

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE 34 LYLE STREET  
WARRACKNABEAL AT 9.30AM

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**1 WELCOME**

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay our respect to both past and present elders.

**3 PRAYER**

*Almighty God, without whom no Council can stand nor anything prosper we ask that you be present and guide us in our deliberations today. We pray that we will be fair in our judgements and wise in our actions and that decisions will be made with goodwill and a clear conscience for the betterment and welfare of the people of Yarriambiack Shire.*

*Amen*

**4 PRESENT**

Crs J Kemfert, A McLean, J Wise, H Ballentine, G Lovel, R Kingston, K Zanker, Ray Campling (Chief Executive Officer), James Magee (Director Infrastructure & Planning)

**5 APOLOGIES**

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 10 August 2011

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr K Zanker the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 10 August 2011 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

Closed Session – 10 August 2011

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr H Ballentine the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of Council held on 10 August 2011 be confirmed.**

**Carried**

## **7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Cr J Wise declared a declaration of Conflict of Interest in regards to Report for Decision No 11.11**

## **8 BUSINESS ARISING**

**8.1 Action List from Last Meeting**

**8.2 Ongoing and Pending Action List**

## **9 PETITIONS**

## **10 REPORTS**

### **Corporate Reports**

- 10.1 Mayor's Report
- 10.2 Councillor/Delegate Reports
- 10.3 Chief Executive Officer – Activity Report
- 10.4 Director Infrastructure & Planning Report
- 10.5 Works Report
- 10.6 Community Services Report
- 10.7 Infrastructure Services Report
- 10.8 Community Development / Community Projects

## **11 REPORTS FOR DECISION**

- 11.1 Finance Report (*tabled*)
- 11.2 Revenue Report (*tabled*)
- 11.3 Capital Works Programs for Footpaths, Roads and Streets
- 11.4 Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
- 11.5 Victorian Local Government Women's Charter
- 11.6 Review of Victorian Planning System
- 11.7 Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project (*tabled*)
- 11.8 Warracknabeal Operations Depot – Lease Agreement
- 11.9 Rates and Charges Hardship Policy (*tabled*)
- 11.10 Annual Report – Financial Statements 2011/2012
- 11.11 Celebrating Young People Youth Grants / Round 10

**10.1 Mayor's Report – prepared by Cr John Kemfert**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 14 August    | Participated in the tour to Minyip, Rupanyup and Murtoa to promote tourism   |
| 16 August    | Attended Community Engagement Dinner at Murtoa   |
| 23 August    | Alliance of Councils for Rail Freight Development Meeting in Melbourne   |
| 25 August    | Attended the Wimmera Mallee Zone Rally hosted by the Warracknabeal Lutheran Ladies Guild. I was given the opportunity to welcome guests on the day and to highlight the benefits of Warracknabeal and our district |
| 25 August    | Attended the Opening of the Lubeck Pump Station  |
| 26 August    | Attended the 'Wimmera Regional Branding Project' at Horsham, launched by the Hon Hugh Delahunty  |
| 26 August    | Attended 'Mayoral Get Together' at Horsham RSL, hosted by the Buloke Shire   |
| 2 September  | Attended the Great Australian Vanilla Slice Triumph 2011 in Ouyen  |
| 12 September | Attended Community Engagement Dinner at Rupanyup   |

**10.2 Councillor's Reports****Cr A McLean**

- 10 August            Attended the Hopetoun Community Consultation Meeting
- 16 August            Attended the Murtoa Community Consultation Meeting
- 19 August            Attended the Northern West Municipalities Association in Nhill
- MAV CEO, Rob Spencer, spoke about the review of the Fire Levies. MAV are continuing to work on this, it is a very complex model and more than likely to be collected by Councils
- 9 September        Chaired the AGM of the Speed Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

**Cr K Zanker**

- 15 August            Wimmera Volunteers - Interviewing for Front Reception Position
- 15 August            Wimmera Volunteers Board Meeting
- 16 August            Murtoa Community Consultation Meeting
- 19 August            Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Meeting
- 23 August            Regional Leadership Journey facilitated by Women and Leadership Australia. A workshop focusing upon operating within an ethical and values driven framework, strategies for effective and ethical decision making and building resilience. The key focus within this criteria was the focus of positive and effective communication skills and the leadership journey
- 24 August            Council Forum
- 26 August            Wimmera Regional Branding Project 'The Wimmera – Everything You Need'
- 30 August            Wimmera Volunteers Meeting
- 30 August            Yarriambiack Shire Council Internal Audit Committee Meeting
- 1 September        Wimmera Volunteers Board Meeting
- 1 September        Official Opening of the Flood Lights at Anzac Park
- 2 September        Official Launch of the Health and Wellbeing Program for Older People
- 13 September      Attended Human Rights Workshop (VLGA)

**Cr G Lovel**

10 August	Attended Community Engagement Dinner at Hopetoun
16 August	Attended Community Engagement Dinner at Murtoa
17 August	Attended Grampians Regional Waste Management Group Meeting in Horsham. Annual meeting held prior to normal meeting
19 August	Wallup Recreation Reserve Committee – election of new committee
24 August	Council Forum
30 August	Shire Internal Audit Committee Meeting
1 September	Wimmera Freight Hub at Ballarat
6 September	Yarriambiack Creek Development Committee Annual Meeting

**Cr J Wise**

12 August	Western Highway Action Committee - Beaufort
18 August	Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) fund raising luncheon at Parliament House
24 August	ALGWA Executive Meeting – MAV Office
26 August	Launch of the Wimmera Branding 'The Wimmera – Everything You Need'. Website – <a href="http://www.thewimmera.com.au">www.thewimmera.com.au</a>
29 August	Yarriambiack Chaplaincy Committee Meeting - Beulah
1 September	Meet with David Rules, RSO, in regards to future meetings etc. (Local Roadside Wimmera). Attended footy training and dinner held to recognise the support provided by the Yarriambiack Shire Council, Bendigo Bank and Grain Corp for the lighting towers at Anzac Park
12 September	Rupanyup Community Consultation Meeting
13 September	Attended Yarriambiack Heritage Study Meeting
13 September	Wimmera Development Association Meeting

**Cr R Kingston**

- 14 August Yarriambiack Shire Tourism Association Dunmunkle Tour (very positive day). Great to get outside impressions of our local tourism assets, also valuable to get a better handle on what is on offer in our neighbouring towns
- 25-26 August Attended the Livestock Saleyard Association of Victoria Conference in Horsham, it was a very positive conference and well attended. Many challenges and opportunities for industry and individual yards in near future. Great to have this event hosted in the region
- 26 August Launch of brand project for the Wimmera -The Wimmera - Everything You Need  
Looking forward to proudly promoting our region
- 25 August Attended the Opening of the Lubeck Pump Station
- 12 September Rupanyup Community Consultation
- 12 September Attended Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Reliance Meeting

**Cr H Ballentine**

- 14 August Our Yarriambiack Tourism Committee (which I Chair) launched our Sunday Drive visits around our Shire. We were made very welcome at Minyip, Rupanyup and Murtoa. We thank the caterers in all towns with a most exceptional thank you for the morning tea at the Club Hotel Minyip, lunch at the Rupanyup Community Centre (homemade soup, sausage rolls and lemon syrup cake) and afternoon tea at the Murtoa Hall. The concept was to test our towns via a visit, to evaluate how they can cope with tourists and to see how best they can present themselves.

These towns presented very well and visitors (about 40) felt as if they were on holidays. The evaluation of each other's towns will continue with the next trip somewhere to the north, those interested in joining us need to let Terry Sanders or myself know. Our Committee members from each town usually inform their own communities of what is happening and are part of our email tree.

**Minyip** the home of the TV series "Flying Doctors", has a magnificent heritage Lutheran Church, along with many other walks of interest and great camping facilities rating them highly with the RV Friendly Club.

