

SHIRE OF
WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

*Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
of Council
Thursday 16th June 2016*

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Day welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 3.30pm. A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect for the following former employee and resident who had recently passed away:

- Allan Ogden

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr KM Day	President
Cr D Hermon	Deputy President
Cr RS Corsini	
Cr ML Geier	
Cr B Huxtable	
Cr J Jefferys	
Mr JC Criddle	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Judd Hobson (entered 4.35pm)	Works Supervisor

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.33pm – 3.48pm)

Nil

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution

01-06/16 Moved Cr Geier, seconded Cr Huxtable that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday 19th May, 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried 6/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the WE-ROC Executive Meeting held at Bruce Rock Council Chambers 25th May 2016 be received

Resolution

02-06/16 Moved Cr Geier, seconded Cr Corsini that the minutes of the WE-ROC Executive Meeting held at Bruce Rock Council Chambers 25th May 2016 be received

Carried 6/0

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc Meeting held at Merredin Council Chambers 8th June 2016 be received

Resolution

03-06/16 Moved Cr Geier, seconded Cr Corsini that the minutes of the Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc Meeting held at Merredin Council Chambers 8th June 2016 be received

Carried 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President, Cr Day advised having attended the following meetings:

- Wheatbelt Development Commission meeting in Dalwallinu on 9/10th June.
- WALGA Training (Strategy & Managing risk) in Kellerberrin.

Cr Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

- Ministers Meeting (Senator Dean Smith, Senator Ron Back, Melissa Price – Member for Durack) on 2nd June with the CEO, Cr Huxtable, Corsini & Hermon.
- CEACA meeting in Merredin with the CEO.
- Funeral of former Works Supervisor, Allan Ogden with the CEO.



Cr Hermon advised having attended the following meeting:

- LEMC meeting in Southern Cross on 26th May with the CEO & Works Supervisor.

8. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

8.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

8.1.1 Accounts for Payment

File Reference	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements	
Date of Report	21 June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	No Interest to Disclose	
Reporting Officer	Kay Geier Senior Finance Officer	
Signatures	Officer 	CEO 

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits may be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of May 16. The credit card statements currently show:-

CEO **May 16 \$321.91** associated with the purchase of;. Light Bar CEO Vehicle, Microwave – C/park, Meals.

Works Supervisor **May 16 \$192.46** associated with the purchase of; Diesel, 2yr renewal – westonia.wa.gov.au, advertisement Grader Operator, meals.

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.

Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2015/2016 Annual Budget.

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation



That May 16 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers 3389 to 3393 and D/Debits EFT 1834 to EFT 1867 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totaling \$261,395.40 be passed for payment.

Resolution

04-06/16 Moved Cr Corsini, seconded Cr Jefferys that the May 2016 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers 3389 to 3393 and D/Debits EFT 1834 to EFT 1867 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totaling \$261,395.40 be passed for payment.

Carried 6/0

8.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity – May 2016

File Reference	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Reports	
Date of Report	21 June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	No Interest to Disclose	
Reporting Officer	Kay Geier Senior Finance Officer	
Signatures	Officer 	CEO 

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31st May 2016 is attached for Councilor information, and consists of:

1. Summary of Bank Balances
2. Summary of Outstanding Debtors
3. Balance Sheet
4. Budget v Actuals Schedules

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2015/2016 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.

Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council's activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation



That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 31st May 2016 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

Resolution

05-06/16 Moved Cr Hermon, seconded Cr Huxtable that Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 31st May 2016 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

Carried 6/0

8.1.3 GST Reconciliation Report

File Reference	F1.4.4 Audit Reports	
Date of Report	21 June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	No Interest to Disclose	
Reporting Officer	Kay Geier Senior Finance Officer	
Signatures	Officer 	CEO 

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at ending 31st May 2016 is provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councilor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in regards to Goods and Services Tax.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council's current GST liability, which has an impact on Council's cash-flow.

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation


That the GST Reconciliation totaling \$23,195 for the period ending 31st May 2016 be adopted.

Resolution

06-06/16 Moved Cr Geier, seconded Cr Jefferys that the GST Reconciliation totaling \$23,195 for the period ending 31st May 2016 be adopted.

Carried 6/0

8.1.4 Differential Rates 2016/17

File Reference	R1.1.1 Rates	
Date of Report	09 June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	No Interest to Disclose	
Reporting Officer	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Signatures	Officer	CEO 

Summary:

Council supported the differential rates in the dollar and minimums proposed for the 2016/2017 financial year and advertised the proposed rates for a 21 day comment period closing on Wednesday 15th June 2016. Council are then required to seek Ministerial approval for proposing to impose a Mining GRV differential rate that is more than twice the lowest rate.

May 16 Resolution:

Resolution

07-05/16 Moved Cr Hermon seconded Cr Geier that it is recommended that:

- 1. Support the following differential rates in the dollar and minimum payments for the GRV and UV rated properties, subject to finalisation of the 2016/2017 draft budget:**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rate in the \$</i>	<i>Minimum Rate \$</i>
GRV General	5.4284	355.00
GRV Mining	14.5284	355.00

- 2. Seek the Minister for Local Government’s approval to impose differential general rates more than twice the lowest rate; and**
- 3. Council publicly advertises its intention to impose differential rates, pursuant to section 6.36 (1) of the Local Government Act 1995 and invites public submissions for a period of twenty one days; and**
- 4. Council consider any submissions in respect of imposition of differential rates as part of the 2016/2017 Budget deliberations.**

Carried 5/0 by Absolute Majority

Community / Stakeholder Consultation:

An advertisement on the Wednesday 25th May 2016 was included in the public notice section of the Newspaper circulated in the district as well as being located on the public notice board at the Shire office and the Shire website. The community will have 21 days to make submissions. (12.00 noon 16th June 2015).

Comment:

The Local Government Act 1995 provides for Councils to levy rates to fund the estimated annual budget deficiency for the forthcoming financial year.

The estimated budget deficit for the 2016/2017 financial year has not yet been finalised, as the detailed budget estimates covering various expense and revenue items are currently being prepared. At present, the amount required from rates to fund the outcomes of the draft budget is in excess of the rate increase proposed of 5%. Staff is revising the draft budget and service levels and are looking at all avenues to reduce the gap, including alternative revenue sources.

In the past Council has adopted rates that are more than twice the minimum differential rate and must therefore seek Ministerial approval, as required by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995. The Department of Local Government has been scrutinising Council’s differential rating strategy

each year and may request modifications to be made, if they are not satisfied that the rating strategy is fair and equitable.

It must be understood the purpose of this Agenda Item is to set an estimated Differential Rate so a request can be sent to the Minister after advertising and seeking submissions from the electorate. Invariable the actual rate amount set may differ from the estimate once the valuations have been received from Landgate for the next financial year. However the legislations allows these rate in dollar amounts to be adjusted to reflect the actual valuations by making notation in the Shires Adopted Budget and on the Rate Notices sent out. Such notation is to explain the reason for the difference between the advertise Differential Rate and that impose being due to valuation adjustments from Landgate. The actual Rate Revenue raised will not differ significantly.

The table below shows the rate categories for 2016/2017 and the rate in cents and minimum amounts; GRV Rate Category

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rate in the \$</i>	<i>Minimum Rate \$</i>
GRV General	5.4284	355.00
GRV Mining	14.5284	355.00

Statutory Environment:

Under section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council is required to give local public notice of the intention of Council to impose differential rates, or a minimum payment under a differential rate category. Local public notice includes publishing in a newspaper circulating in the district, exhibiting on the notice board of the local government office, and exhibiting on the notice board of the library inviting submissions in respect of the following information, for a minimum of 21 days;

- Details of each rate or minimum payment the local government intends to impose,
- Invitation for submissions to be made in respect of the proposed rate or minimum payment and any related matters.

