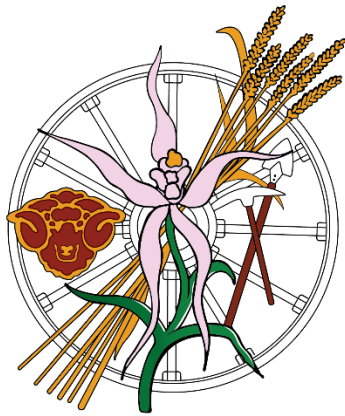




**SHIRE OF
WESTONIA**
A vibrant community lifestyle



Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 24th July 2025

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 21st August 2025 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24th July 2025.

.....
Cr RM Crees
Shire President

All attachment items referred to in these minutes are available for public perusal at the Shire Office

Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Westonia for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings.

The Shire of Westonia disclaims and liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused by arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during the Council Meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does that persons or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the board disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or intimation made by any member or Officer of the Shire of Westonia during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Westonia.

The Shire of Westonia warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Westonia must obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Westonia in respect of the application.



**SHIRE OF
WESTONIA**
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community.
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny.

OUR VALUES

Respect – We value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

Fairness and Equity – Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

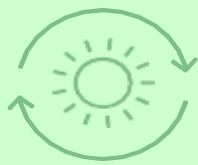
OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

- Continue to utilise our Road Management Plan, which incorporates a road hierarchy, minimum service levels and maintenance policy.
- RAV Ratings and Shire boundaries are consistent across local government boundaries.
- Lobby and build enduring partnerships with key Government Departments to improve Great Eastern Hwy.
- Actively participate in the Secondary Freight Network group.
- Develop and implement a Road Asset Plan highlighting key funder and strategic partnerships to support sustainability.
- Develop a Gravel Reserve Policy which identifies future gravel reserves and recognises cost to local government.
- Educate road users about road safety and driving on gravel roads.
- Optimal and safe use of our plants and equipment assets.
- Ensure that appropriate RAV vehicles traverse correct RAV routes.
- Maintain our airport with a view to improvements to meet commercial and recreational aviation needs.

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

- Council recognises the opportunity of partnering with Westonia Progress Association, works closely and supports them to help achieve their economic development projects and our strategic goals.
- Council continue to have a role in facilitating the presence of a Co-op in our community.
- Enhance local economic activity by supporting the growth of tourism in our Shire and region including applying for funding to improve tourist facilities.
- Improve our online tourism presence.
- We forward plan to improve the economic diversity in our community.
- In partnership with Council, the mine develops long term business plans for current mine assets.
- Investigate options for multipurpose accommodation if vacancies arise in mine accommodation.

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social Interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

- Develop the Town Planning Scheme.
- Plan and develop residential and industrial land.
- Community safety and ease of access around town is a priority.
- Our lifestyle, facilities and sense of community is promoted.
- The CEACA project continues to expand the number of universally designed dwellings in our town.
- We support our emergency services.
- We enable visiting health professionals to our community.
- The Community Resource Centre receives external funding to provide preventative health and community development initiatives to the community.
- We facilitate healthy and active ageing in place
- Our cemetery is well presented.

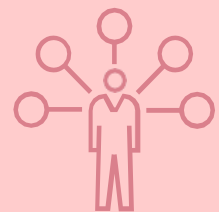
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- We collaborate and encourage active engagement in local clubs and community initiatives that support a healthy lifestyle.
- Investigate motor sport opportunities around the Shire.
- Preserve and celebrate our local history.
- Support our volunteers and clubs to remain strong, dynamic, and inclusive.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Children and youth have active and social opportunities.
- Continue to provide high standard and accessible shire facilities.
- Retain and expand Westonia's unique tourism experience.

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

- Sustainably manage our reserves and open spaces.
- Participate in best practice waste management.
- Work collaboratively to meet legislative compliance with managing weeds and pests as well as our environmental health standards.
- Investigate renewable energy generation technologies.

GOVERNANCE



Continually enhance the Shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community...

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

- Be open to local productivity/ best practice and cost saving opportunities locally and regionally.
- Investigate joint resourcing and tendering
- Advocate and develop strong partnerships to benefit our community.
- Be prepared by forward planning our resources and focusing on continuous improvement.
- Identify risks and opportunities after the life of the mine.

The community receives services in a timely manner.

- Meet our legislative and compliance requirements.
- Work towards optimal management of our assets.
- Work to develop Councillor and staff skills and experience to provide career and succession opportunities within the Shire.
- Inside and outside staff are multi skilled to understand the business of local government and provide a seamless service to the community.
- Communicate and engage with our community regularly.

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

- Seek external funding for significant capital improvements that deliver upon our strategic objectives.
- Investigate ways to reduce reliance on operational grants given the current State and Federal Government priorities.

Shire of Westonia: -

A vibrant community lifestyle.



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Crees welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 4.00pm.

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for the following person who have recently passed away:
Mr Rob Simmonds

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr RM Crees	<i>Shire President</i>
Cr RA Della Bosca	<i>Deputy Shire President</i>
Cr DL Geier	
Cr WJ Huxtable	
Cr A Faithfull	
Cr DL Simmonds	

Staff:

Mr.AW Price	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Mrs JL Geier	<i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>

Members of the Public:

Apologies:

Approved Leave of Absence:

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (4.10PM – 4.25PM)

NIL

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Ainslie Faithfull

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19th June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Simmonds	Seconded:	Cr Faithfull
--------	-------------	-----------	--------------

01/07-25	That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 th June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record
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CARRIED 6/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Wheatbelt North-East Sub Regional Road Group Meeting held on Friday 2nd June 2025 be accepted.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Geier	Seconded:	Cr Huxtable
02/07-25	That the minutes of the Wheatbelt North-East Sub Regional Road Group Meeting held on Friday 2nd June 2025 be accepted.		

CARRIED 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:

- Road Inspection Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- WEROC executive Meeting 19th June
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

Deputy President, Cr Della Bosca advised having attended the following meetings:

- Road Inspection Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

- Road Inspection Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- Wheatbelt North East SRRG Zoom Meeting this coming Friday 27th June 2025
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:

- Road Inspection Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:

- Road Inspection Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

Councillor Huxtable advised having attended the following meetings:

- Drafted Budget Meeting Wednesday 2nd July 2025
- WALGA Local Government Awards 2025 Saturday 19th July 2025

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Financial** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **24th July 2025**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person and Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **24th July 2025**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity. interest** were made at the Council meeting held on **24th July 2025**.

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JUNE 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer		
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts		
Signature:	Officer	CEO	
			

Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision

☒ Legislative Requirement

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

Background

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

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of June 2025 The credit card/ Fuel Card statements currently show: -

MasterCard Transactions

CEO June 2025 \$2,101.46 associated with the purchase of 1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring,1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring, 1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly, Active8me internet service, 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring, 1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring, Starlink - CEO Internet Reddy Express – Fuel, Westonia Shire - Change of Plates, FTC Northam - Fuel Canter, Dept Energy,Mines,Industry - Annual Licence Dangerous Goods, National Character Check, United Kellerberrin – Fuel, Big W - Canvas Prints, Card Fee

DCEO June 2025 \$5,000.00 associated with the purchase of, Dept Racing & Gaming - Occasional Liquor Licence, WALGA LG Awards, Kmart - Microwaves Toasters, Survey Monkey Subscription, MyDeal - Safe Key Drop Box, Seton - Trolley Bundle, My Henry - Vacuum Cleaners, Go Mad - Storage Containers ,Geraghtys Engineering - Bus Annual Inspection, Red Herring Games – Games, International Transaction, Card Fee

Fuel Card Transactions Totalling Nil

CEO Nil

DCEO Nil

Construction Supervisor Nil

Statutory Environment

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



Policy Implications

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



Strategic Implications

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



Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That June 2025 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4586 to DD4634 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7675 to EFT7718 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$1,021,454.38 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	CrGeier	Seconded:	CrHuxtable
03/07-25	That June 2025 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4586 to DD4634 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7675 to EFT7718 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$1,021,454.38 be passed for payment.		

