



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 19th May 2022

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- **MINISTER FOR HOUSING; LANDS; HOMELESSNESS; LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
Easing of Public Health measures.
- **WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK**
First Issue.



SHIRE OF WESTONIA

May/June 2022

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Tuesday 17 May	CEACA Chairman & Secretary Council Meet & Update	Chambers	Councillors, L Geier & CEO
Thursday 19 May	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Tuesday 24 May	OH&S Committee Meeting	CEO Office	CEO, Staff
Monday 30 May	CEACA Committee Meeting	Kellerberrin	L Geier & CEO
Thursday 16 June	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff



Our Ref: 7816

Mr Arthur Price
CEO
Shire of Westonia
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WESTONIA WA 6423

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Dear Mr Price

CONTRACT AUDIT SERVICES - RETENDERING

Our Office appointed Audit Partners Australia to conduct your annual financial audit for a 3 year period, commencing with the audit for the year ended 30 June 2021. Audit Partners Australia have informed us that they are unable to complete the audits for the years ended 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023. We have accepted the contract cancellation requested by Audit Partners Australia and we intend to call for tenders for the annual audit of your Shire.

The successful tenderer would be contracted for an initial period of three years commencing with the financial year ending 30 June 2022.

The following firms have been invited to submit quotations:

- Butler Settineri
- Crowe Horwath
- Grant Thornton
- HLB Mann Judd
- Moore Australia (WA)
- Nexia Chartered Accountants
- William Buck

Selection of the contractor should be completed by no later than 31 May 2022. Your CFO will be consulted during the selection process to confirm that the successful tenderer does not have any conflicts of interest, and to inform our selection panel's decision making. Your support of this process by being available to brief prospective tenderers appropriately will be greatly appreciated by all and will ensure quality submissions are received.

While the contractor will be responsible for conducting the audit and recommending an audit opinion, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) staff will review their work and the audit opinion will be formed by the Auditor General. The use of a contractor does not preclude audit involvement by OAG staff.

Please contact the OAG Director responsible for your audit if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ambrose
Acting Assistant Audit General
Financial Audit
3 May 2022

CEO'S REPORT

1. GENERAL MATTERS

- Participated in WEROC Board meeting held in Westonia Council Chambers on Monday 2 May 2022. A tour was conducted for the delegates of town attractions.
- Tender adverts and specifications for the Road train sidetippers and the shed structure have been completed with tenders closing 1 June 2022.
- Travelled to Bunbury on Thursday 12 May for final inspection of units prior to their delivery to school site. The first two units are to be delivered on Tuesday 17 May with the remaining two being delivered on Monday 23 May.
- New Skope fridge delivered to Old Miners Hall.
- Participated in zoom meeting with DPIRD and CRC Chair in relation to transitional arrangements for future Governance of the Westonia CRC.
- Reviewing of existing and drafting of new Position Descriptions for Administrative staff.

2. DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS

- Nil

3. ROADCREW

- Gravel sheeting has been completed on Waddell Road with only Baladjie Track to be completed prior to winter grading program.
- Robert Mitchell has commenced work as new plant operator – roller on Monday 16 May 2022.

4. TOWN

- School site has been levelled with installation of cinder blocks in preparation of donga units to be delivered.
- Leach drains at the School project have been dug for installation by Brownleys Plumbing.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BUILDING MATTERS

- Nil.

