



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD 8 DECEMBER 2020 AT THE NHILL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, 77-  
79 NELSON STREET NHILL COMMENCING AT 4:00PM.**

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**AGENDA**

**1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community and Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies**

**3. Declaration of Interests**

**4. Reports Requiring a Decision**

4.1 Dimboola Water-ski Event 2021

**5. Meeting Closed**

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**Present:**

Crs R Ismay, M Albrecht, R Gersch, D Nelson, B Ireland

**In Attendance:**

Mr Greg Wood (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Monica Revell (Director Corporate and Community Services), Ms Angela Hoy (Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Shauna Johnson (Executive Assistant), Mr Jeff Woodward (Tourism and Economic Officer)

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**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER**

Cr R Ismay opened the meeting at 4:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

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**2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies.

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**3. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS OF ANY MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.**

- Material; or
- General.

Declaration of material or general interest must also be advised by Councillors at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

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**4. REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION**

**4.1 DIMBOOLA WATERSKI EVENT 2021**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Introduction:**

Cr Nelson has requested the Mayor to call a special council meeting to consider a request from the Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club to hold a water ski event from 22 January to 26 January 2021.

**Discussion:**

Council received an application from the Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club on 26 November 2020 to hold an event for 50 participants and 400 spectators on the Wimmera River in Dimboola from 22 January to 26 January 2021.

Further to the application received, the following documentation will be required to consider final approval of the event.

1. Risk Management Plan
2. Tier 3 COVID Safe Event procedure
3. COVID -19 Safety Plan
4. Traffic Management Plan and Advertising in Media
5. Map / Layout of requested area of use
6. Certificate of Currency for Public Liability (Dimboola Ski Club)
7. List of Vendors and retailers and performers selling goods and items during event
8. Certificate of Currency for Public Liability (Vendors and Sellers)
9. Notification to VicPol, Vic Ambulance, SES and CFA
10. Possible permits for Fire Works, Fire Pits etc.

Council's event application process requires a minimum notice period of 12 weeks; the application was received on 26 November 2020, allowing less than the 12 weeks required for all external approvals to be obtained. The event is also required to follow the state government's COVIDSafe – Public Events Framework.

As the total number of people gathering would be more than 100, the event would require an exemption from the Chief Health Officer to declare it as an 'exempt public event' under Restricted Activity Directions (Victoria) (No 3) clause 19(3). It is unknown how long the exemption approval process will take.

Approval may also be required from Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) as closing the river could impact usage and access rights. Transport Safety Victoria approval will also be required for the closure of the river.

The weekend of 22 to 26 January 2021 will see an influx of tourists to the Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola and other Dimboola natural attractions. Many of these tourists utilise the river for boating, fishing, swimming and kayaking. Our local businesses have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. It would be beneficial to local businesses for the event to be held on another weekend to maximize patronage outside of peak tourist season.

**Options:**

Given that complete information required is not available, Council can only give in-principle support and not final approval for the event at this stage. If all requirements are satisfied, the Chief Executive Officer can give final approval under delegation.

1. Council approves in-principle the Dimboola water ski event to be held during the period 22 – 26 January 2021 subject to all requirements to run an event by both Council, the state government and other authorities.
2. Council approves in-principle the Dimboola water ski event for a weekend after the end of January 2021 subject to any necessary approvals and any restrictions in place around gatherings.

**Link to Council Plan:**

Strategic Objective 3.1: A strong rural economy and thriving towns.

Strategic Objective 3.2: A thriving tourism industry.

**Financial Implications**

Council does not have a budget allocation for expenditure incurred with the event. The Dimboola boat and water ski club will be invoiced for expenses incurred with the event including rubbish collection.

**Risk Management Implications**

A detailed risk management plan and COVID-19 Safety plan will be required as part of the approval process. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, additional risks will need to be considered to address Chief Health Officer Directions.

**Conflict of Interest:**

Under section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest, including the type of interest.

Author & Officer Responsible – Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer

In providing this advice as the Author and Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

**Communications Strategy:**

To be established.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***Council approves, in-principle, the Dimboola Water Ski Event to take place after the end of January 2021 subject to any necessary approvals and any restrictions in place around gatherings at the time.***

**MOVED CRS: D Nelson/R Gersch**

***Council approves, in-principle, the Dimboola Water Ski Event to be held during the period 22 – 26 January 2021 subject to all requirements to run an event by both Council, the State Government and other authorities.***

**CARRIED**

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**5. MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business Cr R Ismay declared the meeting closed at 4:13pm.

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