Financial Implications:

The Shire's principle source of income is through rates. It is an essential part of the budget process that the Council consider the level of rates that need to be raised in the context of funding the annual budget. It must also be noted that as other income, such as fees and charges are fixed by external legislation, there is very little scope for the Shire to increase this revenue source to keep up with the rising costs of service provision, therefore, these increasing costs must be borne by increases in rates.

The Shire has until 31 August each year to adopt the Annual Budget, as the Shire is a growing organisation and as such we are heavily reliant on receiving rates income to fund our operations, including salaries. With this in mind, setting the level of rates for advertising and allowing the adoption of the annual budget in June, after the close of the advertising period, is a very high priority to enable rates notices to be issued. The Shire prepares its cash flow based on starting to receive rate payments in late August each year.

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That after the close of the 21 day public consultation period, which concluded on Thursday 16th June 2016 (12 noon), Council are advised that no submissions were received in respect of imposition of differential rates as part of the 2016/2017 Budget deliberations and therefor seek the Minister for Local Government's approval to impose differential general rates more than twice the lowest rate as per the table below.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rate in the \$</i>	<i>Minimum Rate</i>
GRV General	5.4284	355.00
GRV Mining	14.5284	355.00

Resolution


07-06/16 Moved Cr Jefferys, seconded Cr Hermon that after the close of the 21 day public consultation period, which concluded on Thursday 16th June 2016 (12 noon), Council are advised that no submissions were received in respect of imposition of differential rates as part of the 2016/2017 Budget deliberations and therefor seek the Minister for Local Government's approval to impose differential general rates more than twice the lowest rate as per the table below.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rate in the \$</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
GRV General	5.4284	355.00
GRV Mining	14.5284	355.00

Carried 6/0 by Absolute Majority

Judd Hobson, Works Supervisor entered the meeting at 4.35pm.

8.1.5 Westonia Common Conservation Plan

File Reference		
Date of Report	10th June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Reporting Officer	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Signatures	Officer	CEO 

Background

In late 2014, the Shire of Westonia was awarded funding through the State NRM Office to commission a Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

After calling for quotes through WALGA's eQuotes System, the Shire accepted an offer from Eco Logical Australia to produce the CMP. The draft Plan was submitted to the Shire in February.

The draft *Westonia Common Conservation Management Plan 2016–2021* is a high level plan which outlines the relationship between a range of suggested subordinate plans.

What the CMP really illustrates is the gaps in formalised knowledge about the Common. For each aspect of the Common that the Shire expressed concerns regarding during the conceptualisation of this project there is a suggested baseline survey or development of a specific plan.

Comment

The following are comments from the author of the Plan

Joel Collins, Senior Botanist, Ecology Manager

“Upon completing the draft I wanted to suggest a couple of things we could add for the final version. We could add more figures to show particular areas of interest or demonstrate some of the suggestions we are proposing. We can also provide more examples of the technical methods as an appendix, such as the condition rating scale for vegetation assessment. We could also provide colours for the priority rankings.”

Dylan Copeland, Council's NRM consultant has prepared a report on the CMP and provided comment on the major key objectives of the plan at the April meeting.

April Meeting resolution

Resolution

08-04/16 Moved Cr Hermon seconded Cr Huxtable that Council considers the Draft Westonia Common Conservation Management Plan 2016-2021, makes any suggestions to the plan and advertises the plan for public comment prior to future amendment and adoption.

Carried 5/1

RESPONSE TO ‘ECO LOGICAL AUSTRALIA 2016. WESTONIA COMMON CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 – 2021. PREPARED FOR SHIRE OF WESTONIA.’, DRAFT VERSION 1 SUBMITTED BY PAULINE GUEST

Congratulations to the Shire of Westonia and Natural Resource Management Consultant, Dylan Copeland, on obtaining funding to pursue the development of a conservation management plan for the Westonia Common.

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1.1 It is unfortunate that the community was not offered the chance to express their concerns, priorities, and values regarding the Common – ie. What issues does the community see as problems, and what are they (community members) willing to help with/do to fix those problems? What do they use it for? What do they want to be able to continue to do?

There are a range of views in the community about the Common and there probably should have been some consultation by Eco Logical to assist in the development of this document.