**Rupanyup** has a great historical museum donated to the community by the Woods Brothers, picnic and camping areas, walking track and certainly could manage conferences in their new Community Centre.

**Murtoa** also has many things to offer the Sunday tourist, such as a visit to the Stick Shed (when it is officially opened). This shed is the only one in the World; which is why it is considered special by Heritage Victoria.

Dunmunkle Sump-Oilers were unavailable, but the pumps they service in the old ice-works are amazing and the water tower with the bird collection is also unique and very special. Lake Marma is also looking very attractive with plenty of picnic areas.

Overall, I would encourage regional groups to organise a Sunday drive to these towns, contact details are available. It can be fun by bus or in a convoy.

16 August            Opened the Spring Conference of the 'Central Wimmera Country Women's Association' at the Senior Citizens Building in Hopetoun - I remained for the lunch and a full afternoon of entertainment

16 August            Attended the Beulah Pioneering Historical Learning Group Meeting and found they have gained a Local History Grant for their reproduced history book on Beulah's past. They will be having a market stall in September to raise funds for the group.

17 August            Chaired the Municipal Emergency Management Meeting in Warracknabeal. It was brought to our attention that the Henty Highway is causing the Ambulance service some serious concerns as they cannot drive fast on the rough surface.

The public need to know that if they see an emergency vehicle such as an Ambulance with lights flashing but going slow, it still indicates that it is an emergency. In some cases a reduction in speed is necessary depending on the medical emergency of the patient involved.

The other issue to arise was the high priority need for a four wheel drive ambulance, as our Ambulance service has had experiences of being bogged and not being able to reach patients on our back roads. A four wheel drive could be shared with Hindmarsh Shire.

Both issues were Moved - requiring a letter to Government, as we must treat this as a matter of urgency.

As 'Chair' I have refrained from publicity over this matter until it comes to a Council meeting as I want all to be aware of the need. It is absolutely ludicrous in my opinion that Ambulances needing to go as fast as possible are going slow due to the state of the roads. Might I also say that an efficient Ambulance service was provided in the early 1900's by 'RAILING' patients to Warracknabeal or in the far north of our Shire to St Arnaud via the Mildura line. Should this be considered NOW?

24 August            Council Forum

24 August                      Wish to remind people that Credit Card Fraud is still happening in the Wimmera, with my card being used in the USA. As you can see from my report, I have not been to the USA recently, nor shopped on line

26 August                      My meeting in Melbourne with the Municipal Association of Victoria was cancelled.

I have been part of a trial in testing my recognition of prior learning for Diploma level courses in business that may gain me employment some where, but may also reveal that joining Council for community service reasons can also build your business skills. Being a Shire Councillor is not just about being a helper or link-person for your community, but may mean you can become better skilled in your profession due to the training that is available via the Municipal Association of Victoria and the everyday experience of attending Council meetings and public meetings (planning and learning legislation could be useful elsewhere).

It would be hoped that employers could see it as a way of enhancing the skills of their staff and less as a time commitment that is simply provided by community minded people or people who have the TIME.

As an interested member of a committee involved in professional development, I ask if we need to revamp the image of being on Council as a place where you can gain evidence of your skills for a wide variety of qualifications. I am happy to expand upon this theory as I have certainly grown and learnt more than I ever thought was possible. I can give evidence for project work, management, financial, media, sign-writing design, planning, applying for funding, advocating and maybe if I was interested in road construction I may have learnt more in that area.

I believe that anyone who says they are only a Councillor to ensure the voice of their community is heard and to make decisions are depriving themselves of recognising their enhanced and developed skills since being on Council. I know that every year my knowledge of Water, Emergency Management and Tourism grows as I participate in some of these roles. In some respect I believe Councillors have held back on what they know because others get paid to do that role. As long as we use our skills appropriately this shouldn't be an issue



**10.3 Chief Executive Officer – Activity Report – Prepared by Ray Campling**

- Attended the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan Project Steering Committee Meeting in Horsham
- Attended Hopetoun Community Engagement Visit
- Attended Yarriambiack Tourism Meeting
- Attended Grampians Regional Management Forum in Horsham
- Attended Rural Council Victoria Executive Meeting in Melbourne
- Met with Michelle Dryburgh (Wimmera Mail Times) – working in Local Government
- Met with Dean Miller, Hindmarsh Shire CEO – Submission
- Attended Murtoa Community Engagement Visit
- Attended bi-monthly OH&S Meeting
- Attended Gateway BEET in Hopetoun
- Met with Peter Brown, Horsham Rural City Council CEO – Wimmera CEO's Group
- Met with several University of Ballarat students – Local Government – the Rural Sector
- Met with David Hutchings – Internal Audit
- Met with Justine Linley, Northern Grampians CEO – general
- Met with Gavin Mahoney – MAV
- Attended ENRAC Parliamentary Enquiry in Horsham
- Met with Marc Amos – Regional Development Victoria, Horsham
- Met with Keith Jackson – Grampians Regional Management Forum
- Attended North Western Municipalities Association Meeting with Mayor, John Kemfert and Cr Andrew McLean in Nhill
- Met with Peter Rademaker – SHARE Program
- Attended Wimmera Branding Launch in Horsham
- Attended Council's Internal Audit Committee Meeting
- Attended Victorian Farmers Federation AGM in Warracknabeal
- Attended the Tour of Sunraysia through Ouyen and Patchewollock
- Attended the Final – 'The Great Australian Vanilla Slice Triumph' in Ouyen
- Attended Wimmera Development Association Meeting with Cr Wise

## **10.4 Director Infrastructure & Planning Report – Prepared by James Magee**

### **Flood Focus Group**

A second round of meetings has been completed at Murtoa, Rupanyup and Warracknabeal.

Drainage and flood protection works which have been completed were reported to the meetings. The Flood Focus Groups have also provided some additional suggestions to Council for further improvements. Some of these additional works have been completed and others have been included in forward planning.

### **Iluka Update – Hopetoun**

A concrete retainer wall and 60x40m slab has been completed at the loading site.

Planning approval for a 60x20m shed has been given with works to commence soon.

Intersection realignment at the intersection of Henty Highway and Campbell Street is near complete (works by Bitu-Mill), while the Campbell Street widening is progressing well and should be completed late September.

### **Assets**

- Continue developing 2011-2012 Capital Works Program
- Develop the 2010-11 Valuation Summary Report for Finance Department

### **OH&S - Risk Management**

- Assist with the implementation of the OH&S Action Plan with Collin Supple, OH&S Consultant
- Develop a new draft OH&S structure and OH&S Committee structure for the Yarriambiack Shire Council

### **DESIGN**

#### **Council Works**

Surveys, Design and Plans for Council's Capital Works Program (2011/12 Program) –

- Set out pegging for reconstruction and sealing of the Watchem Warracknabeal Road (1,100m) and Lascelles West Road (2500m)
- Update surveys and design for completion of McDonald Street and sealing of Haby Lane Murtoa
- Survey set out for repair works on a section of kerbing, drainage and pavement in Devereux Street Warracknabeal
- Design and Plans for reconstruction for an 1,100m section of Dimboola Minyip Road

**Other Projects**

- Murtoa township south side bypass drain – continue progress toward completion of this project. Wet conditions and access have held up works. The latest works underway; being the open drain section west to the discharge dam on Racecourse Road: Culvert pipes including a box culvert access crossing over the main drain and plans for the weir gate control structure
- Flood control works at the Brim Lake and on the Brim West Road. A contract work group is planned to construct a number of overflow sill banks, install a large pipe culvert, and a road flood invert in the Brim West Road
- A final design option has been developed for a flood control structure to safe guard the Beulah area during major flood events. Upgrade works at the Beulah outlet weir on Lunar Park Road includes a large road floodway, construction of overflow sill banks and associated earthworks designed to provide a large discharge capability in major creek floods
- Continue investigations for flood control works in Warracknabeal