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY-- JUNE 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer		
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity		
Signature:	Officer	CEO	
			

Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision ☒ Legislative Requirement

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

Background

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

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending June 2025 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Statement of Financial Activity
2. Statement of Financial Position
3. Note 1 Basis of Preparation
4. Note 2 Statement of Financial Activity Information
5. Note 3 Explanation of Material Variances
6. Supplementary information

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2024/2025 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

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

Strategic Implications

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

Financial Implications

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

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending June 2025 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Geier

Seconded:

CrSimmonds

04/07-25

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending June 2025 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – JUNE 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer		
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report		
Signature:	Officer	CEO	
			

Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision ☒ Legislative Requirement

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

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at June2025 provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councillor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

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

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

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

Voting Requirements

☒ Simple Majority ☐ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$45,369.00 for the period ending June 2025 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Faithfull	Seconded:	Cr Della Bosca
05/07-25	That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$45,369.00 for the period ending June 2025 adopted		
			CARRIED 6/0

9.1.4 ADOPTION OF THE 2025/2026 BUDGET

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.6 – 2025/2026 Budget	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

☐

Executive Decision

☒

Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is to consider and adopt the Municipal Fund Budget for the 2025/2026 financial year together with supporting schedules, including imposition of rates and minimum payments, adoption of fees and charges, establishment of new reserve funds, setting of elected members fees for the year and other consequential matters arising from the budget papers.

Background

The draft 2025/2026 budget has been compiled based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Plan for the Future. The 2025/2026 draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the presentations made to councillors at the budget workshop held on 2nd July 2025

The proposed differential general rates were approved by the Council on 15th May 2025 and advertised for public comment. No submissions were received by 16th June 2025 when the public comment period closed. Ministerial approval to impose differential rates/minimum payments was received 24 July 2025.

Comment

The budget has been prepared to include information required by the Local Government Act 1995, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Australian Accounting Standards. The main features of the draft budget include:

- The budget has been prepared with a 3.0% rate increase in line with the forward financial plans contained in the Plan for the Future. This increase applies to all differential general rate categories.
- Fees and charges for the various services that the Shire provides are listed in pages 74 to 77 in the budget. Some Fees & Charges have had moderate changes although plant hire rates have been increased in consideration of rising fuel costs.
- A capital works program totalling \$4.9m for investment in infrastructure, land and buildings, plant and equipment and furniture and equipment is planned. Expenditure on road infrastructure is the major component of this (\$2.1m) in line with Council's strategy to increase the investment in road and associated assets. An amount of \$2.1m is provided for land and buildings of which \$500k is for Singles Person Quarters & \$800k for the Playground Redevelopment.
- An estimated surplus of \$3.8m is anticipated to be brought forward from 30 June 2025. However, this is unaudited and may change. Any change will be addressed as part of a future budget review.
- Principal additional grant funding for the year is estimated from:
 - MRWA Funding - \$678,000.
 - Roads to Recovery - \$519,000.
 - The draft 2025/2026 budget continues to deliver on other strategies adopted by the Council and maintains a high level of service across all programs while ensuring an increased focus on road and associated infrastructure as well as on renewing all assets at sustainable levels.

Statutory Environment

LGA S6.2 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt, (Absolute Majority required) in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Divisions 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995 refer to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2025/2026 budget as presented is considered to meet statutory requirements.

Section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 enables a local government to impose an annual charge in respect of premises provided with a waste service by the local government.

Section 5.98 of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to Council members.

Section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to set out allowances payable to Deputy Presidents or Deputy Mayors.

Section 78(2) of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 requires the Tribunal, at intervals of not more than 12 months, to inquire into and determine –

- the amount of fees to be paid to Council members;
- the amount of expenses to be reimbursed to Council members;
- the amount of allowances to be paid to Council members.