It might have provided some ideas to inform potential projects which would be achievable and which the community would be easily motivated to undertake. It is important to look at management of the area from a scientific and biological perspective but also from a social perspective.

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2.4.6 Firewood harvesting will continue to be an issue.

Various non-residents and members of the community are frequent collectors of firewood in the Common. For there to be change in this area there needs to be a reasonable alternative, and the establishment of a policy/local law on the issue.

There will always be some individuals who insist on continuing undesirable activities, but it needs to be known that it is not acceptable. Firewood is not generally collected from reserves such as Sandford Rocks because the conservation status of those areas is well known. Without some effort and awareness raising of a policy change no real behavioural change will ever occur.

The Shire of Merredin had a system in place where licences were required for individuals making it legal for them to collect fallen timber as firewood from road reserves. While it may not always be ideal it is much better to specify where people can take timber from rather than having them take it from the Common.

Due to the popularity of this program, and subsequent oversubscription, I believe that there has been a recent move towards a collection system where available timber is placed in a gravel pit by the Shire for cutting on a first come first serve basis by residents.

2.5 Sustainable tourism can be a key driver for improved management of the Common. If a location is not valued from a social perspective, it is difficult to preserve it for its inherent natural/biodiversity values. There is a lot of potential for improved tourism infrastructure and visitor interpretation.

Some care needs to be taken about the development of these opportunities. For example, camping at the Boodalin soak was advertised as part of the Wheatbelt Way tourism project, however there is no infrastructure there to deal with those kind of visitors, and the activity directly contributes to increased firewood collection and uncontrolled, sprawling vehicle access and trampling of vegetation.

It could be possible to develop a more naturally styled camping facility in the future, within the town site.

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At the western edge of the Common, salinity and waterlogging is also a management issue for the key value of *Biodiversity Values and risks*. This has not been addressed in the conservation management plan.

A project such as the installation of up to 3 groundwater monitoring bores, along with vegetation monitoring could be sufficient to monitor this threat, and provide information for the implementation of management actions if and when required.

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Biodiversity values and risks/Environmental weeds/Lack of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) detailing methods to undertake management activities

This one is important. Current mowing or grading of weedy sites on roadsides elsewhere in the Shire is not addressing those weed issues.

In many instances, several years of effective herbicide application can greatly reduce and often eliminate further requirements for weed management, while stopping the spread of weedy areas.

For example, on roadsides through the Common there are some small, but lengthening areas affected by weeds, and spraying of those while they are still small will probably be very effective. There are also areas adjacent to the Common/protruding into the Common from the town site where effective and inexpensive weed management now could prevent larger, and more difficult to manage future problems.

Biodiversity values and risks/

It could be worth adding a section for impacts from ‘adjacent land uses’ such as roads, farming and mining activities, refuse sites (household, garden, builders waste), residential use, and other municipal uses.

This is a bit of a missed opportunity. It would be good if there were a place in the plan to explore this in the future. Items like this could be seen as ‘hotspots’ which could be managed with some small actions/low cost activities.

For example: The sprawl of items from residential/industrial lots beyond defined boundaries

Litter escaping the refuse site

Excessive dust from the mine crusher killing off adjacent vegetation

Uncontrolled parking area developing opposite the mine entrance, and continuing to increase in size

Planning for appropriate roadside management (vegetation and soil burdens/shoulders)

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2.4 *Integrated and specific weed management plan to provide guidance on strategies, priorities, methods and costings for high priority weed control...*

There are some obvious areas where weed management (eg. on roadsides/known high priority areas/hotspots) can be undertaken without an excessively expensive management plan. Simple scientifically based survey and monitoring techniques could be applied for these activities.

General weed species lists for the Common are already available from WWF surveys, and the threats and characteristics of those weeds can be accessed in freely available literature sources.

Effective surveying and prioritisation of areas and individual species for action/control could be undertaken as a low cost community based project in partnership with the Shire.

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Where ‘suitable revegetation’ is required, minimum standards for revegetation/rehabilitation for areas within the Common would be desirable, regarding methods, provenance of seed and seedlings, acceptable methods for natural looking plantings, soil disturbance etc.