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Inspected Yarriambiack Creek regulator and stick rake re: possible removal
- Attended Mallee Field Days
- Attended Yarriambiack Creek Advisory Committee Meeting
- Organised and carried out Yarrilinks Tree Planting Weekend
- Teleconference re: Solar in Schools Initiatives
- Inspected Torpey's Road re: rabbit infestation after call from Department of Primary Industries
- Street tree inspection, Murtoa
- Attended Wimmera Invasive Plant Animal Strategy Meeting in Horsham
- Organise quotes for solar installation on stadium for Sustainability Accord Grant
- Attended Council Forum re: Solar Initiatives

**TECHNICAL SERVICES**

- Assist Design Engineer with surveys as required
- Process various Civica Requests as needed
- Organise NOTAM for Drag Club to hold their next meeting at the Aerodrome on 18 September
- Attend Channel Decommissioning Meeting at Lubeck Hall on 10 August
- Travel to Yaapeet / Albacutya to inspect and list signage requirements for approach roads to rail crossings
- Issue Road Opening Permits for culvert removal and driveway entrance within nominated road reserves
- Carry out complete stock-take of approach road signage at Mechanics Depot. List as required and move all signage to main depot for storage
- Attend OH&S Committee Meeting
- Attend Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Meeting
- Attend Technical Services Department Meeting
- Update plant and vehicle checklists to include various vehicle change-over as required

**SALEYARDS**

- Organise removal and replacement of surface in holding yards due to wet conditions and animal waste
- Attended Warracknabeal Regional Livestock Exchange Committee Meeting
- Organise for the annual advertisement to appear in Stock & Land relating to the Warracknabeal Regional Livestock Exchange
- Met with Phil Zanker to discuss lighting and timer switch issues and solar lighting as possible replacements
- Attend Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria Annual Conference in Horsham on 25 & 26 August

**Technical Support**

- With the assistance of Design Engineer drew up contour plan for the new Hopetoun Depot
- Continued work with the Hopetoun Depot
- Produced maps for internal staff
- Weekly updates of the Vehicle Register
- Compared data from Asset Asyst on Footpaths to our own, for future implementation of the program
- Analysed and sorted Road Inspection Reports
- Entered road inspections into the Asset Asyst Program
- Entered data on recent seals conducted by Inroads into Asset Asyst
- Entered data on recent gravel re-sheets by Yarriambiack Shire Council into Asset Asyst
- Entered data into Asset Asyst to produce the new Gravel Re-sheet Program
- Entered data into Asset Asyst to produce the new Reseal Program
- Formed a new procedure for changes to traffic control devices in accordance with VicRoads standards

**BUILDING & PLANNING ACTIVITY**

In **August 2011** following permits were issued:

**Building:** 5 Building Permits were issued in **August 2011**

Total Value of Building Work: **\$618,300**

**Rupanyup** – Garage

**Beulah** – Demolition

**Murtoa** – Demolition

**Warracknabeal** – Slab and Frame – Werrigar Roadhouse

**Hopetoun** – Dwelling

6 applications were submitted in **August 2011**

**Planning:** 5 Planning Permits were issued in **August 2011**

**App No:** TP23-11  
**Applicant:** Zeb Chivell  
**Address of Land:** 12 Luna Park Road, Beulah  
**Proposal:** Construction of a Dwelling  
**Date Issued:** **02/08/2011**

**App No:** TP29-11  
**Applicant:** Graeme Puckle  
**Address of Land:** 2124 Hopetoun-Rainbow Road, Hopetoun  
**Proposal:** The land to be used and developed for a second Dwelling  
**Date Issued:** **02/08/2011**

**App No:** T31-11  
**Applicant:** Daryl Holland  
**Address of Land:** 22-24 Kelsall Street, Warracknabeal  
**Proposal:** The land to be used for a vehicle store and store (storage of empty chemical containers) and developed by earthworks, levelling and filling of the land with 100-150 mm of gravel and the construction of two entranceways  
**Date Issued:** **24/08/2011**

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**App No:** T37-11  
**Applicant:** Graeme Koschitzke  
**Address of Land:** CA 109 Vollprecht Road Bangerang  
**Proposal:** The land to be developed by the removal of Native Vegetation and development of an offset and associated earthworks  
**Date Issued:** **24/08/2011**

**App No:** T52-10  
**Applicant:** Tim Conway  
**Address of Land:** 45-47 Mandeville St, Hopetoun  
**Proposal:** The use of the land for a warehouse (storage of gypsum, gravel, stone and wood chips and vehicles) and to develop the land by the erection of a shed, dam, storage bays and associated earthworks and car parking  
**Date Issued:** **24/08/2011**

11 applications were submitted in **August 2011**

**10.5 Works Report – Prepared by Peter Jess****Capital Works Program – Roads and Streets 2011-2012**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
Anderson Street Warracknabeal (\$23,221)				Road Reconstruction
Campbell Street Hopetoun (\$146,296)	40%			Road Reconstruction
Campbell Street / Hopetoun West Intersection Hopetoun (\$130,328)	40%			Road Reconstruction
Campbell Street / Lascelles Street – Henty Highway Intersection Hopetoun (\$149,176)				Road Reconstruction
Degenhardt Street Murtoa (\$10,048)		Nov 2011		Road Reconstruction
Dingwell Street Beulah (\$14,067)				Road Reconstruction
Dingwell Street Beulah (\$5,024)				Road Reconstruction
Dettmann Lane Woomelang (\$12,727)				Road Reconstruction
Church Street Wommelang (\$58,053)				Road Reconstruction
Haby Lane Murtoa (\$9,143)		Nov 2011		Road Reconstruction
Stewart Street Rupanyup (\$46,883)				Road Reconstruction

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<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Hopetoun Reservoir Lane 7 (\$60,844)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Luna Park Beulah (\$33,492)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Brock Street Woomelang (\$18,000)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Brock Street Woomelang (\$12,560)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Clifford Street Warracknabeal (\$24,000)</b>		<b>Sept 2011</b>		<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Clifford Street Warracknabeal (\$29,473)</b>		<b>Sept 2011</b>		<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Clifford Street Warracknabeal (\$24,000)</b>		<b>Sept 2011</b>		<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>McLeod Street Minyip (\$19,650)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>McLeod Street Minyip (\$14,625)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>South Street Minyip (\$11,850)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>South Street Minyip (\$8,820)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Breen Street Murtoa (\$74,927)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>
<b>Breen Street Murtoa (\$9,196)</b>				<b>Kerb &amp; Channel</b>



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<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Anderson Street Warracknabeal (\$21,300)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Luna Park Beulah (\$50,000)</b>				<b>Bridges &amp; Culverts</b>
<b>Brim West (\$11,000)</b>				<b>Bridges &amp; Culverts</b>
<b>Devereux Street Warracknabeal (\$6,275)</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Aug 2011</b>		<b>Drainage</b>
<b>Devereux Street Warracknabeal (\$3,143)</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Aug 2011</b>		<b>Drainage</b>
<b>Devereux Street Warracknabeal (\$5,582)</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>Aug 2011</b>		<b>Drainage</b>
<b>Gardiner Street Warracknabeal (\$25,000)</b>				<b>Drainage</b>
<b>Gardiner Street Warracknabeal (\$20,000)</b>				<b>Drainage</b>
<b>Woomelang Tip (\$72,566)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Dumboy Warracknabeal (\$40,000)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Dimboola/Minyip Road (\$443,808)</b>		<b>May 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Rainbow Yaapect Road (\$487,417)</b>		<b>April 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Rupanyup (\$17,851)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Brim East (\$48,700)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Burrum North (\$247,913)</b>		<b>Nov 2011</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>

