

**Wimmera-Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group
Memorandum of Understanding
Between**

- Buloke Shire Council,
- Hindmarsh Shire Council,
- Horsham Rural City Council,
- Northern Grampians Shire Council,
- West Wimmera Shire Council,
- Yarriambiack Shire Council,

(being the 'Members')

For participation in the membership of the Wimmera-Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group ("WSMRTG")

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding is a statement of agreed principles governing the partnership between the Members, which have agreed to be members of the Wimmera-Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group to collaborate and promote a regional transport position through the Regional Transport Strategy.

2. Wimmera-Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group (WSMRTG)

The WSMRTG is the priority setting body for transport related issues in the Wimmera-Southern Mallee, and will make recommendations for project funding to government.

The WSMRTG is based on existing relationships taking into consideration economic, social, environmental and geographic characteristics of the region, which serves to influence the planning and management of the regional road network and the services provided by that network.

The WSMRTG, with the support of a Technical Committee, will have the responsibility to plan, prioritise, and manage investment on local roads of regional significance.

The WSMRTG will aim to influence planning, prioritisation and investment decisions on the arterial road networks and rail networks within the WSM areas of interest.

The WSMRTG can also seek to influence investment decisions on road networks and have co-ordinating role in areas of asset management, joint purchasing, resource sharing, and workforce capability improvement.

3. Aims

The WSMRTG will:

- Prepare a Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), incorporating road and rail infrastructure, aerodrome developments, freight and logistics planning, and interface projects.
- Establish/update a regional information database, and adopt basic asset management practices and minimum dataset requirements.
- Conduct appropriate consultation with all stakeholders.
- Call for nominated projects from Councils that meet Regional objectives.
- Agree on projects to be analysed in detail and prioritised.
- Decide on rolling 5 year works program, and projects to be nominated in funding rounds
- Identify funding opportunities from both Australian and Victorian Government programs
- Manage regional funding arrangements.
- Review and plan improved transport capability within the Region.
- Identify the network of 'local roads of regional significance'
- Liaise with associated Councils including: Ararat Rural City Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Loddon Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, Wattle Ranges Shire Council (S.A.), Lucindale Shire Council (S.A.)

4. Procedures

1. Each Member shall appoint one Councillor to be a member of the WSMRTG. A substitute delegate with voting rights may be nominated.
2. Each Member shall appoint one Officer to be a member of the Technical Committee (WSMRTG TC)
3. Observers from VicRoads, DEDJTR, and the private sector, shall be invited to attend meetings as required
4. Council members of the WSMRTG will be voting members, and other members will be non-voting (e.g. VicRoads, DEDJTR, private sector etc and neighbouring municipalities).
5. Decisions shall be reached by consensus, but in the event that a consensus is not reached, voting may be necessary. Each representative on the WSMRTG is entitled to one vote.
6. The WSMRTG shall elect a Chairperson each November, or the next meeting after November if there is no meeting in November, using the general procedures appropriate to electing a Mayor in Victorian Local Government. The WSMRTG will determine the responsibilities of the Chairperson.
7. Meeting procedures will follow the general procedures appropriate to Council Meetings in Victorian Local Government.
8. Minutes of Meetings shall be kept.
9. Meetings shall be held at least twice per year or as required.

10. Secretarial support to the Committee will be provided by one of the member Councils, to be reviewed each November or the next meeting after November if there is no meeting in November.

5. Duties of the Technical Committee (WSMRTG TC)

The duties of the Technical Committee will include to make recommendations on:

- regional priorities for submission to government
- adopting and maintaining basic asset management practices and minimum data set requirements
- project co-ordination
- adopting practices for the development of a five-year works program including prioritisation procedures and weighting methodology.

Other areas where the Technical Committee is required to provide assistance include but are not limited to:

- regional funding arrangements and RTG Budget
- regional investment strategies
- policy to increase joint purchasing and resource sharing
- reviewing and planning for improved capability
- change management procedures.

6. Member Commitment

A Member can leave the WSMRTG on three months notice.

Fees will be based on an agreed percentage of member Council's Federal Roads to Recovery annual grant allocation, to provide the budget required to meet the programs implemented by the Group .

7. Period of Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is for the period commencing with the signing and adoption of this agreement for a period of five years.

8. Agreement

The above conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding are agreed and accepted on behalf of the following:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
Buloke Shire Council

Date:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
Hindmarsh Shire Council

Date:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
Horsham Rural City Council

Date:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
Northern Grampians Shire Council

Date:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
West Wimmera Shire Council

Date:

Signed by:

Chief Executive Officer
Yarriambiack Shire Council

Date: