



Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 18th June 2026

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 18th June 2026 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16th July 2026

.....
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.

Declaration of Financial Interest, Proximity Interest and/or Interest Affecting Impartiality

Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Westonia

In accordance with Section 5.60-5.65 of the Local Government Act and Regulation 34(B) and 34(C) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations, I advise you that I declare a (☐appropriate box):

☐ **financial interest (Section 5.60A)**

A person has a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonable to expect that the matter will, if dealt with by the local government, or an employee or committee of the local government or member of the council of the local government, in a particular way, result in a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment for the person.

☐ **proximity interest (Section 5.60B)**

A person has a proximity interest in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed —

(a) change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land;

(b) change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or

(c) development (as defined in section 5.63(5)) of land that adjoins the person's land.

☐ **interest affecting impartiality/closely associated persons (Regulation 24C).** I disclose that I have an association with the applicant. As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly.

An interest that would give rise to a reasonable belief that the impartiality of the person having the interest would be adversely affected but does not include a financial or proximity interest as referred to in section 5.60.

in the following Council / Committee Meetings to be held on _____

in Item number/s _____

the nature of the interest being _____

☐ Further, that I wish to remain in the Chamber to participate in proceedings. As such, I declare the extent of my interest as being:

Yours faithfully

(Councillor's signature)

Councillor's Name

The *Local Government Act* provides that it is the member's obligation to declare the Nature of an interest if they believe that they have a financial interest, proximity interest, closely associated persons or an interest affecting impartiality in a matter being discussed by Council.

The Act provides that the Nature of the interest may be declared in writing to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting or declared prior to discussion of the Agenda Item at the meeting. The Act further provides that the Extent of the interest needs to be declared if the member seeks to remain in the Chamber during the discussion, debate or voting on the item.

A Councillor declaring a financial or proximity interest must leave the meeting prior to the matter being discussed or voted on (including the question as to whether they are permitted to remain in the Chamber). Councillors remaining in the Chamber may resolve to allow the member to return to the meeting to participate in the proceedings.

The decision of whether to disclose a financial interest is yours and yours alone. Nobody can disclose for you and you can not be forced to make a disclosure.



**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.

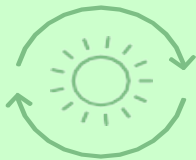
OUR VISION

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 passing of past local resident.

Mrs Lila Beck

Mr Richard Bennett.

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 MJ Crews	
Cr A Faithfull	
Cr DL Simmonds	

Staff:

Mrs JL Geier	<i>Acting Chief Executive Officer</i>
Miss C Pedrotti	<i>Finance 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

Possible CR Simmonds for July Meeting

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21st May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Simmonds	Seconded:	Cr Crews
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01/06-26	That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 st May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
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CARRIED 6/6

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:
GECZ Executive Committee Thursday 11th June 2026.

Deputy President, Cr Della Bosca advised having attended the following meetings:
Lila Becks and Richard Bennett Funeral
Assist with Progress Seeding Program Tuesday 26 May 2026

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:
Nil

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:
Nil

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:
NewTravel Meeting Tuesday 9th June 2026

Councillor Crews advised having attended the following meetings:
Nil

8. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST, PROXIMITY INTEREST AND/OR INTEREST AFFECTING IMPARTIALITY

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 **18th June 2026**.

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 **18th June 2026**.

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 **18th June 2026**.

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 – MAY 2026

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts
Signature:	Officer ACTING 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 May 2026 The credit card/ Fuel Card statements currently show: -

MasterCard Transactions - \$4,682.70

CEO May 2026 \$841.27 associated with the purchase of 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring, Starlink, Spotlight – Curtain Supplies, Flagworld Australian Flag, WWP Safety Sign Card Fee

DCEO May 2026 \$ 3,841.43 associated with the purchase of 5xExchange, 9x365 Business Basic, 13x365 Business Std, Mukinbudin CV Park – Accommodation, IGA - Australian Golden Outback Sundowner Food, Mukinbudin - Lunch Works Crew Nungarin/Muka Private Works, Shire – OWT Registration, Facebook Advert Westonia Hilux Raffle, Bendigo - Card Fee and International Transaction

Fuel Card Transactions Totalling \$342.08

CEO	\$ - 0.00
DCEO	\$ -223.01
Construction Supervisor	\$ - 119.07

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 2025/2026 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That May 2026 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4961 to DD4981 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT8335 to EFT8391 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$835,991.24 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Faithfull	Seconded:	Cr Crews
02/06-26	That May 2026 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4961 to DD4981 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT8335 to EFT8391 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$835,991.24 be passed for payment.		