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<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Lascelles West (\$264,615)</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Jan 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Lascelles West (\$64,579)</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Jan 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Lascelles West (\$43,052)</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Jan 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Lascelles West (\$21,526)</b>		<b>Jan 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Watchem/ Warracknabeal (\$115,507)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26.8.2011</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Galaquil West (\$228,629)</b>		<b>March 2012</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Sheep Hills/Minyip (\$113,492)</b>		<b>Sept 2011</b>		<b>Road Reconstruction</b>
<b>Ashen Jacksons (\$155,409)</b>				<b>Road Reconstruction</b>

**Footpath Program 2011/2012**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Gladstone Street Beulah (\$5,828)</b>				
<b>Garrard Street Hopetoun (\$14,295)</b>				
<b>Toole Street Hopetoun (\$714)</b>				
<b>Church Street Murtoa (\$11,490)</b>				
<b>Market Street Minyip (\$5,065)</b>				
<b>Mill Street Minyip (\$2,037)</b>				
<b>Duncan Street Murtoa (\$4,838)</b>				
<b>Hamilton Street Murtoa (\$4,082)</b>				
<b>Hamilton Street Murtoa (\$4,208)</b>				
<b>Hamilton Street Murtoa (\$6,728)</b>				
<b>Lake Street Murtoa (\$7,512)</b>				
<b>Miller Street Murtoa (\$2,541)</b>				
<b>Cromie Street Rupanyup (\$2,493)</b>				
<b>Chamberlain Street Rupanyup (\$8,368)</b>				

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MINUTES

14 SEPTEMBER 2011

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>% COMPLETE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Chamberlain Street Speed (\$7,322)</b>				
<b>Alamein Avenue Warracknabeal (\$13,008)</b>				
<b>Jamouneau Street Warracknabeal (\$5,203)</b>				
<b>Kododa Avenue Warracknabeal (\$16,259)</b>				
<b>Kokoda Avenue Warracknabeal (\$2,385)</b>				
<b>Kododa Avenue Warracknabeal (\$16,151)</b>				
<b>Kokoda Avenue Warracknabeal (\$15,826)</b>				
<b>Kokoda Avenue Warracknabeal (\$14,959)</b>				
<b>Milbourne Street Warracknabeal (\$14,091)</b>				
<b>Woolcock Street Warracknabeal (\$10,948)</b>				
<b>Various (\$10,000)</b>				
<b>Various (\$10,000)</b>				

**Gravel Re-sheet Works**

Completed Gravel Re-sheet Works      0km

Total Gravel Re-sheet Works            0 km

Reseal Preparation (Stabilising) and aggregate carting (Local Roads)

Tree Lopping – Storm Damage Works continuing

Flood Damage Works

Re-sheet patching on six gravel roads

## **10.6 Community Services – Prepared by Gavin Blinman**

### **Kindergartens**

The Wimmera Early Years Transport Support project has now been finalized. The three Councils, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack should adopt the project report this month. We will then write to Wendy Lovell, Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development and invite her to attend a reception in Warracknabeal in late November to be presented with the Report for Discussion.

I have met with the Woomelang community to discuss the future of their Early Years Service and we will work with them to ensure an outcome that is affordable and suitable to the community.

Enrolments for Murtoa and Warracknabeal are looking great for 2012, numbers are yet to be finalized and we will report on this next month.

### **Aged and Disability**

There has been an increase in referrals for the Home Safety Link Program with many elderly now feeling the need to have that emergency link to an immediate response service.

Referrals from Health Services discharging clients needing personal care has increased recently, creating some issues for us with limited staffing available.

We have been approached by Rural Northwest Health to share staffing resources and consideration is being given to this proposal, however we are also keen to try and recruit staff that have been Shire employees, so that we know who we have for support services.

Seniors Week concert is on 28 September with a 10.30am concert and picnic at 12 noon.

With this date and time change, we now have more seniors expected.

### **Environmental Health / Local Laws**

Several food premises have been inspected this month, following major non-compliance at one of these outlets, Council is carrying out further investigations.

Another complaint relating to children at a workplace has been resolved.

Hairdressing premises were also inspected and minor issues of non-compliance dealt with on site.

A long term wastewater issue in Beulah was resolved this month, with Council and the landowner carrying out plumbing works (owner will pay for).

Discussion with an aged care facility has been carried out to prevent the discharge of grey water into a residential street, the aged care facility maintenance staff will carry out repairs.

### **Youth**

Kitty and Chris have continued to support youth with a range of issues this month, 29 clients attended a 'Nexus' event in Horsham with support from Kitty.

The opening of the Skate Park in Hopetoun is being planned for October and Chris is involved with this.

Chris is looking at a number of initiatives to support disengaged youth and youth with anger issues.

Other agencies are being canvassed about their involvement.

### **Emergency Relief**

Lisa has attended a number of regional and local meetings in relation to flood support and recovery.

She is currently working on outreach visits to all primary producers and businesses affected by the flood or rain event. She is assisting them with the completion of Rural Finance Grant Applications (the closing date for these applications has now been extended to 31 December 2011).

Many are also being referred for financial counselling in Horsham to clarify what they can claim for.

We have continued to support other emergency relief clients this month – with 10 people being provided assistance (some of whom are new to the district).

### **Volunteer Transport**

This month we supported 16 clients to travel to Ballarat, Horsham and Ararat for specialist appointments, a total of 4,872 kilometres.

We should recognize our Meals on Wheels volunteers this month, as on 31 August it was 'National Meals on Wheels Day'. Our 71 volunteers across the Shire spent around 2,080 hours in the last 12 months providing this service.

A letter from Council to thank our Meals on Wheels volunteers would be appropriate.

Uniforms for all transport volunteers are in, so the transport volunteers feel part of the Shire team. ID tags are in the process of being organized.

### **Maternal and Child Health**

The nurses have reviewed the Service Improvement Plans for the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD). These plans look at service areas across our Shire that are opportunities for new ways of providing our service.

Staff have usually sent out consumer surveys and talked with families before we set our goals each year.

A women's health nurse visiting our clinics to talk with mothers groups and attending play group sessions will be a new initiative this year.

Our nurses will also look at a Policy & Procedures Manual to comply with new standards in M&CH.

**Moved Cr K Zanker seconded Cr A McLean that Council write letter to thank our Meals on Wheels volunteers for their services.**

**Carried**

## **SHARE Program – (Sustainable Healthy Adaptable Resilient Engaged)**

### **Lake Marma Committee of Management – Public Meeting**

Yarriambiack Shire Council has officially been revoked as Committee of Management in favour of Lake Marma Public Park & Gardens Reserve Committee of Management as requested. Council will remain as Committee of Management over the Murtoa Caravan Park area only.

### **SHARE Community Grants**

The SHARE Community Grants opened on 26 August 2011 with applications closing on 30 September 2011. Eligible projects may include small equipment, events, projects that encourage shared facilities and equipment and projects that encourage visitors and tourism to the region. Projects that are not eligible include retrospective funding, prizes, raffles, wages, insurance and ongoing maintenance or running costs. There will be two funding rounds in this financial year with a total of \$25,000 available in this round. The maximum amount per application/organisation is \$5000.

### **Caravan Parks**

The development of Emergency Management Plans for the Hopetoun, Murtoa and Warracknabeal Caravan Parks is well underway. The Emergency Management Plans are a requirement of the Residential Tenancies Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2010.

### **Woomelang Historical Society**

The Woomelang Historical Society is planning to re-establish as a functioning group after being in recess for a number of years. The group is proposing to utilise the old post office building.

### **Meetings Attended:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
3 August	Minyip Community Council Visitation
4 August	Hopetoun Skate Park Meeting
10 August	Hopetoun Community Council Visitation
10 August	Hopetoun Progress Association
16 August	Murtoa Community Council Visitation
19 August	Woomelang Historical Society
24 August	Woomelang & District Development Association
26 August	Minyip SHARE
31 August	Lake Marma Committee of Management



## **10.7 Infrastructure Services Manager – Prepared by Bernie Naylor**

### **Events Waste & Recycling Trailer**

Yarriambiack Shire Council has been advised that it has been successful in receiving funding to purchase a Waste & Recycling Trailer for community events.

