the area north of the Little Desert, or 2.7 per year. Most of these dwellings would be expected to be required in Kaniva, as the only significant town in the Shire north of the Little Desert.

Each new dwelling generates work for the construction industry as well as in infrastructure, retailing, health and community services. Much of this will be serviced from outside the Shire but there will be some local opportunities.

### 3.3 Worker Accommodation

Local enterprises reportedly find it difficult to attract workers, with a consequent impact on local economic development. This is partly a result of a lack of available accommodation. The Census indicates that the rate of unoccupied dwellings in 2021 was between 13% and 25% across the five main towns. However, many of these apparently vacant dwellings are unsuitable for occupation, or being kept as second homes or holiday homes, or available only as short stay rentals. Further work is needed to understand whether vacant dwellings can be made available. The purchase cost of housing is well below the median for non-metro Victoria as a whole, as shown in **Figure 6** below. These figures are based on actual stock sales. These relatively low prices may deter some investors from constructing additional dwellings. Some subsidies may be required to generate more dwellings.



Source Victorian Valuer General 2024

**Figure 6: West Wimmera Median House Price 2023**



Accommodation for a seasonal harvest work-force may be a special case requiring a collective response from affected farmers. In attracting new workers, it may be worth considering the potential for innovation including, for example, allowing more on-farm accommodation that could be integrated with adjacent townships.

### 3.4 Climate

The climate in the Shire is dominated by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. In recent years there has been a significant decrease in average spring and autumn rainfalls. The bushfire season generally runs from November to April. Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bushfire season in the West Wimmera Shire area is warm to hot north-westerly winds accompanied by high temperatures and low relative humidity followed by a cool south-westerly change.

Climate change in the wider region is driving changes in farming and in particular, has caused a conversion from grazing to cropping (see Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy, 2021). Cropping is likely to continue to push down from the north of the Shire, replacing pastureland and animal husbandry as the area dries. This may have further impacts on the number of workers required.

Irrigated agriculture in the wider district that uses the ground-water resource may come under pressure as the ground water fails to recharge to previous levels because of lower rainfall. There will also be increased demand for this resource from urban, recreational and environmental uses which may no longer be able to rely on consistent rainfall.

In addition to the impacts specific to agriculture, climate change will have an impact on outdoor living and the valued natural environment. There are likely to be, on average, more days of fire danger, less cool season rainfall and more intense downpours with risks of flooding (DELWP, 2019). Towns in the Shire are also at risk of climate change impacts especially to infrastructure such as damage to transport infrastructure (e.g. more potholes in roads). The risk of late season frost may also increase.

Under the Victorian Government climate change projections (DELWP 2019), the Shire can expect to:

- Be hotter with the greatest increases in temperature expected in summer
- Be drier with the greatest decreases in rainfall expected in spring

- Have fewer rainy days but increasing rainfall intensity.

### 3.5 Industry

Change in industry is constant, as a result of the introduction of new technologies and techniques, competitive pressures and shifts in market demand. Recent changes in the scale of broad industry groups in West Wimmera are shown in Table 2.

	Change 2011 to 2021					Comparison, 2021	
	2011	2016	2021	No	AAGR	West Wimmera	Non Metro Victoria
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	904	816	846	-58	-0.7%	45.1%	7.2%
Mining	10	3	7	-3	-3.5%	0.4%	0.7%
Manufacturing	83	59	45	-38	-5.9%	2.4%	7.4%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	7	3	9	2	2.5%	0.5%	1.4%
Construction	82	63	74	-8	-1.0%	3.9%	10.0%
Wholesale Trade	37	24	16	-21	-8.0%	0.9%	2.2%
Retail Trade	125	99	111	-14	-1.2%	5.9%	9.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	54	53	46	-8	-1.6%	2.5%	6.6%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	83	60	63	-20	-2.7%	3.4%	3.8%
Information Media and Telecommunications	7	11	10	3	3.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Financial and Insurance Services	23	22	12	-11	-6.3%	0.6%	1.9%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	5	9	3	-2	-5.0%	0.2%	1.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	31	29	38	7	2.1%	2.0%	4.5%
Administrative and Support Services	27	28	39	12	3.7%	2.1%	2.8%
Public Administration and Safety	115	104	114	-1	-0.1%	6.1%	6.3%
Education and Training	131	133	138	7	0.5%	7.4%	8.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	234	229	226	-8	-0.3%	12.0%	16.2%
Arts and Recreation Services	7	13	10	3	3.6%	0.5%	1.5%
Other Services	27	46	35	8	2.6%	1.9%	3.6%
Inadequately described/Not stated	54	61	58	4	0.7%	3.1%	3.9%
Total	2,038	1,863	1,877	-161	-0.8%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: ABS, 2022. Notes: AAGR = Average Annual Growth Rate; largest five industries highlighted

**Table 2: West Wimmera Change in Industrial Groups, 2011 to 2021**

The key points are:

- The number of local workers declined over the period 2011 to 2021, more or less in line with population decline. While there appeared to be a slight increase in local workers between 2016 and 2021, this was likely a temporary effect of the COVID19 pandemic.

- Nearly half (45%) of all workers in the Shire work in agriculture and forestry and while the number declined between 2011 and 2021, the share of the labour-force remained broadly the same.
- A number of small professional industries grew slightly over the period. Much of this was also likely a result of remote working by people displaced by the COVID19 pandemic.
- The number of workers in several of the largest industries – manufacturing, retailing, transport – declined by more than average, indicating ongoing structural change.
- Apart from farming, West Wimmera residents are reliant on work in the local population services sectors – health, education, public administration and retailing, all of which are concentrated in the five main towns.

Future change in employment will depend on the unique set of circumstances of each industry.

In agriculture, precision farming techniques are being deployed to improve yields and reduce inputs. These are likely to become more automated over time, further reducing the need for on-farm labour, although work for local technology providers and farm-data analysts could increase. Apart from the large scale agricultural producers, there may be potential for different types of farming that have more direct links to customers or which are satisfying niche and more high value markets. The Shire's Economic Development Strategy (West Wimmera Shire Council, 2024) identifies, garlic, honey, mushrooms, micro greens and flowers as being well-suited to the Shire and having potential for growth.

Automation and the roll-out of increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligence techniques will affect all industries to some extent. Whether these changes have a centralising or decentralising effect will depend on the circumstances in each industry and could be impacted by the size of the retail business and their ability to invest in technology. In retailing, for example, the continued growth of internet retailing will affect non-food goods sellers so critical to the needs of small town residents e.g. pharmacy/hardware/homewares, in particular. However, internet retailing also allows small producers located in the Shire access to global markets.

In the professional services sector, the internet and automated techniques allow small businesses to deliver increasingly sophisticated products from any location. The ongoing ability of the Shire to attract such businesses will depend on the

capacity of the local infrastructure, that is, the excellence of the mobile and internet coverage, and on the relative attractiveness of its towns as places to live.

The Shire is on the periphery of the Western and South Western Renewable Energy Zones, which have been identified by the Victorian Government as suitable for concentrated investment in wind, solar and battery farms to power the grid. VicGrid has identified that large parts of the Shire are suitable for investigation as locations for renewable energy investment, as shown in Figure 7. The figure also identifies that a new solar farm has approval in the southern part of the Shire but has not yet been constructed.

There is potential for jobs in new windfarm, solar-farm or large battery projects to be taken up by people from the Shire and for the Shire to offer a home to people moving into the region for these projects. For southern parts of the Shire, there is also potential access to projects in south-east South Australia.

Mineral sands mining projects such as that proposed for Avonbank near Horsham will generate significant numbers of jobs that may be accessible to people living in West Wimmera Shire. All currently proposed projects remain some distance from Shire, with residents usually at least one hour's drive from the five towns within the Shire. This may mean that the Shire would need to incentivise project workers from outside the Shire to attract them to the five small towns. The ability of the five towns to provide unique residential opportunities could be capitalised on to capture some of this key worker growth.

### 3.6 Visitation

Visitor services – accommodation, food service, specialty retailing, tours – do not currently provide substantial employment in the Shire and tourism is still described as an emerging industry. The Shire's economic development strategy identifies visitor economy growth as one of four key pillars of local economic development for the municipality. The Strategy identifies opportunities to grow the visitor economy including food and farming tourism, ecotourism associated with the lakes and deserts, travellers' rest points and small town events. Potential actions recommended by the economic development strategy include upgrading and expanding lake-side caravan parks to provide accommodation for visitors and seasonal workers.

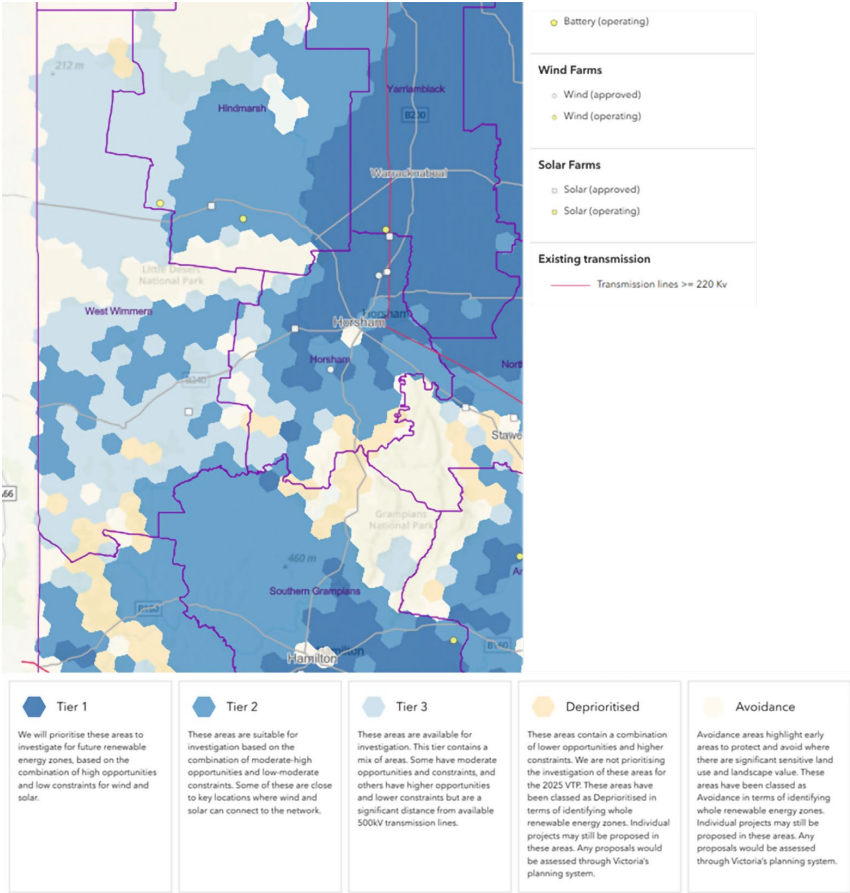
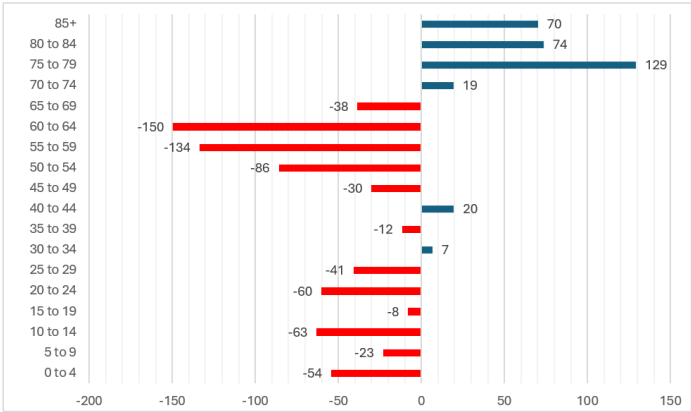


Figure 7: Draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines study area for further investigation - Source: VicGrid, 2024

3.7 Ageing

In common with most of Victoria, the Shire is ageing and this is forecast to continue (VIF2023). Figure 8 shows the forecast change by five year age group.



Source: VIF2023

Figure 8: Forecast Change in Age Groups, West Wimmera, 2021 to 2036

To 2036, the Shire is forecast to gain 292 people aged over 70 and lose 524 people in working age groups (20 to 69 year olds) or 28% of the current labour force. The number of people under 20 is forecast to decline by 149, so while there is forecast to be lower demand for educational services, there will be more demand for health and aged care services and a range of other “silver economy” services. These are services designed for the over 50s such as financial planning, specialised recreation and travel agencies. Whether these services can actually be provided remains doubtful under this scenario, given the loss of people in working age groups. If investment in these services can be achieved, that may go some way to ameliorate the loss of population that may otherwise occur.

The forecast ageing of the population and the loss of those in working age groups shows the importance of retaining residents and attracting new people to the Shire.

### 3.8 Social and Community Infrastructure

From 2025, four-year-old kindergarten will gradually transition to pre-prep, with programs across Victoria increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week. Additional kindergarten capacity will be needed for 30 hours of kindergarten. The current kindergarten facilities in Kaniva, Edenhope and Gorokey are not large enough to deliver on the upcoming kindergarten reforms and there is limited room for expansion. Moving some of the kindergartens to the local school sites would allow for kindergarten expansion and has the potential to keep the school numbers to a viable level. This would also free up space in the current facilities for additional childcare and playgroups to support young families.

Childcare services provide an important service for families, community and the local economy. Access to suitable childcare provides an opportunity for parents and carers to work and helps maintain the local economy. In addition, it is an attractor for young parents to live in the region.

Community vitality, social and community infrastructure can help to maintain activities and events in a community. These have the potential to attract new residents and maintain community viability. There are opportunities for community infrastructure to support business activities (such as events) that are beneficial to the local economy. Likewise moving a service such as the kindergarten to a school site might maintain the school's viability.

There are limited places for young people to meet and those that are available might not meet the needs of this demographic. Providing spaces where young people can gather and interact reduces their need to travel and helps them form strong relationships, helping to anchor them in the community when they are ready to put down their roots.

A number of community facilities are on Crown land managed by DEECA with committees of management established. These management committees rely on volunteers from the community to manage and maintain these facilities in conjunction with DEECA. Maintaining the facilities is a key challenge.



*Gorokey Library*

### 3.9 Transport Infrastructure

Public transport is very limited within the Shire which reduces the capacity of people to travel to access services and activities. Certain groups within the community are likely to have limited access to private transport and as a result require assistance to access facilities. Children, young people and older adults in particular may have reduced capacity to travel to activities and services. Older persons in particular, rely on volunteer companions and taxi services to access essential services in their local towns and regions.



## 4. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE TOWNS

### 4.1 Issues

There are a range of demographic, economic and social issues facing the small towns of West Wimmera.

#### *Population Loss and Ageing*

The Shire is losing population. The loss of farm workers through farm amalgamations and mechanisations means reduced enrolment in schools and less spending in shops and services. Future vulnerabilities, including larger landholdings managed by consortiums and serviced by contractors, are likely to lead to further loss of population across the Shire. This demographic, combined with an ageing population, has seen previously robust rural communities being replaced by smaller, older more vulnerable communities isolated from services. The shift in population could potentially lead to delayed fire management suppression activities in rural areas from reduced numbers of volunteers. In some cases, rural municipalities have reversed population decline through marketing, tourism and improved infrastructure.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Population loss needs to be recognised and managed to minimise loss of access to goods and services, community and social services.
- Ensure that housing stock can be upgraded to ensure appropriate housing for ageing in place.
- Promote the desirability of the region as a place to visit.

#### *Settlement and Subdivision Beyond Existing Townships*

There are areas of farming zoned land within the current settlement boundaries in the towns. This is not an urban zone and should not form part of settlement boundaries unless identified as future residential land.

The location of farming zoned land within settlement boundaries has occurred due to several factors. Some are historical as a result of “soldier settlement” subdivisions established many years ago that were created on title but often never developed for housing. Many of these lots still operate as part of larger farming properties and often comprise what are referred to as tenements.

Other cases involve the excision of a smaller lot from a much larger farming lot usually for a new dwelling, which is permitted under the Farming Zone. Although allowed in some circumstances, excised lots through incremental decisions can result in the loss of productive agricultural land to housing and create conflicts with state and local planning policy.

Some dwellings on small lots have been incorrectly zoned as part of the development of planning schemes in the late 1990s. In some cases, these dwellings were not appropriately identified to reflect existing development on the ground surrounding a town. Reflecting the correct designation of this land is largely an administrative exercise, rather than a significant policy shift and will have no impact on existing agricultural production due to the existing conditions of the land.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Review areas of land zoned for farming in each settlement boundary and consider their current and future use.
- In considering their future use, balance the need for additional residential land with the policy objective of protecting agricultural land.
- Council should investigate undertaking a rural land use strategy to ensure small lots in the Farming Zone within town boundaries are considered from a municipal perspective and prepare local policy for small lots within town boundaries altering town boundaries as appropriate.

#### *Local Economy*

Future change in employment will depend on the unique set of circumstances of each industry. In agriculture, precision farming techniques are being deployed to improve yields and reduce inputs. These are likely to become more automated over time, further reducing the need for on-farm labour. Automation and the roll-out of increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligence techniques will affect all industries to some extent.

In the professional services sector, the internet and automated techniques allow small businesses to deliver increasingly sophisticated products from any location.

The Shire is on the periphery of the Western and South Western Renewable Energy Zones, which have been identified by the Victorian Government as suitable for concentrated investment in wind, solar and battery farms to power the grid. There is potential for jobs in new windfarm, solar-farm or large battery

projects to be taken up by people from the Shire and for the Shire to offer a home to people moving into the region for these projects

Mineral sands mining projects such as that proposed for Avonbank near Horsham will generate significant numbers of jobs that may be accessible to people living in the Shire

**Implications for the Towns:**

- There is a shortage of key worker housing in the region which is impacting the attraction of staff to local jobs. Local enterprises report finding it difficult to attract workers which is having an impact on the local economic development of the Shire.
- There is a challenge in delivering new housing stock as the current construction workforce is unable to meet demand for new housing development.

*Flooding*

Extreme short-duration 'rain bursts' are becoming more intense and more frequent especially during summer with thunderstorm rainfall. Existing infrastructure was not designed to cope with these unnatural extremes, and flash flooding is set to be a growing issue. The Shire has towns that are subject to stormwater and riverine flooding. Towns that are prone to stormwater flooding include Apsley and Edenhope. Flood events within West Wimmera have been infrequent over the last decade, however there are areas of significant flood risk in Harrow and Apsley.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Implement flood studies for Edenhope and Apsley into the Planning Scheme as soon as possible.
- Direct housing away from flood prone areas.

*Fire*

The Shire is vulnerable to climate change, and already experiences significant climate variability, including exposure to extremes in rainfall, winds and drought. This is likely to lead to an increase in bushfires in the Shire. Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Apsley have Fire Ready Guides in place for all residents and the towns are covered by a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO). The Fire Ready Guides are developed by the Wimmera Emergency Management team and aim to help

communities prepare for the bushfire season particularly in areas identified as high risk. The entire municipality is categorised as bushfire prone.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Expansion of the towns and any new housing should be directed away from areas at high risk of bushfire.

*Environmentally Significant Areas*

There are areas of environmental significance and high value habitat that need to be protected and preserved for habitat of endangered flora and fauna such as the Red-tailed Black cockatoo and other environmental considerations.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Areas of environmental significance need to be better understood to ensure environmentally significant areas are identified.

*Water*

The quality of drinking water of most of the towns is an issue for all residents with many relying on tank water or poor tasting bore water. There is a lack of potable water in all towns except Edenhope and Kaniva. Not all of the towns have access to a reticulated sewage system which will impact on the future development of these towns as lot sizes will need to remain large to service septic systems. While this may be acceptable in some of the small towns, towns like Edenhope and Kaniva have good services and should be able to provide smaller lots to meet the changing needs of the community and provide more affordable housing options. Lack of sewerage also impacts the operations of commercial businesses such as pubs/restaurants and accommodation venues. A lack of maintenance of septic systems can also have public health and environmental impacts to adjacent waterways.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore the possibility of connecting the remaining three towns to potable water to improve the drinking water quality for all residents.
- Expand reticulated sewerage in Edenhope and Kaniva to facilitate the towns to grow and attract more residents, enabling smaller lots to meet community needs and minimising environmental impacts.

*Climate Change*

Similar to the rest of Victoria, the towns in the Shire are subject to climate change impacts and will need to develop mitigation strategies and improve infrastructure

to improve resilience. Increased frequency of extreme heat events will require adaptation of the urban environment such as further shade and urban canopy to provide increasing shade for residents in town centres. An increased risk of bushfire and flooding events is also predicted and should be factored into future towns plans.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Ensure both social and physical infrastructure is designed to mitigate and adapt to the implications of climate change.
- Direct development away from areas of bushfire and flooding risk taking a precautionary approach to the extent of predicted risks.

*Social and Community Infrastructure*

Services such as childcare provide an important service for families, community and the local economy. The childcare services in the Shire are limited and have been unable to expand or attract new staff due to a lack of key worker housing. This has limited the access of childcare places and services for parents and carers who work in the Shire. There are limited spaces for young people to meet and those that are available might not meet the needs of this group. Providing spaces where young people can gather and interact reduces their need to travel and keeps them occupied.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Increase capacity to deliver kindergarten and other childrens' services – by providing more key worker housing.
- Create spaces for young people to meet.

*Transport and Movement*

Movement networks within a town and connecting out to surrounding towns need to be accessible, safe and reliable. Public transport is very limited within the Shire which reduces the capacity of people to travel to access services and activities. While passenger rail infrastructure passes through Kaniva, it does not currently stop and is unlikely to have transit stops in the medium term given the current population level and projected demand. Other options to meet regional movement needs to both towns to the east of the shire in Victoria and to the west in South Australia will be required.

It is important for people to move easily and safely within their town. This means walking and cycling options and accessing local public transport. Good movement

networks also support the community's health by encouraging daily physical activity, providing easy access to local services and reducing social isolation and increasing social interaction.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Provide a local bus service to access services for residents between Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow. An ageing population will need to be able to access services locally and regionally easily via public transport and through enhanced volunteer or taxi services.
- Provide more footpaths and cycling paths within and around the towns to create safe movement pathways for people.

**4.2 Opportunities**

*Locational Advantages and Assets*

The towns all have their own unique characteristics and identity which is important for future service delivery and planning for the towns.

Kaniva is well placed to capitalise on its access to the highway attracting and growing the local agricultural industry and is a rest stop for travellers through to South Australia. Edenhope has Lake Wallace as the main drawcard and focal point. It is also the major service centre for the local agricultural industry. Harrow is a quaint, historic riverside town in a rural setting that attracts visitors. Apsley has a tranquil rural character and is close to the Coonawarra wine region just over the border in South Australia. Goroke is a small rural town providing access to the Little Desert and is a service centre for the local hinterland community.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Kaniva could continue streetscape upgrades to encourage more through traffic to stop in the town and increase wayfinding signage to attract more visitors to the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park.
- Edenhope could increase marketing and wayfinding signage to draw more visitors to the town and to Lake Wallace.
- Harrow could increase marketing and raise the profile of the town and its heritage assets.
- Goroke plays a complimentary function to larger nearby towns. It could also increase marketing to raise the profile of the town and continue to upgrade streetscape works and seek funding for capital works to upgrade the theatre/hall and events at the community facilities.



- Apsley could further promote the quarterly market, capitalise on sporting infrastructure and continue to upgrade/maintain the town hall.

#### *Economy*

There are a number of new investments in the Shire and surrounding region that may provide economic opportunities for the towns. There has been investment to date in renewable energy including a new solar farm. There is also potential for a new windfarm or large battery projects as part of the Western Renewable Energy Zone which will create new employment in the Shire. Mineral sands developments are proposed for Avonbank near Horsham which will generate a significant number of jobs that may be accessible to people living in the West Wimmera Shire. For southern parts of the Shire, there is also potential access to projects in south-east South Australia. These may provide opportunities for the towns to capitalise on the needs of these workers including permanent and temporary housing with flow on effects for community services and local shops and hospitality services.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore opportunities to incentivise project workers from outside the Shire to attract them to live in the five Small Towns.
- Identify opportunities to provide more key worker housing including by leveraging the development of Council owned land.

#### *Tourism and Accommodation*

The accommodation offering is important to support and grow the local tourism market with each town having opportunities to tap into different tourism markets. Currently there is a lack of local accommodation available to support the needs of visitors and house seasonal workers in the Shire. This needs to be increased and addressed to allow the local tourism market to grow and attract more seasonal workers to the Shire.

There are opportunities for eco-tourism in the Shire including the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park, the Glenelg River and access to the series of lakes and wetlands in the Shire. There are opportunities to expand the tourism offerings to service the 'silver economy' with specialised recreation and travel catering to this expanding market. The disused rail line between Gorokey and Natimuk could be developed into a rail trail for cyclists attracting more people to the Shire.

The Silo Art Trail attracts visitors to the Shire as Australia's largest outdoor gallery, linking the Wimmera Mallee's treasured small towns across 700km through the region.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Create more short-term accommodation options for new and seasonal employees in the region.
- Investigate further expanding caravan park accommodation to house key workers.
- Work with local traders and local producers to enhance the local food offerings in the Shire.
- Increase marketing for the Silo Art Trail as part of marketing for West Wimmera attractions.
- Encourage more food and accommodation offerings especially in Edenhope and Kaniva.
- Explore opportunities for a café and nature based recreation in Harrow.
- Explore opportunities for town retailers to capitalise on any local farm gate produce that is available.

#### *Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC)*

The Barengi Gadjin Land Council (the local Registered Aboriginal Party) would like to work with Council to provide skills training programs for the local community to support a local construction industry for housing. There is also an opportunity to work with the BGLC to produce cultural interpretive signage for place names, and wayfinding signage, as this could also provide signage in local language for local birds, flora and fauna in areas such as the Kaniva Wetlands.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Develop a workforce training program to support the local industry and community.
- Work with the BGLC to develop cultural interpretive signage for the Shire.
- Work with BGLC to identify opportunities for economic independence.

#### *Township Amenities and Character*

Amenity and character is important to the people that live in the towns creating a sense of place. There are many heritage buildings in the five towns that could be further preserved and enhanced. Towns that have character are more

appealing to visitors and will enhance their attractiveness as places to stay and spend money.

Continuing the streetscape improvements in Kaniva and implementing this program to the other four towns subject to budgetary considerations will be an important future piece of work.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Develop a strategy to implement streetscape improvements for the five towns.
- Advocate for external grant funding for streetscape improvements.
- Plant more trees in the town centres to create shade, cooling the environment, reducing heat in the towns and improving amenity.
- Continue to build footpaths in the five towns to enhance pedestrian comfort and support walkability.
- Explore the long term upkeep and maintenance of heritage buildings.

*Housing*

Council owned land could be leveraged to encourage investment by housing providers and/or to engage in direct housing and infrastructure provision. This could also help to provide more key worker housing for the Shire and provide housing close to town for an ageing population.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore options for Council owned land to be developed as medium density housing to meet residential requirements for an ageing population and address the key worker housing shortage in Kaniva and Edenhope.
- Work on a strategy to deliver medium density housing.
- Further work is needed to understand whether vacant dwellings can be made available for key worker housing.
- Investigate opportunities to work with landowners to enhance the image of their properties.
- Investigate whether on farm accommodation is an option for seasonal workers.





## 5. APSLEY

Apsley is a small town set among red gums located approximately 10 kilometres east of the South Australian border. The town grew significantly in the late 1860s. Apsley's fertile agricultural land is highly valued and recognised as a prosperous agricultural district, supporting various land uses that contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. The town continues to provide a local service function for the surrounding community with a CFA, police station and post office. The town context map is shown in **Figure 9**.

### 5.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Apsley is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Apsley.

The RGP states that *“a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services”*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-03*

Clause 11.01-1L-03 Settlement - Apsley provides the existing settlement framework for the town. There is one strategy to the clause, which seeks to support the establishment of cycling and horse-riding trails as a way of attracting visitors to the area. The Clause 11.01-1L-03 settlement framework for Apsley is shown in **Figure 10**. There is an opportunity to undertake further work to improve

the settlement directions to look at growth, development and ongoing maintenance for Apsley. There is also an opportunity to create a policy to support the framework plan in the scheme and look at housing, recreation and education in the town.

Apsley experienced significant urban growth when thousands of European gold seekers passed through on their way to the gold fields. Many Chinese gold seekers also made their way to the diggings after arriving at the Port of Robe in the late 1850s. The introduction of the Free Selection Land Act in the 1860s led to an increase in the district's population and the expansion of Apsley. By 1897, approximately 60 children were enrolled at Apsley State School, along with several smaller schools in the area.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Historic information drawn from <https://www.apsley.vic.au/>

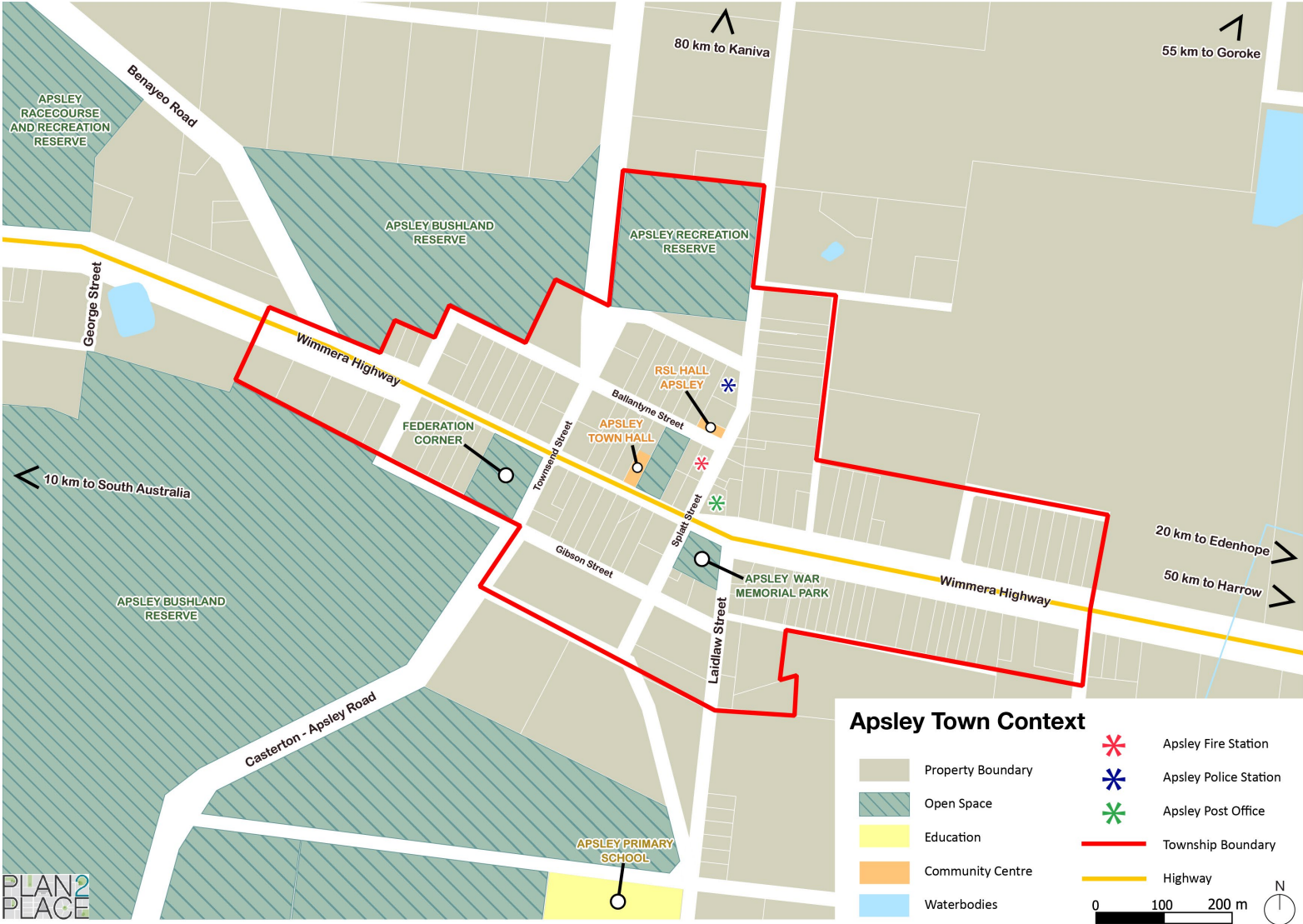
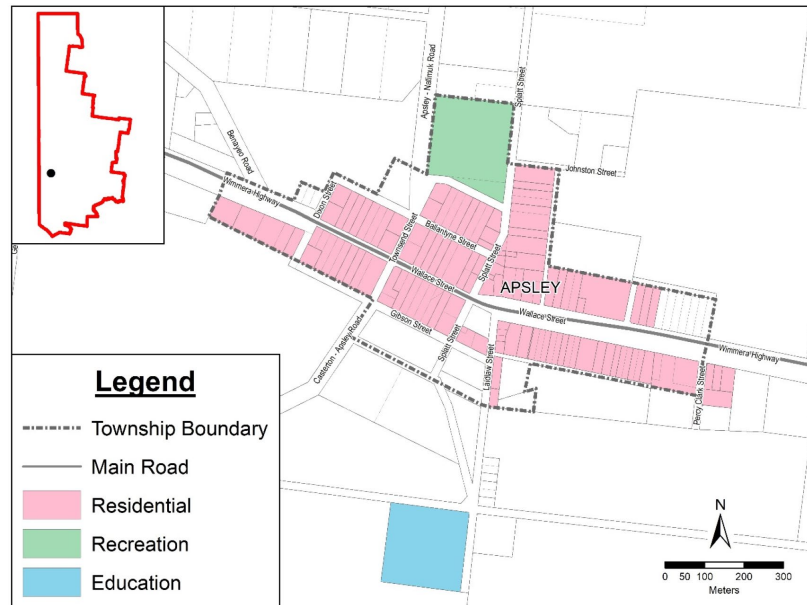


Figure 9: Apsley Context Map



**Figure 10: Apsley Framework Plan Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-11**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Apsley are shown in **Figure 11** and summarised below:

- The Township Zone (TZ) applies to land within the Apsley town boundary.
- The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) applies to the Apsley Recreation Reserve.
- The Transport Zone (TRZ) applies to the Wimmera Highway that runs through the centre of Apsley.
- Outside the town boundary, the Farming Zone (FZ) applies to agricultural land.
- The Public Use Zone (PUZ) – Schedule 2 (PUZ2) applies to the Apsley State School Reserve to the south of the town.
- The PUZ – Schedule 5 (PUZ5) applies to the Apsley Cemetery Reserve to the north of the town.

- The PCRZ applies over the Apsley Bushland Reserve and the Apsley Plantation.



**Figure 11: Apsley - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS impacting Apsley are shown in **Figure 12** and summarised below:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) – Schedule 2 (ESO2) applies to all of the land surrounding Apsley to ensure that development protects the habitat of the Red-tailed Black cockatoo. This will ensure that environmentally significant habitat is protected.
- The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) applies to much of the land surrounding Apsley. This will allow development to be directed away from fire prone areas.
- The current flood studies underway may result in Flood Overlay (FO) or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) controls being added.

5.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Apsley had a population of 329 people. This is forecast to reduce over the period to 2036 to just below 300 people. The town is a small settlement servicing the surrounding agricultural district and is also within easy commuting distance of the larger town of Naracoorte and the Coonawarra wine district in South Australia.

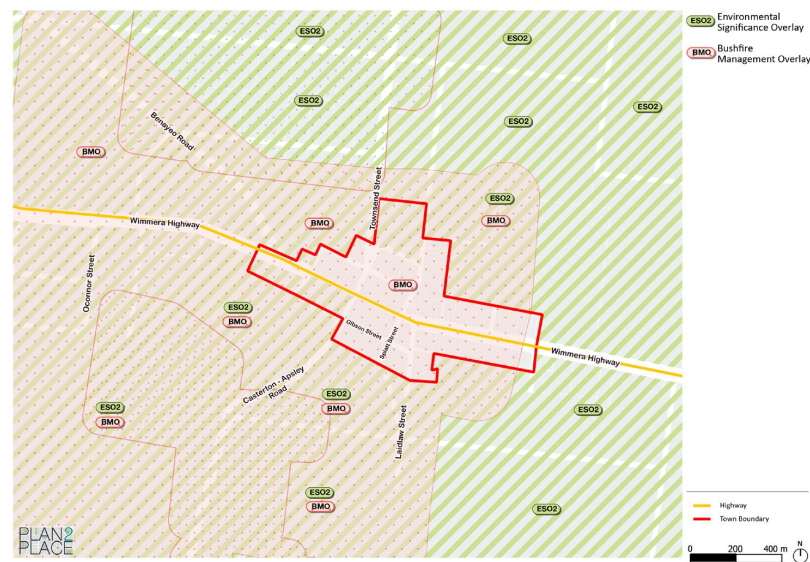


Figure 12: Apsley - Existing Overlays

5.3 Housing

While the Victorian Government forecasts a decline in population in the general area (see section 4), there may be occasional demand for a new house in Apsley over the forecast period. There are several vacant lots in the Township Zone. Any development needs to take account of the BMO, which covers most of the town, and any forthcoming flood management overlay that might arise from recent work conducted for Council. Therefore, no new rezoning of land for housing purposes is recommended for the town.

5.4 Economic Profile

Given the size of the catchment and its forecast decline, resident demand is unlikely to support further retailing, although there may be scope for new businesses that cater to visitors or to community needs. There may be scope to provide space for visiting professionals, which could be located within the community hall.

There is no zoned industrial land in the township. There is no demand or justification for industrial land. There is an industrial precinct in nearby Edenhope that could capture future demand for industrial land.

The town has a quarterly market which attracts people from across the region. There may be potential for further tourism activity including country style accommodation, glamping or camping/caravaning. However, the water supply in the town is not safe to drink according to GWM Water and this is an impediment to further commercial development for visitors, requiring potentially expensive remediation. There may be scope for visitor retailing such as art, food and wine, based on the nearby wineries.

There is only a small range of visitor accommodation in the town, with the art deco style Border Inn providing rooms and bungalows and offering free camping facilities. The wider township has several bushland rest-stops and reserves which provide points of interest for walkers, bird-watchers and cyclists. There are also opportunities to leverage the tourism market at the nearby wineries in the Coonawarra.

Apsley has a strong interdependence with nearby Naracoorte in South Australia. Residents regularly access services and jobs in towns close by and some services and facilities may be shared between the towns in the community of interest. Apsley is playing an increasing role in providing additional housing to service Naracoorte. Many residents in Apsley also access jobs located in Naracoorte.

5.5 Movement and Transport

Apsley is on the Wimmera Highway, one of the routes from Victoria to the popular Coonawarra wine district. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Apsley is via private vehicles. There are very limited public transport options available for residents in Apsley with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays.



### 5.6 Physical Infrastructure

The town of Apsley is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. Ground and surface water is not safe for drinking, however, water can be used for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry. It can also be used for showering or bathing if caution is exercised. All houses are serviced by septic tanks as there is no wastewater treatment plant servicing the town with reticulated sewerage.

### 5.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The Apsley town centre consists of a concentration of activity around the intersection of the Wimmera Highway and Splatt Street with a corner store/café, post office, hotel, community hall, fire station, RSL hall and police station. The township contains a small town centre, a primary school, recreation reserve golf course, netball courts and a Lions Park playground. There is no library or access to childcare services or kindergarten in Apsley. The Apsley community group is very active and hosts a local playgroup. The nearest health facilities are in Edenhope, around 20 km to the east or Naracoorte, 31 kms to the west.

The Border Inn pub provides a key community service and has a camping ground at the rear. The recent re-opening of the pub through local entrepreneurship and community support has rejuvenated a key social asset and created a strong sense of optimism in the town that can be built on.

### 5.8 Built Form and Heritage

Apsley includes several historic buildings along its wide main street. The township extends along the Wimmera Highway for the most part and is adjacent to large bushland reserves to the south-west. There are several historic weatherboard buildings in the main street that are former commercial buildings. Most of the houses in the town are single storey weatherboard buildings. The main street is lined with mature street trees that provide much needed shade and tree canopy.



*The Store – Main Street Apsley*



*Historic Building - Main Street Apsley*

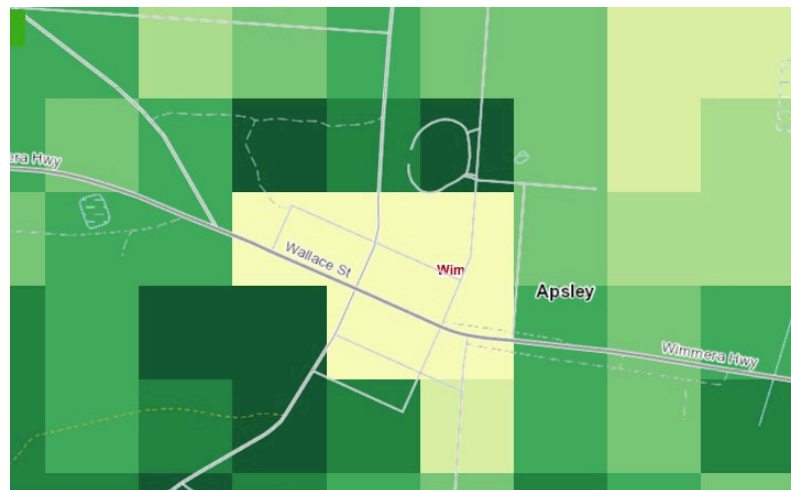
## 5.9 Landscape and Environment

There is a significant risk of flooding in Apsley especially around the main street where there is a dry creek bed that floods during significant rain events. A flood study for the town is currently underway and is expected to be finished shortly.

There is a risk of bushfire in Apsley with the town covered by a BMO. There is a Place of Last Resort in case of bushfire at the Apsley Recreation Reserve in Splatt Street. This is part of the Neighbourhood Safer Places program for West Wimmera Shire.

Apsley is located on flat undulating plains in West Wimmera. The dominant ecosystems are - Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils. The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 13** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green.



**Figure 13: Apsley – Biodiversity Values**

## 5.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

### Issues

- There is significant risk of flood in areas of the town.
- There is significant risk of fire.
- There is a lack of potable drinking water.
- The town is not connected to a reticulated sewage system.
- There are a large number of vacant shops within the town centre.
- Public transport is very limited and residents are reliant on private transport.
- The town is reliant on towns such as Naracoorte for higher-order goods and services including employment, retail, health, and secondary education.
- Without support from increased tourism and growth in population, there is insufficient demand for additional retail development.
- There is a limited accommodation offer with rooms and free camping at the hotel.
- Some of the historic buildings in the town are in need of repair and maintenance.

### Opportunities

- There is an active and strong community advocacy group.
- There is a good range of community facilities for a small town.
- There is a high level of amenity.
- There is a Primary School in the town.
- Original township buildings provide opportunities for tourism and housing including bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Nearby lakes attract people to the region for recreation and tourism.
- The creation of home based and creative industries employment may be made possible by providing high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite).
- Leverage existing community groups to advocate for funding to repair, maintain and update significant buildings along the Wimmera Highway.

- The attractive town centre could be further enhanced through place making initiatives and upgrades to infrastructure.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Apsley are detailed in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Apsley Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Apsley
<b>Catchment Population</b>	Up to 500
<b>Role in the Hierarchy</b>	Small Settlement
<b>Existing Infrastructure</b>	No reticulated drinking water, no reticulated sewage system
<b>Other Services Available</b>	Hotel, post office, town hall, emergency services, sport infrastructure
<b>Growth Capacity</b>	Low due to flood constraints, bushfire risk and lack of reticulated water and sewer
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	Negligible Change
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and implement the Apsley flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and to direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Ensure new development to respond to local bushfire requirements.</li> <li>• Explore options to provide drinking water and a reticulated sewage system to the town with the local water authority.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved transport services between Apsley and the surrounding towns including community or public transport buses.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to repurpose original township buildings to provide an increase in tourism and housing.</li> <li>• Undertake an audit/review of heritage assets to determine if a further heritage study is warranted for Apsley.</li> <li>• Review demand for further overnight accommodation.</li> <li>• Explore if there is any further Crown or Council land that could be utilised for housing and accommodation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the attractiveness of the town centre by providing grants to landowners for repainting and other streetscape upgrade works.</li> <li>• Review zoning within the town boundary as part of the preparation of a structure plan for the town.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider including land zoned Farming Zone between the Wimmera Highway and Benayeo Road into the town boundary and consider rezoning to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ) to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses.</li> <li>• Include the Apsley Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (zoned PPRZ) into the town boundary to recognise its role as a public facility.</li> <li>• Consider including the land zoned FZ on the west and east side of Laidlaw Street into the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses.</li> <li>• Include the Apsley State School Reserve zoned PUZ2 into the town boundary.</li> <li>• Consider rezoning FZ land currently within the town boundary on the south side of Wimmera Highway to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ) to reflect the current lot sizes and current land uses.</li> </ul>





## 6. EDENHOPE

Edenhope is the largest town in the Shire and has a role as an administrative centre. The town has a compact commercial area offering convenience and weekly shopping. Industrial activities are concentrated in the east of the town, with some service industries on the southern edge of the commercial area. The town is located on the shores of Lake Wallace (or Connadoyen), which has been integral to the formation of the character of the township and is seen as the 'lifeblood' of the town. Today the lake provides recreation opportunities as well as a unique residential amenity.

Edenhope developed mainly as a wool grazing area. Several large properties have been subdivided for smaller family farms, particularly for soldier settlements after World War II.

Like many rural townships, Edenhope plays a vital role in providing opportunities for social interaction and civic engagement for residents across a large rural catchment. With its proximity to Lake Wallace and historical and contemporary ties to cricket and Australian Rules Football, Edenhope is viewed as a centre for sports and recreation. The town also offers its community a wide range of social and cultural opportunities across the arts, heritage and natural environment.

Edenhope is one of only two towns in the Shire that has safe drinking water. The town context map is shown in **Figure 14**.

### 6.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Edenhope is defined as a District Town in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. The future directions for Edenhope are to:

- Recognise Edenhope as the district town for the south-western Wimmera community of interest.
- Encourage the provision of a range of middle order health, education, retail, municipal and emergency services.
- Provide for residential growth through infill development.
- Provide additional industrial land to facilitate employment.

The RGP states *"Edenhope is the major centre in the south-western part of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, providing various services to its community of*

*interest, which includes Goroke, Harrow and Apsley. The town's proximity to South Australia enables a close relationship with Naracoorte and residents rely on this centre and Horsham for higher order services. The town is located on Lake Wallace, which should be protected as an important focus for recreation, tourism and amenity.*

*Infill development will provide for residential growth in the short to medium-term. Over time, additional residential land supply will be required. This could be located to the south of the town or around limited, discrete parts of Lake Wallace. Development around Lake Wallace will require an extension of the reticulated sewerage system to limit the impact on the lake.*

*There is a need for additional industrial land to support employment growth. The preference is for this to be located to the south-east of the town. Other key strategic issues for the town include the reliance on treated bore water for drinking supplies and the need to upgrade the airport/airfield to accommodate emergency flights to meet future community needs. "*

The RGP outlines the following land use policies, strategies and actions for Edenhope:

- Focus investment in services and facilities for the south-western part of the region in Edenhope.
- Identify a preferred location for additional industrial land and facilitate development.
- Monitor the need for additional residential land.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-01*

Clause 11.01-1L-01 Settlement - Edenhope provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to ensure active retail frontages within the commercial precinct and promote low density and rural living development in lifestyle living areas, as identified on the Edenhope Framework Plan. The Clause 11.01-1L-01 settlement framework for Edenhope is shown in **Figure 15**.

The clause encourages use and development to orient towards and activate Lake Wallace and its foreshore and to support the establishment of a pedestrian and cycle trail network for recreational purposes that accesses nearby environmental assets, such as Lake Wallace.

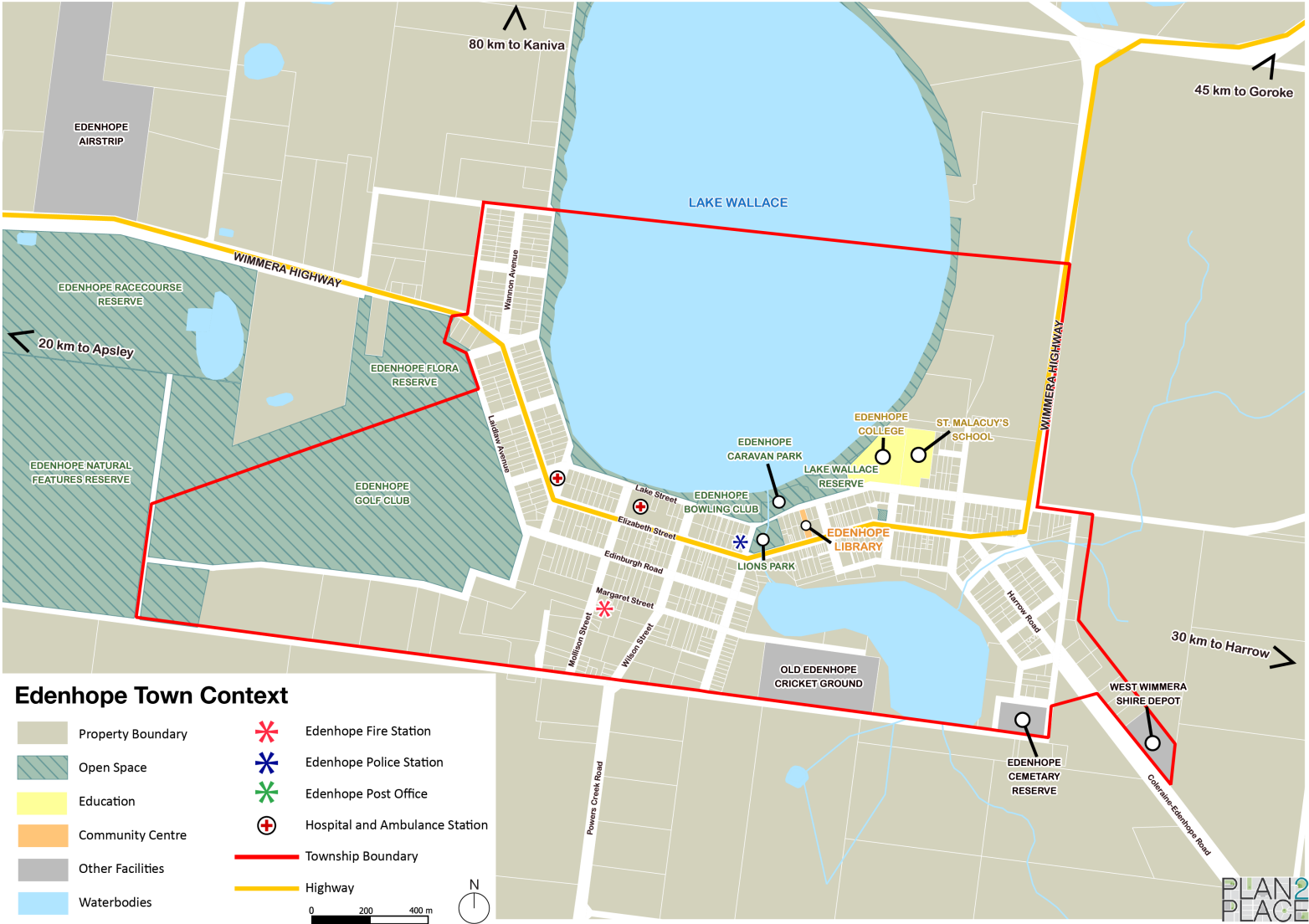
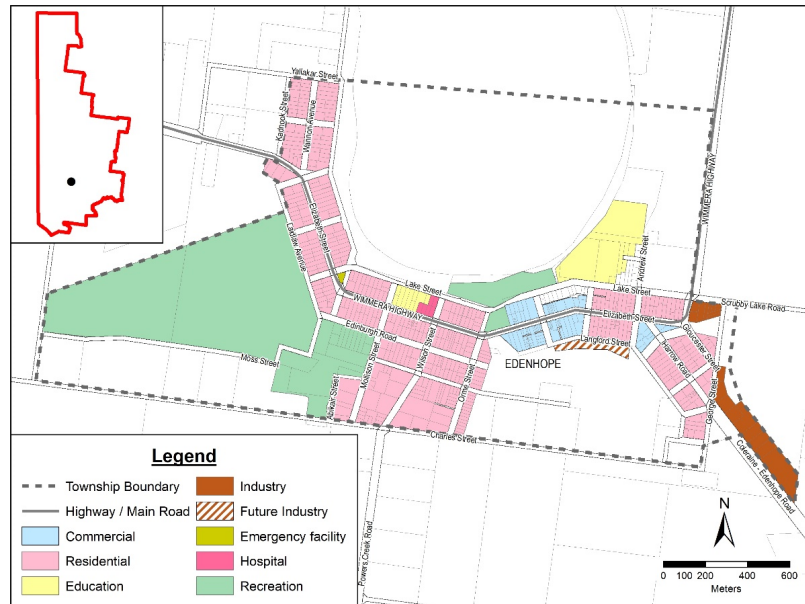


Figure 14: Edenhope Context Map



Additionally, the clause encourages the development and expansion of the Edenhope Industrial Estate and facilitates the relocation of storage uses from Elizabeth Street into the Edenhope Industrial Estate.



**Figure 15: Edenhope Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Edenhope are shown in **Figure 16** and summarised below:

- The TZ applies to land within Edenhope and land surrounding Lake Wallace.
- The Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) applies to land along the Coleraine- Edenhope Road.
- The Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) applies to land adjoining the Coleraine-Edenhope Road.
- The Public Use Zone (PUZ5) is applied to the Edenhope cemetery.
- The Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) is applied over Lake Wallace, the Edenhope Aerodrome Bushland Reserve, Golf Course,

Edenhope Flora Reserve, Racecourse and the Edenhope Natural Features Reserve.

- The Transport 2 Zone (TR22) is applied along the Coleraine- Edenhope Road.
- The Special Use Zone Schedule 3 (SUZ3) is applied to the Edenhope Airport.
- The Rural Living Zone (RLZ) applies to land outside of the town boundary.
- The Farming Zone (FZ) applies to agricultural and land surrounding the town boundaries.



**Figure 16: Edenhope - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Edenhope are shown in **Figure 17** and summarised below:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2) applies to all of the land surrounding Edenhope to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) applies to much of the land surrounding Edenhope.



- The Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 (DDO1) applies to land along the Coleraine – Edenhope Road to identify areas which are affected by specific requirements relating to the design and built form of new development.
- The Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) applies to selected land in the town to ensure that potentially contaminated land is suitable for a use which could be significantly and adversely affected by any contamination.



**Figure 17: Edenhope - Existing Overlays**

## 6.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Edenhope had a population of 713 people. Edenhope remains the largest town in the Shire and has the most significant population catchment. Its services are somewhat threatened by population decline and by the growth of larger centres outside the Shire.

Edenhope has a high number of residents over 45 years, and a very high proportion of residents aged 65 years and older. It also has a very high number of widowed individuals. The family composition of Edenhope skews towards

households without children, but there are also working age parents with young children. Children in Edenhope are typically under 15 years of age. There are not many residents in Edenhope aged in their 20s and 30s.

## 6.3 Housing

Despite population decline, the town will need to accommodate some growth in dwellings – up to 3 per year according to forecasts. There are adequate parcels of vacant TZ land that could be used for housing, including, for example, a 5 hectare parcel on the corner of the Wimmera Highway and Lake Street as well as numbers of vacant lots in the south west of the town and on the western edge of the town. There are some parcels of land that are zoned TZ but which may not be suitable for housing development, including the Back Swamp area in the south-east of the town and the area on the eastern shores of Lake Wallace around the water treatment facility.

Providing services to the larger parcels of land may make the feasibility of development difficult. In this circumstance, there may be ways in which Council could take a long term interest in the development of the land by, for example, providing up-front funding for infrastructure which is recouped on the sale of lots.

There is an urgent need for key worker housing to allow the town to grow.

## 6.4 Economic Profile

The district produces mainly sheep, beef and broadacre crops with a total gross value of \$303 million in 2021 (ABS, Data by region for West Wimmera SA2). This farming effort directly supports a range of businesses in the town including transport operators and a small abattoir.

The town wraps around the southern end of Lake Wallace, which provides a distinctive backdrop and recreational resource as well as being popular with visitors. Visitation to Edenhope and surrounds is supported by the presence of commercial accommodation including a caravan park and motel as well as short stay homes for rent. The racecourse, golf course, team sports facilities, nature conservation reserve and lakeshore walking trails all provide visitors with ample outdoor recreational opportunities. In the future, there may be potential for specialty accommodation – lakeside glamping, historic homes, ecotourism ventures, farm stays or permaculture farms – as well as potential to capitalise on

the unique dune and swale environment of West Wimmera and its local and regional produce through specialty outlets.

Edenhope has an extensive area of land zoned for industrial purposes. The land is located on both sides of the Coleraine-Edenhope Road at the south eastern entry to the town, with a narrow extension along George Street to Scrubby Lake Road. The land comprises approximately 32 hectares to accommodate the Edenhope Abattoir and 13 hectares to accommodate general industry. The general industrial land along the main road has largely been taken up (albeit with a low level of intensity) and includes activities such as the Shire depot. The land along George Street remains largely vacant and undeveloped. In the absence of a substantial incoming investor, the remaining land should be sufficient for local industrial needs, particularly since local industrial sectors have been changing substantially in recent years. Should further land be required, there is ample land immediately to the east of the existing zoned land, although this would need to be subject to environmental and engineering investigations.

#### 6.5 Movement and Transport



*Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Edenhope*

Edenhope is on the Wimmera Highway, one of the routes from Victoria to the popular Coonawarra wine district. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Edenhope is via private vehicle. There are very limited public transport options available for residents in Edenhope with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays. There is an EV charging station on Anzac Avenue for electric vehicles.

#### 6.6 Physical Infrastructure

Reticulated water and sewage are provided to the town and recycled water is also in use. The Golf Club uses recycled water from the water treatment plant. Trade waste stresses the current wastewater system and needs to be augmented. Drinking water quality needs to be upgraded and there are also water quality issues in Edenhope with saline bores.

#### 6.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The town has a small hospital that accommodates a nursing home and urgent care services. A government P-12 school is one of three secondary facilities in the Shire. There is also a kindergarten and Catholic primary school. Edenhope has childcare and maternal child health services. The town has a library in the community hall, sports facilities and an old court house which is used as a visitor information centre and museum.

The key features of the main street commercial centre in Elizabeth Street are:

- The intact strip of commercial buildings developed mainly between 1930 and 1990.
- The small supermarket.
- Two significant hardware/rural supplies stores.
- The civic and social infrastructure including the Shire Hall, library, visitor information and prominent Catholic church.
- The Lake Wallace Hotel.
- Two banks.
- A small range of specialty shops, cafes and local shop-front services including legal, financial and veterinary services.
- The public amenities and visitor parking on Anzac Avenue.



**Edenhope Community Garden**

While the strip would once have been occupied principally by retailers, there are now a range of other services – including health, financial, community and galleries. This is in keeping with trends throughout the retail sector.

Beyond the retail core, Lake Wallace is the key asset for the Edenhope community and visitors providing recreational facilities including. **Figure 18** below shows the Edenhope Trail Network Concept Plan.

Most of the Lake Wallace Perimeter Trail will be upgraded to an accessible walking trail with connectivity back to the town centre. There are two properties currently in private ownership that do not wish to have the bitumen Perimeter Trail along their properties. This area has been fenced off and there is a hole in the fence to provide access to a gravel path for local residents. The Edenhope Fat Tyre Cross Country Bike Loop is also a high priority project for the Shire as well as upgrading the Edenhope to Apsley Cycling Route.



**Figure 18: Edenhope Trail Network Concept Plan**

Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy November 2018

Nearby Lake Charlegrark and Lake Bringalbert attract people to the region for recreation and tourism and are important cultural and community assets and provide opportunities for the town through visitor services including accommodation and hospitality.

## 6.8 Built Form and Heritage

Edenhope is comprised of several historic buildings along its wide main street. The intact strip of commercial buildings was developed mainly between 1930 and 1990. The township extends along the Wimmera Highway for the most part and the key feature of Edenhope is Lake Wallace. Most of the houses in the town are single storey weatherboard buildings with some newer houses fronting Lake Wallace.

## 6.9 Landscape and Environment

There is a risk of flooding in Edenhope. A flood study for the town is currently underway and is expected to be finished in 2025. A consistent water level in Lake



Wallace is an ongoing issue for the town and there are also frequent blue-green algae blooms.

There is a risk of bushfire in Edenhope with areas outside of the township boundary covered by a BMO. There is a Place of Last Resort in case of bushfire sited at the Lake Wallace Reserve corner of land and Anzac Avenue. This is part of the Neighbourhood Safer Places program for the West Wimmera Shire.

Edenhope is located on flat, undulating plains. The dominant ecosystems are - Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils. The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland. A Biodiversity audit is needed for the Back Swamp site. There is an ESO over the town to protect and preserve habitat for the Red Tail Cockatoo.

The NaturePrint map shown in **Figure 19** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green which are in Lake Wallace and the Edenhope Natural Features Reserve.



**Figure 19: Edenhope – Biodiversity values**

## 6.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

### Issues

- A consistent water level in Lake Wallace is an ongoing issue for the town.
- There are frequent blue-green algae blooms in Lake Wallace.
- There is risk of flood in some areas of the town.
- There is risk of fire.
- Public transport is very limited and residents are reliant on private transport.
- There are not enough staff or places for childcare.
- The quality of the drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.

### Opportunities

- Recreational tourism is a major driver of the economy and this could be further enhanced to service the “silver economy” as well as selling regional produce.
- Need to ensure that the town centre remains attractive and that there is sufficient zoned and serviced land for growing activities and supporting local enterprises to grow.
- The usage of the foreshore space and infrastructure on the Lake Wallace foreshore could be further optimised and connectivity improved back to the commercial centre.
- Provide more seating, shade and barbecues in the Lake Wallace foreshore area.
- Wayfinding signage around Edenhope and to Lake Wallace could be improved/increased.
- Place activation at the western end of Elizabeth Street could be promoted.
- A community bus service could be provided allow travel between the towns for community services.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- Original town buildings could provide future tourism and housing opportunities.

- Enhance marketing of the town's connection to cricket and rugby to attract visitors to the town.
- Tourism opportunities would be enhanced by increases to the overnight accommodation offer in the town.
- Increase marketing for Edenhope to attract more visitors.
- The creation of home-based businesses and creative industries employment would be facilitated by high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite).
- The Back Swamp site should be protected from future development.
- More key worker housing would allow the town to grow.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Edenhope are detailed in **Table 4**.

**Table 4: Edenhope Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Edenhope
Catchment Population	Up to 2,700
Role in the Hierarchy	District Town
Existing Infrastructure	Reticulated drinking water, reticulated sewage system
Other Services Available	Hospital, hotels, professional civic and recreational services, some retailing including hardware and agricultural services
Growth Capacity	The town has capacity to grow
Expected Outcomes	Minimal growth expected
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and implement a Structure Plan for Edenhope.</li> <li>• Complete and implement the Edenhope flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Prepare a bushfire study and direct any new development away from areas of high bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Advocate for upgrades to the town's drinking water.</li> <li>• Advocate for a community bus service between Edenhope and the surrounding towns</li> <li>• Work with businesses to strengthen the overnight accommodation offer.</li> <li>• Undertake a biodiversity audit for the Back Swamp site to inform appropriate zoning for that area.</li> <li>• Ensure that the town centre remains attractive and that that there is sufficient zoned and serviced land for growing activities and supporting local enterprises to grow.</li> <li>• Optimise usage of the foreshore space and infrastructure on the Lake Wallace foreshore and improve connectivity improved to the commercial centre.</li> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage around Edenhope and to Lake Wallace.</li> <li>• Promote place activation at the western end of Elizabeth Street commercial centre.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to repurpose original township buildings to provide an increase in tourism and housing.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market the town's connection to cricket.</li> <li>• Advocate for high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite) to facilitate the creation of home-based businesses and creative industries employment.by</li> <li>• Facilitate key worker housing to allow the town to grow.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to enhance recreational Tourism as a major driver of the economy and this could be further enhanced to service the "silver economy" as well as selling regional produce.</li> <li>• Review the extent of urban growth outside the settlement boundary particularly surrounding Lake Wallace.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
Boundary Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider extending the town boundary to include all of Lake Wallace to recognise the importance of this asset to the community and its contribution to the town's recreation and amenity.</li> <li>• Consider including the Industrial 1 and 3 zoned land on Coleraine-Edenhope Road into the town boundary to reflect its existing use and to provide clear direction on where industrial uses should be located.</li> <li>• Consider including the Township Zoned land on the west side of Lake Wallace into the town boundary to reflect its current residential land uses and Township zoning.</li> <li>• Include the Edenhope Racecourse and Edenhope Flora Reserve and Natural Features Reserve (PCRZ) into the town boundary to recognise the importance of these facilities to the town's recreation and community facilities.</li> </ul>





## 7. GOROKE

Goroke is a rural township in the centre of the Shire, midway between Horsham and the South Australian border. It is 10 km south of the Little Desert. The name is thought to have been derived from an Aboriginal word meaning magpie.

Goroke was established to serve the surrounding farm district which produces mainly wool, lamb, beef, canola cereals and legumes. The town is close to Lake Charlegrark and Lake Boorooopki and many other district lakes, which provide for various visitor and recreational pursuits including yabbing, fishing, bird and wildlife watching. The Goroke town extends along Main Street with the Community Health Centre and Goroke College well separated from the hub of the town, located some 900 metres east of the centre. Rural land separates the hub of the town from the school, health centre and a handful of dwellings. The town context map is shown in **Figure 20**.

The Goroke area was occupied for pastoral runs in the mid-1840s. Farm allotments were taken up in the Goroke area in the late 1870s. A school was opened at Gymbowen, 10 km east of Goroke in 1881, and the Goroke school was opened in 1885. Goroke township was surveyed in 1882. Within a few years, the Victorian municipal directory recorded Goroke as having some stores, a flour mill, a hotel and a mechanics' institute. An agricultural and pastoral society was formed in 1887. The railway line was extended from Natimuk to Goroke in 1894, connecting it to Horsham.

Between 1910 and World War II, Goroke maintained a population of about 350-400 people with a bush-nursing centre and a memorial hall. In 1927 the railway line was extended further west to Carpolac. After World War II there was an influx of population as large pastoral holdings were subdivided, some being taken up by soldier settlers. In the early 1950s, several small district primary schools were closed and pupils bused to a consolidated school at Goroke. Education to years 10 and 11 was provided during the 1960s, with an active Young Farmers' Club attached to the school.

### 7.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Goroke is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Goroke.

The RGP states that *"a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services"*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-04*

Clause 11.01-1L-04 Settlement - Goroke provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to encourage commercial and industrial activities to locate along the main street or in the vicinity of the grain receiving silo. The clause supports the establishment of a walking and bicycle path alongside the train line that can connect with other rail trails emerging throughout the Wimmera region. The Clause 11.01-1L-04 settlement framework for Goroke is shown in **Figure 21**.

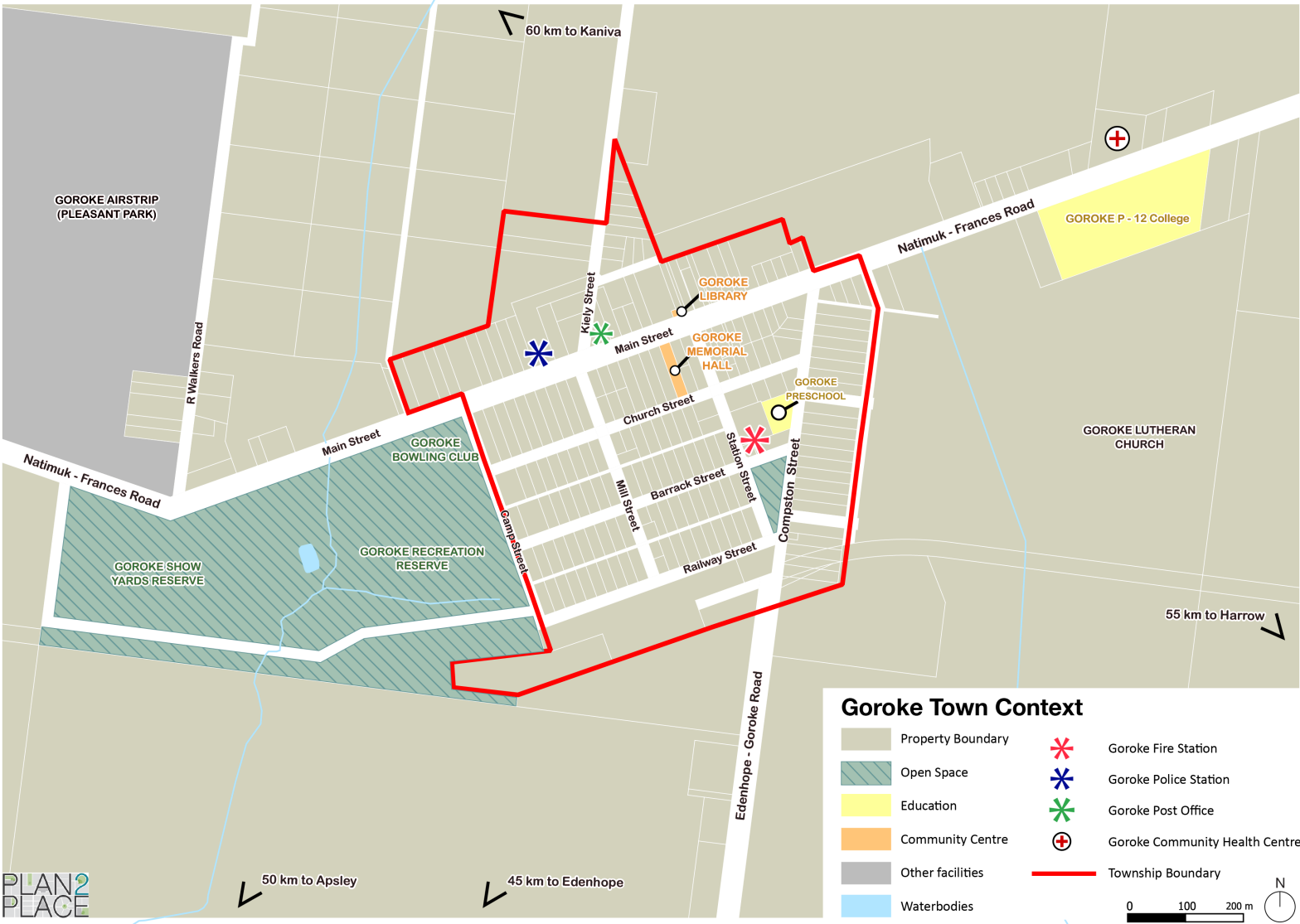
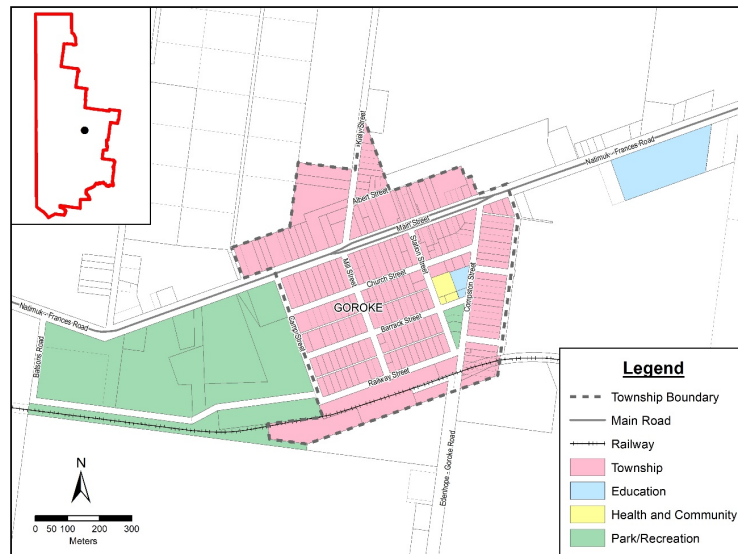


Figure 20: Goroke Context Map



**Figure 21: Goro Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Goro are shown in **Figure 22** and summarised below.

- The TZ applies to land within Goro.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The PU22 applies to the Goro P-12 college site and to the Goro Preschool site.
- The PU5 applies to the Goro Cemetery Reserve.
- The PU – Schedule 3 (PU3) applies to the Goro Fire Station site.
- The PPRZ applies to the Goro Recreation Reserve.
- The TR22 has been applied to the Natimuk Frances Road that runs through the centre of Goro.



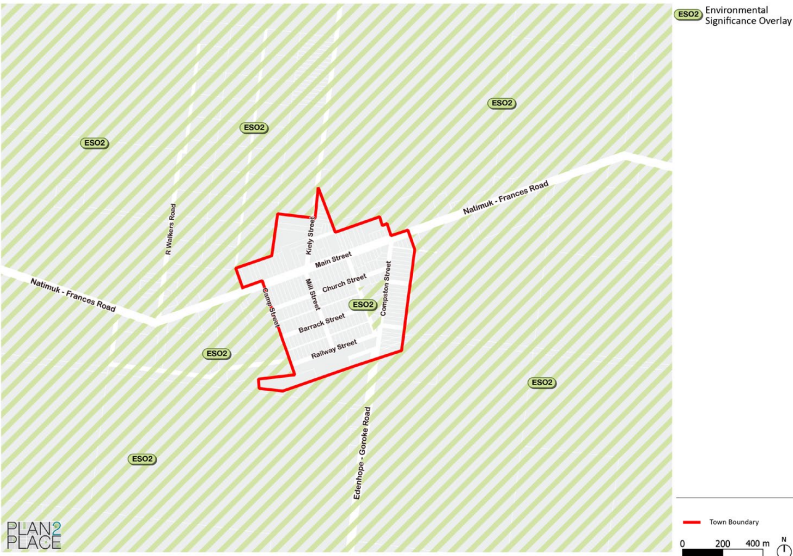
**Figure 22: Goro - Existing Zones**

One relevant overlay within the WWPS affecting Goro is shown in **Figure 23** and summarised as follows.

- The ESO2 is applied to all of the land surrounding Goro to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.

## 7.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Goro had a population of 208 people. Goro is experiencing a reducing population, which in turn is placing pressure on the ability of the town to provide services to residents in the town and the region.



**Figure 23: Goroke - Existing Overlays**

**7.3 Housing**

The local population is expected to continue to decline slowly but there may be occasional demand for a new house in the town. This may include demand for homes suitable for older people from the town and district who would like to age in place but do not want a large house.

The town is seweraged, but the reticulated ground water is not safe to drink according to GWM Water. This may reduce demand from new residents who could seek to locate elsewhere. Within the town grid, there are several vacant lots in a range of sizes that would be suitable for single dwellings or multi-unit development.

**7.4 Economic Profile**

Goroke is on the Silo Art Trail and has some visitation associated with trips to the Little Desert, just to the north. The disused railway line (the old Carpolac Line) appears to provide a largely intact trail from Goroke to Natimuk which could be developed as a rail trail in the future. There is potential to formalise this trail as a

cycle route as far as Horsham. There is potential to attract visitors from the regional centre of Horsham which is around 47 minutes to the east. Visitors could be attracted by food and wine offerings, art, retail offer and services to local outdoor pursuits. These kinds of activities would depend on the willingness of local entrepreneurs and Council may be able to assist by ensuring that streetscapes remain attractive. Shade trees are likely to be increasingly important for visitor and resident comfort.

There is no designated industrial land in Goroke. Grain Corp silos operate from land zoned TZ and there is, or has been, small farm-related engineering works on Main Street. No significant industrial activity is anticipated for the township and any such demand should be redirected to towns with designated industrial precincts.

Given the forecast decline in population, resident demand is unlikely to generate support for new retail activity in the centre. There may be some scope to reuse vacant buildings to deliver temporary services or to provide co-working spaces for residents and visiting professionals. The centre has several buildings that could be adapted for new activities. There may also be potential for some of the buildings in the centre to be reused for housing temporary workers on assignment in the district, this could include farm-workers, or those involved in infrastructure projects.

Should there be any future demand for development in the town centre, priority should be given to the repurposing of existing buildings.

**7.5 Movement and Transport**

Goroke is centred on Natimuk – Frances Road. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Goroke is via private vehicle. There are very limited public transport options available for residents with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays.

**7.6 Physical Infrastructure**

Goroke is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. GWM Water has worked with the West Wimmera Shire Council investing in Goroke to provide a new sewerage system. The Goroke Sewerage Scheme will provide residents with a reliable, and effective wastewater collection and treatment system. The sewerage scheme will use current septic



tanks on properties and deliver a reliable and effective wastewater collection and treatment system which will contribute to the prosperity and future growth of the town. The Goroke Caravan Park is now connected to the sewerage scheme.

Construction of Stage 1 of the Goroke Sewerage Scheme was completed in October 2021. In March 2022 the Goroke Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed. Stage 2 of the Goroke Sewerage Scheme was completed in June 2024.

### 7.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Goroke has some community infrastructure including a Community Health Centre and Goroke College, however they are not well connected to the main township and are separated by rural land and some dwellings. There is also a kindergarten in the town.

The core social infrastructure including the library, town hall, public toilets, Men's shed, agricultural services, farm engineering and parkland are all located within two blocks of the town centre. The commercial core supports a mix of local businesses, including an IGA supermarket, café, service station, post office and The Goroke Hotel.

VicTrack currently owns land in Goroke which was part of the former part of the former Carpolac Railway line which branched off from Horsham. The line has been closed since the 1980s and the railway station grounds were disposed of some time ago. There is an opportunity to create a rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk along the disused rail line.

Goroke is close to wetlands and lakes including Lake Charlegrark that could possibly be further utilised for ecotourism. There is also a town walk trail that is being created by the West Wimmera Shire Council in partnership with the community.

### 7.8 Built Form and Heritage

The residential street network forms a grid pattern to the south of the main road, and houses within easy walking distance of the town centre, churches and other community services and facilities. Church Street has three churches and Railway Street includes the railway siding and silos which are visible from the surrounding area. Goroke is 'book-ended' by the Prep-Year 12 school, and health centre at its eastern edge.



*Goroke Men's Shed*

The highway splits into a dual carriageway through the town centre Main Street with a median strip that has shade trees and parking. There are several vacant commercial premises as well as many former commercial buildings that appear to have been repurposed for housing. A series of recreational facilities are located to the west of the town, including a sports ground, outdoor swimming pool, showgrounds and a caravan park.

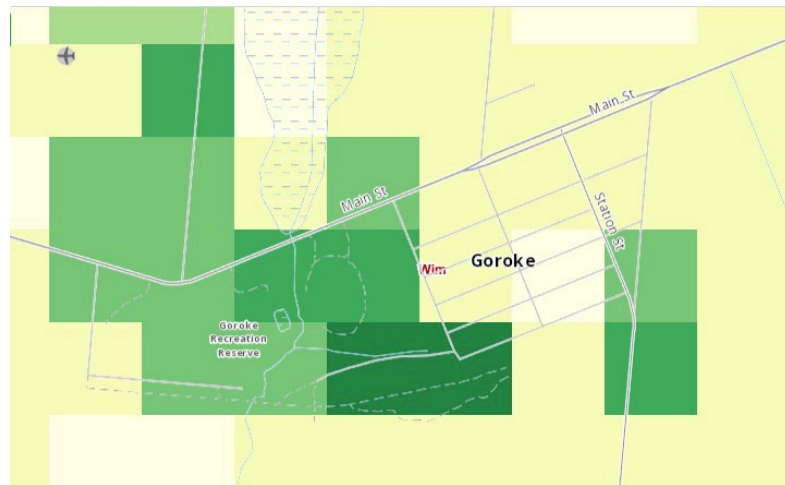
### 7.9 Landscape and Environment

Roadside vegetation on the way into Goroke is of high value. Connectivity in the landscape is important for biodiversity and to provide biodiversity corridors. There are also several registered Trust for Nature blocks just outside of town.

Goroke is part of the Wimmera bioregion, located in the far west of the central Victoria, and is typified by flat to gently undulating plains in the east, with black and grey cracking clay soils (Vertosols). Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland are the dominant ecosystems. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach

ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils (Vertosols and Sodosols). The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 24** identifies areas of biodiversity with the area of the highest value in the darkest green which is part of the Goroke Recreation Reserve.



**Figure 24: Goroke – Biodiversity Values**

### 7.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town.

#### Issues

- Drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.
- There is very limited public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport.
- There are no childcare services available for residents.
- Needs key worker housing to allow the town to grow.

- An ageing population and population loss which impacts viability of the school and investment in retail.
- Challenges to accessing health care services.

#### Opportunities

- Provide a community bus service to surrounding towns.
- Many of the main street buildings are currently empty and could be upgraded subject to funding.
- A rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk through to Horsham along the old Carpolac Line.
- There is potential for some of the buildings in the centre to be repurposed for housing temporary workers on assignment in the Shire.
- There is an economic development opportunity for ecotourism in the area.
- Plant more street trees to provide more shade in summer.
- Provide a greater diversity of housing for older people to age in place and stay in the town.
- Goroke is part of the Silo Art trail which attracts visitors to the town.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Goroke are detailed in **Table 5**.

**Table 5: Goroke Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Goroke
Catchment Population	Up to 500
Role in the Hierarchy	Small Settlement
Existing Infrastructure	No reticulated drinking water, Septic Tank Effluent Drainage sewerage system
Other Services Available	Hotel, take away, Post Office, Library, men's shed, community health, community hall, agricultural services, silo art
Growth Capacity	Low due to lack of drinking water and Septic Tank Effluent Drainage sewerage system
Expected Outcomes	Negligible Change
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore providing drinking water to the town.</li> <li>• Advocate for community bus services between Goroke and the surrounding towns.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for childcare services to meet the needs of residents.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to upgrade Main Street buildings to provide an increase in tourism (building on the Silo Art trail) and housing.</li> <li>• Investigate creating a rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk through to Horsham along the old Carpolac Line.</li> <li>• Work with land owners to reuse buildings in the centre to house temporary workers on assignment in the Shire.</li> <li>• Support economic development opportunities for eco-tourism in the area.</li> <li>• Plant more street trees to provide shade in summer.</li> <li>• Explore options to diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
Boundary Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Goroke P-12 College into the town boundary.</li> <li>• Consider including land on the north side of Natimuk-Frances Road into the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses and consider rezoning to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Goroke Show Yards Reserve, Recreation Reserve and Bowling Club facility into the town boundary to reflect their important role as community facilities.</li> </ul>
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## 8. HARROW

Harrow is a small pastoral town located on the banks of the Glenelg River, beneath the rolling hills and grand old red gums. Harrow is particularly picturesque, boasting several heritage buildings which significantly contribute to the town's beauty and visitor potential. The town is located in the south of the Shire and served by the Coleraine-Edenhope Road. The town is a historic service town for the surrounding farm district where wool, lamb and beef are the main products. The town context map is shown in **Figure 25**.

Harrow is situated at a crossing place on the Glenelg River. In 1849, a postal receiving place, the Foresters Arms Inn, a store and a blacksmith were constructed. In 1852 the township was surveyed. The surveyor renamed the place Harrow, presumably inspired by Harrow, England. A police post was established in the town in 1853.

Harrow is a very early distant inland town, although Apsley (closer to the border) was surveyed a year earlier. Its oldest surviving building is a log gaol (1859). A Presbyterian church was constructed in the early 1860s and served as the first school building which opened in 1869.

The town is set in hilly surrounds, beyond which are plains occupied by several historic pastoral properties. They include Clunie Estate with a large bluestone woolshed, Pine Hills (c1858), Mullagh Station (1866) and Kout Norien (c1855). A slab cottage, woolshed and other outbuildings (1848) at Kout Norien are on the Victorian Heritage Register. Mullagh Station's name was attached to an Aboriginal cricketer, Johnny Mullagh, who was in Australia's first touring side in 1867. He is buried in the Harrow cemetery. The annual Mullagh Cricket Cup (1995) is contested each year in Harrow between the Indigenous descendants of the first Australian team versus cricketers from the Western District of Victoria. A mechanics' institute was opened in 1878, a flour mill in 1890, and by the turn of the century Harrow had several stores, two hotels and a population of about 250 people.

### 8.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Harrow is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Harrow.

The RGP states that *"a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services"*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-05*

Clause 11.01-1L-05 Settlement - Harrow provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to avoid development within the floodplain of the Glenelg River. The clause ensures built form is responsive to Harrow's rural valley setting and that development enhances the town's historic 19<sup>th</sup> Century pastoral character. The Clause 11.01-1L-05 settlement framework for Harrow is shown in **Figure 26**.



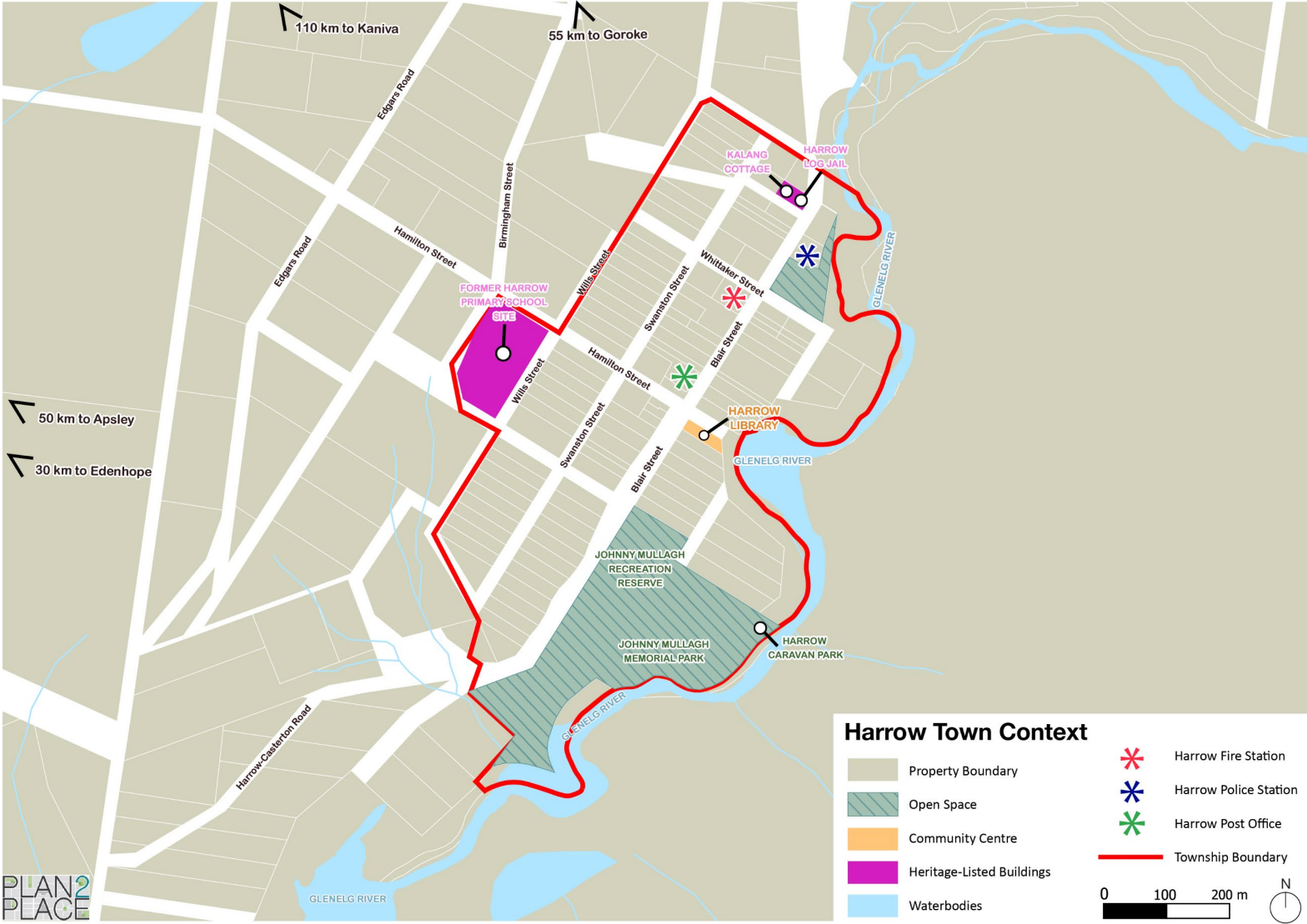
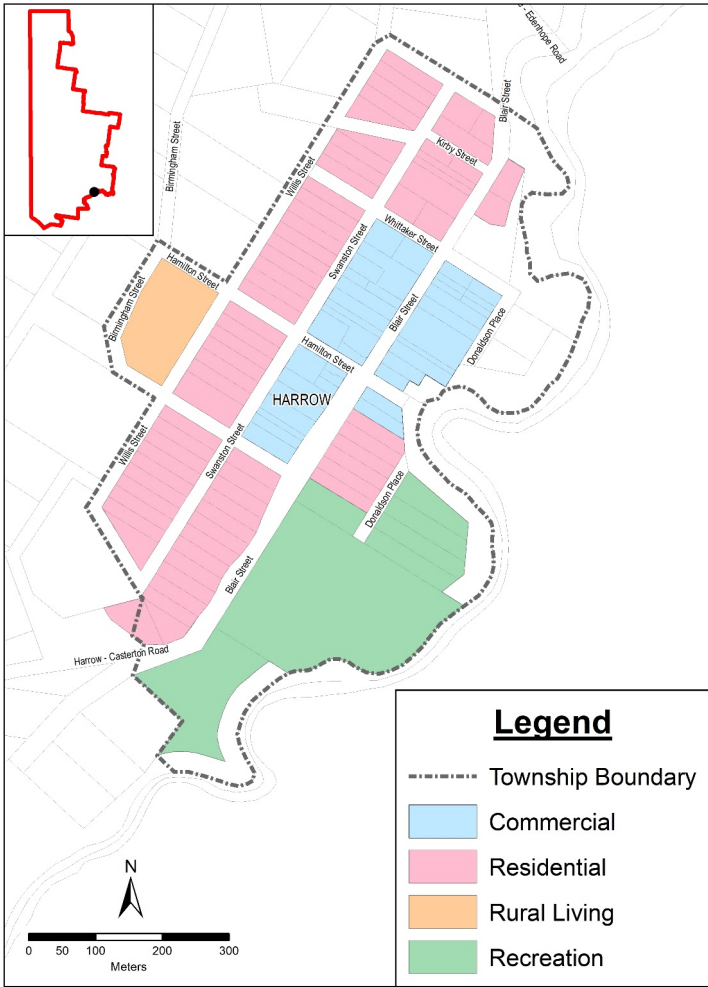


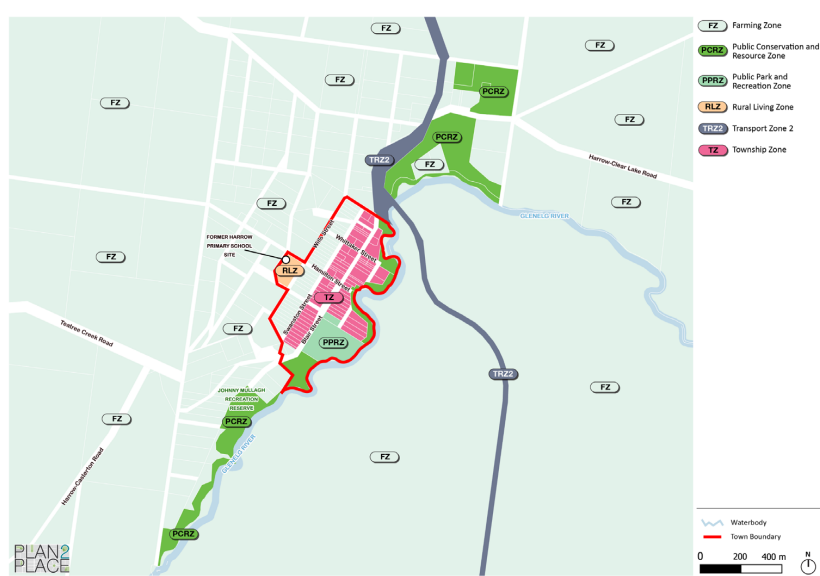
Figure 25: Harrow Context Map



**Figure 26: Harrow Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**  
Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Harrow are shown in **Figure 27** and the are summarised below.

- The TZ applies to land within Harrow.

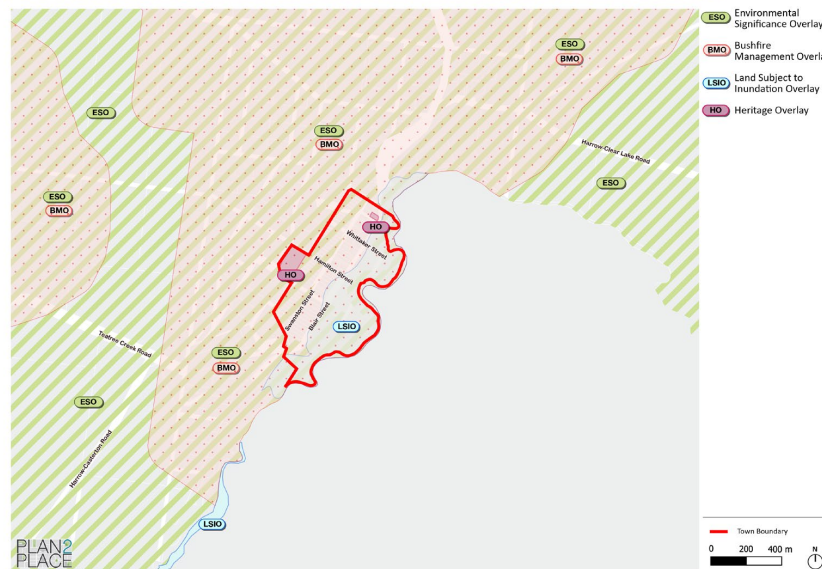
- The RLZ applies to the former Harrow Primary School site.
- The PPRZ applies to the caravan park.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The PCRZ is applied to the Johnny Mullagh Recreation Reserve to provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes and to provide for appropriate resource based uses.
- The TRZ applies to the Coleraine - Edenhope Road that runs through the centre of Harrow.



**Figure 27: Harrow - Existing Zones**  
Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Harrow are shown in **Figure 28** and are summarised below.

- The ESO2 applies to all of the land within and surrounding Harrow to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The BMO applies land within Harrow and much of the land surrounding the town.

- The HO applies to two sites within Harrow which are the Log Gaol built in 1859 and the Presbyterian church which was constructed in the early 1860s and served as the first school building which opened in 1869.
- The LSIO applies along the edge of the Glenelg River in Harrow to identify flood prone land that will be affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood.



**Figure 28: Harrow - Existing Overlays**

The LSIO has been placed in Harrow along the Glenelg River to ensure that any development in Harrow:

- Maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- Minimises the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.
- Reflects the declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act 1989.

- Protects water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- Ensures that it maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.

## 8.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Harrow and the surrounding area had a population of 184 people. The town has a current population of approximately 170 which is forecast to continue to decline over the period to 2036.

## 8.3 Housing

The township has a unique, heavily treed setting in which the main commercial centre, Blair Street, runs beside the river floodplain, although many of the houses of the town are on the hillside above Blair Street to the west.

The local population is projected to continue to decline but there may be occasional demand for a new house in the town with people attracted to the natural beauty of the town.

The town is not served by sewerage and the reticulated ground water is not safe to drink according to GWM Water. These factors may reduce the demand from new residents who could seek safer options.

The Township Zone (TZ) covers only the land either side of Blair Street and not the land in larger allotments on the slopes to the west and north. Given the lack of sewerage services, the larger lots may be the only ones capable of accommodating new dwellings and the necessary septic tanks. There appears to be several vacant lots in this area, although the land is subject to the BMO.

## 8.4 Economic Profile

Harrow is a town with a significant heritage, being one of the first towns to be gazetted in Victoria. This is reflected in many of the buildings on Blair Street. This heritage and the bush-setting is attractive to visitors and provides a substantial underpinning of the commercial activities of the town, including several accommodation providers. There may be opportunities to expand this visitor

offering to include destination accommodation, food, wine, art and indigenous heritage.

There is no industrial land in the township and little industrial activity. Given the sloping topography and the fire risk, the township is not suited to industrial development, which should be redirected to industrial precincts at Edenhope and elsewhere.

### 8.5 Movement and Transport

Harrow is located along Blair Street just off the Coleraine-Edenhope Road. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Harrow is via private vehicle. There is currently no public transport currently available for residents of the town.

### 8.6 Physical Infrastructure

Harrow is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. Ground and surface water is not safe for drinking, however, water can be used for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry. It can also be used for showering or bathing if caution is exercised. Drinking water could be piped in from Edenhope or Coleraine in the future subject to funding.

All houses are serviced by septic tanks as there is no wastewater treatment plant servicing the town with reticulated sewerage.

### 8.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The township has a small commercial and community centre. The town centre activities are dispersed along Blair Street and includes a combined post office/café and general store which provides a very limited range of fresh food and a stand alone general store. The Hermitage Hotel includes accommodation and there is a gift shop and a collectibles shop. There is the Harrow discovery centre, a garage and service station and an agricultural supplies outlet.

Harrow has a police station, fire station and a bush nursing centre. There is an RSL and Mechanics Institute (the library). The nearest schools are at Edenhope and Balmoral.

At the southern end of Blair Street, away from the town centre, is a Caravan Park with recently developed cabins owned by DEECA run by a Committee of Management.

The Glenelg River is used for recreation activities such as fishing and canoeing. No powerboats are allowed on the river. There is a popular swimming hole near the caravan park along with riverside parks and walking trails. The West Wimmera Recreational Trails (2018) lists the Glenelg River Walking Trail at Harrow as a high priority project to be upgraded. This walking trail is designed to include signage that speaks to the local Indigenous history of the area as well as the early European contact in the area – see **Figure 29**. There is also scope to introduce a horse riding trail between Harrow and Dergholm and to develop the Glenelg River Canoe Trail from Harrow to Dergholm.

### 8.8 Built Form and Heritage

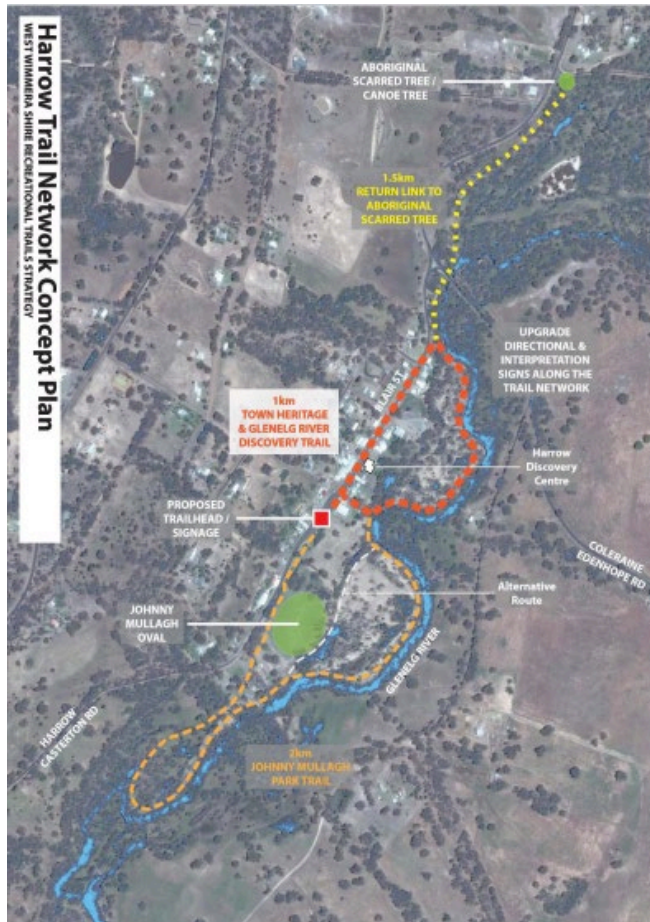
The town enjoys a very high level of amenity due to its well preserved heritage architecture, its location on the Glenelg River and the associated corridor of open space. Views into Harrow are limited due to the rolling landform and dense native vegetation screening. This creates a great sense of arrival entering from the highway as the road drops down to the centre of town. Once in the township, the steep, vegetated hills and limited sightlines create a sense of enclosure.

Harrow's sense of history resulted in the formation of a historical society in 1969, with an eye to the preservation of the log gaol. The gaol has since been listed on the Australian and Victorian heritage registers. Mullagh and Pine Hills homesteads are also on the Australian register, along with old bluestone offices which served the Kowree Shire during 1872-87.

The Presbyterian church was by far the grander, replacing an earlier structure in 1884 and the Anglicans built a church in 1933. Unusual in a town of such size, a bush nursing centre was opened in 1913, and it was rebuilt in 1995 at a time when such facilities were at risk of closure.

Harrow has three church buildings, the bush nursing centre, the mechanics' institute, the Hermitage Hotel, a general store, a museum, a recreation reserve, a golf club and tennis courts. The school closed in 2002. The Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre was developed by the Harrow community as a means of celebrating the story of the 1868 Aboriginal cricket.





**Figure 29: Harrow Trail Network Concept Plan**

Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy Nov 2018

There is ample on-street parking for residents, visitors and tourists in the central area of town. The majority of Harrow is zoned TZ, with the exception of the river corridor (PCRZ) and the Jonny Mullagh Reserve (PPRZ). A small area of land to the north of the town is zoned rural living (RLZ), and Council has identified this area as suitable for additional rural living development.



**Historic Building – Harrow**

## 8.9 Landscape and Environment

The Glenelg River is a Victorian Heritage River. It is a regulated river system with water storage at Rocklands that was built in 1944 being kept 70% full due to structural issues with the dam. Water is periodically released downstream into the Glenelg River.

The Glenelg River provides habitat for rare and engendered fish and aquatic species. The estuary and has an ESO to protect habitat for the Red Tail Black Cockatoo.

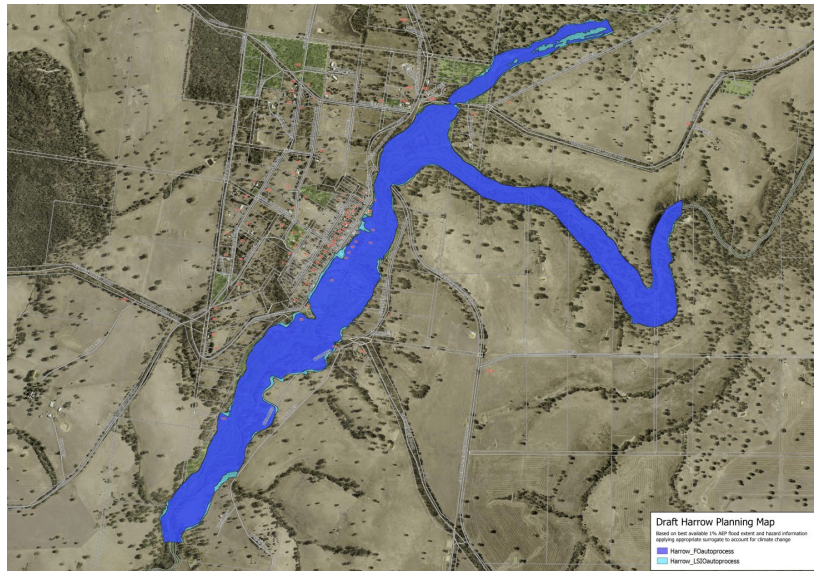
Harrow is subject to flooding from the Glenelg River and land to the east of Blair Street is subject to an inundation overlay and the recent 2022 flood was approximately 1 metre deep. Harrow is in a valley that is at risk of significant flooding.

Current flood mapping was prepared in 2017 and may not be consistent with current climate change risk mitigation standards. These maps need to be updated to be compliant with current standards. A flood investigation report is currently



underway for Harrow and new flood maps are being prepared for implementation into the WWPS. **Figure 30** shows the extent of flooding in a 1% AEP Flooding event.

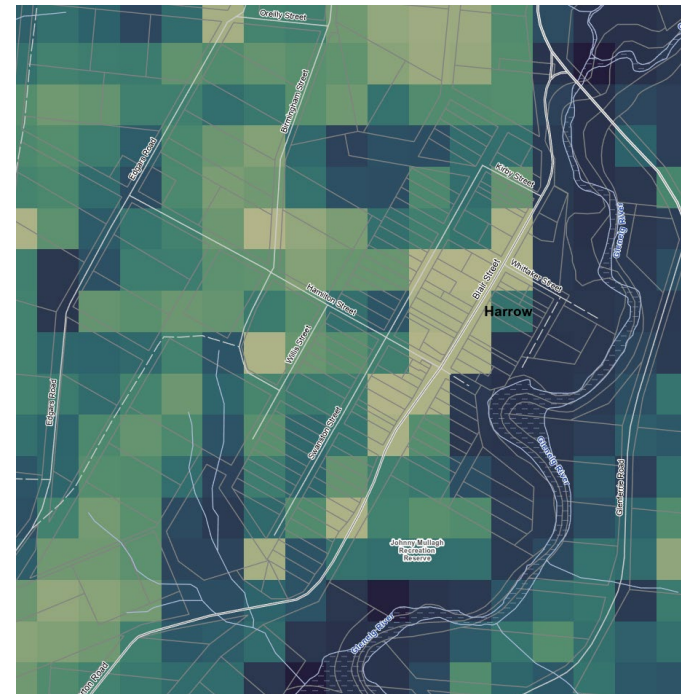
Harrow and its surrounding area is affected by a BMO. There is a high risk of bushfire for the town as experienced in the summer of 2024-25. There are access constraints for residents and visitors in the case of bushfire as there is only one road into the town and one road out.



**Figure 30: Draft Harrow Flood Map 1% AEP Flood Extent**

Narrow is part of the Dundas Tablelands Bioregion and is located in the south-west of the State. The land is made up of a hard ironstone layer which resists erosion. Streams have cut deep narrow valleys across the tablelands. Black earths (Dermosols) dominate the valleys and the dissected Merino Tablelands, yellow texture contrast soils (Chromosols and Sodosols) and cracking clays (Vertosols) dominate the rest of the table tops. The bioregion includes an area south of the Grampians which does not have such strongly expressed tableland features but supports a similar range of ecosystems.

The vegetation is a complex mosaic of Plains Grassy Woodland, Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Creekline Grassy Woodland ecosystems. There are many areas of high value habitat close to Harrow that need to be preserved and protected. The NaturePrint map at **Figure 31** identifies areas of biodiversity with the area of the highest value in the darkest green along the Glenelg River.



**Figure 31: Harrow – Biodiversity Values**

## 8.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

## Issues

- There is significant risk of flooding from the Glenelg River, with the eastern side of Blair Street subject to flooding.

- There is significant bushfire risk with one road in and one road out.
- There is a steep escarpment creating a barrier to movement and potentially development.
- The town is serviced by septic tanks.
- Drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.
- There is no public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport to move between towns.
- A bushfire assessment will need to be undertaken before any new development or structure planning work can commence.
- Currently projected for a reduction in population.

#### *Opportunities*

- The historic built form and natural beauty is an opportunity to attract residents and grow tourism in the town.
- There are under-utilised buildings and vacant lots that could accommodate new commercial and residential development along with visitor accommodation.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- There may be potential for some additional services.
- Additional tourism retailing is an opportunity including arts-related facilities.
- Provide a community bus service to surrounding towns.
- Capitalise on the history of Harrow while ensuring that the heritage of the township is preserved and enhanced.
- Land high on the escarpment is out of the flood area and could be investigated for future development, noting this land is subject to the BMO.
- Plant more street trees to provide more shade in summer.
- Consider opportunities for growth of the town subject to environmental constraints.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Harrow are detailed in **Table 6**.

**Table 6: Harrow Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Harrow
Catchment Population	Up to 500
Role in the Hierarchy	Small Settlement
Existing Infrastructure	No reticulated drinking water, no reticulated sewage system
Other Services Available	Nursing post, accommodation, café, emergency services, hotel, library, heritage centre
Growth Capacity	Low due to fire and flood constraints
Expected Outcomes	Negligible change
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and implement the Harrow flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and to direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Prepare a bushfire study and direct any new development with high bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Work with GWM Water to explore options to provide drinking water to the town.</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of providing a reticulated sewerage in consultation with GWM Water.</li> <li>• Advocate for a community bus services between Harrow and the surrounding towns.</li> <li>• Support the activation of under-utilised buildings and vacant lots to accommodate new commercial, residential and visitor accommodation development, subject to a bushfire assessment, noting that the eastern side of Blair Street is subject to flooding and would not be suitable without expensive building modifications.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> <li>• Support additional tourism retailing, including arts-related facilities.</li> <li>• Support the consolidation of Harrow's role as a visitor destination.</li> <li>• Work with the community to capitalise on the history of Harrow while ensuring that the heritage of the township is preserved and enhanced.</li> <li>• Explore the opportunity for future development on land located high on the escarpment out of the flood area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant more street trees to provide shade in summer.</li> <li>• Undertake a bushfire risk assessment for the town.</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a structure plan for the town.</li> </ul>
Potential Boundary Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider undertaking a bushfire risk assessment to explore opportunities for residential development on the west side of Harrow within the town boundary by considering a more appropriate zone that more accurately reflects its lot size and land uses. This could include the RLZ or LDRZ.</li> </ul>





## 9. KANIVA

Kaniva is the largest town in the north of the Shire, located on the Western Highway and the Melbourne-Adelaide Railway. It is surrounded by agricultural land the Little Desert National Park to the south and the Big Desert Wilderness Park to the north. The town provides services to the surrounding farm districts and to travellers on the Western Highway.

Kaniva is a small but robust community and economy. Its location on the Western Highway provides significant strategic advantages relating to economic growth and land use. It has a wide range of community infrastructure to support its population, including sport and recreation facilities. Its economy is anchored by agriculture and farming. Kaniva is the gateway to the he Silo Art Trail and home to Sheep Art.

Kaniva functions both as a service centre for the surrounding agricultural area and as a popular rest stop for travellers on the way to regional destinations and Adelaide. The commercial area is centrally located along the Western Highway, putting it in a prime position to capture freight and logistics-oriented activity. The local community sees the location of the town on the Western Highway and the railway as a major asset and its location has significantly contributed to the formation of the town's character. The town context map is shown in **Figure 32**.

The first town in the area was Lawloit which developed in the 1860s. The first selector arrived in 1875 and many others followed, particularly from 1879. They established wheat farms and 'mullenised' the land, which is to say it was cleared with a red-gum roller invented by a South Australian named Mullens. Three metres long and one metre in diameter, it was hauled over the land by a team of 10 bullocks. This process squashed the mallee trees, after which the land was burnt then ploughed. The township of Lillimur South developed in the late 1870s and was soon followed by Lillimur North. Another settlement, initially named 'Budjik', (meaning stone axe) as it was situated on Budjik Hill, began to develop when a flour mill and grain shed was built there in 1881. The opening of a post office on the site in April 1882 saw the town officially change its name to Kaniva.

### 9.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Kaniva is defined as a Town in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Kaniva will continue as a key service centre. Residential development within the town's boundaries will also be promoted with recent upgrades to water infrastructure providing potable water to the town. Kaniva is similar to a district town but generally services a more localised catchment. It has a greater reliance on other centres for services and employment.

The future directions for Kaniva as outlined in the RGP are to:

- Recognise Kaniva as a key local service centre.
- Encourage the provision of a range of services appropriate for the local community.
- Provide for infill residential development within the town boundaries and provide for some additional low density and rural living land adjacent to the town.

The RGP states *"Kaniva will continue to provide services for its local community of interest which includes small rural settlements such as Lillimur, Miram, Serviceton and Telopea Downs. Kaniva's location on the Western Highway corridor means it has good access to Nhill and Horsham for higher order services."*

*Kaniva has a compact and contiguous built form and is contained within the TZ with some zoned industrial land. Infill development will be encouraged to consolidate the existing urban form. Several small lots on the immediate western side of the town, currently located in the FZ, should be zoned for low density and rural living residential purposes. Industrial land is provided on the eastern side of Kaniva and is expected to meet demand for the immediate future."*

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan outlines the following land use policies, strategies and actions for Kaniva:

- Promote residential development within current town boundaries
- Investigate rezoning small lots to the west of Kaniva to allow for low density residential and rural living development
- Provide a single zone for the town's aerodrome.
- Monitor the need for additional industrial land.



- Support improvements to the town's drinking water quality.

*West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-02*

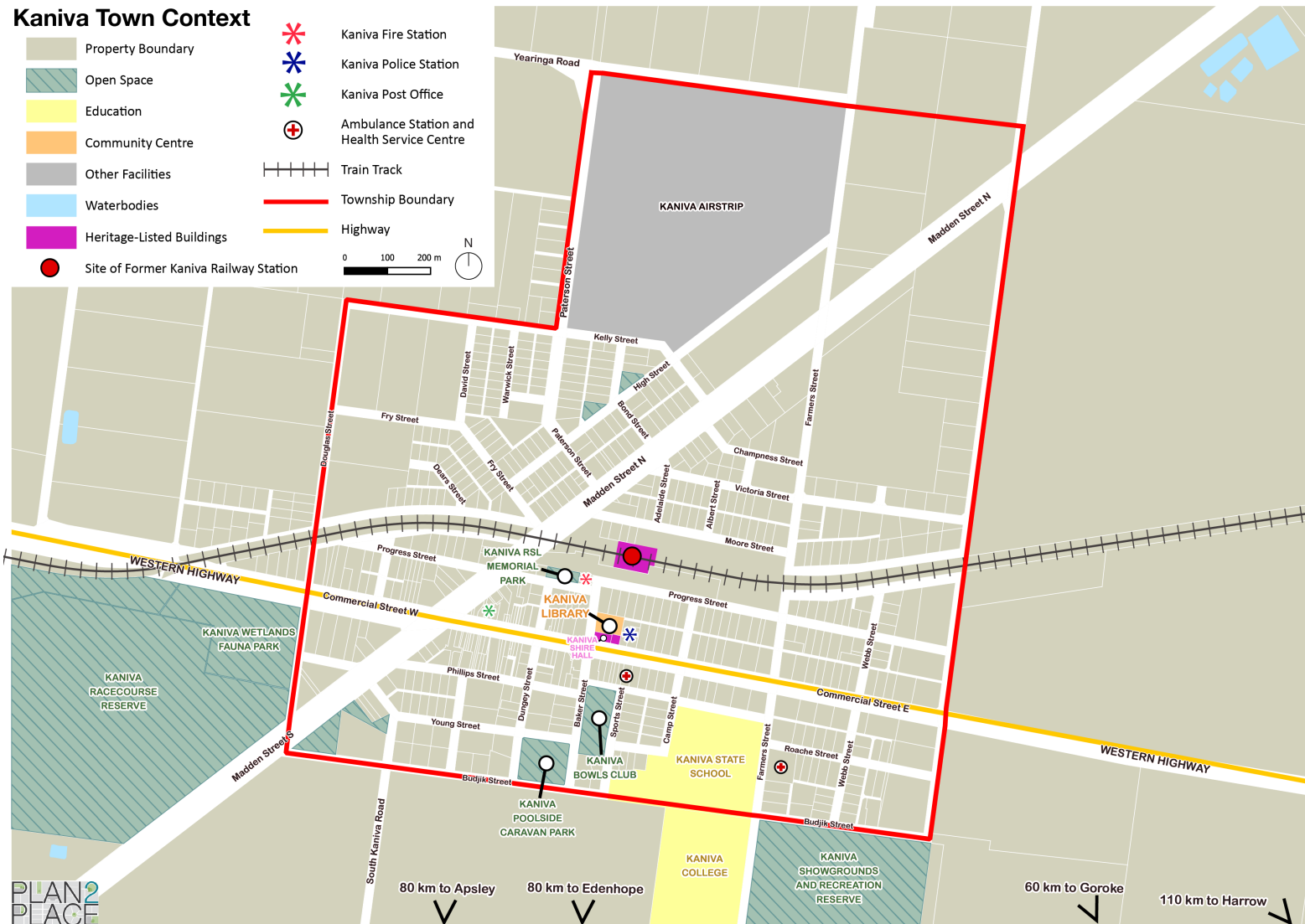
Clause 11.01-1L-02 Settlement - Kaniva provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to encourage development of the Kaniva Industrial Estate that is mindful of residential growth in the town and to retain community and commercial facilities in the town. The Clause 11.01-1L-02 settlement framework for Kaniva is shown in **Figure 33**.



*Commerical Street E, Kaniva*

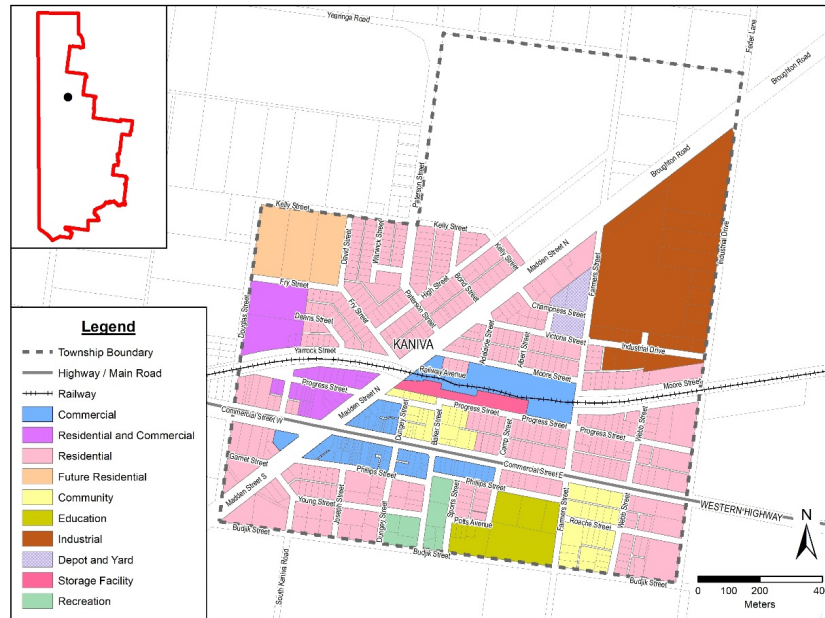


*Business, Commerical Street E, Kaniva*



**Figure 32: Kaniva Context Map**

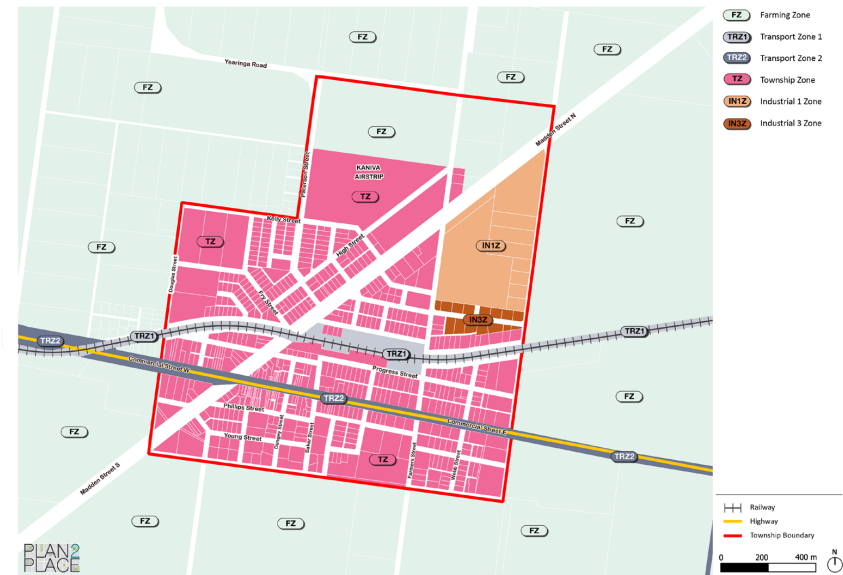




**Figure 33: Kaniva Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-11**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Kaniva are shown in **Figure 34** and are summarised below:

- The TZ applies to land within Kaniva.
- The INZ1 applies to land within the existing township boundary.
- The INZ3 applies to land adjoining the INZ1 zone behind some residential housing that abuts the train line.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The TRZ applies to land for declared roads, railways and other important transportation infrastructure representing state and local designations. The TRZ1 is applied to the railway reserve land and the TRZ2 is applied to Commercial Street E.



**Figure 34: Kaniva - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Kaniva are shown in **Figure 35** and are summarised below:

- The ESO2 applies to land at the southern end of Kaniva to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The HO applies to several sites within Kaniva close to the railway line. The former Kaniva Station Building is heritage listed but is no longer standing however the platform remains intact.
- A DDO2 applies to land to the south of Madden Street North to identify areas which are affected by specific requirements relating to the design and built form of new development.



**Figure 35: Kaniva - Existing Overlays**

## 9.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Kaniva had a population of 683 people. The population of the residential catchment area for the Kaniva town centre is currently around 1,200. Trends have it steadily reducing over the forecast period to 2036. It should be noted the population of Kaniva did grow between 2016 and 2021. However, this is likely as a result of Covid-19 pandemic and the 2026 Census will enable a greater understanding of the long term impacts of the trends that occurred during the pandemic.

The number of travellers on the Western Highway, on the other hand, is likely to continue to grow in line with traffic forecasts and will provide a slowly expanding market for visitor services. A key concern for residents will be to ensure that the food and grocery offering can be maintained and updated as required. The local supermarket has recently been renovated and there is one food bank in operation to assist the community with the high cost of food.

## 9.3 Housing

The population of the town is forecast to decline despite taking account of dwelling downsizing due to demographic changes and an ageing community. The town will however need to accommodate some growth in the number of dwellings – up to 3 additional dwellings per year according to forecasts.

There are parcels of land within the TZ that are largely vacant and which could be suitable for residential development. This includes, for example, land in the north-west of the town in the area around Douglas Street; land on the south-eastern edge of the town; and the Council-owned land fronting Kelly Street which presently accommodates a little-used airstrip. Whether the privately-owned land is available for development is uncertain. Council may be able to help facilitate housing diversity and development by leveraging some Council owned land to encourage investment by affordable housing providers and/or to engage in direct housing and infrastructure provision.

The demand for new dwellings is likely to be for older age groups. Many of these people will prefer to be in smaller homes close to the services of the hospital and the town centre. There are some vacant lots among the existing development where there is potential to encourage redevelopment at higher densities and for previous farm owners to downsize to rural residential lots.

The town is connected to sewer and now potable water as a result of an extension to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. This new infrastructure may spark an upsurge in investment in housing and other activities in the town and is a factor that should be planned for now.

## 9.4 Economic Profile

Kaniva is roughly midway between Adelaide (3 hours and 20 minutes) and Melbourne (4 hours and 40 minutes) and is a convenient place to stop or rest on the journey. This has given rise to a local visitor services industry that comprises cafés, pubs and a service station in the town centre as well as two motels and a caravan park located in town as well as B&B accommodation and free pub camps. Kaniva provides places to rest, including the Madden Street car-park and the Wetlands and Fauna Park on the western edge of the town. The town is also the gateway to the Silo Art Trail, providing the western-most painted silo in Victoria as well as the home of Sheep Art.

While the number of travellers on the Western Highway will continue to grow, Kaniva faces competition for visitor expenditure from the nearby towns such as Nhill, Bordertown and Dimboola which are slightly larger and with more services. In the case of Dimboola, there is direct access to the Wimmera River and the Little Desert National Park. In improving Kaniva as a travellers' rest stop, the provision of shade will be increasingly important. When upgrading the streetscape of the town centre, consideration should be given to the planting of shade trees, as well as extending verandas for the length of the pedestrian strip (particularly on the north side). Strengthening the provision of electric vehicle charging stations would also be beneficial. Council could also consider the provision of improved trailer and caravan parking spaces.

Kaniva has an industrial precinct located at the north east edge of the town. This comprises:

- Approximately 18.8 hectares of IN1Z land which is mostly vacant apart from three businesses on lots of 0.4 hectares or less.
- Approximately 3 hectares of IN3Z land on an adjacent site of which about 2 hectares is vacant.
- Approximately 2.7 hectares of adjacent land being used for industrial purposes in the TZ.

The zoning of land for industry in the precinct is somewhat problematic, with the TZ in particular, which allows housing to be interspersed with industrial activities. There may be some scope to reform the town's zoning to ensure that existing and future housing is kept separate from the industrial activity and to support industrial activities. The area of industrial land should be ample for likely future investment over the forecast period.

Agricultural supplies, storage and works depots are currently the principal activities in the precinct.

The residential and commercial areas of the town are currently covered by a TZ. If more functional zones were to be introduced, it would be a straightforward matter to identify an appropriate area for the Commercial 1 Zone to cover the town centre. There is only one vacant parcel of land in the main commercial centre.

## 9.5 Movement and Transport

Kaniva is on the Western Highway and it has an infrequent bus service to Horsham that runs once a week. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Kaniva is via private vehicle. There is an EV charging station on Madden Street North.

Kaniva is on the Serviceton line however the train no longer stops at Kaniva. The rail corridor is under lease to the ARTC. VicTrack boundaries are marked in dashed dark blue in **Figure 36**. The land under ARTC lease is orange and the land which is bright green is vacant land not under lease. Land shown yellow in **Figure 37** is Crown land within the station precinct.



**Figure 36: Station Precinct with VicTrack Boundaries and Vacant Land**



**Figure 37: Yellow Crown Land in the Station Precinct**



### 9.6 Physical Infrastructure

Since the discovery of alleged illegal dumping of waste 15 km south of Kaniva, GWM Water has been working closely with the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPAV), local government and other relevant agencies to ensure the safety of Kaniva's water supply.

Potable water is now available to the town. Water is available for industrial fire flows however industrial customers need to pay a fee to meet the building code's requirements.

There is a gravity sewer system in Kaniva to treat wastewater. However, the capacity of the waste water treatment plant needs to be increased to support growth in the town. Some homes remain on septic tanks and are not connected to the sewage treatment system.

### 9.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The town has a commercial services centre on the main Highway. The Kaniva hospital provides urgent care, acute care, residential aged care and community health services. Kaniva College P-12 Government school is one of three in the Shire. The Kaniva Kindergarten provides pre-school education services.

The main food and grocery outlet is a small IGA supermarket of approximately 650 sqm. There is a small selection of speciality retailers, including cafés, a butcher, pharmacy, hardware/agricultural supplies, hairdresser, thrift shop and puppet shop as well as a tattoo parlour, beauty salons, a post office and a homewares shop.

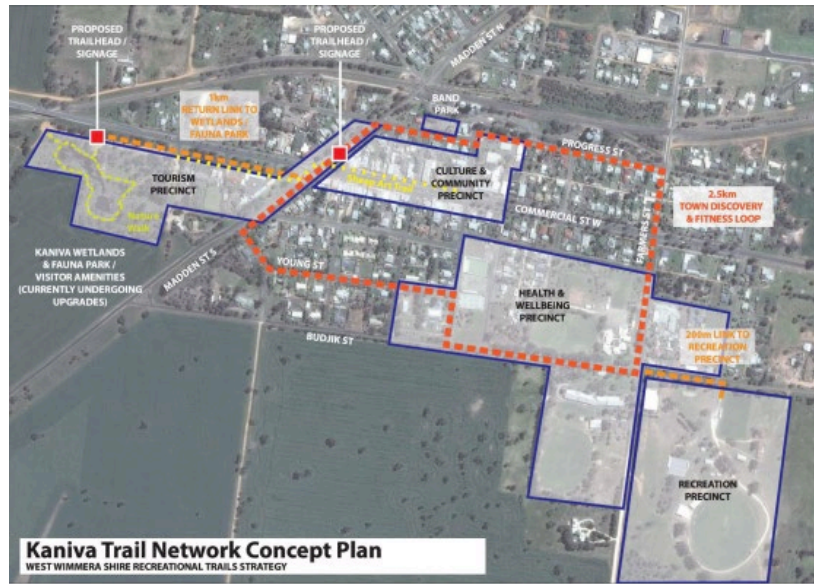
There are two hotels with accommodation in the town centre, catering to residents and visitors. The eastern end of the centre around Baker Street has a number of civic functions including the Kaniva Shire Hall, Council offices, library and police station. There are a limited number of professional services. The town has a combined service station and café which is a community enterprise, saved from closure by residents of the town. The strip has some vacant shops. There are also several former commercial buildings that appear to have been repurposed for housing. There is no bank, although there is a post office which has some banking facilities. There is extensive visitor parking on the service roads as well as in Madden Street North where there are public toilets.

Kaniva has a Recreation Reserve that houses active sports groups including cricket, hockey football and netball. This land is owned by DEECA and managed by a Committee of Management. There is also a tennis, bowls club and a rifle range. Funds are being sought for an upgrade to the Kaniva swimming pool including a splash park. A gun club is also located in the north west of the town on the airstrip.



*Kaniva Bowling and Croquet Club*

The Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park is a popular spot with locals and visitors. The Wetlands and Fauna Park was upgraded in 2018/19 as part of a community partnership project instigated by Kaniva & District Progress Association. There is the Sheep Art Trail connecting the Silo Art, Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park to the main street. There is a concept plan for a town discovery and fitness loop, starting at the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park and connecting back to the town centre. For further details see the Kaniva Trail Network Concept Plan at **Figure 38**.



**Figure 38: Kaniva Trail Network Concept Plan**

Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy Nov 2018

## 9.8 Built Form and Heritage

The Kaniva town centre extends along the Western Highway but is principally concentrated in the area from just east of the intersection with Baker Street to just west of the intersection with Madden Street.

The Western Highway is a major through-route and the commercial activities on the northern and southern side of the road are accessed via two service roads, each separated from the Highway by a median strip. This acts as a barrier to movement between the two sides of the main street.

The core centre has had extensive landscape treatment including planting of vines on verandas and paving as well as some public art in the form of decorated grazing sheep scattered throughout. There is a rest area including a small shady park on the former Methodist church site at the corner of the Highway and Baker Street.



*Painted Sheep – Kaniva*

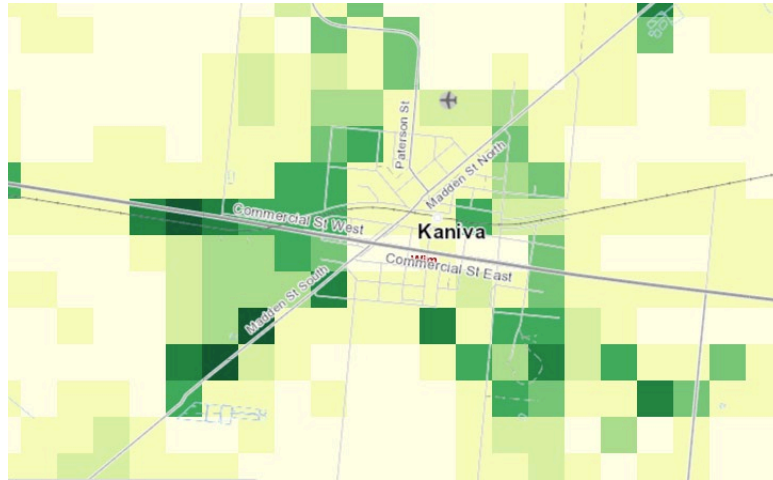
## 9.9 Landscape and Environment

Kaniva is not at significant risk of bushfire, however Terramatrix has led a bushfire assessment and the delivery of a Bushfire Development Report (BDR) that meets the requirements of the WWPS Clause 13.02. This has taken into account relevant building and bushfire regulations for the town. Kaniva has limited flooding issues, mainly from stormwater flooding. Kaniva sits on land that was once a retreated ancient sea and there is a limestone aquifer which sits under the Kaniva district.

Kaniva is located in the Wimmera bioregion in the far west of the central Victoria, typified by flat to gently undulating plains in the east, with black and grey cracking clay soils (Vertosols). Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland are the dominant ecosystems.

The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges with interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils (Vertosols and Sodosols). The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 39** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green.



**Figure 39: Kaniva – Biodiversity Values**

#### 9.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

##### Issues

- While the trainline runs through the town, passenger services are no longer available to residents to board in Kaniva.
- There is insufficient public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport.
- Manage any impacts from industry runoff into the wetlands that may cause pollution.
- There is a lack of key worker housing.
- Current trends are that population loss will continue.
- There is limited short term or long term rental accommodation available in Kaniva.
- There is a limited local housing construction industry to provide new housing in the town.

- There is a mismatch between the cost to build a house and the market value of a house making it unviable to build dwellings unless property prices were to increase or housing building costs were to decline.
- There is a need for more key worker and higher quality housing.
- Land banking is an issue.
- There are not enough staff or places for childcare.
- Kaniva is bisected by the Western Highway which is a major truck route day and night.

##### Opportunities

- Leverage the potential for town development provided by potable water infrastructure.
- Kaniva has a slowly reducing residential catchment but there is growth in the demand for visitor services as traffic on the Western Highway continues to increase.
- Kaniva is part of the Silo Art Trail which attracts visitors to the town.
- Attract more visitors and visitors to the area by improving wayfinding signage to the Wetlands and Fauna Park.
- Opportunity to collaborate with the BGLC to develop and install culturally relevant signage that identifies local plants and animals in traditional language, fostering education, language revitalization, and connection to Country.
- Bird watching and ecotourism could be a major attraction for visitors in the area and should be explored further.
- Kaniva location provides opportunities to promote itself as Victoria's 'Bordertown' including new billboard signage.
- Overnight accommodation offerings could be expanded and upgraded to attract more tourists and visitors to the area.
- There are likely to be opportunities in the "silver economy" as well as visitor services.
- Explore the development of a free camp on the old racecourse, at the Wetlands and the Recreation Reserve.
- Greater low cost and affordable housing options in the town.
- Diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.



- Significant public land holdings including the Council owned airstrip to facilitate desired outcomes.
- Providing apprenticeships for local people to upskill in building and construction.
- Maintaining the liveability of the town including the attractiveness of the town centre, as well as ensuring that there is sufficient serviced and available land for commercial, industrial and residential development.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- Provision of electric vehicle charging stations in easily accessible locations for visitors and travellers.
- Improvements to trailer and caravan parking spaces in the town.
- Exploring opportunities for additional key worker housing.
- Further development of the local construction industry would assist in providing new housing for Kaniva.
- Explore opportunities for marketing support for new businesses.
- Explore the viability of a business incubator or coworking space for the town.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Kaniva are detailed in **Table 7**.

**Table 7: Kaniva Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Kaniva
<b>Catchment Population</b>	Up to 1,200
<b>Role in the Hierarchy</b>	Town
<b>Existing Infrastructure</b>	Potable water is now available. Limited reticulated sewage system available.
<b>Other Services Available</b>	Accommodation, hotels, professional, civic and recreational services. Some retailing including hardware, and agricultural services
<b>Growth Capacity</b>	The town has capacity to grow.
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	Minimal growth expected
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and implement a Structure Plan for Kaniva.</li> <li>• Advocate for increased public transport to and from Kaniva.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate key worker housing and increase quality of housing.</li> <li>• Explore options to provide more places for childcare for residents in the town and the staff to facilitate places.</li> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage to attract more visitors to the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park.</li> <li>• Work with the BGLC to provide signage of local plants and animals in language.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to grow bird watching and eco-tourism.</li> <li>• Promote Kaniva as Victoria's 'Bordertown' encouraging people to stop and stay on way to Adelaide.</li> <li>• Expand and upgrade overnight accommodation offerings to attract more tourists and visitors to the area.</li> <li>• Explore options to work with a housing provider to provide low cost and affordable housing in the town.</li> <li>• Explore options to diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for apprenticeships for local people to upskill in building and construction.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is sufficient serviced and available land for commercial, industrial and residential development.</li> <li>• Facilitate more electric vehicle charging stations.</li> <li>• Consider the provision of improved trailer and caravan parking spaces.</li> <li>• Leverage opportunities associated with being part of the Silo Art Trail.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> <li>• Determine future land use opportunities for the Kaniva airstrip including existing users.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Kaniva Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve in the town boundary.</li> <li>• Include the Kaniva College in the town boundary.</li> <li>• Include the Kaniva Wetlands Fauna Park and Kaniva Racecourse Reserve into the town boundary to recognise their important recreation and tourism roles.</li> <li>• Consider including land on the west side of Paterson Street between Kelly Street and Yeararinga Road in the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current residential land uses. Consider rezoning to an urban zone to reflect the residential land uses.</li> </ul>



## 10. FUTURE SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

### 10.1 Determining a Settlement Strategy

The Small Towns Plan (STP) provides improved strategic directions for the West Wimmera Shire for the management and direction of its five towns. A revised settlement hierarchy is proposed that promotes settlement growth or containment, consistent with the availability of infrastructure, environmental constraints, existing supply and demand, and state and local government policy and strategy. The STP has been developed in response to increasing pressure to maintain and enhance the sustainability of the small towns and settlements within the Shire.

Growth in West Wimmera is influenced by many factors, including population loss, bushfire and flood risk, community infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and the availability of utility services. Reticulated water is available in Edenhope and Kaniva. Reticulated sewerage is not provided to all of towns in the Shire and the provision of these services is the responsibility of water authorities and private sector utility providers. These factors have been considered in informing the recommendations for future growth in the Shire.

Key findings and recommendations of the STP include:

- A clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- An updated Strategic Framework Plan at Clause 02.04 that includes a settlement framework.
- A suite of planning scheme amendment documents to support the implementation of the STP, including changes to the MPS and PPF.
- Finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope and Aspley.
- Prepare a structure plan for Kaniva to further develop:
  - A vision for the town.
  - Identify key actions and priorities for capital works
  - Identify implementation of any changes to the MPS and PPF of the WWPS.
  - Prepare design guidelines for new development.

- Prepare a structure plan for Edenhope subject to funding.
- Prepare structure plans for Gorokey, Harrow and Aspley subject to funding.
- Map flood risks as appropriate, as part of the preparation of structure plans for Edenhope and Harrow.
- Review existing heritage and marketing of Harrow and resident/visitor needs in terms of signage, trails networks, heritage interpretation and promote the experience of Harrow to the visitor market.
- Map fire risk as part of the preparation of structure plans for Harrow, Gorokey and Aspley.

The existing settlement strategy for the small towns is identified in the WWPS. This reflects the designations applied in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP and outlined in **Table 8**.

While the hierarchy has been analysed and reviewed, no change is recommended to this settlement hierarchy as a result of the STP as shown below.

**Table 8: Current and Proposed Settlement Designations**

Town	Existing planning scheme designation	Regional Growth Plan designation	Proposed planning scheme designation
<b>Apsley</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Edenhope</b>	District Town	District Town	District Town
<b>Gorokey</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Harrow</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Kaniva</b>	Town	Town	Town

## 10.2 Strategic Framework

The WWPS will be enhanced to provide clearer direction for land use and development in the five small towns consistent with the direction set out in the Small Towns Plan. This includes changes to the MPS, and through local planning policy.

### *MPS Recommendations*

The following recommendations are made to the MPS in the WWPS:

- Update Clause 02.03-1 Settlement with the settlement hierarchy for the five towns and related strategic directions.
- Strengthen the strategic directions around bushfire and flooding at Clause 02.03-3 in relation to the five towns.
- Update Clause 02.04 to reflect the settlement hierarchy for the five towns, show agricultural land and include identified environmental risks.
- Update Clause 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage with strategic directions to incorporate recommendations such as the need for additional tree planting to mitigate climate change impacts and opportunities to incorporate aboriginal cultural heritage into the built environment.
- Update 02.03-6 Housing to reflect the challenges for the towns in supplying housing and introduce a strategic direction in relation to key worker housing.
- Update Clause 02.03-7 Economic development to provide strategic directions on tourism opportunities in the towns.
- Update Clause 02.03-9 Infrastructure to highlight the challenges of water and sewerage infrastructure in the towns and the implications on development of the towns.

### *Strategic Framework Plan*

The current Strategic Framework Plan for West Wimmera currently reflects the hierarchy included in the STP. However, several improvements to the cartography and content of the map could be made to provide clearer directions on land use and development for the municipality. **Figure 40** outlines a proposed map for inclusion at Clause 02.04 of the WWPS.

### *PPF Recommendations*

The following recommendations are made to the PPF in the WWPS:

- Update Clause 11.01-1L-01 Settlement – Edenhope to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-02 Settlement – Kaniva to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-03 Settlement – Apsley to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-04 Settlement – Goroke to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-05 Settlement – Harrow to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 74.02 Further Strategic work – To facilitate the preparation of Structure Plans for the towns and finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope, Harrow and Apsley.