6. PLANT HOURS

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 1.5.22

Item		1.4.22	1.5.22
P1	CAT 140 GRADER	508hrs	656hrs
P2	CAT 12M GRADER	6,547hrs	6,731hrs
P3	PRIME MOVER (OLD FREIGHTLINER)	189,619kms	195,110kms
P4	ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)	63,364kms	68,710kms
P5	JOHN DEERE LOADER	3,734hrs	3,898hrs
P6	CAT ROLLER (SKIP)	169hrs	295hrs
P7	MINI-EXCAVATOR	737hrs	744hrs
P8	TELEHANDLER JCB	2,147hrs	2.186hrs
P9	TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)	0	1058kms
P10	mitsubishi CANTER	73,845kms	74,633kms
P11	TOYOTA HILUX (GARDENER) WT 35	85,842kms	89,521kms
P12	JOHN DEERE (5100)	2,275hrs	2,310hrs
P14	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)	0kms	2,118kms
P15	TOYOTA PRADO GXL (W/SUPER)	0kms	8,544kms
P16	TOYOTA RAV4 (ADMIN)	44,324kms	51,234kms
P17	TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB	111,000kms	111,880kms
P19	FAST ATTACK	12,284kms	12,481kms
P20	FIRE TRUCK	6,481kms	6,515kms
P18	WESSY BUS	127,444kms	127,532kms
P22	KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)	1,954hrs	1,961hrs
P23	TOYOTA MINI BUS (WT COM V)	28,112kms	
P24	CAT ROLLER (LOLA)	185hrs	319hrs
P25	MICK's BEAUT UTE	150,282kms	152,122kms
P26	GO-GO MOBILE SWEEPER		

TOURISM REPORT

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

Our park is seeing an increase in visitors since the CMCA Rally at the beginning of April. Sam is finding her feet and she is doing well. We have added a small outdoor table and two chairs, a smaller desk with office chair and free-standing office draw set for the Caretakers office. Shelving has been added to the Garden shed for extra storage.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing.
- Grassed/Synthetic Lawn area for Tents. The shade cloth areas are not lasting as long as first thought. They are breaking down within a year then look a mess until they are able to be replaced.