CARRIED 6/6

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– MAY 2026

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity
Signature:	Officer ACTING 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 May 2026 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 2025/2026 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 May 2026 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Della Bosca	Seconded:	Cr Simmonds
03/06-26	That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending May 2026 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.		

CARRIED 6/6

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – MAY 2026

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report
Signature:	Officer ACTING 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 May 2026 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 \$17,891.00 for the period ending May 2026 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved: **Cr Faithfull**

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

04/06-26 That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$17,891.00 for the period ending May 2026 adopted.

CARRIED 6/6

9.1.4 RESERVE TRANSFERS

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, Acting CEO	
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Acting CEO	
File Reference:		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	ACTING CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

☒ Executive Decision ☐ Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council’s endorsement for the transfer of funds from the Municipal Fund to the Reserve Fund to fund future projects.

Background

Council in its annual budget makes considerations for the transfer of funds to and from the Reserve account depending on the immediate and/or long-term needs of the Municipal budget or projects at hand.

The 2025/26 budget made recommendation for the following net transfers between accounts.

Plant Reserve	\$ 75,000 from Reserve to Muni
Swimming Pool Reserve	\$ 500,000 from Muni to Reserve
Community Dev Reserve	\$ 700,000 from Muni to Reserve.

Comment

These projections were set at the commencement of last year’s budget and with a full year of operations I am recommending that the following transfers between accounts also take place

Community Dev Reserve	\$ 950,000 from Muni to Reserve.
Long Service Leave Reserve	\$ 50,000 from Muni to Reserve

It is noted that all interest earned on the Reserve Term Deposit is retained and allocated accordingly to each Reserve balance. This year’s interest earned has \$ 104,000.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter.

Strategic Implications

Sound Financial management practises by reserving funds for future project initiatives.

Financial Implications

Transfer of \$ 1,000,000 from the Municipal Fund to the Reserve Fund accounts for future projects.



Voting Requirements

☐

Simple Majority

☒

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council makes the following transfers between the Municipal Fund and the Reserve Fund

Community Dev Reserve	\$ 950,000 from Muni to Reserve.
Long Service Leave Reserve	\$ 50,000 from Muni to Reserve

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Geier	Seconded:	Cr Della Bosca
05/06-26	That Council makes the following transfers between the Municipal Fund and the Reserve Fund		
	Community Dev Reserve	\$ 950,000 from Muni to Reserve.	
	Long Service Leave Reserve	\$ 50,000 from Muni to Reserve	

CARRIED 6/6

9.1.5 DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2026/2027

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
File Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	1. Differential Rates Advert 26/27, 2. Objects & Reasons for Differential Rates, 3. Statement of Rating Information
Signature:	Officer ACTING CEO 

Purpose of the Report

☐

Executive Decision

☒

Legislative Requirement

The Purpose of this report is for Council to consider any submissions received following advertising of the proposed differential rates for 2026/2027 financial year.

Nil Submissions Received

Summary

Council supported the differential rates in the dollar and minimums proposed for the 2026/2027 financial year and advertised the proposed rates for a 21 day comment period closing on Monday 1st June 2026 Council are then required to seek Ministerial approval for proposing to impose a Mining GRV differential rate that is more than twice the lowest rate.

May 2026 Resolution:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Geier

08/04-26

That Council:

1. Endorse the Differential Rating – Objects and Reasons for the 2026/2027 rating years as presented;
2. Endorse the following proposed Differential General Rates Categories, Rates in the Dollar and Minimum amounts for the Shire of Westonia for the 2026/2027 financial year:

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.636	370.00
GRV Mining	25.450	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.108	370.00
UV - Mining	1.108	200.00

3. Endorse a public notice and consultation process on the proposed Differential GRV General Rates and GRV Mining Rates as follows:
 - Local public notice being placed on Councils website on Monday 4th May 2026 with ancillary notices being published as soon as practicable after this, as per the requirements of section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995.
 - Individual ratepayer consultation for all ratepayers in GRV Mining Rates Categories.