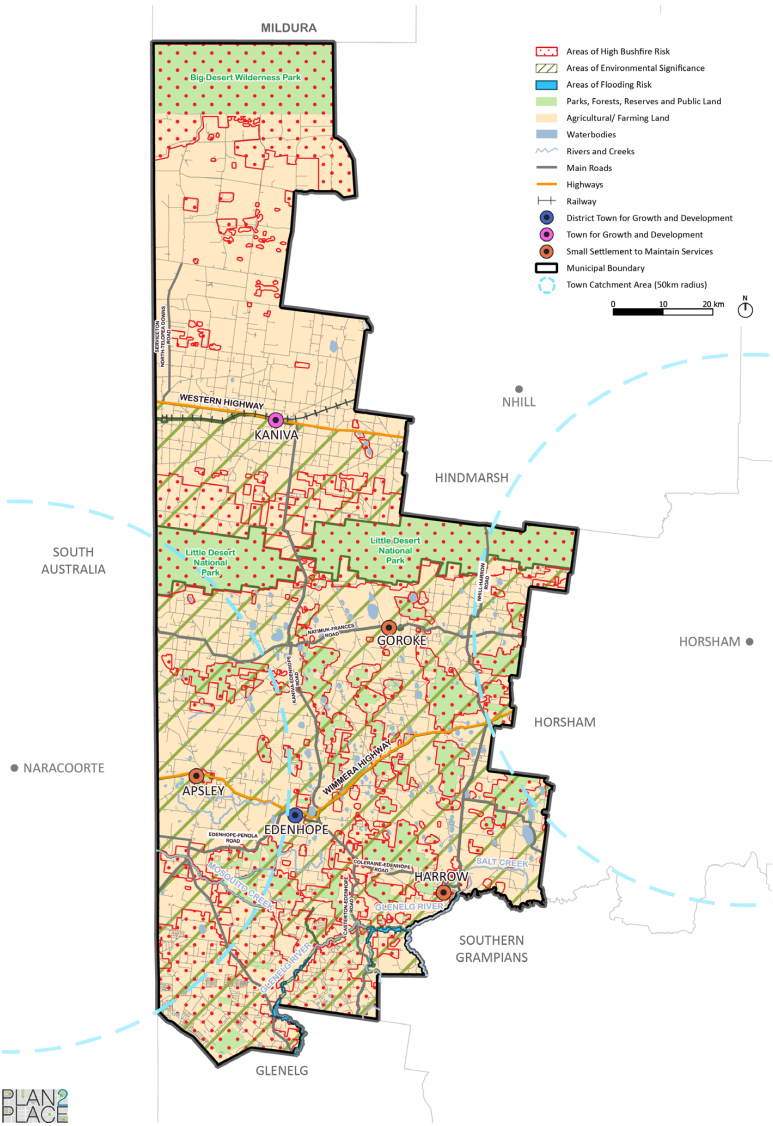


Figure 40: Proposed Strategic Framework Plan Update

## Appendix A – Content overview from the WWPS

### *Clause 11 Settlement*

**Clause 11.01-1S – Settlement** promotes the sustainable growth and development of Victoria to deliver choice and opportunity through a network of settlements. Strategies plan for the delivery of 2.24 million homes across Victoria by 2051. The settlement framework aims for housing choice and convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities, taking account of regional and municipal contexts and frameworks.

Investment and growth is focused in the Melbourne Central City, Metropolitan Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop Precincts in Metropolitan Melbourne, Priority Precincts (including the Suburban Rail Loop East Precincts), Major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and Regional cities of Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Expansion of settlements is managed by creating and reinforcing settlement boundaries (or to existing urban zoned land), promoting urban renewal and infill redevelopment, limiting urban sprawl with growth in existing settlements and not compromising land for future urban expansion.

Growth in population and development of facilities and services is planned across a regional or sub-regional network in accordance with housing targets with best use of existing and planned transport infrastructure. Transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements are coordinated through the identification of servicing priorities with strengthened national freight networks.

Networks of high-quality integrated settlements, suburbs and towns are to be delivered as well as environmentally resilient settlements. Plan for Victoria and the Victorian Housing Statement are policy documents.

**Clause 11.01-1R – Settlement** seeks to deliver networks of high-quality integrated regional settlements by building on strengths and capabilities of each region to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments plus a range of other factors. The role of Horsham is reinforced as the key population and employment centre for the region. Edenhope is identified as a district town and key service hub where growth and development is encouraged while Kaniva is identified as providing local and some sub-regional services. Easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities is to be

provided particularly in Horsham and district towns along with an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land.

**Clause 11.01-01L-05L – Settlement** sets out local settlement policies for each town.

### *Clause 12 Environmental and Landscape Values*

**Clause 12.01-1S – Protection of biodiversity** focuses on protecting and enhancing Victoria's biodiversity by identifying and strategically planning for the protection and conservation of important areas of biodiversity through recognition of various international conventions.

**Clause 12.01-1L – Protection of biodiversity – West Wimmera** – seeks to protect the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo and Jumping Jack Wattle habitat within the Shire through clear delineation of boundaries and protection from incursion by adjacent land uses. Planting of native species and management of weeds is encouraged.

**Clause 12.01-2S – Native vegetation management** aims to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation by avoiding the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, minimising impacts where vegetation removal cannot be avoided and providing offsets to compensate for biodiversity impacts where vegetation removal is required.

**Clause 12.03-1S – River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs** seeks to protect these areas for their significant economic, environmental and cultural assets by conserving surrounding systems and landscapes and environmental values. Design and development should be sensitively designed to protect the waterway system while recreation and amenity values and a sense of place and landscape are also to be protected.

### *Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity*

**Clause 13.02-1S – Bushfire planning** prioritises the protection of human life over all other policy considerations, directing growth to low risk locations. It identifies and assesses bushfire hazard, applying the Bushfire Management Overlay and considering bushfire hazard on the basis of the site, neighbourhood and local

conditions. Strategies promote future land use and development that will not result in increased bushfire risk to existing and future communities.

**Clause 13.03-1S – Floodplain management** focuses on protecting life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard along with the natural flood carrying capacity of these areas enabling flood storage to occur. Intensifying development in areas impacted by the 1 in 100 year flood event is to be avoided including the consideration of cumulative impacts.

*Clause 14 Natural Resource Management*

**Clause 14.01-1S – Protection of agricultural land** aims to protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland. Strategies seek to identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture and to protect it from incompatible uses or loss due to changes in land use without consideration of the economic importance of the land for agricultural production. New housing in rural areas should be avoided by directing housing growth into existing settlements and discouraging development in isolated small lots in rural zones. When considering proposals to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, land capability and compatibility between the proposed development and the existing use of the surrounding land should be assessed.

**Clause 14.01-1L – Protection of agricultural land – West Wimmera** seeks to consolidate land holdings in the Farming Zone to increase economies of scale and ensure viability of farms and ensure a clear link between the need for a dwelling and the agricultural use of the land.

**Clause 14.01-2S – Sustainable agricultural land use** encourages sustainable agricultural land use and ensuring that agricultural and productive rural land use activities are managed to maintain the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resources.

**Clause 14.01-2R – Agricultural productivity – West Wimmera Southern Mallee** seeks to support local industries, activities and infrastructure that complements and enhances the region's agricultural sector and facilitate opportunities presented by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

**Clause 14.02-1S – Catchment planning and management** aims to protect and restore catchments, waterways, and marine environments. The clause seeks to ensure clean drinking water by safeguarding catchments, considering

downstream impacts on water quality, maintaining natural drainage corridors, minimising stormwater runoff, filtering sediment and wastes, enhancing waterway environments during development, and reducing nutrient contributions and sediment discharges. Coordination with catchment management authorities and designing infrastructure to minimise harm to surface waters and groundwater are also emphasised.

*Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage*

**Clause 15.01-1S – Urban Design** aims to create environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity.

**Clause 15.01-2S – Building Design** aims to achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.

**Clause 15.01-3L – Subdivision design – West Wimmera** encourages residential subdivision to include permeable fencing of landscaping in areas adjacent to roads and reserves.

**Clause 15.01-4S – Healthy neighbourhoods** seeks to achieve neighbourhoods that foster healthy and active living and community wellbeing.

**Clause 15.01-5S – Neighbourhood character** seeks to recognise, support and protect neighbourhood character, cultural identity and sense of place.

**Clause 15.01-6S – Design for rural areas** seeks to ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.

**Clause 15.03-1S – Heritage conservation** aims to ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance by identifying and protecting through the planning scheme. Providing protection, conservation and enhancement of significant places and encouraging appropriate development is also identified.

**Clause 15.03-2S – Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation** aims to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance by identifying and protecting through the planning scheme. Providing protection and conservation of both pre-contact and post-contact places and ensuring that permit approvals align with any relevant Cultural Heritage Management Plan are also identified.

*Clause 16 Housing*

**Clause 16.01-1S – Housing supply** aims to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs. The key strategy is focused on accommodating identified housing targets by ensuring zones and overlays deliver sufficient realisable development capacity. The West Wimmera Shire housing target is for an additional 200 dwellings to 2051 (comprising only an established area target). Other strategies seek to ensure an appropriate quantity, quality and mix of housing types and lot sizes are provided, with an increased portion of housing provided in established urban areas that are well served by jobs, services and public transport. Development should provide well designed housing that provides a high level of amenity and provides an adaptable internal design.

**Clause 16.01-2S – Housing affordability** aims to improve housing affordability by ensuring a continued land supply to meet demand. The policy also aims to facilitate a choice of housing type, tenure and cost in suburbs, activity centres, infill and surplus government land and encourage a significant portion of new development to be affordable for low to moderate income households.

**Clause 16.01-3S – Rural residential development** aims to manage rural residential development to avoid hindering future urban growth opportunities and discourage reliance on irrigation water supply. The clause advocates for diverse and flexible lot sizes to mitigate low density residential “sprawl”. Existing character, density patterns, site constraints, infrastructure provision and land capability should be considered when determining appropriate lot sizes and development.

*Clause 17 Economic Development*

**Clause 17.01-1S – Diversified economy** aims to diversify the economy by protecting existing and planned new employment areas, facilitating regional relationships to harness emerging economic opportunities. Growth is to be facilitated building on the emerging and existing strengths of the region. Improving access to jobs and supporting rural economies to grow and diversify is also supported.

**Clause 17.01-1R – Diversified economy – West Wimmera** aims to capitalise on the municipality’s opportunities including agriculture, energy, mining and tourism. Facilitating the use of secure water supplies to develop the economy is also encouraged.

**Clause 17.03-1R – Industrial land supply – Wimmera Southern Mallee** aims to provide ongoing supply of industrial land particularly in towns including Edenhope and facilitating new opportunities due to the investment of the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline.

**Clause 17.04-1R – Tourism – Wimmera Southern Mallee** aims to support and provide direction on the location of tourism development. Facilitating nature based tourism around key attractions including the Little Desert National Park and major lakes is encouraged along with economic opportunities presented by the region’s wetlands and lakes to encourage more tourism.

*Clause 18 Transport*

**Clause 18.01-1S – Land use and transport integration** seeks to protect existing and planned transport infrastructure from encroachment and development that could prejudice such development and to plan movement networks and land uses to minimise disruption to residential communities. Strategies also seek to plan for the timely delivery of transport infrastructure to support changing land uses and transport demands, including public transport, walking and cycling within existing urban areas.

*Clause 19 Infrastructure*

**Clause 19.02- 4S – Social and cultural infrastructure** aims to ensure a fair distribution of, and access to, social and cultural infrastructure. The clause seeks to identify and address gaps in facilities, encouraging their location in activity centres, and ensuring they are accessible. It emphasises early delivery of social infrastructure in growth areas, adaptable design of community buildings to accommodate changing populations, and innovative service delivery in areas with limited growth.

**Clause 19.02-4R – Social and cultural infrastructure – Wimmera Southern Mallee** seeks to maintain and enhance social and community facilities in key service centres particularly district towns ensuring they are sustainable and continue to attract new residents.

**Clause 19.02-4L – Recreational facilities** seeks to ensure recreational facilities provide for year-round activities and seeks to encourage water based activities and facilities in suitable locations.

**Clause 19.02-6S – Open space** aims to develop a diverse and integrated public open space network that meets community needs. It seeks to include planning



regional and local open spaces for recreation and conservation, ensuring connectivity through walking and cycling trails, maintaining public access to waterways and coasts, and improving the quality and distribution of open spaces.

**Clause 19.03-1S – Development and infrastructure contributions plans** aims to facilitate the timely provision of planned infrastructure to communities through the preparation and implementation of development contributions plans and infrastructure contributions plans. Strategies also promote the integrated provision of water supply, water resources, sewerage, drainage and stormwater as well as utilities such as electricity, gas (not new connections) and telecommunications.

**Clause 72.08 – Background documents** includes the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan. The regional settlement network from the RGP is shown in **Figure 41**.

**Clause 74.02 – Further strategic work** is a concise list of strategic planning projects that Council intends to complete before the next planning scheme review. For West Wimmera there are no projects identified in the schedule to the clause.

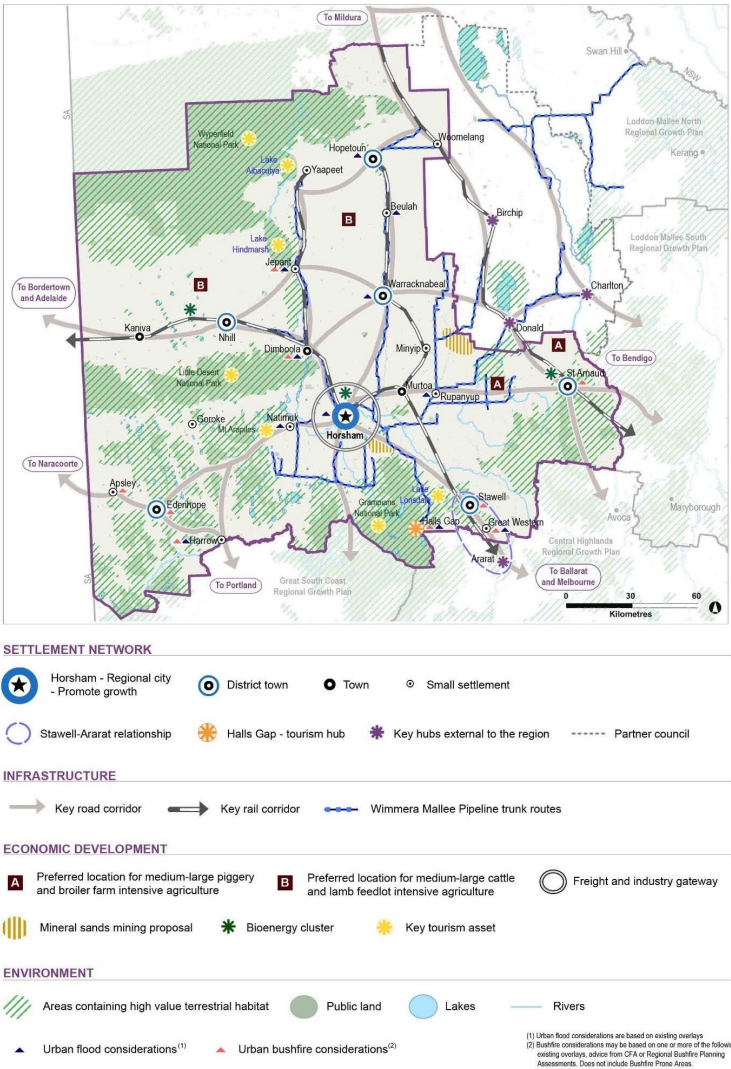


Figure 41: Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan

### 10.3 Zones

There are a range of zones applied to the towns in the WWPS as summarised below. The relevant zones affecting the towns are shown in the town profiles.

#### *Clause 32.05 Township Zone (TZ)*

The Township Zone (TZ) is applied to small towns with no specific structure of residential, commercial, industrial and public uses. Development should be connected to reticulated sewerage unless an alternative potable water supply is provided to the satisfaction of Council.

#### *Clause 33.01 Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)*

The Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) is applied to land where the industrial land uses and associated commercial uses are promoted. Other than a caretaker's house, all other forms of accommodation are prohibited.

#### *Clause 33.03 Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z)*

The Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) serves as a transitional buffer between industrial and residential areas, addressing issues like industrial traffic, noise and emissions. It is applied in industrial zones needing special attention to minimise conflicts and promote less hazardous uses. The zone includes amenity standards based on specified separation distances. A schedule restricts maximum office floor space, shops and supermarkets outside the Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and accommodation and hospitals are prohibited uses.

#### *Clause 35.03 Rural Living Zone (RLZ)*

The Rural Living Zone (RLZ) seeks to provide for residential use in a rural environment and supporting agricultural land uses that do not affect surrounding amenity. It aims to protect and enhance natural resources, biodiversity, and landscape and heritage values, while promoting sustainable land management and infrastructure provision.

#### *Clause 35.07 Farming Zone (FZ)*

The Farming Zone (FZ) is applied to encourage the retention of productive agricultural land and employment and population to support rural communities. The zone provides a minimum lot size of 40 hectares unless an alternative is specified in a schedule to the zone. The creation of smaller lots is allowed under particular circumstances.

#### *Clause 36.01 Public Use Zone (PUZ)*

The Public Use Zone (PUZ) is applied to public land recognising land use for public utility, infrastructure and community services. It requires the public land manager's approval/consent for land management and development. The PUZ2 relates to education land uses, the PUZ3 relates to health and community land uses while the PUZ5 relates to cemetery/crematorium land uses.

#### *Clause 36.02 Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)*

The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) is applied to public parkland including reserves and parks recognising areas for public recreation and open space and protecting and conserving areas of significance where appropriate.

#### *Clause 36.03 Public Conservation and Recreation Zone (PCRZ)*

The Public Conservation and Recreation Zone (PCRZ) is applied to places where the primary intention is to conserve and protect the natural environment or resources such as public conservation reserves and parks and allows associated educational activities and resource-based uses.

#### *Clause 36.04 Transport Zone (TRZ)*

The Transport Zone (TRZ) is applied to land for declared roads, railways and other important transportation infrastructure representing state and local designations. The TRZ1 is applied to railway land and the TRZ2 is applied to main roads.

#### *Clause 37.01 Special Use Zone (SUZ)*

The Special Use Zone (SUZ) provides for tailored provisions for a wide range of purposes, such as showgrounds, freight logistics centres and tourism precincts. It forms part of a suite of special purpose zones that are used when a standard zone cannot address the individual circumstances of a site.

### 10.4 Overlays

There are a range of overlays applied to the towns in the WWPS. These are summarised below. The relevant overlays affecting the towns are shown in the town profiles.

#### *Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)*

The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) is applied to areas where the development of land may be affected by either environmental constraints such as the effects from noise or industrial buffer areas or issued related to the

significance of the natural environment. ESO2 relates to the protection of the Red-tailed black cockatoo habitat.

*Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay (HO)*

The Heritage Overlay (HO) is applied to a heritage place with a recognised citation identified through the Victorian Heritage Register or in a local heritage study. A heritage place should include a statement of significance, establishing the importance of the place, and can affect land, buildings, trees and/or vegetation.

*Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay (DDOO)*

The Design and Development Overlay (DDO) manages built form and the built environment through building height and setback provisions. DDO1 applies to the Edenhope Industrial Precinct while DDO2 is applied to the Kaniva Industrial Precinct, with both aiming to ensure high quality development.

*Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO)*

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) is applied to land that is subject to inundation related to flooding from waterways but is not part of the primary floodway as identified by the relevant floodplain management authority.

*Clause 44.06 Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)*

The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) identifies areas where the bushfire hazard requires bushfire protection measures to be implemented, seeking to ensure that development of land prioritises the protection of human life and strengthens community resilience to bushfire. Development is permitted only where the risk to life and property from bushfire can be reduced to an acceptable level.

*Clause 45.03 Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)*

The Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) is applied to sites that have known, identified or reasonably suspected contamination or potential contamination.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Small Towns of West Wimmera that form the subject of this report are located on the lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagalk Nations and Gunditjmara people. They are acknowledged as the Traditional Owners of their traditional lands and waters.

A Recognition and Settlement Agreement has been signed between the Victorian Government and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) on behalf of the Wotjobaluk Nation. The State is to facilitate relationships between local government and the BGLC under this agreement.

The Local Government Engagement Strategy provides direction on how this could occur, which will inform the development and implementation actions of the Small Towns Plan. This includes:

- Opportunities for renaming, signage and interpretive information.
- Consulting in relation to the preparation of studies/plans that impact issues including roadsides, public health, wellbeing, and fire management.
- Recognising that Traditional Owner businesses can make valuable and unique contributions to local economies and communities: driving innovation, providing access to new markets, creating new jobs and attracting visitors.
- Management of Council controlled lands and waters that should be undertaken with WJJWJ People recognising their role as sole managers of their lands and waters.
- Developing a framework for ensuring alignment of each planning scheme with WJJWJ People's rights, interests and aspirations.
- Identifying, assessing and documenting places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance for inclusion in the planning scheme

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We respectfully acknowledge that every project enabled or assisted by Plan2Place Consulting in Victoria exists on traditional aboriginal lands which have been sustained for thousands of years.*

*We honour their ongoing connection to these lands and seek to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians in our work.*





# WEST WIMMERA SMALL TOWNS PLAN

September 2025



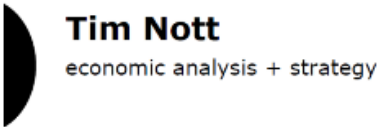
This report is the Small Towns Plan for the Department of Transport and Planning and West Wimmera Shire Council. It has been prepared with expertise, advice and inputs from the consultant team of Plan2Place Consulting, Tim Nott Economics and Wayfarer Consulting, using background reports and information provided by Council and from other government sources. The report issue date is ~~August~~ September 2025.

Every reasonable effort has been made to validate information provided by the client, Department staff, Council staff, stakeholders and other participants in the preparation of this report throughout the project during 2024 and 2025.

The report has been prepared in conjunction with the West Wimmera Shire Council and Department of Planning and Transport and is based upon up-to-date information provided at the time of report preparation and finalisation.

No part of the report can be replicated or reproduced in part or whole (other than by the West Wimmera Shire Council, Department of Transport and Planning or the consultant team) without the permission of Plan2Place Consulting – see [www.plan2place.com.au](http://www.plan2place.com.au).

Version	Date	Notes
V1	20 November 2024	Draft Prepared for Council and DTP Officer Review
V2	28 January 2025	Draft for Council Executive Review
V3	18 June 2025	Draft Prepared for Councillors
V4	20 June 2025	Draft revision for Councillors
V5	30 June 2025	Draft incorporating Councillor comments
V6	7 July 2025	Draft for Councillor endorsement
V7	21 August 2025	Draft for Council adoption following community consultation
V8	<del>5</del> September 2025	Draft following Cr Briefing





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## ABBREVIATIONS AND LEGISLATION

### Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BAL	Bushfire Attack Level
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council
BMO	Bushfire Management Overlay
C1Z	Commercial 1 Zone
Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
DEECA	Department of Energy Environment and Climate Change
DELWP	Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DDO	Design and Development Overlay
EPAV	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Development
FZ	Farming Zone
FO	Flooding Overlay
HO	Heritage Overlay
IN1Z	Industrial Zone 1
IN3Z	Industrial Zone 3
LSIO	Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
LDRZ	Low Density Residential Zone
MPS	Municipal Planning Strategy
PCRZ	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
PPRZ	Public Park and Recreation Zone
PPF	Planning Policy Framework
PUZ	Public Use Zone
RRV	Regional Roads Victoria
RLZ	Rural Living Zone
TZ	Township Zone
TRZ	Transport Zone
VIF2023	Victoria in Future 2023
VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions
WWPS	West Wimmera Planning Scheme

### Numeric Abbreviations

ha	hectares
%	percent
m <sup>2</sup>	metres squared
kms	kilometres
sqm	square metres

### Related Legislation and Regulations

*Planning and Environment Act 1987 (P&E Act)*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Wimmera Small Towns Plan (STP) has been developed to guide the role, function and purpose of the five largest towns in the Shire of West Wimmera (the Shire) and confirm the Municipal Settlement Strategy for West Wimmera.

Despite the significant change in population in the Shire, there have been limited updates to the planning policy framework in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme over the last 10 years. No new settlement policy has been introduced into the planning scheme since the new format schemes was introduced in February 2000.

The existing planning scheme settlement policies for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva are now outdated and do not reflect the population loss and ageing population, the challenges maintaining community services and environmental risks relating to threatened species and climate change. As a result there is a need to review and update the local settlement policies in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme to provide a framework for planning, development and investment decisions based on the current and projected social, environmental and economic context of the Shire.

Key findings and recommendations of the STP include:

- A clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- An updated Strategic Framework Plan at Clause 02.04 that includes a settlement framework.
- A suite of planning scheme amendment documents to support the implementation of the STP, including changes to the MPS and PPF.
- Finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope, Apsley and Harrow.
- Prepare a structure plan for Kaniva to further develop:
  - A vision for the town.
  - Identify key actions and priorities for capital works
  - Identify implementation of any changes to the MPS and PPF of the WWPS.
  - Prepare design guidelines for new development.

- Prepare a structure plan for Edenhope subject to funding.
- Prepare structure plans for Goroke, Harrow and Apsley subject to funding.
- Map flood risks as appropriate, as part of the preparation of structure plans for Edenhope and Harrow.
- Review existing heritage and marketing of Harrow and resident/visitor needs in terms of signage, trails networks, heritage interpretation and promote the experience of Harrow to the visitor market.
- Map fire risk as part of the preparation of structure plans for Harrow, Goroke and Apsley.

The existing settlement strategy for the small towns is identified in the WWPS. This reflects the designations applied in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP and outlined below. While the hierarchy has been analysed and reviewed, no change is recommended to this settlement hierarchy as a result of the STP shown below.

### Current and Proposed Settlement Designations

Town	Existing planning scheme designation	Regional Growth Plan designation	Proposed planning scheme designation
<b>Apsley</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Edenhope</b>	District Town	District Town	District Town
<b>Goroke</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Harrow</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Kaniva</b>	Town	Town	Town

In addition to updating the local settlement policies several recommendations are provided to guide detailed planning for each of the five towns. Future work including structure planning, will provide guidance on the most appropriate planning including zones and overlays for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva. Recommendations specific to each of the five towns are also included.

The Small Towns Plan will be implemented via an update to the MPS and updates to local planning policy and further strategic work.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Context

The West Wimmera Shire straddles the Western and Wimmera Highways, situated midway between Melbourne and Adelaide. It is bordered to the north by the Rural City of Mildura, to the south by the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Shires, and to the east by Hindmarsh Shire and the Rural City of Horsham. To the west, it shares a boundary with the South Australian border.

Approximately 30 percent (%) of the Shire consists of public land, featuring significant natural attractions such as the Big Desert and Little Desert National Parks, part of the Natiumuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes, as well as part of the Mount Arapiles – Tooan State Park. The Shire is home to over 3,000 wetlands, which make up 25% of Victoria's total wetlands, serving as vital natural assets for both the municipality and the wider region.

Covering around 9,000 square kilometres, the Shire ranks among the largest municipalities in Victoria. Despite its expansive area, the Shire had a population of 4,006 people at the 2021 census, a slight increase from 2016 which was 3,903. Prior to that, the Shire experienced population decline, attributed to shifts in agricultural practices, an increase in average farm sizes, and the movement of individuals seeking other educational and employment prospects.

As one of Victoria's most diverse and productive agricultural regions, the local economy is closely linked to the performance of the agricultural sector. With dryland cropping and grazing being the dominant agricultural practice, the trend toward larger farms for greater viability has diminished the demand for services in the small rural towns that support them.

The predominant towns in the Shire are Apsley, Edenhope, Gorokey, Harrow, and Kaniva. There are also several smaller townships located throughout the Shire, including Dergholm, Chetwynd and Serviceton.

The West Wimmera Small Towns Plan (STP) will guide the role, function and purpose of each of the five towns in the Shire and confirm the municipal settlement strategy.

The towns and the Shire's context are shown in **Figure 1**.

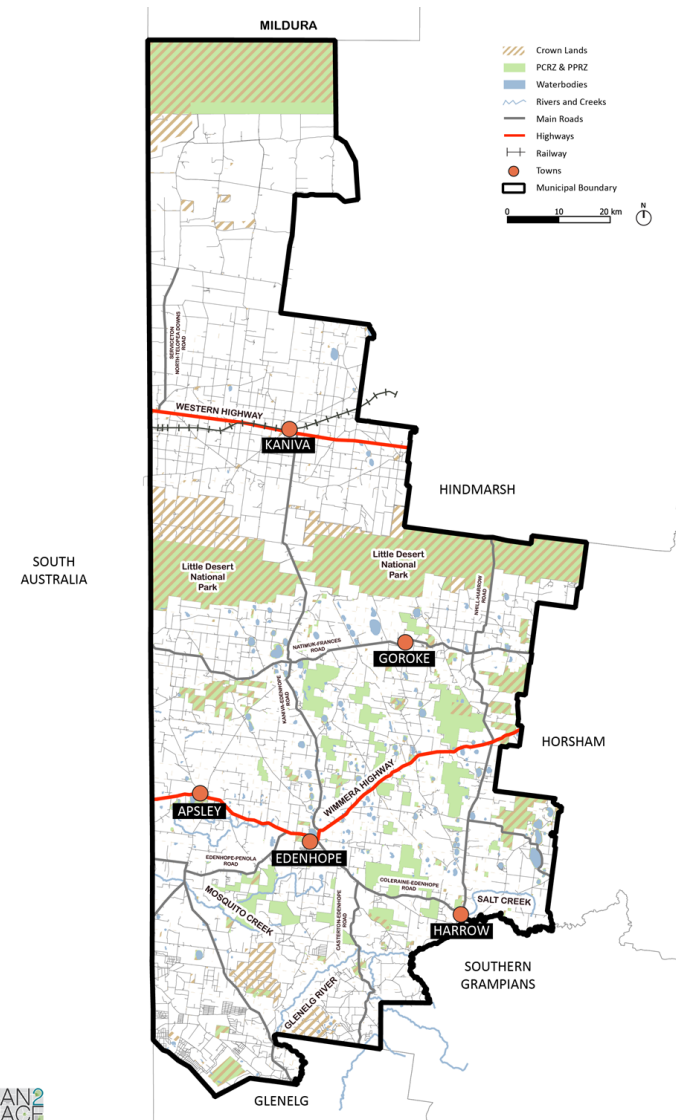


Figure 1: West Wimmera Towns in Shire Context

## 1.2 What Comprises the Small Towns Plan

The STP consists of eleven chapters that address the municipal settlement, policy and planning context, key settlement issues and themes for the towns including:

- Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context.
- Population and Demographics.
- Housing.
- Economic Profile.
- Movement and Transport.
- Physical Infrastructure.
- Community Facilities and Infrastructure.
- Built Form and Heritage.
- Landscape and Environment.
- Issues, Opportunities and Constraints.

## 1.3 What is a Small Town Plan

The STP is a plan that provides direction and guidance on the municipal settlement policies and strategies for the five towns and identifies further strategic work priorities for the towns.

The STP seeks to:

- Identify a clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Provide updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- Form the basis of a planning scheme amendment to update the policies and strategies relevant to the five towns in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme.

## 1.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Many key stakeholders and agencies have been consulted in the development of the STP to date. These include:

- Barengi Gadjin Land Council.
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) officers.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) officers
- EPA Victoria.
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.
- Regional Development Victoria.
- VicTrack.
- West Wimmera Shire Council officers.
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

## 1.5 Additional Background Reports

Two reports were commissioned to inform the STP including the:

- West Wimmera Small Towns – Social and Community Infrastructure Analysis (Wayfarer Consulting).
- Small Towns Plan – Economic Input (Tim Nott Consulting).

The evidence and findings of these reports have been included in the STP.



## 2. POLICY AND PLANNING SCHEME CONTEXT

### 2.1 State Policy

#### *A Plan for Victoria*

Plan for Victoria was released in 2025 and is structured around five pillars which are:

- Self-determination and caring for Country: underpinning and informing the other pillars.
- Housing for all Victorians: delivering sufficient affordable homes for all Victorians.
- Accessible jobs and services: making sure you have good access to facilities and good jobs.
- Great places, suburbs and towns: creating thriving places that are attractive, safe and welcoming for everyone.
- Sustainable environments: preserving the natural values of Victoria and addressing climate change.

This plan sets out housing targets for every local government area across Victoria, specifying their share of the extra 2.24 million homes that are forecast. The housing targets that have been set for West Wimmera are for an additional 200 dwellings to 2051.

The plan seeks to deliver more jobs near homes by planning for, protecting and readying commercial and industrial land for development in locations well-serviced with jobs, shops, public transport and community facilities and services.

As part the 2.24 million homes needed in Victoria by 2051, the Victorian Government has set a target to build 425,600 of those homes across the regions. There is a new \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1,300 new homes across regional Victoria. The new homes will include a mix of social and affordable housing. There is also a \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund to provide new housing options for regional communities where key workers are struggling to find affordable places to live. The package will make regional workers' jobs more secure and make it easier for businesses to find and keep staff.

#### *Delivering the Goods: Victorian Freight Plan 2018*

Delivering the Goods 2018 outlines key priorities to support Victoria's freight and logistics infrastructure amidst significant growth, driven by rising demand, global trends, and technological advancements. Freight volumes in regional Victoria are forecast to grow at an annual average rate of 1.5 per cent each year between 2014 and 2051. Towns such as Kaniva are on the Principal Freight Network for both Road and Rail which will mean more trucks on the road.

#### *Victoria's Housing Statement, 2023*

Victoria's Housing Statement has identified housing provision as one of the key challenges of the decade ahead. It aims to refresh Victoria's housing policy settings with a series of initiatives that respond to short-term issues of affordability and supply while still promoting long term economic growth.

The housing statement is supported by Amendments VC242, VC243, VC253, VC267, ~~and~~ VC276 ~~and~~ VC282 which aim to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs and to support the delivery of housing in Victoria.

Amendment VC267 revised Clause 55 to include the new Townhouse and Low Rise Code for residential multi-dwelling development. Key design changes include:

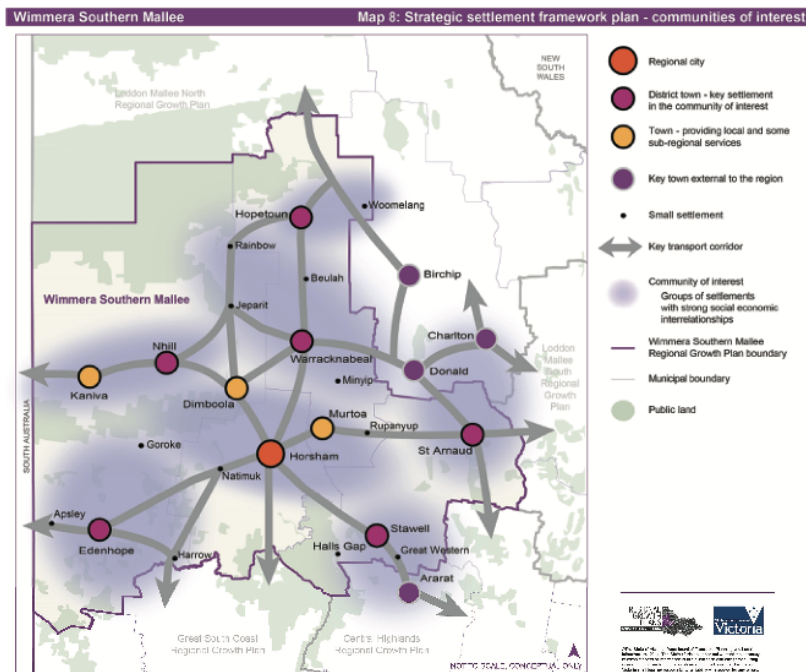
- Reduced minimum front setback of 6 metres, replacing the previous average setback rule of 9 metres.
- Private open space requirement reduced from 40 sqm to 25 sqm at ground level.
- Tree canopy coverage requirements introduced:
  - 10 per cent of site area for sites up to 1,000 sqm
  - 20 per cent of site area for sites over 1,000 sqm.
- Maximum site coverage increased to:
  - 65 per cent in General Residential Zone (GRZ)
  - 70 per cent in Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) and Residential Growth Zone (RGZ)
- Overlooking standards removed for bedroom windows only.

The recent changes to Clauses 55 and 57, as informed by the Townhouse and Low-Rise Apartment Code, have implications for the future building envelope and development standards within the West Wimmera LGA.

Amendment VC-276 amended all residential zone schedules and Neighbourhood Character Overlay schedules to implement the new residential development planning assessment provisions. Amendment VC282 aligned the single dwelling residential provisions for development on lots less than 300 sqm with the Townhouse and Low Rise Code (where relevant).

## 2.2 Regional Policy

### Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014



Source: DTPLI, 2014

**Figure 2: Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP – Settlement Hierarchy**

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (RGP) covers the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Although this document was removed as a policy document from the WWPS through Amendment VC283, it was previously endorsed by Council. The RGP The plan provides broad direction for regional land use and development in the region, and a more detailed planning framework for the regional city of Horsham and continues to be a background document in the WWPS.

In **Figure 2**, Horsham is the major centre and provides a wide range of services to the whole region and adjoining areas. Edenhope is recognised as a district town supporting surrounding communities of interest. Kaniva is recognised as a key local service centre. The towns of Apsley, Goroke and Harrow are identified as small settlements.

District towns are identified as performing an important sub-regional goods and service role, meeting smaller town and rural district needs including local government, policing and ambulance services to a surrounding rural hinterland. They have a moderately diverse population and housing base and good access to services and retail. These towns may include some higher order services such as medical / hospital services and a variety of education facilities with some larger towns having post-secondary education facilities. District towns will have utility services with some larger towns having access to reticulated gas.

Towns are similar to district towns but generally service a more localised catchment. They will have a greater reliance on other centres for services and employment.

Small settlements have low population levels. They will have access to services such as a small primary school and usually a general store with postal facilities within a small retail area. These settlements may or may not have connection to reticulated water or sewer connections. Some are popular visitor locations and their role may include a low level supply of visitor accommodation and holiday homes resulting in seasonal variations in population.

Land use policies, strategies and actions for district towns and towns are to:

- Encourage the provision and maintenance of a wide range of services and facilities.
- Provide sufficient land to enable residential and employment growth.

- Prioritise infrastructure investment towards supporting growth.
- Support transport systems that provide access.

In smaller settlements, maintaining services where feasible and encouraging limited incremental growth is supported to allow for their ongoing transition.

For all areas, key priorities are protection of the valued character of urban areas and encouraging urban development that promotes and supports high quality streetscapes and urban design and contributes to attractive and healthy urban environments.

Further direction on Edenhope and Kaniva is also provided. This is summarised in the town profiles in this report.

### 2.3 Council Strategies

#### *West Wimmera Council Plan, 2021 - 2025*

The West Wimmera Council Plan sets out a roadmap for West Wimmera Shire, outlining where the municipality is heading and what is needed to get there. The Council Plan is a legislated requirement that is required to be prepared every four years and incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Community Vision and Future Directions outlined in the Council Plan provide a strong platform for the development of the STP as outlined below:

*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.*

## Future Directions

Active, healthy and safe – supporting our community to live full and rewarding lives.

Access to the right services – working confidently with partners to ensure health, education and digital services meet our needs.

The natural environment – valuing the time our community and visitors spend enjoying the natural environment.

Our roads – a safe and sustainable road network supporting businesses, our community and visitors.

Attractive and viable town centres – great places to live, visit and do business.

Thriving economy – taking advantage of our strengths in farming, business and tourism to generate employment and share our prosperity.

Sport and recreation – facilities that encourage participation in physical activity and add to community life.

Source: West Wimmera Council Plan 2021 - 2025

#### *West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy, 2018*

The West Wimmera Recreational Trails Strategy (Strategy) provides a 10-year plan to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails and to provide a vision of what the trail network across West Wimmera will look like in the future. The Strategy aims to encourage and support active lifestyles in a positive way and address challenges faced by the Shire's residents. This includes issues related to high rates of physical inactivity as well as overweight, obesity and preventable mortality factors compared to the average across Victoria and other Australian districts. The opportunity to grow the visitor economy is also recognised.

The Strategy identifies a range of opportunities available to grow the trail network across the municipality and within the towns. This aims to build on proximity to international and national tourism features, the Shire's natural attributes, landscapes and features, location between Melbourne and Adelaide and diversity of environments.

There are a range of initiatives identified for each town to elevate the quality and extent of trails within each town.

#### *West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy 2024-2029 (WWEDS)*

The WWEDS sets out the West Wimmera community's vision for the municipal economy along with strategies and actions to achieve that vision. It is aligned to the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region of Victoria, which is the umbrella economic development strategy prepared by the Victorian Government. The WWEDS is an overarching framework that will be used to guide economic development in the municipality and articulates the role, priorities and approach. It provides the rationale for engaging with identified priority sectors and delivering outcomes through implementation plans.

There are three pillars in the WWEDS Strategy that will drive the economy. These are:

- Continuing to support the growth of the agricultural sector throughout the municipality.
- Enhancing liveability to increase amenity and grow the appeal of the municipality's towns.
- Supporting small business growth.

There are also a range of initiatives outlined for the towns including:

- The preparation of town settlement plans to facilitate development (particularly for key workers).
- Promoting industrial estates in Kaniva and expanding the Edenhope estate.
- Advocating for road improvements.
- Mainstreet activation plans.
- Supporting development of business hubs.
- Formalising caravan and trailer parking in Kaniva's main street.
- Upgrading holiday visitor parks.

#### *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy, 2022 (REDS)*

The REDS was developed by the (former) Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) for the regional partnership area of West Wimmera Mallee. The

REDS should be used to drive strategic, whole of-government activity in the region, informed by a contemporary understanding of economic performance. The document is designed to communicate innovative capacity in the region, now and in the future, support collaboration with government to better understand regional strengths, challenges and opportunities and attract investment to the region based on clearly identified strategic priorities.

There are four strategic directions defined for economic development of the region. These are:

- Strengthen agriculture and food product manufacturing through diversification.
- Promote growth and development of the visitor economy, leveraging natural assets and Aboriginal heritage.
- Support and expand economic opportunities in growing sectors (health and social services).
- Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources.

#### **2.4 Victoria Planning Provisions**

This section provides an overview of the current clauses within the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) relating to strategic directions, policies, zones, overlays and particular provisions applicable to the five towns in the West Wimmera Planning Scheme (WWPS).

State (S), Regional (R) and Local (L) planning policy and provisions are included and discussed. State and regional planning policies are developed and implemented by state and local governments while local planning policies are developed by local municipalities providing greater local direction in addition to state and regional policies where required.

The most relevant provisions in Council's Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Planning Policy Framework (PPF) are included below. Further background on the Victoria Planning Provisions is provided in Appendix A.

**Clause 02.03-1 Settlement** outlines the distinctive pattern of urban development based on separate townships and settlements, with the predominant towns being Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley, and Harrow.

The towns and settlements in the Shire have important roles as service and business centres and as a focus for the local community, visitors and the surrounding rural hinterland. Population decline within towns is a threat to service provision and liveability.

The Strategic Directions for the five towns are to:

- Provide sufficient land and direct growth to the major townships of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley, and Harrow.
- Enhance the roles of the major townships of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley and Harrow as the service and business centres for the Shire and as focal points for communities.
- Minimise any detrimental impact of development on the landscape, the environment and existing character.
- Avoid encroachment of residential development on industry.
- Promote Kaniva as a key service centre in the northern part of the Shire for the local and surrounding rural community.
- Promote Goroke as the local community service centre within the centre of the Shire.
- Promote development in Apsley that provides opportunities for service provision, new business initiatives and housing.
- Promote Apsley as a dormitory town for Edenhope and Naracoorte.

The strategic framework plan in the MPS at Clause 02.04 is shown in **Figure 3**.

## 2.5 Recent updates to the West Wimmera Planning Scheme

The West Wimmera Planning Scheme (WWPS) commenced on 17 February 2000. Since that time, amendments relating to the overarching policies have included Amendment C007 which made changes to Clause 21 of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) based on a 2006 review of the WWPS. In 2013 Amendment C030 was approved which introduced a new format MSS to the planning scheme. No local planning policy work for settlements across the Shire has been undertaken or implemented since this time.

The Local Planning Policy Framework of the WWPS was translated into the new MPS and PPF. A selected number of new and updated local schedules to

operational provisions were implemented in a manner consistent with changes to the VPP in May 2011.

These include local policies relating to:

- Settlement for Apsley, Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Kaniva.
- Protection of biodiversity and indigenous vegetation.
- Protection of agricultural land, location of forestry and timber production, dwellings and quarry buffers.
- Residential subdivision design from content.
- Recreational facilities and infrastructure design.
- The new and revised strategic framework plan.

In June 2022, the Small Planning Local Schedules updated the West Wimmera Planning Scheme to remove inconsistencies in local schedules with the VPP and the Ministerial Direction - Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The updated mapping for the Bushfire Management Overlay was introduced into the Planning Scheme in October 2017.

The WWPS was last amended in 2018. The age of strategic planning work underpinning the existing WWPS as well as new challenges and opportunities, makes it timely for the strategic basis of the settlement boundaries for the five towns and their strategic framework to be reviewed through the development of the Small Towns Plan.

### Clause 11 Settlement

**Clause 11.01-1S – Settlement** promotes the sustainable growth and development of Victoria to deliver choice and opportunity through a network of settlements. Strategies plan for the delivery of 2.24 million homes across Victoria by 2051. The settlement framework aims for housing choice and convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities, taking account of regional and municipal contexts and frameworks.

Investment and growth is focused in the Melbourne Central City, Metropolitan Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop Precincts in Metropolitan Melbourne, Priority Precincts (including the Suburban Rail Loop East Precincts), Major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and Regional cities of Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

~~Regions are planned to reinforce settlement boundaries and provide for population growth and development of facilities and services. Growth is directed into existing settlements supported by a network of major and neighbourhood activity centres and townships of varying size, role and function. Urban consolidation is encouraged with density that supports sustainable transport and retail, office-based employment and community facilities and services. Expansion of settlements is managed by creating and reinforcing settlement boundaries (or to existing urban zoned land), promoting urban renewal and infill redevelopment, limiting urban sprawl with growth in existing settlements and not compromising land for future urban expansion.~~

~~Growth in population and development of facilities and services is planned across a regional or sub-regional network in accordance with housing targets with best use of existing and planned transport infrastructure. Transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements are coordinated through the identification of servicing priorities with strengthened national freight networks.~~

~~Networks of high-quality integrated settlements, suburbs and towns are to be delivered as well as environmentally resilient settlements. Plan for Victoria and the Victorian Housing Statement are policy documents.~~

The STP should clearly identify the network of settlements across the Shire, directing any new development into the existing settlements with a clear settlement boundary. Settlement should seek to consolidate urban uses to ensure a wide range of sustainable transport, retail, commercial and community facilities and services.

**Clause 11.01-1R – Settlement** seeks to ~~deliver networks of high-quality integrated regional settlements by building on strengths and capabilities of each region to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments plus a range of other factors. support~~ The role of Horsham ~~is reinforced~~ as the key population and employment centre for the region. Edenhope is identified as a district town and key service hub where growth and development is encouraged while Kaniva is identified as providing local and some sub-regional services. Easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities is to be provided particularly in Horsham and district towns along with an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land. The regional settlement policy emanating from the RGP is shown in **Figure 3**.

The STP should seek to confirm and support the role of Edenhope as a district town and key service hub while Kaniva should be supported to provide local and some sub-regional services.

**Clause 11.01-01-05L – Settlement** sets out local settlement policies for each town. These are discussed further in the town profiles in the STP.



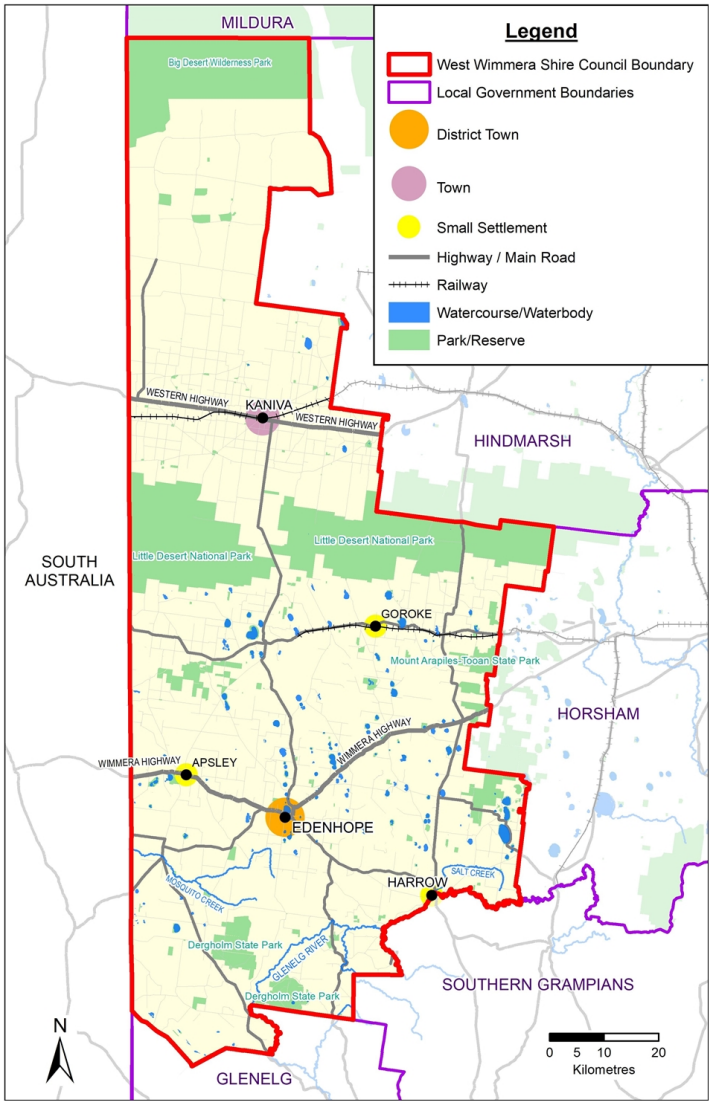


Figure 3: Existing West Wimmera Strategic Framework Plan, WWPS

3. KEY CHANGE FACTORS

This section considers the key socio-economic factors that are influencing population change and the demand for housing in the Shire.

The Shire is a farming district, which is served by several small towns providing a range of day-to-day services such as education, front-line health services and local retailing. It is part of a wider, cross-border agricultural region, often called the Green Triangle, that produces a wide variety of farm and forestry goods and in which larger towns act as resource collection and processing centres. These larger centres – Horsham, Hamilton, Mt Gambier, Naracoorte and Portland - provide more complex services for this region, including technical and further education, regional hospitals and sub-regional retailing.

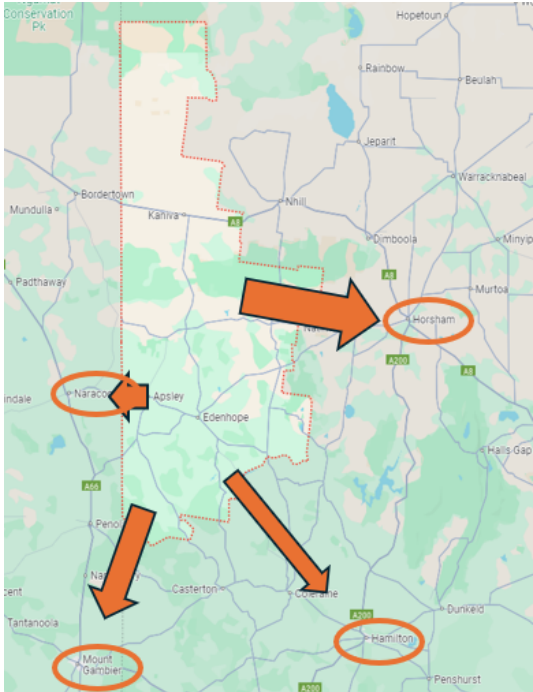


Figure 4: Key External Centres Serving West Wimmera  
(Source: base map from Google Maps)

Horsham is the closest major centre for most of the Shire; however, the geographic shape and position of the municipality means that its communities can be serviced by different larger centres, as shown in **Figure 4**.

The region remains economically robust, based on farming, forestry, mineral sand extraction, processing of primary produce, renewable energy generation and tourism. However, the population of the region as a whole has been falling, with rural areas declining most rapidly as farming becomes less labour intensive.

3.1 Population

The population of the Shire is forecast to decline by 0.7% per year over the period from 2021 to 2036 (VIF 2023, Department of Transport and Planning, 2023). The following chart shown in **Figure 5**, details the forecast population outcomes for the five main towns, assuming they each take a proportionate share of the change. **Table 1** shows the forecast population change for the five main towns.

Table 1: Forecast Population Change, West Wimmera Towns, 2021 to 2036

Change 2021 to 2036 (persons)	Population in 2021	Forecast population in 2036	Total change	Average annual change
Apsley	329	298	-31	-2.1
Edenhope	713	645	-68	-4.5
Goroke	208	188	-20	-1.3
Harrow	184	167	-17	-1.2
Kaniva	683	616	-67	-4.5

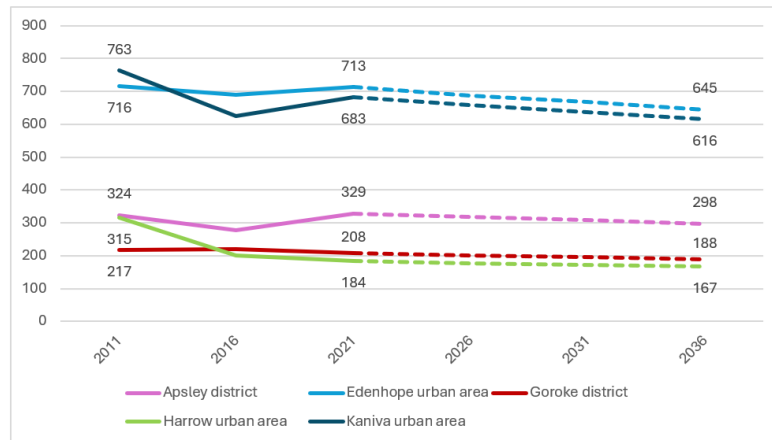
Source: ABS, 2024; VIF23; Tim Nott

Note: Kaniva, Edenhope and Harrow townships have statistical boundaries defined by the ABS as “urban areas”. Apsley and Goroke do not and are defined here by the SA1 of which they form a part, hence the term “district”.

The loss of farm workers through farm amalgamations and mechanisation means reduced enrolment in schools and less spending at retailers. At certain thresholds, reduced demand triggers further loss of jobs and, with other local jobs not available, workers and their families move away. There is also a flow on effect that leads to the contraction of services including health care, social welfare and education.

This can mean a reduction, for example, in the number of volunteers available and in players to support the local sports teams and a general reduction of

community life. This is a process that has been occurring for decades and to which the community has become accustomed. Nevertheless, a halt to population decline would be welcomed by many local people who wish to maintain their levels of service and community networks. It is important to note that some rural municipalities in Victoria have previously reversed population decline through targeted and proactive interventions. The same could eventuate for West Wimmera.



(Source: ABS, 2022; Department of Transport and Planning, 2023; Tim Nott)

**Figure 5: Recent and Forecast Population Change, West Wimmera Towns 2011 to 2036**

While Victorian Government projections are for continued loss of population in the municipality these are largely trend based and could be reversed through an interventionist, proactive and coordinated settlement planning approach.

### 3.2 Housing

Despite a loss of population according to Census data, Victoria in Future (VIF 2023) is forecasting a rise in the number of dwellings required to 2036 because of a decline in the number of people per household and a growth in the vacancy rate. VIF2023 anticipates:

- A total of 47 dwellings in the West Wimmera SA2 – broadly, the area south of the Little Desert - between 2021 and 2036, or approximately 3.1 per

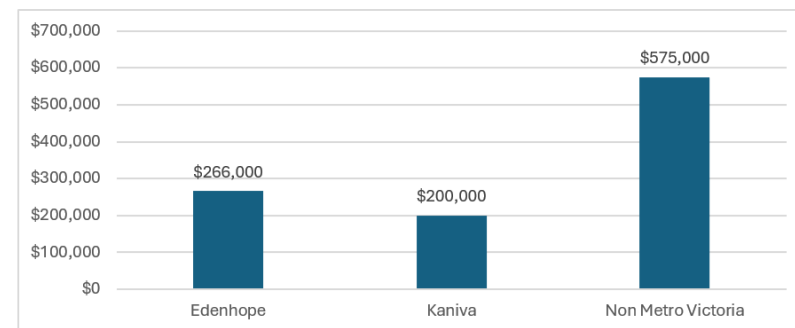
year. Most of these would be likely to be constructed in Edenhope as the largest town in the area, although there may be some demand in the smaller towns of Apsley, Goroke and Harrow and in rural areas.

- A total of 41 dwellings in the area north of the Little Desert, or 2.7 per year. Most of these dwellings would be expected to be required in Kaniva, as the only significant town in the Shire north of the Little Desert.

Each new dwelling generates work for the construction industry as well as in infrastructure, retailing, health and community services. Much of this will be serviced from outside the Shire but there will be some local opportunities.

### 3.3 Worker Accommodation

Local enterprises reportedly find it difficult to attract workers, with a consequent impact on local economic development. This is partly a result of a lack of available accommodation. The Census indicates that the rate of unoccupied dwellings in 2021 was between 13% and 25% across the five main towns. However, many of these apparently vacant dwellings are unsuitable for occupation, or being kept as second homes or holiday homes, or available only as short stay rentals. Further work is needed to understand whether vacant dwellings can be made available. The purchase cost of housing is well below the median for non-metro Victoria as a whole, as shown in **Figure 6** below. These figures are based on actual stock sales. These relatively low prices may deter some investors from constructing additional dwellings. Some subsidies may be required to generate more dwellings.



Source Victorian Valuer General 2024

**Figure 6: West Wimmera Median House Price 2023**

Accommodation for a seasonal harvest work-force may be a special case requiring a collective response from affected farmers. In attracting new workers, it may be worth considering the potential for innovation including, for example, allowing more on-farm accommodation that could be integrated with adjacent townships.

### 3.4 Climate

The climate in the Shire is dominated by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. In recent years there has been a significant decrease in average spring and autumn rainfalls. The bushfire season generally runs from November to April. Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bushfire season in the West Wimmera Shire area is warm to hot north-westerly winds accompanied by high temperatures and low relative humidity followed by a cool south-westerly change.

Climate change in the wider region is driving changes in farming and in particular, has caused a conversion from grazing to cropping (see Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy, 2021). Cropping is likely to continue to push down from the north of the Shire, replacing pastureland and animal husbandry as the area dries. This may have further impacts on the number of workers required.

Irrigated agriculture in the wider district that uses the ground-water resource may come under pressure as the ground water fails to recharge to previous levels because of lower rainfall. There will also be increased demand for this resource from urban, recreational and environmental uses which may no longer be able to rely on consistent rainfall.

In addition to the impacts specific to agriculture, climate change will have an impact on outdoor living and the valued natural environment. There are likely to be, on average, more days of fire danger, less cool season rainfall and more intense downpours with risks of flooding (DELWP, 2019). Towns in the Shire are also at risk of climate change impacts especially to infrastructure such as damage to transport infrastructure (e.g. more potholes in roads). The risk of late season frost may also increase.

Under the Victorian Government climate change projections (DELWP 2019), the Shire can expect to:

- Be hotter with the greatest increases in temperature expected in summer
- Be drier with the greatest decreases in rainfall expected in spring

- Have fewer rainy days but increasing rainfall intensity.

### 3.5 Industry

Change in industry is constant, as a result of the introduction of new technologies and techniques, competitive pressures and shifts in market demand. Recent changes in the scale of broad industry groups in West Wimmera are shown in Table 2.

	Change 2011 to 2021					Comparison, 2021	
	2011	2016	2021	No	AAGR	West Wimmera	Non Metro Victoria
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	904	816	846	-58	-0.7%	45.1%	7.2%
Mining	10	3	7	-3	-3.5%	0.4%	0.7%
Manufacturing	83	59	45	-38	-5.9%	2.4%	7.4%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	7	3	9	2	2.5%	0.5%	1.4%
Construction	82	63	74	-8	-1.0%	3.9%	10.0%
Wholesale Trade	37	24	16	-21	-8.0%	0.9%	2.2%
Retail Trade	125	99	111	-14	-1.2%	5.9%	9.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	54	53	46	-8	-1.6%	2.5%	6.6%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	83	60	63	-20	-2.7%	3.4%	3.8%
Information Media and Telecommunications	7	11	10	3	3.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Financial and Insurance Services	23	22	12	-11	-6.3%	0.6%	1.9%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	5	9	3	-2	-5.0%	0.2%	1.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	31	29	38	7	2.1%	2.0%	4.5%
Administrative and Support Services	27	28	39	12	3.7%	2.1%	2.8%
Public Administration and Safety	115	104	114	-1	-0.1%	6.1%	6.3%
Education and Training	131	133	138	7	0.5%	7.4%	8.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	234	229	226	-8	-0.3%	12.0%	16.2%
Arts and Recreation Services	7	13	10	3	3.6%	0.5%	1.5%
Other Services	27	46	35	8	2.6%	1.9%	3.6%
Inadequately described/Not stated	54	61	58	4	0.7%	3.1%	3.9%
Total	2,038	1,863	1,877	-161	-0.8%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: ABS, 2022. Notes: AAGR = Average Annual Growth Rate; largest five industries highlighted

**Table 2: West Wimmera Change in Industrial Groups, 2011 to 2021**

The key points are:

- The number of local workers declined over the period 2011 to 2021, more or less in line with population decline. While there appeared to be a slight increase in local workers between 2016 and 2021, this was likely a temporary effect of the COVID19 pandemic.

- Nearly half (45%) of all workers in the Shire work in agriculture and forestry and while the number declined between 2011 and 2021, the share of the labour-force remained broadly the same.
- A number of small professional industries grew slightly over the period. Much of this was also likely a result of remote working by people displaced by the COVID19 pandemic.
- The number of workers in several of the largest industries – manufacturing, retailing, transport – declined by more than average, indicating ongoing structural change.
- Apart from farming, West Wimmera residents are reliant on work in the local population services sectors – health, education, public administration and retailing, all of which are concentrated in the five main towns.

Future change in employment will depend on the unique set of circumstances of each industry.

In agriculture, precision farming techniques are being deployed to improve yields and reduce inputs. These are likely to become more automated over time, further reducing the need for on-farm labour, although work for local technology providers and farm-data analysts could increase. Apart from the large scale agricultural producers, there may be potential for different types of farming that have more direct links to customers or which are satisfying niche and more high value markets. The Shire's Economic Development Strategy (West Wimmera Shire Council, 2024) identifies, garlic, honey, mushrooms, micro greens and flowers as being well-suited to the Shire and having potential for growth.

Automation and the roll-out of increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligence techniques will affect all industries to some extent. Whether these changes have a centralising or decentralising effect will depend on the circumstances in each industry and could be impacted by the size of the retail business and their ability to invest in technology. In retailing, for example, [ongoing changes in point-of-sale technology is reducing the need for check-out staff](#); and the continued growth of internet retailing will affect non-food goods sellers so critical to the needs of small town residents e.g. pharmacy/hardware/homewares, in particular. However, internet retailing also allows small producers located in the Shire access to global markets.

In the professional services sector, the internet and automated techniques allow small businesses to deliver increasingly sophisticated products from any location.

The ongoing ability of the Shire to attract such businesses will depend on the capacity of the local infrastructure, that is, the excellence of the mobile and internet coverage, and on the relative attractiveness of its towns as places to live.

The Shire is on the periphery of the Western and South Western Renewable Energy Zones, which have been identified by the Victorian Government as suitable for concentrated investment in wind, solar and battery farms to power the grid. VicGrid has identified that large parts of the Shire are suitable for investigation as locations for renewable energy investment, as shown in Figure 7. The figure also identifies that a new solar farm has approval in the southern part of the Shire but has not yet been constructed.

There is potential for jobs in new windfarm, solar-farm or large battery projects to be taken up by people from the Shire and for the Shire to offer a home to people moving into the region for these projects. For southern parts of the Shire, there is also potential access to projects in south-east South Australia.

Mineral sands mining projects such as that proposed for Avonbank near Horsham will generate significant numbers of jobs that may be accessible to people living in West Wimmera Shire. All currently proposed projects remain some distance from Shire, with residents usually at least one hour's drive from the five towns within the Shire. This may mean that the Shire would need to incentivise project workers from outside the Shire to attract them to the five small towns. The ability of the five towns to provide unique residential opportunities could be capitalised on to capture some of this key worker growth.

### 3.6 Visitation

Visitor services – accommodation, food service, specialty retailing, tours – do not currently provide substantial employment in the Shire and tourism is still described as an emerging industry. The Shire's economic development strategy identifies visitor economy growth as one of four key pillars of local economic development for the municipality. The Strategy identifies opportunities to grow the visitor economy including food and farming tourism, ecotourism associated with the lakes and deserts, travellers' rest points and small town events. Potential actions recommended by the economic development strategy include upgrading and expanding lake-side caravan parks to provide accommodation for visitors and seasonal workers.



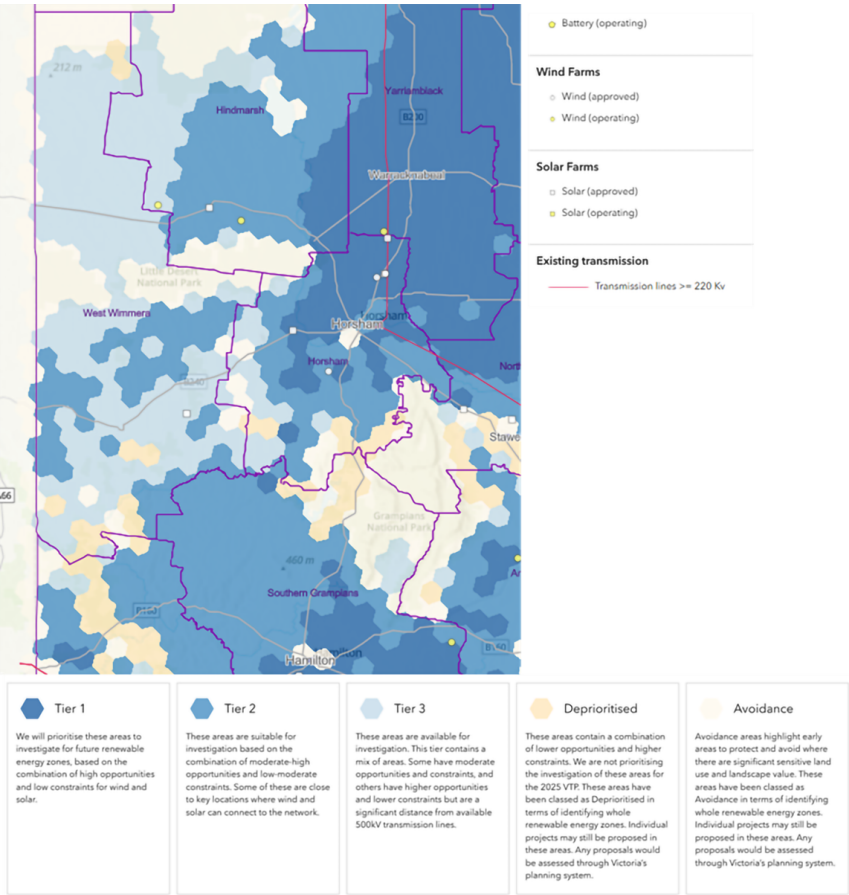
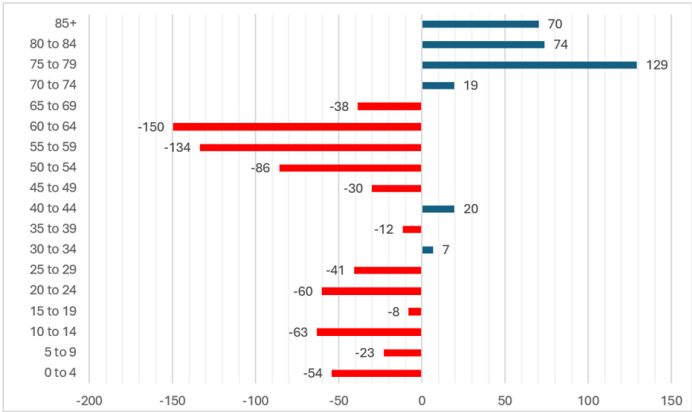


Figure 7: Draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines study area for further investigation - Source: VicGrid, 2024

3.7 Ageing

In common with most of Victoria, the Shire is ageing and this is forecast to continue (VIF2023). **Figure 8** shows the forecast change by five year age group.



Source: VIF2023

Figure 8: Forecast Change in Age Groups, West Wimmera, 2021 to 2036

To 2036, the Shire is forecast to gain 292 people aged over 70 and lose 524 people in working age groups (20 to 69 year olds) or 28% of the current labour force. The number of people under 20 is forecast to decline by 149, so while there is forecast to be lower demand for educational services, there will be more demand for health and aged care services and a range of other “silver economy” services. These are services designed for the over 50s such as financial planning, specialised recreation and travel agencies. Whether these services can actually be provided remains doubtful under this scenario, given the loss of people in working age groups. If investment in these services can be achieved, that may go some way to ameliorate the loss of population that may otherwise occur.

The forecast ageing of the population and the loss of those in working age groups shows the importance of retaining residents and attracting new people to the Shire.



### 3.8 Social and Community Infrastructure

From 2025, four-year-old kindergarten will gradually transition to pre-prep, with programs across Victoria increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week. Additional kindergarten capacity will be needed for 30 hours of kindergarten. The current kindergarten facilities in Kaniva, Edenhope and Goroke are not large enough to deliver on the upcoming kindergarten reforms and there is limited room for expansion. Moving some of the kindergartens to the local school sites would allow for kindergarten expansion and has the potential to keep the school numbers to a viable level. This would also free up space in the current facilities for additional childcare and playgroups to support young families.