Regulations 30-34AD of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 set the limits, parameters and types of allowances that can be paid to elected members.

Policy Implications

There are no known policy implications arising from this report.

Strategic Implications

The draft 2025/2026 budget has been developed having regard for the Shire Plan for the Future and Corporate Business Plan adopted by council.

Financial Implications

Specific financial implications are as outlined in the body of this report and as itemised in the draft 2025/2026 budget attached for adoption.

Voting Requirements

☐ Simple Majority

☒ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGET FOR 2025 /2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopt the Budget as contained in Attachment 9.1.4 of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Westonia for the 2025/2026 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.
- Statement of Cash Flows.
- Rate Setting Statement.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Huxtable

06/07-25 BUDGET FOR 2025 /2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopt the Budget as contained in Attachment 9.1.4 of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Westonia for the 2025/2026 financial year which includes the following:

- **Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.**
- **Statement of Cash Flows.**
- **Rate Setting Statement.**
- **Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

☐ Simple Majority

☒ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RATES, MINIMUM PAYMENTS, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS AND INTEREST

1. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, Council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995* impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

GRV Residential/Commercial	\$835,760— same as last year.
GRV Mining -	\$1,305,800 – same as last year.
UV Rural -	\$83,916,500— increase of 14.08 % from last year; and
UV Mining -	\$247,142— decrease of 9.08% from last year.

Rating

GRV Residential -	8.225 cents in the \$.	
GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-	8.225 cents in the \$.	
GRV Mining -	24.239 cents in the \$.	
UV Rural -	1.056 cents in the \$; and	
UV Mining -	1.056 cents in the \$.	
Minimum Rate	UV Mining	\$200.00
	All Other	\$370.00

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:
 - Option 1 (Full Payment)
 - Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is the later.
 - Option 2 (Two Instalments)

- First instalment to be made on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of Issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 15 November 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
 - Option 3 (Four Instalments)
 - First instalment to be made on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 15 November 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
 - Third instalment to be made on or before 18th January 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
 - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 21st March 2026
- 54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
 5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
 6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Simmonds	Seconded:	Cr Geier
07/07-25	GENERAL RATES, MINIMUM PAYMENTS, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS AND INTEREST		
1. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, Council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.34 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.			
	GRV Residential/Commercial	\$835,760– same as last year.	
	GRV Mining -	\$1,305,800 – same as last year.	
	UV Rural - last year; and	\$83,916,500– increase of 14.08 % from	
	UV Mining - year.	\$247,142– decrease of 9.08% from last	
	<i>Rating</i>		
	GRV Residential -	8.225 cents in the \$.	
	GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-	8.225 cents in the \$.	
	GRV Mining -	24.239 cents in the \$.	
	UV Rural -	1.056 cents in the \$; and	
	UV Mining -	1.056 cents in the \$.	

Minimum Rate	UV Mining	\$200.00
	All Other	\$370.00

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:
 - Option 1 (Full Payment)
 - Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is the later.
 - Option 2 (Two Instalments)
 - First instalment to be made on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of Issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 15 November 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
 - Option 3 (Four Instalments)
 - First instalment to be made on or before 15 September 2025 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
 - Second instalment to be made on or before 15 November 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
 - Third instalment to be made on or before 18th January 2026, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
 - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 21st March 2026
- 54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

☐ Simple Majority

☒ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2025/2026

Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other relevant legislation, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included at pages 74 to 77 inclusive of the draft 2025/2026 budget included as Attachment 9.1.4 of this agenda and minutes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Huxtable

08/07-25 FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2025/2026

Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other relevant legislation, Council adopts the Fees and Charges included at pages 74 to 77 inclusive of the draft 2025/2026 budget included as Attachment 9.1.4 of this agenda and minutes.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

☐ Simple Majority

☐ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

ELECTED MEMBERS' FEES AND ALLOWANCES FOR 2025/2026

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, Councillor meeting attendance fees be set at \$365.45 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, meeting attendance fees for the President be set at \$365.45 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 33 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Part 7.2 (1) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at \$6,000.00