CARRIED 5/0 ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

Background

An advertisement on the 8th May 2026 was included in the public notice section of the Newspaper circulated in the district as well as being located on the public notice board at the Shire office and the Shire website. The community will have 21 days to make submissions. (12.00pm Monday 1st June 2026)

Comment

The Local Government Act 1995 provides for Councils to levy rates to fund the estimated annual budget deficiency for the forthcoming financial year.

The estimated budget deficit for the 2026/2027 financial year has not yet been finalised, as the detailed budget estimates covering various expense and revenue items are currently being prepared. At present, the amount required from rates to fund the outcomes of the draft budget is in excess of the rate increase proposed of 5%. Staff is revising the draft budget and service levels and are looking at all avenues to reduce the gap, including alternative revenue sources.

In the past Council has adopted rates that are more than twice the minimum differential rate and must therefore seek Ministerial approval, as required by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995. The Department of Local Government has been scrutinising Council's differential rating strategy each year and may request modifications to be made, if they are not satisfied that the rating strategy is fair and equitable.

It must be understood the purpose of this Agenda Item is to set an estimated Differential Rate so a request can be sent to the Minister after advertising and seeking submissions from the electorate. Invariable the actual rate amount set may differ from the estimate once the valuations have been received from Landgate for the next financial year. However the legislations allows these rate in dollar amounts to be adjusted to reflect the actual valuations by making notation in the Shires Adopted Budget and on the Rate Notices sent out. Such notation is to explain the reason for the difference between the advertise Differential Rate and that impose being due to valuation adjustments from Landgate. The actual Rate Revenue raised will not differ significantly.

The table below shows the rate categories for 2026/2027 and the rate in cents and minimum amounts; GRV Rate Category

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.636	370.00
GRV Mining	25.450	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.108	370.00
UV - Mining	1.108	200.00

Statutory Environment

Under section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council is required to give local public notice of the intention of Council to impose differential rates, or a minimum payment under a differential rate category. Local public notice includes publishing in a newspaper circulating in the district, exhibiting on the notice board of the local government office, and exhibiting on the notice board of the library inviting submissions in respect of the following information, for a minimum of 21 days;

- Details of each rate or minimum payment the local government intends to impose,
- Invitation for submissions to be made in respect of the proposed rate or minimum payment and any related matters.

Policy Implications

There are no policies relating to this matter.

Strategic Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

The Shire's principle source of income is through rates. It is an essential part of the budget process that the Council consider the level of rates that need to be raised in the context of funding the annual budget. It must also be noted that as other income, such as fees and charges are fixed by external legislation, there is very little scope for the Shire to increase this revenue source to keep up with the rising costs of service provision, therefore, these increasing costs must be borne by increases in rates.

The Shire has until 31 August each year to adopt the Annual Budget, as the Shire is a growing organisation and as such we are heavily reliant on receiving rates income to fund our operations, including salaries. With this in mind, setting the level of rates for advertising and allowing the adoption of the annual budget in June, after the close of the advertising period, is a very high priority to enable rates notices to be issued. The Shire prepares its cash flow based on starting to receive rate payments in late August each year.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. Acknowledge Nil submissions received in regards to the proposed "Rate in the Dollar" for the 2026/2027 financial year.
2. Advise that the Council has reviewed the expenditure requirements and considered efficiency measures during budget deliberations (Long Term Financial Plan Review) and consider that the rates as advertised are required.
3. Request the CEO to seek Ministerial approval to raise rates under Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* no more than the "Rate in the Dollar" that was advertised except for the amended mining rate category.

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.636	370.00
GRV Mining	25.450	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.108	370.00
UV - Mining	1.108	200.00

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Faithfull

Seconded:

Cr Crews

06/06-26

That Council

1. Acknowledge Nil submissions received in regards to the proposed "Rate in the Dollar" for the 2026/2027 financial year.

2. Advise that the Council has reviewed the expenditure requirements and considered efficiency measures during budget deliberations (Long Term Financial Plan Review) and consider that the rates as advertised are required.
3. Request the CEO to seek Ministerial approval to raise rates under Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* no more than the “Rate in the Dollar” that was advertised except for the amended mining rate category.

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.636	370.00
GRV Mining	25.450	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.108	370.00
UV - Mining	1.108	200.00

CARRIED 6/6

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS

9.2.1 APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION LICENCE 77/3394

Responsible Officer:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, ACTING CEO
File Reference:	ES1.6.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Location Map EL 77/3394
Signature:	Officer 
	ACTING CEO

Purpose of the Report

☐

Executive Decision

☐

Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council's comment on an Exploration license in the central part of the shire.