Childcare services provide an important service for families, community and the local economy. Access to suitable childcare provides an opportunity for parents and carers to work and helps maintain the local economy. In addition, it is an attractor for young parents to live in the region.

Community vitality, social and community infrastructure can help to maintain activities and events in a community. These have the potential to attract new residents and maintain community viability. There are opportunities for community infrastructure to support business activities (such as events) that are beneficial to the local economy. Likewise moving a service such as the kindergarten to a school site might maintain the school's viability.

There are limited places for young people to meet and those that are available might not meet the needs of this demographic. Providing spaces where young people can gather and interact reduces their need to travel and helps them form strong relationships, helping to anchor them in the community when they are ready to put down their roots.

A number of community facilities are on Crown land managed by DEECA with committees of management established. These management committees rely on volunteers from the community to manage and maintain these facilities in conjunction with DEECA. Maintaining the facilities is a key challenge.



*Goroke Library*

### 3.9 Transport Infrastructure

Public transport is very limited within the Shire which reduces the capacity of people to travel to access services and activities. Certain groups within the community are likely to have limited access to private transport and as a result require assistance to access facilities. Children, young people and older adults in particular may have reduced capacity to travel to activities and services. Older persons in particular, rely on volunteer companions and taxi services to access essential services in their local towns and regions.

## 4. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE TOWNS

### 4.1 Issues

There are a range of demographic, economic and social issues facing the small towns of West Wimmera.

#### *Population Loss and Ageing*

The Shire is losing population. The loss of farm workers through farm amalgamations and mechanisations means reduced enrolment in schools and less spending in shops and services. Future vulnerabilities, including larger landholdings managed by consortiums and serviced by contractors, are likely to lead to further loss of population across the Shire. This demographic, combined with an ageing population, has seen previously robust rural communities being replaced by smaller, older more vulnerable communities isolated from services. The shift in population could potentially lead to delayed fire management suppression activities in rural areas from reduced numbers of volunteers. In some cases, rural municipalities have reversed population decline through marketing, tourism and improved infrastructure.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Population loss needs to be recognised and managed to minimise loss of access to goods and services, community and social services.
- Ensure that housing stock can be upgraded to ensure appropriate housing for ageing in place.
- Promote the desirability of the region as a place to visit.

#### *Settlement and Subdivision Beyond Existing Townships*

There are areas of farming zoned land within the current settlement boundaries in the towns. This is not an urban zone and should not form part of settlement boundaries unless identified as future residential land.

The location of farming zoned land within settlement boundaries has occurred due to several factors. Some are historical as a result of “soldier settlement” subdivisions established many years ago that were created on title but often never developed for housing. Many of these lots still operate as part of larger farming properties and often comprise what are referred to as tenements.

Other cases involve the excision of a smaller lot from a much larger farming lot usually for a new dwelling, which is permitted under the Farming Zone. Although allowed in some circumstances, excised lots through incremental decisions can result in the loss of productive agricultural land to housing and create conflicts with state and local planning policy.

Some dwellings on small lots have been incorrectly zoned as part of the development of planning schemes in the late 1990s. In some cases, these dwellings were not appropriately identified to reflect existing development on the ground surrounding a town. Reflecting the correct designation of this land is largely an administrative exercise, rather than a significant policy shift and will have no impact on existing agricultural production due to the existing conditions of the land.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Review areas of land zoned for farming in each settlement boundary and consider their current and future use.
- In considering their future use, balance the need for additional residential land with the policy objective of protecting agricultural land.
- Council should investigate undertaking a rural land use strategy to ensure small lots in the Farming Zone within town boundaries are considered from a municipal perspective and prepare local policy for small lots within town boundaries altering town boundaries as appropriate.

#### *Local Economy*

Future change in employment will depend on the unique set of circumstances of each industry. In agriculture, precision farming techniques are being deployed to improve yields and reduce inputs. These are likely to become more automated over time, further reducing the need for on-farm labour. Automation and the roll-out of increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligence techniques will affect all industries to some extent.

In the professional services sector, the internet and automated techniques allow small businesses to deliver increasingly sophisticated products from any location.

The Shire is on the periphery of the Western and South Western Renewable Energy Zones, which have been identified by the Victorian Government as suitable for concentrated investment in wind, solar and battery farms to power the grid. There is potential for jobs in new windfarm, solar-farm or large battery

projects to be taken up by people from the Shire and for the Shire to offer a home to people moving into the region for these projects

Mineral sands mining projects such as that proposed for Avonbank near Horsham will generate significant numbers of jobs that may be accessible to people living in the Shire

**Implications for the Towns:**

- There is a shortage of key worker housing in the region which is impacting the attraction of staff to local jobs. Local enterprises report finding it difficult to attract workers which is having an impact on the local economic development of the Shire.
- There is a challenge in delivering new housing stock as the current construction workforce is unable to meet demand for new housing development.

*Flooding*

Extreme short-duration 'rain bursts' are becoming more intense and more frequent especially during summer with thunderstorm rainfall. Existing infrastructure was not designed to cope with these unnatural extremes, and flash flooding is set to be a growing issue. The Shire has towns that are subject to stormwater and riverine flooding. Towns that are prone to stormwater flooding include Apsley and Edenhope. Flood events within West Wimmera have been infrequent over the last decade, however there are areas of significant flood risk in Harrow and Apsley.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Implement flood studies for Edenhope and Apsley into the Planning Scheme as soon as possible.
- Direct housing away from flood prone areas.

*Fire*

The Shire is vulnerable to climate change, and already experiences significant climate variability, including exposure to extremes in rainfall, winds and drought. This is likely to lead to an increase in bushfires in the Shire. Edenhope, Goroke, Harrow and Apsley have Fire Ready Guides in place for all residents and the towns are covered by a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO). The Fire Ready Guides are developed by the Wimmera Emergency Management team and aim to help

communities prepare for the bushfire season particularly in areas identified as high risk. The entire municipality is categorised as bushfire prone.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Expansion of the towns and any new housing should be directed away from areas at high risk of bushfire.

*Environmentally Significant Areas*

There are areas of environmental significance and high value habitat that need to be protected and preserved for habitat of endangered flora and fauna such as the Red-tailed Black cockatoo and other environmental considerations.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Areas of environmental significance need to be better understood to ensure environmentally significant areas are identified.

*Water*

The quality of drinking water of most of the towns is an issue for all residents with many relying on tank water or poor tasting bore water. There is a lack of potable water in all towns except Edenhope and Kaniva. Not all of the towns have access to a reticulated sewage system which will impact on the future development of these towns as lot sizes will need to remain large to service septic systems. While this may be acceptable in some of the small towns, towns like Edenhope and Kaniva have good services and should be able to provide smaller lots to meet the changing needs of the community and provide more affordable housing options. Lack of sewerage also impacts the operations of commercial businesses such as pubs/restaurants and accommodation venues. A lack of maintenance of septic systems can also have public health and environmental impacts to adjacent waterways.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore the possibility of connecting the remaining three towns to potable water to improve the drinking water quality for all residents.
- Expand reticulated sewerage in Edenhope and Kaniva to facilitate the towns to grow and attract more residents, enabling smaller lots to meet community needs and minimising environmental impacts.

*Climate Change*

Similar to the rest of Victoria, the towns in the Shire are subject to climate change impacts and will need to develop mitigation strategies and improve infrastructure

to improve resilience. Increased frequency of extreme heat events will require adaptation of the urban environment such as further shade and urban canopy to provide increasing shade for residents in town centres. An increased risk of bushfire and flooding events is also predicted and should be factored into future towns plans.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Ensure both social and physical infrastructure is designed to mitigate and adapt to the implications of climate change.
- Direct development away from areas of bushfire and flooding risk taking a precautionary approach to the extent of predicted risks.

*Social and Community Infrastructure*

Services such as childcare provide an important service for families, community and the local economy. The childcare services in the Shire are limited and have been unable to expand or attract new staff due to a lack of key worker housing. This has limited the access of childcare places and services for parents and carers who work in the Shire. There are limited spaces for young people to meet and those that are available might not meet the needs of this group. Providing spaces where young people can gather and interact reduces their need to travel and keeps them occupied.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Increase capacity to deliver kindergarten and other childrens' services – by providing more key worker housing.
- Create spaces for young people to meet.

*Transport and Movement*

Movement networks within a town and connecting out to surrounding towns need to be accessible, safe and reliable. Public transport is very limited within the Shire which reduces the capacity of people to travel to access services and activities. While passenger rail infrastructure passes through Kaniva, it does not currently stop and is unlikely to have transit stops in the medium term given the current population level and projected demand. Other options to meet regional movement needs to both towns to the east of the shire in Victoria and to the west in South Australia will be required.

It is important for people to move easily and safely within their town. This means walking and cycling options and accessing local public transport. Good movement

networks also support the community's health by encouraging daily physical activity, providing easy access to local services and reducing social isolation and increasing social interaction.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Provide a local bus service to access services for residents between Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow. An ageing population will need to be able to access services locally and regionally easily via public transport and through enhanced volunteer or taxi services.
- Provide more footpaths and cycling paths within and around the towns to create safe movement pathways for people.

**4.2 Opportunities**

*Locational Advantages and Assets*

The towns all have their own unique characteristics and identity which is important for future service delivery and planning for the towns.

Kaniva is well placed to capitalise on its access to the highway attracting and growing the local agricultural industry and is a rest stop for travellers through to South Australia. Edenhope has Lake Wallace as the main drawcard and focal point. It is also the major service centre for the local agricultural industry. Harrow is a quaint, historic riverside town in a rural setting that attracts visitors. Apsley has a tranquil rural character and is close to the Coonawarra wine region just over the border in South Australia. Goroke is a small rural town providing access to the Little Desert and is a service centre for the local hinterland community.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Kaniva could continue streetscape upgrades to encourage more through traffic to stop in the town and increase wayfinding signage to attract more visitors to the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park.
- Edenhope could increase marketing and wayfinding signage to draw more visitors to the town and to Lake Wallace.
- Harrow could increase marketing and raise the profile of the town and its heritage assets.
- Goroke plays a complimentary function to larger nearby towns. It could also increase marketing to raise the profile of the town and continue to upgrade streetscape works and seek funding for capital works to upgrade the theatre/hall and events at the community facilities.

- Apsley could further promote the quarterly market, capitalise on sporting infrastructure and continue to upgrade/maintain the town hall.

#### *Economy*

There are a number of new investments in the Shire and surrounding region that may provide economic opportunities for the towns. There has been investment to date in renewable energy including a new solar farm. There is also potential for a new windfarm or large battery projects as part of the Western Renewable Energy Zone which will create new employment in the Shire. Mineral sands developments are proposed for Avonbank near Horsham which will generate a significant number of jobs that may be accessible to people living in the West Wimmera Shire. For southern parts of the Shire, there is also potential access to projects in south-east South Australia. These may provide opportunities for the towns to capitalise on the needs of these workers including permanent and temporary housing with flow on effects for community services and local shops and hospitality services.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore opportunities to incentivise project workers from outside the Shire to attract them to live in the five Small Towns.
- Identify opportunities to provide more key worker housing including by leveraging the development of Council owned land.

#### *Tourism and Accommodation*

The accommodation offering is important to support and grow the local tourism market with each town having opportunities to tap into different tourism markets. Currently there is a lack of local accommodation available to support the needs of visitors and house seasonal workers in the Shire. This needs to be increased and addressed to allow the local tourism market to grow and attract more seasonal workers to the Shire.

There are opportunities for eco-tourism in the Shire including the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park, the Glenelg River and access to the series of lakes and wetlands in the Shire. There are opportunities to expand the tourism offerings to service the 'silver economy' with specialised recreation and travel catering to this expanding market. The disused rail line between Gorokey and Natimuk could be developed into a rail trail for cyclists attracting more people to the Shire.

The Silo Art Trail attracts visitors to the Shire as Australia's largest outdoor gallery, linking the Wimmera Mallee's treasured small towns across 700km through the region.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Create more short-term accommodation options for new and seasonal employees in the region.
- Investigate further expanding caravan park accommodation to house key workers.
- Work with local traders and local producers to enhance the local food offerings in the Shire.
- Increase marketing for the Silo Art Trail as part of marketing for West Wimmera attractions.
- Encourage more food and accommodation offerings especially in Edenhope and Kaniva.
- Explore opportunities for a café and nature based recreation in Harrow.
- Explore opportunities for town retailers to capitalise on any local farm gate produce that is available.

#### *Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC)*

The Barengi Gadjin Land Council (the local Registered Aboriginal Party) would like to work with Council to provide skills training programs for the local community to support a local construction industry for housing. There is also an opportunity to work with the BGLC to produce cultural interpretive signage for place names, and wayfinding signage, as this could also provide signage in local language for local birds, flora and fauna in areas such as the Kaniva Wetlands.

#### **Implications for the Towns:**

- Develop a workforce training program to support the local industry and community.
- Work with the BGLC to develop cultural interpretive signage for the Shire.
- Work with BGLC to identify opportunities for economic independence.

#### *Township Amenities and Character*

Amenity and character is important to the people that live in the towns creating a sense of place. There are many heritage buildings in the five towns that could be further preserved and enhanced. Towns that have character are more



appealing to visitors and will enhance their attractiveness as places to stay and spend money.

Continuing the streetscape improvements in Kaniva and implementing this program to the other four towns subject to budgetary considerations will be an important future piece of work.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Develop a strategy to implement streetscape improvements for the five towns.
- Advocate for external grant funding for streetscape improvements.
- Plant more trees in the town centres to create shade, cooling the environment, reducing heat in the towns and improving amenity.
- Continue to build footpaths in the five towns to enhance pedestrian comfort and support walkability.
- Explore the long term upkeep and maintenance of heritage buildings.

*Housing*

Council owned land could be leveraged to encourage investment by housing providers and/or to engage in direct housing and infrastructure provision. This could also help to provide more key worker housing for the Shire and provide housing close to town for an ageing population.

**Implications for the Towns:**

- Explore options for Council owned land to be developed as medium density housing to meet residential requirements for an ageing population and address the key worker housing shortage in Kaniva and Edenhope.
- Work on a strategy to deliver medium density housing.
- Further work is needed to understand whether vacant dwellings can be made available for key worker housing.
- Investigate opportunities to work with landowners to enhance the image of their properties.
- Investigate whether on farm accommodation is an option for seasonal workers.





## 5. APSLEY

Apsley is a small town set among red gums located approximately 10 kilometres east of the South Australian border. The town grew significantly in the late 1860s. Apsley's fertile agricultural land is highly valued and recognised as a prosperous agricultural district, supporting various land uses that contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. The town continues to provide a local service function for the surrounding community with a CFA, police station and post office. The town context map is shown in **Figure 9**.

### 5.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Apsley is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Apsley.

The RGP states that *“a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services”*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-03*

Clause 11.01-1L-03 Settlement - Apsley provides the existing settlement framework for the town. There is one strategy to the clause, which seeks to support the establishment of cycling and horse-riding trails as a way of attracting visitors to the area. The Clause 11.01-1L-03 settlement framework for Apsley is shown in **Figure 10**. There is an opportunity to undertake further work to improve the settlement directions to look at growth, development and ongoing maintenance for Apsley. There is also an opportunity to create a policy to support

the framework plan in the scheme and look at housing, recreation and education in the town.

Apsley experienced significant urban growth when thousands of European gold seekers passed through on their way to the gold fields. Many Chinese gold seekers also made their way to the diggings after arriving at the Port of Robe in the late 1850s. The introduction of the Free Selection Land Act in the 1860s led to an increase in the district's population and the expansion of Apsley. By 1897, approximately 60 children were enrolled at Apsley State School, along with several smaller schools in the area.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Historic information drawn from <https://www.apsley.vic.au/>



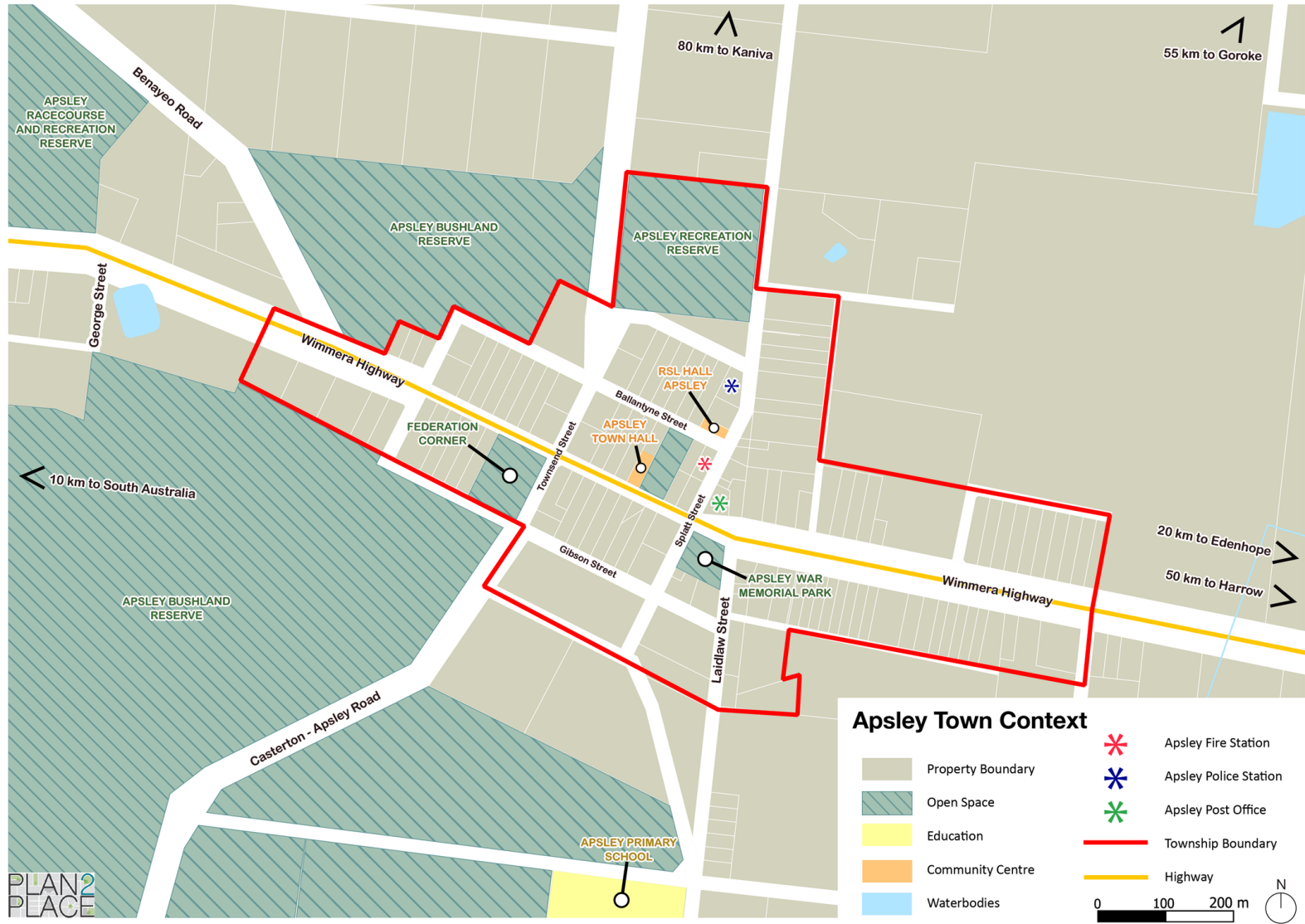
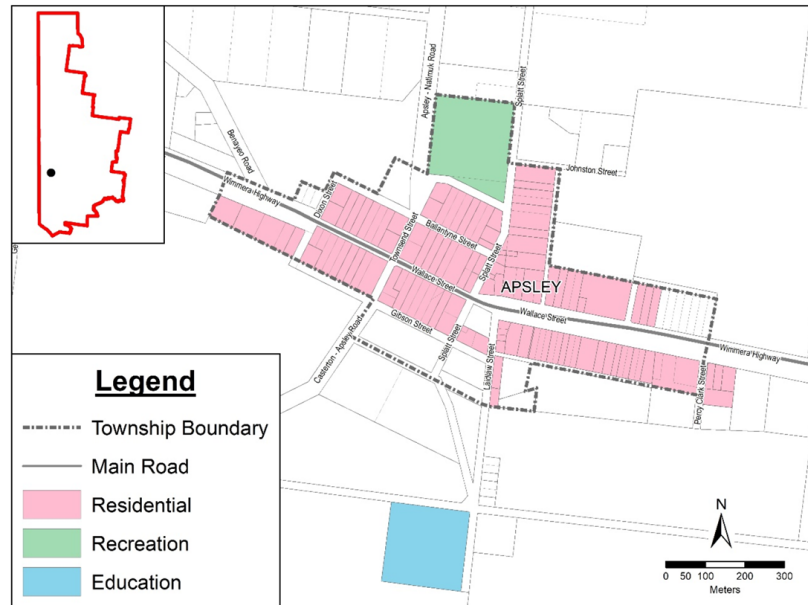


Figure 9: Apsley Context Map



**Figure 10: Apsley Framework Plan Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-11**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Apsley are shown in **Figure 11** and summarised below:

- The Township Zone (TZ) applies to land within the Apsley town boundary.
- The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) applies to the Apsley Recreation Reserve.
- The Transport Zone (TRZ) applies to the Wimmera Highway that runs through the centre of Apsley.
- Outside the town boundary, the Farming Zone (FZ) applies to agricultural land.
- The Public Use Zone (PUZ) – Schedule 2 (PUZ2) applies to the Apsley State School Reserve to the south of the town.
- The PUZ – Schedule 5 (PUZ5) applies to the Apsley Cemetery Reserve to the north of the town.

- The PCRZ applies over the Apsley Bushland Reserve and the Apsley Plantation.



**Figure 11: Apsley - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS impacting Apsley are shown in **Figure 12** and summarised below:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) – Schedule 2 (ESO2) applies to all of the land surrounding Apsley to ensure that development protects the habitat of the Red-tailed Black cockatoo. This will ensure that environmentally significant habitat is protected.
- The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) applies to much of the land surrounding Apsley. This will allow development to be directed away from fire prone areas.
- The current flood studies underway may result in Flood Overlay (FO) or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) controls being added.

## 5.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Apsley had a population of 329 people. This is forecast to reduce over the period to 2036 to just below 300 people. The town is a small settlement servicing the surrounding agricultural district and is also within easy commuting distance of the larger town of Naracoorte and the Coonawarra wine district in South Australia.

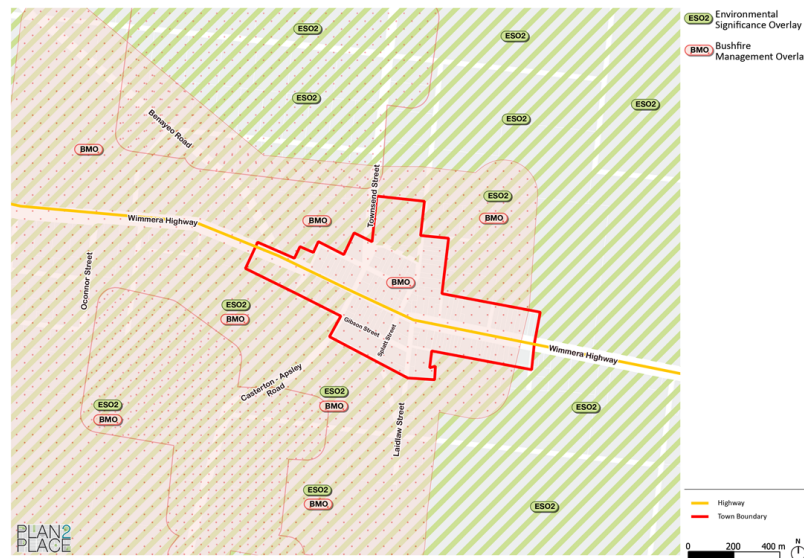


Figure 12: Apsley - Existing Overlays

## 5.3 Housing

While the Victorian Government forecasts a decline in population in the general area (see section 4), there may be occasional demand for a new house in Apsley over the forecast period. There are several vacant lots in the Township Zone. Any development needs to take account of the BMO, which covers most of the town, and any forthcoming flood management overlay that might arise from recent work conducted for Council. Therefore, no new rezoning of land for housing purposes is recommended for the town.

## 5.4 Economic Profile

Given the size of the catchment and its forecast decline, resident demand is unlikely to support further retailing, although there may be scope for new businesses that cater to visitors or to community needs. There may be scope to provide space for visiting professionals, which could be located within the community hall.

There is no zoned industrial land in the township. There is no demand or justification for industrial land. There is an industrial precinct in nearby Edenhope that could capture future demand for industrial land.

The town has a quarterly market which attracts people from across the region. There may be potential for further tourism activity including country style accommodation, glamping or camping/caravaning. However, the water supply in the town is not safe to drink according to GWM Water and this is an impediment to further commercial development for visitors, requiring potentially expensive remediation. There may be scope for visitor retailing such as art, food and wine, based on the nearby wineries.

There is only a small range of visitor accommodation in the town, with the art deco style Border Inn providing rooms and bungalows and offering free camping facilities. The wider township has several bushland rest-stops and reserves which provide points of interest for walkers, bird-watchers and cyclists. There are also opportunities to leverage the tourism market at the nearby wineries in the Coonawarra.

Apsley has a strong interdependence with nearby Naracoorte in South Australia. Residents regularly access services and jobs in towns close by and some services and facilities may be shared between the towns in the community of interest. Apsley is playing an increasing role in providing additional housing to service Naracoorte. Many residents in Apsley also access jobs located in Naracoorte.

## 5.5 Movement and Transport

Apsley is on the Wimmera Highway, one of the routes from Victoria to the popular Coonawarra wine district. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Apsley is via private vehicles. There are very limited public transport options available for residents in Apsley with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays.



## 5.6 Physical Infrastructure

The town of Apsley is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. Ground and surface water is not safe for drinking, however, water can be used for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry. It can also be used for showering or bathing if caution is exercised. All houses are serviced by septic tanks as there is no wastewater treatment plant servicing the town with reticulated sewerage.

## 5.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The Apsley town centre consists of a concentration of activity around the intersection of the Wimmera Highway and Splatt Street with a corner store/café, post office, hotel, community hall, fire station, RSL hall and police station. The township contains a small town centre, a primary school, recreation reserve golf course, netball courts and a Lions Park playground. There is no library or access to childcare services or kindergarten in Apsley. The Apsley community group is very active and hosts a local playgroup. The nearest health facilities are in Edenhope, around 20 km to the east or Naracoorte, 31 kms to the west.

The Border Inn pub provides a key community service and has a camping ground at the rear. The recent re-opening of the pub through local entrepreneurship and community support has rejuvenated a key social asset and created a strong sense of optimism in the town that can be built on.

## 5.8 Built Form and Heritage

Apsley includes several historic buildings along its wide main street. The township extends along the Wimmera Highway for the most part and is adjacent to large bushland reserves to the south-west. There are several historic weatherboard buildings in the main street that are former commercial buildings. Most of the houses in the town are single storey weatherboard buildings. The main street is lined with mature street trees that provide much needed shade and tree canopy.



*The Store – Main Street Apsley*



*Historic Building - Main Street Apsley*



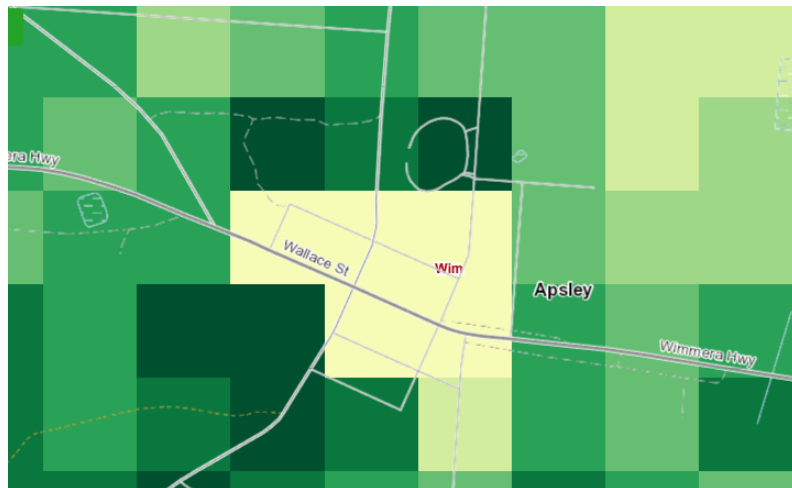
## 5.9 Landscape and Environment

There is a significant risk of flooding in Apsley especially around the main street where there is a dry creek bed that floods during significant rain events. A flood study for the town is currently underway and is expected to be finished shortly.

There is a risk of bushfire in Apsley with the town covered by a BMO. There is a Place of Last Resort in case of bushfire at the Apsley Recreation Reserve in Splatt Street. This is part of the Neighbourhood Safer Places program for West Wimmera Shire.

Apsley is located on flat undulating plains in West Wimmera. The dominant ecosystems are - Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils. The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 13** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green.



**Figure 13: Apsley – Biodiversity Values**

## 5.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

### Issues

- There is significant risk of flood in areas of the town.
- There is significant risk of fire.
- There is a lack of potable drinking water.
- The town is not connected to a reticulated sewage system.
- There are a large number of vacant shops within the town centre.
- Public transport is very limited and residents are reliant on private transport.
- The town is reliant on towns such as Naracoorte for higher-order goods and services including employment, retail, health, and secondary education.
- Without support from increased tourism and growth in population, there is insufficient demand for additional retail development.
- There is a limited accommodation offer with rooms and free camping at the hotel.
- Some of the historic buildings in the town are in need of repair and maintenance.

### Opportunities

- There is an active and strong community advocacy group.
- There is a good range of community facilities for a small town.
- There is a high level of amenity.
- There is a Primary School in the town.
- Original township buildings provide opportunities for tourism and housing including bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Nearby lakes attract people to the region for recreation and tourism.
- The creation of home based and creative industries employment may be made possible by providing high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite).
- Leverage existing community groups to advocate for funding to repair, maintain and update significant buildings along the Wimmera Highway.

- The attractive town centre could be further enhanced through place making initiatives and upgrades to infrastructure.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Apsley are detailed in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Apsley Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Apsley
<b>Catchment Population</b>	Up to 500
<b>Role in the Hierarchy</b>	Small Settlement
<b>Existing Infrastructure</b>	No reticulated drinking water, no reticulated sewage system
<b>Other Services Available</b>	Hotel, post office, town hall, emergency services, sport infrastructure
<b>Growth Capacity</b>	Low due to flood constraints, bushfire risk and lack of reticulated water and sewer
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	Negligible Change
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and implement the Apsley flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and to direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Ensure new development to respond to local bushfire requirements.</li> <li>• Explore options to provide drinking water and a reticulated sewage system to the town with the local water authority.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved transport services between Apsley and the surrounding towns including community or public transport buses.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to repurpose original township buildings to provide an increase in tourism and housing.</li> <li>• Undertake an audit/review of heritage assets to determine if a further heritage study is warranted for Apsley.</li> <li>• Review demand for further overnight accommodation.</li> <li>• Explore if there is any further Crown or Council land that could be utilised for housing and accommodation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the attractiveness of the town centre by providing grants to landowners for repainting and other streetscape upgrade works.</li> <li>• Review zoning within the town boundary as part of the preparation of a structure plan for the town.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider including land zoned Farming Zone between the Wimmera Highway and Benayeo Road into the town boundary and consider rezoning to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ) to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses.</li> <li>• Include the Apsley Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (zoned PPRZ) into the town boundary to recognise its role as a public facility.</li> <li>• Consider including the land zoned FZ on the west and east side of Laidlaw Street into the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses.</li> <li>• Include the Apsley State School Reserve zoned PUZ2 into the town boundary.</li> <li>• Consider rezoning FZ land currently within the town boundary on the south side of Wimmera Highway to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ) to reflect the current lot sizes and current land uses.</li> </ul>





## 6. EDENHOPE

Edenhope is the largest town in the Shire and has a role as an administrative centre. The town has a compact commercial area offering convenience and weekly shopping. Industrial activities are concentrated in the east of the town, with some service industries on the southern edge of the commercial area. The town is located on the shores of Lake Wallace (or Connadoyen), which has been integral to the formation of the character of the township and is seen as the 'lifeblood' of the town. Today the lake provides recreation opportunities as well as a unique residential amenity.

Edenhope developed mainly as a wool grazing area. Several large properties have been subdivided for smaller family farms, particularly for soldier settlements after World War II.

Like many rural townships, Edenhope plays a vital role in providing opportunities for social interaction and civic engagement for residents across a large rural catchment. With its proximity to Lake Wallace and historical and contemporary ties to cricket and Australian Rules Football, Edenhope is viewed as a centre for sports and recreation. The town also offers its community a wide range of social and cultural opportunities across the arts, heritage and natural environment.

Edenhope is one of only two towns in the Shire that has safe drinking water. The town context map is shown in **Figure 14**.

### 6.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Edenhope is defined as a District Town in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. The future directions for Edenhope are to:

- Recognise Edenhope as the district town for the south-western Wimmera community of interest.
- Encourage the provision of a range of middle order health, education, retail, municipal and emergency services.
- Provide for residential growth through infill development.
- Provide additional industrial land to facilitate employment.

The RGP states *"Edenhope is the major centre in the south-western part of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, providing various services to its community of*

*interest, which includes Goroke, Harrow and Apsley. The town's proximity to South Australia enables a close relationship with Naracoorte and residents rely on this centre and Horsham for higher order services. The town is located on Lake Wallace, which should be protected as an important focus for recreation, tourism and amenity.*

*Infill development will provide for residential growth in the short to medium-term. Over time, additional residential land supply will be required. This could be located to the south of the town or around limited, discrete parts of Lake Wallace. Development around Lake Wallace will require an extension of the reticulated sewerage system to limit the impact on the lake.*

*There is a need for additional industrial land to support employment growth. The preference is for this to be located to the south-east of the town. Other key strategic issues for the town include the reliance on treated bore water for drinking supplies and the need to upgrade the airport/airfield to accommodate emergency flights to meet future community needs. "*

The RGP outlines the following land use policies, strategies and actions for Edenhope:

- Focus investment in services and facilities for the south-western part of the region in Edenhope.
- Identify a preferred location for additional industrial land and facilitate development.
- Monitor the need for additional residential land.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-01*

Clause 11.01-1L-01 Settlement - Edenhope provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to ensure active retail frontages within the commercial precinct and promote low density and rural living development in lifestyle living areas, as identified on the Edenhope Framework Plan. The Clause 11.01-1L-01 settlement framework for Edenhope is shown in **Figure 15**.

The clause encourages use and development to orient towards and activate Lake Wallace and its foreshore and to support the establishment of a pedestrian and cycle trail network for recreational purposes that accesses nearby environmental assets, such as Lake Wallace.

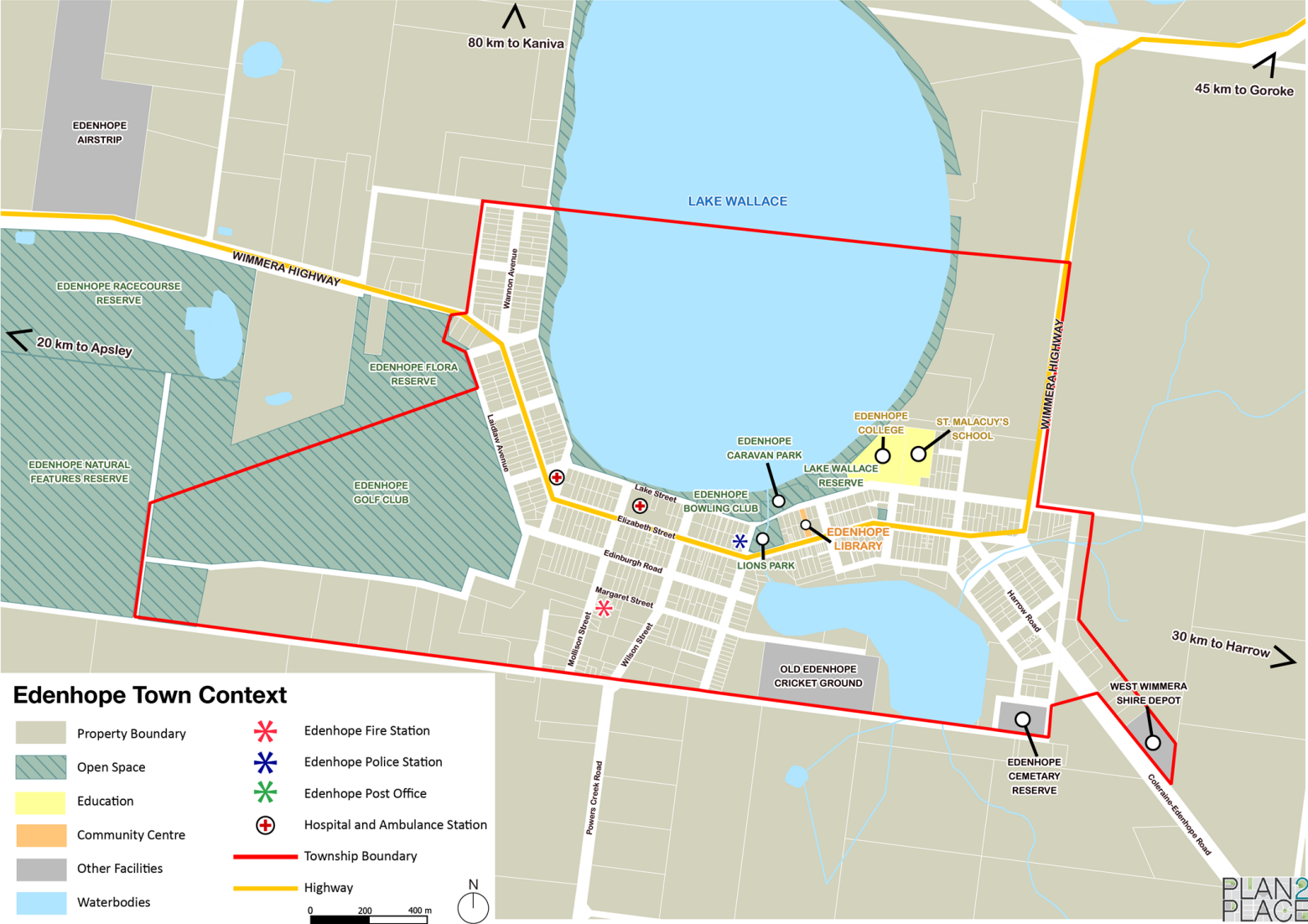
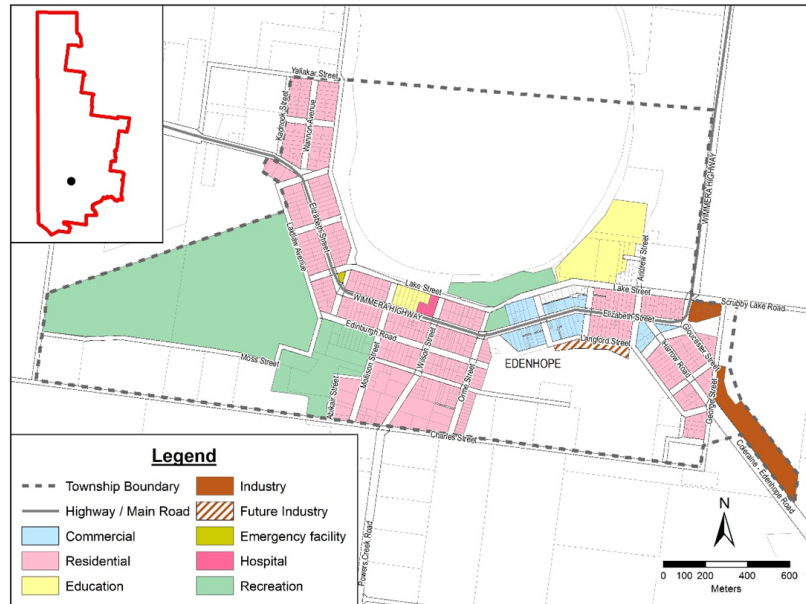


Figure 14: Edenhope Context Map

Additionally, the clause encourages the development and expansion of the Edenhope Industrial Estate and facilitates the relocation of storage uses from Elizabeth Street into the Edenhope Industrial Estate.



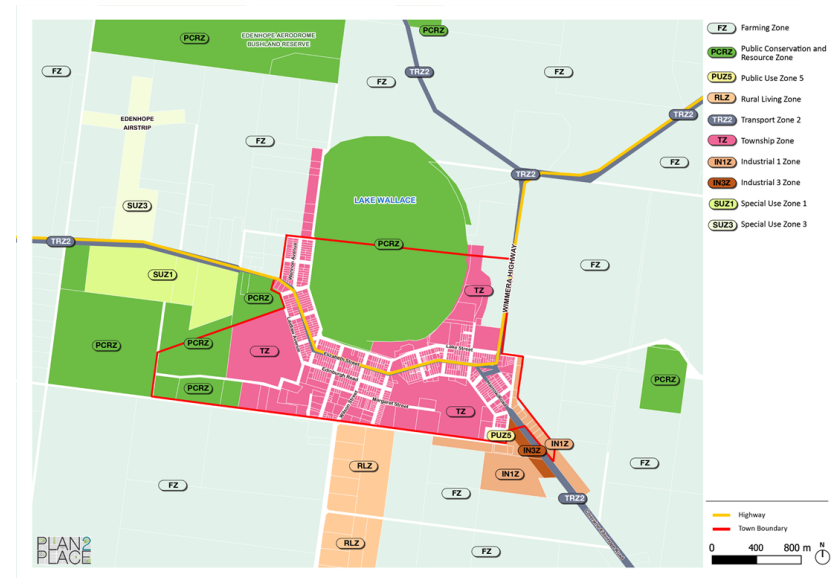
**Figure 15: Edenhope Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Edenhope are shown in **Figure 16** and summarised below:

- The TZ applies to land within Edenhope and land surrounding Lake Wallace.
- The Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) applies to land along the Coleraine- Edenhope Road.
- The Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) applies to land adjoining the Coleraine-Edenhope Road.
- The Public Use Zone (PUZ5) is applied to the Edenhope cemetery.
- The Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) is applied over Lake Wallace, the Edenhope Aerodrome Bushland Reserve, Golf Course,

Edenhope Flora Reserve, Racecourse and the Edenhope Natural Features Reserve.

- The Transport 2 Zone (TRZ2) is applied along the Coleraine- Edenhope Road.
- The Special Use Zone Schedule 3 (SUZ3) is applied to the Edenhope Airport.
- The Rural Living Zone (RLZ) applies to land outside of the town boundary.
- The Farming Zone (FZ) applies to agricultural and land surrounding the town boundaries.



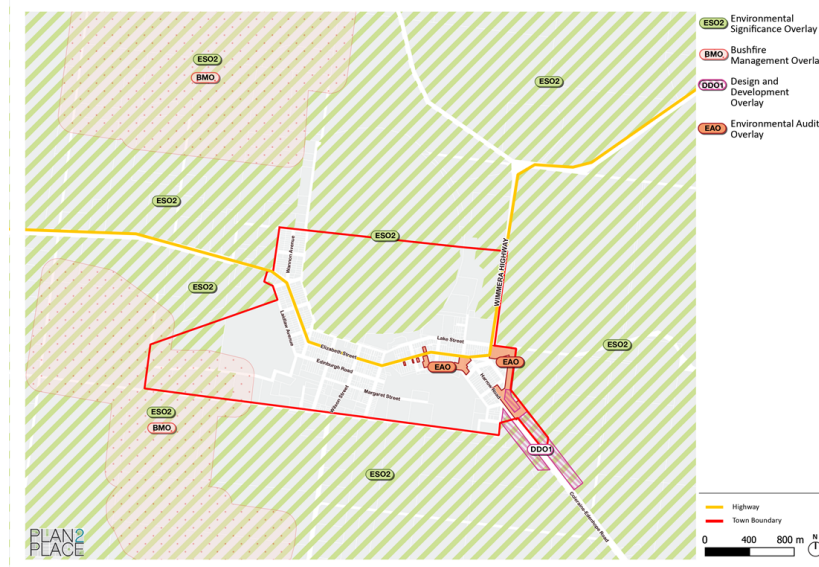
**Figure 16: Edenhope - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Edenhope are shown in **Figure 17** and summarised below:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2) applies to all of the land surrounding Edenhope to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) applies to much of the land surrounding Edenhope.



- The Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 (DDO1) applies to land along the Coleraine – Edenhope Road to identify areas which are affected by specific requirements relating to the design and built form of new development.
- The Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) applies to selected land in the town to ensure that potentially contaminated land is suitable for a use which could be significantly and adversely affected by any contamination.



**Figure 17: Edenhope - Existing Overlays**

## 6.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Edenhope had a population of 713 people. Edenhope remains the largest town in the Shire and has the most significant population catchment. Its services are somewhat threatened by population decline and by the growth of larger centres outside the Shire.

Edenhope has a high number of residents over 45 years, and a very high proportion of residents aged 65 years and older. It also has a very high number of widowed individuals. The family composition of Edenhope skews towards

households without children, but there are also working age parents with young children. Children in Edenhope are typically under 15 years of age. There are not many residents in Edenhope aged in their 20s and 30s.

## 6.3 Housing

Despite population decline, the town will need to accommodate some growth in dwellings – up to 3 per year according to forecasts. There are adequate parcels of vacant TZ land that could be used for housing, including, for example, a 5 hectare parcel on the corner of the Wimmera Highway and Lake Street as well as numbers of vacant lots in the south west of the town and on the western edge of the town. There are some parcels of land that are zoned TZ but which may not be suitable for housing development, including the Back Swamp area in the south-east of the town and the area on the eastern shores of Lake Wallace around the water treatment facility.

Providing services to the larger parcels of land may make the feasibility of development difficult. In this circumstance, there may be ways in which Council could take a long term interest in the development of the land by, for example, providing up-front funding for infrastructure which is recouped on the sale of lots.

There is an urgent need for key worker housing to allow the town to grow.

## 6.4 Economic Profile

The district produces mainly sheep, beef and broadacre crops with a total gross value of \$303 million in 2021 (ABS, Data by region for West Wimmera SA2). This farming effort directly supports a range of businesses in the town including transport operators and a small abattoir.

The town wraps around the southern end of Lake Wallace, which provides a distinctive backdrop and recreational resource as well as being popular with visitors. Visitation to Edenhope and surrounds is supported by the presence of commercial accommodation including a caravan park and motel as well as short stay homes for rent. The racecourse, golf course, team sports facilities, nature conservation reserve and lakeshore walking trails all provide visitors with ample outdoor recreational opportunities. In the future, there may be potential for specialty accommodation – lakeside glamping, historic homes, ecotourism ventures, farm stays or permaculture farms – as well as potential to capitalise on

the unique dune and swale environment of West Wimmera and its local and regional produce through specialty outlets.

Edenhope has an extensive area of land zoned for industrial purposes. The land is located on both sides of the Coleraine-Edenhope Road at the south eastern entry to the town, with a narrow extension along George Street to Scrubby Lake Road. The land comprises approximately 32 hectares to accommodate the Edenhope Abattoir and 13 hectares to accommodate general industry. The general industrial land along the main road has largely been taken up (albeit with a low level of intensity) and includes activities such as the Shire depot. The land along George Street remains largely vacant and undeveloped. In the absence of a substantial incoming investor, the remaining land should be sufficient for local industrial needs, particularly since local industrial sectors have been changing substantially in recent years. Should further land be required, there is ample land immediately to the east of the existing zoned land, although this would need to be subject to environmental and engineering investigations.

#### 6.5 Movement and Transport



*Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Edenhope*

Edenhope is on the Wimmera Highway, one of the routes from Victoria to the popular Coonawarra wine district. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Edenhope is via private vehicle. There are very limited public transport options available for residents in Edenhope with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays. There is an EV charging station on Anzac Avenue for electric vehicles.

#### 6.6 Physical Infrastructure

Reticulated water and sewage are provided to the town and recycled water is also in use. The Golf Club uses recycled water from the water treatment plant. Trade waste stresses the current wastewater system and needs to be augmented. Drinking water quality needs to be upgraded and there are also water quality issues in Edenhope with saline bores.

#### 6.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The town has a small hospital that accommodates a nursing home and urgent care services. A government P-12 school is one of three secondary facilities in the Shire. There is also a kindergarten and Catholic primary school. Edenhope has childcare and maternal child health services. The town has a library in the community hall, sports facilities and an old court house which is used as a visitor information centre and museum.

The key features of the main street commercial centre in Elizabeth Street are:

- The intact strip of commercial buildings developed mainly between 1930 and 1990.
- The small supermarket.
- Two significant hardware/rural supplies stores.
- The civic and social infrastructure including the Shire Hall, library, visitor information and prominent Catholic church.
- The Lake Wallace Hotel.
- Two banks.
- A small range of specialty shops, cafes and local shop-front services including legal, financial and veterinary services.
- The public amenities and visitor parking on Anzac Avenue.



**Edenhope Community Garden**

While the strip would once have been occupied principally by retailers, there are now a range of other services – including health, financial, community and galleries. This is in keeping with trends throughout the retail sector.

Beyond the retail core, Lake Wallace is the key asset for the Edenhope community and visitors providing recreational facilities including. **Figure 18** below shows the Edenhope Trail Network Concept Plan.

Most of the Lake Wallace Perimeter Trail will be upgraded to an accessible walking trail with connectivity back to the town centre. There are two properties currently in private ownership that do not wish to have the bitumen Perimeter Trail along their properties. This area has been fenced off and there is a hole in the fence to provide access to a gravel path for local residents. The Edenhope Fat Tyre Cross Country Bike Loop is also a high priority project for the Shire as well as upgrading the Edenhope to Apsley Cycling Route.



**Figure 18: Edenhope Trail Network Concept Plan**

Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy November 2018

Nearby Lake Charlegrark and Lake Bringalbert attract people to the region for recreation and tourism and are important cultural and community assets and provide opportunities for the town through visitor services including accommodation and hospitality.

## 6.8 Built Form and Heritage

Edenhope is comprised of several historic buildings along its wide main street. The intact strip of commercial buildings was developed mainly between 1930 and 1990. The township extends along the Wimmera Highway for the most part and the key feature of Edenhope is Lake Wallace. Most of the houses in the town are single storey weatherboard buildings with some newer houses fronting Lake Wallace.

Cricket was introduced by the pastoralists in the Western district where games against aboriginal station hands highlighted great skill and athleticism. Local A local Thomas Hamilton pastoralist created and coached an aboriginal team which lead to the establishment of the Aboriginal XI the first Australian team to tour England in 1868 coached by Thomas Wills. The team's famous batsman, Johnny



Mullagh, is buried at Harrow, and there is a memorial to the cricket team in the grounds of the Edenhope secondary college, beside Lake Wallace, where Wills coached the team were coached.

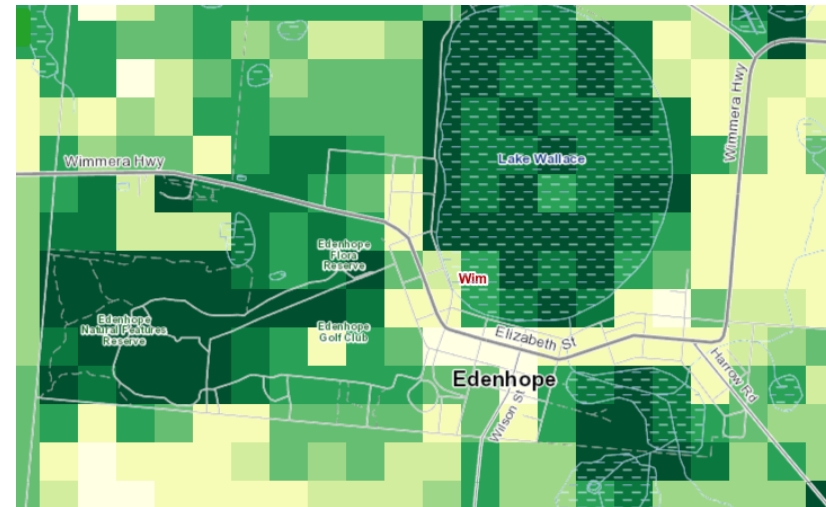
### 6.9- Landscape and Environment

There is a risk of flooding in Edenhope. A flood study for the town is currently underway and is expected to be finished in 2025. A consistent water level in Lake Wallace is an ongoing issue for the town and there are also frequent blue-green algae blooms.

There is a risk of bushfire in Edenhope with areas outside of the township boundary covered by a BMO. There is a Place of Last Resort in case of bushfire sited at the Lake Wallace Reserve corner of land and Anzac Avenue. This is part of the Neighbourhood Safer Places program for the West Wimmera Shire.

Edenhope is located on flat, undulating plains. The dominant ecosystems are - Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils. The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland. A Biodiversity audit is needed for the Back Swamp site. There is an ESO over the town to protect and preserve habitat for the Red Tail Cockatoo.

The NaturePrint map shown in **Figure 19** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green which are in Lake Wallace and the Edenhope Natural Features Reserve.



**Figure 19: Edenhope – Biodiversity values**

### 6.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

#### Issues

- A consistent water level in Lake Wallace is an ongoing issue for the town.
- There are frequent blue-green algae blooms in Lake Wallace.
- There is risk of flood in some areas of the town.
- There is risk of fire.
- Public transport is very limited and residents are reliant on private transport.
- There are not enough staff or places for childcare.
- The quality of the drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.

#### Opportunities

- Recreational tourism is a major driver of the economy and this could be further enhanced to service the “silver economy” as well as selling regional produce.

- Need to ensure that the town centre remains attractive and that there is sufficient zoned and serviced land for growing activities and supporting local enterprises to grow.
- The usage of the foreshore space and infrastructure on the Lake Wallace foreshore could be further optimised and connectivity improved back to the commercial centre.
- Provide more seating, shade and barbecues in the Lake Wallace foreshore area.
- Wayfinding signage around Edenhope and to Lake Wallace could be improved/increased.
- Place activation at the western end of Elizabeth Street could be promoted.
- A community bus service could be provided allow travel between the towns for community services.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- Original town buildings could provide future tourism and housing opportunities.
- Enhance marketing of the town's connection to cricket and rugby to attract visitors to the town.
- Tourism opportunities would be enhanced by increases to the overnight accommodation offer in the town.
- Increase marketing for Edenhope to attract more visitors.
- The creation of home-based businesses and creative industries employment would be facilitated by high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite).
- The Back Swamp site should be protected from future development.
- More key worker housing would allow the town to grow.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Edenhope are detailed in **Table 4**.

**Table 4: Edenhope Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Edenhope
Catchment Population	Up to 2,700
Role in the Hierarchy	District Town
Existing Infrastructure	Reticulated drinking water, reticulated sewage system
Other Services Available	Hospital, hotels, professional civic and recreational services, some retailing including hardware and agricultural services
Growth Capacity	The town has capacity to grow
Expected Outcomes	Minimal growth expected
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and implement a Structure Plan for Edenhope.</li> <li>• Complete and implement the Edenhope flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Prepare a bushfire study and direct any new development away from areas of high bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Advocate for upgrades to the town's drinking water.</li> <li>• Advocate for a community bus service between Edenhope and the surrounding towns</li> <li>• Work with businesses to strengthen the overnight accommodation offer.</li> <li>• Undertake a biodiversity audit for the Back Swamp site to inform appropriate zoning for that area.</li> <li>• Ensure that the town centre remains attractive and that that there is sufficient zoned and serviced land for growing activities and supporting local enterprises to grow.</li> <li>• Optimise usage of the foreshore space and infrastructure on the Lake Wallace foreshore and improve connectivity improved to the commercial centre.</li> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage around Edenhope and to Lake Wallace.</li> <li>• Promote place activation at the western end of Elizabeth Street commercial centre.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to repurpose original township buildings to provide an increase in tourism and housing.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market the town's connection to cricket <del>and</del> rugby.</li> <li>• Advocate for high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite) to facilitate the creation of home-based businesses and creative industries employment.by</li> <li>• Facilitate key worker housing to allow the town to grow.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to enhance recreational Tourism as a major driver of the economy and this could be further enhanced to service the "silver economy" as well as selling regional produce.</li> <li>• Review the extent of urban growth outside the settlement boundary particularly surrounding Lake Wallace.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
Boundary Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider extending the town boundary to include all of Lake Wallace to recognise the importance of this asset to the community and its contribution to the town's recreation and amenity.</li> <li>• Consider including the Industrial 1 and 3 zoned land on Coleraine-Edenhope Road into the town boundary to reflect its existing use and to provide clear direction on where industrial uses should be located.</li> <li>• Consider including the Township Zoned land on the west side of Lake Wallace into the town boundary to reflect its current residential land uses and Township zoning.</li> <li>• Include the Edenhope Racecourse and Edenhope Flora Reserve and Natural Features Reserve (PCRZ) into the town boundary to recognise the importance of these facilities to the town's recreation and community facilities.</li> </ul>





## 7. GOROKE

Goroke is a rural township in the centre of the Shire, midway between Horsham and the South Australian border. It is 10 km south of the Little Desert. The name is thought to have been derived from an Aboriginal word meaning magpie.

Goroke was established to serve the surrounding farm district which produces mainly wool, lamb, beef, canola cereals and legumes. The town is close to Lake Charlegrark and Lake Boorooopki and many other district lakes, which provide for various visitor and recreational pursuits including yabbing, fishing, bird and wildlife watching. The Goroke town extends along Main Street with the Community Health Centre and Goroke College well separated from the hub of the town, located some 900 metres east of the centre. Rural land separates the hub of the town from the school, health centre and a handful of dwellings. The town context map is shown in **Figure 20**.

The Goroke area was occupied for pastoral runs in the mid-1840s. Farm allotments were taken up in the Goroke area in the late 1870s. A school was opened at Gymbowen, 10 km east of Goroke in 1881, and the Goroke school was opened in 1885. Goroke township was surveyed in 1882. Within a few years, the Victorian municipal directory recorded Goroke as having some stores, a flour mill, a hotel and a mechanics' institute. An agricultural and pastoral society was formed in 1887. The railway line was extended from Natimuk to Goroke in 1894, connecting it to Horsham.

Between 1910 and World War II, Goroke maintained a population of about 350-400 people with a bush-nursing centre and a memorial hall. In 1927 the railway line was extended further west to Carpolac. After World War II there was an influx of population as large pastoral holdings were subdivided, some being taken up by soldier settlers. In the early 1950s, several small district primary schools were closed and pupils bused to a consolidated school at Goroke. Education to years 10 and 11 was provided during the 1960s, with an active Young Farmers' Club attached to the school.

### 7.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Goroke is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Goroke.

The RGP states that *"a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services"*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-04*

Clause 11.01-1L-04 Settlement - Goroke provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to encourage commercial and industrial activities to locate along the main street or in the vicinity of the grain receiving silo. The clause supports the establishment of a walking and bicycle path alongside the train line that can connect with other rail trails emerging throughout the Wimmera region. The Clause 11.01-1L-04 settlement framework for Goroke is shown in **Figure 21**.

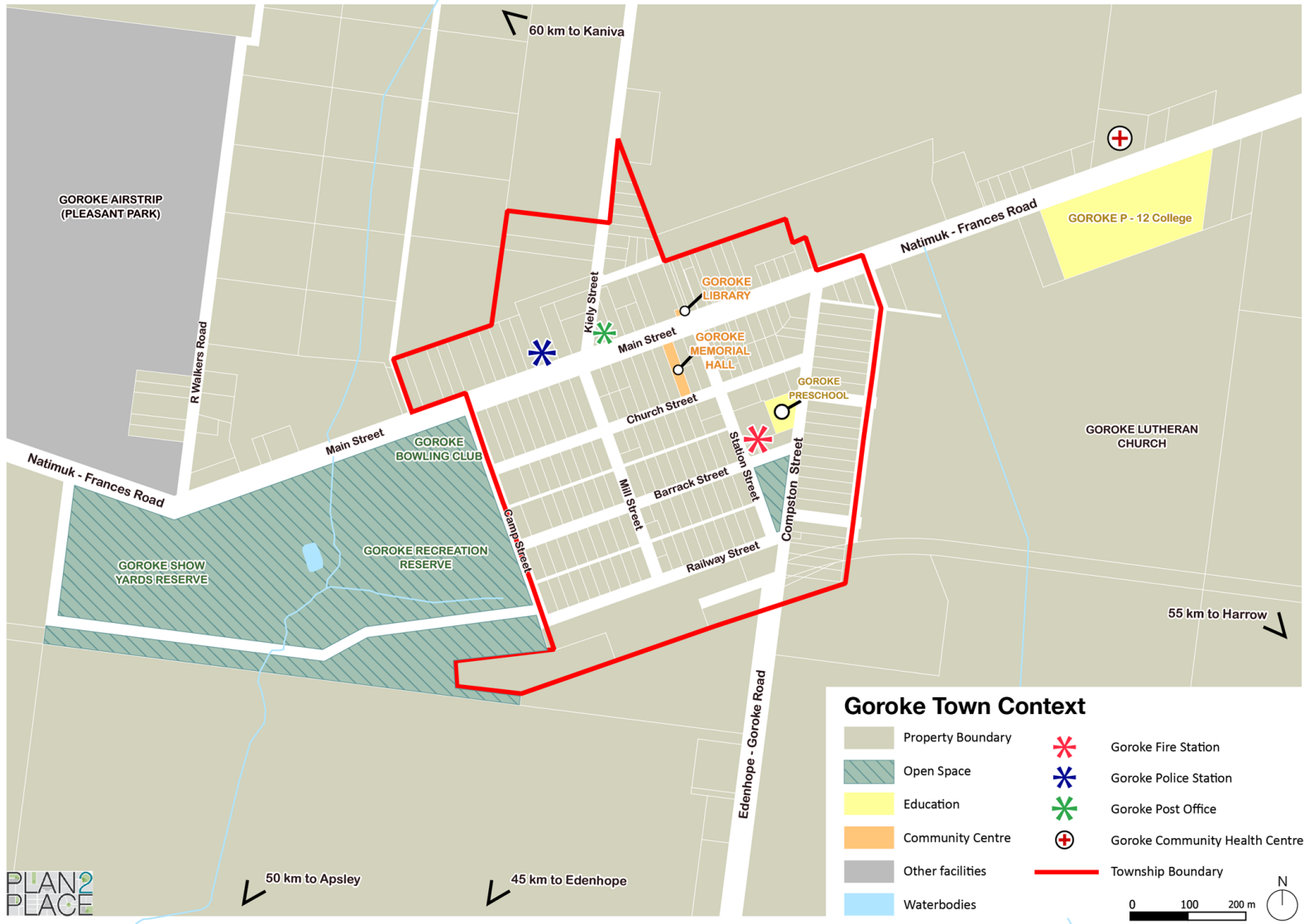
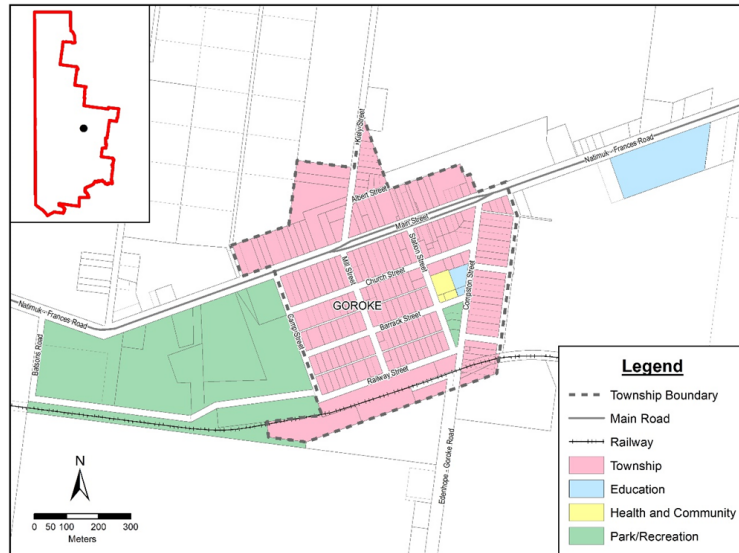


Figure 20: Goroke Context Map





**Figure 21: Goro Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Goro are shown in **Figure 22** and summarised below.

- The TZ applies to land within Goro.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The PU22 applies to the Goro P-12 college site and to the Goro Preschool site.
- The PU5 applies to the Goro Cemetery Reserve.
- The PU – Schedule 3 (PU3) applies to the Goro Fire Station site.
- The PPRZ applies to the Goro Recreation Reserve.
- The TR22 has been applied to the Natimuk Frances Road that runs through the centre of Goro.



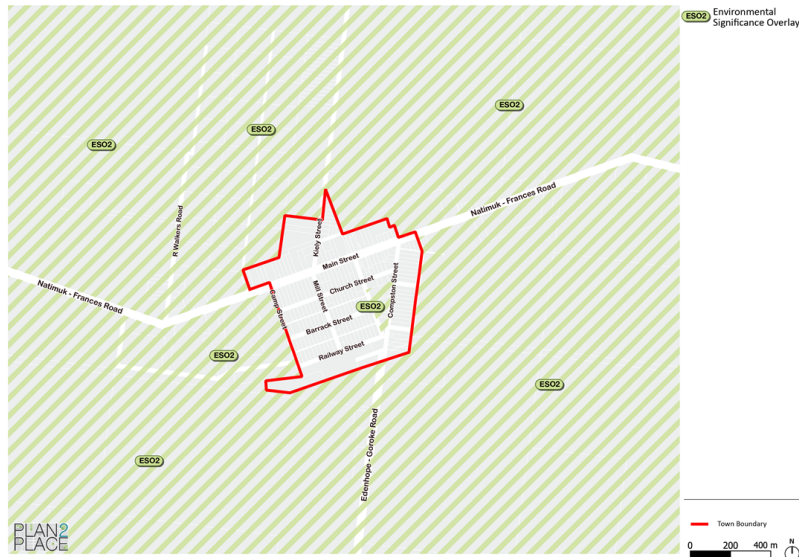
**Figure 22: Goro - Existing Zones**

One relevant overlay within the WWPS affecting Goro is shown in **Figure 23** and summarised as follows.

- The ESO2 is applied to all of the land surrounding Goro to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.

## 7.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Goro had a population of 208 people. Goro is experiencing a reducing population, which in turn is placing pressure on the ability of the town to provide services to residents in the town and the region.



**Figure 23: Goroke - Existing Overlays**

### 7.3 Housing

The local population is expected to continue to decline slowly but there may be occasional demand for a new house in the town. This may include demand for homes suitable for older people from the town and district who would like to age in place but do not want a large house.

The town is seweraged, but the reticulated ground water is not safe to drink according to GWM Water. This may reduce demand from new residents who could seek to locate elsewhere. Within the town grid, there are several vacant lots in a range of sizes that would be suitable for single dwellings or multi-unit development.

### 7.4 Economic Profile

Goroke is on the Silo Art Trail and has some visitation associated with trips to the Little Desert, just to the north. The disused railway line (the old Carpolac Line) appears to provide a largely intact trail from Goroke to Natimuk which could be developed as a rail trail in the future. There is potential to formalise this trail as a

cycle route as far as Horsham. There is potential to attract visitors from the regional centre of Horsham which is around 47 minutes to the east. Visitors could be attracted by food and wine offerings, art, retail offer and services to local outdoor pursuits. These kinds of activities would depend on the willingness of local entrepreneurs and Council may be able to assist by ensuring that streetscapes remain attractive. Shade trees are likely to be increasingly important for visitor and resident comfort.

There is no designated industrial land in Goroke. Grain Corp silos operate from land zoned TZ and there is, or has been, small farm-related engineering works on Main Street. No significant industrial activity is anticipated for the township and any such demand should be redirected to towns with designated industrial precincts.

Given the forecast decline in population, resident demand is unlikely to generate support for new retail activity in the centre. There may be some scope to reuse vacant buildings to deliver temporary services or to provide co-working spaces for residents and visiting professionals. The centre has several buildings that could be adapted for new activities. There may also be potential for some of the buildings in the centre to be reused for housing temporary workers on assignment in the district, this could include farm-workers, or those involved in infrastructure projects.

Should there be any future demand for development in the town centre, priority should be given to the repurposing of existing buildings.

### 7.5 Movement and Transport

Goroke is centred on Natimuk – Frances Road. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Goroke is via private vehicle. There are very limited public transport options available for residents with a once a day service between Naracoorte and Horsham on weekdays.

### 7.6 Physical Infrastructure

Goroke is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. GWM Water has worked with the West Wimmera Shire Council investing in Goroke to provide a new sewerage system. The Goroke Sewerage Scheme will provide residents with a reliable, and effective wastewater collection and treatment system. The sewerage scheme will use current septic

tanks on properties and deliver a reliable and effective wastewater collection and treatment system which will contribute to the prosperity and future growth of the town. The Goroke Caravan Park is now connected to the sewerage scheme.

Construction of Stage 1 of the Goroke Sewerage Scheme was completed in October 2021. In March 2022 the Goroke Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed. Stage 2 of the Goroke Sewerage Scheme was completed in June 2024.

### 7.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Goroke has some community infrastructure including a Community Health Centre and Goroke College, however they are not well connected to the main township and are separated by rural land and some dwellings. There is also a kindergarten in the town.

The core social infrastructure including the library, town hall, public toilets, Men's shed, agricultural services, farm engineering and parkland are all located within two blocks of the town centre. The commercial core supports a mix of local businesses, including an IGA supermarket, café, service station, post office and The Goroke Hotel.

VicTrack currently owns land in Goroke which was part of the former part of the former Carpolac Railway line which branched off from Horsham. The line has been closed since the 1980s and the railway station grounds were disposed of some time ago. There is an opportunity to create a rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk along the disused rail line.

Goroke is close to wetlands and lakes including Lake Charlegrark that could possibly be further utilised for ecotourism. There is also a town walk trail that is being created by the West Wimmera Shire Council in partnership with the community.

### 7.8 Built Form and Heritage

The residential street network forms a grid pattern to the south of the main road, and houses within easy walking distance of the town centre, churches and other community services and facilities. Church Street has three churches and Railway Street includes the railway siding and silos which are visible from the surrounding area. Goroke is 'book-ended' by the Prep-Year 12 school, and health centre at its eastern edge.



*Goroke Men's Shed*

The highway splits into a dual carriageway through the town centre Main Street with a median strip that has shade trees and parking. There are several vacant commercial premises as well as many former commercial buildings that appear to have been repurposed for housing. A series of recreational facilities are located to the west of the town, including a sports ground, outdoor swimming pool, showgrounds and a caravan park.

### 7.9 Landscape and Environment

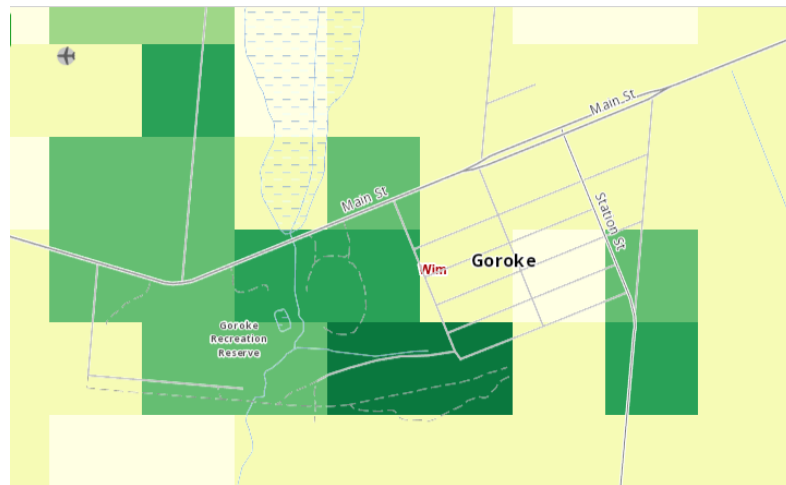
Roadside vegetation on the way into Goroke is of high value. Connectivity in the landscape is important for biodiversity and to provide biodiversity corridors. There are also several registered Trust for Nature blocks just outside of town.

Goroke is part of the Wimmera bioregion, located in the far west of the central Victoria, and is typified by flat to gently undulating plains in the east, with black and grey cracking clay soils (Vertosols). Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland are the dominant ecosystems. The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach



ridges interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils (Vertosols and Sodosols). The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 24** identifies areas of biodiversity with the area of the highest value in the darkest green which is part of the Goroke Recreation Reserve.



**Figure 24: Goroke – Biodiversity Values**

### 7.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town.

#### Issues

- Drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.
- There is very limited public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport.
- There are no childcare services available for residents.
- Needs key worker housing to allow the town to grow.

- An ageing population and population loss which impacts viability of the school and investment in retail.
- Challenges to accessing health care services.

#### Opportunities

- Provide a community bus service to surrounding towns.
- Many of the main street buildings are currently empty and could be upgraded subject to funding.
- A rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk through to Horsham along the old Carpolac Line.
- There is potential for some of the buildings in the centre to be repurposed for housing temporary workers on assignment in the Shire.
- There is an economic development opportunity for ecotourism in the area.
- Plant more street trees to provide more shade in summer.
- Provide a greater diversity of housing for older people to age in place and stay in the town.
- Goroke is part of the Silo Art trail which attracts visitors to the town.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Goroke are detailed in **Table 5**.

**Table 5: Goroke Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Goroke
<b>Catchment Population</b>	Up to 500
<b>Role in the Hierarchy</b>	Small Settlement
<b>Existing Infrastructure</b>	No reticulated drinking water, Septic Tank Effluent Drainage sewerage system
<b>Other Services Available</b>	Hotel, take away, Post Office, Library, men's shed, community health, community hall, agricultural services, silo art
<b>Growth Capacity</b>	Low due to lack of drinking water and Septic Tank Effluent Drainage sewerage system
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	Negligible Change
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore providing drinking water to the town.</li> <li>• Advocate for community bus services between Goroke and the surrounding towns.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for childcare services to meet the needs of residents.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to upgrade Main Street buildings to provide an increase in tourism (building on the Silo Art trail) and housing.</li> <li>• Investigate creating a rail trail from Goroke to Natimuk through to Horsham along the old Carpolac Line.</li> <li>• Work with land owners to reuse buildings in the centre to house temporary workers on assignment in the Shire.</li> <li>• Support economic development opportunities for eco-tourism in the area.</li> <li>• Plant more street trees to provide shade in summer.</li> <li>• Explore options to diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Goroke P-12 College into the town boundary.</li> <li>• Consider including land on the north side of Natimuk-Frances Road into the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current land uses and consider rezoning to an urban zone (e.g. LDRZ).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Goroke Show Yards Reserve, Recreation Reserve and Bowling Club facility into the town boundary to reflect their important role as community facilities.</li> </ul>
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## 8. HARROW

Harrow is a small pastoral town located on the banks of the Glenelg River, beneath the rolling hills and grand old red gums. Harrow is particularly picturesque, boasting several heritage buildings which significantly contribute to the town's beauty and visitor potential. The town is located in the south of the Shire and served by the Coleraine-Edenhope Road. The town is a historic service town for the surrounding farm district where wool, lamb and beef are the main products. The town context map is shown in **Figure 25**.

Harrow is situated at a crossing place on the Glenelg River. In 1849, a postal receiving place, the Foresters Arms Inn, a store and a blacksmith were constructed. In 1852 the township was surveyed. The surveyor renamed the place Harrow, presumably inspired by Harrow, England. A police post was established in the town in 1853.

Harrow is a very early distant inland town, although Apsley (closer to the border) was surveyed a year earlier. Its oldest surviving building is a log gaol (1859). A Presbyterian church was constructed in the early 1860s and served as the first school building which opened in 1869.

The town is set in hilly surrounds, beyond which are plains occupied by several historic pastoral properties. They include Clunie Estate with a large bluestone woolshed, Pine Hills (c1858), Mullagh Station (1866) and Kout Norien (c1855). A slab cottage, woolshed and other outbuildings (1848) at Kout Norien are on the Victorian Heritage Register. Mullagh Station's name was attached to an Aboriginal cricketer, Johnny Mullagh, who was in Australia's first touring side in 1867. He is buried in the Harrow cemetery. The annual Mullagh Cricket Cup (1995) is contested each year in Harrow between the Indigenous descendants of the first Australian team versus cricketers from the Western District of Victoria. A mechanics' institute was opened in 1878, a flour mill in 1890, and by the turn of the century Harrow had several stores, two hotels and a population of about 250 people.

### 8.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Harrow is defined as a Small Settlement in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Access to services, economic diversification, providing infrastructure and managing change from significant investment are important for Harrow.

The RGP states that *"a small settlement (urban centres of less than 500 people) will play a role in providing for complementary functions to the larger nearby towns. They will need to continue to share services and facilities with other settlements in their community of interest and maintain services for their local communities. Larger towns will generally provide the size and critical mass to support higher services"*.

In the RGP, future directions for a Small Settlement are to:

- Plan for small settlements to manage local challenges and help these communities to be adaptable and resilient.
- Encourage small settlements to contribute to their local communities of interest to enable good access to key services.

#### *West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-05*

Clause 11.01-1L-05 Settlement - Harrow provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to avoid development within the floodplain of the Glenelg River. The clause ensures built form is responsive to Harrow's rural valley setting and that development enhances the town's historic 19<sup>th</sup> Century pastoral character. The Clause 11.01-1L-05 settlement framework for Harrow is shown in **Figure 26**.

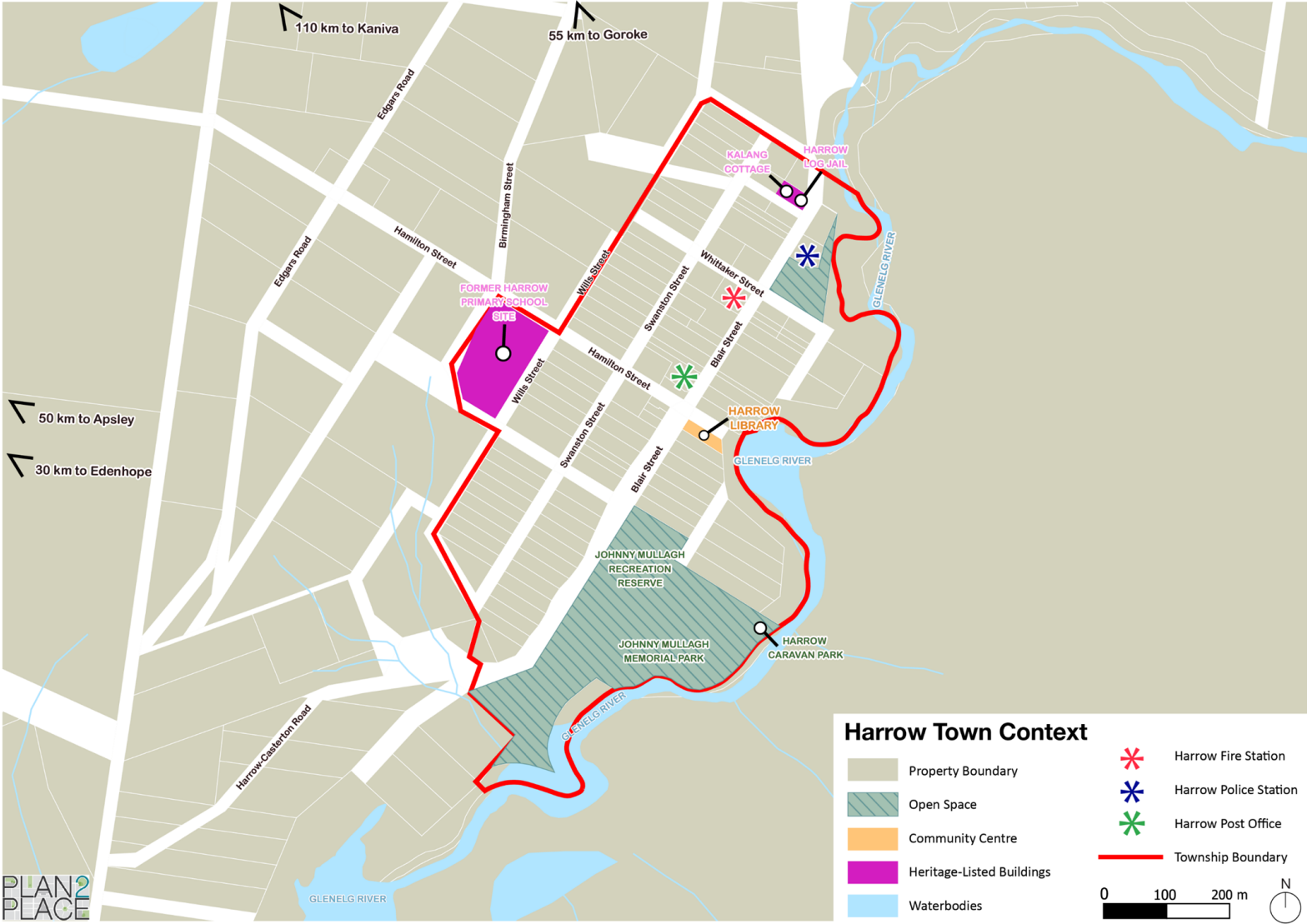
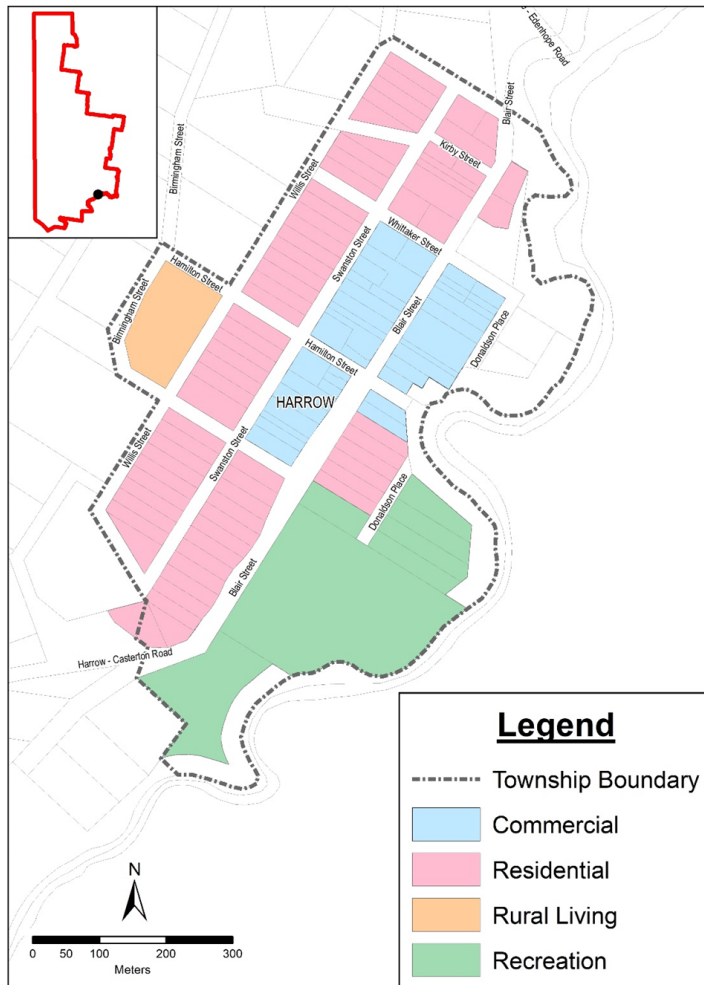


Figure 25: Harrow Context Map

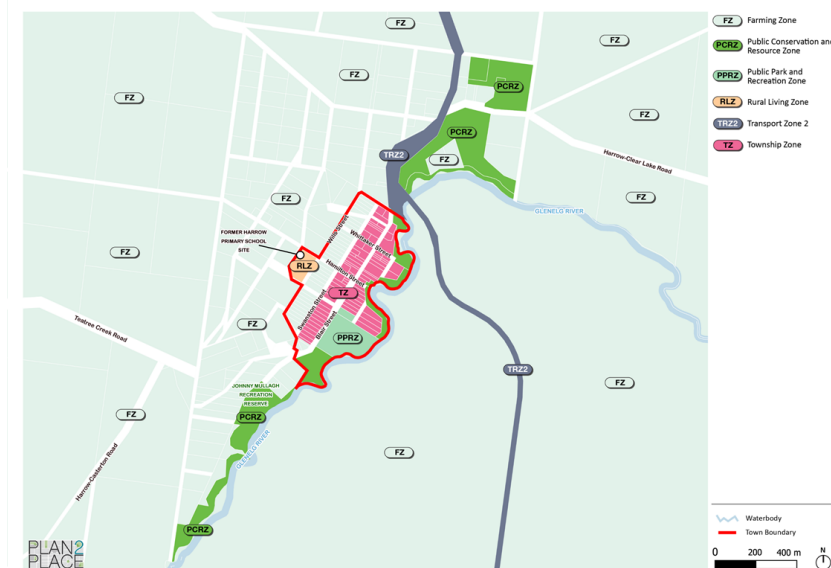


**Figure 26: Harrow Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-1L**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Harrow are shown in **Figure 27** and the are summarised below.

- The TZ applies to land within Harrow.

- The RLZ applies to the former Harrow Primary School site.
- The PPRZ applies to the caravan park.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The PCRZ is applied to the Johnny Mullagh Recreation Reserve to provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes and to provide for appropriate resource based uses.
- The TRZ applies to the Coleraine - Edenhope Road that runs through the centre of Harrow.



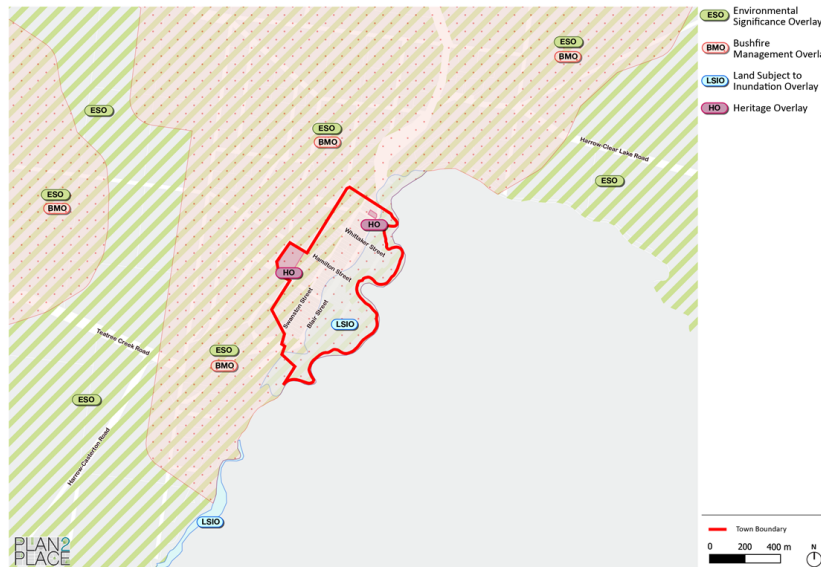
**Figure 27: Harrow - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Harrow are shown in **Figure 28** and are summarised below.

- The ESO2 applies to all of the land within and surrounding Harrow to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The BMO applies land within Harrow and much of the land surrounding the town.



- The HO applies to two sites within Harrow which are the Log Gaol built in 1859 and the Presbyterian church which was constructed in the early 1860s and served as the first school building which opened in 1869.
- The LSIO applies along the edge of the Glenelg River in Harrow to identify flood prone land that will be affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood.



**Figure 28: Harrow - Existing Overlays**

The LSIO has been placed in Harrow along the Glenelg River to ensure that any development in Harrow:

- Maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- Minimises the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.
- Reflects the declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act 1989.

- Protects water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- Ensures that it maintains or improves river, marine, coastal and wetland health, waterway protection and floodplain health.

## 8.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Harrow and the surrounding area had a population of 184 people. The town has a current population of approximately 170 which is forecast to continue to decline over the period to 2036.

## 8.3 Housing

The township has a unique, heavily treed setting in which the main commercial centre, Blair Street, runs beside the river floodplain, although many of the houses of the town are on the hillside above Blair Street to the west.

The local population is projected to continue to decline but there may be occasional demand for a new house in the town with people attracted to the natural beauty of the town.

The town is not served by sewerage and the reticulated ground water is not safe to drink according to GWM Water. These factors may reduce the demand from new residents who could seek safer options.

The Township Zone (TZ) covers only the land either side of Blair Street and not the land in larger allotments on the slopes to the west and north. Given the lack of sewerage services, the larger lots may be the only ones capable of accommodating new dwellings and the necessary septic tanks. There appears to be several vacant lots in this area, although the land is subject to the BMO.

## 8.4 Economic Profile

Harrow is a town with a significant heritage, being one of the first towns to be gazetted in Victoria. This is reflected in many of the buildings on Blair Street. This heritage and the bush-setting is attractive to visitors and provides a substantial underpinning of the commercial activities of the town, including several accommodation providers. There may be opportunities to expand this visitor

offering to include destination accommodation, food, wine, art and indigenous heritage.

There is no industrial land in the township and little industrial activity. Given the sloping topography and the fire risk, the township is not suited to industrial development, which should be redirected to industrial precincts at Edenhope and elsewhere.

### 8.5 Movement and Transport

Harrow is located along Blair Street just off the Coleraine-Edenhope Road. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Harrow is via private vehicle. There is currently no public transport currently available for residents of the town.

### 8.6 Physical Infrastructure

Harrow is supplied by tank water as there is no reticulated drinking water currently available to the town. Ground and surface water is not safe for drinking, however, water can be used for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry. It can also be used for showering or bathing if caution is exercised. Drinking water could be piped in from Edenhope or Coleraine in the future subject to funding.

All houses are serviced by septic tanks as there is no wastewater treatment plant servicing the town with reticulated sewerage.

### 8.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The township has a small commercial and community centre. The town centre activities are dispersed along Blair Street and includes a combined post office/café and general store which provides a very limited range of fresh food and a stand alone general store. The Hermitage Hotel includes accommodation and there is a gift shop and a collectibles shop. There is the Harrow discovery centre, a garage and service station and an agricultural supplies outlet.

Harrow has a police station, fire station and a bush nursing centre. There is an RSL and Mechanics Institute (the library). The nearest schools are at Edenhope and Balmoral.

At the southern end of Blair Street, away from the town centre, is a Caravan Park with recently developed cabins owned by DEECA run by a Committee of Management.

The Glenelg River is used for recreation activities such as fishing and canoeing. No powerboats are allowed on the river. There is a popular swimming hole near the caravan park along with riverside parks and walking trails. The West Wimmera Recreational Trails (2018) lists the Glenelg River Walking Trail at Harrow as a high priority project to be upgraded. This walking trail is designed to include signage that speaks to the local Indigenous history of the area as well as the early European contact in the area – see **Figure 29**. There is also scope to introduce a horse riding trail between Harrow and Dergholm and to develop the Glenelg River Canoe Trail from Harrow to Dergholm.

### 8.8 Built Form and Heritage

The town enjoys a very high level of amenity due to its well preserved heritage architecture, its location on the Glenelg River and the associated corridor of open space. Views into Harrow are limited due to the rolling landform and dense native vegetation screening. This creates a great sense of arrival entering from the highway as the road drops down to the centre of town. Once in the township, the steep, vegetated hills and limited sightlines create a sense of enclosure.

Harrow's sense of history resulted in the formation of a historical society in 1969, with an eye to the preservation of the log gaol. The gaol has since been listed on the Australian and Victorian heritage registers. Mullagh and Pine Hills homesteads are also on the Australian register, along with old bluestone offices which served the Kowree Shire during 1872-87.

The Presbyterian church was by far the grander, replacing an earlier structure in 1884 and the Anglicans built a church in 1933. Unusual in a town of such size, a bush nursing centre was opened in 1913, and it was rebuilt in 1995 at a time when such facilities were at risk of closure.

Harrow has three church buildings, the bush nursing centre, the mechanics' institute, the Hermitage Hotel, a general store, a museum, a recreation reserve, a golf club and tennis courts. The school closed in 2002. The Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre was developed by the Harrow community as a means of

celebrating the story of the 1868 Aboriginal cricket team and the history of the Harrow township.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 29: Harrow Trail Network Concept Plan**  
Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy Nov 2018

<sup>2</sup>-History-<https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/harrow>

There is ample on-street parking for residents, visitors and tourists in the central area of town. The majority of Harrow is zoned TZ, with the exception of the river corridor (PCRZ) and the Jonny Mullagh Reserve (PPRZ). A small area of land to the north of the town is zoned rural living (RLZ), and Council has identified this area as suitable for additional rural living development.



*Historic Building – Harrow*

8.9 Landscape and Environment

The Glenelg River is a Victorian Heritage River. It is a regulated river system with water storage at Rocklands that was built in 1944 being kept 70% full due to structural issues with the dam. Water is periodically released downstream into the Glenelg River.

The Glenelg River provides habitat for rare and engendered fish and aquatic species. The estuary and has an ESO to protect habitat for the Red Tail Black Cockatoo.

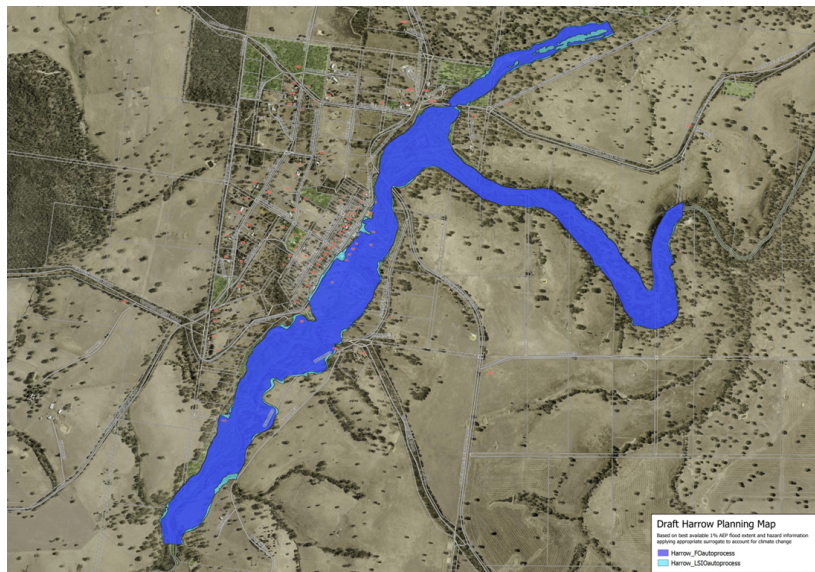
Harrow is subject to flooding from the Glenelg River and land to the east of Blair Street is subject to an inundation overlay and the recent 2022 flood was



approximately 1 metre deep. Harrow is in a valley that is at risk of significant flooding.

Current flood mapping was prepared in 2017 and may not be consistent with current climate change risk mitigation standards. These maps need to be updated to be compliant with current standards. A flood investigation report is currently underway for Harrow and new flood maps are being prepared for implementation into the WWPS. **Figure 30** shows the extent of flooding in a 1% AEP Flooding event.

Harrow and its surrounding area is affected by a BMO. There is a high risk of bushfire for the town as experienced in the summer of 2024-25. There are access constraints for residents and visitors in the case of bushfire as there is only one road into the town and one road out.



**Figure 30: Draft Harrow Flood Map 1% AEP Flood Extent**

Harrow is part of the Dundas Tablelands Bioregion and is located in the south-west of the State. The land is made up of a hard ironstone layer which resists erosion. Streams have cut deep narrow valleys across the tablelands. Black earths (Dermosols) dominate the valleys and the dissected Merino Tablelands, yellow

texture contrast soils (Chromosols and Sodosols) and cracking clays (Vertosols) dominate the rest of the table tops. The bioregion includes an area south of the Grampians which does not have such strongly expressed tableland features but supports a similar range of ecosystems.

The vegetation is a complex mosaic of Plains Grassy Woodland, Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, Grassy Woodland and Creekline Grassy Woodland ecosystems. There are many areas of high value habitat close to Harrow that need to be preserved and protected. The NaturePrint map at **Figure 31** identifies areas of biodiversity with the area of the highest value in the darkest green along the Glenelg River.



**Figure 31: Harrow – Biodiversity Values**

## 8.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

*Issues*

- There is significant risk of flooding from the Glenelg River, with the eastern side of Blair Street subject to flooding.
- There is significant bushfire risk with one road in and one road out.
- There is a steep escarpment creating a barrier to movement and potentially development.
- The town is serviced by septic tanks.
- Drinking water needs to be upgraded for the town.
- There is no public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport to move between towns.
- A bushfire assessment will need to be undertaken before any new development or structure planning work can commence.
- Currently projected for a reduction in population.

*Opportunities*

- The historic built form and natural beauty is an opportunity to attract residents and grow tourism in the town.
- There are under-utilised buildings and vacant lots that could accommodate new commercial and residential development along with visitor accommodation.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- There may be potential for some additional services.
- Additional tourism retailing is an opportunity including arts-related facilities.
- Provide a community bus service to surrounding towns.
- Capitalise on the history of Harrow while ensuring that the heritage of the township is preserved and enhanced.
- Land high on the escarpment is out of the flood area and could be [investigated for suited to](#) future development, noting this land is subject to the BMO.
- Plant more street trees to provide more shade in summer.
- Consider opportunities for growth of the town subject to environmental constraints.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Harrow are detailed in **Table 6.**

**Table 6: Harrow Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Harrow
Catchment Population	Up to 500
Role in the Hierarchy	Small Settlement
Existing Infrastructure	No reticulated drinking water, no reticulated sewage system
Other Services Available	Nursing post, accommodation, café, emergency services, hotel, library, heritage centre
Growth Capacity	Low due to fire and flood constraints
Expected Outcomes	Negligible change
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and implement the Harrow flood study to determine the extent of flood risk and to direct any new housing away from flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Prepare a bushfire study and direct any new development with high bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Work with GWM Water to explore options to provide drinking water to the town.</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of providing a reticulated sewerage in consultation with GWM Water.</li> <li>• Advocate for a community bus services between Harrow and the surrounding towns.</li> <li>• Support the activation of under-utilised buildings and vacant lots to accommodate new commercial, residential and visitor accommodation development, subject to a bushfire assessment, noting that the eastern side of Blair Street is subject to flooding and would not be suitable without expensive building modifications.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> <li>• Support additional tourism retailing, including arts-related facilities.</li> <li>• Support the consolidation of Harrow's role as a visitor destination.</li> <li>• Work with the community to capitalise on the history of Harrow while ensuring that the heritage of the township is preserved and enhanced.</li> <li>• Explore the opportunity for future development on land located high on the escarpment out of the flood area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant more street trees to provide shade in summer.</li> <li>• Undertake a bushfire risk assessment for the town.</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a structure plan for the town.</li> </ul>
Potential Boundary Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider undertaking a bushfire risk assessment to explore opportunities <a href="#">for residential development on the west side of Harrow within the town boundary to by considering a more appropriately zone land on the west side of Harrow to a zone</a> that more accurately reflects its lot size and land uses. This could include the RLZ or LDRZ.</li> </ul>





## 9. KANIVA

Kaniva is the largest town in the north of the Shire, located on the Western Highway and the Melbourne-Adelaide Railway. It is surrounded by agricultural land the Little Desert National Park to the south and the Big Desert Wilderness Park to the north. The town provides services to the surrounding farm districts and to travellers on the Western Highway.

Kaniva is a small but robust community and economy. Its location on the Western Highway provides significant strategic advantages relating to economic growth and land use. It has a wide range of community infrastructure to support its population, including sport and recreation facilities. Its economy is anchored by agriculture and farming. Kaniva is the gateway to the he Silo Art Trail and home to Sheep Art.

Kaniva functions both as a service centre for the surrounding agricultural area and as a popular rest stop for travellers on the way to regional destinations and Adelaide. The commercial area is centrally located along the Western Highway, putting it in a prime position to capture freight and logistics-oriented activity. The local community sees the location of the town on the Western Highway and the railway as a major asset and its location has significantly contributed to the formation of the town's character. The town context map is shown in **Figure 32**.

The first town in the area was Lawloit which developed in the 1860s. The first selector arrived in 1875 and many others followed, particularly from 1879. They established wheat farms and 'mullenised' the land, which is to say it was cleared with a red-gum roller invented by a South Australian named Mullens. Three metres long and one metre in diameter, it was hauled over the land by a team of 10 bullocks. This process squashed the mallee trees, after which the land was burnt then ploughed. The township of Lillimur South developed in the late 1870s and was soon followed by Lillimur North. Another settlement, initially named 'Budjik', (meaning stone axe) as it was situated on Budjik Hill, began to develop when a flour mill and grain shed was built there in 1881. The opening of a post office on the site in April 1882 saw the town officially change its name to Kaniva.

### 9.1 Existing Policy and Planning Scheme Context

#### *Regional Growth Plan*

Kaniva is defined as a Town in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP. Kaniva will continue as a key service centre. Residential development within the town's boundaries will also be promoted with recent upgrades to water infrastructure providing potable water to the town. Kaniva is similar to a district town but generally services a more localised catchment. It has a greater reliance on other centres for services and employment.

The future directions for Kaniva as outlined in the RGP are to:

- Recognise Kaniva as a key local service centre.
- Encourage the provision of a range of services appropriate for the local community.
- Provide for infill residential development within the town boundaries and provide for some additional low density and rural living land adjacent to the town.

The RGP states *"Kaniva will continue to provide services for its local community of interest which includes small rural settlements such as Lillimur, Miram, Serviceton and Telopea Downs. Kaniva's location on the Western Highway corridor means it has good access to Nhill and Horsham for higher order services."*

*Kaniva has a compact and contiguous built form and is contained within the TZ with some zoned industrial land. Infill development will be encouraged to consolidate the existing urban form. Several small lots on the immediate western side of the town, currently located in the FZ, should be zoned for low density and rural living residential purposes. Industrial land is provided on the eastern side of Kaniva and is expected to meet demand for the immediate future."*

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan outlines the following land use policies, strategies and actions for Kaniva:

- Promote residential development within current town boundaries
- Investigate rezoning small lots to the west of Kaniva to allow for low density residential and rural living development
- Provide a single zone for the town's aerodrome.
- Monitor the need for additional industrial land.



- Support improvements to the town's drinking water quality.

*West Wimmera Planning Scheme Clause 11.01-1L-02*

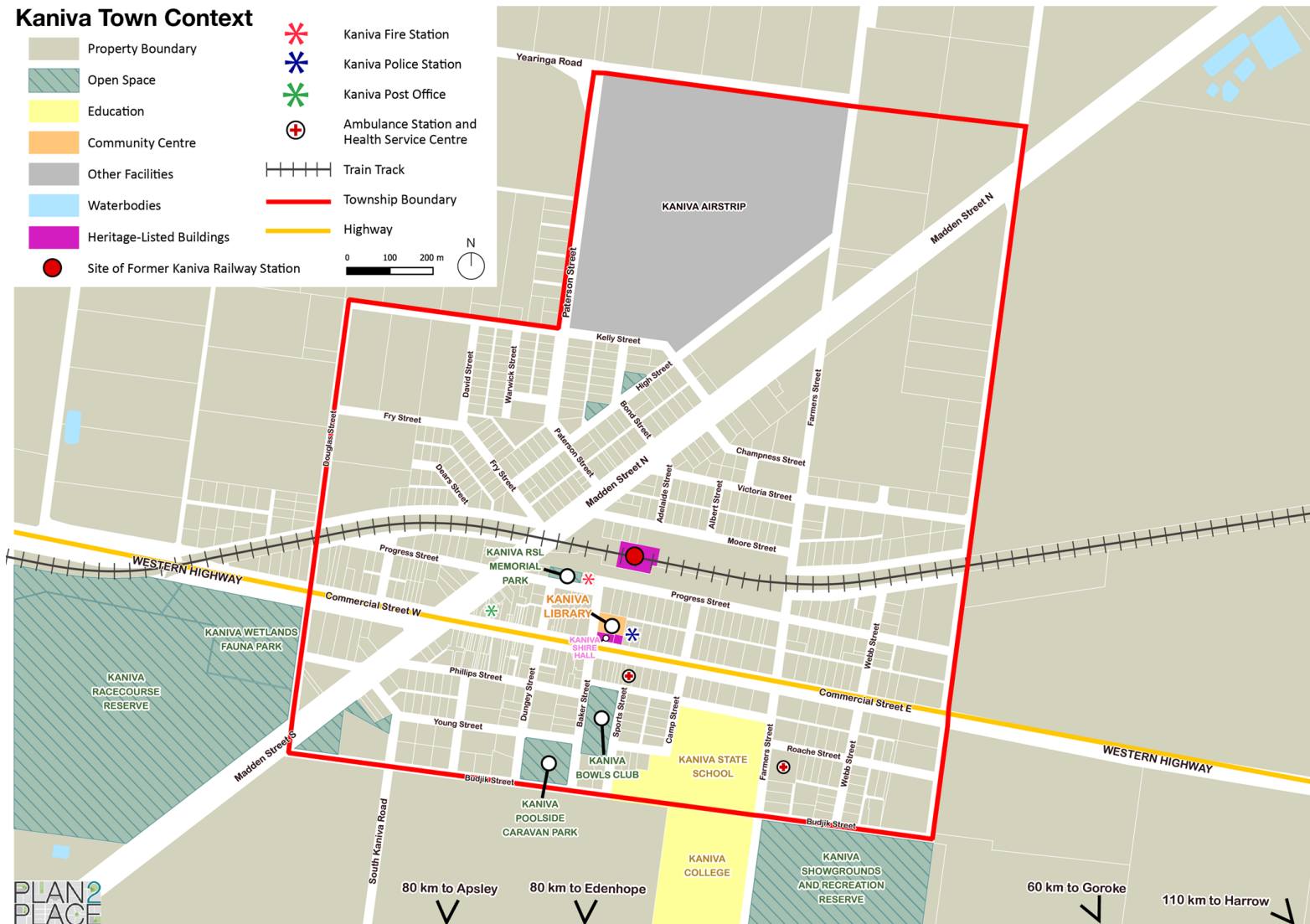
Clause 11.01-1L-02 Settlement - Kaniva provides the existing settlement framework for the town. Strategies to the clause seek to encourage development of the Kaniva Industrial Estate that is mindful of residential growth in the town and to retain community and commercial facilities in the town. The Clause 11.01-1L-02 settlement framework for Kaniva is shown in **Figure 33**.



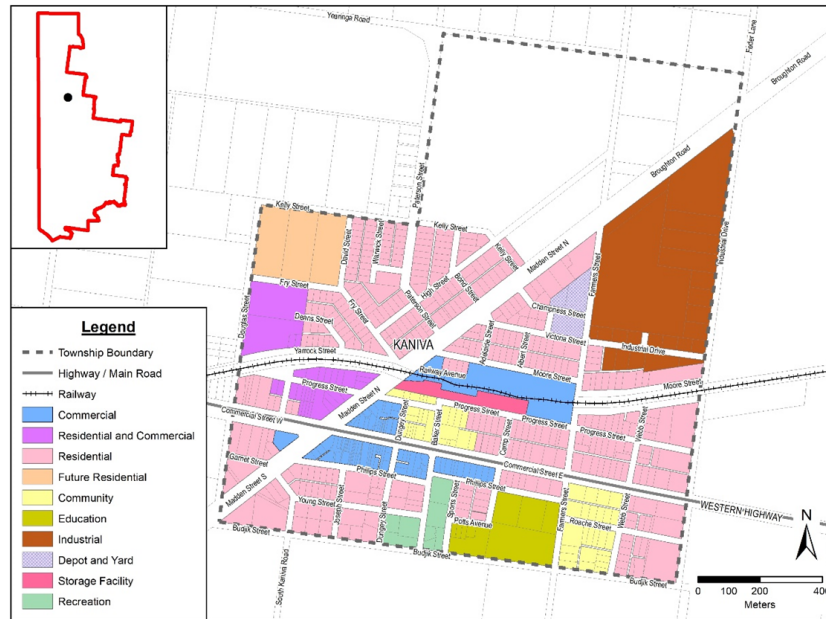
*Commerical Street E, Kaniva*



*Business, Commerical Street E, Kaniva*



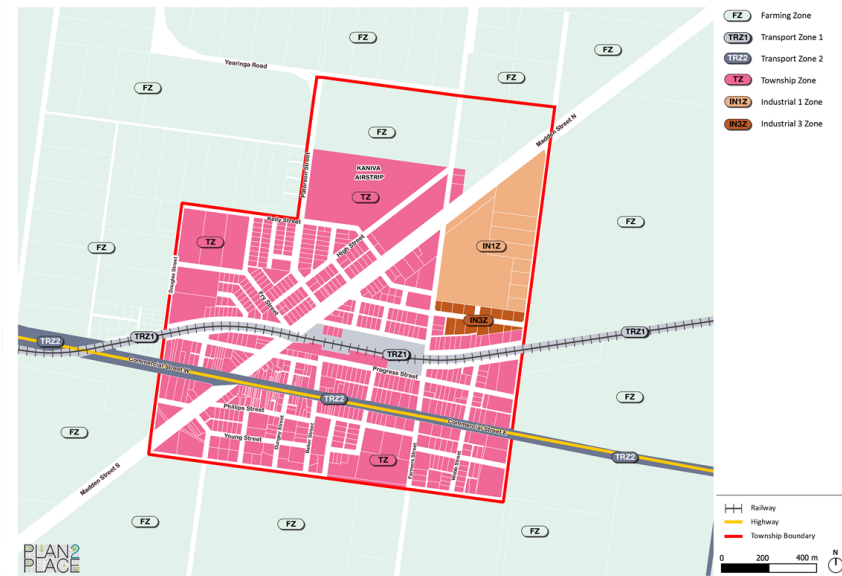
**Figure 32: Kaniva Context Map**



**Figure 33: Kaniva Settlement Plan at Clause 11.01-11**

Relevant zones within the WWPS affecting Kaniva are shown in **Figure 34** and are summarised below:

- The TZ applies to land within Kaniva.
- The INZ1 applies to land within the existing township boundary.
- The INZ3 applies to land adjoining the INZ1 zone behind some residential housing that abuts the train line.
- The FZ applies to agricultural land surrounding the town boundaries.
- The TRZ applies to land for declared roads, railways and other important transportation infrastructure representing state and local designations. The TRZ1 is applied to the railway reserve land and the TRZ2 is applied to Commercial Street E.



**Figure 34: Kaniva - Existing Zones**

Relevant overlays within the WWPS affecting Kaniva are shown in **Figure 35** and are summarised below:

- The ESO2 applies to land at the southern end of Kaniva to ensure that development is compatible with identified environmental values.
- The HO applies to several sites within Kaniva close to the railway line. The former Kaniva Station Building is heritage listed but is no longer standing however the platform remains intact.
- A DDO2 applies to land to the south of Madden Street North to identify areas which are affected by specific requirements relating to the design and built form of new development.





**Figure 35: Kaniva - Existing Overlays**

## 9.2 Population and Demographics

The 2021 Australian census reported Kaniva had a population of 683 people. The population of the residential catchment area for the Kaniva town centre is currently around 1,200. Trends have it steadily reducing over the forecast period to 2036. It should be noted the population of Kaniva did grow between 2016 and 2021. However, this is likely as a result of Covid-19 pandemic and the 2026 Census will enable a greater understanding of the long term impacts of the trends that occurred during the pandemic.

The number of travellers on the Western Highway, on the other hand, is likely to continue to grow in line with traffic forecasts and will provide a slowly expanding market for visitor services. A key concern for residents will be to ensure that the food and grocery offering can be maintained and updated as required. The local supermarket has recently been renovated and there are ~~are~~ is two-one food banks in operation to assist the community with the high cost of food.

## 9.3 Housing

The population of the town is forecast to decline despite taking account of dwelling downsizing due to demographic changes and an ageing community. The town will however need to accommodate some growth in the number of dwellings – up to 3 additional dwellings per year according to forecasts.

There are parcels of land within the TZ that are largely vacant and which could be suitable for residential development. This includes, for example, land in the north-west of the town in the area around Douglas Street; land on the south-eastern edge of the town; and the Council-owned land fronting Kelly Street which presently accommodates a little-used airstrip. Whether the privately-owned land is available for development is uncertain. Council may be able to help facilitate housing diversity and development by leveraging some Council owned land to encourage investment by affordable housing providers and/or to engage in direct housing and infrastructure provision.

The demand for new dwellings is likely to be for older age groups. Many of these people will prefer to be in smaller homes close to the services of the hospital and the town centre. There are some vacant lots among the existing development where there is potential to encourage redevelopment at higher densities and for previous farm owners to downsize to rural residential lots.

The town is connected to sewer and now potable water as a result of an extension to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. This new infrastructure may spark an upsurge in investment in housing and other activities in the town and is a factor that should be planned for now.

## 9.4 Economic Profile

Kaniva is roughly midway between Adelaide (3 hours and 20 minutes) and Melbourne (4 hours and 40 minutes) and is a convenient place to stop or rest on the journey. This has given rise to a local visitor services industry that comprises cafés, pubs and a service station in the town centre as well as two motels and a caravan park located in town as well as B&B accommodation and free pub camps. Kaniva provides places to rest, including the Madden Street car-park and the Wetlands and Fauna Park on the western edge of the town. The town is also the gateway to the Silo Art Trail, providing the western-most painted silo in Victoria as well as the home of Sheep Art.



While the number of travellers on the Western Highway will continue to grow, Kaniva faces competition for visitor expenditure from the nearby towns such as Nhill, Bordertown and Dimboola which are slightly larger and with more services. In the case of Dimboola, there is direct access to the Wimmera River and the Little Desert National Park. In improving Kaniva as a travellers' rest stop, the provision of shade will be increasingly important. When upgrading the streetscape of the town centre, consideration should be given to the planting of shade trees, as well as extending verandas for the length of the pedestrian strip (particularly on the north side). Strengthening the provision of electric vehicle charging stations would also be beneficial. Council could also consider the provision of improved trailer and caravan parking spaces.

Kaniva has an industrial precinct located at the north east edge of the town. This comprises:

- Approximately 18.8 hectares of IN1Z land which is mostly vacant apart from three businesses on lots of 0.4 hectares or less.
- Approximately 3 hectares of IN3Z land on an adjacent site of which about 2 hectares is vacant.
- Approximately 2.7 hectares of adjacent land being used for industrial purposes in the TZ.

The zoning of land for industry in the precinct is somewhat problematic, with the TZ in particular, which allows housing to be interspersed with industrial activities. There may be some scope to reform the town's zoning to ensure that existing and future housing is kept separate from the industrial activity and to support industrial activities. The area of industrial land should be ample for likely future investment over the forecast period.

Agricultural supplies, storage and works depots are currently the principal activities in the precinct.

The residential and commercial areas of the town are currently covered by a TZ. If more functional zones were to be introduced, it would be a straightforward matter to identify an appropriate area for the Commercial 1 Zone to cover the town centre. There is only one vacant parcel of land in the main commercial centre.

## 9.5 Movement and Transport

Kaniva is on the Western Highway and it has an infrequent bus service to Horsham that runs once a week. The primary mode of transport for residents, workers and visitors to Kaniva is via private vehicle. There is an EV charging station on Madden Street North.

Kaniva is on the Serviceton line however the train no longer stops at Kaniva. The rail corridor is under lease to the ARTC. VicTrack boundaries are marked in dashed dark blue in **Figure 36**. The land under ARTC lease is orange and the land which is bright green is vacant land not under lease. Land shown yellow in **Figure 37** is Crown land within the station precinct.



**Figure 36: Station Precinct with VicTrack Boundaries and Vacant Land**



**Figure 37: Yellow Crown Land in the Station Precinct**

### 9.6 Physical Infrastructure

Since the discovery of alleged illegal dumping of waste 15 km south of Kaniva, GWM Water has been working closely with the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPAV), local government and other relevant agencies to ensure the safety of Kaniva's water supply.

Potable water is now available to the town. Water is available for industrial fire flows however industrial customers need to pay a fee to meet the building code's requirements.

There is a gravity sewer system in Kaniva to treat wastewater. However, the capacity of the waste water treatment plant needs to be increased to support growth in the town. Some homes remain on septic tanks and are not connected to the sewage treatment system.

### 9.7 Community Facilities and Infrastructure

The town has a commercial services centre on the main Highway. The Kaniva hospital provides urgent care, acute care, residential aged care and community health services. Kaniva College P-12 Government school is one of three in the Shire. The Kaniva Kindergarten provides pre-school education services.

The main food and grocery outlet is a small IGA supermarket of approximately 650 sqm. There is a small selection of speciality retailers, including cafés, a butcher, pharmacy, hardware/agricultural supplies, hairdresser, thrift shop and puppet shop as well as a tattoo parlour, beauty salons, a post office and a homewares shop.

There are two hotels with accommodation in the town centre, catering to residents and visitors. The eastern end of the centre around Baker Street has a number of civic functions including the Kaniva Shire Hall, Council offices, library and police station. There are a limited number of professional services. The town has a combined service station and café which is a community enterprise, saved from closure by residents of the town. The strip has some vacant shops. There are also several former commercial buildings that appear to have been repurposed for housing. There is no bank, although there is a post office which has some banking facilities. There is extensive visitor parking on the service roads as well as in Madden Street North where there are public toilets.

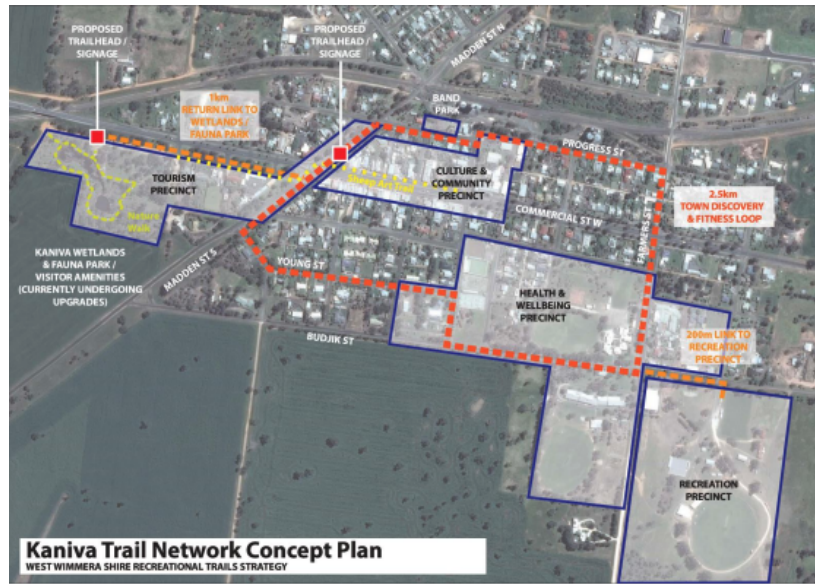
Kaniva has a Recreation Reserve that houses active sports groups including cricket, hockey football and netball. This land is owned by DEECA and managed by a Committee of Management. There is also a tennis, bowls club and a rifle range. Funds are being sought for an upgrade to the Kaniva swimming pool including a splash park. A gun club is also located in the north west of the town on the airstrip.



*Kaniva Bowling and Croquet Club*

The Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park is a popular spot with locals and visitors. The Wetlands and Fauna Park was upgraded in 2018/19 as part of a community partnership project instigated by Kaniva & District Progress Association. There is the Sheep Art Trail connecting the Silo Art, Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park to the main street. [Council has recently upgraded part of the Kaniva Fauna-Wetlands Trail the \(Kaniva Town Walk\). There is a concept plan for a town discovery and fitness loop, starting at the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park and connecting back to the town centre. For further details see the Kaniva Trail Network Concept Plan at Figure 38.](#)





**Figure 38: Kaniva Trail Network Concept Plan**

Source: West Wimmera Recreational Trail Strategy – Volume 1: The Strategy Nov 2018

## 9.8 Built Form and Heritage

The Kaniva town centre extends along the Western Highway but is principally concentrated in the area from just east of the intersection with Baker Street to just west of the intersection with Madden Street.

The Western Highway is a major through-route and the commercial activities on the northern and southern side of the road are accessed via two service roads, each separated from the Highway by a median strip. This acts as a barrier to movement between the two sides of the main street.

The core centre has had extensive landscape treatment including planting of vines on verandas and paving as well as some public art in the form of decorated grazing sheep scattered throughout. There is a rest area including a small shady park on the former Methodist church site at the corner of the Highway and Baker Street.



**Painted Sheep – Kaniva**

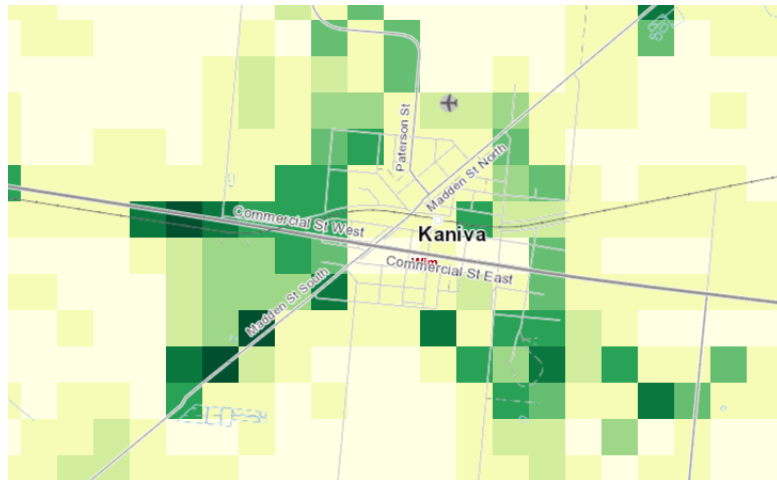
## 9.9 Landscape and Environment

Kaniva is not at significant risk of bushfire, however Terramatrix has led a bushfire assessment and the delivery of a Bushfire Development Report (BDR) that meets the requirements of the WWPS Clause 13.02. This has taken into account relevant building and bushfire regulations for the town. Kaniva has limited flooding issues, mainly from stormwater flooding. Kaniva sits on land that was once a retreated ancient sea and there is a limestone aquifer which sits under the Kaniva district.

Kaniva is located in the Wimmera bioregion in the far west of the central Victoria, typified by flat to gently undulating plains in the east, with black and grey cracking clay soils (Vertosols). Plains Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland, Plains Grassland, Red Gum Wetland and Grassy Woodland are the dominant ecosystems.

The western part is typified by ancient stranded beach ridges with interspersed with clay plains (where there are a mixture of swamp, lakes, lagoons and lunettes in the south) with cracking clay soils and red texture contrast soils (Vertosols and Sodosols). The vegetation on these less fertile plains is dominated by Heathy Woodland and Shallow Sands Woodland.

The NaturePrint map at **Figure 39** identifies areas of biodiversity with areas of the highest value in the darkest green.



**Figure 39: Kaniva – Biodiversity Values**

#### 9.10 Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities are identified for the town:

##### Issues

- While the trainline runs through the town, passenger services are no longer available to residents to board in Kaniva.
- There is insufficient public transport available for the town and residents are reliant on private transport.
- Manage any impacts from industry runoff into the wetlands that may cause pollution.
- There is a lack of key worker housing.
- Current trends are that population loss will continue.
- There is limited short term or long term rental accommodation available in Kaniva.
- There is a limited local housing construction industry to provide new housing in the town.

- There is a mismatch between the cost to build a house and the market value of a house making it unviable to build dwellings unless property prices were to increase or housing building costs were to decline.
- There is a need for more key worker and higher quality housing.
- Land banking is an issue.
- There are not enough staff or places for childcare.
- Kaniva is bisected by the Western Highway which is a major truck route day and night.

##### Opportunities

- Leverage the potential for town development provided by potable water infrastructure.
- Kaniva has a slowly reducing residential catchment but there is growth in the demand for visitor services as traffic on the Western Highway continues to increase.
- Kaniva is part of the Silo Art Trail which attracts visitors to the town.
- Attract more visitors and visitors to the area by improving wayfinding signage to the Wetlands and Fauna Park.
- Opportunity to collaborate with the BGLC to develop and install culturally relevant signage that identifies local plants and animals in traditional language, fostering education, language revitalization, and connection to Country.
- Bird watching and ecotourism could be a major attraction for visitors in the area and should be explored further.
- Kaniva location provides opportunities to promote itself as Victoria's 'Bordertown' including new billboard signage.
- Overnight accommodation offerings could be expanded and upgraded to attract more tourists and visitors to the area.
- There are likely to be opportunities in the "silver economy" as well as visitor services.
- Explore the development of a free camp on the old racecourse, at the Wetlands and the Recreation Reserve.
- Greater low cost and affordable housing options in the town.
- Diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.

- Significant public land holdings including the Council owned airstrip to facilitate desired outcomes.
- Providing apprenticeships for local people to upskill in building and construction.
- Maintaining the liveability of the town including the attractiveness of the town centre, as well as ensuring that there is sufficient serviced and available land for commercial, industrial and residential development.
- Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.
- Provision of electric vehicle charging stations in easily accessible locations for visitors and travellers.
- Improvements to trailer and caravan parking spaces in the town.
- Exploring opportunities for additional key worker housing.
- Further development of the local construction industry would assist in providing new housing for Kaniva.
- Explore opportunities for marketing support for new businesses.
- Explore the viability of a business incubator or coworking space for the town.

The settlement attributes and key recommendations for Kaniva are detailed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Kaniva Settlement and Key Recommendations**

Settlement	Kaniva
<b>Catchment Population</b>	Up to 1,200
<b>Role in the Hierarchy</b>	Town
<b>Existing Infrastructure</b>	Potable water is now available. Limited reticulated sewage system available.
<b>Other Services Available</b>	Accommodation, hotels, professional, civic and recreational services. Some retailing including hardware, and agricultural services
<b>Growth Capacity</b>	The town has capacity to grow.
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	Minimal growth expected
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and implement a Structure Plan for Kaniva.</li> <li>• Advocate for increased public transport to and from Kaniva.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate key worker housing and increase quality of housing.</li> <li>• Explore options to provide more places for childcare for residents in the town and the staff to facilitate places.</li> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage to attract more visitors to the Kaniva Wetlands and Fauna Park.</li> <li>• Work with the BGLC to provide signage of local plants and animals in language.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to grow bird watching and eco-tourism.</li> <li>• Promote Kaniva as Victoria's 'Bordertown' encouraging people to stop and stay on way to Adelaide.</li> <li>• Expand and upgrade overnight accommodation offerings to attract more tourists and visitors to the area.</li> <li>• Explore options to work with a housing provider to provide low cost and affordable housing in the town.</li> <li>• Explore options to diversify the housing stock to enable people to age in place.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for apprenticeships for local people to upskill in building and construction.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is sufficient serviced and available land for commercial, industrial and residential development.</li> <li>• Facilitate more electric vehicle charging stations.</li> <li>• Consider the provision of improved trailer and caravan parking spaces.</li> <li>• Leverage opportunities associated with being part of the Silo Art Trail.</li> <li>• Explore adaptive reuse of civic buildings.</li> <li>• Determine future land use opportunities for the Kaniva airstrip including existing users.</li> </ul>
<b>Boundary Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include the Kaniva Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve in the town boundary.</li> <li>• Include the Kaniva College in the town boundary.</li> <li>• Include the Kaniva Wetlands Fauna Park and Kaniva Racecourse Reserve into the town boundary to recognise their important recreation and tourism roles.</li> <li>• Consider including land on the west side of Paterson Street between Kelly Street and Yeararinga Road in the town boundary to reflect the small lot sizes and current residential land uses. Consider rezoning to an urban zone to reflect the residential land uses.</li> </ul>

## 10. FUTURE SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

### 10.1 Determining a Settlement Strategy

The Small Towns Plan (STP) provides improved strategic directions for the West Wimmera Shire for the management and direction of its five towns. A revised settlement hierarchy is proposed that promotes settlement growth or containment, consistent with the availability of infrastructure, environmental constraints, existing supply and demand, and state and local government policy and strategy. The STP has been developed in response to increasing pressure to maintain and enhance the sustainability of the small towns and settlements within the Shire.

Growth in West Wimmera is influenced by many factors, including population loss, bushfire and flood risk, community infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and the availability of utility services. Reticulated water is available in Edenhope and Kaniva. Reticulated sewerage is not provided to all of towns in the Shire and the provision of these services is the responsibility of water authorities and private sector utility providers. These factors have been considered in informing the recommendations for future growth in the Shire.

Key findings and recommendations of the STP include:

- A clear settlement hierarchy, classifying each of the five towns according to their current and future role.
- Updated strategies and policies for each of the five towns, reflecting the settlement hierarchy.
- An updated Strategic Framework Plan at Clause 02.04 that includes a settlement framework.
- A suite of planning scheme amendment documents to support the implementation of the STP, including changes to the MPS and PPF.
- Finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope and Aspley.
- Prepare a structure plan for Kaniva to further develop:
  - A vision for the town.
  - Identify key actions and priorities for capital works
  - Identify implementation of any changes to the MPS and PPF of the WWPS.
  - Prepare design guidelines for new development.

- Prepare a structure plan for Edenhope subject to funding.
- Prepare structure plans for Gorokey, Harrow and Aspley subject to funding.
- Map flood risks as appropriate, as part of the preparation of structure plans for Edenhope and Harrow.
- Review existing heritage and marketing of Harrow and resident/visitor needs in terms of signage, trails networks, heritage interpretation and promote the experience of Harrow to the visitor market.
- Map fire risk as part of the preparation of structure plans for Harrow, Gorokey and Aspley.

The existing settlement strategy for the small towns is identified in the WWPS. This reflects the designations applied in the Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP and outlined in **Table 8**.

While the hierarchy has been analysed and reviewed, no change is recommended to this settlement hierarchy as a result of the STP as shown below.

**Table 8: Current and Proposed Settlement Designations**

Town	Existing planning scheme designation	Regional Growth Plan designation	Proposed planning scheme designation
<b>Apsley</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Edenhope</b>	District Town	District Town	District Town
<b>Gorokey</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Harrow</b>	Small settlement	Small settlement	Small settlement
<b>Kaniva</b>	Town	Town	Town



## 10.2 Strategic Framework

The WWPS will be enhanced to provide clearer direction for land use and development in the five small towns consistent with the direction set out in the Small Towns Plan. This includes changes to the MPS, and through local planning policy.

### *MPS Recommendations*

The following recommendations are made to the MPS in the WWPS:

- Update Clause 02.03-1 Settlement with the settlement hierarchy for the five towns and related strategic directions.
- Strengthen the strategic directions around bushfire and flooding at Clause 02.03-3 in relation to the five towns.
- Update Clause 02.04 to reflect the settlement hierarchy for the five towns, show agricultural land and include identified environmental risks.
- Update Clause 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage with strategic directions to incorporate recommendations such as the need for additional tree planting to mitigate climate change impacts and opportunities to incorporate aboriginal cultural heritage into the built environment.
- Update 02.03-6 Housing to reflect the challenges for the towns in supplying housing and introduce a strategic direction in relation to key worker housing.
- Update Clause 02.03-7 Economic development to provide strategic directions on tourism opportunities in the towns.
- Update Clause 02.03-9 Infrastructure to highlight the challenges of water and sewerage infrastructure in the towns and the implications on development of the towns.

### *Strategic Framework Plan*

The current Strategic Framework Plan for West Wimmera currently reflects the hierarchy included in the STP. However, several improvements to the cartography and content of the map could be made to provide clearer directions on land use and development for the municipality. **Figure 40** outlines a proposed map for inclusion at Clause 02.04 of the WWPS.

### *PPF Recommendations*

The following recommendations are made to the PPF in the WWPS:

- Update Clause 11.01-1L-01 Settlement – Edenhope to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-02 Settlement – Kaniva to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-03 Settlement – Apsley to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-04 Settlement – Goroke to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 11.01-1L-05 Settlement – Harrow to reflect the recommendations of the Small Towns Plan and replace the map with an updated Framework Plan.
- Update Clause 74.02 Further Strategic work – To facilitate the preparation of Structure Plans for the towns and finalise and implement flood studies for Edenhope, Harrow and Apsley.

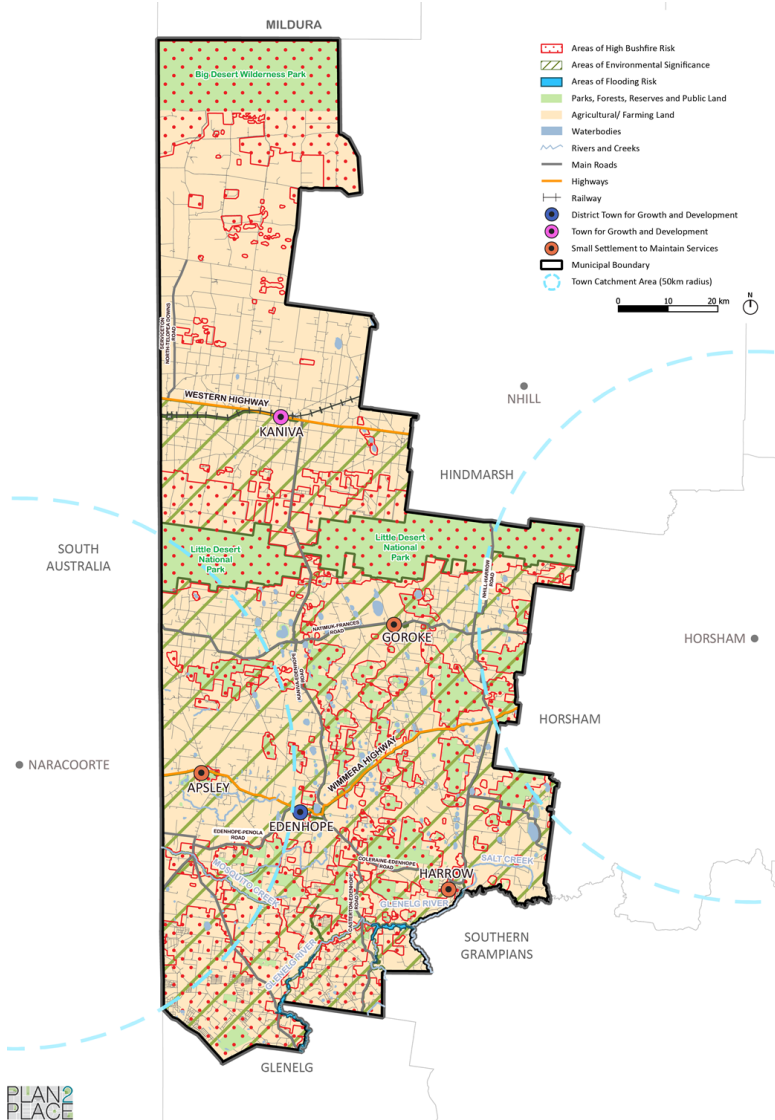


Figure 40: Proposed Strategic Framework Plan Update

## Appendix A – Content overview from the WWPS

### Clause 11 Settlement

**Clause 11.01-1S – Settlement** promotes the sustainable growth and development of Victoria to deliver choice and opportunity through a network of settlements. Strategies plan for the delivery of 2.24 million homes across Victoria by 2051. The settlement framework aims for housing choice and convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities, taking account of regional and municipal contexts and frameworks.

Investment and growth is focused in the Melbourne Central City, Metropolitan Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop Precincts in Metropolitan Melbourne, Priority Precincts (including the Suburban Rail Loop East Precincts), Major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and Regional cities of Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Regions are planned to reinforce settlement boundaries and provide for population growth and development of facilities and services. Growth is directed into existing settlements supported by a network of major and neighbourhood activity centres and townships of varying size, role and function. Urban consolidation is encouraged with density that supports sustainable transport and retail, office-based employment and community facilities and services. Expansion of settlements is managed by creating and reinforcing settlement boundaries (or to existing urban zoned land), promoting urban renewal and infill redevelopment, limiting urban sprawl with growth in existing settlements and not compromising land for future urban expansion.

Growth in population and development of facilities and services is planned across a regional or sub-regional network in accordance with housing targets with best use of existing and planned transport infrastructure. Transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements are coordinated through the identification of servicing priorities with strengthened national freight networks.

Networks of high-quality integrated settlements, suburbs and towns are to be delivered as well as environmentally resilient settlements. Plan for Victoria and the Victorian Housing Statement are policy documents.

Settlement should seek to consolidate urban uses to ensure a wide range of sustainable transport, retail, commercial and community facilities and services.

**Clause 11.01-1R – Settlement** seeks to deliver networks of high-quality integrated regional settlements by building on strengths and capabilities of each region to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments plus a range of other factors. ~~support~~ The role of Horsham is reinforced as the key population and employment centre for the region. Edenhope is identified as a district town and key service hub where growth and development is encouraged while Kaniva is identified as providing local and some sub-regional services. Easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities is to be provided particularly in Horsham and district towns along with an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land. ~~The regional settlement network from the RGP is shown in Figure 41.~~

**Clause 11.01-01L-05L – Settlement** sets out local settlement policies for each town.

### Clause 12 Environmental and Landscape Values

**Clause 12.01-1S – Protection of biodiversity** focuses on protecting and enhancing Victoria's biodiversity by identifying and strategically planning for the protection and conservation of important areas of biodiversity through recognition of various international conventions.

**Clause 12.01-1L – Protection of biodiversity – West Wimmera** – seeks to protect the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo and Jumping Jack Wattle habitat within the Shire through clear delineation of boundaries and protection from incursion by adjacent land uses. Planting of native species and management of weeds is encouraged.

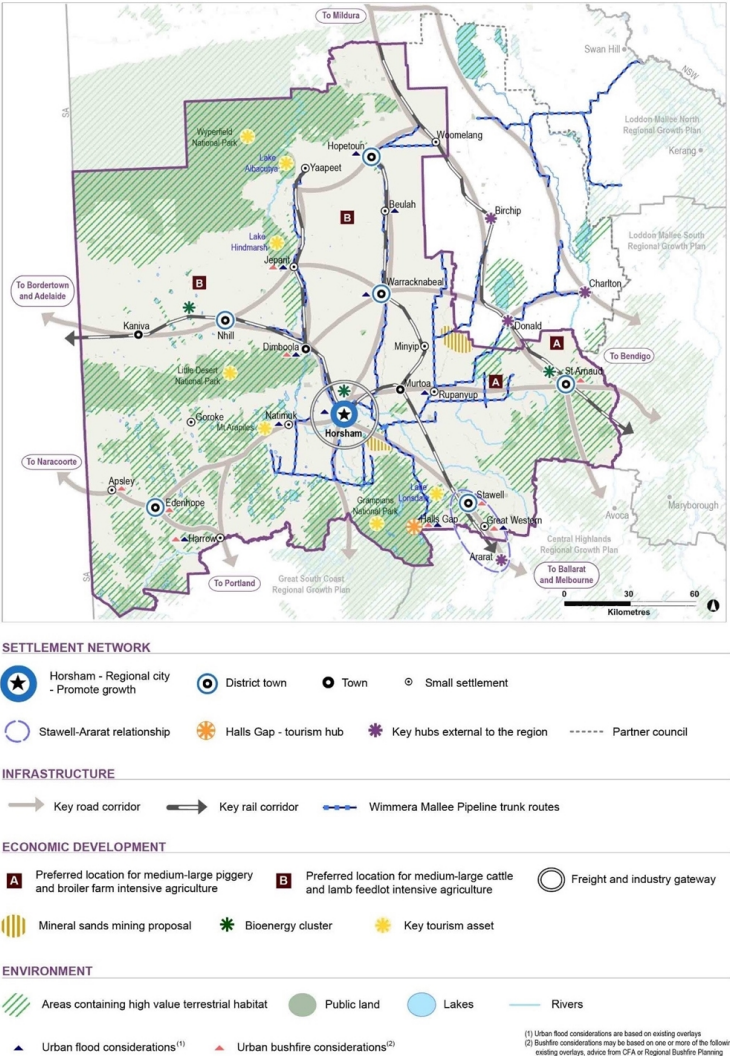


Figure 41: Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan from the WWPS

**Clause 12.01-2S – Native vegetation management** aims to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation by avoiding the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, minimising impacts where vegetation removal cannot be avoided and providing offsets to compensate for biodiversity impacts where vegetation removal is required.

**Clause 12.03-1S – River and riparian corridors, waterways, lakes, wetlands and billabongs** seeks to protect these areas for their significant economic, environmental and cultural assets by conserving surrounding systems and landscapes and environmental values. Design and development should be sensitively designed to protect the waterway system while recreation and amenity values and a sense of place and landscape are also to be protected.

*Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity*

**Clause 13.02-1S – Bushfire planning** prioritises the protection of human life over all other policy considerations, directing growth to low risk locations. It identifies and assesses bushfire hazard, applying the Bushfire Management Overlay and considering bushfire hazard on the basis of the site, neighbourhood and local conditions. Strategies promote future land use and development that will not result in increased bushfire risk to existing and future communities.

**Clause 13.03-1S – Floodplain management** focuses on protecting life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard along with the natural flood carrying capacity of these areas enabling flood storage to occur. Intensifying development in areas impacted by the 1 in 100 year flood event is to be avoided including the consideration of cumulative impacts.

*Clause 14 Natural Resource Management*

**Clause 14.01-1S – Protection of agricultural land** aims to protect the state’s agricultural base by preserving productive farmland. Strategies seek to identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture and to protect it from incompatible uses or loss due to changes in land use without consideration of the economic importance of the land for agricultural production. New housing in rural areas should be avoided by directing housing growth into existing settlements and discouraging development in isolated small lots in rural zones. When considering proposals to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, land capability and compatibility between the

proposed development and the existing use of the surrounding land should be assessed.

**Clause 14.01-1L – Protection of agricultural land – West Wimmera** seeks to consolidate land holdings in the Farming Zone to increase economies of scale and ensure viability of farms and ensure a clear link between the need for a dwelling and the agricultural use of the land.

**Clause 14.01-2S – Sustainable agricultural land use** encourages sustainable agricultural land use and ensuring that agricultural and productive rural land use activities are managed to maintain the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resources.

**Clause 14.01-2R – Agricultural productivity – West Wimmera Southern Mallee** seeks to support local industries, activities and infrastructure that complements and enhances the region's agricultural sector and facilitate opportunities presented by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

**Clause 14.02-1S – Catchment planning and management** aims to protect and restore catchments, waterways, and marine environments. The clause seeks to ensure clean drinking water by safeguarding catchments, considering downstream impacts on water quality, maintaining natural drainage corridors, minimising stormwater runoff, filtering sediment and wastes, enhancing waterway environments during development, and reducing nutrient contributions and sediment discharges. Coordination with catchment management authorities and designing infrastructure to minimise harm to surface waters and groundwater are also emphasised.

#### *Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage*

**Clause 15.01-1S – Urban Design** aims to create environments that are safe, healthy, functional an enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity.

**Clause 15.01-2S – Building Design** aims to achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.

**Clause 15.01-3L – Subdivision design – West Wimmera** encourages residential subdivision to include permeable fencing of landscaping in areas adjacent to roads and reserves.

**Clause 15.01-4S – Healthy neighbourhoods** seeks to achieve neighbourhoods that foster healthy and active living and community wellbeing.

**Clause 15.01-5S – Neighbourhood character** seeks to recognise, support and protect neighbourhood character, cultural identity and sense of place.

**Clause 15.01-6S – Design for rural areas** seeks to ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.

**Clause 15.03-1S – Heritage conservation** aims to ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance by identifying and protecting through the planning scheme. Providing protection, conservation and enhancement of significant places and encouraging appropriate development is also identified.

**Clause 15.03-2S – Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation** aims to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance by identifying and protecting through the planning scheme. Providing protection and conservation of both pre-contact and post- contact places and ensuring that permit approvals align with any relevant Cultural Heritage Management Plan are also identified.

#### *Clause 16 Housing*

**Clause 16.01-1S – Housing supply** aims to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs. The key strategy is focused on accommodating identified housing targets by ensuring zones and overlays deliver sufficient realisable development capacity. The West Wimmera Shire housing target is for an additional 200 dwellings to 2051 (comprising only an established area target). Other strategies seek to ensure an appropriate quantity, quality and mix of housing types and lot sizes are provided, with an increased portion of housing provided in established urban areas that are well served by jobs, services and public transport. Development should provide well designed housing that provides a high level of amenity and provides an adaptable internal design.

**Clause 16.01-2S – Housing affordability** aims to improve housing affordability by ensuring a continued land supply to meet demand. The policy also aims to facilitate a choice of housing type, tenure and cost in suburbs, activity centres, infill and surplus government land and encourage a significant portion of new development to be affordable for low to moderate income households.



**Clause 16.01-3S – Rural residential development** aims to manage rural residential development to avoid hindering future urban growth opportunities and discourage reliance on irrigation water supply. The clause advocates for diverse and flexible lot sizes to mitigate low density residential “sprawl”. Existing character, density patterns, site constraints, infrastructure provision and land capability should be considered when determining appropriate lot sizes and development.

*Clause 17 Economic Development*

**Clause 17.01-1S – Diversified economy** aims to diversify the economy by protecting existing and planned new employment areas, facilitating regional relationships to harness emerging economic opportunities. Growth is to be facilitated building on the emerging and existing strengths of the region. Improving access to jobs and supporting rural economies to grow and diversify is also supported.

**Clause 17.01-1R – Diversified economy – West Wimmera** aims to capitalise on the municipality’s opportunities including agriculture, energy, mining and tourism. Facilitating the use of secure water supplies to develop the economy is also encouraged.

**Clause 17.03-1R – Industrial land supply – Wimmera Southern Mallee** aims to provide ongoing supply of industrial land particularly in towns including Edenhope and facilitating new opportunities due to the investment of the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline.

**Clause 17.04-1R – Tourism – Wimmera Southern Mallee** aims to support and provide direction on the location of tourism development. Facilitating nature based tourism around key attractions including the Little Desert National Park and major lakes is encouraged along with economic opportunities presented by the region’s wetlands and lakes to encourage more tourism.

*Clause 18 Transport*

**Clause 18.01-1S – Land use and transport integration** seeks to protect existing and planned transport infrastructure from encroachment and development that could prejudice such development and to plan movement networks and land uses to minimise disruption to residential communities. Strategies also seek to plan for the timely delivery of transport infrastructure to support changing land uses and

transport demands, including public transport, walking and cycling within existing urban areas.

*Clause 19 Infrastructure*

**Clause 19.02- 4S – Social and cultural infrastructure** aims to ensure a fair distribution of, and access to, social and cultural infrastructure. The clause seeks to identify and address gaps in facilities, encouraging their location in activity centres, and ensuring they are accessible. It emphasises early delivery of social infrastructure in growth areas, adaptable design of community buildings to accommodate changing populations, and innovative service delivery in areas with limited growth.

**Clause 19.02-4R – Social and cultural infrastructure – Wimmera Southern Mallee** seeks to maintain and enhance social and community facilities in key service centres particularly district towns ensuring they are sustainable and continue to attract new residents.

**Clause 19.02-4L – Recreational facilities** seeks to ensure recreational facilities provide for year-round activities and seeks to encourage water based activities and facilities in suitable locations.

**Clause 19.02-6S – Open space** aims to develop a diverse and integrated public open space network that meets community needs. It seeks to include planning regional and local open spaces for recreation and conservation, ensuring connectivity through walking and cycling trails, maintaining public access to waterways and coasts, and improving the quality and distribution of open spaces.

**Clause 19.03-1S – Development and infrastructure contributions plans** aims to facilitate the timely provision of planned infrastructure to communities through the preparation and implementation of development contributions plans and infrastructure contributions plans. Strategies also promote the integrated provision of water supply, water resources, sewerage, drainage and stormwater as well as utilities such as electricity, gas (not new connections) and telecommunications.

**Clause 72.08 – Background documents** includes the [Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan](#). [The regional settlement network from the RGP is shown in Figure 41.](#)



**Clause 74.02 – Further strategic work** is a concise list of strategic planning projects that Council intends to complete before the next planning scheme review. For West Wimmera there are no projects identified in the schedule to the clause.

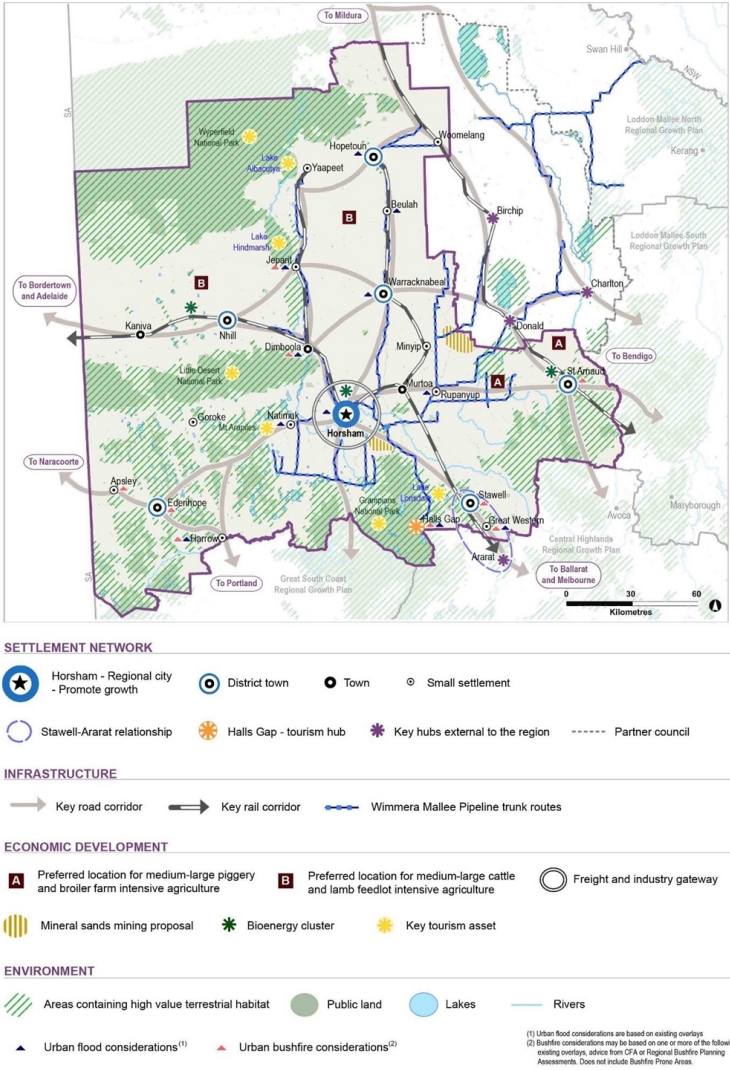


Figure 41: Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan

### 10.3 Zones

There are a range of zones applied to the towns in the WWPS as summarised below. The relevant zones affecting the towns are shown in the town profiles.

#### *Clause 32.05 Township Zone (TZ)*

The Township Zone (TZ) is applied to small towns with no specific structure of residential, commercial, industrial and public uses. Development should be connected to reticulated sewerage unless an alternative potable water supply is provided to the satisfaction of Council.

#### *Clause 33.01 Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)*

The Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) is applied to land where the industrial land uses and associated commercial uses are promoted. Other than a caretaker's house, all other forms of accommodation are prohibited.

#### *Clause 33.03 Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z)*

The Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) serves as a transitional buffer between industrial and residential areas, addressing issues like industrial traffic, noise and emissions. It is applied in industrial zones needing special attention to minimise conflicts and promote less hazardous uses. The zone includes amenity standards based on specified separation distances. A schedule restricts maximum office floor space, shops and supermarkets outside the Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and accommodation and hospitals are prohibited uses.

#### *Clause 35.03 Rural Living Zone (RLZ)*

The Rural Living Zone (RLZ) seeks to provide for residential use in a rural environment and supporting agricultural land uses that do not affect surrounding amenity. It aims to protect and enhance natural resources, biodiversity, and landscape and heritage values, while promoting sustainable land management and infrastructure provision.

#### *Clause 35.07 Farming Zone (FZ)*

The Farming Zone (FZ) is applied to encourage the retention of productive agricultural land and employment and population to support rural communities. The zone provides a minimum lot size of 40 hectares unless an alternative is specified in a schedule to the zone. The creation of smaller lots is allowed under particular circumstances.

#### *Clause 36.01 Public Use Zone (PUZ)*

The Public Use Zone (PUZ) is applied to public land recognising land use for public utility, infrastructure and community services. It requires the public land manager's approval/consent for land management and development. The PUZ2 relates to education land uses, the PUZ3 relates to health and community land uses while the PUZ5 relates to cemetery/crematorium land uses.

#### *Clause 36.02 Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)*

The Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) is applied to public parkland including reserves and parks recognising areas for public recreation and open space and protecting and conserving areas of significance where appropriate.

#### *Clause 36.03 Public Conservation and Recreation Zone (PCRZ)*

The Public Conservation and Recreation Zone (PCRZ) is applied to places where the primary intention is to conserve and protect the natural environment or resources such as public conservation reserves and parks and allows associated educational activities and resource-based uses.

#### *Clause 36.04 Transport Zone (TRZ)*

The Transport Zone (TRZ) is applied to land for declared roads, railways and other important transportation infrastructure representing state and local designations. The TRZ1 is applied to railway land and the TRZ2 is applied to main roads.

#### *Clause 37.01 Special Use Zone (SUZ)*

The Special Use Zone (SUZ) provides for tailored provisions for a wide range of purposes, such as showgrounds, freight logistics centres and tourism precincts. It forms part of a suite of special purpose zones that are used when a standard zone cannot address the individual circumstances of a site.

### 10.4 Overlays

There are a range of overlays applied to the towns in the WWPS. These are summarised below. The relevant overlays affecting the towns are shown in the town profiles.

#### *Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)*

The Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) is applied to areas where the development of land may be affected by either environmental constraints such as the effects from noise or industrial buffer areas or issued related to the significance of the natural environment. ESO2 relates to the protection of the Red-tailed black cockatoo habitat.

*Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay (HO)*

The Heritage Overlay (HO) is applied to a heritage place with a recognised citation identified through the Victorian Heritage Register or in a local heritage study. A heritage place should include a statement of significance, establishing the importance of the place, and can affect land, buildings, trees and/or vegetation.

*Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay (DDOO)*

The Design and Development Overlay (DDO) manages built form and the built environment through building height and setback provisions. DDO1 applies to the Edenhope Industrial Precinct while DDO2 is applied to the Kaniva Industrial Precinct, with both aiming to ensure high quality development.

*Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO)*

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) is applied to land that is subject to inundation related to flooding from waterways but is not part of the primary floodway as identified by the relevant floodplain management authority.

*Clause 44.06 Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)*

The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) identifies areas where the bushfire hazard requires bushfire protection measures to be implemented, seeking to ensure that development of land prioritises the protection of human life and strengthens community resilience to bushfire. Development is permitted only where the risk to life and property from bushfire can be reduced to an acceptable level.

*Clause 45.03 Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO)*

The Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) is applied to sites that have known, identified or reasonably suspected contamination or potential contamination.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Small Towns of West Wimmera that form the subject of this report are located on the lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagalk Nations and Gunditjmara people. They are acknowledged as the Traditional Owners of their traditional lands and waters.

A Recognition and Settlement Agreement has been signed between the Victorian Government and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) on behalf of the Wotjobaluk Nation. The State is to facilitate relationships between local government and the BGLC under this agreement.

The Local Government Engagement Strategy provides direction on how this could occur, which will inform the development and implementation actions of the Small Towns Plan. This includes:

- Opportunities for renaming, signage and interpretive information.
- Consulting in relation to the preparation of studies/plans that impact issues including roadsides, public health, wellbeing, and fire management.
- Recognising that Traditional Owner businesses can make valuable and unique contributions to local economies and communities: driving innovation, providing access to new markets, creating new jobs and attracting visitors.
- Management of Council controlled lands and waters that should be undertaken with WJJWJ People recognising their role as sole managers of their lands and waters.
- Developing a framework for ensuring alignment of each planning scheme with WJJWJ People's rights, interests and aspirations.
- Identifying, assessing and documenting places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance for inclusion in the planning scheme

## CONTACT

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We respectfully acknowledge that every project enabled or assisted by Plan2Place Consulting in Victoria exists on traditional aboriginal lands which have been sustained for thousands of years.*

*We honour their ongoing connection to these lands and seek to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians in our work.*

### West Wimmera Small Towns Plan – Amendments VC282 and VC283: Required Revisions

*Victoria's Housing Statement, 2023*

Victoria's Housing Statement has identified housing provision as one of the key challenges of the decade ahead. It aims to refresh Victoria's housing policy settings with a series of initiatives that respond to short-term issues of affordability and supply while still promoting long term economic growth.

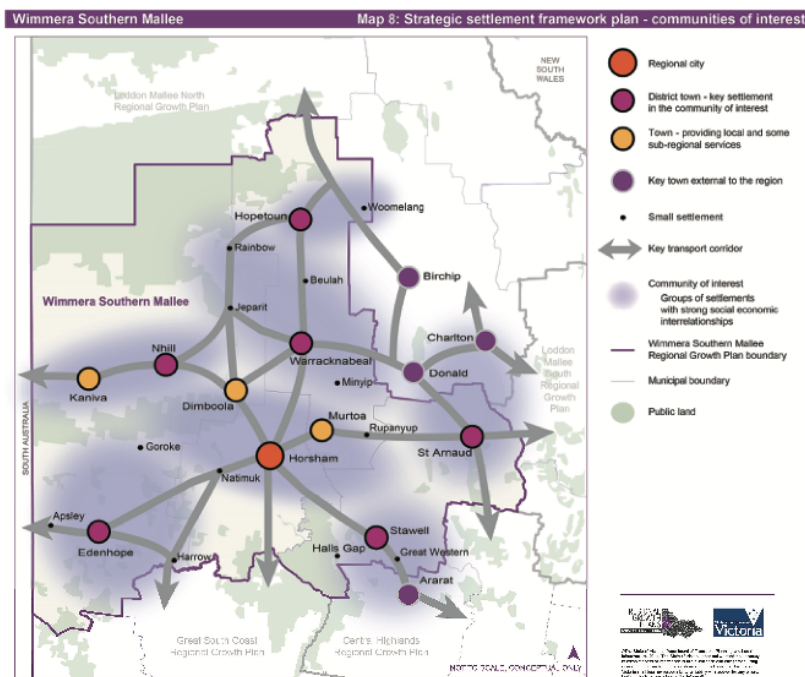
The housing statement is supported by Amendments VC242, VC243, VC253, VC267, and VC276 and VC282 which aim to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs and to support the delivery of housing in Victoria.

...

Amendment VC-276 amended all residential zone schedules and Neighbourhood Character Overlay schedules to implement the new residential development planning assessment provisions. Amendment VC282 aligned the single dwelling residential provisions for development on lots less than 300 sqm with the Townhouse and Low Rise Code (where relevant).

## 2.2 Regional Policy

*Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014*



Source: DTPLI, 2014

**Figure 2: Wimmera Southern Mallee RGP – Settlement Hierarchy**

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (RGP) covers the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. Although this document was removed as a policy document from the WWPS through Amendment VC283, it was previously endorsed by Council. The RGP The plan provides broad direction for regional land use and development in the region, and a more detailed planning framework for the regional city of Horsham and continues to be a background document in the WWPS.

*Clause 11 Settlement*

**Clause 11.01-1S – Settlement** promotes the sustainable growth and development of Victoria to deliver choice and opportunity through a network of settlements. Strategies plan for the delivery of 2.24 million homes across Victoria by 2051. The settlement framework aims for housing choice and convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities, taking account of regional and municipal contexts and frameworks.

Investment and growth is focused in the Melbourne Central City, Metropolitan Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop Precincts in Metropolitan Melbourne, Priority Precincts (including the Suburban Rail Loop East Precincts), Major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and Regional cities of Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Regions are planned to reinforce settlement boundaries and provide for population growth and development of facilities and services. Growth is directed into existing settlements supported by a network of major and neighbourhood activity centres and townships of varying size, role and function. Urban consolidation is encouraged with density that supports sustainable transport and retail, office-based employment and community facilities and services. Expansion of settlements is managed by creating and reinforcing settlement boundaries (or to existing urban zoned land), promoting urban renewal and infill redevelopment, limiting urban sprawl with growth in existing settlements and not compromising land for future urban expansion.

Growth in population and development of facilities and services is planned across a regional or sub-regional network in accordance with housing targets with best use of existing and planned transport infrastructure. Transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements are coordinated through the identification of servicing priorities with strengthened national freight networks.

Networks of high-quality integrated settlements, suburbs and towns are to be delivered as well as environmentally resilient settlements. Plan for Victoria and the Victorian Housing Statement are policy documents.

The STP should clearly identify the network of settlements across the Shire, directing any new development into the existing settlements with a clear settlement boundary. Settlement should seek to consolidate urban uses to ensure a wide range of sustainable transport, retail, commercial and community facilities and services.

**Clause 11.01-1R – Settlement** seeks to deliver networks of high-quality integrated regional settlements by building on strengths and capabilities of each region to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments plus a range of other factors. support to The role of Horsham is reinforced as the key population and employment centre for the region. Edenhope is identified as a district town and key service hub where growth and development is encouraged while Kaniva is identified as providing local and some sub-regional services. Easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities is to be provided particularly in Horsham and district towns along with an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land. The regional settlement policy emanating from the RGP is shown in **Figure 3**.

The STP should seek to confirm and support the role of Edenhope as a district town and key service hub while Kaniva should be supported to provide local and some sub-regional services.

**Clause 11.01-01-05L – Settlement** sets out local settlement policies for each town. These are discussed further in the town profiles in the STP.

*Clause 16 Housing*



**Clause 16.01-15 – Housing supply** aims to facilitate well-located, integrated and diverse housing that meets community needs. The key strategy is focused on accommodating identified housing targets by ensuring zones and overlays deliver sufficient realisable development capacity. The West Wimmera Shire housing target is for an additional 200 dwellings to 2051 (comprising only an established area target). Other strategies seek to ensure an appropriate quantity, quality and mix of housing types and lot sizes are provided, with an increased portion of housing provided in established urban areas that are well served by jobs, services and public transport. Development should provide well designed housing that provides a high level of amenity and provides an adaptable internal design.

**Clause 72.08 – Background documents** includes a schedule where the Wimmera Mallee Regional Growth Plan is listed.



## 15.3 Update of Road Register

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Design Engineer*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

### **Purpose**

To review the Council's Road Register, advertise to the public and invite comments, amend and adopt the Road Register as referred to in the Road Management Plan.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council advertise the following proposals with respect to the Road Register and invite comments with a view to adopt the Road Register at a subsequent Council meeting:**

- 1. Zenda Lane - That chainage 0.0km – 0.270km section of Zenda Lane to be listed in the Road Register as Category 5.**
- 2. Zenda Lane - That the earth section chainage 0.270km - 0.850km section of Zenda Lane is listed in the Road Register as Category 6B.**
- 3. Dixons and Pahls Road - That chainage 0.27km – 4.17km of Dixons and Pahls Rd be categorised as 6A.**
- 4. Les Munns Road - That chainage 0.890km – 1.420km of Les Munns Road be categorised as 5 in the Road Register.**
- 5. Albert Isaacsons Road - That chainage 4.974km – 7.724km of Albert Isaacsons Road be categorised as 6A in the Road Register**
- 6. Kaniva South Road - That Council reaffirm the status of Kaniva South as Cat 6A but direct maintenance funds from existing budget toward the road.**
- 7. Hawkers and Goodwins Road - That chainage 2.280- 7.030 km of Hawkers and Goodwins Road be Category 5.**
- 8. Miram Cemetery Road - That chainage 0.50km – 5.280km of Miram Cemetery Road be Category 6B**
- 9. Arthurs Road - That chainage 0.0km – 2.970km be categorised as 6A, but direct maintenance funds from existing budget toward the section of road.**
- 10. O'Conner Street - That chainage 0.280km – 0.630km of O'Conner Street be listed in the Road Register as Category 5.**



### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

The Council maintains a Road Register or "Register of Public Roads" as referred to under the Council's Road Management Plan and the Road Management Act 2004. The roads within the Roads Register are those which the Council believes are reasonably required for public use. The Council last reviewed its Road Register in 2021 upon adoption of its Road Management Plan. A Council may review its Road Register at any time however it is reasonable that the Council completes a review within the first year after each Council election as a minimum.

There are only minor changes recommended for the Road Register. The current Road Register is attached.

### **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  
Local Government Act 1989

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

### **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:



Asset Management Policy  
Asset Management Strategy

### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### ***Goal 1 – Liveable & Healthy Community***

- 1.3 Provide well planned and sustainable community infrastructure.
- 1.4 Deliver quality services that support community life.

#### ***Goal 2 – Diverse and Prosperous Economy***

- 2.5 Enhance the local road network and explore transport options.
- 2.6 Provide infrastructure to sustain economic activity.

### **Communication Implications**

The proposed changes to the Road Register was advertised to invite public submissions prior to Council making a final decision. There was one submission received by the property owner of 41 O'Connor Street Apsley to include the section of the road providing access to the property from O'Connor Street in the Road Register.

### **Gender Equality**

No Equal Impact Assessment is required

### **Conclusion**

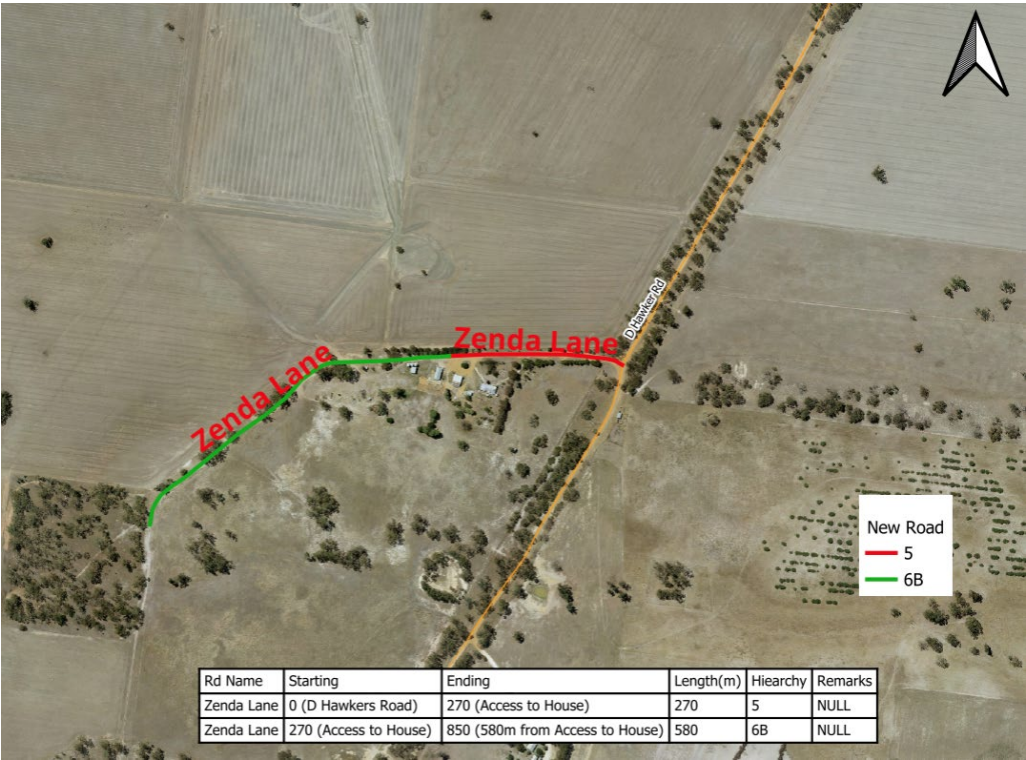
The minor changes to the Road Register are recommended for Council decision. Council to make a decision on the submission.

### **Attachments**

1. Road Hierarchy Review [15.3.1 - 11 pages]
2. West- Wimmera- Shire- Road- Register V 3 [15.3.2 - 49 pages]

Road Hierarchy Review – Road Register Update

**Zenda Lane** – The previously unnamed section of road (off D Hawkers Rd) was given a name formally by Council in late 2024. The naming process was completed 6 February 2025 with placement of the naming notice in the Government Gazette. There is a sandstone gravel section in fair condition, which leads to a house on Zenda lane that is 270m long. The next section past the house entrance is unformed and is generally not maintained by Council but does provide access to the Lillimur South Cemetery (this section gets very little use but should be recognised to allow access to the cemetery and it also provides a rural property access beyond the cemetery along the road reserve). This section could be categorised as Category 6B.

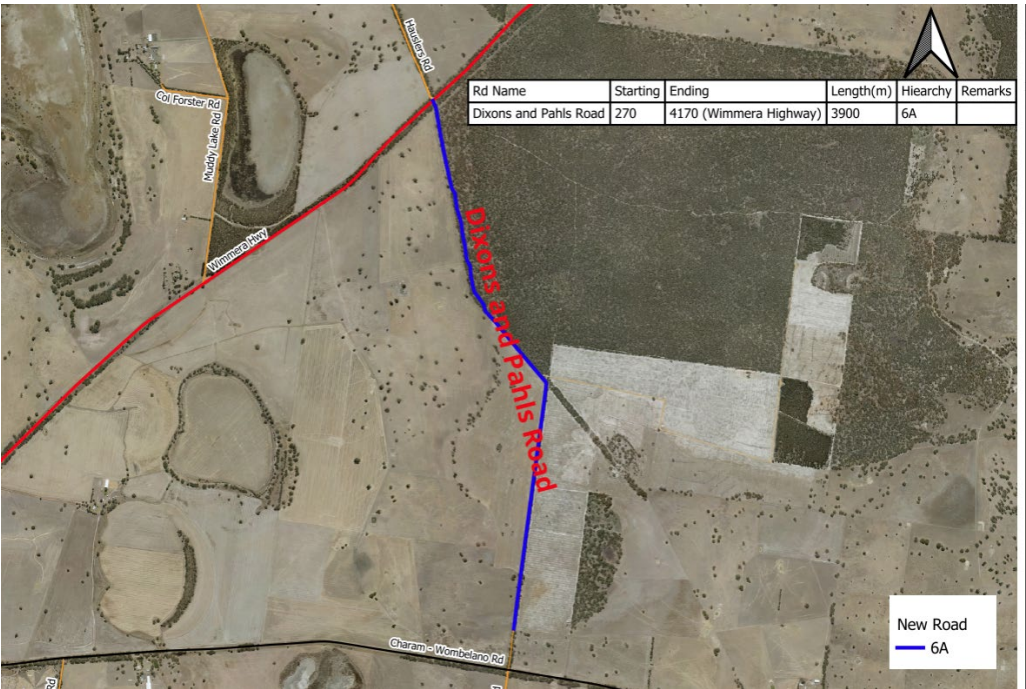


Recommendation:

That chainage 0.0km – 0.270km section of Zenda Lane to be listed in the Road Register as a Category 5.

That the earth section chainage 0.270km - 0.850km section of Zenda Lane be listed in the Road Register as Category 6B.

**Dixons and Pahls Road** – Currently only the first 270m off the Charam Wombelano Road is recognised on Council’s Road Register as a Category 6A road. The entire section through to the Wimmera Highway is maintained by Council, so it is reasonable that the full length being 4.17km be categorised as 6A. There is 1.7km from the Wimmera Highway which is has been gravelled in the past, while much of the remainder have no gravel surfacing.

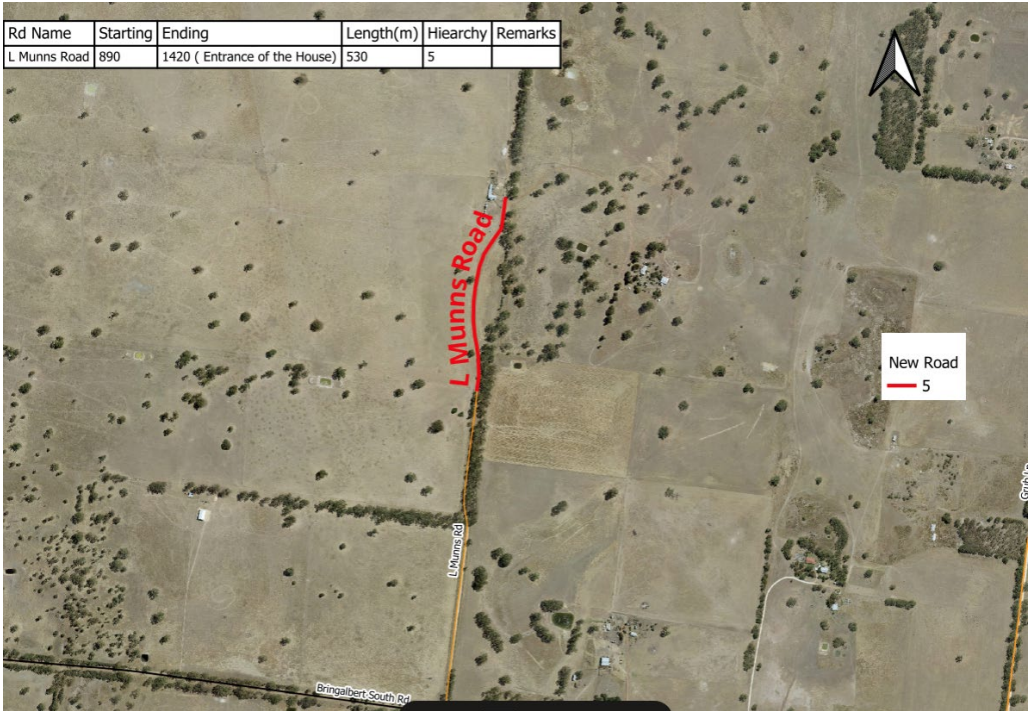


**Recommendation:**

That chainage 0.27km – 4.17km of Dixons and Pahls Rd be categorised as 6A.

**Les Munns Road** – This road runs north of the Bringalbert South Road and is categorised as 5A for 890m. There is a further formed and gravelled section that provides access to a house that is 530m long that is not listed at all on the Road Hierarchy. I believe this to be an oversight, and it would be prudent to recognise this section as Cat 5 as well. It is a good formation, with two culverts under it, and buckshot gravel. Very corrugated and needs a grade but otherwise performs well in wet.





Recommendation:

That chainage 0.890km – 1.420km of Les Munns Road be categorised as 5 in the Road Register.

**Albert Isaacsons Road** – Runs south from the Natimuk Francis Road. Ch 0.0km – 2.85km is Cat 5 to a house. Chainage 2.850km – 4.974km is Cat 6A. The remaining 2.75km of Albert Isaacsons Road (which links up to Morgans Road, a Cat 5 road) is not listed on Councils Road Register. This section passes through the Mount Arapiles Tooan State Park. Parks and DEECA do not maintain this section. Council has historically maintained the section. It is lightly formed and generally unpaved, just the odd section with gravel or rubble. It is in reasonable condition throughout when inspected after wet weather. Note: the section of road proposed for inclusion into the Road Register generally traverses through the State Park rather than the road reserve adjacent.

Also note the following:

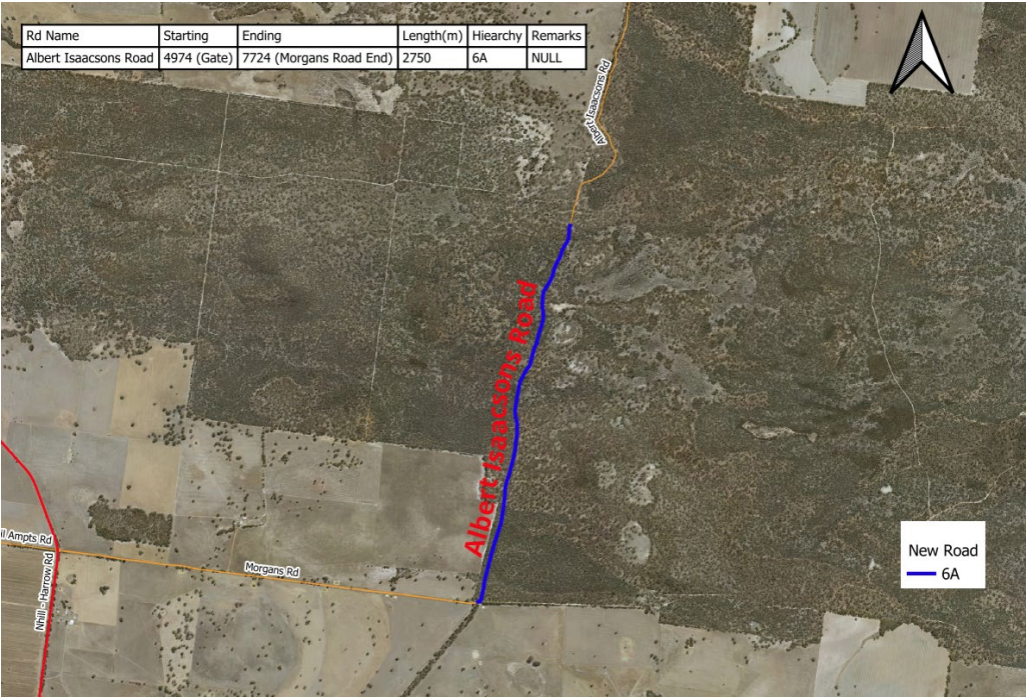
Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* outlines that:

*A public highway* is a road which is open to the public for traffic as a right, irrespective of whether the road is in fact open to traffic, and includes a road—

- (a) declared to be a public highway under section 204(1) or under any other Act;
- (b) which becomes a public highway under section 24(2)(c) of the Subdivision Act 1988;
- (c) which is a public road under the Road Management Act 2004;

Part 9 Section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1989* continues to detail that:

- 9(1) - A council has the care and management of –
- (a) all public highways vested in Council; and
  - (c) all public highways on Crown land and roads vested in a Minister (other than freeways and arterial roads within the meaning of the *Road Management Act 2004* and public highways and roads vested in a public authority);



Recommendation: That chainage 4.974km – 7.724km of Albert Isaacsons Road be categorised as 6A in the Road Register.

### **Kaniva South Road**

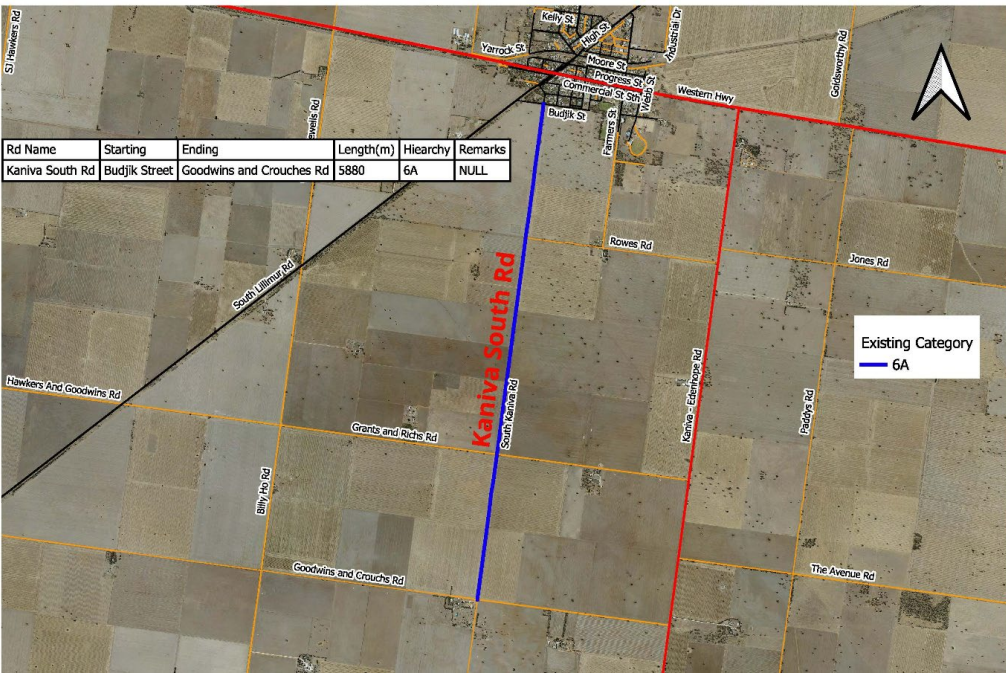
Several requests have been made to Council for the upgrade of Kaniva South Road. There is 5.56km of Kaniva South Road which starts at Budjik Street and extends to Goodwins and Crouchs Road. The pavement is very poor quality sandstone at best and of minimal depth. It is not a viable option during wet weather in its current condition. The road is currently Category 6A as there are no residences along its length. Property owners who reside on Goodwins and Crouchs Road and Grant Richs Road utilise the road to access their properties and as access into Kaniva. The properties have Category 5 access in an easterly direction from their properties to the Kaniva Edenhope Road.

While there would be a benefit for primary production and general access in the Kaniva South area, the road would need to be fully resheeted at an approximate cost of \$220,000 if it were upgraded to a Category 5. This would need to be done over time.

Council needs to consider whether it is in a position to upgrade its network and provide a more efficient and accessible alternative route for the users in the Kaniva South area.

As an alternative, the condition of Kaniva South Road could be improved with some major gravel patching through maintenance funds. There may be a need to do these works over successive years. This would not provide the standard that is requested but should improve access over time. The majority of the road portion is well formed however sections are holding water, need to be reformed and some gravel applied in sections.





Recommendation: That Council reaffirm the status of Kaniva South as Cat 6A but direct maintenance funds from existing budget toward the road.

**Hawkers and Goodwins Road**

Hawkers and Goodwins Road is currently Category 5 from Lillimur South Road (where the chainage of the road starts) for 2.28km. The remainder is currently 6A.

Gravelling works have been undertaken in recent years at the direction of Council, so that the length from Lillimur South Road to S Hawkers Road is now of good quality pavement (all limestone except for 1km east from S Hawker Rd which is sandstone). It is reasonable that the road be Category 5 so that this road can be maintained into the future as an all-weather gravel road.

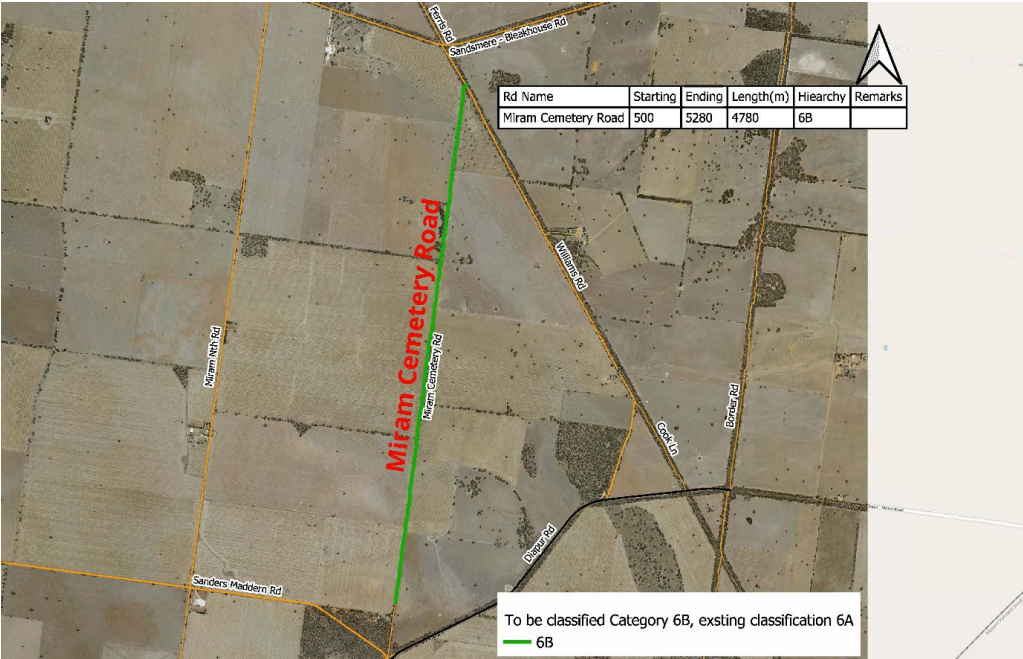


Recommendation: That chainage 2.280- 7.030 km of Hawkers and Goodwins Road be Category 5.

**Miram Cemetery Road**

The Miram Cemetery Road starts at Sanders Maddern Rd and terminates at Williams Rd at its northern end. The first 500m provides access to the Miram Cemetery and is classified at 6A. This access road to the cemetery gates is gravelled and in reasonable condition.

The section going north from the cemetery 0.50km – 5.280km is currently category 6A however the road is a track at best. The road is unformed and not maintained by Council. This section is recommended to be 6B.

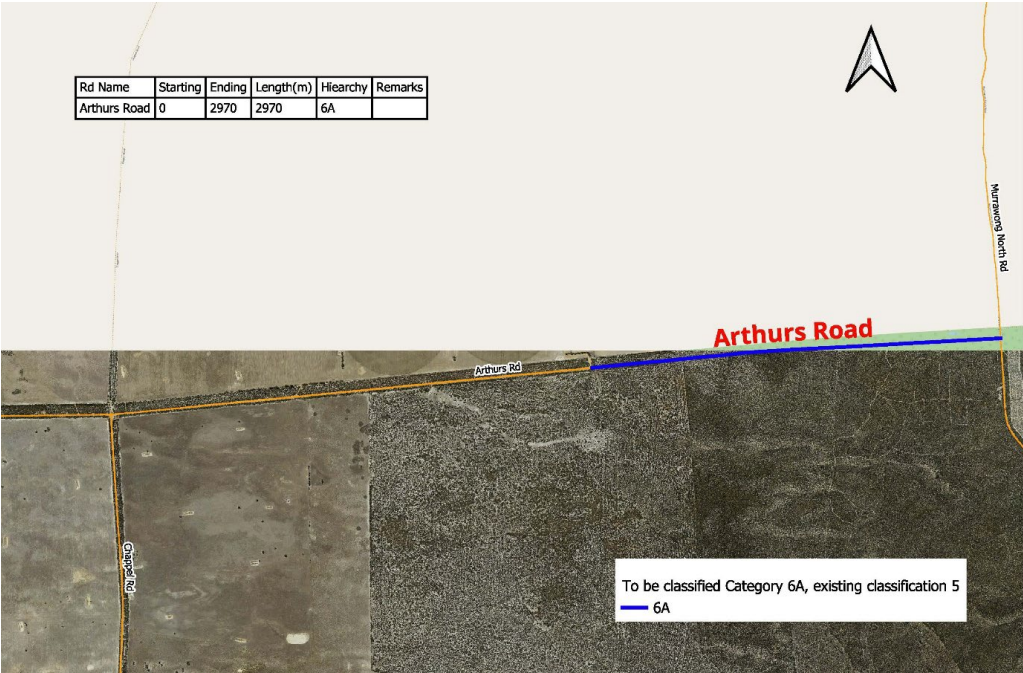


Recommendation: That chainage 0.50km – 5.280km of Miram Cemetery Road be Category 6B.

**Arthurs Road**

Arthurs Road starts its zero chainage at Murrawong North Road and is currently Category 5 to 9.150km which is the entrance to the Niagara property Walbwa Downs property. The entrance to the Walbwa Downs property is at 2.970km. Chainage 0 to 2.970km is extremely sandy and has not been maintained as a Category 5 road as the all-weather access to the south for both Arthurs Road properties is via Chappel Road. It is thought that a more realistic classification for the initial 2.97km of Arthurs Road would be 6A. Its current condition is reflective of a 6A classification, and it would seem reasonable as the property affected already has one all-weather access to Chappel Road. The access could be improved with some major gravel patching through maintenance funds in this section.





Recommendation: That chainage 0.0km – 2.970km be categorised as 6A, but direct maintenance funds from existing budget toward the section of road.

**O'Connor Street**

O'Connor Street begins zero chainage at Wimmera Highway and extends to chainage 0.280 km. This section is sealed and currently listed in the Road Register. The continuation of O'Connor Street from chainage 0.280km to the property, which is 350m long is not currently recorded in the Road Register. This section of road is constructed with buckshot gravel and is in good condition and is satisfactory to be classified as a Category 5 road.



Recommendation: That chainage 0.280km – 0.630km of O’Conner Street to be listed in the Road Register as a Category 5.

**ROAD HIERARCHY DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 5 and 6.**

**Access-Dwelling Roads; Category 5a**

These roads serve as primary all weather access to at least one dwelling.

Definition: Serve at least one occupied dwelling and link individual houses to higher classification roads, generally have traffic volumes less than 30 vehicles per day.

Many of these roads are unsealed with a small percentage being sealed.

**Access-Property Roads; Category 5b**

These roads serve as all-weather access to rural, commercial or industrial properties.

Definition: Serve as access to non-residential properties only and link those non-residential properties to higher classification roads, they generally have average traffic volumes of less than 30 vehicles per day and usually have imported pavement material placed upon them.

#### Minor Roads; Category 6A

Provide dry weather access to rural, commercial or industrial properties.

Definition: Serve as access to non-residential properties only and link those non-residential properties to higher classification roads, they generally have average traffic volumes of less than 10 vehicles per day and generally have no imported pavement material placed upon them.

#### Minor Roads (not maintained); Category 6B

Category 6B Roads are not proactively maintained by Council. They are not constructed roads.

Definition: Non-constructed roads within a road reserve which are not proactively maintained by council.

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147							
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details				
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class		
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
249	A Feders Road	N Goodwins Rd	0	Feders - Collins Rd	1,020	1,020		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20620	A Feders Road	Feders - Collins Rd	1,020	S Hawkers Rd	2,984	1,964		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4986	A Henmans Road	Broughton Rd	0	Mcdonalds North - South Rd	1,620	1,620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
345	A King Road	Red Bore Rd	0	Western Hwy	2,878	2,878		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4870	A Rainsford Road	Koijak Rd	0	End	280	280		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
682	A Wallis Road	Western Hwy	0	Bend Right	2,380	2,380		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2694	A Wallis Road	Bend Right	2,380	Carters - Wallis Rd	2,920	540		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3246	A Watkins Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Gate	825	825		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3758	Abakair Street	Mollison St EOS	0	Charles St	350	372	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1263	Adams Road	Wombelano Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,530	1,530		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4466	Adelaide Street	Moore St	0	Madden St S/R	152	171	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
5045	Albert Isaacsons Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,700	1,700		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2182	Albert Isaacsons Road	Pavement Change	1,700	Gate Post	4,974	3,274		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3761	Albert Street (Goroke)	Kiely St	0	End	75	75	Goroke	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4464	Albert Street (Kaniva)	Moore St	0	End of Seal	112	119	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1995	Alex Pahls Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,780	1,780		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3299	Alex Pahls Road	Pavement Change	1,780	Pavement Change	2,180	400		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1	Alexanders Road	Murrawong Rd	0	Cove Estate Rd	4,690	4,690		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
2772	Alexanders Sanders Road	Miram West Rd	0	Old Diapur Rd	870	870		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2013	Allnuts Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate	1,550	1,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2169	Ampts Back Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Pavement Change	4,420	4,420		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3730	Andrew Street	Lake St	0	End of Loop	550	556	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147					
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details		
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
4779	Angus Stephens Road	The Wattles Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,320	1,320		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2364	Anne Street Pt 1	Lake St	0	Elizabeth St	88	96	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2365	Anne Street Pt 2	Elizabeth St	0	Edinburgh Rd	120	147	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
4479	Anthony Waits Road	Ryans Rd	0	Gate	5,590	5,590		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2405	Anzac Avenue	Lake St	0	Langford St	234	247	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22074	Apsley Gun Club Road	From Ref Descriptor	0	End at Property Ent on Right	448	0		RNP			6B
1186	Apsley Natimuk Road	Townsend Street	180	Natimuk - Frances Rd	23,230	23,250		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
20503	Apsley Tip Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Pavement Change	230	230		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1266	Arnolds and Smiths Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,890	2,890		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3943	Arthurs Road	Murrawong Rd	0	"Niagra" Ent	9,150	9,150		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5
2632	Arthurs Road	"Niagra" Ent	9,150	Taylors Rd	12,800	3,650		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
5003	Austins Pit Road	Broughton Rd	0	Property Ent on LHS	180	180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4855	Austins Pit Road	Property Ent on LHS	180	Ferris Rd	4,500	4,320		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2700	AW Vivians Road	G Carters Rd	0	House Ent	1,430	1,430		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5161	AW Vivians Road	House Ent	1,430	End	1,560	0		RFO	N	Jul-04	6B
2010	Babba Mia Lane	Tea Tree Creek Rd	0	End of Road	2,305	2,305		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21097	Back Bunyip Road	Witmitz Rd	0	G Carters Rd	9,180	9,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3364	Bades Road (Dorodong)	Dorodong Rd	0	Gate	1,330	1,330		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3250	Bades Road (Miga Lake)	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	1,600	1,600		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
27	Baileys Rocks Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Car Park	3,440	3,440		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3006	Baingers Road	Neuarpuir - Minimay Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,150	2,150		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
32	Baker Street	Budjik St	0	Western Hwy	306	314	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5



## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
4441	Baker Street	Western Hwy	306	Western Hwy	346	0	Kaniva	TNP	Y	Jul-04	6B
35	Baker Street	Western Hwy	346	Seal Change	445	103	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
4453	Baker Street	Seal Change	445	Progress St (East)	473	44	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
36	Baldocks Grossers Road	Brooks Rd	0	South Lillimur Rd	7,540	7,440		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
2264	Ballantyne Street	Splatt St	0	End	430	434	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2298	Barrack Street	Camp St	0	Compston St	523	537	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
1810	Barry Bulls Road	Bulls and Blacks Rd	0	Gate	850	850		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1873	Baths Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Ends at Gate	350	350		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3236	Batsons Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Pavement Change	160	160		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4498	Benayeo - Neuarpurr Road	Brippick Rd	0	Benayeo Rd	6,800	6,800		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
1206	Benayeo Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	SA Border	22,970	22,970	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	3
2137	Bert Redfords Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,360	3,360		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3	Bills Gully Road	Miram South Rd	0	Three Chain Rd	2,880	2,880		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21364	Billy Ho Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Property Ent	7,140	7,140		RP	Y		5
339	Billy Ho Road	Property Ent	7,140	Elliotts Rd	12,380	5,240		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1827	Birds Road	Minimay - Frances Rd	0	Natimuk - Frances Rd	4,500	4,500		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
3776	Birmingham Street	Campbells Hill Rd	0	Willis St	1,085	1,097	Harrow	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
4429	Blair Street	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Johnny Mullagh Memorial Park	1,068	1,099	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	3
1874	Blocks Back Lane	Lancasters Rd	0	Bulls and Blacks Rd	4,010	4,010		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
4339	Blocks Road	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Rd	0	End	1,440	1,440		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21562	Blue Hills Road	Serviceton North-Telopea Downs Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,520	2,520		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
42	Blue Hills Road	Pavement Change	2,520	Border Tk	5,290	2,770		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A



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		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
43	Bond Street	Madden St Nth	0	High St	107	120	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
5138	Border Lane	Butterworths Rd	0	Pavement Change	770	385		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5221	Border Lane	Pavement Change	770	Benayeo Rd	2,515	468		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
5211	Border Road	Miram East Rd	0	Peechember Swamp Rd	14,200	7,100		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
20658	Border Road (Frances)	Minimay - Frances Rd (Southwest int)	0	Gate Right Side	1,650	825		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20598	Border Road (Frances)	Gate Right Side	1,650	Pavement Change	2,500	425		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3430	Border Road (Naracoorte)	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	Pavement Change (Shire Border)	1,830	915		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20863	Border Road (Wattle Range)	Pavement Change (Shire Border)	1,830	Start of Seal (Fullertons Rd)	4,395	1,283		RFO	Y		6B
5230	Border Road (Wattle Range)	Start of Seal (Fullertons Rd)	4,395	End of Seal (Poolaijelo Rd)	4,880	0		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
3435	Border Road (Wattle Range)	End of Seal (Poolaijelo Rd)	4,880	Hennigs Rd / Old Comaum Rd (SA Rd)	8,915	2,018		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3439	Border Road (Wattle Range)	Hennigs Rd / Old Comaum Rd (SA Rd)	8,915	Sealed Rd / Old Telegraph Rd	22,140	5,128		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
21154	Border Track	Blue Hills Rd	0	Emu Flat Rd	3,030	1,515		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4489	Bore Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate (Locked)	1,355	1,355		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
21491	Boundary Road North	Edgerley Rd	0	Gates Both Sides End of Pavement	20,720	12,395		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4491	Boundary Road South	Edgerley Rd	0	McCrackens Rd	4,700	2,350		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1477	Bourchiers Road	Church Ln (Karnak)	0	Hobbs and Mitchells Rd	2,650	2,650		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3343	Bowles Road	Goroke - Harrow Rd	0	Gate	980	980		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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1271	Brandts Road	Harrow - Kanagulk Rd	0	Property Ent	1,230	1,260		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4295	Brandts Road	Property Ent	1,230	Gate	2,470	1,240		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
52	Brewer Street	Whittingham St	0	Gall St	242	257	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
5310	Brimble Road	Western Hwy	0	Property Ent	12,870	12,870		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2638	Brimble Road	Property Ent	12,870	Pavement Change	14,190	1,320		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1012	Bringalbert South Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Grub Ln	8,860	8,860		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
22026	Bringalbert South Road (Y)	Wimmera Highway	0	Seal Change	67	67		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
4496	Brippick Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Benayeo Neuarpuir Rd	4,390	4,390		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
3449	Brodys Road	Gerrickes Rd	0	Pavement Change	610	610		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3450	Brodys Road	Pavement Change	610	Ends at Gate	1,940	1,330		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20575	Brooks Road	Leeor Rd	0	South Rd	8,570	8,570		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
70	Broughton Road	Farmers St	1,120	Yanac South Rd	23,620	22,500		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
79	Browns Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,550	2,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3365	Browns Road	Pavement Change	2,550	End	2,660	110		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
1845	Bruce Ross Road	Stehn Ross Rd	0	Ends at Gate	730	730		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
705	Buckleys Road	Merwyn Swamp Rd	0	Hicks Rd	1,690	1,690		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
88	Budjik Street	South Lillimur Rd EOS	0	Sports St	800	855	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22133	Budjik Street	Sports St	800	Farmers St	1,140	340	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	
85	Budjik Street	Farmers St	1,140	End	1,550	410	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
21309	Buffhams Road	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	0	Tom Redfords Rd	5,790	5,790		RP	Y		5
1846	Bulls and Blacks Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Minimay - Goroke Rd	12,110	12,110		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3090	Bulls Back Road	Lancasters Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,860	2,860		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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22096	Bunker Street	Farmers St	0	Bunker Site	420	420	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
165	Bunyip Yarrock Road	Yarrock Rd	0	0.69 Old Yarrock Rd	760	760		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
166	Bunyip Yarrock Road	0.69 Old Yarrock Rd	760	Pavement Change	5,590	4,830		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20869	Burgess Road	Kadnook - Connewirricoo Rd	0	McClures Rd	3,840	3,840		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22093	Burns Ext Road	Straight Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	1,360	1,360		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3274	Burns Ext Road	Property Ent on RHS	1,360	W Burns Rd	1,860	500		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5
2372	Burns Munn Road	Patyah Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,620	2,620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21009	Burns Road	Diggers Ln	0	Property Ent	430	430		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4505	Burrells Road	Warburtons Rd	0	Ends at Gate	790	790		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1618	Butterworths Road	Benayeo Rd	0	SA Border	3,430	3,430		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4	C Arthurs Road	Cemetery Rd	0	Yearlinga Rd	4,170	4,170		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
133	C Clarke Road	Broughton Rd	0	End	480	480		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
357	C Kuchel Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	House Ent	1,090	1,090		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
358	C Kuchel Road	House Ent	1,090	Property Ent	3,080	1,990		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2653	C Kuchel Road	Property Ent	3,080	Tinks Rd	3,930	850		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
401	C Merretts Road	Murrawong Rd	0	Church Rd	1,550	1,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5400	Caldows Road	E Sambells Rd	0	Charam - Wombelano Rd	7,170	7,170		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
2015	Camerons & Lampards Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	End of Seal	800	800		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
2017	Camerons & Lampards Road	End of Seal	800	House Gate	5,340	4,540		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2296	Camp Street (Goroke)	Main St (Goroke)	0	Railway St	426	426	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
90	Camp Street (Kaniva)	Potts Ave	0	Western Hwy	174	198	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5

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4446	Camp Street (Kaniva)	Western Hwy	174	Western Hwy	214	0	Kaniva	TNP	Y	Jul-04	6B
92	Camp Street (Kaniva)	Western Hwy	214	Progress St	341	137	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2282	Campbells Hill Road	Edgars Rd	0	Harrow Rd	800	810	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
1872	Campbells Road	Finchs Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,600	2,600		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3215	Campstones Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Old Railway Line	660	660		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3217	Campstones Road	Old Railway Line	660	Gate	940	280		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
94	Capelthornes Road	Edenhope Penola Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,320	2,320		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
95	Capelthornes Road	Pavement Change	2,320	Bend Left	3,080	760		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
96	Capelthornes Road	Bend Left	3,080	Ends at Gate	4,665	1,585		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
97	Caranta Lane	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,100	2,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
101	Caranta Lane	Pavement Change	2,100	Gate	4,060	1,960		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3361	Caranta Lane	Gate	4,060	End	5,250	1,190		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
102	Careys Road	Koolomurt Rd	0	Gate	1,070	1,070		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1491	Carl Pahls Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Pavement Change	380	380		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3111	Carl Pahls Road	Pavement Change	380	Lin Dixons Rd	1,060	680		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1280	Carlins Road	Harrow - Kanagulk Rd	0	White Lake Rd	3,500	3,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4507	Carrachers Road	Minimay - Frances Rd	0	Gate	2,120	2,120		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2774	Carters - Wallis Road	Broughton Rd	0	Miram South Rd	8,330	8,330		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
5165	Carters Reserve Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Cemetery Rd	3,520	3,520		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21817	Casterton - Edenhope Road	Dergholm - Chetwynd Rd (Boundary)	24,580	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	57,900	0		RNP			2
21854	Casterton-Apsley Road	Tylers Rd (Shire Boundary)	27,150	Wimmera Hwy	85,830	0		RNP			2
105	Castines Swamp Road	McDonalds Rd	0	Pavement Change	600	600		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A

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20404	Cecil Rileys Road	Patyah Rd	0	Old School Ln	2,990	2,990		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20265	Cemetery Road (Dergholm)	Dergholm Chetwynd Rd	0	End	150	150		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20805	Cemetery Road (Kaniva)	Western Hwy	0	End of Pavement	2,880	2,880		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
2757	Cemetery Road (Kaniva)	End of Pavement	2,880	M Carters Rd	3,825	945		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1897	Cemetery Road (Minimay)	Minimay - Frances Rd	0	Hawkins Rd	2,540	2,590		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
114	Champness Lane	Champness St	0	Victoria St	60	60	Kaniva	TFO	Y	Jul-04	5		
111	Champness Street	Farmers St	0	Madden St Nth	235	245	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4512	Chappel Road	Edgerley Rd	0	End of Seal	18,500	18,500		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
3871	Chappel Road	End of Seal	18,500	Arthurs Rd	24,050	5,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1112	Charam - Wombelano Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Nhill - Harrow Rd	21,800	21,850		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
20562	Charles Lawrence Drive	Lake St	0	Hayman Dr	70	70	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
3757	Charles Street	Langford St	0	End of Seal	1,880	1,892	Edenhope	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3804	Charles Street	End of Seal	1,880	MacKenzies Rd	4,150	2,270	Edenhope	TP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1619	Chastons Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,030	3,030		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2453	Chastons Road	Pavement Change	3,030	Continues as F/O	3,180	150		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2128	Chenoweths Road	Mitre Rd	0	Bert Redfords Rd	6,370	6,370		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
122	Chetwynd Cemetery Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd (South End)	0	Casterton - Edenhope Rd (North End)	3,470	3,470		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4196	Chetwynd East Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Mooree Rd	8,930	8,930		RP	Y	Jul-04	4		
20871	Chetwynd Junction Road	Moree Rd	0	Chetwynd East Rd	4,560	4,770		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
130	Chetwynd Tip Road	Chetwynd Cemetery Rd	0	End	1,180	1,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1623	Chris Simpsons Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	3,230	3,380		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

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1104	Church Lane (Douglas)	Wombelano Rd (Douglas)	0	Hobbs Rd	2,395	2,395		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1492	Church Lane (Karnak)	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Bourchiers Rd	2,770	2,770		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5175	Church Road (Chetwynd)	Casterton - Edenhope Rd (Chetwynd)	0	Sampeys Rd	255	255	Chetwynd	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5064	Church Road (Kaniva)	Yearinga Rd (Kaniva)	0	"Sherwood" Ent	5,190	5,190		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
733	Church Road (Kaniva)	"Sherwood" Ent	5,190	End	5,720	530		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
2300	Church Street (Goroke)	Camp St	0	Compston St	599	611	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
131	Church Street (Miram)	Miram South Rd (Miram)	0	Sanders St	400	400	Miram	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2362	Churchill Street	Anne St	0	Laidlaw Ave	185	218	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20365	Clarence Street (Miram)	Miram West Rd	4,145	Miram South (N) Rd	4,980	835		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
4778	Clarrie Chastons Road	Gardners Rd	0	Gate	590	590		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5229	Clive Sambells Road	Kybybolite Rd	0	Gate / End of Rd	860	0		RP	N	Jul-04	6B		
1615	Closes Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Cattle Grid	950	950		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3389	Closes Road	Cattle Grid	950	End	1,070	120		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1996	Clutterbucks Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Gate	2,160	2,160		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2754	Coads Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	Prescott Rd (SA Road)	3,450	3,130		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20818	Col Forster Road	Muddy Lake Rd	0	Ends at House	475	475		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21980	Coleraine - Edenhope Road	Shire Boundary	51,295	Wimmera Highway	83,915	0		RNP			2		
1361	Colin Whites Road	Rueben Burns Rd	0	End	460	460		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
134	Colley Road	Commercial Rd	0	Brewer St	150	157	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
22024	Colwill Road	Wolseley Rd	0	Pier Point Rd	6,890	3,445		RP			6B		
22031	Colwill Road	Pier Point Rd	6,890	South Lillimur Rd	8,420	765		RP			5		



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137	Comaum Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Ockley Rd (Border Rd)	9,790	9,790		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
22006	Commercial Road (Lillimur)	Feders - Collins Rd	0	Western Hwy (West End)	1,240	1,312	Lillimar	TP			5
3627	Commercial Street North	Overpass	0	Webb St	1,438	1,378	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
3581	Commercial Street South	Webb St	0	Overpass	1,610	1,663	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
2307	Compston Street	Main St	0	Station St	510	520	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
1993	Conlans Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	End	550	550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4534	Cooack Extension Road	Cooack Settlement Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,820	1,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4535	Cooack Extension Road	Pavement Change	1,820	Oliver Schmidt Rd	3,520	1,700		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20351	Cooack Fire Access Road	Cooack Rd	0	Mitre Rd	4,625	3,113		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
22040	Cooack North Rd	Cooack Rd No. 2	0	Southern Break (End)	905	453		RFO			6B
4335	Cooack Road	Fullers - Mayberys Rd	0	Cooack Settlement Rd	4,790	4,790		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20451	Cooack Road No. 2	Cooack Settlement Rd	0	Road on RHS (Shire Boundary)	1,830	1,830		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22086	Cooack Road No. 2	Road on RHS (Shire Boundary)	1,830	HRCC boundary	2,305	238		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
4530	Cooack Settlement Road	Cooack Rd	0	Pavement Change	8,810	8,810		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4901	Cook Lane	Diapur Rd	0	Williams Rd	960	960		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
145	Cooks Road (Serviceton)	South Lillimur Rd	0	Gate at End	1,800	1,800		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
146	Cooks Road (Tallengower)	Tallengower Rd	0	Pavement Change	475	475		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3083	Coopers Road (Lawloit)	Pine Hills Rd	0	Lawloit Church Rd	840	840		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3283	Coopers Road (Lawloit)	Lawloit Church Rd	840	Warners Rd	1,400	400		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5
3285	Coopers Road (Lawloit)	Warners Rd	1,400	Hicks Rd	3,260	1,860		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
22068	Coopers Road (Minimay)	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	End at Gate	1,100	1,100		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

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147	Copeman Street	Serviceton Rd	0	Farrow Ave	680	680	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
4905	Cormacks Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pavement Change	1,220	1,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4904	Cormacks Road	Pavement Change	1,220	Gate	1,760	540	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B	
4356	Cove Estate Road	Western Hwy	0	9.73 Alexanders Rd	9,740	9,740	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
153	Cove Estate Road	9.73 Alexanders Rd	9,740	L Heads Rd	11,440	1,700	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
2746	Cove Estate Road	L Heads Rd	11,440	Property Ent on RHS	12,490	1,050	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
22115	Cove Road Ext	Western Hwy	0	Red Bore Rd	2,010	2,010	RFO			6A	
1889	Crabtrees Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Bend Left	4,520	4,520	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
1896	Crabtrees Road	Bend Left	4,520	End (Flooded Roadway)	5,620	1,100	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B	
5035	Crosses Road	Woodacres Rd	0	End	1,180	1,180	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
1498	Cumings Road	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,090	2,090	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
2379	Cumings Road	Pavement Change	2,090	Ends at Gate	4,400	2,310	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
21069	Cyril Ampts Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Ampts Back Rd	3,840	3,840	RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
13	D Austin Road	McDonalds North - South Rd	0	Gate	430	430	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
2488	D Austin Road	Gate	430	Pavement Change	1,920	1,490	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
163	D Deans Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	"Grosvenor Downs" Ent	2,530	2,530	RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
187	D Dodson Road	SJ Hawkers Rd	0	Pavement Change	300	300	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
22110	D Fosters Road	Patyah Rd	0	End	717	717	RFO			6B	
1359	D Grahams Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Ends at Gate	945	945	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
20601	D Hawker Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	"Castleraegh" Ent	3,000	3,000	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
4610	D Hawker Road	"Castleraegh" Ent	3,000	End Form	3,200	200	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
404	D Hawkers Road	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	0	N Goodwins Rd	1,270	1,270	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	

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2769	D Madderns Road	Western Hwy	0	Miram West Rd	4,570	4,170		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
403	D Merrett Road (2)	Murrawong Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,700	3,700		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
20611	D Merrett Road (2)	Pavement Change	3,700	Pavement Change	4,270	570		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2673	D Merrett Road (2)	Pavement Change	4,270	Yarrock Rd	4,645	375		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
402	D Merrett Road (3)	Brimble Rd	0	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	2,310	2,310		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2767	D Merretts Road	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	0	Property Ent	390	390		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2768	D Merretts Road	Property Ent	390	Pavement Change	1,200	810		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
678	D Vivians Road	Broughton Rd	0	G Carters Rd	1,530	1,530		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
20361	Danny Robinsons Road	Mundarra Estate Rd	0	End	240	240		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2765	Darts Road	Yarrock Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,110	1,110		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2766	Darts Road	Pavement Change	1,110	Back Bunyip Rd	5,470	4,360		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1888	Dave Ross Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Pavement Change	790	790		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20563	David Lane	Kelly St	0	Fry Ln	206	212	Kaniva	TP	Y		5		
3751	David Street (Edenhope)	Andrew St	0	End of Seal	65	65	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
161	David Street (Kaniva)	Kelly St	0	Fry St	227	243	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
162	Davidsons Lane	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate	1,240	1,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1625	Dawsons Lane	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	7,040	7,040		RP	Y	Jul-04	4		
1641	De Fredricks Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Whites Rd	5,450	5,450		RP	Y	Jul-04	4		
164	Dean Street	Yarrock St	0	End	100	109	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3457	Dergholm - Chetwynd Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Track Left	4,960	2,660		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
168	Dergholm - Edenhope Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Powers Creek Rd	19,200	19,200		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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1914	Developmental Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	4,880	4,880	Apsley	RP	Y	Jul-04	4
21296	Devon Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Gate	1,265	1,265		RP	Y		5
20270	Diapur Road	Miram North Rd	0	Border Rd (Hindmarsh)	3,735	3,735		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
365	Diapur-Lawloit Road	Miram East Rd	0	Lawloit Sandsmere Rd	2,770	2,770		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
21599	Dickinsons Road	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	0	Gate	6,740	6,740		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1902	Diggers Lane	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	10,530	10,530		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
21666	Dinyarrak Hall Road	Dinyarrak Rd	0	Nortons Rd	1,710	1,710		RFO			6A
20828	Dinyarrak Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	Cove Estate Rd	9,260	9,260		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
20297	Dixon Road	The Avenue Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,440	1,440		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2844	Dixon Road	Pavement Change	1,440	Meyers Coutts Rd	2,420	980		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
20474	Dixon Street	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ballantyne St	100	100	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
20352	Dixons and Pahls Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Continues as F/O	270	270		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
5212	Dodsons Rabones Road	Murrawong Rd	0	E Howes Rd	3,480	3,480		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1360	Domaschenz Road	Patyah Rd	0	Pavement Change	640	640		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4316	Domaschenz Road	Pavement Change	640	Gate	1,450	810		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1499	Don Dixons Road	Lin Dixons Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,160	1,160		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3112	Don Dixons Road	Pavement Change	1,160	End	2,030	870		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
3103	Don McIntosh Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Gate	1,020	1,020		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
189	Dorodong Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Border Rd	22,785	22,785		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
22063	Douglas Street	Yarrock St	0	Kelly St	512	518		TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2119	Duffholme Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,300	2,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5

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		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
21319	Duffholme Road	Pavement Change	2,300	Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park	3,000	700		RP	Y		6A		
1882	Duggans Road	Benayeo Neuarpurr Rd	0	Gate	470	470		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5405	Dundas Street	Langford St	0	Lake St	234	238	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
206	Dungey East Lane	Dungey St	0	End	60	60	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
208	Dungey Street	Budjik St	0	Prograss St	455	435	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
207	Dungey West Lane	Dungey St	0	End	42	42	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21294	E Burns Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	End	1,680	1,680		RP	Y		5		
3004	E Carters Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Gates on Left	750	750		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3005	E Carters Road	Gates on Left	750	Hawkers And Goodwins Rd	3,760	3,010		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
332	E Howes Road	Yarrock Rd	0	End of Pavement	1,760	1,760		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
729	E Howes Road	End of Pavement	1,760	Property Ent on Right	5,780	4,020		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
730	E Howes Road	Property Ent on Right	5,780	McCrackens Rd	8,880	3,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2736	E Merretts Road	Western Hwy	0	House	590	590		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2739	E Merretts Road	House	590	Cemetery Rd	1,240	650		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2092	E Sambells Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Ends at Gate	4,790	4,790		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
4919	Eales Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	880	880		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20247	Eastwoods Road	Western Hwy	0	Carters Reserve Rd	1,775	1,775		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1247	Edenhope - Goroke Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	SBL Railway St	21,100	21,100		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
1246	Edenhope - Goroke Road (East Leg of Int)	Wimmera Hwy	0	Seal Change	350	350		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
21970	Edenhope - Penola Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Border Rd	33,085	0		RNP			2		
20375	Edenhope Aerodrome Airstrip	Start	0	End	1,004	0		RS	N		3		

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2273	Edgars Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Harrow - Casterton Rd	2,750	2,750	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
218	Edgerley Road	Boundary	0	Taylor's Rd	19,340	19,340		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
3820	Edinburgh Road	Laidlaw Ave	0	End of Seal	783	783	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22109	Egg Swamp Road	Bulls and Blacks Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	1,810	1,810		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3088	Egg Swamp Road	Property Ent on RHS	1,810	Gate	2,460	650		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
227	Eglington Lane	Eglington St	0	Ent	48	48	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
4463	Eglington Street	Western Hwy	0	Prograss St	110	126	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3681	Elizabeth Street (Edenhope)	Wimmera Highway	0	End of Seal	2,500	2,256	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
233	Elizabeth Street (Serviceton)	Rail Crossing	0	Parsons St	835	799	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
5374	Elizabeth Street (Serviceton)	Parsons St	835	Parsons St	1,083	278	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
4565	Elliotts and Brandts Road	Harrow - Kanagulk Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,280	2,280		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20794	Elliotts and Brandts Road	Pavement Change	2,280	Jaspers Ln	4,680	2,400		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
1285	Elliotts Back Lane	Jaspers Ln	0	Harrow - Kanagulk Rd	6,460	3,230		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
235	Elliotts Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	"Bindibu" Ent	8,110	8,110		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1501	Ellis Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Ossie Smiths Rd	2,950	2,950		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1511	Exells Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Gate on Right	6,850	6,850		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4575	Exells Road	Gate on Right	6,850	Gate	7,250	400		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
5167	F Cox Extn Road	Nortons Rd	0	Gate	2,775	2,775		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
156	F Cox Road	Dinyarrak Rd	0	Nortons Rd	2,180	2,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5391	Farmers Street	Broughton Rd	0	End of Seal	1,344	1,417	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
3063	Farmers Street	End of Seal	1,344	Rowes Rd	2,650	1,306		RP	Y	Jul-04	5



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5392	Farmers Street North Ext	Broughton Rd	0	Gate at Yarran Oak	350	359	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
5192	Farnhams Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Road on RHS (Shire Boundary)	1,610	1,610		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
5190	Farnhams Road	Road on RHS (Shire Boundary)	1,610	Ends at left bend	2,930	660		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
4473	Farrow Avenue	Copeman St (Seal Change)	0	Merretts Rd	1,315	1,315	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22009	Feders - Collins Road	Western Hwy	0	Culvert	3,480	3,480		RS			5
2837	Feders - Collins Road	Culvert	3,480	Hawkers And Goodwins Rd	4,910	1,430		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21814	Fergusons Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Powers Creek Rd	20,100	20,100		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
264	Ferris Road	Sandmere Bleakhouse Rd	0	K Austins Rd	2,400	2,400		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20419	Ferris Road	K Austins Rd	2,400	Yanac South Rd	8,705	6,305		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1362	Finchs Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,635	3,635		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1288	Fitzgeralds Road	Harrow - Kanagulk Rd	0	Jones Rd	1,900	1,900		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5025	Fords Road	Tallengower Rd	0	Locked Gate	2,600	2,600		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
360	Fridys Road	Smiths Rd	0	Gates	1,855	1,855		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
279	Fry Lane	David St	0	Paterson St	230	230	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
275	Fry Street	Madden St Nth	0	Douglas St	585	619	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
2130	Fullers - Mayberys Road	Mitre Rd	0	Gate	3,440	3,440		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
280	Fullertons Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	11.56 Border Rd	11,540	11,540		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
103	G Carters Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Back Bunyip Rd	1,110	1,320		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2640	G Carters Road	Back Bunyip Rd	1,110	D Vivians Rd	2,820	1,710		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20246	G Carters Road	D Vivians Rd	2,820	AW Vivians Rd	3,880	1,060		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2642	G Carters Road	AW Vivians Rd	3,880	Broughton Rd	5,330	1,450		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

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112	G Champness Road	Western Hwy	0	Property Ent on Left	2,780	2,780		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4945	G Champness Road	Property Ent on Left	2,780	Yearinga Rd	3,690	910		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21597	G Walters Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Cattle Grid	580	580		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
290	Gall Street	Commercial Rd	0	Brewer St	101	146	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1881	Gardners Road	Stehns Ross Rd	0	Gate	1,220	1,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4457	Garnet Street	Madden St Sth	0	End	165	165	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
22090	Gartlans Lane	Careys Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	590	295		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5207	Gartlans Lane	Property Ent on RHS	590	Gate	1,126	268		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3768	George Street (Apsley)	Wimmera Hwy	0	Munn St	140	140	Apsley	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3754	George Street (Edenhope)	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Langford St	777	772	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20934	Gerrickes Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Brodys Rd	3,910	3,910		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3762	Gibson Street	Splatt St Sth	0	Laidlaw St	100	110	Apsley	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5225	Gleasons Lane	Jessie Rd (SA Road)	2,330	Gate	2,680	175		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
3706	Glenelg Avenue	Lake St	0	Wannon Ave	110	122	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
2314	Gloucester Street	Windsor Ave	0	Seal Change	175	187	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
5018	Goldsworthy Road	Western Hwy	0	Carters - Wallis Rd	2,200	2,200		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
417	Golf Course Road	Western Hwy	0	Clarence St	3,960	3,960		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20397	Goodwins and Crouchs Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Property Ent	2,440	2,440		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
159	Goodwins and Crouchs Road	Property Ent	2,440	Prop Ent on Left	6,210	3,770		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21572	Goodwins and Crouchs Road	Prop Ent on Left	6,210	South Lillimur Rd	7,970	1,760		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3211	Gordon Mayberrys Road	Mayberrys and Redfords Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,220	3,220		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		

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4600	Goroke - Harrow Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Nhill - Harrow Rd	23,955	23,955		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
1094	Goroke - Nurcoun Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Nhill - Harrow Rd	12,440	12,700		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
1968	Graham Blocks Road	Minimay - Goroke Rd	0	Wauna Swamp Gate	1,030	1,030		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
22091	Granite Road	Rocky Creek Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	1,090	545		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5		
20366	Granite Road	Property Ent on RHS	1,090	End	4,145	1,528		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
300	Grants and Richs Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	6,360	6,360		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21198	Grays Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at Gate	3,180	3,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
305	Greenhill Street	Warwick St	0	Paterson St	82	90	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20877	Griffins Road	Thomas North South Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,250	1,250		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1015	Grub Lane	Wimmera Hwy	0	Mary Welsh Rd	6,100	6,100		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
1655	Grummetts Road	De Fredricks Rd	0	Bend Right	1,650	1,650		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
22108	Grummetts Road	Bend Right	1,650	Gate	1,880	230		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5110	Guthries Road	Bringalbert South Rd	0	End	2,010	2,010		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2214	Guy Brooks Road	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	0	Fence Line	4,150	4,150		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20566	Gymbowen S/R	Natimuk - Frances Rd (East End)	0	Natimuk - Frances Rd (West End)	180	180		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20622	H Colwill Road	South Rd	0	SA Border	1,690	1,690		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
188	H Dodsons Road	N Goodwins Rd	0	SJ Hawkers Rd	1,830	1,830		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21084	H Mitchell Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,200	1,200		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1595	H Walters Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,550	2,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3223	H Walters Road	Pavement Change	2,550	Marsh and Lowes Rd	8,010	5,460		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1658	Haebichs Road	Gerrickes Rd	0	Segment Change	1,160	1,160		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		

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22103	Haebichs Road	Segment Change	1,160	Ends at Gate	1,630	470		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
3079	Hahns Road	Tarcass Rd (SA road)	0	End	1,980	1,490		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
3756	Hallahan Street	Langford St	0	Harrow Rd	120	130	Edenhope	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
20264	Hamilton Street	Blair St	0	Swanston St	115	45	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	6B
2280	Hamilton Street	Swanston St	115	Willis St	237	122	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2279	Hamilton Street	Willis St	237	Birmingham St	355	0	Harrow	TFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
2281	Hamilton Street	Birmingham St	355	Edgars Rd	628	284	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3417	Hannafords Road	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	Gate	2,940	2,940		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5224	Harkness Road (North)	Penders (SA)	0	Gate	345	173		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
3067	Harkness Road (South)	Penders (SA)	0	Pavement Change	620	310		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
3248	Harris Road	Bourchiers Rd	0	End	950	950		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1148	Harrow - Casterton Road	Rec Reserve Entrance	1,068	Kadnook - Connewirricoo Rd	11,860	10,882		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
1035	Harrow - Clear Lake Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Boundary (HRCC)	27,230	27,230		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
4601	Harrow - Kanagulk Road	Wombelano Rd	0	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	9,280	9,280		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
3695	Harrow Road	Elizabeth St (Parking lanes)	0	Halahan St NBL	490	450	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
20502	Harrow Tip Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Pavement Change	600	600		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4607	Hassall Road	E Sambells Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,550	1,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2000	Hauslers - Dundons Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Wimmera Hwy	6,510	6,510		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1517	Hauslers Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	4,280	4,280		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
296	Hawkers And Goodwins Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Gates Sth Side	2,280	2,280		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20977	Hawkers And Goodwins Road	Gates Sth Side	2,280	Three Chain Rd	9,540	7,260		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

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21262	Hawkins Road	Neuarcurr - Minimay Rd	0	"Bailleul Park" Ent	3,260	3,260		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4615	Hawkins Road	"Bailleul Park" Ent	3,260	Baingers Rd	4,630	1,370		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
2029	Haylocks Ext Road	4.61 Haylocks Rd	0	Gate	2,820	2,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2022	Haylocks Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at Gate	5,750	5,750		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20567	Hayman Drive	Charles Lawrence Dr	0	Tom Willis Dr	104	104	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22124	Haymans Road	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	0	End	560	560		RFO			6A
4803	Heenans Road	School Rd (Chetwynd)	0	Church Rd	230	230	Chetwynd	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
1092	Hennesseys Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Marsh and Lowes Rd	5,320	5,340		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
316	Hennigs Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	End of Seal	3,290	3,290		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
318	Hennigs Road	End of Seal	3,290	Pavement Change	3,870	580		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
319	Hennigs Road	Pavement Change	3,870	End of Council Asset	8,640	4,770		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
22001	Hennigs Road	End of Council Asset	8,640	Border Rd	13,230	0		RNP			6B
1366	Henry Burns Road	Les Burns Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,080	1,080		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3105	Henry Burns Road	Pavement Change	1,080	Pavement Change	1,960	880		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
3106	Henry Burns Road	Pavement Change	1,960	Ends at Gate	2,430	470		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
20460	Hicks and Schmidts Road	Lawloit Sandsmere Rd	0	Hicks Rideout Rd	4,250	4,250		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3043	Hicks Ext Road	Whissons Rd	0	Krauses Rd	3,770	3,770		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
323	Hicks Rideout Road	Western Hwy	0	Pavement Change	4,980	4,980		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
22050	Hicks Road (Lawloit)	Western Hwy	0	Whissons Rd	1,950	1,950		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1529	Hicks Road (Ozenkadnook)	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Rd	0	Wilsons Rd	4,580	4,580		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3121	Hicks Road (Ozenkadnook)	Wilsons Rd	4,580	Pavement Change	5,570	990		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
324	High Street	Fry St	0	Kelly St	466	476	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
327	High Street Lane	Fry St	0	Kelly St	466	478	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
2285	Hill Climb Road	Harrow - Casterton Rd	0	Edgars Rd	310	310	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
1432	Hinkleys and Tanseys Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Finchs Rd	6,350	6,350		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
1990	Hinkleys Road	Olive Grove Rd	0	Gate	520	520		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3309	Hinkleys Road	Gate	520	Pavement Change	850	330		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3214	Hiscocks Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Gate	570	570		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4617	Hiscocks Road East	Chenoweths Rd	0	Road on RHS	1,140	1,140		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22079	Hobbs & Flynns Road	Rex Hobbs Rd	0	Ends at Prop Ent on Left	0	0		RFO			6B
1538	Hobbs And Mitchells Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Lees Rd	2,520	2,520		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1272	Hobbs Road	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	0	Rex Hobbs Rd	5,880	5,590		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4745	Hollands Road	Dinyarrak Rd	0	Nortons Rd	1,690	1,690		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21528	Honnors Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pavement Change	4,770	4,770		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20346	Howletts Lane	Mooree Rd	0	End	140	140		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5016	Huxtable Road	Three Chain Rd	0	End	640	640		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
306	I Grossers Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,250	3,250		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20401	I Grossers Road	Pavement Change	3,250	Stimson Rd	3,980	730		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
308	I Grossers Road	Stimson Rd	3,980	Brooks Rd	6,750	2,770		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
406	I Merrett Road	Western Hwy	0	Serviceton South Rd	3,850	3,850		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1369	Ian Forsters Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Continues as F/O	1,930	1,930		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21633	Industrial Drive	Farmers St	0	Broughton Rd	1,200	1,206	Kaniva	TS	Y	Dec-14	5



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21419	J Kealys Road	Patyah Rd	0	Old School Ln	1,980	1,980		RP	Y		5
5359	J Mcdonalds Road	Caldows Rd	0	Ends at Gate	620	620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4133	J Mitchell Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Ends at House	895	895		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1700	J Moores Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at House	950	950		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20285	J Quigleys Road	Quigleys Rd	0	McLachlans Rd	4,130	4,130		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3080	J Richardson Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Apsley Natimuk Rd	8,510	8,510		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1988	J Ridlers Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	1,000	1,000		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2121	J Smiths Road	Dickinsons Rd	0	Pavement Change	380	380		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
2202	Jack Breens Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Buffhams Rd	2,420	2,420		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
4618	Jacobs Track	Minimay - Frances Rd	0	Bend Right	310	310		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5
4619	Jacobs Track	Bend Right	310	Gum Tree	680	370		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
21810	Jaspers Lane	Wombelano Rd	0	Seal Change	7,195	0		RNP			6B
1137	Jaspers Lane	Seal Change	7,195	Jones Rd	15,280	8,085		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
1673	Jelletts Road	Honnors Rd	0	Gate	1,180	1,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21197	Jennings Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	End	4,210	4,210		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22092	Jim Burns Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Property Ent on LHS	490	490		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20111	Jim Burns Road	Property Ent on LHS	490	End	2,180	1,690		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
5155	Jim Ryans Road	Hinkleys And Tanseys Rd	0	Olive Grove Rd	3,550	3,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1438	Jim Whiteheads Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,620	2,620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21217	John Wallis Road	Miram East Rd	0	End of Pavement	550	550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21299	Johnsons Ext Road	W Ridlers Rd	0	Johnsons Rd	3,500	3,500		RFO	Y		6A
21304	Johnsons Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	House Ent	1,620	1,620		RP	Y		5

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2034	Johnsons Road	House Ent	1,620	Readers Rd	3,890	2,270	Apsley	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
3772	Johnston Street	Splatt St Nth	0	Pavement Change	270	277		TP	Y	Jul-04	5
2713	Jollys Road	W Tinks Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,010	2,010		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
2715	Jollys Road	Pavement Change	2,010	F Cox Extn Rd	6,340	4,330		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1302	Jones Road (Douglas)	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	0	Fitzgeralds Rd	3,740	3,740		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3057	Jones Road (Kaniva)	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Webbs Rd	3,840	3,840		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
334	Joseph Street	Budjik St	0	Phillips St	219	231	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
14	K Austins Road	Ferris Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,900	1,900		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22015	K Clarks Road	Lillimur Station Rd	0	Property Ent	3,190	3,190		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
2883	K Clarks Road	Property Ent	3,190	Williams Rd	6,570	3,380		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20963	K Rabones Road	Yanipy Rd	0	Miram South Rd	3,600	3,600		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1073	Kadnook - Connewirricoo Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at Bridge	13,580	13,580		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
3748	Kadnook Street	Wimmera Hwy	0	Yallakar St	383	393	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2760	Kane Swamp Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Yarrook Rd	4,750	4,750		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
21886	Kaniva - Edenhope Road	Western Hwy	0	Wimmera Hwy	75,770	0		RNP			2
20374	Kaniva Caravan Park	Baker St	0	Dungey St	110	118	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
336	Kaniva Rec Reserve Road	Budjik St	0	End of Loop (Back to Seal)	950	957	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
21423	Kealys Road	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	0	Ends at Gate	995	995		RP	Y		5
1675	Keith Munns Road	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	Sprys and Davies Rd	7,090	7,090		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1963	Kelly And Rapsons Road	Minimay - Frances Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,140	1,140		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1967	Kelly And Rapsons Road	Pavement Change	1,140	Little Desert National Park	3,000	1,860		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A

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341	Kelly Street	Madden St Nth	0	Douglas St	890	909	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
20821	Ken Finchs Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	End	2,120	2,120		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
344	Kent Street	Elizabeth St	0	CFA Garage	150	157	Serviceton	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
21516	Kester Road	Benayeo - Neuarpuir Rd	0	Pavement Change	240	240		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22104	Kester Road	Pavement Change	240	End	790	550		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2293	Kiely Street	Main St	0	Pavement Change	2,500	2,504	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3446	Kilpatricks Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,710	1,710		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5060	Kings And Madderns Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	Maidment Rd	2,100	2,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2753	Kings And Madderns Road	Maidment Rd	2,100	Pavement Change	3,730	1,630		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
2287	Kirby Street	Blair St	0	Swanston St	108	116	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2199	Knights Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Goroke - Nurcoung Rd	3,800	3,800		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1178	Kochs Road	Minimay - Frances Rd (Southwest int)	0	Pavement Change	2,240	2,465		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
21515	Kochs Road	Pavement Change	2,240	Road on RHS	2,920	680		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1686	Kojjak Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Floodway	6,450	6,450		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
20884	Kojjak Road	Floodway	6,450	Pavement Change	8,435	1,985		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3391	Kojjak Road	Pavement Change	8,435	Casterton-Apsley Rd	10,180	1,745		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
349	Koolomurt Road	Moree Rd	0	Seal Change	8,760	8,880		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
21998	Koolomurt Road	Seal Change	8,760	Nareen Rd	9,800	0		RNP			6B
4625	Krauses North South Road	Meaghers Rd	0	Krauses Rd	3,160	1,580		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
2876	Krauses Road	Three Chain Rd	0	L Williams Rd	2,980	2,980		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
5309	Krauses Road	L Williams Rd	2,980	Pine Hill Rd	6,005	3,025		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
356	Krauses Road	Pine Hill Rd	6,005	Krauses N/S Rd	7,880	1,875		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

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3793	Kybybolite Road	Benayeo Rd	0	SA Border	5,500	5,500		RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
541	L Heads Road	Smiths Rd	0	Gate on RHS	1,510	1,510		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
544	L Heads Road	Gate on RHS	1,510	Cove Estate Rd	2,320	810		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
545	L Heads Road	Cove Estate Rd	2,320	Murrawong North Rd	7,090	4,770		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
4816	L Kuchel Road	S Hawkers Rd	0	Gate	600	600		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
1749	L Munns Road	Bringalbert South Rd	0	Pavement Change	890	890		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
5306	L Williams Road	Krauses Rd	0	Continues as F/O	1,965	1,965		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
3749	Laidlaw Avenue	Macquarie St	0	Moss St	628	628	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5	
2266	Laidlaw Street	Wimmera Hwy	0	End of Seal	600	624	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5	
22025	Lake Boorooopki Access Track	Minimay - Goroke Rd	0	End of Loop	183	183		RFO			6A	
1180	Lake Charlegrark Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Natimuk - Frances Rd	3,900	3,930		RS	Y	Jul-04	5	
1181	Lake Charlegrark Road (Y)	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Seal Change	50	50		RS	Y	Jul-04	5	
1542	Lake Ratzcastle Road	Exells Rd	0	Pavement Change	400	400		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
3735	Lake Street	Wimmera Hwy EOS	0	End of Seal	3,410	3,412	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	4	
20363	Lake Street	End of Seal	3,410	End	4,020	610		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
22117	Lake Wallace Overflow Road	Lake St	0	Parking Area (Culvert)	170	170		RP			5	
4332	Lamsheds Road	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,300	2,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
4328	Lamsheds Road	Pavement Change	2,300	Continues as F/O	3,730	1,430		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
1921	Lancasters Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Bulls and Blacks Rd	4,020	4,020		RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
22029	Laneway (Edenhope)	Anzac Ave	0	End of Road (Rear Property Access)	46	46	Edenhope	TFO			6A	
22028	Laneway (Serviceton)	South Rd	0	Kent St	228	228	Serviceton	TP			6A	

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3700	Langford Street (East)	George St		0 Creek deadend	410	425	Edenhope	TS	Y		Jul-04	5	
2392	Langford Street (West)	Dundas St		0 End of Seal	446	470	Edenhope	TS	Y		Jul-04	5	
20360	Langford Street (West)	End of Seal	446	Dead End	515	69	Edenhope	TP	Y		Jul-04	6A	
4416	Langford Street Connection	Dundas St		0 Harrow Rd	170	170	Edenhope	TP	Y		Jul-04	5	
21216	Langkoop Naracoorte Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd		0 SA Border	6,260	6,260		RS	Y		Jul-13	3	
20826	Langlea Road	Caldows Rd		0 Ends at House	390	390		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
20618	Lannins Road	Western Hwy		0 Rail Crossing	1,820	1,820		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
5237	Lawloit Church Road	Meaghers Rd		0 Coopers Rd	1,550	1,550		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6A	
4783	Lawloit East Road	Western Hwy		0 Pavement Change	800	800		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
21503	Lawloit East Road	Pavement Change	800	Lawloit Rd	2,230	1,430		RP	Y		Jul-04	6A	
364	Lawloit Road	Western Hwy		0 Pine Hill Rd	2,320	2,320		RS	Y		Jul-04	5	
366	Lawloit Sandsmere Road	Western Hwy		0 Miram East Rd	4,780	4,780		RS	Y		Jul-04	4	
3209	Lears Road	Chenoweths Rd		0 Right Turn	441	441		RP	Y		Jul-04	6A	
22105	Lears Road	Right Turn	441	Nurcounng Flora Reserve	1,880	1,439		RP	Y		Jul-04	6B	
369	Leeor Road	Western Hwy		0 South Lillimur Rd	9,310	9,310		RS	Y		Jul-04	3	
21544	Leeor Road	South Lillimur Rd	9,310	Moree Historic Reserve	11,520	2,210		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
1593	Lees Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd		0 V Mitchell Rd	2,200	2,200		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
3138	Lees Road	V Mitchell Rd	2,200	Pavement Change	2,880	680		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6A	
3139	Lees Road	Pavement Change	2,880	Hobbs And Mitchells Rd	4,300	1,420		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
20504	Lemon Springs Tip Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd		0 End	270	270		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	
1414	Les Burns Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd		0 Pavement Change	3,320	3,320		RP	Y		Jul-04	5	

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1880	Les Carters Road	Sonogo's Rd	0	Gate	1,880	1,880		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
21413	Les Forsters Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at House	1,780	1,780		RP	Y		5
377	Lillimur - Yearinga Road	Western Hwy	0	Yearinga Rd	5,835	5,835		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
22014	Lillimur Station Road	Western Hwy	0	End of Seal	900	900	Lillimur	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
22010	Lillimur Station Road	End of Seal	900	Feders - Collins Rd	1,340	440	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
20422	Lillimur Township Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Pavement Change	285	285		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1544	Lin Dixons Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,100	3,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3124	Lin Dixons Road	Pavement Change	3,100	Road on RHS	3,600	500		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1875	Littles Lane	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Neuarpuir - Minimay Rd	3,120	3,120		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
2035	Lous Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	370	370		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3210	Lovers Lane	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	H Walters Rd	2,840	2,840		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5160	M Carters Road	Yearinga Rd	0	End	5,370	5,370		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
450	M Moars Road	Yanipy Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,160	1,160		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2911	M Moars Road	Pavement Change	1,160	The Avenue Rd	5,260	4,100		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
4167	MacKay Road	Serviceton North Rd	0	Property Ent	290	290		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1381	MacKenzies Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Charles St	1,330	1,330		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1387	MacKenzies Road	Charles St	1,330	Property Ent on RHS	4,380	3,050		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
22111	MacKenzies Road	Property Ent on RHS	4,380	Rueben Burns Rd	4,520	140		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2316	Macquarie Street	Lake St (K&C L side)	0	Laidlaw Ave	237	258	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3635	Madden Nth S/R 1-E	Progress St	0	Madden St Nth	130	135	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
4452	Madden Street Nth	Commercial NBL	0	Farmers St	1,120	1,095	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	3
4440	Madden Street Nth S/R 2 - E	Moore St	0	Madden St	550	585	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5



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3633	Madden Street Nth S/R 3-W	Commercial St Nth	0	Progress St	149	149	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
630	Madden Street Sth	Western Hwy	0	Seal Change	200	180	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	3
3636	Madden Street Sth S/R	Commercial St	0	Moffat St	220	224	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
1067	Magor & Donaldsons Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Property Ent	8,990	8,990		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
382	Maidment Road	Western Hwy	0	Property Ent	510	510		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2660	Maidment Road	Property Ent	510	Kings And Madderns Rd	2,120	1,610		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
4433	Main Street	Compston St	0	End of Right Kerb	742	448	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	4
383	Makins Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Pavement Change	940	940		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
385	Makins Road	Pavement Change	940	Ends at Gate	2,650	1,710		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1752	Marchs Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Property Ent	960	960		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3760	Margaret Street	Mollison St	0	Recreation Reserve	840	852	Edenhope	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
2188	Marsh and Lowes Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Property Ent	6,090	6,090		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20597	Marsh and Lowes Road	Property Ent	6,090	End	6,460	370		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
21671	Marshs Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Goroke - Harrow Rd	1,530	1,530		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1399	Mary Johnsons Road	Dergholm - Edenhope Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,090	2,090		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21193	Mary Johnsons Road	Pavement Change	2,090	Gate	2,180	90		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1444	Mary Welsh Road	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	0	Grub Ln	3,220	3,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1563	Maryvale Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,120	3,120		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20931	Masters Road	Gerrickes Rd	0	Ends at Gate	3,390	3,390		RP	Y	Jul-01	5
2204	Mayberys and Redfords Road	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	0	Pavement Change	4,040	4,040		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20185	Mayberys and Redfords Road	Pavement Change	4,040	Pavement Change	5,650	1,610		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class		
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
2039	McClures Road	Kadnook - Connewirricoo Rd	0	Tea Tree Creek Rd	7,040	7,040		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
21271	McCrackens Road	Broughton Rd	0	Gates Nth Side	350	175		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2664	McCrackens Road	Gates Nth Side	350	Serviceton Nth - Telopea Downs Rd	29,020	25,095		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
22081	McDonald & Puls Extension Road	Shultz Rd	0	Ends at Gate	4,660	2,330		RFO			6B		
389	McDonald North - South Road	Witmitz Rd	0	Property Ent	2,560	2,560		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20953	McDonald North - South Road	Property Ent	2,560	T Howes Rd	3,680	1,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20954	McDonald North - South Road	T Howes Rd	3,680	End of Seal	6,180	2,520		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20952	McDonald North - South Road	End of Seal	6,180	McCrackens Rd	8,000	1,820		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21404	McDonalds Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Old Telegraph Rd	8,760	8,760		RP	Y		5		
22078	McGauleys Track	McCalmans Tk	0	Tylers Rd	5,930	0		RP			6B		
21639	Mckechnies Road	Wombelano Rd	0	Rex Hobbs Rd	3,890	1,945		RP	Y		5		
1355	Mclachlans Road	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	0	J Quigleys Rd	1,220	1,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21175	Mclachlans Road	J Quigleys Rd	1,220	White Lake Rd	3,000	1,780		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
20283	McLennans Road	Goroke - Harrow Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,570	1,570		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20376	Meaghers Road	Krauses N/S Rd	0	Lawloit Church Rd	2,720	2,530		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
398	Meaghers Road	Lawloit Church Rd	2,720	Three Chain Rd	3,680	960		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5153	Meereek East West Road	Meereek Rd	0	End	1,690	1,690		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1705	Meereek Road	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	Gate	4,300	4,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4655	Merretts Road	School Ln (Patyah)	0	Ends at House	1,115	1,115		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
409	Merwyn Swamp Road	Western Hwy	0	Pavement Change	3,270	3,270		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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1308	Mewetts Road	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	0	Ends at House	2,320	2,320	Goroke	RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5236	Meyers Coutts Road	T Meyers Rd	0	Yanipy Rd	5,380	5,380		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20890	Miga Lake Access Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Lake Foreshore	2,060	2,060		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2304	Mill Street	Main St	0	Railway St	395	406		TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3203	Mill Swamp Lane	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Worthys Rd	2,920	3,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2231	Millers Road (Goroke)	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	3,970	3,970		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20571	Millers Road (Telopea Downs)	Boundary Rd Nth (Hindmarsh)	0	Gate North Side	2,350	2,350	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
411	Millers Road (Telopea Downs)	Gate North Side	2,350	Taylors Rd	20,400	17,685	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
1161	Minimay - Frances Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	High St (Frances)	29,110	28,850	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
1205	Minimay - Goroke Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Minimay - Frances Rd	5,980	6,120	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
415	Miram Cemetery Road	Diapur Rd	0	Williams Rd	5,280	5,280	RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
3799	Miram East Road	Miram South Rd	0	Schmidts Rd (Hindmarsh)	6,400	4,353	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
5301	Miram East Road	Schmidts Rd (Hindmarsh)	6,400	Shire Boundary	13,275	3,438	RP	Y	Jul-04	6B	
5396	Miram North Road	Miram West Rd	0	Sanders Maddern Rd/Diapur Rd	2,895	2,895	RS	Y	Jul-04	3	
5388	Miram Nth Road	Miram West Rd	0	Sanders Maddern Rd	3,605	3,605	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
20316	Miram Nth Road	Sanders Maddern Rd	3,605	K Austins Rd	11,000	7,395	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
428	Miram South (N) Road	Western Hwy	0	Miram West Rd	5,510	5,510	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
21434	Miram South (S) Road	Western Hwy	0	"Jacks Flat" Ent	12,150	12,150	RS	Y	Jul-14	5	
5298	Miram South (S) Road	"Jacks Flat" Ent	12,150	Pavement Change	15,930	3,780	RP	Y	Jul-04	6B	
448	Miram West Road	Broughton Rd	0	Clarence St	4,145	4,145	RS	Y	Jul-04	3	
22027	Miram West Road (Y)	Broughton Rd	0	Seal Change	53	53	RS	Y	Jul-04	3	

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449	Miss Coutts Road	Yanipy Rd	0	Continues as F/O	850	850		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5366	Mitchells Road	Serviceton North Telopea Downs Rd	0	Alexanders Rd	3,450	3,450		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1105	Mitre Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Shire Boundary	9,960	9,960		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
3035	Moars and Meyers Road	Yanipy Rd	0	Webbs Rd	3,010	2,880		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
750	Moffat Street	Madden St Sth	0	Budjik St	190	228	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
2343	Mollison Street	Lake St	0	Charles St	691	702	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20322	Molloys Road	Bulls and Blacks Rd	0	Property Ent	530	530		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4676	Molloys Road	Property Ent	530	Gate	1,000	470		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4677	Moneculla Road	Warburtons Rd	0	Ends at House	195	195		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
454	Moore Street	Madden St Nth	0	End of Seal	735	790	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
459	Mooree Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Bridge (Shire Boundary)	9,840	9,792		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
21997	Mooree Road	Bridge (Shire Boundary)	9,840	Nareen Rd	10,210	0		RNP			6B		
1985	Moores Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate	490	490		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
455	Morans Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,375	2,375		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
457	Morans Road	Pavement Change	2,375	Pavement Change	3,125	750		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2161	Morgans Road (Gymbowen)	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Albert Isaacsons Rd	2,940	2,940		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4795	Morgans Road (Lawloit)	Western Hwy	0	Pavement Change	910	910		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4796	Morgans Road (Lawloit)	Pavement Change	910	Lawloit Rd	1,540	630		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2319	Moss Street	Edinburgh Rd	0	Transfer Station	570	575	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1569	Muddy Lake Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	3,635	3,635		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20512	Muegels Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Hennesseys Rd	2,470	2,470		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

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20572	Muellers Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Continues as an Unformed Rd	2,740	2,740	Apsley	RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1315	Mullagh - Kanagulk Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	7,820	7,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	4		
5208	Mullinger Road	Butterworths Rd	0	Pavement Change	350	175		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1577	Mulraneys Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pavement Change	620	620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1578	Mulraneys Road	Pavement Change	620	Pavement Change	1,810	1,190		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1063	Mundarra Estate Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Edenhope - Penola Rd	9,585	9,585		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
21526	Munn Brothers Road	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	Bend Right	2,900	2,900		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5368	Munn Brothers Road	Bend Right	2,900	Pavement Change	4,070	1,170		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3769	Munn Street	George St	0	Pavement Change	130	130		TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3301	Murranbool Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,750	1,750		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
475	Murrawong North Road	Edgerley Rd	0	Arthurs Rd	25,310	25,310	RS	Y	Jul-04	5			
481	Murrawong North Road	Arthurs Rd	25,310	Pavement Change	29,995	4,685	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A			
20797	Murrawong Road	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	0	Edgerley Rd	20,200	20,200	RS	Y	Jul-04	3			
1485	Mutapah Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,150	2,150	RP	Y	Jul-04	5			
291	N Goodwins Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Gate West Side	1,480	1,480	RP	Y	Jul-04	5			
4583	N Goodwins Road	Gate West Side	1,480	H Dodsons Rd	6,190	4,710	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A			
21566	N Goodwins Road	H Dodsons Rd	6,190	Western Hwy	8,030	1,840	RP	Y	Jul-04	5			
295	N Goodwins Road	Western Hwy	8,030	D Hawkers Rd	10,390	2,360	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A			
22099	N Goodwins Road	D Hawkers Rd	10,390	Pavement Change	10,540	150	RP	Y	Jul-04	5			
2852	N Goodwins Road	Pavement Change	10,540	P Powells Rd	11,170	630	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A			
20643	N Hawkers Road	Cove Estate Rd	0	Smiths Rd	2,430	2,430	RP	Y	Jul-04	5			

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2816	N Hawkers Road	Smiths Rd	2,430	F Cox Extn Rd	4,300	1,870		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21967	Natimuk - Frances Road	Shire Boundary	19,160	Minimay - Frances Rd (SA Border)	92,930	160		RNP			2		
1935	Neuarpurr - Minimay Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd (Southern Int)	0	Minimay - Frances Rd	11,540	11,570		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
22020	Neuarpurr - Minimay Road (Y)	End Of Seal	11,140	Minimay - Frances Rd	11,356	216		RP			4		
20899	Neuarpurr Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Benayeo Neuarpurr Rd	3,230	3,230		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1930	Neuarpurr School Lane	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Brippick Rd	2,480	2,480		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1932	Neuarpurr School Lane	Brippick Rd	2,480	Pavement Change	5,120	2,640		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4699	Neuarpurr T/S Road 2	Wyndham Rd	0	W Burns Rd	137	137	Neuarpurr	TP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4700	Neuarpurr T/S Road 2	W Burns Rd	137	Natimuk - Frances Rd	290	153	Neuarpurr	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4701	Newlands Lake Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pahl St	320	320	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1027	Newlands Settlement Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Casterton-Apsley Rd	14,974	14,377		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
4708	Newmans Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Dorodong Rd	11,850	11,850		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
21823	Nhill - Harrow Road	Shire Boundary	24,890	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	96,170	0		RNP			2		
2740	Nortons Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	Property Ent	1,620	1,620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2741	Nortons Road	Property Ent	1,620	Property Ent on LHS	4,100	2,480		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2743	Nortons Road	Property Ent on LHS	4,100	F Cox Rd	4,300	200		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2744	Nortons Road	F Cox Rd	4,300	Dinyarrak Hall Rd	6,060	1,760		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2263	O'Connor Street	Wimmera Hwy	0	Seal Change	280	285	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
4714	Okelys Road	Hennesseys Rd	0	Ampts Back Rd	1,960	1,960		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3425	Old Bringalbert Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,400	3,400		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3424	Old Bringalbert Road	Pavement Change	3,400	Hannafords Rd	8,500	5,100		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		



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20793	Old Diapur Road	Miram West Rd	0	Diapur Rd	5,900	5,900		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1983	Old Pendale Road	Quinns Rd	0	Cattle Grid	290	290		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20117	Old School Lane	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Cecil Rileys Rd	3,380	3,380		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20861	Old School Lane	Cecil Rileys Rd	3,380	Pavement Change	4,094	714		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20859	Old School Lane	Pavement Change	4,094	Pavement Change	5,190	1,096		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
22106	Old School Lane	Pavement Change	5,190	End	5,530	340		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21241	Old Telegraph Road	Border	0	McDonalds Rd	6,590	3,295		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
11905	Old Telegraph Road	McDonalds Rd	6,590	Vickersy Rd	15,200	4,305		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
4542	Old Yarrock Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Darts Rd	1,435	1,435		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4544	Old Yarrock Road	Darts Rd	1,435	Property Ent on RHS	2,330	895		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
4545	Old Yarrock Road	Property Ent on RHS	2,330	End	4,270	1,940		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
3293	Olive Grove Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	2,170	2,170		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5172	Olive Grove Road	Property Ent on RHS	2,170	Gates Both sides	13,710	11,540		RP	N	Jul-04	6B
4806	Olive Grove Road	Gates Both sides	13,710	Powers Ck Rd	15,570	1,860		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22042	Oliver Schmidts Road	Cooack Extension Rd	0	Shire Boundary End	1,825	913		RFO			6B
3777	O'Reilly Street	Edgars Rd	0	Birmingham St	160	264	Harrow	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
2360	Orme Street	Lake St	0	Charles St	618	631	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3200	Ossie Smiths Road	Wade and Hauslers Rd	0	Ellis Rd	2,100	2,100		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1234	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Natimuk - Frances Rd	19,285	19,285		RS	Y	Jul-04	3
20836	P Carters Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pavement Change	800	800		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
517	P Powells Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Gates North Side	3,030	3,030		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2699	P Powells Road	Gates North Side	3,030	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	6,950	3,920		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

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3260	Packers Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Ends at Gate	3,970	3,970		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1420	Paddy Mulraneys Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Patyah Rd	7,590	7,590		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5015	Paddys Road	Western Hwy	0	Gate on RHS	4,600	4,600		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
5014	Paddys Road	Gate on RHS	4,600	T Meyers Rd	7,070	2,470		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2261	Pahl Street	O'Connor St	0	Newlands Lake Rd	605	610	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
499	Parsons Street	Elizabeth St	0	Farrow Ave	280	305	Serviceton	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1400	Pat Murrays Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Les Burns Rd	660	660		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5218	Pat Ryans Extn Road	Patyah Rd	0	Pat Ryans Rd	1,025	1,025		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
5217	Pat Ryans Road	Jennings Rd	0	Paddy Mulraneys Rd	3,270	3,270		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
501	Paterson Street	Madden St Nth	0	Kelly St	390	402	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	3		
1984	Patricias Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Clutterbucks Rd	1,950	1,950		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1071	Patyah Bringalbert North Road	Patyah Rd	0	Apsley Natimuk Rd	13,090	13,118		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
21002	Patyah Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	9,020	9,020		RS	Y		3		
1058	Patyah Road	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	9,020	End of Seal	15,230	6,210		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
1447	Patyah Road	End of Seal	15,230	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	26,170	10,940		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5080	Pearsons Road	Murrawong Rd	0	Smiths Rd	7,550	7,550		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1318	Pecks Road	Jaspers Ln	0	Gate	2,430	2,430		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21282	Peechember Swamp Road	Yanac South Rd	0	Border Rd	4,070	4,070		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
505	Penny Street	Serviceton South St	0	Kent St	201	226	Serviceton	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3766	Percy Clark Street	Wimmera Hwy	0	Pavement Change	80	80	Apsley	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5265	Peter Mulraney Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,700	1,700		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

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4963	Phillips And Wests Road	Powers Ck Bourkes Bridge Rd	0	Gate	2,300	2,300	Kaniva	RP	Y	Jul-04	5
509	Phillips Street	Madden St Sth BOK	0	Farmers St	890	895		TS	Y	Jul-04	5
510	Pickens Road	Tallengower Rd	0	Gate	1,190	1,190		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5304	Pine Hill Road	Lawloit Rd	0	Gates	6,270	6,270		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2045	Pine Hills No. 2 Road	Goroke - Harrow Rd	0	Gate	4,230	4,230		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2197	Pitmans Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Property Ent	520	520		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4722	Poolaijelo Lane (Nth)	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	Collivers Tk	2,390	2,480		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
4725	Poolaijelo Lane (Nth)	Collivers Tk	2,390	Sheep pen gate	3,265	875	RP	Y	Jul-04	6B	
4726	Pooligelo Lane (Sth)	Fergusons Rd	0	Gate Left Side	795	795	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
4727	Pooligelo Lane (Sth)	Gate Left Side	795	Gates	3,900	3,105	RP	Y	Jul-04	6A	
3373	Portland Lane (Poolaijelo)	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Sharam Rd	1,390	1,390	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
3370	Portland Lane (Poolaijelo)	Sharam Rd	1,390	Pavement Change	1,955	565	RFO	Y	Jul-04	5	
3369	Portland Lane (Poolaijelo)	Pavement Change	1,955	Fergusons Rd	4,960	3,005	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B	
516	Potts Avenue	Sport St	0	Camp St	106	106	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
523	Powells and Alexanders Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Brimble Rd	2,295	2,295	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
20752	Powells and Alexanders Road	Brimble Rd	2,295	Cove Estate Rd	4,760	2,465	RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A	
1087	Powers Ck Bourkes Bridge Road	Dergholm - Edenhope Rd	0	Casterton-Edenhope Rd	7,980	7,950	RS	Y	Jul-04	4	
1028	Powers Creek Road	Charles St	550	Dergholm - Edenhope Rd	18,650	18,130	RS	Y	Jul-04	3	
2057	Poyntons Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,000	1,000	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
4731	Presser Rabone Road	Three Chain Rd	0	Fenceline on LHS	830	830	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	
3011	Presser Road	Three Chain Rd	0	Gate	260	260	RP	Y	Jul-04	5	

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
3014	Presser Road	Gate	260	Gate	2,740	2,480		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3070	Pretloves Road	Cemetery Rd	0	Ends at House	1,130	1,130		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
533	Progress Lane	West End	0	Progress St	650	650	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4462	Progress Street	Western Hwy	0	Eglington St	258	258	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
526	Progress Street	Eglington St	258	Farmers St	1,195	937	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	4		
531	Progress Street	Farmers St	1,195	End of St	1,482	287	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1581	Pymers Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Gate	1,450	1,450		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21176	Quigleys Road	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	0	Carlins Rd	4,820	4,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4810	Quinn Road	Casterton - Apsley Rd	0	Pavement Change	260	260	Dergholm	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4811	Quinn Road	Pavement Change	260	End of Road	610	350	Dergholm	TP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
4877	Quinns Road	Kadnook - Connewirricoo Rd	0	Pavement Change	4,670	4,670		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2078	Quinns Road	Pavement Change	4,670	End	5,290	620		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
251	R Feders Road	Western Hwy	0	Three Chain Rd	990	990		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1583	R Mitchell Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Pavement Change	570	570		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1585	R Mitchell Road	Pavement Change	570	Ends at Gate	2,980	2,410		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2079	R Ridlers Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	End	1,580	1,580		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
607	R Smiths Road (Dinyarrak)	Dinyarrak Rd	0	Pavement Change	210	210		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20332	R Smiths Road (Gymbowen)	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Gate	1,180	1,180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21581	R Smiths Road (Gymbowen)	Gate	1,180	Gate	1,660	480		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2291	R Walkers Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Gate	846	846		RS	Y	Jul-04	5		
21223	Racecourse Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Benayeo Rd	1,045	1,045		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

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5019	Radiata Road	Johnsons Rd	0	End	1,290	1,290		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
4443	Railway Avenue	Madden St Nth BOK	0	Moore St EOS	270	270	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
2295	Railway Street (Goroke)	Station St	0	Camp St	423	454	Goroke	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
540	Railway Street (Serviceton)	Williams Rd	0	South Rd	201	228	Serviceton	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
5198	Ralphs Road	Bend Left (Start of shared road)	2,900	Bend Right (End of shared road)	3,130	230		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
5197	Ralphs Road	Bend Right (End of shared road)	3,130	End at Property Ent	4,110	980		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1582	Ray Caldows Road	Church Ln	0	Pavement Change	960	960		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20188	Ray Caldows Road	Pavement Change	960	End	1,860	900		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2087	Readers Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at Gate	5,250	5,250		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3289	Recreation Road	Wombelano Rd	0	Harrow - Clear Lake Rd	200	200	Douglas	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
5312	Red Bore Road	Cove Estate Rd	0	Property Ent	1,360	1,360		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2677	Red Bore Road	Property Ent	1,360	Dinyarrak Rd	4,980	3,620		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21809	Redgum Lane	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	End at Gate	808	808		RP			5
4180	Reimers Road	Patyah Rd	0	Warlburtons Rd	4,890	4,890		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
1878	Rex Birds Road	Birds Rd	0	Gate	820	820		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1332	Rex Hobbs Road	Wombelano Rd	0	Mckechnies Rd	2,490	2,490		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20846	Richardson Road	Charam - Wombelano Rd	0	Continues into Forest	1,150	1,150		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21081	Richs Road	Guy Brooks Rd	0	Dickinsons Rd	4,260	4,260		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
546	Rideout Road	Western Hwy	0	Property Ent East Side	2,980	2,980		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
20164	Rideout Road	Property Ent East Side	2,980	Miram East Rd	3,840	860		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4910	Rifle Range Road	Farmers St	0	End	320	320	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5

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21358	Rifle Range Road (Edenhope)	Wimmera Hwy		0	Pavement Change	790	790		RP	Y			5
21417	Rifle Range Road (Edenhope)	Pavement Change	790	End		1,140	350		RP	Y			6B
1712	Ripley Park Road	Apsley Natimuk Rd		0	Ends at Gate	3,770	3,770		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
547	Rippons Road	Newmans Rd		0	Hennigs Rd	8,795	8,795		RS	Y		Jul-04	5
5382	River View Road	Dergholm Chetwynd Rd		0	Pavement Change	355	355		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
5383	River View Road	Pavement Change	355	Pavement Change		680	325		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6A
554	Roache Lane	Farmers St		0	Webb St	175	205	Kaniva	TP	Y		Jul-04	5
555	Roache Street	Farmers St		0	End of St	260	270	Kaniva	TS	Y		Jul-04	5
5213	Roaches Road	Cove Estate Rd		0	Brimble Rd	2,245	2,245		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6A
558	Rogerson Lane	Kelly St		0	High St	202	214	Kaniva	TP	Y		Jul-04	5
557	Rogerson Street	Kelly St		0	High St	132	147	Kaniva	TS	Y		Jul-04	5
559	Ropers Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd		0	Dergholm - Edenhope Rd	4,400	4,400		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
21325	Ross McDonalds Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd		0	Pavement Change	3,670	3,670		RP	Y			5
21324	Ross McDonalds Road	Pavement Change	3,670	Gate		4,800	1,130		RP	Y			6A
1772	Rowes Road	Benayeo Rd		0	Ends at Gate	720	720		RP	Y		Jul-04	6B
5226	Rowes Road (Border)	Jim Rowes Rd (SA Road)	2,320	End		4,275	978		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6B
562	Rowes Road (Kaniva)	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd		0	South Kaniva Rd	2,150	2,150		RFO	Y		Jul-04	6A
563	Ruddells Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd		0	Newmans Rd	4,920	4,920		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
1402	Rueben Burns Road	Edenhope - Penola Rd		0	MacKenzies Rd	4,400	4,400		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
21530	Ruths Road	Wimmera Hwy		0	Bringalbert Sth Rd	4,020	4,020		RP	Y		Jul-04	5
3405	Ryans Road	Fergusons Rd		0	Anthony Waits Rd	1,145	1,145		RP	Y		Jul-04	6A



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2965	S Hawkers Road	K Clarks Rd	0	Property Ent	2,730	2,730		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2966	S Hawkers Road	Property Ent	2,730	Three Chain Rd	4,540	1,810		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21306	Sambells Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd (Goroke)	0	Gate - Continues as F/O	7,960	7,960		RP	Y		5
4801	Sampeys Road (Chetwynd)	School Rd (Chetwynd)	0	Barrier	785	785	Chetwynd	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
3288	Sampeys Road (Kadnook)	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate - Continues as F/O	620	620		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
21102	Sanders Maddern Road	Broughton Rd	0	Diapur Rd	5,050	5,210		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
20477	Sanders Road	Boundary Rd Nth (Hindmarsh)	0	Driveway on RHS	4,380	4,380		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
22088	Sanders Road	Driveway on RHS	4,380	Murrawong North Rd	6,460	2,080		RFO	Y	Jul-04	5
20231	Sanders Road	Murrawong North Rd	6,460	Taylors Rd	21,540	15,080		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
22039	Sanders Road (Pt 2)	Boundary Rd Nth	0	End at Cross Roads	4,610	2,305		RFO			6B
573	Sanders Street (Miram)	Church St	0	Williams St	120	120	Miram	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
21368	Sandsmere - Bleakhouse Road	Miram Nth Rd	0	Lowan Border Rd	5,040	5,051		RP	Y		5
574	Sandsmere Hall Road	Broughton Rd	0	Miram Nth Rd	3,380	3,369		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
21360	Sandy Gate Road	Powers Creek Rd	0	Pavement Change	110	110		RP	Y		5
21361	Sandy Gate Road	Pavement Change	110	Gate	300	190		RP	Y		6A
1335	Sandy Lake Road	Mullagh Kanagulk Rd	0	Gate	1,730	1,730		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1724	School Lane	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	3,760	3,760		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
4800	School Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd (Chetwynd)	0	House	250	250	Chetwynd	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
21513	Schultz Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Gate Left Side	910	910		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1337	Schultz Road	Gate Left Side	910	Bend Left	2,290	1,380		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A

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1339	Schultz Road	Bend Left	2,290	End	2,920	315		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1240	Scrubby Lake Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	E Sambells Rd	11,215	11,215		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
3466	Service Road Nth Apsley	Splatt St Nth	0	End	310	314	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
5410	Service Road Sth	Wimmera Hwy	0	Laidlaw St	651	651	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
20254	Serviceton Golf Club Road	Western Hwy (Rest Area)	0	End	180	180		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21923	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Road	Western Hwy	0	Edgerley Rd	26,610	0		RNP			2		
580	Serviceton North Road	Western Hwy	0	Rail Crossing	3,230	3,230		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
20726	Serviceton Reservoir Road	Western Hwy	0	Reservoir	460	460		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
585	Serviceton South Road	Brooks Rd	0	South Lillimur Rd	7,170	7,170		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
592	Serviceton South Road	South Lillimur Rd	7,170	Gate	8,600	1,430		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5401	Serviceton Station Road	Elizabeth St	0	End of Seal - Car Park	40	54	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	6A		
594	Shannons Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Gate	1,090	1,090		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
595	Sharams Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Park Ent	1,150	1,150		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
598	Sheltons Road	Old Telegraph Rd	0	Dorodong Rd	6,525	6,525		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20418	Shepherds Road	Kybybolite Rd	0	End at Gate	1,060	1,060		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3765	Shire Depot Road	Laidlaw St	0	Casterton-Apsley Rd	370	370	Apsley	TP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1357	Short Lane	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	0	Pavement Change	260	260		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3347	Shrives Road	Mullagh Kanagulk Rd	0	End (Track right)	500	500		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2627	Simkins Lane	Anzac Ave	0	Wallace St	220	220	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
1982	Simkins Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,315	2,315		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21529	Simpson and Forsters Road	Bringalbert South Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,370	2,370		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

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1778	Simpsons Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Ends at Gate	2,480	2,480		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5188	Sims Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Wimmera Hwy	5,775	5,775		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
311	SJ Hawkers Road	South Lillimur Rd	0	Property Ent on RHS	3,940	3,940		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
22098	SJ Hawkers Road	Property Ent on RHS	3,940	Western Hwy	6,730	2,790		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21667	Smiths Road	Edgerley Rd	0	Gates Both Sides	4,150	4,150		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21692	Smiths Road	Gates Both Sides	4,150	Shed Gate (Pavement Change)	7,940	3,790		RP			6A		
5319	Smiths Road	Shed Gate (Pavement Change)	7,940	N Hawkers Rd	16,960	9,020		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
5282	Smiths Road	N Hawkers Rd	16,960	Dinyarrak Hall Rd	19,490	2,530		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
614	Smokey Creek Road	Tallengower Rd	0	Gate	3,630	3,630		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2209	Sonegos Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd (Goroke)	0	Gate on Right	1,930	1,930		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4767	Sonegos Road	Gate on Right	1,930	End of Seal	3,160	1,230		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4768	South Kaniva Road	Budjik St	0	Gate	5,880	5,880		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4774	South Kaniva Road	Gate	5,880	Three Chain Rd	8,090	2,210		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B		
631	South Lillimur Road	Moffat St	0	Leeor Rd	16,960	16,960		RS	Y	Jul-04	3		
3959	South Lillimur Road	Leeor Rd	16,960	Serviceton South Rd	23,590	6,630		RS	Y	Jul-04	4		
21543	South Lillimur Road	Serviceton South Rd	23,590	Colwill Rd	26,300	2,710		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
581	South Road	Elizabeth St	0	Brooks Rd	600	707	Serviceton	TS	Y	Jul-04	4		
2269	Splatt Street Nth	Wimmera Hwy	0	Apsley Natimuk Rd	1,330	1,333	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
2268	Splatt Street Sth	Wimmera Hwy	0	Gibson St	100	103	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
3472	Splatt Street Sth	Gibson St	100	Shire Depot Rd	200	100	Apsley	TFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20574	Sports Lane	Phillips St	0	Potts Ave	111	123	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
619	Sports Street	Phillips St	0	Budjik St	233	245	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		

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1792	Sprys and Davies Road	Benayeo Rd	0	Start of Property Entrance	2,550	2,550	Goroke	RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3506	Station Street	Main St	0	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	445	449		TS	Y	Jul-04	3		
20196	Stehns Ross Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Gardners Rd	2,750	2,750		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4913	Steve Allens Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	End	2,890	2,890		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2963	Stimson Road	Leeor Rd	0	Grossers Rd	4,470	4,470	RFO	RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
4969	Stimson Road	Grossers Rd	4,470	Serviceton South Rd	6,890	2,420		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4169	Stimson Road	Serviceton South Rd	6,890	Baldocks Grossers Rd	8,310	1,420		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
3086	Stinkwort Lane	Bulls Back Rd	0	Pavement Change	480	480		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
4863	Straight Road	Minimay - Frances Rd (West End)	0	Pavement Change	6,570	6,570	Edenhope	RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21248	Straight Road	Pavement Change	6,570	Pavement Change	9,950	3,380		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2941	Straight Road	Pavement Change	9,950	Minimay-Frances Rd	13,230	3,280		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
20939	Sudholz Road	Goroke - Nurcoun Rd	0	End	1,710	1,710		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
1980	Sullivans Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at House	340	340	Harrow	RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2289	Swanston Street	Hamilton St	0	Kirby St	350	354		TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
2118	Swedes Dam Road	Buffhams Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,080	1,080		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3165	Swedes Dam Road	Pavement Change	1,080	End of Pavement	1,290	210		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
2317	Sydney Road	Lake St	0	Laidlaw Ave	235	246	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
4885	T Cranage Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ends at Gate	1,290	1,290		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3071	T Dam East West Road	T Dam N/S Rd	0	Neuarpu Rd	1,650	1,650		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
1953	T Dam North South Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	T Dam East West Rd	2,460	2,460		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2953	T Dam North South Road	T Dam East West Rd	2,460	Pavement Change	3,060	600		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		

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20515	T Fullers Road	Mitre Rd	0	Gate	1,320	1,320		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5338	T Howes Road	Broughton Rd	0	McDonalds North - South Rd	1,628	1,628		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
675	T Meyers Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,390	2,390		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2908	T Meyers Road	Pavement Change	2,390	Three Chain Rd	2,910	520		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1341	T Pennys Road	White Lake Rd	0	Pavement Change	1,260	1,260		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21348	T Pennys Road	Pavement Change	1,260	McLachlans Rd	1,950	690		RP	Y		6A
648	Tallengower Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	End of Seal	6,570	6,570		RS	Y	Jul-04	4
5294	Tallengower Road	End of Seal	6,570	Fords Rd	11,010	4,440		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3296	Tallengower Road	Fords Rd	11,010	Dergholm State Park	12,660	1,650		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
654	Taylors Road	Edgerley Rd	0	Arthurs Rd	23,210	23,490		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
2095	Tea Tree Creek Road	Coleraine - Edenhope Rd	0	Harrow - Casterton Rd	12,610	12,610		RP	Y	Jul-04	4
3066	Thackers Road	Miram South Rd	0	Pavement Change	2,640	2,640		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
5111	The Avenue Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Yanipy Rd	6,670	6,670		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21507	The Avenue Road	Yanipy Rd	6,670	Miram South Rd	10,330	3,660		RP	Y		6A
5083	The Wattles Road	Ripley Park Rd	0	End of Seal	2,220	2,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22102	The Wattles Road	End of Seal	2,220	End	2,420	200		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1736	Thomas East West Road	Apsley Natimuk Rd	0	Thomas North South Rd	5,060	5,060		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21137	Thomas North South Road	Bringalbert South Rd	0	Thomas East West Rd	4,820	4,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
663	Three Chain Road	Western Hwy	0	R Feders Rd	1,870	1,870		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
22116	Three Chain Road	R Feders Rd	1,870	Presser Rd	2,290	420		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
669	Three Chain Road	Presser Rd	2,290	Brooks Rd	6,020	3,730		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147					
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details		
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
2977	Three Chain Road	Brooks Rd	6,020	Leeor Rd	7,880	0		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
2962	Three Chain Road	Leeor Rd	7,880	Property Ent	8,610	730		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21040	Three Chain Road	Property Ent	8,610	South Lillimur Rd (East End)	15,160	6,060		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
21570	Three Chain Road	South Lillimur Rd (East End)	15,160	Huxtable Rd	18,380	3,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2980	Three Chain Road	Huxtable Rd	18,380	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	24,950	6,570		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21624	Three Chain Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	24,950	Property Ent on RHS	29,970	5,020		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
21127	Three Chain Road	Property Ent on RHS	29,970	Bills Gully Rd	38,060	8,090		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
2999	Three Chain Road	Bills Gully Rd	38,060	Pavement Change	40,060	2,000		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3002	Three Chain Road	Pavement Change	40,060	Meaghers Rd	43,940	3,880		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
672	Tinks Road	Serviceton North - Telopea Downs Rd	0	C Kuchel Rd	1,270	1,270		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
673	Tinks Road	C Kuchel Rd	1,270	Fence Line both sides	2,770	1,500		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
21238	Tip Road	Farrow Ave	0	Tip Gate	1,110	1,110		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1981	Toben Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	End	790	790		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
674	Todds Road	Fullertons Rd	0	Cattle Grid	1,300	1,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2120	Tom Redfords Road	Nhill - Harrow Rd	0	Buffhams Rd	2,300	2,300		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
20577	Tom Willis Drive	Lake St	0	End of Pavement	685	685	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22095	Tom Willis Drive	End of Pavement	685	End	1,000	315	Edenhope	TFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1185	Townsend Street	Ballantyne St	0	Wimmera Hwy	180	183	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	3
4790	Tranters Road	Benayeo Neuarpurr Rd	0	Gate	265	265		RS	Y	Jul-04	5
5223	Tylers Road	Casterton-Apsley Rd	0	Bend Left	1,165	583		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B
1219	Ullswater Mortat Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Rd	19,100	19,140		RS	Y	Jul-04	4



## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147					
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details		
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m						
3243	V Mitchell Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	Gate	3,630	3,630		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
686	V Wallis Road	Sth Lillimur Rd	0	Gate	240	240		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
22077	Vickerys Track	Old Telegraph Rd	0	McCalmans Tk	7,550	0		RP			6B
676	Victoria Lane	Farmers St	0	Albert St	178	185	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	6A
20210	Victoria Lane	Albert St	178	Madden St Nth	395	227	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	6B
20214	Victoria Street	Farmers St	0	Albert St	185	190	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5
20213	Victoria Street	Albert St	185	Adelaide St	310	130	Kaniva	TFO	Y	Jul-04	6B
4864	W Burns Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Ends at House	4,220	4,220		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
1592	W Dixons Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Pavement Change	100	100		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3128	W Dixons Road	Pavement Change	100	Pavement Change	4,350	4,250		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
1466	W Kealys Road	Patyah Bringalbert North Rd	0	Patyah Rd	3,990	3,990		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
346	W Kings Road	Miram Nth Rd	0	Border Rd	2,850	2,850		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A
2109	W Ridlers Road	Scrubby Lake Rd	0	Johnsons Rd Ext	1,145	1,145		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
2113	W Ridlers Road	Johnsons Rd Ext	1,145	Continues as F/O	1,820	675		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
5389	W Tinks Road	Serviceton North Telopea Downs Rd	0	Pavement Change	3,970	3,970		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
1554	Wade and Hauslers Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	End	4,400	4,400		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
5106	Waits Road	Ozenkadnook - Mortat Rd	0	Pavement Change	5,415	5,415		RP	Y	Jul-04	5
3145	Waits Road	Pavement Change	5,415	Pavement Change	9,420	4,005		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A
2398	Wallace Street (Edenhope)	Lake St	0	Langford St	233	217	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
22005	Wallace Street (park lane Nth)	Laidlaw St	0	Dixon St	508	508	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5
3467	Wallace Street (park lane Sth)	Laidlaw St	0	Townsend St WBL	290	290	Apsley	TS	Y	Jul-04	5

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig				Rd Length		2,751,147							
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details						
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class				
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m										
5122	Wallis Road	Leeor Rd	0	Property Ent North Side	2,020	2,020		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				
21540	Wallis Road	Property Ent North Side	2,020	Property Ent	5,190	3,170		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A				
21230	Wallis Road	Property Ent	5,190	Serviceton Sth Rd	6,710	1,520		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				
2969	Wallis Road	Serviceton Sth Rd	6,710	Baldocks Grossers Rd	8,070	1,360		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A				
3205	Wally Allans Road	Edenhope - Goroke Rd	0	End of Pavement	3,210	3,210		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A				
2347	Wannon Avenue	Elizabeth St	0	Yallakar St	433	456	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5				
20855	Warlburtons Road	Patyah Rd	0	Reimers Rd	3,970	3,970		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				
20857	Warlburtons Road	Reimers Rd	3,970	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	5,920	1,950		RP	Y	Jul-04	4				
20605	Warners Road	Coopers Rd	0	Krauses Rd	1,630	1,630		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A				
22097	Warners Road	Krauses Rd	1,630	Property Ent on LHS	1,970	340		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				
20538	Warners Road	Property Ent on LHS	1,970	Gate	3,580	1,610		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A				
688	Warwick Lane	Kelly St	0	Greenhill St	141	155	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	5				
689	Warwick Street	Kelly St	0	End of St	204	211	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5				
21133	Waterloo Road	Dorodong Rd	0	Comaum Rd	4,160	4,160		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				
695	Webb Lane East	Budjik St	0	Roache St	136	143	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	6A				
696	Webb Lane East	Roache St	136	BP Station	208	72	Kaniva	TP	Y	Jul-04	6B				
702	Webb Street	Budjik St	0	Bunker St	550	565	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04	5				
698	Webbs Road	Western Hwy	0	The Avenue Rd	4,940	4,940		RS	Y	Jul-04	5				
1608	West Hut Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Ends at Gate	1,120	1,120		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A				
21712	Western Highway	Shire Boundary	371,757	SA Border	418,565	0		RNP			1				
1734	Westons Road	Wimmera Hwy	0	Property Ent on RHS	1,820	1,820		RP	Y	Jul-04	5				

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147							
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details				
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class		
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
22112	Westons Road	Property Ent on RHS	1,820	End	2,080	260		RP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
4797	Whissons Road	Hicks Rd	0	Lake Lawloit Reserve	2,260	2,260		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4798	Whissons Road	Lake Lawloit Reserve	2,260	Three Chain Rd	3,000	740		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
21180	White Lake Connection Road	Wombelano Rd	0	White Lake Rd	700	700		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
21349	White Lake Road	Wombelano Rd (Nth End)	0	Wombelano Rd (Sth End)	5,490	5,490		RP	Y		5		
1740	Whites Road	Edenhope - Penola Rd	0	End	3,875	3,875		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3775	Whittaker Street	Blair St	0	Pavement Change	50	50	Harrow	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4472	Whittingham Street	Commercial Rd	0	Brewer St	120	125	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
4471	Whittingham Street	Brewer St	120	End	250	130	Lillimur	TP	Y	Jul-04	6B		
3341	Wickers Road	Mooree Rd	0	End	1,970	1,970		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3098	Wilksch And McIntosh Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	W Burns Rd	2,720	2,720		RP	Y	Jul-04	6A		
20501	Williams Jewells Road	Western Hwy	0	South Lillimur Rd	2,650	2,650		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3020	Williams Road	Three Chain Rd	0	Pavement Change	210	210		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
3021	Williams Road	Pavement Change	210	Western Hwy	3,830	3,620		RFO	Y	Jul-04	6A		
5305	Williams Road (Miram)	Diapur Rd	0	Sandmere - Bleakhouse Rd	4,620	4,620		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		
709	Williams Road (Serviceton)	Elizabeth St	0	Railway St	136	156	Serviceton	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
132	Williams Street	Clarence St (West End)	0	Clarence St (East End)	375	375	Miram	TP	Y	Jul-04	5		
2288	Willis Street	Hamilton St	0	Birmingham St	180	210	Harrow	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
3716	Wilson Street	Lake St	0	Elizabeth St	116	120	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	5		
3828	Wilson Street	Elizabeth St	116	Charles St	680	564	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04	3		
1609	Wilsons Road	Ullswater - Mortat Rd	0	Hicks Rd	1,890	1,890		RP	Y	Jul-04	5		

## West Wimmera Shire Road Register

1,033		Tot & Av Fig		Rd Length		2,751,147							
Seg I.D. No.	ROAD OR STREET NAME	SEGMENT DETAIL					Township Name Blanks are Rural	Road Status No.1	Road Register Details				
		FROM		TO		Total Pavement Length			Public Rd "Y" Yes "N" No	Date Proclaimed Public Rd	Road Register Class		
		Street Name or Description	Dist. m	Street Name or Description	Dist. m								
21805	Wimmera Highway	SA Border	0	Shire Boundary	75,940	0		RNP				1	
2401	Windsor Street	George St	0	Langford St	264	268	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04		5	
20946	Witmitz Road	Broughton Rd	0	Bend Left	5,300	5,300		RP	Y	Jul-04		5	
5075	Witmitz Road	Bend Left	5,300	Gates	6,080	780		RP	Y	Jul-04		6A	
716	Wolseley Road	Serviceton Rd	0	Seal Change (SA Border)	1,170	1,170		RS	Y	Jul-04		3	
22070	Wolseley Road	Seal Change (SA Border)	1,170	Colwill Rd	1,330	0		RNP	Y	Jul-04		6B	
21924	Wombelano Road	Shire Boundary	8,220	Nhill - Harrow Rd	30,480	0		RNP				2	
718	Woodacres Road	Casterton - Edenhope Rd	0	Shire Boundary and Start of Seal	4,110	4,110		RP	Y	Jul-04		5	
1956	Worsleys Road	Kaniva - Edenhope Rd	0	Gate	2,140	2,140		RP	Y	Jul-04		5	
2143	Worthys Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd	0	Chenoweths Rd	5,750	5,750		RP	Y	Jul-04		5	
20672	Wynford Road	Natimuk - Frances Rd (Neuarpuir)	0	Ends at Gate	270	270	Neuarpuir	TP	Y	Jul-04		5	
20997	Yallakar Street	Lake St	0	Wimmera Hwy	955	959	Edenhope	TS	Y	Jul-04		5	
4827	Yanac South Road	Peechember Swamp Rd	0	Broughton Rd	8,460	4,230		RP	Y	Jul-04		6B	
720	Yanipy Road	Western Hwy	0	End of Seal	6,175	6,175		RS	Y	Jul-04		4	
4982	Yanipy Road	End of Seal	6,175	Three Chain Rd	8,390	2,215		RP	Y	Jul-04		5	
5179	Yarrook Road	Yearinga Rd	0	Seal Change	5,130	5,130		RS	Y	Jul-04		4	
727	Yarrook Road	Seal Change	5,130	E Howes Rd	7,150	2,020		RS	Y	Jul-04		5	
731	Yarrook Street	Fry St	0	Eastwoods Rd	1,160	1,177	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04		5	
21629	Yearinga Road	Kelly St	400	Lillimur - Yearinga Rd	14,160	13,760		RS	Y	Jul-04		3	
751	Young Street	Moffat St	0	Baker St	406	411	Kaniva	TS	Y	Jul-04		5	



## 15.4 Draft Council Plan 2025-2029

*Directorate: Infrastructure Development and Works*

*Report Author: Strategic Planning Coordinator*

*Report Purpose: For Decision*

### **Purpose**

West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) is required under the Local Government Act 2020 to have in place by 31 October 2025, a Community Vision, four-year Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan ).

Following an extensive engagement process, the draft West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2025-29 is now ready to go out for community feedback prior to the adoption of the finalised Plan by Council in October.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council endorse the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 to go on public exhibition from Thursday 18 September 2025 to Thursday 9 October 2025.**

### **Declaration of Interest**

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

### **Background**

Council's planning framework comprises the key plans that guide Council's work and decision making and connects the long-term community needs and aspirations. The Community Vision, 4-year Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan ) are key documents of the planning framework.

The Community Vision describes the community's main priorities and aspirations over the next 15 years.

The Council Plan, incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (MHWP) and Disability Action Plan is a key medium-term strategic plan that describes the strategic objectives, actions to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the resources required to implement the plan for at least four years. This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.



To prepare the Council Plan, Council has undertaken an extensive and integrated engagement process. The engagement process which has included community drop-in sessions in Serviceton, Kaniva, Goroke, Apsley, Edenhope and Harrow, a community survey and community deliberative engagement panel has received input from over 250 West Wimmera residents and ratepayers and the feedback received has been used to shape the documents.

The next step is for the document to go on public exhibition for any final comments prior to being presented to Council for endorsement at the October Council Meeting.

### **Risk Management Implications**

Risk identified: Regulatory risk

Reputation risk

Strategic risk

### **Legislative Implications**

The report complies with the requirements of the:

Local Government Act 2020

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

### **Financial and Budgetary Implications**

Not applicable

### **Policy Implications**

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

Advocacy Policy

Community Engagement Policy

### **Council Plan Implications**

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

#### ***Goal 4 – Good Governance***

4.4 Develop a high performing accountable organisation.





### **Communication Implications**

Consultation has already been undertaken in development of the plans

### **Gender Equality**

An Equal Impact Assessment (as defined in the Gender Equality Act 2020) has been undertaken in relation to this matter in accordance with the Gender Equality Act (2020).

### **Conclusion**

Council has prepared the draft Community Vision, Council Plan 2025-2029 and Long-Term Financial Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The next step is the process is for Council to endorse the draft documents to go on public exhibition. Once this process is completed the feedback and updated documents will be presented to Council in the October 2025 meeting.

### **Attachments**

1. Council Plan 2025-2029 DRAFT [15.4.1 - 47 pages]

# COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

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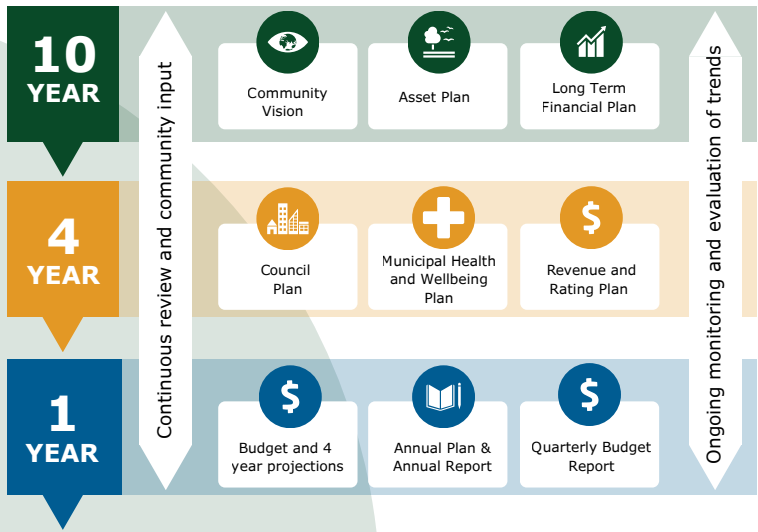
# ABOUT THE PLAN

The West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2025-2029 is our primary strategic document, setting the direction for Council over the next four years. It also incorporates our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, ensuring that the health and wellbeing of our community is central to everything we do.

This plan has been developed in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires all councils to prepare a Council Plan every four years. While this legislation sets the framework, the real strength of our plan comes from the voices of our community. Through extensive engagement with residents, businesses and stakeholders, the plan has been shaped to guide decision-making, allocate resources, and focus our efforts where they will have the greatest impact.

To remain responsive and accountable, the Council Plan and its indicators are reviewed annually to ensure they continue to reflect the evolving needs and opportunities of West Wimmera. Progress is reported quarterly through our Annual Plan, which provides more detail on the specific projects and initiatives being delivered each year.

Ultimately, the Council Plan is more than a statutory requirement - it is a roadmap for West Wimmera Shire. It captures our shared vision, outlines our priorities, and sets out the practical steps we will take together to achieve positive outcomes for our community now and into the future.







## MAYOR AND CEO MESSAGE

### Mayor Tim Meyer and CEO David Bezuidenhout

It is with great pride that we present the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2025-2029. This plan sets the direction for the next four years, outlining how Council will work with our community to respond to challenges and build a sustainable future. It reflects community aspirations and is a commitment from Council to deliver on them.

The plan has been shaped by conversations with residents, businesses, community groups and service providers across the shire. The voices of our people are at its heart, ensuring the priorities identified are grounded in local needs and values.

Over the next four years, Council will focus on strengthening the liveability, resilience and prosperity of West Wimmera. This means supporting the services and infrastructure our communities rely on every day, while also preparing for the future. From roads and recreation facilities to kindergartens, parks and libraries, our role is to maintain and improve the assets that underpin daily life.

One of our most pressing responsibilities is to maintain and improve our extensive local road network. Safe and reliable roads are essential for our farming community, for freight and logistics, and for the everyday travel needs of residents.

Council will continue to advocate for the funding needed to upgrade and maintain roads to a standard that reflects their importance to regional Victoria.

We are also focused on creating thriving and welcoming towns. Over the life of this plan, we will continue to seek funding to progress projects such as recreation facilities at Edenhope and Kaniva, swimming pool upgrades, improved community spaces and new workforce accommodation. These initiatives will provide opportunities for people of all ages, strengthen connection and help attract and retain residents.

The health, wellbeing and resilience of our community remain central. We recognise the enormous contribution of volunteers and community groups and will continue to work in partnership with them to foster a vibrant and supportive civic life. Council also plays an important role in creating opportunities for connection, participation and inclusion, helping to ensure that all residents feel valued and supported.

Environmental sustainability is another focus. West Wimmera is home to unique landscapes and biodiversity. Council will continue to improve waste and recycling, pest and weed control.

The delivery of this plan will require careful financial stewardship. Like many rural councils, we face challenges in balancing expectations with limited resources. Council will be disciplined in financial management, seek efficiencies, and pursue external funding.

We thank everyone who contributed to the development of this plan. Your input has shaped a document that is both ambitious and realistic, reflecting our shared vision for the future. With your support, West Wimmera Shire will continue to grow as a safe, connected and resilient place to live, work and visit.

**Cr Tim Meyer**  
Mayor

**David Bezuidenhout**  
Chief Executive Officer



# ABOUT WEST WIMMERA SHIRE

## Strengths

West Wimmera Shire is defined by its exceptional community spirit. This culture of giving back reflects deep community connections and a shared passion for the region's success. In the 2021 census, 37.2% of West Wimmera Shire residents were volunteers - the highest rate in Victoria. Residents are resilient, driven, and readily available to roll up their sleeves to make things happen, facilitating local events, recreational activities, or grassroots initiatives. Our sporting clubs and quality sports facilities are testament to the hard work of our local community groups. Strong community connection contributes to an overall sense of safety.

The area's rich heritage sits alongside a beautiful and diverse natural environment, which includes lakes, wetlands, desert landscapes, and vibrant biodiversity. The shire is a population destination for bird-watches, campers & those who enjoy the outdoors. These natural assets offer abundant recreational opportunities and tourism appeal.

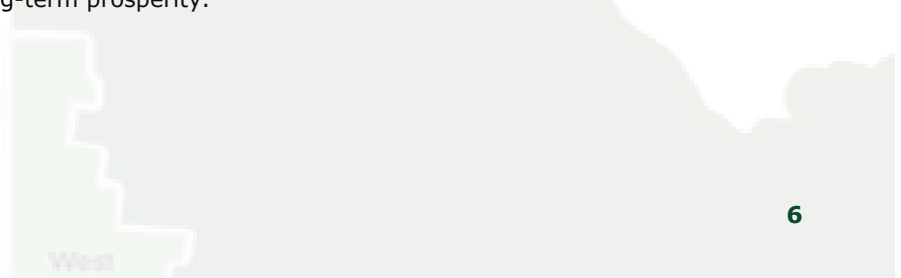
Economically, West Wimmera is supported by highly productive agricultural land producing strong grain and livestock industries underpinned by a favourable climate and good quality soils. Despite its rural setting, the shire is well-serviced for its size, with comprehensive health and wellbeing facilities, and three towns offering education from kindergarten to year 12 (two also with childcare).

## Our challenges

With an area spanning 9,200 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 4,006, West Wimmera Shire faces a range of unique and interconnected challenges. Public transport options are limited, making it difficult for older and disabled residents to access services and connect to larger centres. Local access to GPs is limited. Health and education service providers are struggling to attract skilled staff, particularly teachers in rural schools. Housing shortages (especially rentals) and housing quality hinder population growth and our ability to attract new residents, compounded by a lack of tradespeople and essential infrastructure such as three-phase power, water, and reliable mobile coverage. This also limits the shire's ability to attract new businesses.

The shire's small and declining population, along with an ageing demographic, places pressure on community services and impacts the local rates base. Economic reliance on agriculture leaves the region vulnerable to climate variability. Employment opportunities are limited, with a majority of roles concentrated in agriculture, government, education, and health.

Community cohesion is sometimes compromised by townships competing for resources. The shire's low priority within the state, reliance on grants, and high delivery costs further restricts capacity to meet community expectations. Variable road conditions and water security add to these pressures, underscoring the need for strategic investment, stronger infrastructure, and a coordinated approach to long-term prosperity.

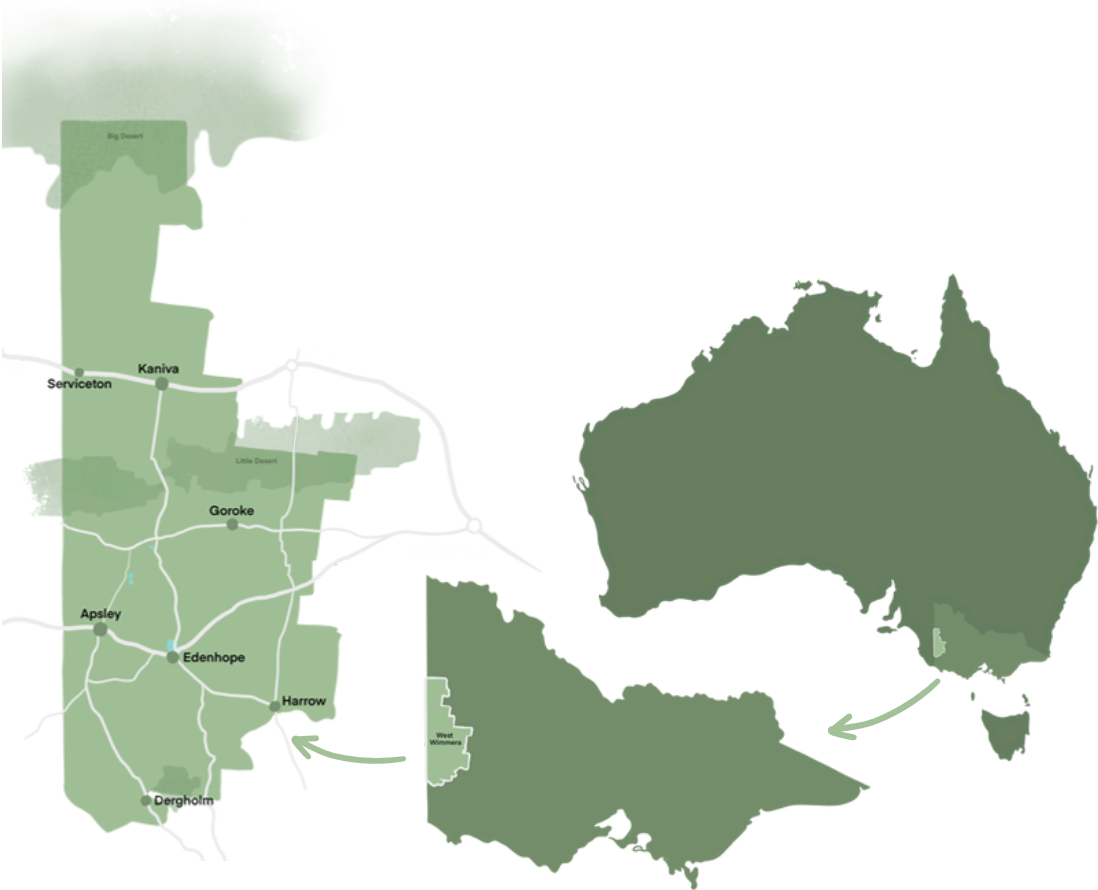


# Our operating environment

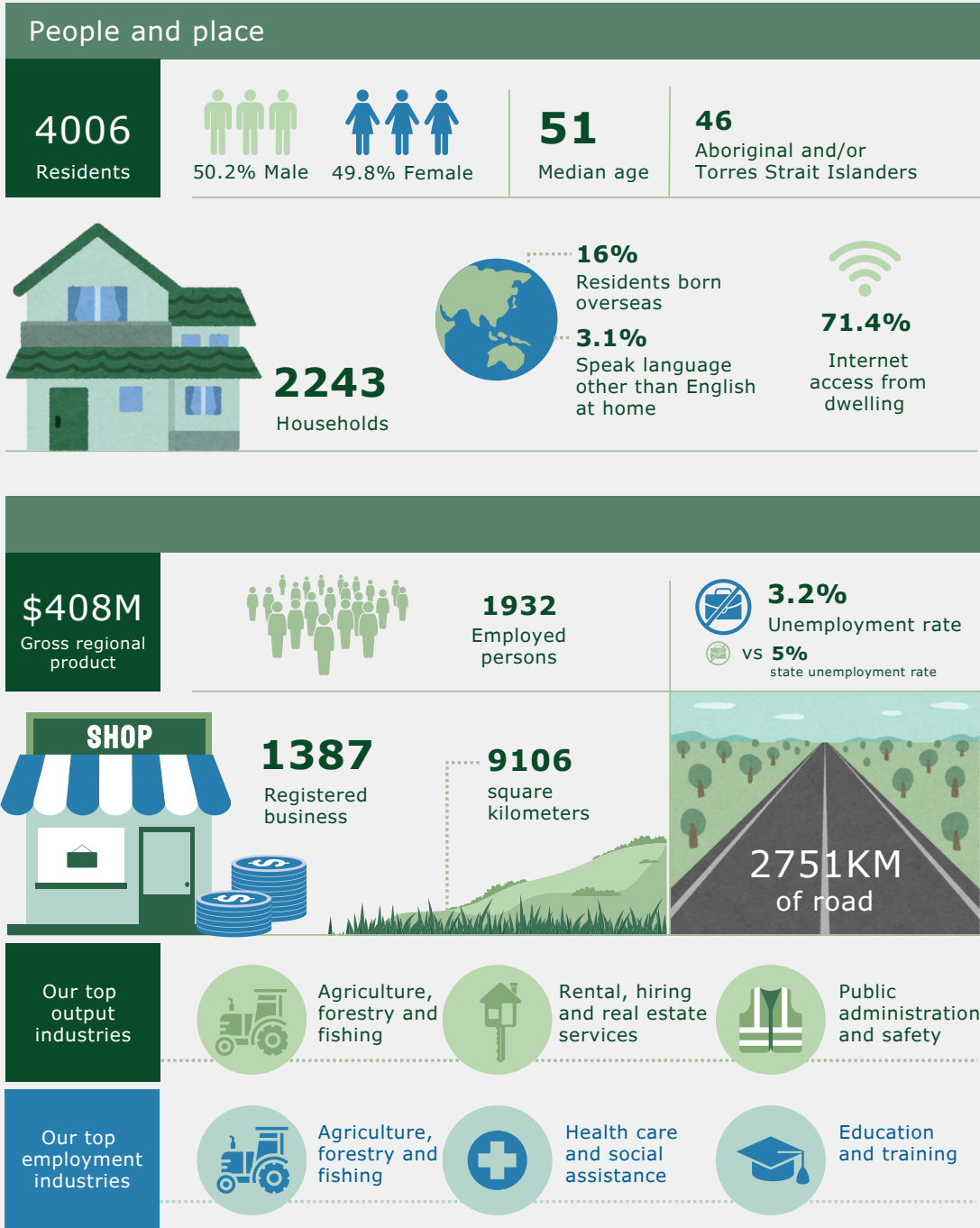
West Wimmera Shire operates within a complex and shifting operating environment shaped by political, economic, environmental, and social forces. State and federal policies sometimes lack alignment with rural needs. Limited investment in regional communities, rate capping, and cost shifting place added strain on council resources. The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), prescriptive waste legislation, and increasing compliance and governance requirements add operational challenges for the shire.

Cost of living pressures are impacting household budgets, creating food insecurity for vulnerable families in some townships. Population changes, including ageing demographics, limit workforce participation. Attracting and retaining skilled staff remains difficult, despite opportunities for remote work.

Environmental factors such as drought and weather variability threaten agricultural productivity impacting the mental wellbeing of our farming community, while renewable energy, mining exploration, and native title considerations introduce challenging new land use dynamics. Geo-political instability, changes to agricultural input costs, and evolving technology in farming and transport are having a significant influence on infrastructure needs and maintenance.



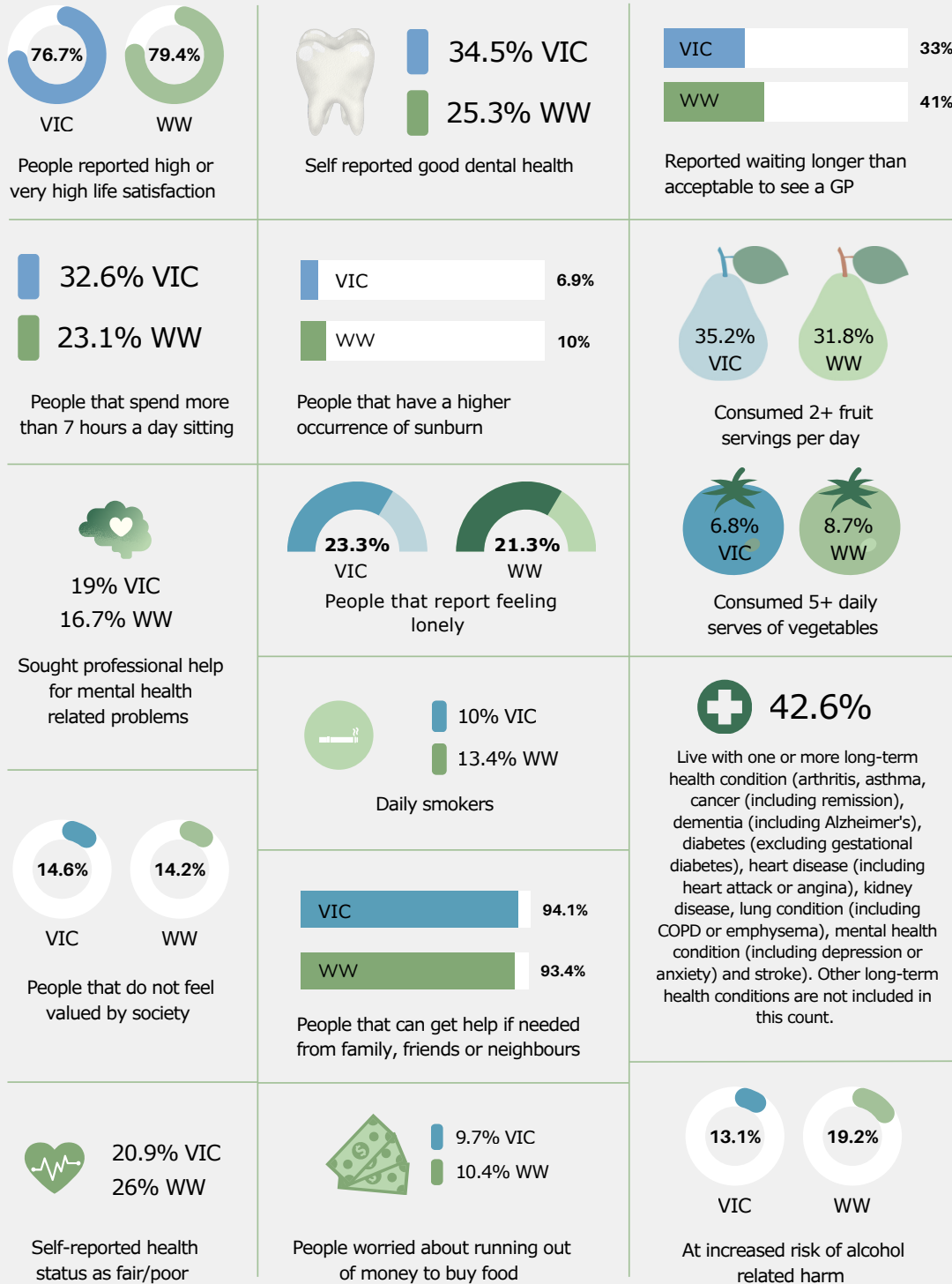
# OUR SHIRE AT A GLANCE



Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census all persons QuickStats, 2021. Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats>  
Remplan Economy 2024 Release 2

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## Health statistics



Department of Health, Victorian Population Health Survey 2023, Victorian Government, 2024. Available at: <https://vahi.vic.gov.au/reports/victorian-population-health-survey-2023>

# TOWNSHIPS

West Wimmera’s towns each offer a unique lifestyle and character, while sharing common opportunities for growth. They provide strong foundations for new businesses, whether in trades, hospitality, tourism, or agriculture and value-adding enterprises. There is also significant potential for housing development, attracting families seeking to build a lifestyle in a safe, welcoming community with access to quality facilities, services and natural environments. Together, our towns offer both residents and visitors the chance to be part of resilient and forward-looking communities.



## Kaniva

Kaniva, on the Western Highway, is the highway town in Victoria and a popular stop for travellers between Melbourne and Adelaide. Known for its Sheep Art Trail, community events and vibrant main street, Kaniva has a strong tourism profile. The town provides key health, education, retail, and recreation services.



## Serviceton

Serviceton has a proud rail history, centred around the historic Serviceton Railway Station. The town maintains a strong community identity and sits near the historical border between South Australia and Victoria, which was once the focus of a notable boundary dispute. Serviceton will join the Silo Art Trail in late 2025





## TOWNSHIPS



### Goroke

Goroke is a rural service town with strong sporting, education and community facilities. Surrounded by productive farmland, it is also known for its proximity to the Little Desert National Park and wetlands. Goroke has an active community that drives local projects.



### Edenhope

Edenhope is the shire's largest town and service centre, located on the shores of Lake Wallace. It provides key education, health, retail and sporting facilities for the wider community. The town is known for its natural setting, birdlife, and role as the main hub for community events and services.



### Apsley

Apsley is a small rural township near the South Australian border, with a close-knit community and strong sporting culture. It is well known for Newlands Lake and nearby natural attractions. Apsley plays a key role in cross-border community connections and has an active community focused on growing the community.



### Harrow

Harrow is Victoria's oldest inland settlement, with a rich history and heritage streetscape. It is a tourism drawcard, well known for the Harrow Sound and Light Show and strong cultural events program. The town is a centre for arts, history, and recreation on the Glenelg River.



### Dergholm

Dergholm is a small settlement surrounded by natural forest and farmland, known for its proximity to the Dergholm State Park. It has a strong community spirit centred around its pub and outdoor lifestyle.



# Our roads

## COUNCIL AND STATE ROAD NETWORK

West Wimmera Shire Council is the controlling authority for an extensive local road network and is responsible for managing, maintaining, and repairing all local roads, streets, footpaths, and drains. Under the Road Management Act 2004, Council has a legal duty to construct, inspect, and maintain roads to an adequate standard, supported by a Road Management Plan that guides service levels and priorities.

The road hierarchy across the Shire includes declared highways, main “C” class roads, and local roads. Council directly manages the local network, while declared highways and main roads fall under the responsibility of VicRoads.

Council also holds the maintenance contract for VicRoads’ “C” class roads. This is an important component of the Council’s road management responsibilities. It provides ongoing local employment, secures investment into the community, and ensures that even State-controlled roads are maintained to a consistent standard. The contract strengthens the Council’s capacity to deliver road services efficiently, while creating significant local economic value.

### Main roads include:

- Casterton Apsley Road
- Casterton Edenhope Road
- Casterton Naracoorte Road
- Coleraine Edenhope Road
- Edenhope Penola Road
- Kaniva Edenhope Road
- Natimuk Frances Road
- Nhill Harrow Road
- Serviceton Nth Telopea Downs Road
- Western Highway
- Wimmera Highway
- Wombelano Road

Independent surveys, undertaken every three years since 2003, show that West Wimmera’s road network is among the best performing in Victoria. The 2023 survey found that Council-managed roads are in excellent condition, with steady improvements since 2020 despite challenges on unsealed roads from unusually wet years. Renewal requirements remain low, demonstrating the long-term effectiveness of Council’s investment and planning. Roads are also lasting longer than standard estimates, highlighting the value of Council’s proactive maintenance program. The map alongside shows the shire’s main roads, which are managed by VicRoads.

Council invests around \$2.6 million annually into road renewal and maintenance, a level assessed as sustainable for the next decade. However, given the scale of the network and the importance of reliable road links for residents, businesses, and visitors, external funding is essential to ensure the Shire can continue delivering strong outcomes. Support from State and Federal governments helps manage the impacts of ageing infrastructure, extreme weather, and increased traffic demands.





## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

With the highest rate of volunteering in Victoria, the West Wimmera Shire is powered by the commitment, passion, and spirit of its extraordinary volunteers. This remarkable dedication is reflected in the countless local community groups that form the backbone of our townships and farming communities. From running sporting and recreational clubs, to events, to investing in housing projects and caring for our most vulnerable, these groups play a vital role in shaping the social and economic fabric of the Shire.

Op Shops, foodbanks, visitor information centers, community transport, meal on wheels are all run by volunteers who give up their valuable time to provide services that our community relies on.

Volunteer run events such as the Lake Charlegrark Country Music Marathon, our three Agriculture Shows, and the Johnny Mullagh championship Cup don't just connect our communities but they attract visitors from across the state and the country, providing entertainment, while strengthens local tourism, showcases the unique character of our Shire, and supporting the growth of local businesses.

Volunteering is the lifeblood of West Wimmera. It is what keeps our communities connected, our services running, and our events alive. The impact of this contribution goes far beyond individual acts of service, it builds resilience, strengthens local identity, and ensures that everyone has the opportunity to feel included and supported. Without the dedication of volunteers, many of the things we value most about living in West Wimmera simply would not exist.

At the same time, we recognise that as society changes, people have less time to give and the demands on volunteers are increasing. This places pressure on individuals and can lead to burnout. Council deeply values the ongoing commitment of volunteers and is committed to supporting them wherever possible, so that this spirit of giving can continue to thrive into the future.

We'll increase support for our community groups and volunteers over the next four years by:

- Providing grant funding and 'in kind' support
- Providing opportunities for capacity building and skills development
- Reducing red tape and reviewing fee waivers
- Promoting external funding opportunities

# COMMUNITY VISION

Four years ago we engaged the community to develop a 20-year vision for West Wimmera. This vision articulates our community's aspirations and provides a unifying focal point for Council, community and stakeholders to work towards:



## 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.**

By 2041, our population is growing steadily, as is our economy. Visitors and residents are drawn to our unique wetlands, birdlife, lakes, forests and desertscapes and to the friendliness and generosity of our people.

Our towns are alive with activity: bustling main streets, active sporting and cultural facilities, and public spaces that invite connection between generations. We have invested in infrastructure, technology, and services that meet the needs of locals, visitors and businesses, ensuring that health, education, and recreation are accessible and of high quality.

Our deep pride in our heritage is visible in the way we preserve our history. Agricultural innovation and tourism are the cornerstones of our economy, driving new businesses, creative industries, and year-round visitor experiences. These industries create local employment, encourage skills development, and give young people more reasons to stay or return.

We are a confident and empowered community, inclusive of all voices and backgrounds. Decisions are made collaboratively, and community members play an active role in shaping their future. Together, we respond to challenges and celebrate the achievements that make West Wimmera a great place to live, work and play.





WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL | **COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029**

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Photo: Lake Charlegrark Cabins



# OUR COUNCILLORS

Council’s role is to provide good governance and leadership for the West Wimmera community through advocacy, decision-making and action. The Council has an obligation to achieve maximum benefit from its available resources for its community.

In November 2024, Cr Tim Meyer was elected Mayor and Cr Jodie Pretlove was elected Deputy Mayor for a one-year term.



**Mayor Tim Meyer**

0437 219 818

TimMeyer@  
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**Deputy Mayor Jodie Pretlove**

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**Councillor Helen Hobbs**

0476 220 186

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**Councillor Richard Hicks**

0437 220 351

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**Councillor Tom Houlihan**

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TomHoulihan@  
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# OUR VALUES

**Innovative**

We will proactively respond to change, are optimistic about our future and pursue continuous improvement in everything 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 a”.

**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



Photo: Harrow Recreation Reserve



## Our core services

Council delivers a wide range of business-as-usual services that keep our shire running, meet statutory requirements, and support community wellbeing. These are our ongoing responsibilities and differ from the special initiatives listed in this plan.

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

#### Engineering

- Strategic and technical asset management
- Civil design and engineering support
- Road, bridge and drainage planning
- Delivery of the capital works program
- Maintenance of Council buildings, halls, and public facilities

#### Operations

- Maintenance of 2,751 km of local roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage
- Parks, gardens, recreation reserves, and public amenities upkeep
- Fleet and plant management
- Delivery of VicRoads maintenance contract

#### Waste management

- Operation for transfer stations across the shire
- Management of roadside collection service

#### Quality and facilities

- Management of Councils DEECA Committee of Management requirements
- Cleaning of Council Buildings
- Quality plans for service standards
- Management of leases and hire of council facilities

#### Contract and procurement

- Purchasing, contracts and tenders
- Supplier compliance and probity management

#### Projects and innovations

- Delivery of capital works program
- Project management and design coordination
- Innovation in service delivery and infrastructure renewal
- Strategic development projects

#### Planning and development

- Statutory planning and building permits
- Local laws administration
- Environmental health and compliance (food safety, septic, housing health)



# Our core services

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



### Human resources

- Workforce planning, recruitment, and training
- Payroll, employee relations, and staff wellbeing
- Organisational culture development



### Occupational health and safety

- Workplace safety management
- Risk assessments and incident response
- Compliance with WorkSafe and legislative standards



### Community support services

- Early years services (childcare, kindergarten, playgroups)
- Youth engagement and inclusion programs



### Community development and tourism

- Community and business grants and event support
- Tourism marketing, visitor information and regional partnerships
- Emergency management coordination and recovery



### Finance and transactions

- Financial planning, budgets and audits
- Rates and property valuation
- Treasury, accounting and reporting



### Governance and compliance

- Council meetings, decision-making and records management
- Policy, risk and audit oversight



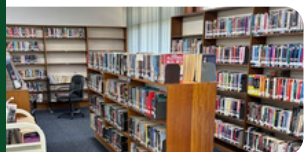
### Communications

- Website Management
- Media Releases
- Newsletters
- Social Media Management
- Community engagement



### Customer service

- Customer service (phone and in person)
- VicRoads agency
- Centrelink agency
- Hosting court



### Library

- Open access Library Services across Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke and Harrow



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Our commitment

West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to meaningful, inclusive, and transparent engagement with our community. Council's Community Engagement Policy provides the framework for how we connect with the community, ensuring that engagement is genuine, inclusive, transparent, and timely. Engagement is not a one-off activity, but a continuous process that guides our planning, service delivery, and advocacy.

### AP2 spectrum of public participation

Level	Purpose	Best practice examples
<b>Inform</b>	Provide clear and accessible information to help people understand issues and decisions.	Fact sheets, website updates, newsletters
<b>Consult</b>	Seek feedback on drafts, options, or proposals.	Online surveys, drop-in sessions, formal submissions
<b>Involve</b>	Work directly with the community to reflect ideas and concerns.	Focus groups, workshops, reference panels
<b>Collaborate</b>	Partner with the community in each aspect of decision-making.	Co-design processes, shared committees
<b>Empower</b>	Place decision-making in the hands of the community.	Community-led projects, participatory budgeting

### THE ROLE OF ENGAGEMENT IN DECISION

Decision-making relies on community input to identify priorities, allocate resources, and guide policy and project decisions. Engagement helps balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability, ensuring strategies and projects align with what matters most to our residents.



## COUNCIL PLAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The development of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2025–2029 was guided by a commitment to listen to our community and ensure that local voices shaped the priorities and direction of the plan.

Six community drop-in sessions were held across the shire. These sessions provided an open and informal opportunity for residents to share their ideas, raise concerns, and discuss aspirations for the future of West Wimmera. Council officers and councillors attended each session, ensuring that feedback was heard directly and that community members felt supported in contributing their perspectives. More than 100 community members attended these sessions.

In addition, Council conducted four staff workshops to ensure the organisation's workforce had input into the plan. Their insights helped identify practical approaches to achieving the community's vision.

To reach a broad cross-section of residents, Council distributed a community survey. The survey invited feedback on existing council services as well as soliciting ideas for the future.

This provided a valuable evidence base, capturing the voices of those who may not have been able to attend face-to-face sessions. To inform the development of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Council also ran a stakeholder survey targeting health service providers and partner organisations.

Finally, Council established a deliberative community panel, bringing together a diverse group of residents to consider key issues in depth. The panel was provided with background information and discussions were facilitated to enable participants to explore complex topics and develop considered recommendations. This deliberative process added depth to community input, ensuring the Council Plan reflects a balanced and representative view of local priorities.

Through this layered engagement process, West Wimmera Shire Council has developed a plan that is informed by the voices of its people. The combination of broad consultation and deeper deliberation has ensured the Council Plan 2025–2029 is both community-led and achievable, reflecting the shared aspirations of our residents, stakeholders, and staff.



Photo: Community Panel

Community drop-in sessions	Staff workshops	Community survey	Health and wellbeing stakeholder survey	Deliberative Engagement Panel
Apsley (14) Goroke (12) Harrow (23) Kaniva (34) Serviceton (8) Edenhope (13)	3 x face-to-face workshops and 1 x online workshop	Online community engagement: 30% male 67% female Ages: under 25 - 3% 25-55 - 58% over 55 - 39%	Online health and wellbeing stakeholder engagement	Recommendations to Council  Advocacy priorities  Health and wellbeing priorities
104 participants	92 participants	135 respondents	7 respondents	4 community members

**SOME KEY MESSAGES FROM THE COMMUNITY**

- Our farmers are doing it tough
- Our roads are critically important to us and need more investment
- Engage with us more frequently
- We've got a lot to offer - let's get more visitors here
- Pipeline = lifeline
- Stop the levy!
- We need more housing – there's nowhere for workers to live.

# ADVOCACY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Advocacy is a critical function of Council to meet the long-term aspirations of the West Wimmera community. As a large rural shire with a small population, our capacity to deliver transformational projects always depends on securing funding and support from state and federal governments. By proactively championing the needs and priorities of our community, we can attract investment for major initiatives that improve infrastructure, boost the economy, enhance wellbeing and protect our natural environment. Effective advocacy ensures that our community's voice is heard, our unique challenges are understood, and our future is shaped by priorities that deliver lasting benefits for West Wimmera. Six high-level advocacy priorities were identified by our community:

- 1 SUPPORT FOR OUR FARMING COMMUNITY
- 2 MAINTENANCE OF CRITICAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE
- 3 INCREASING HOUSING AVAILABILITY
- 4 WATER ACCESS, QUALITY AND SECURITY
- 5 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY
- 6 POWER SUPPLY



## 1. SUPPORT FOR OUR FARMING COMMUNITY

Our farmers are the backbone of our local economy. The agricultural sector faces mounting pressures from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund and the severe impacts of ongoing drought. These combined challenges place significant financial and emotional strain on farmers, affecting productivity, livelihoods, and the sustainability of our rural industries. Strong advocacy is essential to secure fairer policies, targeted financial relief, and practical support measures. By championing the needs of our farmers at state and federal levels, we can help protect their viability, strengthen our local economy, and ensure the long-term resilience of our agricultural sector.

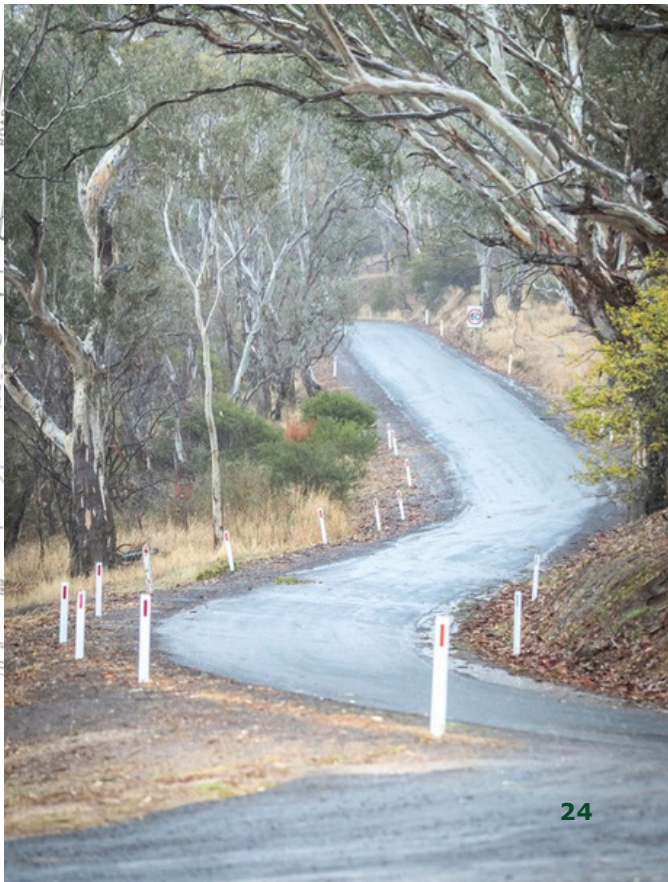


**2. INCREASING HOUSING AVAILABILITY**

Increasing housing availability in West Wimmera townships is essential to attracting new residents, retaining existing populations, and sustaining vital services such as health care and education. Current Victorian Planning Scheme provisions can limit development opportunities, restricting growth and community renewal. Advocacy for targeted changes to planning regulations and zoning will help unlock land for housing, encourage investment, and support diverse, affordable accommodation options. By driving these reforms, Council can strengthen the liveability and economic vitality of our townships, ensuring they remain vibrant, well-served, and capable of meeting the needs of current and future generations.

**3. MAINTENANCE OF CRITICAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

Advocating for increased funding to maintain and renew state government roads in West Wimmera is critical to ensuring safety, connectivity, and economic development. Under an existing state government agreement due to expire in 2026, Council currently maintain these roads creating local jobs and delivering a local economic benefit. Rising volumes of heavy vehicles and larger farming machinery are placing unprecedented strain on road surfaces, with damaged shoulders and historical flooding events having further compromised their condition. Securing increased funding is essential to meet current demands and protect these vital transport assets for the future.



#### 4. WATER ACCESS, QUALITY AND SECURITY

Advocating to extend the GWMWater pipeline from the Rocklands Reservoir to Harrow, Edenhope and Apsley is essential to expanding agricultural opportunities, and securing a safe, reliable potable water supply for these communities.

It is also critical for the shire's firefighting capability, improving community safety during bushfire events.

Reliable water access will boost agricultural productivity and diversity within the shire, enabling farmers to plan with confidence and adapt to seasonal variability.

Improved water security supports a more efficient and sustainable sewage system and also provides opportunities to responsibly maintain recreational water supplies. This investment would deliver long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits, strengthening the resilience and liveability of these townships well into the future.



#### 5. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Advocating to Telstra for improved digital connectivity in West Wimmera is critical to supporting residents, workers, businesses, and community safety. Many areas currently experience slow data speeds and significant black spots, limiting the ability of local businesses to operate efficiently, restricting remote work opportunities, and hindering access to essential services. These coverage gaps also pose serious safety risks, particularly during emergencies when reliable communication is vital. Securing faster, more consistent mobile and internet services will strengthen the local economy, enable residents to stay connected, and ensure emergency response systems are effective, building a safer, more resilient community.

#### 6. POWER SUPPLY

Enhancing the West Wimmera electricity network is vital for driving economic growth across the shire. By advocating to PowerCor for expanded access to three-phase power supply, townships will benefit from increased electricity capacity, improved reliability, fewer outages, and the opportunity to activate local industrial estates, attracting new businesses and investment. Improved capacity will also support the installation of electric vehicle charging stations and enable greater integration of renewable energy sources.

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# COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Photo: Children riding bicycles on the Lake Newlands boardwalk



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Under section 26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, all Victorian councils are required to implement a Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years and within 12 months of a new council being elected. As allowed by section 27 of that act, West Wimmera Shire Council has chosen to integrate its Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan within the Council Plan

This reflects a view that health and wellbeing is inherent in all Council planning and therefore should be represented in the Council Plan. This plan aims to promote public health and wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and other health dangers.

Section 17 of the *Climate Change Act* requires local councils to have regard to decisions or actions to reduce risks and public health impacts of climate change in municipal health and wellbeing plans.

*Section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act* requires councils to specify (in their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the local community.



West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to working collaboratively with partner agencies to plan, implement, progress, and review our municipal public health and wellbeing initiatives. We recognise the leadership role of our local and regional health services, particularly those with integrated health promotion funding, in delivering programs that support the wellbeing of our communities.

We also acknowledge the vital contributions of local community groups and organisations in promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of their members. Their grassroots efforts are essential to building inclusive, resilient communities across our townships and rural areas.

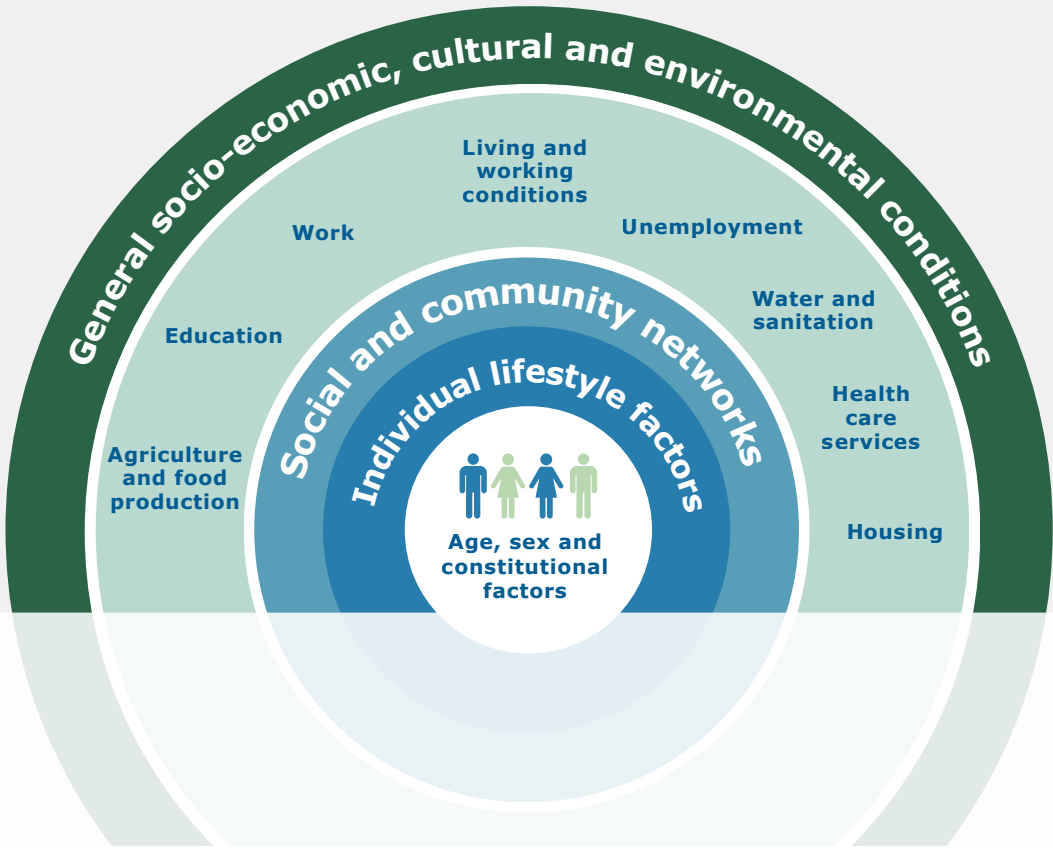
This plan has been developed through consultation with community members, Council staff, and key health and wellbeing stakeholders, informed by local data and insights.

The following partners were engaged in its development:

- West Wimmera Health Service
- Orange Door Wimmera
- Harrow Bush Nursing Centre
- Women's Health Grampians
- Grampians Public Health Unit
- Grampians Health
- Western Victoria Primary Health Network

The plan outlines priority areas, strategies, and initiatives that will guide Council's efforts over the next four years, ensuring that the health and wellbeing of our community remain central to the shire's strategic direction.

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, grow, age and in which we live, work and plan. The determinants of health have a significant impact on health and wellbeing. Council has identified health and wellbeing goals and strategies to improve the social determinants of health for our community.



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Based on community and stakeholder feedback (including community drop-in sessions and the community survey), the following health and wellbeing priorities have been established for the shire:



Council actions relating to the three health and wellbeing priorities can be identified through the corresponding emoji next to initiatives linked to that priority within the goals section of this plan.

**01 Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings**

West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to creating environments that support our community to live active, safe and healthy lives. With an ageing population and a strong sporting culture, Council will continue to encourage participation in physical activity through local sports clubs, recreation facilities and partnerships that support active ageing.

Safety is also central to wellbeing. We will partner with key agencies to promote safe workplaces and injury prevention. Within our townships, Council will advocate for traffic calming measures and safer street design to make our public spaces safer and more accessible for all.

Good nutrition is essential for healthy living. Council will provide support to local organisations seeking to improve food security for families experiencing hardship, promote access to fresh local produce, and encourage healthier food choices, particularly for children and young people.

We also recognise the health risks posed by alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, including e-cigarettes. Council will partner with health services and community organisations to promote awareness, prevention and support initiatives that reduce harm and encourage healthier lifestyles across all age groups.



Photo: Lake Wallace Parkrun Edenhope



02

### **Improving mental health and reducing social isolation**

West Wimmera Shire recognises that good mental health is fundamental to community wellbeing. Local people face unique challenges that can place significant pressure on their mental wellbeing, including the impacts of challenging agricultural conditions such as drought, natural disasters, and financial hardship driven by rising costs. These stressors can affect individuals, families, and entire communities, often in ways that are not immediately visible.

Living in a remote, rural setting also presents barriers to social connection. Loneliness and isolation can arise when residents are separated from neighbours, extended family, and the broader community. While rural communities are often known for their resilience and independence, a culture of stoicism can sometimes prevent people from seeking help, and stigma around mental health issues can discourage open conversations.

Access to mental health services remains a key issue for West Wimmera residents, with distance, availability of professionals, and awareness of services all creating barriers. We are committed to reducing these barriers by supporting opportunities for connection, reducing stigma through education and awareness, and working with health providers to improve access to appropriate and timely mental health support.

03

### **Preventing all forms of violence within our community**

West Wimmera Shire Council seeks to build a community where everyone feels safe, respected, and supported. Family violence remains a concern with significantly higher rates recorded in regional Victoria. However, awareness of the issue within local communities is often limited, and strong social ties in close-knit areas can make people reluctant to speak up due to concerns about confidentiality and stigma.

Gender equity plays a vital role in prevention. In many rural settings, stronger gender stereotypes and financial dependence can limit opportunities and increase vulnerability, particularly for women and children. For those experiencing violence, geographic isolation and the lack of accessible services can make it extremely difficult to seek help or leave unsafe situations.

We recognise that preventing violence requires more than responding to crises. It involves shifting attitudes, challenging harmful stereotypes, and creating environments that support equality and respect. Education, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with specialist services are essential to increase understanding, reduce stigma, and encourage early intervention.

By working together with community and health service partners, West Wimmera Shire Council will take proactive steps to prevent violence, improve access to support, and ensure safety and dignity for all residents.




## DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

For the first time, the Disability Action Plan has been integrated into the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan. Council is dedicated to fostering an inclusive community where people of all abilities and ages can access opportunities to achieve their best health and wellbeing.

Under the Disability Act 2006, all councils are required to develop a Disability Action Plan, in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

The purpose of this plan is to tackle structural, cultural, and attitudinal barriers that may prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in community life. It also seeks to eliminate discrimination for people with disabilities in relation to Council services, facilities, infrastructure, and employment opportunities, whether they are current or prospective employees.

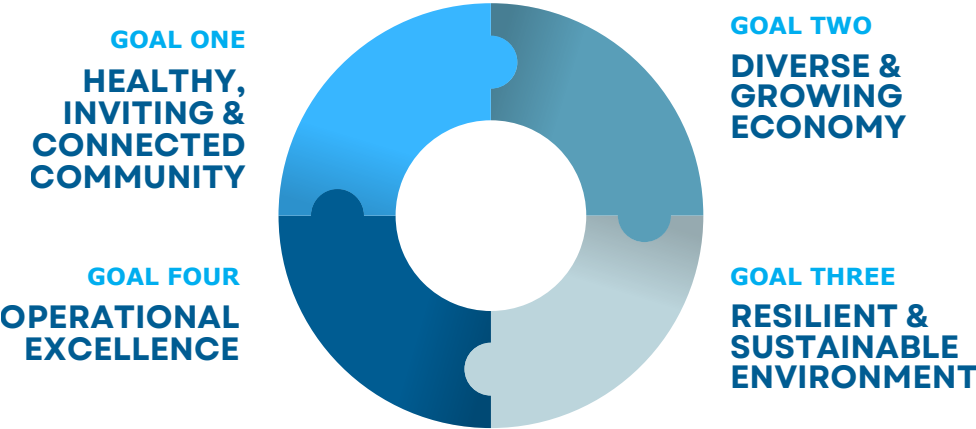
The inclusion of the Disability Action Plan in the Council aims to ensure that disability inclusion is a priority and considered in everything we do. It also ensures that initiatives promoting disability inclusion are closely aligned with the Council Plan, the Community Vision 2040, and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Look for this  icon throughout the document to identify actions that are part of the Disability Action Plan.



# OUR FOUR GOALS

The Council Plan 2025-29 includes four high-level goals.



Each of these goals includes several strategies and more specific initiatives to be implemented over the next four years:





COUNCIL PLAN GOAL 1

## HEALTHY, INVITING & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

West Wimmera Shire Council's goal of building a healthy, inviting and connected community focuses on services, partnerships, and infrastructure that improve wellbeing and liveability within the shire. This includes working with providers to deliver sustainable playgroups, childcare, kindergarten, maternal child health and immunisation services, alongside ongoing support for youth services and active ageing programs. Council will partner with health and wellbeing organisations to address priority issues such as social isolation, mental health, family violence, gender equity, alcohol and other drugs, cancer prevention, and healthy food access.





















Advocacy will remain a strong focus, ensuring the community has access to GPs, telehealth, quality health services, and safer township roads.

Investment in sport, recreation, and community infrastructure will be progressed through upgrades to swimming pools, implementation of strategies for active recreation, trails, and Lake Wallace, and funding for key local facilities and structure plans. Council will also strengthen support for local committees, volunteers, community groups and local events, as well as delivering local grants.



Goal 1 - Healthy, Inviting & Connected Community

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
1.1 Support the provision of early years, education and childcare services within the shire	1.1.1 Partner with service providers to implement a childcare service in Goroke 
	1.1.2 Establish partnerships to ensure the long-term sustainability of kindergarten services within the shire
	1.1.3 Seek funding for a building upgrade at Goroke Kindergarten
	1.1.4 Continue to support community playgroups – as required  
	1.1.5 Transition the MCH and immunisation service to West Wimmera Health Service and partner with WWHS to support continuity of care 
1.2 Identify opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and community safety	1.2.1 Provide support mental health and wellbeing providers working in the shire 
	1.2.2 Identify partnership opportunities to address health and wellbeing issues associated with social isolation 
	1.2.3 Identify partnership opportunities to reduce tobacco and vaping use across the shire 
	1.2.4 Identify partnership opportunities to reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs across the shire 
	1.2.5 Explore partnership opportunities to increase cancer prevention screening at a local community level 
	1.2.6 Provide support for health and wellbeing partners delivering active ageing programs  
	1.2.7 Explore opportunities to improve access to healthy food choices and West Wimmera produce - including school partnerships 
	1.2.8 Play an active role in the Communities of Respect and Equality Core Alliance (work with partners to reduce violence against women and children) 
	1.2.9 Provide support to organisations delivering programs to improve gender equity and reduce family violence within the shire  
	1.2.10 Advocate to health service providers to maintain service levels, support telehealth, and achieve the best possible outcomes for the community  
	1.2.11 Advocate for GP access across the shire 
	1.2.12 Advocate for improved mental health and wellbeing support across the shire  



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation



Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan

Goal 1 - healthy, inviting and connected community

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
1.3 Create recreation, sport and active lifestyle opportunities for the community	1.3.1 Seek funding to progress the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy action plan – including universal, environmental and CPTED design principles  
	1.3.2 Seek funding to progress the Recreational Trails Strategy action plan 
	1.3.3 Present project concepts from Lake Wallace Strategy for Council to priorities and authorise scoping and planning to seek funding.  
	1.3.4 Seek funding to upgrade the Kaniva and Goroke swimming pools  
	1.3.5 Seek funding to plan and upgrade the Edenhope swimming pool  
	1.3.6 Seek funding to progress the Edenhope Lions Park Development  
	1.3.7 Seek funding to progress upgrades of the Serviceton Bowling Club Facility Upgrade  
1.4 Provide community development opportunities and volunteer support	1.4.1 Develop and implement a plan that elevates support for community groups and volunteers, including 'in kind' support
	1.4.2 Provide support for the development of local community plans  
	1.4.3 Actively support committees of management in the managing of community facilities
	1.4.4 Explore opportunities to expand and/or improve support for local community events 
	1.4.5 Continue to implement and promote our community grants
	1.4.6 Advocate for better community transport options within the shire 
1.5 Support youth engagement	1.5.1 Work with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation to support delivery of youth services programming within the shire  
1.6 Maintain and enhance community infrastructure and streetscapes	1.6.1 Advocate for traffic calming initiatives (and appropriate speed limits) within township main streets
	1.6.2 Advocate for continued TAC funding to implement the Safer Local Roads and Streets Program action plan
	1.6.3 Seek funding for Dergholm ablution block
	1.6.4 Seek funding for the Edenhope, Apsley, Goroke and Harrow structure plans
	1.6.5 Seek funding for Harrow, Apsley and Goroke streetscape planning
	1.6.6 Seek funding to maintain Council Buildings and Infrastructure to support community need.



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation



Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan



**Goal 1 - healthy, inviting and connected community**

**COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029**

**KEY INDICATORS** (How will we measure success?)

Focus area	Indicator	Source
Community satisfaction with health and wellbeing services	Percentage of residents satisfied with access to local health, wellbeing, and community services	<i>Victorian Government – Community Satisfaction Survey</i>
Participation in community life	Proportion of residents engaged in volunteering, local committees and community groups	<i>Australian Bureau of Statistics Census and voluntary work data</i>
Access to primary health care	Number of general practitioners per 1,000 residents in the shire	<i>Australian Government Department of Health – Health Workforce Data, Primary Health Network (Western Victoria PHN)</i>
Utilisation of community health and wellbeing facilities	Annual participation/attendance at local swimming pools, recreation programs, active ageing initiatives, and playgroups.	<i>Council facility usage data and partner program reporting</i>



COUNCIL PLAN GOAL 2




## DIVERSE & GROWING ECONOMY

The goal of building a diverse and growing economy seeks to create the conditions for sustainable growth, business confidence, and vibrant townships. Council will advocate for investment in key infrastructure through the implementation of the Road Management Plan, new streetscape upgrades in Kaniva and Edenhope, improved township gateways and signage, and the delivery of the Kaniva Structure Plan. Housing growth will be supported by seeking funding for key projects as well as advocacy for planning scheme changes that support increased housing supply.

To strengthen the local economy, Council will progress the West Wimmera Economic Development and Tourism strategies, explore opportunities to reduce planning red tape, and advocate for major regional opportunities such as the West Grampians Pipeline. Partnerships will be investigated to support business incubation, commercial and industrial precinct upgrades, and tourism assets such as the Harrow Discovery Centre and the Serviceton Historic Railway Station.

Goal 2 - diverse and growing economy

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
2.1 Maintain and renew assets and infrastructure	2.1.1 Implement the updated West Wimmera Road Management Plan
	2.1.2 Seek funding to implement streetscape plans for Kaniva and Edenhope – including Kaniva intersection improvements 
	2.1.3 Implement a schedule to clean signs and replace ageing signs across the shire
2.2 Increase housing availability and improve township amenity	2.2.1 Explore opportunities to support improved housing quality in West Wimmera townships, including renovations, to ensure homes are fit for purpose 
	2.2.2 Seek funding for West Wimmera key housing projects – e.g. Kaniva airport housing development, Edenhope Langford Street development
	2.2.3 Implement a 'Tidy House' campaign and provide support for local communities with Tidy Towns applications, while continuing to seek opportunities to enhance civic pride. 
2.3 Implement planning changes and regulatory reform	2.3.1 Explore opportunities to reduce planning red tape by finding practical ways to enable development and support the State Government's 'Business Friendly Councils' initiative.
	2.3.2 Develop and seek funding to implement Kaniva Structure Plan
2.4 Invest in tourism and arts and cultural development	2.4.1 Seek funding to implement West Wimmera Tourism Strategy action plan
	2.4.2 Review West Wimmera Signage Strategy and update rules/guidelines based on community feedback
	2.4.3 Seek funding to scope and plan for the Johnny Mullagh Discovery Centre upgrade
	2.4.4 Advocate to V/Line for a Kaniva stop for the Overland Train
	2.4.5 Following agreement with Vic Rail on a feasible long term lease agreement, seek funding to restore and activate Serviceton Railway Station
	2.4.6 Explore free camping opportunities in the shire
2.5 Encourage economic development and industry diversification	2.5.1 Seek funding to implement West Wimmera Economic Development Strategy (2024–29) action plan
	2.5.2 Seek funding for a commercial/industrial incubator (including business support services)
	2.5.3 Work with partners and seek funding to delivery digital connectivity plan



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation



Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan

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Goal 2 - diverse and growing economy

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

**KEY INDICATORS** (How will we measure success?)

Focus area	Indicator	Source
Business growth and sustainability	Number of registered businesses in West Wimmera (including new ABNs registered each year)	<i>Australian Business Register, ABS – Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits</i>
Employment and local jobs	Local unemployment rate and/or proportion of residents employed in the shire	<i>ABS Labour Force Data, ABS Census, or Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (Victoria)</i>
Visitor economy strength	Estimated number of visitors to West Wimmera and visitor expenditure	<i>Tourism Research Australia – Local Government Area Profiles</i>
Housing availability and development	Number of new dwelling approvals (residential building permits) per year	<i>Victorian Building Authority – building permit data, Council planning/building records</i>
Civic pride and township amenity	Community satisfaction with township appearance, amenity, and local infrastructure.	<i>Victorian Government – Community Satisfaction Survey</i>





COUNCIL PLAN GOAL 3

## RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT






Building a resilient and sustainable environment focuses on protecting natural assets, managing risks, and preparing for future challenges. Council will strengthen flood preparedness by implementing outcomes from flood studies in Edenhope, Apsley, Harrow and Chetwynd, ensuring findings are embedded into the planning scheme. Waste and resource management will be enhanced through the development of a new Waste Management Strategy and funding for improved facilities such as dump stations.

Environmental sustainability will be supported through active control of pests, weeds and roadside vegetation, alongside targeted programs and partnerships to address corella, kangaroo and deer impacts.

Emergency management remains a key priority, with Council working closely with regional emergency management planning committees and local communities to strengthen planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. Advocacy for multi-agency CFA and SES centres in Kaniva and Goroke will further enhance local resilience and community safety.

Goal 3 - resilient and sustainable environment

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
3.1 Manage outcomes from flood management and planning initiatives	3.1.1 Seek funding to implement actions from township flood studies (Edenhope and Apsley) and integrate into West Wimmera Planning Scheme
	3.1.2 Finalise planning scheme amendments from Harrow and Chetwynd flood studies
3.2 Deliver waste and resource management solutions	3.2.1 Seek funding to develop and implement the West Wimmera Waste Management Strategy
3.3 Facilitate pest, weed and wildlife management solutions	3.3.1 Review and implement Corella Management Plan
	3.3.2 Educate the community on kangaroo and deer management options
	3.3.3 Continue to control vegetation, weeds and pests on West Wimmera roadsides
	3.3.4 Provide support to community groups to manage weeds, pests and litter
	3.3.5 Seek funding to control pests and weeds across the shire
3.4 Sharing education and information	3.4.1 Share opportunities with our community on info sessions, grants and changes to land use. (i.e. carbon farming, drought funding and support) 
3.5 Facilitate emergency management and community preparedness	3.5.1 Plan for and deliver emergency services in conjunction with Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
	3.5.2 Advocate for (and support) multi-agency centres for CFA and SES in Kaniva and Gorokey 
	3.5.3 Work with local communities to optimise emergency planning, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery   



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation



Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan



Goal 3 - resilient and sustainable environment

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

KEY INDICATORS (How will we measure success?)

Focus area	Indicator	Source
Flood and emergency preparedness	Proportion of township flood study actions implemented or integrated into the Planning Scheme	Council planning records (Planning Scheme Amendments, Flood Study Action Plans)
Weeds and pests management	Hectares of roadside/public land treated for weeds and pests each year	Council roadside management and spraying records, reports from Landcare and local environment groups
Community emergency readiness	Number of multi-agency emergency exercises, training sessions, or community preparedness workshops held annually	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee reports, Council emergency management records



COUNCIL PLAN GOAL 4

## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Our goal of achieving operational excellence is about strengthening how Council serves the community, ensuring efficient, transparent, and responsive operations. This includes enhancing community engagement through deliberative processes, an innovation platform for community ideas, and promoting greater access to council meetings. Council will continue to improve customer service with an upgraded CRM system and tailored support to help residents and businesses navigate planning and permit processes.

Organisational efficiency will be advanced through long-term financial and asset planning, cost-of-service analysis, service reviews, and the use of new technologies such as mobile tools and artificial intelligence. Council will also explore shared services with neighbouring councils and optimise plant and equipment use.

A strong focus will be placed on workforce development, including a new workforce plan, training needs analysis, professional development, and a reward and recognition program. Safety, compliance, and risk management will remain priorities, with upgrades to asset systems, insurance reviews, and improved incident reporting.

Goal 4 - operational excellence

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
4.1 Strengthen community consultation, engagement and trust ensuring a diversity of perspectives across the shire	4.1.1 Progress implementation of the Community Engagement Policy exploring opportunities for meaningful engagement
	4.1.2 Continue to build awareness of the innovation platform for community ideas and ensure community members are updated on project status
	4.1.3 Continue to engage with BGLC and other Indigenous groups as per community engagement and procurement policy
	4.1.4 Progress 'One West Wimmera' thinking across the organisation
4.2 Provide a responsive service to the West Wimmera community	4.2.1 Review current CRM and explore opportunities to improve the customer experience
	4.2.2 Support new service providers to ensure continuity of care during transitions to new delivery models, minimising impacts on the West Wimmera community 
4.3 Explore opportunities to reduce red tape and support the community through challenging government processes	4.3.1 Explore opportunities to increase support for community members and businesses to navigate planning processes (e.g. building permits)
4.4 Secure funding and influence change through effective advocacy	4.4.1 Develop an advocacy document
	4.4.2 Form alliance with neighbouring councils to advocate to state and federal governments
4.5 Strive for long-term financial sustainability	4.5.1 Continue to implement the long-term financial plan
	4.5.2 Continue to implement the long-term asset plan
	4.5.3 Provide quarterly reports on Council's financial performance
	4.5.4 Explore opportunities for cost efficiencies and savings - complete 'cost-of-service' analysis for key shire services
	4.5.5 Explore opportunities to rationalise under utilised council assets
	4.5.6 Explore shared services opportunities and agreements with other councils
4.6 Maintain the focus on continuous improvement	4.6.1 Explore plant and equipment upgrades that improve outcomes for the West Wimmera community
	4.6.2 Provide professional development support for operations staff to optimise the use of Council equipment & resources



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation







Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan

Goal 4 - Operational Excellence

| COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

Strategies	Initiatives
	4.6.3 Explore the potential for using mobile technologies to increase efficiency (e.g. tablet use out in the field)
	4.6.4 Undertake analysis to determine best operating models (whether to deliver in-house or to contract out)
	4.6.5 Implement reporting 'dashboards' to track organisational performance
	4.6.6 Upgrade current asset management system to improve depreciation management
	4.6.7 Implement service reviews to optimise outcomes for the West Wimmera community
	4.6.8 Explore opportunities to improve efficiency with the use of artificial intelligence 
	4.6.9 Staff training to improve skills and competency
	4.6.10 Councilor training to improve skills & awareness
4.7 Ensure employee safety and manage risks effectively	4.7.1 Explore opportunities improve safety for lone workers
	4.7.2 Review insurance coverage on Council assets
	4.7.3 Ensure statutory compliance on relevant shire services
	4.7.4 Review incident reporting and investigation processes
	4.7.5 Ensure contractor induction meets statutory requirements
	4.7.6 Review handling and risk management processes for hazardous materials
4.8 Improve organisational Efficiency	4.8.1 Develop a workforce plan to optimise human resources 
	4.8.2 Complete a training needs analysis for staff and implement aligned professional development initiatives
	4.8.3 Review organisation-wide reward and recognition program 
	4.8.4 Strengthen data-driven performance and accountability in organisational performance management processes
	4.8.5 Seek opportunities for local graduates, apprentices, trainees and job placements 



Encouraging healthy lifestyles and safe settings



Improving mental health and reducing social isolation



Preventing all forms of violence within our community



Disability Action Plan

Goal 4 - Operational Excellence

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

**KEY INDICATORS** (How will we measure success?)

Focus area	Indicator	Source
Community satisfaction with customer service	Percentage of residents satisfied with Council's customer service	<i>Victorian Government – Community Satisfaction Survey</i>
Customer responsiveness	Percentage of customer requests resolved within agreed service timeframes	<i>Council's Customer Request Management system</i>
Financial sustainability	Compliance with key Victorian Auditor-General's Office financial sustainability indicators (e.g. adjusted underlying result, working capital ratio)	<i>Annual Report, Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, VAGO reports</i>
Asset management and service delivery	Proportion of capital works projects delivered on time and on budget	<i>Council capital works program reporting, Annual Report</i>
Organisational culture and workforce development	Staff satisfaction/engagement score, including perceptions of recognition, training, and support	<i>Council organisational culture survey, HR workforce data</i>



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## CONTACT US

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## CONNECT WITH US

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## 16 Sealing Schedule

S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation

## 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: Nominations for the WWSC Senior Citizen of the Year Award**

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

## 19 Close of Meeting

**Next Meeting:**



15 October 2025

Douglas