



# Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting  
held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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## CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- I was on leave for the week of 24<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- Cr DellaBosca and I attended the CEACA Board meeting held in Merredin on Monday 1 December.
- I attended the Audit Exit meeting with AOG held on Tuesday 2 December.
- I met with the proponents of the proposed Quartz Quarry in Warralakin on Wednesday 3 December.
- I attended the Seniors Sundowner which was held on Wednesday 3 December which was a hit again with attendees.
- The Shire President and I drove to Busselton/Balingup on Thursday 4 December to pick up Jarrah shelving donated by the Balingup Store and 2 x Wayne 605 bowsers for the entrance hallway.



- I represented the Council at the funeral of Jocelyn Maddock, Author of the Wheels of Change History book, in Perth on Tuesday 9 December.
- I picked up the blitz doors from Perth on Tuesday 9 December which have been beautifully sign written promoting Cooper's garage.



- I attended a Bendigo Bank Board meeting in Mukinbudin on Wednesday 10 December.

- Council has produced a 2026 calender based on pictures from the museums.
- Several Councillors and I met with Ramelius Management on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December.
- The Shire President was presented with a history book of the story of the Hannaford man since 1925 which will be in the history section of the library.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for all of their support during the year, wishing you all well over the festive season and will see you all refreshed next year.

- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

- Nil

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- **ROADCREW**

- The construction crew have completed both the Mukinbudin and Nungarin Shires WFN projects on the Nungarin Mukinbudin Roads to an extremely high standard.
- The maintenance grader has been undertaking drains and batters and summer grading in the northern part of the shire.
- The subbase course has been carted on the new Mica Street section.
- The construction equipment is now in readiness for any emergency callouts over the xmas new year period.
- The construction crew are on leave from Friday 19 December and will resume on Monday 12 January 2026.

- **TOWN**

- Town crew have been dismantling salvageable items from K Loves residence which will be demolished in January.
- The town crew have cleaned up the back area of the old school site including removal of old fence lines and heaving pruning of trees.

- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 31.11.25.

| Item |                               | 30.10.25   | 31.11.25   |
|------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| P1   | CAT 140 GRADER                | 4,162hrs   | 4,296hrs   |
| P2   | CAT 12M GRADER                | 10,579hrs  | 10,740hrs  |
| P3   | PRIME MOVER (KENWORTH)        | 79,527kms  | 80,629kms  |
| P4   | ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER) | 168,400kms | 176,049kms |
| P5   | JOHN DEERE LOADER             | 5,851hrs   | 5,899hrs   |
| P6   | CAT ROLLER (SKIP)             | 2,862hrs   | 2,965hrs   |
| P7   | MINI-EXCAVATOR                | 1,441hrs   | 1,453hrs   |
| P8   | TELEHANDLER JCB               | 560hrs     | 590hrs     |
| P9   | TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)           | 78,280kms  | 82,596ms   |
| P10  | MITSUBISHI CANTER             | 35,843kms  | 37,065kms  |
| P11  | TOYOTA HILUX (HCS) WT 35      | 114,309kms | 114,488kms |
| P12  | JOHN DEERE (5100)             | 2,817hrs   | 2,821hrs   |
| P14  | TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)  | 20,111kms  | 27,742kms  |
| P15  | TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)  | 67,412kms  | 72,227ms   |
| P16  | TOYOTA RAV4 (Community)       | 18,214kms  | 20,556kms  |
| P17  | TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB         | 74,161kms  | 78,919ms   |
| P19  | FAST ATTACK                   | 20,445kms  | 20,445kms  |
| P20  | FIRE TRUCK                    | 7,451kms   | 7,550kms   |
| P18  | WESSY BUS                     | 154,693kms | 154,804kms |
| P22  | KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)   | 2,200hrs   | 2,203hrs   |
| P23  | TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)    | 51,002kms  | 51,249kms  |
| P24  | CAT ROLLER (LOLA)             | 3,370hrs   | 3,444hrs   |
| P25  | MICK's BEAUT UTE              | 185,927kms | 186,806kms |
| P27  | TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)       | 35,831kms  | 40,644kms  |
| P28  | TOYOTA HILUX UTILITY (TOWN)   | 10,215kms  | 11,149kms  |
| P29  | MOWER                         | 12hrs      | 12hrs      |

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Working group meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month:

Event planning – Masquerade Ball, Painting of Mural old school, Quiz Night, Community fitness and Westonia Swimming Pool activities.

Westonia Workers WhatsApp group is working very well in activating volunteers for events and projects. We are finding more people are using the platform to ask questions, send out information, ask for assistance and getting quick responses. Even though some people are not tech savvy they are still getting information from friends, much quicker than they would usually.

CRC – Annual report and Health check report are due annually by 1 December has been submitted .

There is now a Westonia Workers WhatsApp group which anyone can join as a way of activating volunteers for events and projects.

### Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

13/8/25 applied for Collgar Community Fund grant \$6000 to go towards the 28th March 2026 “Back to our roots, Bring your Boots” Ball. The application was successful and we will seek funding to cover a further \$2000 as per below.

### Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

We will be applying for a further \$2000 from another Grant provider in the coming months to go towards expenses for the Ball.

## WELLBEING REPORT

### Age Care

Westonia Home Care Services

We are continuing to provide community Wellbeing activities

We continue to provide Meals on wheels, Lite N Easy Equipment and Aids for our clients

Westonia Home Care Services Clients: **24.**

New clients about to join service: **1?**

Staff delivering services: 5

Services: Administration and Package management, Cleaning and Household tasks, Medical, Personal Care, Social Support, Support work, Gardening & Maintenance, Meals, Allied health, Medicine management, Equipment and Home modifications.

Monthly and annual reporting – Quarterly and annual financial reports to Department of health, disability and ageing. SaHCC annual reporting (Support @ Home cost collection).

Various SaH rollout training sessions (online) ongoing.

### Community activities and resources

2025 Activities/ Events:

November – Every Monday the Sewing Group meet at the sewing room from 9am – midday.

6pax

4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November – Scrabble 4 Pax

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & of November – Bingo 8-9pax.

8<sup>th</sup> Wessy Xmas Markets and Coopers Garage Museum opening 350 pax

27<sup>th</sup> November Bingo Christmas Lunch @ Jimmy's Chinese 11pax

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> First Aid Training Course 12pax



## WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

Westonia's version of carols by Candle light was held on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> December, there was a great turnout considering the time of year and everyone very busy with harvest, the big guy in red arrived on his trusty steed, treating the kiddo's to lolly bags and a big Ho Ho Ho thank you to Emilie Menz for organizing this little get together, the BBQ area at the park is such a great space to use hopefully more smaller community functions will utilize this area.



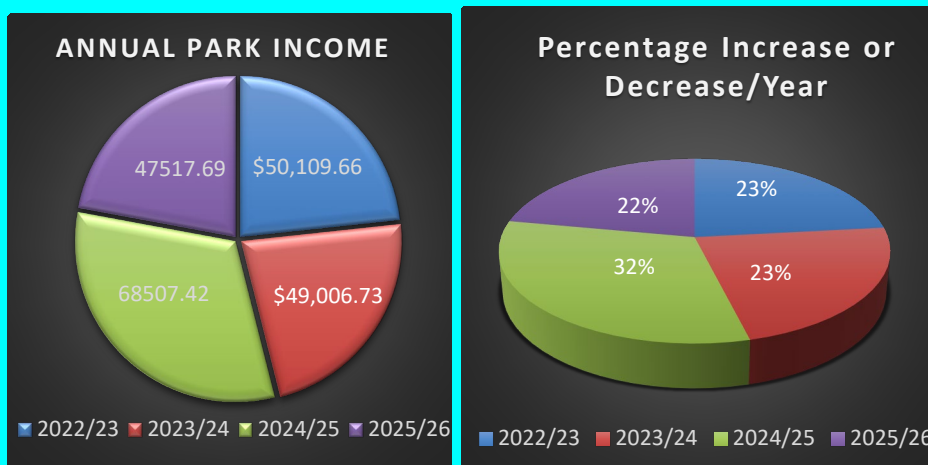
## REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

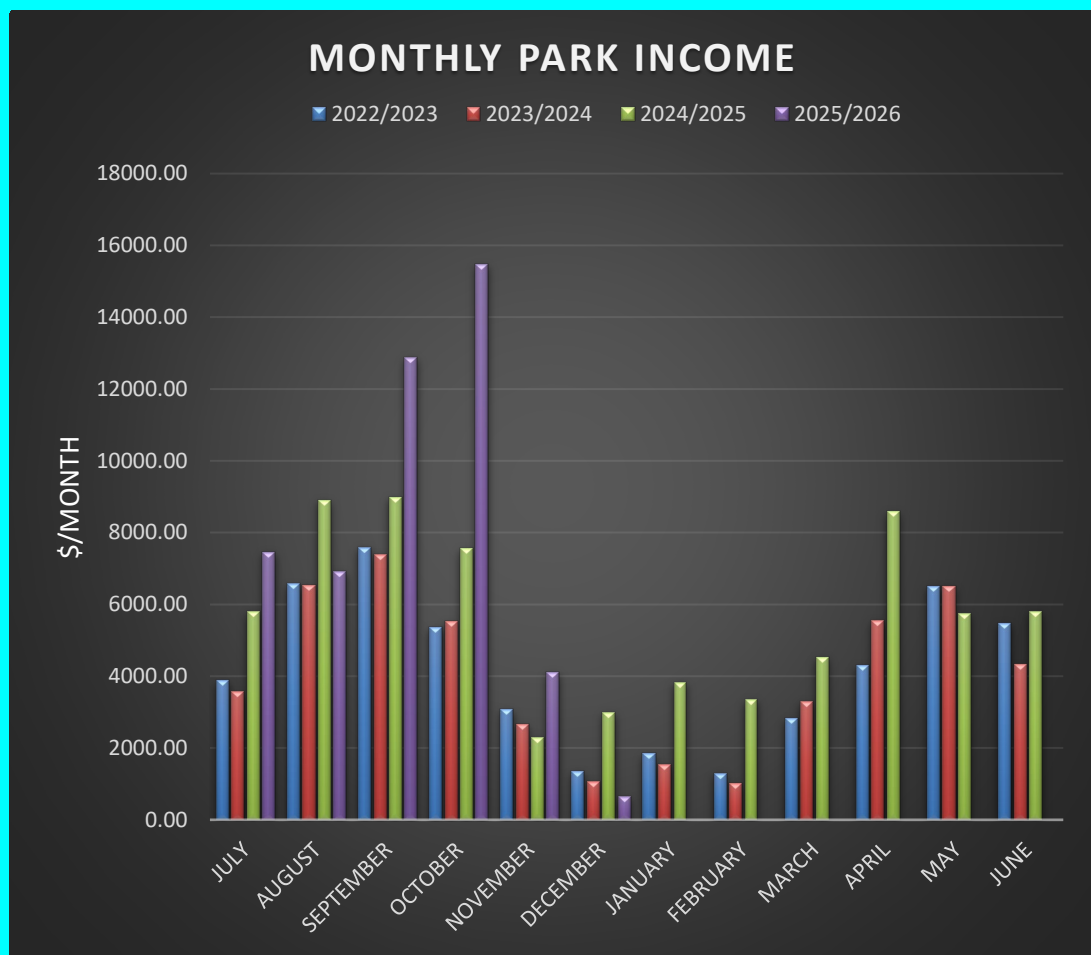
- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing. Focal area being bathroom maintenance (fixtures and disabled bathroom upgrade)
- Disabled toilet drainage will need some major work as tree roots have made their way into the pipes.

## FUTURE PROJECTS

- Permanent signage required to say "If office is unattended, please ring the caretakers phone or Shire office alternatively you can visit the Shire office during business hours Monday to Friday to complete your booking".
- Overflow – new signs needed for sites and information sign needed to describe who to ring or see to book in and outline that you must un-hook. Defined bays might be a good idea for this area.

## STATISTICS





#### HOOD-PENN MUSEUM and COOPERS GARAGE MUSEUM

The Hood Penn and Coopers Garage museum's have extended the weekend roster till Christmas giving visitors more opportunities to see the museums. Internal doors are being installed and now all exit doors are fitted with an alarm system.

#### REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

#### RECENT PROJECTS

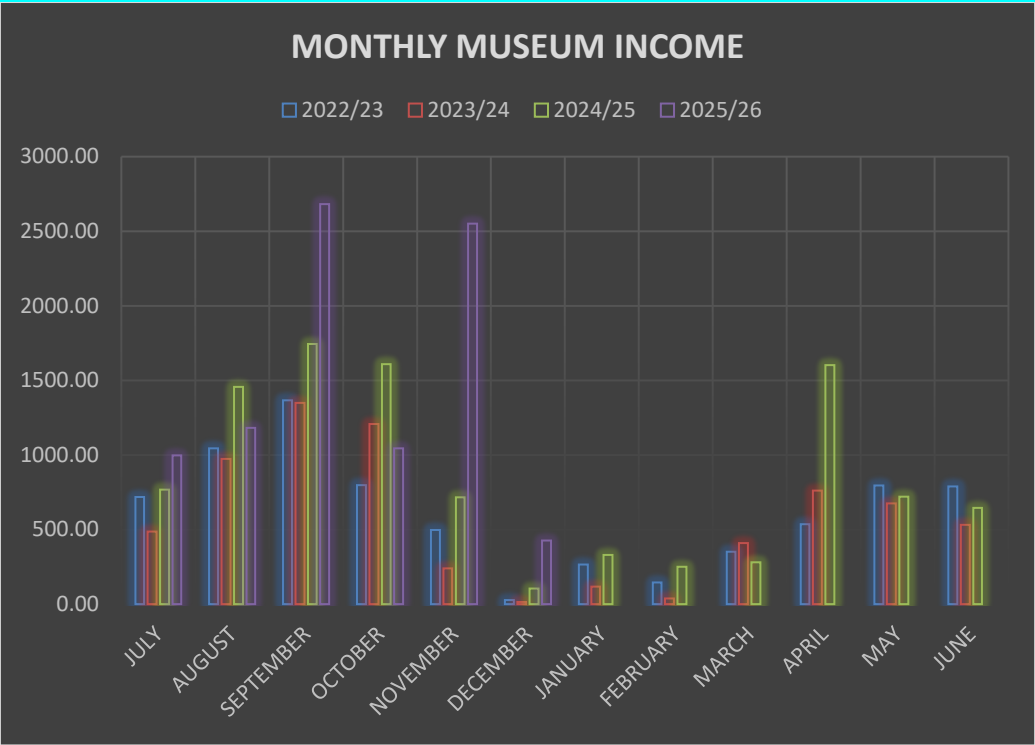
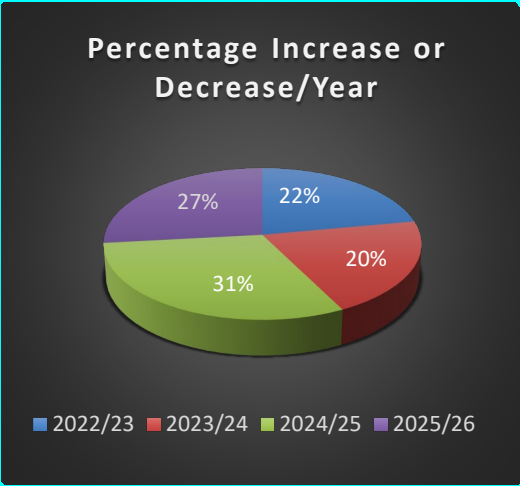
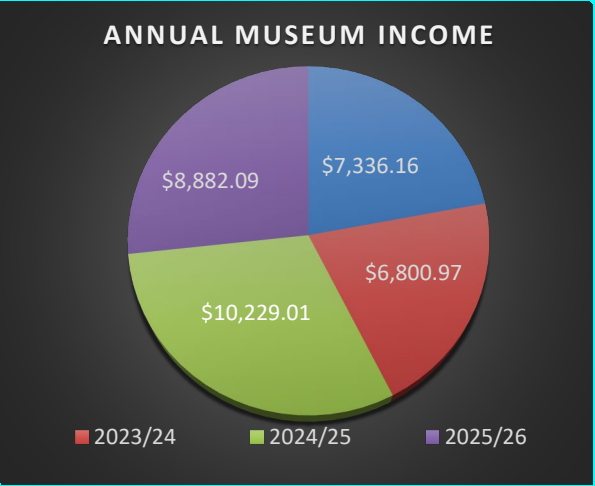
- War Memorial moved from OM Hall and photo signs now installed.
- Model War Planes hung in War Memorial scene

#### FUTURE PROJECTS

- New scenes to be created in the existing space of the old storage room to tell the stories of our primary industries of which Westonia was founded on.

#### STATISTICS





## Swimming Pool Manager's Report – December 2025

We are now two months into the 2025/26 season and operations are progressing well. Patron numbers are steadily increasing as the weather warms.

Swimming lessons are scheduled to commence on Friday, 19 December. The kiosk is fully stocked and ready, and EFTPOS facilities are now available, making transactions more efficient for patrons.

The Swim for Fruit program has been running, however attendance has been lower than expected. The final session for the year will be held this Saturday and, as it coincides with swimming lessons, we are hopeful for increased participation.

Chemical usage is tracking as follows:

- Chlorine: approximately 13 litres per day at a cost of \$7.80 per day
- Acid: approximately 1 litre per day at a cost of \$1.00 per day

Grounds maintenance continues to a high standard, with the lawn areas presenting very well.

A new retractable shade for the toddler pool and a barbecue cover have been ordered and are expected to arrive by the weekend. The retractable shade will assist in warming the toddler pool water more efficiently, allowing warmer water to circulate into the main pool. The shade can be retracted during periods of use by children.

Having John relieve when I'm away visiting family has worked really well. It makes it easy to cover time off when needed and helps keep the pool running smoothly."

### Attendance Statistics (as of Sunday 14th December)

- Adults: 311
- Children: 80
- Under 5s: 53
- Early morning swimmers: 28
- **Total: 413**

Merry Christmas everyone

Megan Simmonds

Pool Manager

# Former truck driver's garage memorabilia collection sold to Westonia to drive tourism

By Eliza Bidstrup

ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt

Car Enthusiasm

Sun 30 Nov 2025 at 8:00am



Cooper's Garage Museum has 34 restored petrol bowsers on display, as well as neon signs and fuel tanks.  
(Supplied: Shire of Westonia)

## In short:

A former truck driver has sold his 200-piece collection of fuel and garage memorabilia to a regional shire.

Cooper's Garage Museum has been unveiled in the Wheatbelt town of Westonia, 300 kilometres east of Perth.

## What's next?

Murray Cooper hopes his collection will put the small town on the map as a tourist attraction.

A former truck driver has sold his 200-piece collection of garage memorabilia — which he collected and restored over more than four decades — to a shire in Western Australia's Wheatbelt.

Cooper's Garage Museum, named after WA collector Murray Cooper, has been unveiled in Westonia, 300 kilometres east of Perth.

The museum features restored fuel pumps, signs and pedal cars, all in working order thanks to Mr Cooper's handiwork.

The oldest item dates back to 1902.



Murray Cooper and his wife Marilyn at the opening of the Cooper's Garage Museum. *(Supplied: Shire of Westonia)*

The 74-year-old said he began collecting during his years as a truck driver.

"I left school early on in the piece to use my hands and get on with my life, taking up truck driving in the fuel industry, and it gave me that opportunity to get out there and see what was around," Mr Cooper said.

"It was only by chance that I came across these early bowsers when I delivered fuel to a farmer who was still using them.



"He said I could take it away as long as I restored it and sent a photo to him of the finished product."



Cooper's Garage was named after motoring enthusiast Murray Cooper who sold his collection to the Shire of Westonia. *(Supplied: Shire of Westonia)*

Mr Cooper, who now lives in the south-west town of Elgin, said he enjoyed the challenge involved in restoration.

"Restoration work can be difficult because a lot of these pumps over the years have been left idle out in the open weather," he said.

"The variety of the pumps I get to work on is part of the challenge.

"Some of the companies had their own patented pumps so that other companies couldn't use them, so finding the right parts to bring them back to life can take some time."



This vintage pedal car is the oldest piece in the collection. (Supplied: Shire of Westonia)

The town of Westonia is home to about 130 people, and in recent years had facades of the main street restored to depict its form in the early 1900s, after gold was discovered in the area.

Mr Cooper said his ties to the Wheatbelt played a role in his decision to sell his collection to the Shire of Westonia.

"I was born in Bruce Rock, and I lived in Nungarin for three years later in life, and always liked the Wheatbelt and the lifestyle," he said.

"Unfortunately, my time here was cut short when I was called up for national service, but it certainly did help me make that final decision to send it up there."



Facades on the main street of Westonia have been restored to how they looked during the gold rush of the early 1900s. (ABC Midwest & Wheatbelt: Sam McManus)

Mr Cooper said he was overwhelmed by the local support shown at the museum's opening.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the effort and time that people have put into it," Mr Cooper said.

"There is a lot of pride in that town, and everything they have done is first class.

**"When I first looked at the museum, I was gobsmacked; it surpassed anything that I thought they would do."**





A life-sized mannequin of Murray Cooper was unveiled at the garage in honour of his contributions. (Supplied: Shire of Westonia)

A wax figure of Mr Cooper was also unveiled, which will live in Cooper's Garage, honouring his role in establishing the museum.

Shire of Westonia chief executive Bill Price said the collection built on the town's pride in its unique museums.

"We're pretty famous for the Hood-Penn museum, which is a collection of nostalgia and yesteryear items," he said.

"Based on that, we managed to come across a collection by Murray Cooper, and he was very impressed with how we looked after our items here and the museum that we had."



Many of the town's 120 residents gathered at the opening of Cooper's Garage Museum. *(Supplied: Shire of Westonia)*

Mr Price said it was an obvious decision to name the garage in Mr Cooper's honour.

"This is a legacy for Murray's work because it's been his life for more than 40 years," Mr Price said.

"The collection is absolutely immaculate.

**"There are a few antique bowser collections around Australia, but you won't see one as good as this."**



Department of Local Government,  
Industry Regulation and Safety

# Racing, Gaming and Liquor Alert

## Liquor reforms pass Parliament

The WA Government has passed the Liquor Control Amendment Bill 2025. The changes give liquor licensees and hospitality businesses in Western Australia greater flexibility to trade and grow, while strengthening measures to reduce alcohol-related harm.

The reforms aim to cut red tape, boost business and tourism across the State, and support people and communities affected by alcohol.

Changes will be rolled out in two stages.

Changes contained within the first stage of reforms will take effect soon and will apply over the 2025 festive season.

For hotels, taverns, small bars and producers:

- Trading hours on Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day will run from 10am to midnight, up to four hours longer than previously. This change allows more time for venues to operate and meet customer demand.
- Laws requiring that alcohol can only be served with a meal on Good Friday and Christmas Day have been removed.

Other improvements include:

- Extended trading permits will no longer require renewal. Instead, these will run for the life of the licence.
- Amendments to support the use of modern forms of identification have been introduced, including acceptable digital forms of ID.
- Small bar capacity will increase from 120 to 150 patrons.
- Spirit producers will be able to make a greater range of products, including ready-to-drink beverages such as hard seltzers.

The legislation also strengthens harm minimisation measures for industry and the community.

The Banned Drinker Register is now permanent, providing certainty for licensees and communities in Banned Drinker Areas, and supporting future planning and services delivery in these areas.

Penalties for sly grogging have been increased to reflect the serious impact that illegal transport and sale of liquor can have on vulnerable people and communities:

- Selling liquor without a licence will carry a fine of up to \$50,000.
- Carrying liquor more than posted restricted quantities may result in a fine of up to \$40,000.
- A range of other penalties are being updated to reflect inflation.

The second stage of reforms will start in mid-2026. Key reforms in this stage transfer the functions of the Liquor Commission to the State Administrative Tribunal.

The reforms passed by Parliament today follow consultation with industry, government agencies and community groups. They support the growth of Western Australia's hospitality sector, align with the State Government's night-time economy strategy, and further strengthen harm minimisation measures.

You can find more information on the changes, including timing and implementation, on the [LGIRS website](#).

Kind regards,

Industry Services  
Management and Coordination – Racing, Gaming and Liquor  
Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT RURAL HEALTH FUNDING ALLIANCE

### Second Communiqué

DECEMBER 2025 | [www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au](http://www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au)

We are pleased to share the *second* update of activities of the **Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance**, a collaboration of six local governments in rural WA—Lake Grace, Kojonup, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Narembeen, and Ravensthorpe—working together to address the challenge of attracting and retaining general practitioners in remote and very remote communities.