It will be a tandem trailer with 15 recycling & waste bins on it, together with information and signage regarding the disposal of waste and recyclable materials.

Once constructed and fitted out, the trailer will be available for community groups to use at events throughout the municipality.

### **Tar Drums**

As advised at the previous Council meeting, we have approx 120 old tar drums that have product in them that have not been used for about 15 to 20 years and are currently taking up valuable space in our depots. These drums have been identified as a hazard through the OH&S audits recently undertaken at our works depots.

These drums of tar have now been collected and recycled.

### **1. Contract C167/2011 Tipping Truck**

Council re-tendered for the supply and delivery of one tipping truck using Council's own procurement process on 13 August 2011 with tenders closing on Monday 29 August 2011.

Council received 13 tenders which will be evaluated in Council's Closed Session.

### **2. Swimming Pool Funding**

The following information details the annual allocations to the swimming pools throughout our municipality for the 2010/2011 financial.

Beulah	\$10,366	Rupanyup	\$ 9,923
Hopetoun	\$16,291	Tempy	\$ 3,696
Minyip	\$11,909	Warracknabeal	\$39,541
Murtoa	\$17,486	Woomelang	\$10,027

In addition to these grants Council has allocated an amount of \$3,000 per pool to assist in the payment of lifeguards.

These grants represent a 5% increase on the previous year providing a total of \$143,238 for the Swimming Pool committees.

### **3. Litter Enforcement Officer**

The Grampians Regional Waste Management Group has been successful in obtaining funding to employ a Regional Litter Enforcement Officer for the four municipalities being Ararat, Northern Grampians, Horsham and Yarriambiack.

The funding of \$108,000 per annum is for two years.

The Group will develop the Position Description and then advertise the position.

### **4. Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme**

The Regional Waste Management Group has received advice that the regional landfills will fall under the carbon tax scheme.

This could effect the disposal costs to Council for waste by up to \$28 - \$30 per tonne for municipal waste delivered to the regional landfill.

### **5. Lubeck Drainage and Channel Interaction**

GWM Water have been undertaking discussions with both Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack Shire Councils together with landowners in the Lubeck and Wal Wal areas to identify drainage concerns.

The following points have been raised as issues through these discussions:-

- Lubeck Pump Station
- Lubeck Channel
- Operation of the Rocklands/Lubeck Channel
- Dunmunkle Creek
- Bismark-Lubeck Road Drainage
- Main Central Channel
- Main Eastern Channel

GWM Water provided some proposals to the relevant groups for feed back, which has been reasonably positive.

In addition to this, GWM Water is also applying for funding to develop a Regional Drainage Strategy for this area of which Council has provided a letter of support.

## **10.8 Economic & Community Development Report – Prepared by Terry Sanders**

### **Meetings Attended**

11/08/2011 – Yarriambiack Tourism Association  
14/08/2011 – Tourism Association Dunmunkle Tour  
16/08/2011 – Murtoa Community Meeting  
30/08/2011 – Economic Development Forum, Horsham  
12/09/2011 – Rupanyup Community Meeting  
13/09/2011 – Regional Development Victoria – Yarriambiack Priority Projects

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Warracknabeal Industrial Estate**

As reported last month, we plan to proceed with the subdivision of Lot 3 into three smaller blocks and have applied to Regional Development Victoria to use the unused portion of the original grant to cover at least some of the additional costs.

#### **Housing Development**

As discussed at the Council Forum, we have initiated the preliminary discussions with the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) regarding the possible rezoning and subdivision of Council owned land.

#### **Woomelang Travellers Rest**

The discovery of the underground fuel tanks on the property has become the proverbial “fly in the ointment”.

It seems almost impossible to get a straight answer from the EPA regarding the procedures required for site rehabilitation, if deemed necessary.

We are still trying.

#### **Wimmera Southern Mallee Economic Development Forum**

Co-ordinated by the Wimmera Development Association, this Forum involved the Economic Development practitioners from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils and representatives from Regional Development Australia, Regional Development Victoria and Wimmera Development Association.

Issues discussed included:-

- Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan Implementation
- Regional Growth Fund
- Wimmera Regional Branding
- Council Reports

**TOURISM****Yarriambiack Tourism Association**

The meeting held on 11 August was well attended and discussed details of the planned town maps, Caravan and Camping Show promotions, the Regional Victoria Living Expo and plans for the tour of Minyip, Rupanyup and Murtoa on Sunday 14 August.

The tour went particularly well with over 40 participants, many thanks to Cr Helen Ballentine (Association Chair), Mayor Cr John Kemfert and Cr Ray Kingston for their participation and support.

**Wimmera Mallee Tourism Association**

Next meeting date for Steering Committee is yet to be set.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY PROJECTS****Community Facility Funding Program 2012/2013**

Advertisements have been placed in the local press for Community Expressions of Interest for this round of funding, with a closing date of 19 August; three applications were received, which is the maximum number we can submit.

These applications were from the Beulah Football Club to upgrade their oval lighting to a training standard of illumination, the Warracknabeal Golf Club to construct disabled access, male and female disabled toilets and internally upgrade both the men's and ladies change rooms and the Murtoa Angling Club to convert the old pump house on the banks of Lake Marma into a clubhouse.

The Beulah lighting application will be requesting a grant of \$50,817 for a total project cost of \$76,226 and the Warracknabeal Golf Club application will be requesting a grant of \$66,850 for a total project cost of \$100,289. At the time of preparing this report only indicative figures were available for the Murtoa Angling Club project, these are a possible grant request of \$23,150 for a total project cost in the vicinity of \$34,720.

Work has commenced on developing full applications for these projects which will then be submitted to Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) in Melbourne prior to the closing date of 28 September.

**Sustainable Sports Grounds Program 2011/2012**

The Hopetoun Golf Club full application to convert their tees to synthetic surfaces has been prepared and forwarded to DPCD who has subsequently carried out an inspection of the project.

The application requests a grant amount of \$26,640 for a total project cost of \$39,961.

**Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program 2010/2011**

Council was required to submit a second Progress Report on each of the 12 projects funded through this Federal Grant, by 1 September, all of which have been completed.

The reports comprised seven Final Reports and five Progress Reports and these final five projects should be completed within the next 4 – 6 weeks, and as each is completed a Final Report will be lodged with the Federal Government.

**Local History Grants Program 2010/2011**

Our application for funding of \$1,448 under the above mentioned program toward the Tempy Commemorative Plaque was successful and the plaque has now been ordered.

We are working with the committee to now develop an application for funding through the Victorian Veterans Council Grants Program 2011-2012: Victorian Veterans Fund for the construction of the commemorative wall.

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr K Zanker that standing orders be suspended at 10:25am.**

**Carried**

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr G Lovel that standing orders be resumed at 10:40am**

**Carried**

## **11 REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **11.1 Finance Report – Prepared by Anita McFarlane**

The Finance Report as at August 2011 will be tabled.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Finance Report as at August 2011 be received.

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr A McLean that Finance Report as at August 2011 be received.**

**Carried**

### **11.2 Revenue Report – Prepared by Chantelle Pitt**

The Revenue Report as at September 2011 will be tabled.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Revenue Report as at September 2011 be received.