Background

The Shire has been advised of an application for an Exploration license having been lodged by Paul W Askins and Andrew J Drummond (E77/3394).

The application relates to land in the central portion of the Shire surrounding the Westonia townsite (See Attached)

Comment

Previous exploration approvals have been granted with the following conditions:

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company's mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
- 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called.
- 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram.
- 8) Safety signs are to be erected in accordance with Australian Standards – to warn both mining staff, contractors, and the public/visitors.
- 9) All drill holes are to be capped as soon as possible/practical after drilling.
- 10) If working within 100m from a residence, all noise generated is to be limited in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, when working between 7:00 pm. and 7:00 am.

- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical N/A in any way..

Statutory Environment

The Mining Act prevails in this matter.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council grants approval to Paul W Askins and Andrew J Drummond (E77/3394) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: -

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company’s mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
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- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical N/A in any way.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Crews

Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

07/06-26

That Council grants approval to Paul W Askins and Andrew J Drummond (E77/3394) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: -

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company's mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be banded so that it does not spread.
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- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter "Westonian" prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical N/A in any way.

CARRIED 6/6

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 Geier

Seconded: Cr Crews

08/06-26 That Council introduces the following item of an urgent nature to the meeting for discussion

CARRIED 6/6

11.1 APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION LICENCE 70/6824

Responsible Officer: Jasmine Geier, Acting CEO

Author: Jasmine Geier, Acting CEO

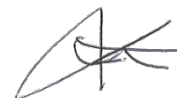
File Reference: ES1.6.1

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Location Maps E 70/6824

Signature: Officer

ACTING CEO



Purpose of the Report

☐

Executive Decision

☐

Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council's comment on an Exploration license in the North part of the Shire.

Background

The Shire has been advised of an application for an Exploration license lodged by McMahon Mining Title Services on behalf of Metalbelt Holdings Pty Ltd (E70/6811).

The application relates to land in the Northern portion of the Shire. (See Attached)

Comment

Metalbelt Holdings Pty Ltd is an Australian private company focused on mineral exploration.

Previous exploration approvals have been granted with the following conditions:

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company's mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
- 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner.

- 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner.
- 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called.
- 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram.
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- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part Historical N/A in any way.

Statutory Environment

The Mining Act prevails in this matter.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council grants approval to Metalbelt Holdings Pty Ltd (E70//6824) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: -

- 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected.
- 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company’s mining conditions.
- 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread.
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- 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and
- 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part N/A in any way.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Della Bosca	Seconded:	Cr Simmonds
09/06-26	That Council grants approval to Metalbelt Holdings Pty Ltd (E70//6824) to carry out drilling along sections of Council controlled road reserves with this respective Exploration Lease as shown on the attached maps with the following conditions: - 1) That dust suppression is carried out so that others are not adversely affected. 2) That any saline ground water found is contained by pumping it into a water trailer and disposed of through normal mining practices under the terms of the company’s mining conditions. 3) Any ground water that escapes onto the ground around the drill site is to be bunded so that it does not spread. 4) All plastic bags used for soil samples are to be removed from the site and disposed of in a suitable manner. 5) All rubbish is to be disposed of at the local landfill site in the appropriate manner. 6) A firefighting unit is to be always available, and drilling is to cease if a total fire and harvest ban is called. 7) No drill holes are to extend under any public railway line or any roadways. Drilling being carried out is not to interfere with road drainage and must be beyond the batter line (this is to minimise damage to capped drill holes during maintenance grading) – refer to Typical Cross Section of Road Formation diagram. 8) Safety signs are to be erected in accordance with Australian Standards – to warn both mining staff, contractors, and the public/ visitors. 9) All drill holes are to be capped as soon as possible/practical after drilling. 10) If working within 100m from a residence, all noise generated is to be limited in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, when working between 7:00 pm. and 7:00 am. 11) That the proposed drilling work is advertised in the local newsletter “Westonian” prior to any work commencing to notify the general public of this work; and 12) That no drilling is to occur within any Shire Road Surface and gravel pits, and that no drilling operation is to affect any part N/A in any way.		

CARRIED 6/6

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 16th July 2026 commencing at 3.30pm.

13. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Mark Crees declared the meeting closed at 4:24pm