#### Alliance Highlights

- The following motion was passed at the WALGA AGM: *That WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government and WA Grants Commission to:*
  1. *increase the total funding and then the Medical Facilities Cost Adjuster component of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments; and*
  2. *recalculate distributions to those Local Governments that are providing block cash payments to attract and retain general practitioners to allow affected Council to redirect ratepayer funds to Local Government responsibilities.*
- The Alliance has developed a **position paper on a preferred service model**. This is available upon request.
- Alliance representatives met for a second time with the **National Rural Health Alliance**, as well as the **WA Country Health Service**, **Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride**, **Minister Reece Whitby**, **Rural Doctor's Association of QLD**, the **Health Consumer Council** and continued communication with the workforce division at the **Federal Department of Health**.
- The Shire of Narembeen advocated on behalf of the Alliance in Canberra recently, attending meetings with the **Hon Rick Wilson MP**, **Hon Melissa Price MP**, the **Office of Senator The Hon Anne Ruston** and **Sam Birrell MP Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health**.
- A number of Wheatbelt local governments beyond the founding six, have passed a motion at their Council meetings in support of the Alliance.
- The **Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)** continues to provide their **support** to the Alliance. On 27 October, WALGA hosted a rural and remote GP provision workshop. The workshop sought to understand if other stakeholders share the view that the current reliance on Local Government support for GP services needed to be addressed through funding and service models that better support sustainable general practice. WALGA is collecting current local government financial data on the issue.
- More than 150 medical practitioners and stakeholders gathered in Roma, QLD to discuss the future of rural generalist medicine. The forum marks 20 years since the Roma Agreement, which created a plan for training and support for Queensland rural doctors. There is strong alignment with the Roma Agreement and the work the Alliance is doing. The National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Jenny May (whom the Alliance met with in Canberra) spoke at the forum saying "*The work that will be done now ... is putting the payment frameworks and*



*their support around them to make sure that those people who live in smaller rural communities get access to services that previously they might have only been able to get," she said.*

- **Media & Outreach:**

Case study inclusion in the **Regional Australia Institute's Ambition Report**. The Ambition is a 10 year plan for regional Australia. It is a set of 25 targets for regional Australia across six pillars – Population, Jobs & Skills, Liveability, Productivity & Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience and now Health. Health is a new pillar for 2025 and includes targets and measures for medical practitioners, allied health professionals, Medicare service access, potential years of life lost and accessing NDIS.

The Alliance has a website ([ruralhealthfundingalliance.au](http://ruralhealthfundingalliance.au)); [Media Release](#) from Minister for Health Mark Butler on 21 September.

## What's Next

The Alliance is currently preparing two submissions.

1. **Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability:** The inquiry will examine the financial relationship between local government and other levels of government in Australia, with a particular emphasis on funding mechanisms and fiscal sustainability. The Alliance will be preparing a submission to the Inquiry specifically on the issue of local governments in remote and very remote areas (traditionally classified as Monash Model 5, 6 and 7) who are increasingly stepping in to fund and manage primary healthcare services—an area under the purview of State and Commonwealth governments.
2. **2026–27 Pre-Budget Submissions:** The Alliance will submit a request for 3yrs of pilot funding in the 2026/27 Federal Budget. The purpose of the pilot funding will be to relieve local governments of their annual cash contribution to attract and retain a GP, whilst collecting data to analyse the effectiveness of the service model and help inform future funding programs to address the issue across rural Australia.

**Upcoming meetings:** The Shire of Gnowangerup will host a meeting with the State Health Minister, Merredith Hammat on 15 January 2026 to discuss the policy positions of the Alliance.

## REMINDER - Invitation to Other Rural Local Governments to Support Us

We know many other rural councils across Australia are facing similar challenges.

The Alliance is continuing to **expand its network of supporting local governments** (remote and very remote) to strengthen our collective voice and see our policy positions implemented.

If your local government is contributing financially or in-kind to secure a GP, we invite you to:

- Connect with us via [ruralhealthfundingalliance.au](http://ruralhealthfundingalliance.au) and sign up;
- Share your experiences and data; and
- Move a motion at your next council meeting and let us know –
  1. The [Local Government Name] supports the policy positions of the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance; and

2. Calls on ALGA to commit to an impact assessment on local governments providing GP services in remote and very remote areas.

### Why the Alliance Was Formed

Local governments in remote and very remote areas (traditionally classified as Monash Model 5, 6 and 7) are increasingly stepping in to fund and manage primary healthcare services—an area under the purview of State and Commonwealth governments. Collectively, the six Shires who founded the Alliance contribute over **\$1.475 million annually** in cash. These cash contributions are directly from rates – for some in the Alliance it accounts for 16% of their rate income. Housing, vehicles, fuel cards, facilities, and telecommunications are also provided to attract and retain GPs.

The Alliance was formed because the provision of a GP is not their legislated responsibility, yet without their intervention, communities face poorer health outcomes, reduced life expectancy by 7yrs, and economic vulnerability

Further information available:

Lead Shire: Lake Grace

Contact: [ea@lakegrace.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@lakegrace.wa.gov.au)