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds

Seconded: Cr Faithfull

09/07-25 ELECTED MEMBERS' FEES AND ALLOWANCES FOR 2025/2026

In accordance with Section 5.98(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, Councillor meeting attendance fees be set at \$365.45 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 30 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Part 6.2 (1) and Part 6.3 (1)(a) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, meeting attendance fees for the President be set at \$365.45 per Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, Regulation 33 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Part 7.2 (1) of the Determination for Local Government Elected Council Members pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975, the annual allowance for the Shire President be set at \$6,000.00

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

☐ Simple Majority

☒ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2025/2026

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025/2026 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca **Seconded:** Cr Huxtable

10/07-25 MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2025/2026

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025/2026 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

9.1.5 WALGA AGM AND CONVENTION 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	A2.8.5	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	WALGA Program	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

☒ Executive Decision ☐ Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider which Councillors will be attending the WALGA Convention being held in Perth on 22 – 24 September 2025 and who will be the voting delegates at the AGM.

Background

WALGA is local governments representative body and annually conducts a conference including the AGM. The 2025 convention is being held between 22 – 24 September at the Perth Convention Centre.

A program for the event is attached for Councillor information.

Comment

Council will need to nominate if they are attending so that arrangements can be made for registrations and accommodations.

Based on which Councillors will be attending will determine who will be Council’s voting delegates at the AGM.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Strategic Implications

Networking and learning opportunities provided by the Convention

Financial Implications

Budget allowance for the attendance of conferences.

Voting Requirements

☒ Simple Majority ☐ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Crs (insert names) attend the 2025 WALGA AGM and Convention being held at the Perth Convention Centre with Crs (insert names) being Council’s voting delegates at the AGM.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Huxtable	Seconded:	Cr Gier
11/07-25	That Cr Crees, Cr Faithfull @ DCEO Jasmine Geier attend the 2025 WALGA AGM and Convention being held at the Perth Convention Centre with Crs Crees & Faithfull being Council’s voting delegates at the AGM.		

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS

9.2.1 RURAL HEALTH FUNDING ALLIANCE SUPPORT

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	F1.10.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Rural Health Funding Alliance Position Paper	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

☒ Executive Decision ☐ Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider supporting the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance position paper advocating for a recalibration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants recognising the additional burden of health Service provision being imposed on the Local Government Industry.

Background

A collaboration of Wheatbelt and Great Southern Councils are reaching out to bring attention to the pressing issue of rural healthcare funding in Western Australia. Currently, local governments are shouldering the financial burden of providing essential GP services—a model that is both unsustainable and inequitable.

The Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance, comprising six councils from the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, has developed a position paper advocating for a recalibration of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants. This adjustment aims to ensure that rural communities have equitable access to healthcare services, regardless of their postcode.

Key Points from the Position Paper:

- Some families in regional WA travel up to 184km one way to see a GP.
- Local governments are spending over \$1.47 million annually from ratepayer funds to maintain basic medical services.
- Life expectancy in remote WA is up to 7 years lower than in metropolitan areas.
- The proposed funding adjustment would help attract and retain GPs, reduce reliance on ratepayer funds, and free up local budgets for essential services. We invite you to review the full position paper and consider endorsing this critical advocacy effort. Your support can make a significant difference in achieving a fairer, long-term solution for rural healthcare funding.

Comment

Our own Council invests heavily in the provision of Health Care Services through the Westonia Health Clinic providing a visiting GP, Nurse Practitioner, Physiotherapy, Chiropractor and Podiatrist, without any supporting government funding assistance.

Recognition of this investment would be beneficial should it be recognised and compensated in the General Purpose Commonwealth Grant.

Statutory Environment

Nil



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Recognition of the impost of Health Service Provision provided by Local Government sector.



Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council support the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance position paper advocating for a recalibration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants recognising the additional burden of health Service provision being imposed on the Local Government Industry.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr DellaBosca	Seconded:	Cr Geier
12/07-25	That Council support the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance position paper advocating for a recalibration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants recognising the additional burden of health Service provision being imposed on the Local Government Industry.		