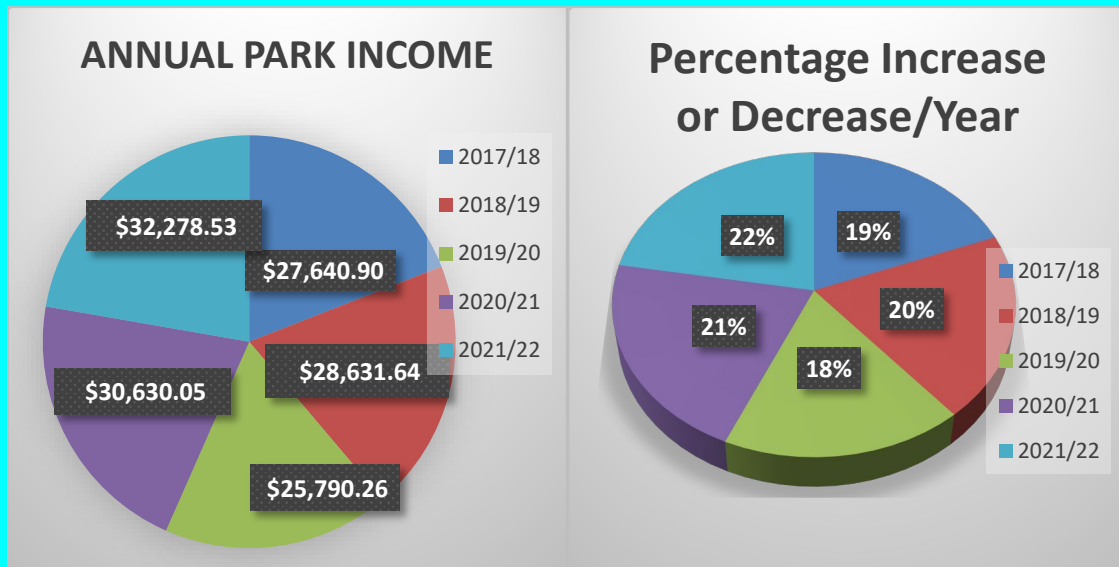
FUTURE PROJECTS

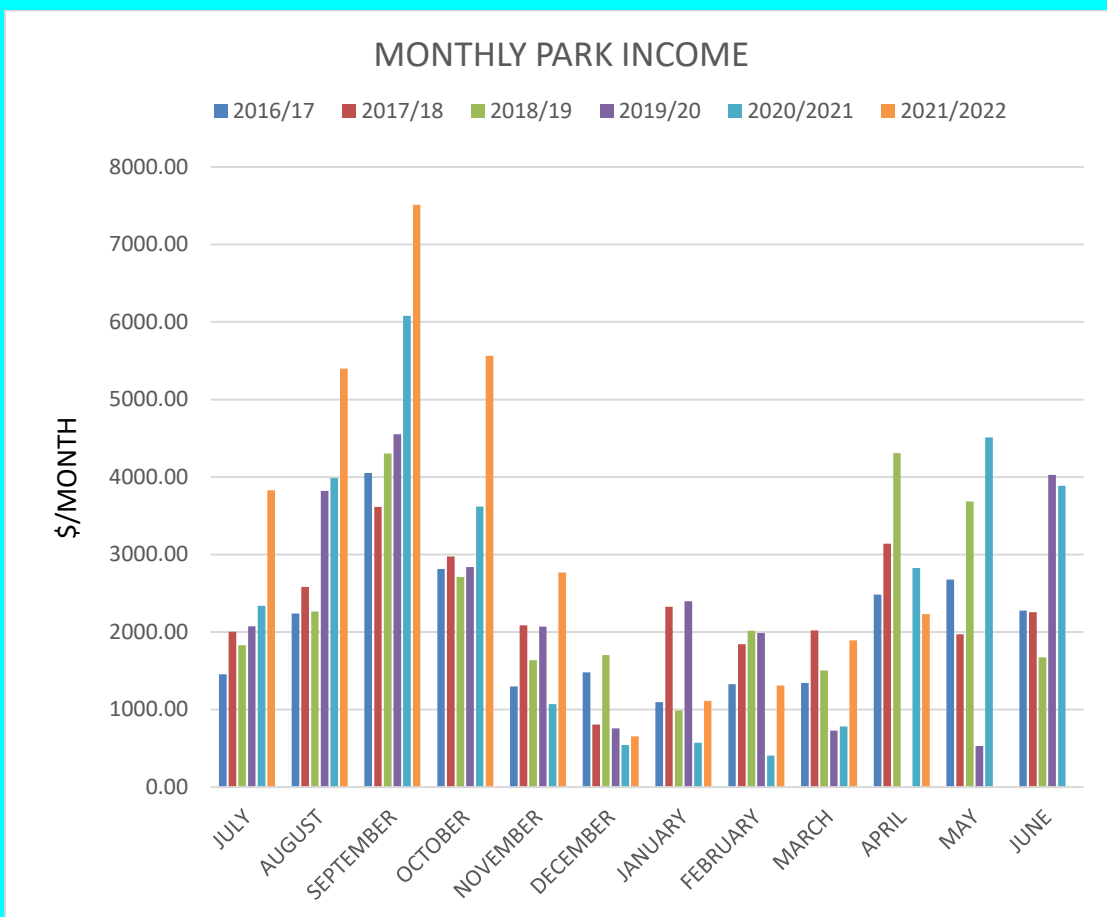
- Unpowered Overflow/ Tent area – Weed matting and out lined sites

VISITOR FEEDBACK

- Great Facilities!
- Love the new look and it's great to see more bays.
- Caretaker is fantastic and an asset to the park.

STATISTICS





HOOD-PENN MUSEUM:

As the cooler weather starts so does Westonia's tourist season the daily traffic through the museum is increasing and the weekends are seeing quite a few visitors, still a great experience for all that come to Westonia.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Side door handle has been switched with the back door handle, volunteers will now enter through the back door facing the car park area.
- Padlocks installed on medicine cabinets in Drs Scene