This would be useful for any revegetation activities occurring within the Common, for whatever purpose, not just after mining and gravel/sand extraction.

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Table 10: Projects and Key Performance Indicators for management of firewood harvesting

Gates and fencing will probably not deter firewood collectors. The most effective method will be to define and encourage an acceptable alternative collection area.

The Shire should consider developing and adopting a formal policy on firewood collection.

Project 5.2 references 6.1 – should it be 5.1?

Typo: ‘exiting’ tracks (last paragraph, line 8)

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Project 6.5 Restrict or deter illegal activities (e.g. 4WD access and rubbish dumping) through strategically placed information signs detailing restrictions/consequences and limit track accessibility for vehicles (e.g. gates/bollards).

In regard to rubbish dumping, there could be a case made that if there are already sites where illegally dumped rubbish has been left it encourages more, and decreases the appeal of the area both to visitors and residents.

Regardless of whether or not the Common is biologically diverse and stable, the presence of rubbish gives the impression that the area is of low value. Some rubbish has been in the Common since early mining days, and persists as old tins, bottles and broken crockery etc. Other dumping sites are much more recent and consist of farm and domestic refuse from the 1970s and 1980s. These later sites have no historical value and should be targeted for removal. There are also random occurrences of items such as cars and white goods which should be removed.

Roadside litter should also be specifically addressed in some form.

Much is made about tourism and the importance of areas being free of rubbish and litter to improve the visitor experience, but it also contributes directly to how residents see

Consultation

Dylan Copeland, Stire NRM Contractor

Joel Collins, Senior Botanist, Ecology Manager

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan 2013-2013

5.1 Work towards providing a high quality, sustainable and integrated tourism experience to extend the length of stay

Financial Implications

This Plan is fully funded, once adopted, the initiatives in the plan would need to be funded by Council and/or grant funds.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation


That Council considers the public submissions made on the Draft Westonia Common Conservation Management Plan 2016-2021 and discusses with the Natural Resource Management Officer and the author of the plan, Joel Collins, Senior Botanist, Ecology Manager prior to finalising the plan for adoption.

Resolution

08-06/16 Moved Cr Huxtable, seconded Cr Corsini that Council officially thanks Pauline Guest for her submission on the Draft Westonia Common Conservation Management Plan 2016-2021 and advertises a community forum to better inform the community of the ramifications of the plan, prior to finalising for adoption.

Carried 5/1

8.1.6 Draft Annual Budget 2016/17

File Reference		
Date of Report	10th June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	Nil	
Reporting Officer	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Signatures	Officer	CEO 

Background

A copy of the Draft 2016/2017 Annual Budget will be provided to Councillors prior to the meeting for review prior to considering the budget for adoption at the July ordinary meeting or a special meeting in July 2016.

Comment

Council will be required to review the Draft Budget and offer recommendations prior to its finalisation.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995, Section 6.2 – Local Government to prepare an annual budget.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this item.

Financial Implications

Budget of financial income and expenditure for 2016/2017 financial year.

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council review the Draft 2016/2017 Annual Budget prior to considering the budget for adoption in July.

Resolution

09-06/16 Moved Cr Jefferys, seconded Cr Corsini that:

- 1 Council reviews the Draft 2016/2017 Annual Budget prior to considering the budget for adoption in July.**
- 2 Council approves the amendments made to the Plant Replacement Program and adopts the amended 2016/2017 version.**

Carried 6/0

8.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY SERVICE

NIL

8.3 WORKS AND SERVICE

Nil

8.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

NIL


8 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

9 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING

10-06/16 Moved Cr Geier, seconded Cr Corsini that Council accepts two items of late business.

Carried 6/0

9.1.1 Wheatbelt Freight Plan – Regional RAV Routes

File Reference		
Date of Report	10 th June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	Nil	
Reporting Officer	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Signatures	Officer	CEO 

Background

In late 2014 Wheatbelt South Regional Road Group (WBS RRG) requested WALGA to facilitate a workshop to discuss and identify ways to address a number of cross-Shire Border RAV access issues with the aim of creating a clearer continuous freight network in the Wheatbelt. This was also replicated in the North (WBN RRG).