CARRIED 6/0

9.2.2 WHEATBELT NRM – COLLECTION OF SEED AUTHORITY

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO

Purpose of the Report

☒ Executive Decision ☐ Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is to consider providing permission for Wheatbelt NRM to collect Native Flora within the shire boundaries.

Background

Wheatbelt NRM on behalf of the Noongar Boodjar Rangers is seeking Council’s permission to collect native seed from Reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia.

Council has granted this organization permission in the past under normal conditions.

Comment

Council has granted permission before to several entities with the following conditions.

- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.
- Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing June 2025.
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- There be a requirement to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

There are no policies relating to this matter.

Strategic Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

Voting Requirements

☒ Simple Majority ☐ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council authorise Wheatbelt NRM Noongar Boodjar Rangers to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below.

- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.
- Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing June 2025.
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- There be a requirement to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr DellaBosca	Seconded:	Cr Simmonds
13/07-25	That Council authorise Wheatbelt NRM Noongar Boodjar Rangers to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below. • All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence. • Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing June 2025. • Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds. • All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat. • All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and • There be a requirement to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire		

CARRIED 6/0

- Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing June 2025.
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- That a database of the flowering plants of the Westonia Common be made available to the Council for public information.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

There are no policies relating to this matter.

Strategic Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council authorise Brenda Newbey to collect native seed from the Town Common under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below.

- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.
- Permission is for a three year period, commencing June 2025.
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- That a database of the flowering plants of the Westonia Common be made available to the Council for public information.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

- 14/07-25 That Council authorise Brenda Newbey to collect native seed from the Town Common under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below.
- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.
 - Permission is for a three year period, commencing June 2025.
 - Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
 - All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
 - All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
 - That a database of the flowering plants of the Westonia Common be made available to the Council for public information.

CARRIED 6/0

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES

Nil

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

Nil

10. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds

Seconded: Cr DellaBosca

15/07-25 That Council introduces the following item of an urgent nature to the meeting for discussion

CARRIED 6/0

11.1 REGIONAL ROAD GROUP – 5 YEAR PROGRAM & 26/27 PROJECT MCA'S

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	T.1.1.3
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment – 5 Year Program & Leach Rd MCA
Signature:	Officer CEO

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the adjustment to the Regional Road Group 5-year program and the 26/27 project MCA for Leach Road.

Background

As part of the Regional Road Group Funding Arrangements, Council are required to review its 5-year road program and provide updated MCA's for the 26/27 financial year and beyond.

Council Roads currently eligible under the Regional Road Group program are.

- Warralakin Road
- Koorda Bullfinch Road (M040)
- Leach Road
- Rabbit Proof Fence Road (sealed section only)
- Westonia/Carrabin Road
- Stoneman Road
- Boodarockin Road

Annually Council is required to review its 5-year program to ensure that it is relevant with its current priorities and reflects the current and proposed status of the road projects.

Comment

The proposed MCA's application for funding in the 26/27 financial year is the following.

1. Leach Road – reconstruct 1.5km including 2 coat seal \$ 716,933.

Attached is the summary cover sheet for the project for Councillor information. Also attached is the adjusted 5 Year Road Program 26/27 to 31/32 financial years for Councillors' information.



Statutory Environment

Nil



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

\$ 492,294 Regional Road Group Funding for the 26/27 financial year.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council review and endorse the amended submission to the Regional Road Group: -

- 5 Year Road Program 26/27 to 31/32 financial years; and
- 26/27 MCA submission for Leach Road as presented.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

16/07-25

That Council review and endorse the amended submission to the Regional Road Group:-

- 5 Year Road Program 26/27 to 31/32 financial years; and
- 26/27 MCA submission for Leach Road as presented.

CARRIED 6/0

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 21st August 2025 commencing at 4.00pm.

13. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Mark Crees declared the meeting closed at 4.40pm