RECENT PROJECTS

- Lighting solutions.
- Storage area restructure

FUTURE PROJECTS

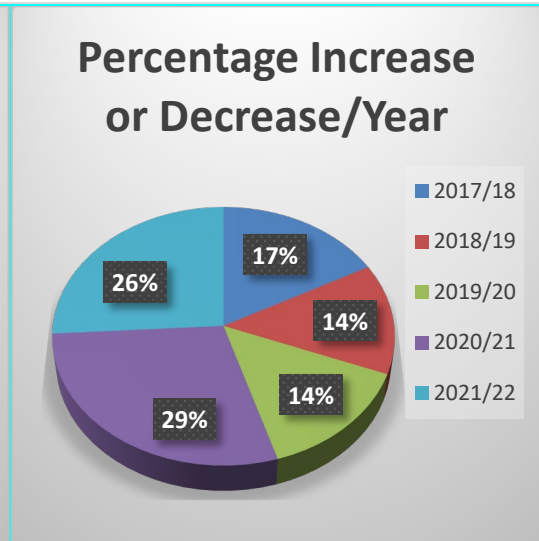
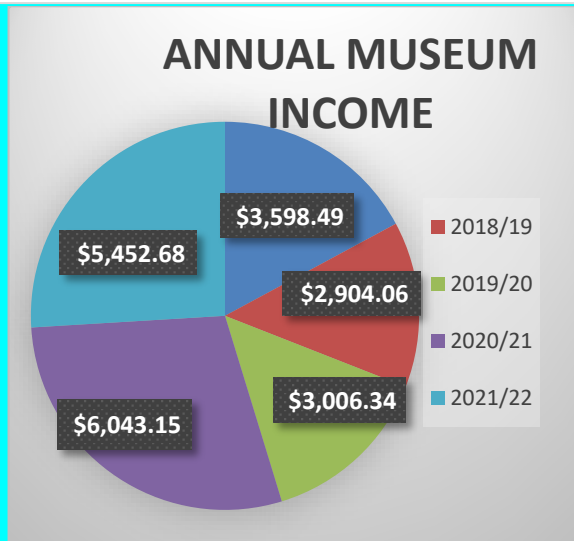
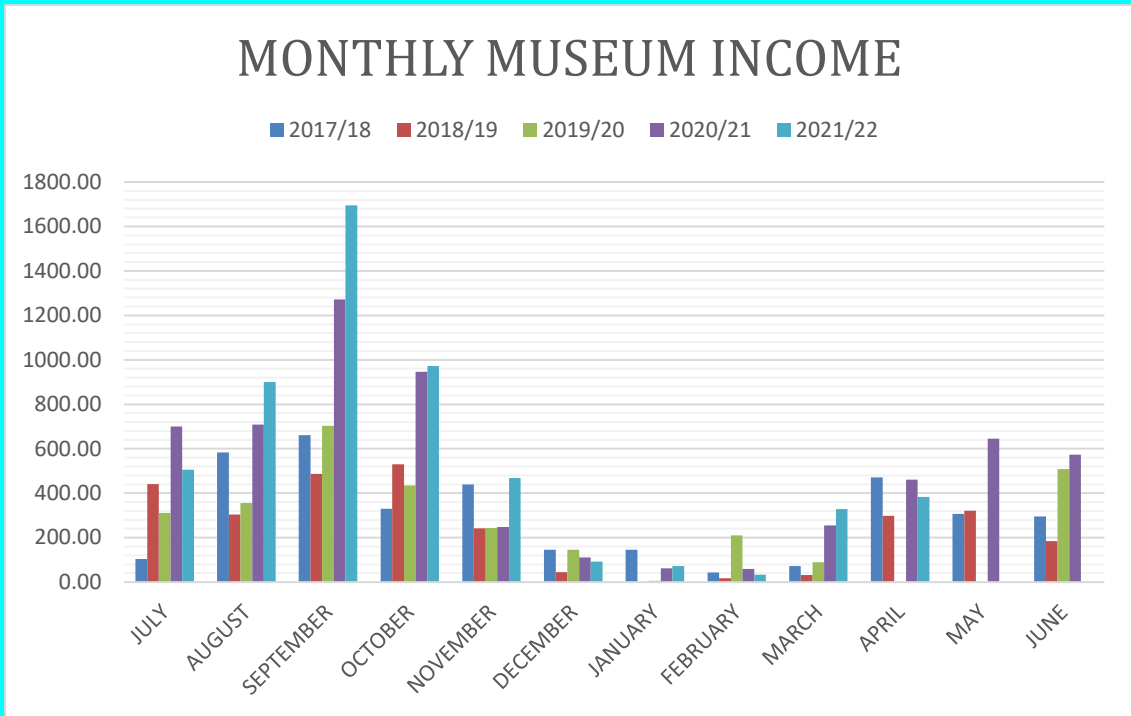
- New scenes to be created in the existing space of the old storage room to tell the stories of our primary industries of which Westonia was founded on.

VISITOR FEEDBACK (Verbal and Visitor register)

- Clean No dust!
- Not cluttered
- The best Museum they have visited on their travels.
- Not over the top with things to read.
- Visitor's hearing about museum in Merredin, specifically the Visitor's Centre, railway & military museums.
- Wheatbelt way and word of mouth still a big performer for us (getting quite more and

more of the highway drop-ins)

STATISTICS





Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA
Minister for Transport

\$200 million boost for Western Australia's regional rail freight network

- \$200 million in joint Commonwealth and State Government funding
- First package secured for the Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement (ASCI) program
- Four programs included in first package to better connect key WA agricultural supply chains

Western Australia's key agricultural areas will receive a funding boost for freight infrastructure, following a joint Commonwealth and State funding commitment of \$200 million for the first package of the Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement (ASCI) program.

On the back of a record 24 million tonne harvest, worth around \$8 billion to WA's economy, the McGowan government is committed to ensuring freight infrastructure keeps up with growing demand.

The four projects funded under the first ASCI package will help WA grain growers and other primary producers transport their product to markets, in Australia and around the world.

The projects to be funded have been determined in close consultation with CBH, rail network manager Arc Infrastructure, grower groups and local government.

The \$200 million package will go towards the following four project areas. This government funding will leverage millions in private sector investment for the region:

- \$22 million for four rail siding extensions for CBH grain bins at Moora, Brookton, Cranbrook, and Broomehill, complementing significant CBH investment in rail loading facilities. These works are now underway;
- \$46 million for seven additional grain rail siding upgrades at Avon, Kellerberrin, Dowerin, Konnongorring, Ballidu, Mingenew, and Perenjori North, which will help CBH load longer trains much more quickly;
- \$60 million for Midland Line Main Line upgrading from 16 Tonne Axle Loading (TAL) to 19 TAL between Carnamah and Mingenew, allowing heavier trains and a 20 per cent increase in train loads. With around 400,000 tonnes of grain per year being carried on this section, the upgrade will provide operational improvements and freight cost savings for all grain growers delivering to bins on selected line sections; and
- \$72 million for the southern Wheatbelt region, towards the progressive recommissioning of the Narrogin-Kulin rail line and associated works to service grain and other potential customers in the Narrogin-Wickepin area, a Tier 3 line. The

Narrogin-Kulin line was closed in 2013. The first stage of this project will be a study to assess the most useful way to make this investment for the benefit of all potential freight users and the community.

The siding upgrades are to be complemented by at least \$200 million of investment in rapid loading bins and elevators by CBH.

For CBH and the grain growing industry, these works will further assist the effort to move grain rapidly to port after harvest, to capitalise on strong international demand and high prices. Loading longer trains more quickly at the strategically located CBH bins will bring tangible financial returns to growers in the region.

The \$72 million Southern Wheatbelt project will provide the opportunity for more grain on rail and off roads. Equally important, it will provide the capacity for other primary producers, for example hay exporters, to use a rail service.

The new WA Kaolin clay mine, near Wickepin, will also benefit from a potential rail freight service, as its export production ramps up in coming years.

Securing this funding means the planning and design phase can now commence, with completion of the projects expected in 2025.

The state and Commonwealth have already partnered to deliver \$187.5 million in funding for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network program. A further \$36 million in joint funding will commence the Mid-West and Great Southern Secondary Freight Network programs, to further improve export connections throughout the agricultural regions.

Comments attributed to Transport Minister Rita Saffioti:

“The McGowan Government is committed to improving regional freight infrastructure.

“We are already spending a record amount on regional roads and we are now able to prioritise further investment on the regional freight rail network.

“This \$200 million will ensure our regional freight network continues to keep up with demand now and into the future.

“The recent record harvest of 24 million tonnes shows that we need to continue to invest in road and rail to provide an increasingly efficient transport network.

“The ASCI rail project funding, closely aligned with CBH’s train loading investments, will deliver freight cost savings and grain price benefits each year to grain growers throughout the agricultural region.”

Media contact: Ellie Clancy 6552 5500 or 0437 234 249



Hon John Carey MLA
Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government

Our Ref: 78-06335

Dear Local Government CEOs

As you would likely be aware, the State Government has announced the easing of public health measures from Friday 29 April 2022 to baseline measures.

These changes are based on the latest health advice and will see the removal of mask requirements in most settings, and the removal of density and capacity limits for venues. For more information about the changes to public health and social measures, please visit www.wa.gov.au.

Throughout the pandemic, local governments have worked tirelessly to ensure continued delivery of services, and to provide alternative methods for public engagement in council decision-making. I know that local governments across the State have worked hard to manage public meetings during a challenging period of the pandemic, and I commend everyone involved in local government for their contribution to this effort.

Many of these responses, such as the adoption of livestreaming of Council meetings, have demonstrated the benefits of providing for different forms of public access and participation in the business of local government.

As the Minister for Local Government, I will be working to ensure the provisions which provide the option for elected members to participate electronically in council meetings in specific circumstances are continued as a permanent change. As you know, local government reform will also include tiered requirements for video or audio recordings of council meetings to be published online.

Following the easing of health restrictions, it is critically important that local government meetings now return to normal, including allowing for any interested member of the public to attend in-person to engage in the regular business of council meetings.

As you would appreciate, there is always the possibility that any significant new developments in the course of the pandemic, or further health advice, may require government agencies at all levels to continue to adapt to ensure the safety of our communities.

Thank you again for your work to support your community through the COVID pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Carey'.

HON JOHN CAREY MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4 May 2022



Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network *by Peter Hall, Project Manager*

Welcome to the first issue of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) Newsletter.

We designed this newsletter as an information bulletin to give our shires & communities a little perspective about what the WSFN program is, provide updates on where the program is at and to highlight some of the problems and solutions that shires have implemented as each stage is completed. Its also a place where we can share the knowledge we have gained on techniques and pitfalls, then with any luck it will be reasonably easy to follow and we can have some fun along the way. Here is a little back ground for you all.

The Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route (WSFR) network in the Main Roads WA Wheatbelt region comprises some 4,400km of Local Government managed roads that connect with State and National highways to provide access for heavy vehicles into the region. These roads are intended to enable large, high productivity trucks safe and cost effective access to business.

The project is being driven by local government associated with the Regional Road Groups of the Wheatbelt Region.

It is intended to support and contribute to other work being undertaken by Main Roads WA, the Department of Transport and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development that is considering strategic transport investments across the agricultural regions through the Revitalising Agricultural Regional Freight (RARF) project.

We have no set timeframe on how often the newsletter will be produced right now, but if you have any feedback that you wish to share after our first instalment, we would appreciate it.

As the project management team we look forward to keeping the lines of communication open and if anyone has a question or solution that they believe the WSFN would benefit from please do not hesitate to email projectmanager@wsfn.wa.gov.au - Peter Hall.

WSFN NETWORK NEWSLETTER



[Photo: Goomalling - Meckering Rd Project 2021/22]

YEAR 1 & 2 - SUMMARY

2019/2020 and 2020/2021 construction program is complete.

There is still some outstanding development projects to be closed out, mainly awaiting permits. I will be contacting shires to see what can be done.

YEAR 3 - SUMMARY

With 28 construction and 18 development projects being delivered in this financial year, it has certainly been a year for some shires.

Year 3 did not get off to the best start. Our funding was slightly delayed whilst the incorporation of the Indigenous Participation Plan (IPP) was finalised and the final budget approvals were not received till November 2021, which was well into the available construction window for most.

Please see attachment monthly Commonwealth report. *(In the future this report will be sent out separately to Shires for a monthly update).*

YEAR 4 - FUTURE PROJECTS

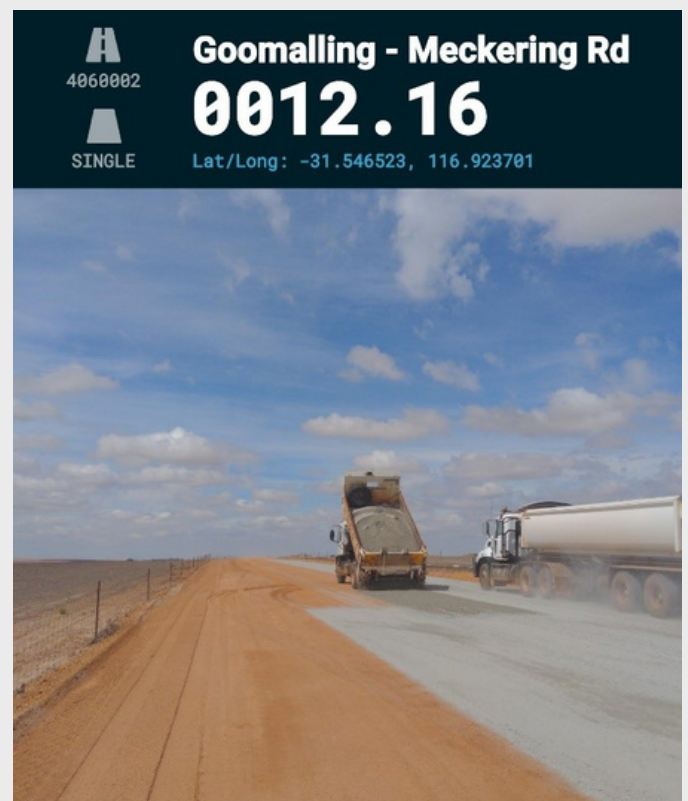
2022/2023 financial year will be the fourth year of construction for the WSFN.

The priority 1 routes will be nearing the end of their 5 year construction period and there has been a lot of lessons learnt as the program matures. The 22/23 financial year also sees the priority 2 routes commencing.

Most of these Routes in the 1st year are in the development stage with the one exception of Brookton, who are straight into construction on the Dangin Mears Rd.

The 4 routes approved are:

1. Dumbleyung - Nyabing rd, Route 48
2. North Bannister - Narrogin, Route 31
3. Nungarin - Wialki, Route 7
4. Dangin Mears rd, Route 21



[Photo: Goomalling - Meckering Rd Project 2021/22]

WSFN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHT

Issues: Shire has limited to non-existent gravel supply, the available base course when tested was poorly graded and the rock within the material was very soft crushed easily and released extra clay (PI) when desized during construction.

Solutions: The pavement designer opted for a combination mechanical and chemical modification approach, to achieve the desired Base Course CBR.

Mechanical: is the addition of a stronger rock that is graded to fill in the grading gaps and provide a stronger base rock.

Chemical: Cement, Lime, Foamed Bitumen, Polymers are examples of chemical modification. I say modification rather than stabilisation because of the low percentages that are added, however in the industry today they are interchangeable.

The addition is by percentage or weight or depth should have upper and lower limits and should be as evenly distributed through the entire volume of gravel as is humanly possible once the pavement is wet mixed, compacted, trimmed and surfaced.

Spread with an aggregate spreader between 20mm to 50mm thick. Material will be incorporated with Base Course when it is wet mixed using rotary drum machine.

Cheers

Peter Hall

Project Manager WSFN

Mobile: 0417 936 755

Email: projectmanager@wsfn.wa.gov.au



[Photo: Merredin - Narembreen Rd Project 2020/21]

Disclaimer: Please note that this Newsletter is not to replace any official notifications nor will it have any political/social/financial/commercial agenda, it is to supplement WSFN project minutes and share information from a construction/delivery point of view.