**Moved Cr R Kingston seconded Cr K Zanker that the Revenue Report as at September 2011 be received.**

**Carried**

**11.3 Capital works programs for Footpaths, Roads and Streets – Prepared by Michael Evans**

The Capital works Program for Footpaths, Roads and Streets as tabled

**Recommendation**

1. That Council adopt the Footpath Works Program 2011 - 2012
2. That Council adopt the Roads & Streets Capital Works Program 2011 - 2012

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr G Lovel:**

- **That Council adopt the Footpath Works Program 2011 - 2012.**
- **That Council adopt the Roads & Streets Capital Works Program 2011 - 2012.**

**Carried**

#### **11.4 Constitutional Recognition of Local Government - Prepared by Ray Campling**

In June last year, following the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra, Councillor Geoff Lake wrote to Councils providing an update of progress on the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA's) campaign for referendum on the constitutional recognition of Local Government. Following the 2011 National General Assembly of Local Government meeting in Canberra, Local Government Authorities throughout Australia have again been encouraged to become directly engaged in the campaign for constitutional recognition.

Following the 2010 Federal Election, Prime Minister Gillard committed to holding a dual referendum on the constitutional recognition of Local Government and the recognition of Indigenous Australians. The referendum will most likely be held in conjunction with the 2013 Federal Election. The challenge for Local Government is now threefold; to ensure the referendum is held; to ensure that the type of recognition sought meets our requirements; and to make sure that a positive result in the referendum is achieved.

ALGA has devoted considerable resources over the past three years to developing the case for constitutional reform and the need for reform. It is in the best interests of local communities that Federal Government, whatever their political persuasion, have the capacity to fund Councils directly to achieve national objectives. This is why the ALGA preference is for a pragmatic and simple change to the Constitution (most likely to Section 96) which would allow direct funding to continue. ALGA's research shows that this simple and pragmatic change is most likely to receive the necessary public support. ALGA has not ruled out recognition of Local Government in a preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, but such limited recognition alone would not meet Local Government's requirements.

The form of financial recognition of Local Government proposed by ALGA, which will not impact on the relationship between Councils and State Governments, has been endorsed by your Local Government Association and all other State and Territory Local Government Associations. ALGA believes it is now important that this position also be endorsed by all Councils to demonstrate to Federal and State Governments, opposition and political parties that the position has widespread support within Local Government.

The ALGA is writing to all Councils to ask them to pass a resolution endorsing the position that a referendum be held by 2013 to change the Constitution to allow direct funding of Local Government bodies by the Commonwealth Government and also to include Local Government in any new preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed.



As part of Local Government's campaign, it is also important to ensure that national political leaders are left in no doubt about our commitment to constitutional recognition. ALGA is also asking that Councils write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and their local Federal Member of Parliament to advise them of Councils' support for recognition after Councils have passed a resolution.

At the North Western Municipalities Association meeting conducted at Nhill on Friday 19 August, 2011 it was resolved to endorse the ALGA request and that all NWMA members write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and their respective local Federal Member of Parliament to advise them of Councils support for financial assistance of Local Government in the Australian Constitution so as to enable and empower the Federal Government to directly fund Local Government.

### **Recommendation**

That Council:-

1. Declares its support for financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund Local Government directly;
2. Includes Local Government in any new preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed; and
3. Requests all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

**Moved Cr H Ballentine seconded Cr R Kingston that Council approve the above recommendations.**

**Carried**

### **11.5 Victorian Local Government Women's Charter – Prepared by Ray Campling**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter and to provide further information about the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition.

- In December 2003, the then Minister for Local Government, the Hon Candy Broad, MLC, launched the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter which has attracted widespread support from state-wide organizations in Local Government and the community sector.
- The Victorian Local Government Women's Charter is underpinned by the following three guiding principals:-
  1. Gender Equity – That women and men have an equal right to be representatives in Local Governments, committees and decision making positions.
  2. Diversity – The inclusion of different experiences and perspectives in local Governments and community decision making strengthens local democratic governance and helps build cohesive communities. Councils and communities encourage and welcome the participation of all women.
  3. Active Citizenship – Local Governments will work with the community to increase the numbers and participation of women in public life, so that decision making more clearly represents and reflects the interest and demographics of communities.
- This Charter is consistent with state, national and international protocols which highlight equal rights and opportunities as central to good local governance including: the Declaration on the Role of Australian Local Government (1997), the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government (1998), the Victorian Code of Good Governance (2000) and the National Framework for Women in Local Government 2007, Victorian Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter 2006.
- The Charter is endorsed by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition (WPILGC). The Coalition represents organisations including the Local Government Professionals (LG Pro), MAV, Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition, VLGA, Victorian Women's Trust (VWT), Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria (WEL), Women's Planning Network (WPN) and YWCA (Victoria).
- The purpose of the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition is to advance the status and participation of women in Local Government. Participants actively support initiatives that increase women's participation in democratic processes by advocating via affiliated organisations and networks.

- Requesting that Council considers the endorsement of the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter as it will undoubtedly present some opportunities for Council to further promote the importance of women's participation in democratic processes and women's health and wellbeing issues across Council, the Municipality and the State.

The Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition is a non-party political coalition of eight key State-wide Local Government peak, community and philanthropic organisations, women councillors and individual women was formed in 1996 to work towards the equal participation of women and men in Local Governments in Victoria. A total of 52 Councils' have endorsed the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter.

The Coalition aims to achieve the three principles of the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter: gender equity, diversity, and the active citizenship of women in Victorian Local Government. The Victorian Local Governance Association provides secretariat support for the WPILGC. The Coalition meets several times during the year to explore and act on the principles of the Women's Charter.

The **National Framework for Women in Local Government** was produced following extensive consultation with women in Local Government in November 2002. The aim was to identify the issues affecting women's participation in Local Government in Australia.

In 2006, The Australian Local Government Association undertook a review of the national framework through focus groups, national roundtable discussions, forums and an on-line survey.

In May 2007, the review of the **National Framework for Women in Local Government – 'The Way Forward'** was launched in Canberra and through Australian Local Government Women's Association State and Territory Branches.

1. There are no direct legislative requirements that relate to this report.
2. The Women's Charter is consistent with state, national and international protocols which highlight equal rights and opportunities as central to good local governance including: the Declaration on the Role of Australian Local Government (1997), the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government (1998), the Victorian Code of Good Governance (2000) and the National Framework for Women in Local Government 2007, Victorian Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter 2006.
3. There are no direct financial implications should Council agree to endorse the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter.

**Conclusion**

Endorsing the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter provides a unique and practical opportunity for Council to lead and advocate on women's health and wellbeing at a local, state and national level.

**Recommendation**

That Council:-

Endorse the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter as contained and identified in **APPENDIX 'A'**

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr R Kingston that Council endorse the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter as contained and identified in Appendix 'A'**

**Carried**

## Supporting Women's Participation in Victorian Local Governments

# Victorian Local Government Women's Charter

APPENDIX 'A'

Local governments, in their capacity as the governments closest to communities, are in a unique position to contribute to the global goal of gender equity for women.

This Charter is consistent with national and international protocols which highlight equal rights and opportunities as central to good local governance including: the Declaration on the Role of Australian Local Government (1997), the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government (1998), the Victorian Code of Good Governance (2000) and the National Framework for Women in Local Government (2001).

RECOGNISING the need for increased women's participation in the key decision making forums in the community and in democratic governance, we, the local governments of Victoria, on behalf of our communities support the following principles:

### GENDER EQUITY

That women and men have an equal right to be representatives in local governments, committees and decision-making positions.

### DIVERSITY

The inclusion of different experiences and perspectives in local governments and community decision-making strengthens local democratic governance and helps build cohesive communities. Councils and communities encourage and welcome the participation of all women.

### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Local governments will work with the community to increase the numbers and participation of women in public life, so that decision-making more clearly represents and reflects the interests and demographics of communities.



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA



WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COALITION  
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION



Victorian Local Government Association

## **11.6 Review of Victorian Planning System - David Young**

### **PURPOSE**

The Minister for Planning has announced a review of the Victorian Planning System. It is recommended that Yarriambiack Shire Council provide a written submission into the proposed review.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Advisory Committee is consulting with all members of the community to consider all parts of the planning system in Victoria.

An advisory committee has been appointed by the Minister for Planning that will provide a preliminary report to the Minister by 30 November 2011. The committee can choose to inform itself in any way in relation to issues with the current planning system.

Council has been advised that "The Advisory Committee will consider the whole planning system including the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and how it works; the State and local policy provisions; the operation of zones and overlays; the use of incorporated and reference documents; and the way permit applications and rezoning requests are dealt with."

### **PROPOSAL**

The proposal is to submit the attachment to this report "Yarriambiack Shire Council Submission into the review of the Victorian Planning System" to the Minister for Planning for consideration. The submission covers a number of areas that Council has had issues with over the past several years. As Council can see from the submission a number of reviews have been conducted to the planning system without significant changes in how it operates or the outcomes it produces.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Council adopt the submission as presented and send it to the Minister for Planning for consideration.

**Moved Cr A McLean seconded Cr H Ballentine that Council adopt the submission as presented and send it to the Minister for Planning for consideration.**

**Carried**

## **YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION INTO THE REVIEW OF THE VICTORIAN PLANNING SYSTEM**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

The Minister for Planning has announced a review of the Victorian Planning System. It is recommended that Yarriambiack Shire provide a written submission into the proposed review.

An advisory committee has been appointed by the Minister for Planning that will provide a preliminary report to the Minister by 30 November 2011. The committee can choose to inform itself in any way in relation to issues with the current planning system.

### **2.0 THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) provides the framework for the Victorian Planning System. The key components of the legislation are that:

- A planning scheme is required for each municipality
- A 'planning authority', must develop and maintain the planning scheme and may make changes to it
- A 'responsible authority', administers and enforces the planning scheme
- There is a review body (the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal) that may, on application, consider a decision of the responsible authority
- The Act gives substantial powers to the Minister for Planning

#### **2.1 The Objectives of Planning in Victoria**

Planning schemes in Victoria must seek to achieve the objectives of planning in Victoria as set out in Section 4(1) of the Planning & Environment Act 1987. These objectives are:

- To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land
- To provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity
- To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria
- To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value
- To protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and coordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community
- To facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in the points above
- To balance the present and future interests of all Victorians

## 2.2 Purposes of this Planning Scheme

- To provide a clear and consistent framework within which decisions about the use and development of land can be made
- To express state, regional, local and community expectations for areas and land uses
- To provide for the implementation of State, regional and local policies affecting land use and development

## 3.0 PREVIOUS REVIEWS

There have been a number of reviews of the Planning System by State Government; these include as listed by MAV:

- **Review of the Planning and Environment Act**

In 2009 Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) reviewed the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and proposed significant alterations to the planning scheme amendment process. The review received considerable opposition.

- **Making Local Policy Stronger**

In 2007, a Ministerial Working Group was established to examine the role of local policy, its implementation and inform a Ministerial Statement on local policy. Five recommendations were made to improve local policy, the majority of which have not been implemented.

- **Cutting Red Tape in Planning**

In 2006 the [Cutting Red Tape in Planning Review](#) was conducted. The 15 recommended actions range from 'expanding e-planning capacity' to 'make State policy more relevant to local decision making'. Again a number of key recommendations have not been implemented including code assessment, notification categories, an expert team to review local policies, simplified planning scheme amendment documentation and referral improvements.

- **Better Decisions Faster**

In 2003 the [Better Decisions Faster](#) discussion paper proposed 21 recommendations to improve the operation of the planning system. As a result of the paper a number of legislative changes were made and a total of 10 out of the 21 recommendations were implemented. Some of the legislative changes were poorly conceived and are now of concern to Councils.



- **Municipal Association of Victoria – Planning System Reform Discussion Paper**

A discussion paper on *Planning System Reform* was also prepared by the MAV in May 2005. The discussion paper, which is generally supported, focused on the following key issues:

- Providing stronger leadership in planning;
- Bolstering the State Planning Policy Framework;
- Balancing State and Local interests;
- Increased emphasis on ecologically sustainable development;
- Clarifying the role of the Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Reviewing the Victorian Planning Provisions;
- Recruitment and retention of planners; and
- Process for reform including reviewing the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*

#### **4.0 CURRENT CONCERNS**

The current system concerns are about:

##### **4.1 Planning Scheme**

###### **4.1.1 Planning Scheme Amendments**

The entire Planning Scheme Amendment process needs consideration as to its ability to deliver a timely, efficient and effective response to emerging community issues and changes in land use planning demands.

The criticism of the planning amendment process has been ongoing for a number of years and the band aid implementation of the certification process has failed to deliver the more timely turn around in the decision making in the changes to planning schemes.

The bureaucratic requirements, report writing, Council considerations, submission periods, independent panels, DPCD requirements and Ministerial approvals all add to a lengthy period for consideration. Many of the above processes overlap, duplicate and often bear no resemblance to the proposed complexity of the amendment.

Currently the majority of the amendments would be considered to be reactive instead of proactive. From a purely rural Council perspective it is difficult to justify Council spending a considerable amount of money on strategic planning when there is currently no demand. However, without this strategic planning it is often difficult to justify an application for an amendment to DPCD.

Often by the time the amendment is dealt with the issue for the amendment, being commercial, industrial or residential, has moved elsewhere, not proceeded due to time taken for approvals or simply decided the whole matter is too difficult.

#### **4.1.2 The time, effort it takes to Introduce or Modify Local Provisions in the Planning Scheme**

As with Planning Scheme amendments a key concern is the time and process needed to modify local planning scheme provisions. From the inclusion of proposed alterations to schedules, to modifying standard provisions, updating stats and tables, in the Municipal Strategic Statement. Often local conditions change rapidly and the systems to be able to adapt and change in an efficient time span.

Again the introduction of reference documents, schedules to Overlays all take a considerable amount of time, resources and money to introduce minor changes into the system.

#### **4.1.3 The lack of Guidance and Implementation of State Policy**

A major concern over many years has been the lack of direction regarding State policy and provisions in the scheme that relate to State matters. This is not only the way in which it is written, in terms of grey areas, but also the way it can contradict with other State provisions and Local provisions already in the scheme.

When requesting interpretation of the State section it is often met with a response from State Government Planning of "It's your Planning Scheme to Interpret".

Further to this is the whole issue of the roles and responsibilities of different areas of the Department. Many regional areas can not or are unwilling to make decisions, give guidance or advice without first seeking approval from Melbourne Office. Many regional staff are unable to assist or obtain a response from other areas of DPCD due to the structure and complexity of the structure.

## **4.2 Planning Permits**

### **4.2.1 Decision Making**

Under the current planning system there are onerous complexities in the decision making process that not only include the amount of time taken, referral agencies, advertising and consideration of an application.

Many of the applications considered under planning schemes for planning permits would be considered to be minor to non issues. Even though the planning schemes allow changes to schedules to exclude certain developments from planning permits the actual process of introducing those changes are complex, timely and can be a costly exercise for Local Government.

Decisions regarding advertising, which many Council now do as a matter of course in fear of being held to ransom at VCAT, can be complex as to who should be advertised to and for what reasons. Responses received from the advertising period are often ill conceived, bear no response to what was proposed or consider matters outside of the actual application.

Referral of applications have taken on a more complex issue as response from referral agencies may often conflict, ie: Catchment Management Authority and Department Sustainability & Environment or even the CFA against planning scheme requirements. Responses are often one liner's, which have taken 28 days to formulate, or conditions are not specific to the application at hand.

#### **4.2.2 Planning Fees**

The State Government sets and adjust Planning Fees on an annual basis. Often the set fees do not reflect the actual true cost to Council. This cost is incurred through undertaking the assessment process, meetings, travel appeals etc.

#### **4.2.3 The Role of Council, Referral Agencies and Enforcement**

Many areas of the planning system rely on other agencies to be the responsible authority when formulating a decision to an application. Those agencies then rely on Council to enforce those decisions or defend their actions at VCAT often without any input or assistance from the decision making agencies in the first instance.

A clear distinction and process needs to be considered in the decision making process as to who is responsible and who should be enforcing planning permit conditions.

Currently many hours of work are taken up by clarifying a number of matters that can be clarified throughout the process. These include, requiring planning applications to have the written consent from the land owner/land manager prior to lodging an application; require Council to have regard to the comments of a referral authority, similar to that of section 52 of the P7E Act. If the referral agencies do not agree with the decision made by Council then they can appeal through the VCAT process, referral authority to meet the costs incurred by Council in defending a decision made by the referral authority at VCAT.

**5.0 ISSUES AND OUTCOMES**

Planning Scheme Amendments	Undertake a complete review of the Planning Scheme Amendment process with the objective to introduce a new system that simplifies the process, work required and number of approvals.
Local Provisions	<p>Undertake a review of how local policy provisions, schedules and reference documents are incorporated into the planning schemes. The main objective should look at the types of documents, process for introducing these into the scheme and different methods.</p> <p>The review should consider if Local Policies are still the method that should be used or if schedules and reference documents would be of more benefit.</p>
State Policy	Review with the objective of making DPCD responsible for explaining, clarifying and in some cases determining if an application complies with State Government Policy.
Decision Making	<p>Undertake a review of the decision making process with the objective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of more prescribed assessment provisions;</li> <li>- Exemption from advertising for certain categories of Applications;</li> <li>- Review the application and permit amendment process.</li> </ul>
Fees	Review Planning fees with the intent of moving over time to a full cost recovery system.
Referral	<p>Undertake a review of the planning referral process with the objective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making referral process more time efficient;</li> <li>- Making some of the referral agencies the responsible authority for issuing permits and Council a referral agency. ie removal of vegetation, dams;</li> </ul>

**11.7 Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project – Prepared by Gavin Blinman**

The Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project – Final Report as tabled

**Recommendation**

1. That the Final Draft Report of the Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project be approved by Council; and
2. That the West Wimmera Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council invite the Hon Wendy Lovell, MLC, Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development to attend a reception in November at Warracknabeal to discuss the recommendations of the report with the working group and Councillors.

**Moved Cr K Zanker seconded Cr J Wise:**

1. That Council approve the Final Draft Report of the Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project; and
2. That the West Wimmera Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council invite the Hon Wendy Lovell, MLC, Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development to attend a reception in November at Warracknabeal to discuss the recommendations of the report with the working group and Councillors.

**Carried**

**11.8 Warracknabeal Operations Depot – Lease Agreement – Prepared by Bernie Naylor**

Lease Agreement documents have now been prepared by Council's solicitors, Saines Lucas for the lease of part of the abovementioned land owned by Council to VicRoads.

The lease is for three years with further extensions by negotiation, for an amount of \$2,200 per annum including GST.

Council is now required to Sign and Seal the Agreement for the lease of the land being Allotment 1 Section 40, Township of Warracknabeal, Parish of Werrigar.

**Recommendation**

That Council Sign and Seal the Agreement for the lease of the land being Allotment 1 Section 40, Township of Warracknabeal, Parish of Werrigar. The lease is for three years with further extensions by negotiation, for an amount of \$2,200 per annum including GST.

**Moved Cr G Lovel seconded Cr K Zanker that Council Sign and affix Seal to the Agreement.**

**Carried**

**11.9 Rates and Charges Hardship Policy – prepared by Chantelle Pitt  
(Tabled)**

The purpose of this Policy is to assist Council's ratepayers in meeting financial obligations to Council by providing alternative payment arrangements for property based debts, where financial hardship is shown to exist.

This policy gives ratepayers the opportunity to present their case and to ensure they are treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner.

**Objectives**

- To provide assistance to ratepayers experiencing undue financial hardship and are unable to make payments through the standard options provided.
- To ensure that all applications for rate relief are treated equitably, promptly and confidentially.
- To ensure that other ratepayers are not disadvantaged by the granting of inappropriate rate relief.

**Recommendation**

That Yarriambiack Shire Council adopts the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy as presented.

**Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr A McLean that Yarriambiack Shire Council adopt the Rates and Charges Hardship Policy as presented.**

**Carried**

**11.10 Annual Report – Financial Statements 2011/2012 – prepared by Anita McFarlane**

The Local Government Act requires Council to pass a resolution;

- (i) giving approval in principle to the statements
- (ii) authorising two Councillors to certify the final statements prior to the Auditors signing the Audit Report.

**Recommendation**

- (i) Council approves in principle the Financial Statements.
- (ii) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Financial Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.
- (iii) Council approves in principle the Standard Statements.
- (iv) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Standard Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.
- (v) Council approves in principle the Performance Statements.
- (vi) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Performance Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

**Moved Cr H Ballentine seconded Cr G Lovel that:**

- (i) Council approves in principle the Financial Statements.**
- (ii) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Financial Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.**
- (iii) Council approves in principle the Standard Statements.**
- (iv) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Standard Statements in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.**
- (v) Council approves in principle the Performance Statements.**
- (vi) Council authorises Cr Zanker and Cr Wise to certify the Performance Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.**

**Carried**

**Cr J Wise left Council Chambers at 11:35 due to a declaration of Conflict of Interest in regards to Report for Decision No 11.11**



### 11.11 Celebrating Young People Youth Grants / Round 10 – Prepared by Gavin Blinman

The current round of celebrating young people youth grants attracted five entries requesting a total of \$3,900.

These are:

• Yarriambiack Chaplaincy Committee Cultural Exchange and Leadership Skills.....	\$1,000
• Beulah Primary Schools Social Skills and Life Experience .....	\$ 600
• Warracknabeal Central Social Night Disconnected Youth.....	\$1,000
• Warracknabeal Secondary College Continuing Knox City Exchange .....	\$ 700
• Yaapeet Tennis Club Coaching Program.....	\$ 600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,900</b>

The programs all provide an experience for young people that broaden and improve their social and life skills, the Knox City exchange is providing a valuable link for our local secondary college. The Chaplaincy committee program will give two young people the chance to experience overseas culture. The young people involved are assisting to pay for this.

#### Recommendation

That Council approves the payment of the above grants.

**Moved Cr A McLean seconded Cr R Kingston that Council approves the payment of the above grants.**

**Cr J Wise returned to Council Chambers at 11:40am.**

**12 GENERAL BUSINESS** (including strategic direction and specific issues)

Cr G Lovel seconded Cr J Wise moved motion made by Mayor John Kemfert for Council to write a letter to the Yaapeet Primary School teacher, to emphasis Council's support and thank her for her services as sole teacher and principal.

Cr H Ballentine spoke again on the importance of the Planning Submission.

Cr R Kingston spoke on Flood Study Funding.

**13 CLOSED SESSION**

Moved Cr J Wise seconded Cr G Lovel that Council move into Closed Session.

Carried

Moved Cr G Lovel seconded Cr J Wise that Council move back into Open Session.

Carried

Moved Cr R Kingston seconded Cr J Wise that Council adopt the Resolutions from the Closed Session of Council.

Carried

**14 MINUTES FROM MEETINGS**

Wimmera Early Years Transport Support Project Final Report  
Rates and Charges Hardship Policy  
Rates Report – September 2011  
Yarriambiack Shire Council Income Statement by Resources for August 2011  
Income Statement by Department for August 2011  
Yarriambiack Shire Council Capital Works Statement for August 2011  
Capital Works Program – Roads and Streets 2011/2012

**15 ATTACHMENTS / REPORTS**

**16 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 9:30am at Warracknabeal.

**17 CLOSE 11:55am**

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