At these workshops, sub-groups marked up maps indicating issues with the current freight network and identifying aspirational freight routes for the future.

WALGA compiled the data gathered at these workshops and it was passed onto Main Roads Wheatbelt in February 2016.

Comment

It has been agreed to proceed with three workstreams;

Workstream 1 – RAV Assessment Backlog

The Main Roads Wheatbelt structure has sufficient officers trained in RAV assessments to assist HVS in dealing with new enquiries, but there is a significant backlog of RAV assessments that needs to be addressed. HVS is also seeking to secure additional resources to clear the backlog of RAV assessments.

Workstream 2 – The Final Mile

Wheatbelt farmers are likely to continue to utilise larger truck configurations in the future to take produce from paddock to grain bin or port or abattoir. Given that not all Local Government roads are on the RAV network a mechanism by which farmers can legally transport produce from paddock to the approved RAV network needs to be determined.

HVS will work with WALGA to identify options for the last mile access.

Workstream 3 – Plan for secondary Road Freight Network in the Wheatbelt

When the RAV system was created individual Shires took different approaches to which roads/routes should be on each RAV network. This has resulted in discontinuous RAV routes across Shire boundaries and a complex RAV network for freight companies to negotiate.

Given that Workstream 2 will identify a way to enable produce to be brought to the RAV network it is necessary for Local Government to identify and agree on which Local Government roads should

be the main collector roads to bring freight traffic to the Main Roads network and what RAV rating those collector roads should be.

These collector roads would be open for use by all suitable RAV vehicles without permit with Workstream 2 providing the method by which RAV vehicles could get from paddock to the collector road.

In order to progress Workstream 3 we now need Shires to confirm which routes in each sub-group are to be regarded as collector roads/routes and to address any of the clashes identified in the Main Roads comments.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council has no policies in relation to this matter.

Financial Implications

Nil, to this point.

Funding may be available in the future for these routes/roads.

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council identifies the following roads as collector roads within its network and to have a RAV 7 rating:

Echo Valley Road;

Warrachuppin North Road;

George Road;

Carrabin South Road.

Resolution

11-06/16 Moved Cr Huxtable, seconded Cr Corsini that Council identifies the following roads as collector roads within its network and to have a RAV 7 rating:

Echo Valley Road;


Warrachuppin North Road;

George Road;

Carrabin South Road.

Carried 5/1

9.1.2 Leach Road – Speed zones approaching Westonia Townsite

File Reference		
Date of Report	10th June 2016	
Disclosure of Interest	Nil	
Reporting Officer	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Signatures	Officer	CEO 

Background

A request has been made as to what the speed zone is approaching the Westonia townsite via Leach Road as there appears to be no speed restriction on Leach Road past the rubbish tip, heading to town. It would appear that an eighty kilometer (80km) speed restriction should be in place, advising motorists that speed restrictions do apply ahead.

The approaching “T” junction (Westonia/Carrabin Road) is currently an eighty kilometer (80km) speed zone.

Comment

To formally change the speed zone, a request must first come from the local government to Main Roads, who will assess the section of road and advise if the new restriction can be put in place.

Statutory Environment

Traffic Act

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Possible cost of signage

Voting Requirement

Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council correspond to Main Roads Wheatbelt to have the eastern 500 meter section of Leach Road (Leach Road/Westonia-Carrabin Road) assessed in order to have the speed zone changed to an eighty kilometer (80km) speed restriction in place.

Resolution

12-06/16 Moved Cr Hermon, seconded Cr Huxtable that Council correspond to Main Roads Wheatbelt to have the eastern 500 meter section of Leach Road (intersection of Leach Road/Westonia-Carrabin Road) assessed in order to have the speed zone changed to an eighty kilometer (80km) speed restriction.

Carried 6/0

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 21st July, 2016 commencing at 3.30pm

11 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the President, Cr Day declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm