



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 18th May 2023

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- **WALGA**
Western Powers proposed increase prices for streetlighting.
- **WALGA**
Mark McGowan has handed down 2023-24 State Budget.



SHIRE OF WESTONIA

April/May 23

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Monday 17 April	Great Eastern Zone	Merredin	Cr Crees & Cr Day
Tuesday 18 April	WNE SRRG Meeting	Zoom	Cr Geier & CEO
Thursday 20 April	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Saturday 22 April	Wessy on the Green	Westonia	Everyman and his dog!!!!
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC Day	Old Miners Hall	Anyone!
Wednesday 26 April	WEROC Board Meeting	Southern Cross	President & CEO
Thursday 18 May	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff

Good Afternoon all,

Please find below an update on a few items:

Government Funding

CEACA Chairperson and EO have met separately with Don Punch MLA, John Carey MLA and Susan Hall, Acting CEO of the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Based on these meetings, funding for additional accommodation units will need to be sourced either from the Department of Housing, as a Strategic Project with DPIRD, from Federal Government Housing Programs or from a combination of these sources.

CEACA management is investigating a possible application to be a Registered Community Housing Provider and will work with the Wheatbelt Development Commission and the various Government departments to progress the opportunities.

Potential New Members

The Shire of Narembeen has advised it wishes to apply for full membership of CEACA, effective 1 July 2023. Please refer attached letter. This will be an agenda item for our 29 May 2023 meeting.

Funds for Defect Rectification

CEACA received approximately \$381,000 from Shire of Merredin on 14 April 2023, being the balance in the CEACA Project account following acquittal of royalties for regions funding by the DPIRD. The funds have been allocated to a defect rectification provision in CEACA's books of account.

Care Service Models

Following the Pingelly "Staying in Place" Expo CEACA management has continued discussions with InCasa, Aged Care and Community Services. Misty Morton of InCasa has agreed to present to the CEACA Management Committee on 29 May 2023 and will have some time to meet with individual Shires.

If you would like to meet with Misty Morton after the Management Committee meeting please let us know.

Regards

Richard

Richard Marshall

Executive Officer

Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance Inc

Level 2, Building C

355 Scarborough Beach Road, Osborne Park WA 6017

Mb: 0411 056 576

Em: richard.marshall@ceaca.org.au





OUR REF: ADM197

Mr R. Marshall
Executive Officer
Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance Inc

Dear Richard

Subject: CEACA General Membership

Please be advised of the intention of the Shire of Narembeen to apply for General Membership of CEACA.

We understand the terms of **General Membership** of CEACA are as follows:

- Full voting rights, including a nominated person appointed to the CEACA Management Committee.
- Annual Membership Levy of \$15,000 per annum.
- Minimum Membership commitment of three years from 1 July 2023.
- Included in CEACA's applications to State and Federal Government (as required) for Grant funding to construct Independent Living Units (ILUs).
- A funding commitment towards the ILUs from the Shire is a likely condition of any State and Federal Government funding.
- Appropriate land will be gifted to CEACA to enable the construction of the ILUs.
- CEACA land will be exempt from Shire rates due to its charitable status.

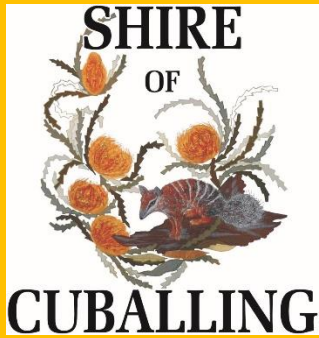
Yours faithfully

Paul Sheedy
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
3 May 2023

lgis
MUTUAL SERVICES

INTER-MUNICIPAL

Golf Tournament



24 & 25 August 2023



**CUBALLING
GOLF CLUB**

EST. 1958



INTER-MUNICIPAL Golf Tournament



Shire of Cuballing has won the privilege of inviting you to attend (on the best green in the Wheatbelt) the, 2023 LGIS Inter-Municipal Golf Tournament, Thursday 24th and Friday 25th of August.

The **Avon Waste and LG Corporate Solutions Scroungers Day** will be held on **Thursday 24th of August**. The scroungers day gives participants the ability to walk and play the entire course before the official event on Friday. The format will be 2 Person Ambrose event with presentations and a dinner to follow.

The **LGIS Inter-Municipal Golf Tournament** main event will be held **Friday the 25th of August**. The layout for the day is, nominated teams of four with the best three Stableford scores, counting towards the cumulative total. Presentations and dinner will follow the completion of the event.

Local Governments are welcome to nominate more than one team, however if there is a surplus of nominations the organising committee may limit local governments to one team.

You will find the relevant nomination forms, attached to this document. All forms must be completed by **Friday 16th June 2023** and returned to Michelle Atwell at cdo@cuballing.wa.gov.au or post prior to the nomination closing date of 16/6/23. The deadline is a deadline if you miss it, you miss the possibility of hosting this prestigious event at your local Golf Club and the benefit this event brings to your town.

Once all nominations have been received, teams will be sent a confirmation letter. A further schedule relating to tee off times, breakfast and transport will be sent out to local governments closer to the event. Please note that Cuballing has very limited accommodation, bookings will need to be made at Narrogin business or camping can take place on the Cuballing Oval. Information regarding this is further down the pack.

The Shire of Cuballing cannot wait to show off our wonderful Golf Club and is looking forward to welcoming you back to the Wheatbelt region. Should you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Atwell on the above information.

Stan Scott

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHIRE OF CUBALLING

ceo@cuballing.wa.gov.au

Additional Information

Nomination Fees

Official Event: 2023 LGIS Local Government Inter-Municipal Golf Tournament

The nomination fee is \$480 (inc GST) per team

Inclusions

- All tournament and green fees
- Welcome pack
- Morning and afternoon tea
- Lunch
- Refreshments during the day
- Presentation dinner on Friday evening

Avon Waste & LG Corporate Solutions Scroungers Day (Thursday)

The nomination fee is \$170 (inc GST) per team

Inclusions

- All tournament and green fees
- Morning and afternoon tea
- Lunch
- Refreshments during the day
- Dinner at the clubhouse Thursday evening

Transport

Transport can be arranged for both events complimentary from designated collection points. Please indicate on your nomination form if you require transport.

Dietary requirements & allergies

Please ensure you indicate special dietary requirements or allergies on the nomination form.

Payment

Payment can be made by EFT to the **Shire of Cuballing** BSB: **086 852** Acc: 816274792
Reference: **LGIS Golf [shire name]**, Please send remittance to cdo@cuballing.wa.gov.au

OR

Cheques made payable to the **Shire of Cuballing** and posted to, PO Box 13, Cuballing WA 6311.

Welcome to Shire of Cuballing

The name is of Aboriginal origin and was first recorded in a lease application in 1868 relating to a pool near the town, and was previously spelt "Cuballing" or "Cooballing".

The townsite was gazetted in 1899 and was one of the original stations on the Great Southern Railway. By 1903, a school and district hall had been appointed and the town had its own Road Board (later to become the Shire Council in 1961), and by 1906, two butcher shops, two banks, a hall, a post office, a coffee house, two blacksmiths, two churches, a boarding house and a hotel served the town's population. Many of these buildings have been preserved and can still be seen today.

However, the town did not grow after the 1920s, presumably due to the size and economic opportunity in nearby Narrogin, and in 1946 the primary school closed, meaning pupils had to travel to neighbouring towns. By 1920 nearly all businesses had shifted, as well as 60 to 80 town houses. Everything declined. From being a thriving, well-populated town Cuballing dwindled. This is reflected in the fact that by 1914 school numbers had declined from 59 to 34. In 1929 the school even closed for a year due to lack of pupils.

Today Cuballing is the place families now want to reside with houses for sale not lasting long on the market. Large projects undertaken within recent years have made the town flourish and look more appealing to those wanting a quieter lifestyle while still living close to Narrogin.

Our heritage buildings are a draw card for tourists travelling through with Dryandra State Forrest within the Shire of Cuballing along with the Yornaning Dam are places well worth the visit. Stop into the Cuballing tavern for a meal the Cuballing Roadhouse is open for fuel and all your small grocery needs.



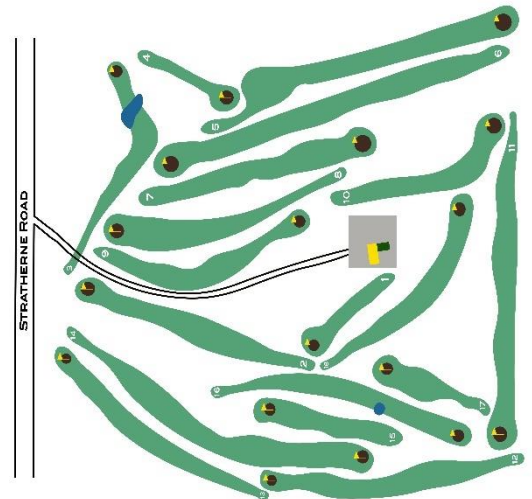
Event Program

The Course

Cuballing's Golf Club established in 1958.

The idea for the Cuballing Golf Club was born when two residents were having a couple of beers at the Cuballing pub and discussed the possibility of forming a golf club from there it is history.

A year later the first nine holes had been completed and the club was ready to go. An ex-R.A.A.F. hut was purchased at Cunderdin, with Mr Keegan offering to re-erect it at the course with members' help for £240, and this clubhouse was painted out in time for the opening day on 18 April 1959. Fees were set at three guineas single, five guineas for couples and juniors £1-0-0. Ladies were full members, not associates.



Thursday 24 August 2023

Avon Waste & LG Corporate Solutions
Scroungers Day- 2 Ball Ambrose

Enjoy country hospitality and familiarise yourself with the course in preparation for the official tournament on Friday. The day concludes with dinner and refreshments.



Friday 25 August 2023

LGIS Local Government Golf Tournament
Stableford

The Official Tournament

Individual Stableford, Teams of 4. Best 3 scores count, and the winner takes home the honour of hosting the 2024 event.

Dinner and Presentations

After a day on the course, relax and enjoy the ambiance of the surrounding bushland at Cuballing Golf Course.

Rules & Eligibility

The annual LGIS Local Government Inter-Municipal Golf Tournament is open to all Shires, Towns and Cities to enter a team/s of up to 4 players.

Sponsors and contractors are encouraged to enter a team. Their scores will be entered into the Sponsors section of the day and a Sponsors winner announced. Sponsors and contractors are not considered eligible players for Shires, Towns or Cities unless they fit the eligible player definition.

- The tournament is to be played under the Stableford scoring system
- Teams are to be comprised of at least 3 eligible players to enable a score to be valid.
- Only scores from eligible players will count in the final score for a team
- The team with the highest net score from eligible players will be deemed the tournament winner
- The tournament winner has the rights to host the following year's tournament but cannot win hosting rights two years in a row.
- In the case where a Shire, Town or City wins for a consecutive year, hosting rights will be given to the Shire, Town or City who secures second place.
- Golfink handicaps apply to all eligible players, failure to disclose an official Golfink handicap where one is held will result in immediate disqualification.
- Where a player does not have an official Golfink handicap the maximum allowable handicap will be 18 for men and 25 for women
- Registered teams that do not meet the definition of an eligible player will be ineligible to win the event.
- The definition of an eligible player is:
 - An amateur golfer (no affiliation with PGA Australia);**AND** one of the following
 - An employee, CEO or Elected Member of the Shire, Town or City they are representing;
 - A former employee or Elected Member of the Shire, Town or City they are representing; or

A former CEO, President, Mayor or Freeman is eligible to play for any Shire, Town or City.



2023

INTER-MUNICIPAL Golf Tournament



*Thank you to all
sponsors*

The event would not be possible without our
generous sponsors.

Event Partner



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Sponsors

Dews Excavations



Accommodation Information

Cuballing has very limited accommodation sites please see the below alternative sights

Narrogin Motel - [\(08\) 9881 1660](tel:0898811660)

Albert Facey Motel - [\(08\) 9881 1899](tel:0898811899)

Wickepin Hotel and Harvest Café - [\(08\) 9888 1192](tel:0898881192)

Pingelly Hotel - [\(08\) 9887 1001](tel:0898871001)

Camping at the Cuballing Rec Centre - [9883 6031](tel:98836031)

Transport to and from Narrogin will be available.



Dear Bill,

I hope this email finds you well. On behalf of NEWTRAVEL I wanted to thank your Council for its continued support of NEWTRAVEL and bring to your attention some important financial commitments that will need to be taken into consideration during the upcoming 2023-2024 budget year. Please find attached a summary of some of the key achievements in 2022 that your funds have supported.

Your Councils contribution is critical to the functioning of NEWTRAVEL and enables us to undertake effective marketing and promotion activities for the Wheatbelt Way and the tourism assets in the NEWTRAVEL area to ensure it is recognised as a quality self-drive destination by local, national and international visitors. The draft NEWTRAVEL 2023-2024 Marketing Plan Budget is attached for your information (to be presented and endorsed at the July 2023 NEWTRAVEL Meeting). A total financial commitment of \$6,400.00 is required for the 2023-2024 Financial Year from your Council.

Council Contribution Summary

Memberships	Description	NEWTRAVEL (Marketing)	NEWTRAVEL (Marketing)
Shire of Westonia	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00	
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$
	Wheatbelt Way specific marketing	\$ 500.00	
	Regional Marketing Contribution		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)		

Wheatbelt Way Annual Site Reviews

This is just a friendly reminder that now is also a perfect time to go and complete a review of your Wheatbelt Way sites (as well as other Tourism Sites) in your Shire and identify any maintenance or upgrade requirements with then consideration for including these in the 2023-2024 Council budget.

If you need any assistance with this activity or clarification on what signage and infrastructure should be at your site/s please just get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Linda Vernon
North Eastern Wheatbelt Travel Association
M: 0428 831 074
W: www.wheatbeltway.com.au



NEWTRAVEL Income 2023-2024

Memberships	Description	NEWTRAVEL (Marketing)	NEWTRAVEL (Tourism Officer)	Total Cost
Shire of Dowerin	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Shire of Koorda	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Shire of Mt Marshall	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Shire of Mukinbudin	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Shire of Nungarin	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way – specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Shire of Trayning	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way – specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			

Shire of Westonia	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 6,400.00
	Wheatbelt Way – specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
Shire of Wyalkatchem	NEWTRAVEL Membership	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 7,900.00
	Tourism Officer Contribution		\$ 3,900.00	
	Wheatbelt Way – specific marketing	\$ 500.00		
	Regional Marketing Contribution	\$ 1,500.00		
	(RoeTourism & WEROC joint initiatives)			
Sub-Total		\$ 30,500.00	\$ 31,200.00	\$ 61,700.00
Australias Golden Outback	1 day per week Tourism Officer time for Destination Development activities		\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Ordinary Member Business	2 x memberships @ \$500 each	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Associate Membership – Business	5 x memberships @\$100 each	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Associate Membership – Not-for-Profit	5 x memberships @\$50 each	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 32,250.00	\$ 43,200.00	\$ 75,450.00

<i>NEWTRAVEL Membership</i>	<i>General Marketing Allocation</i>	\$ 16,000.00
<i>Wheatbelt Way</i>	<i>Specific Wheatbelt Way Marketing Allocation</i>	\$ 4,000.00
<i>Regional</i>	<i>Cooperative Regional Marketing Allocation (WEROC, RoeTourism, Shire of Merredin & AGO)</i>	\$ 10,500.00
<i>Contingency</i>		\$ 1,750.00
		\$ 32,250.00

NEWTRAVEL Expenditure 2023-2024

Activity	Description	NEWTRAVEL Expense	Total Activity Cost
1. Annual Tourism Association Memberships	Australia's Golden Outback	\$ 350.00	\$ 550.00
	Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Membership	\$ 200.00	
2. Advertising	AGO Cooperative Wheatbelt Advertising	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
	Caravanning Australia – Winter Magazine 2023	\$ 1,000.00	
	AGO 2024 Annual Planner - advertorial	\$ 2,000.00	
	AGO 2024 Annual Planner - advertising	\$ 1,000.00	
	Cold Lead Advertising Opportunity (Community Newspaper or Radio)	\$ 500.00	
	Facebook advertising – June/July Open Road Adventure Campaign	\$ 500.00	
	Facebook advertising – August/September – Wheatbelt Way Wildflower Guide	\$ 500.00	
	Facebook advertising – March/April/May – Open Road Adventure	\$ 500.00	
	Facebook Boost Posts – annual budget to promote identified posts	\$ 1,000.00	
	Instagram advertising – July	\$ 250.00	
	Instagram advertising – September/October	\$ 250.00	
	Regional Tourism Association Initiatives (joint co-op advertising opportunities and Eastern Wheatbelt Visitor Guide re-print)	\$ 3,500.00	
	3. Content	Video/Image Content Creation	
4. Brochure Re-prints	Brochure or Guidebook re-print as required	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
5. Consumer Shows	Perth Caravan & Camping Show 2023, Claremont Showgrounds	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,400.00
	Dowerin Field Days 2024	\$ 1,000.00	
6. Website	Website Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,550.00
	Annual Website Hosting Fee	\$ 400.00	
	Domain Name Renewal/Annual Security	\$ 150.00	
7. NEWTRAVEL Support	Insurance/Meetings/Bus Hire etc	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
8. Event	Co-operative Advertising of Local Events in the Wheatbelt Way	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
9. Photo Competition	Annual Photo Competition	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
10 External Support	Content Creation and Marketing Support	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
11. Other	???		
		Total Expenditure	\$29,000.00

Unallocated

\$

3,250.00

NEWTRAVEL Tourism Officer Expenditure 2023-2024

Activity	Description	NEWTRAVEL Expense	Total Activity Cost
1. Tourism Officer	Tourism Officer Services @\$2600/month plus travel and any other expenses.	\$31,200.00	\$43,200.00
	AGO Destination Development Support @ \$1000/month	\$12,000.00	
	TOTAL	\$43,200.00	\$43,200.00

CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- The Wolfram Streetscape project has continued with good results seeing the murals completed, little shops, street lighting and bike racks installed, and the footings completed for the shelters being installed in front of the Old Miners Hall, which are currently being fabricated in Cunderdin. Representatives from RAC will be in attendance on Thursday 18 May to inspect works already carried out as well as participate in the official launch ceremony being conducted at 12.30pm.
- Sam Werner has tendered her resignation as Caravan Park Caretaker. Interviews will be conducted on Monday 22 May with 4 potential applicants.
- The Shire President and myself met with representatives from the Wongan Ballidu Shire Council on Thursday 27 April to discuss Council's experience dealing with Resource Companies and the impacts they have on small communities.
- I attended the ANZAC Ceremony conducted at the Old Miners Hall on Tuesday 25 April.
- Several members of the Men's Health Club visited the Mukinbudin Men's Shed facility on Wednesday 26 April with the potential to establish a similar facility in Westonia.
- I attended the funeral service for Jim Flockart on Monday 1 May.
- The Walgoolan Wagon project has been completed by Mr Murray and the Council with an official celebration to be organised by the Walgoolan Pioneers.



- Met with consultants undertaking Council's Financial Management review on Wednesday 3 May. A report will be provided to the Council for consideration.
- Formal notices have been served on the Executor/Lawyers of the property referred to as 50 & 51 Wolfram Street demanding clean up of property as per S 3.25 of the *Local Government Act 1995* & S 137 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*.
- I attended the Thank the Volunteers for the Wessy on the Green Event held on Thursday 4 May.
- Housing inspections have been carried out on Council properties to assist in the determination of budget for next year and to ensure that tenants are keeping the properties in good order.
- A major dog attack incident occurred on Monday 8 May which resulted in the large dog being euthanized, small dogs requiring vet care and dog owner taken in for medical care.
- I had a trip to Perth on Thursday 11 May to inspect ablution/office buildings that may be an option for Council at the Caravan Park.

- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

- Since the last meeting have issued notices as per S 3.25 of the *Local Government Act 1995* & S 137 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*.

- **ROADCREW**

- The works crew has completed the re-sheeting of the nth Boodarockin Road project through the floodway section of the lake system.

- The Avon Concrete crew are back doing bitumen repair and stabilization works on the various areas that are failing.
- The works crew have moved South to complete the Day/McPharlin Roads, and the Clothier/Hodgeson intersection works.
- The maintenance grader is undertaking batter and side drain clean-up of Boodarockin Road waiting for some decent rains to undertake winter grading program.

- **TOWN**

- Installation of the water tank at the new Stadium and the Airport. Appreciation is extended to Cr DellaBosca for his assistance with larger JCB to lift the tanks.
- Installation of the new footings for the shade shelters in front of the Old Miners Hall. Again appreciation is extended to Cr DellaBosca for the donation of the concrete batching unit for this.
- Clean up of Cemetery in preparation for Funeral(s) for local residents.

-

- **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BUILDING MATTERS**

Nil

- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 1.5.23

Item		1.4.23	1.5.23
P1	<i>CAT 140 GRADER</i>	1,482hrs	1,488hrs
P2	<i>CAT 12M GRADER</i>	7,635hrs	7,659hrs
P3	<i>PRIME MOVER (OLD FREIGHTLINER)</i>	217,950kms	218,690kms
P4	<i>ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)</i>	96,375kms	97,410kms
P5	<i>JOHN DEERE LOADER</i>	4,451hrs	4,472hrs
P6	<i>CAT ROLLER (SKIP)</i>	965hrs	967hrs
P7	<i>MINI-EXCAVATOR</i>	979hrs	991hrs
P8	<i>TELEHANDLER JCB</i>	2,466hrs	2,496hrs
P9	<i>TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)</i>	21,786kms	22,497kms
P10	<i>MITSUBISHI CANTER</i>	4,641kms	5,290kms
P11	<i>TOYOTA HILUX (GARDENER) WT 35</i>	98,413kms	98,675kms
P12	<i>JOHN DEERE (5100)</i>	2,529hrs	2,529hrs
P14	<i>TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)</i>	11,500kms	12,877kms
P15	<i>TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)</i>	1,843kms	5,120kms
P16	<i>TOYOTA RAV4 (ADMIN)</i>	87,578kms	89,003kms
P17	<i>TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB</i>	17,480kms	17,908kms
P19	<i>FAST ATTACK</i>	16,596kms	16,643kms
P20	<i>FIRE TRUCK</i>	6,727kms	6,727kms
P18	<i>WESSY BUS</i>	136,650kms	136,702kms
P22	<i>KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)</i>	2,004hrs	2,009hrs
P23	<i>TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)</i>	34,321kms	36,209kms
P24	<i>CAT ROLLER (LOLA)</i>	1,250hrs	1,275hrs
P25	<i>MICK's BEAUT UTE</i>	160,330kms	161,278kms
P27	<i>TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)</i>	0kms	1,348kms

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

“Wessy on the Green” 22nd of April 2023. What an Event!

Over 460 people through the gates

Nearly \$13,880.00 to go towards the next Wessy on the Green which will be held in 2025.

Feed back has been overwhelming with everyone thoroughly enjoying the event, many visitors, bands and food vans are wanting to come back for the next one.

There were cars, kids activities, great bands, fireworks, the Bowling club Bar & food thanks to the Co-op & Pub for stepping up and Joc for co-ordinating the kitchen. By now everyone should have read the write up there are so many people to thank for getting the place in shape from our local builders, shire workers, community members and the list goes on. We have now got a fairly solid portfolio to guide us for the next WOTG and we will be asking the community to step up and fill those roles in the future.

Our budget was thought to be between \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Being the first time, we as a Shire & CRC combined, had put something like this together. The total cost for Wessy on the Green 2023 was \$43,760.00. Musician’s costing just over 10,000.00, Kids entertainment \$9,700.00 , Fireworks \$6,600.00, our Sound and lighting Tech (Ben from Megavision) \$5057.00. Advertising, Merchandise, photocomp, flowers and other making up the remaining \$12400.00. Income from Sponsorship brought in \$15,500.00, Grants - \$15,000.00 from Westonia Progress Association and \$2,280.00 from Department of Communities youth week grants and the Shire \$10,980.00 (this amount does not include infrastructure & fencing). Income from Ticket sales (entry, merchandise & raffles) came to \$13,796.00 which will go towards the next WOTG in 2025. As we did not need the full \$20,000.00 granted by the Westonia Progress Association this year we have asked them to consider a small contribution for WOTG in 2025.

Snowy and the 7 cool dudes was held Monday 8th May 2023 with Pre-Primary - Year 3 students from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Southern Cross travelled to Westonia to see Snowy and the Seven Cool Dudes.



It was free to attendees and cost the Shire \$3,300.00 which was an unexpected expense. However the attendee’s both young and old thoroughly enjoyed the play. It was very interactive for the children and it was lovely to see so many in attendance. Thank you to Jally Entertainment for bringing this funny production to Westonia.

Buckley’s Chance Movie Matinee as part of the Department of Communities youth week grant was held on Friday 14th of April. Included a free Movie, popcorn, party food and refreshments for participants. Attendance was fairly low with only 12 people.



Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

- Department of Communities – Youth Week Grant successful application we received \$2345.00 to enable us to hold a Youth week movie Matinee on the 14th April 2023 it covered Movie rights/hire (Buckley’s

Chance), food and drinks. It also allowed us to cover the cost of Perth Reptile co. display, Face painter and a portion of MMM advertising for “Wessy on the Green”. We have begun the acquittal for this grant.

- Rural Health West Outreach program – we have applied for a continuation of funding for Nurse Practitioner Services in Westonia. WAPHA funding is finishing in June this year.
- 2023-25 Regional Airports Development Scheme funding. To provide a water supply for the airport terminal (1x 32000L Poly tank). We have received a Funding Deed which has been signed and returned to the RADS team for the grant of \$5343.00 along with the Shire’s agreed payment of \$5343.00 to cover the total cost of the project. Work has begun, the Tank purchased and delivered, tank pad built and plumbing works to begin.
- Collgar Wind farm Community fund Application – Level 2 Sponsorship application has been submitted in March 2023. (Being for local initiatives, educational programs and scholarships). The application to upgrade the Westonia picture theatre projector system was successful, and we will receive \$10,000 ex GST towards the project. System has been ordered and will be installed after the new system arrives.

Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

- Department of LG, Sport & Cultural Industries – Active Regional Communities Grants (up to \$5000) categories; Capacity building, Event hosting and Participation. Applications open all year.
- Blue Tree Project Grant opened in September last year we are looking at asking for funding in upcoming Wellbeing initiatives. BTP are also offering Mental Health first Aid courses aimed at regional areas and we have asked for more information on how we can get on board with this initiative.

WELLBEING REPORT

Age Care

Application to provide Aged Care by a Government Organisation – Jasmine & Stacey travel to Dowerin to meet with Lisa Begley of Dowerin HACC Service. For insight into the package assessments and financial requirements of this service.

Community activities and resources

Heal Program with Wheatbelt health has now finished though participants are encouraged to continue with the program. There are follow ups with participants at 6months and 12 months to track their progress.

Meals on Wheels – Kerry spoke to all of the recipients to discuss how the program was tracking for them. With this information we provided feedback to the Northern Rise Village Services. As follows . Due to the program running for quite a few years now, we thought it was time to get some feedback from the recipients.

Firstly it is such a great service that Ramelius and the Edna May Village are providing to our community members. The recipients that are on our list are very much deserving of this service, many have declining health, age related restrictions, and need extra support. This service not only provides them with 3x three course meals per week but gives them social support, financial relief, regular contact and more. We really want to see the program continue and ask you for any suggestions or feedback to help us going forward.

Our wellbeing officer has had a chat to everyone on the current list, to see how they are going, with their meals. The consensus is, that 11 of the recipients are all, very pleased with the meals for the majority of the time. We have one person that is going to come off our meals list, as She hasn’t been eating the meals recently and no longer needs them. I have attached the new list, as we weren’t aware of the change yesterday morning, when it was sent through.

All but one of the 11, have an issue with spicy food, some have quite bad stomach related conditions and they cannot eat any pepper/chilli at all. Is there a way to combat this, that wouldn't be to taxing on your end?

The mains they are happy with. They are tasty and filling aside from the occasional spicy problems and sometimes the repetition of the roast three days in a row. The Soups are mostly very spicy and we would love to work with you to help with this.

All in all we are very content with this service and it is very much needed in our community.

The food on a general scale is tasty, wholesome, with good presentation and the people that are receiving the meals are happy.

Since this survey was done we have had one more recipient leave the program and now have a total of 10 people, utilising this fantastic service.

April Wellbeing activities:

23rd Church Service – OM Hall and after BBQ/Quiz @ Stadium. - 7 Pax

24th Wreath and Poppy Making. - 3 Pax

25th ANZAC Service OM Hall after Morning tea @ Gallery - Well attended and 6 Pax for morning tea.

26th Mystery Tour & Lunch Walgoolan Bridge information session - 7 Pax

27th 11am Sit down exercises 1pm Bingo @ CRC - 6 Pax

28th BYO project @ Sewing Room - 2 Pax

May Activities:

2nd Scrabble - 3 Pax

3rd trip to DCP Merredin for informative talk Lunch @ Chinese - 5 Pax

4th Bingo @ Rec Centre - 8 Pax

5th MAY Day baskets @ CRC - 2 Pax

9th Scrabble - 4 Pax, travel to Perth C Tapp Surgery return 11th

10th Beyond Blue cuppa @ CRC (Cancelled)

11th 10am Sit down Exercises 1pm Carpet bowls (Cancelled)

12th Mothers Day morning tea @ CRC - 11 Pax plus 4 Children

16th HEAL exercises

17th Seniors Safety chat with Merredin Police @ OM Hall

18th Hydro Pool Therapy Merredin

19th BYO project @ Sewing Room

Upcoming events and projects

Various workshops, Activities and outings for the boys, Carboot sale, Walk from Warralakin to Westonia Raise money for Mens health, Movies & Wandering Tours.

TOURISM REPORT

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

The Caravan Park has been steady since Easter with numbers

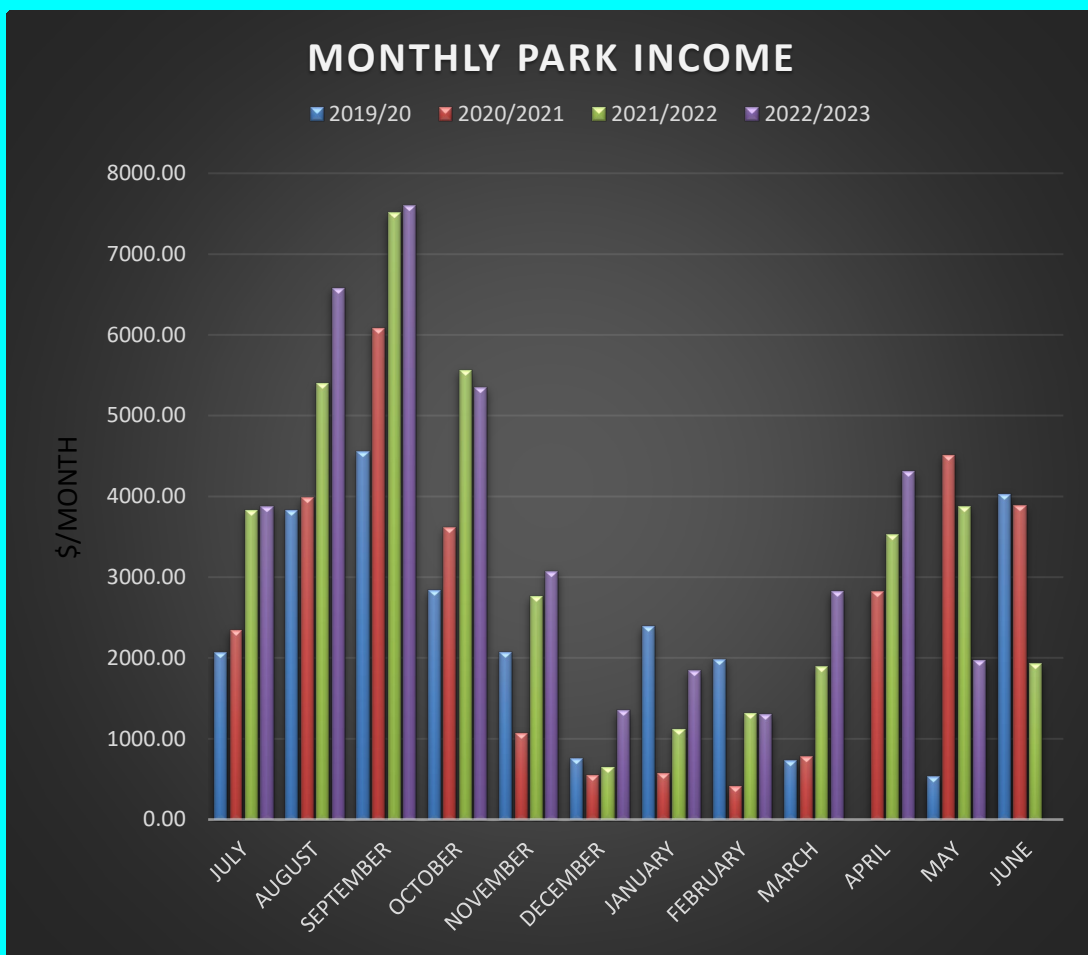
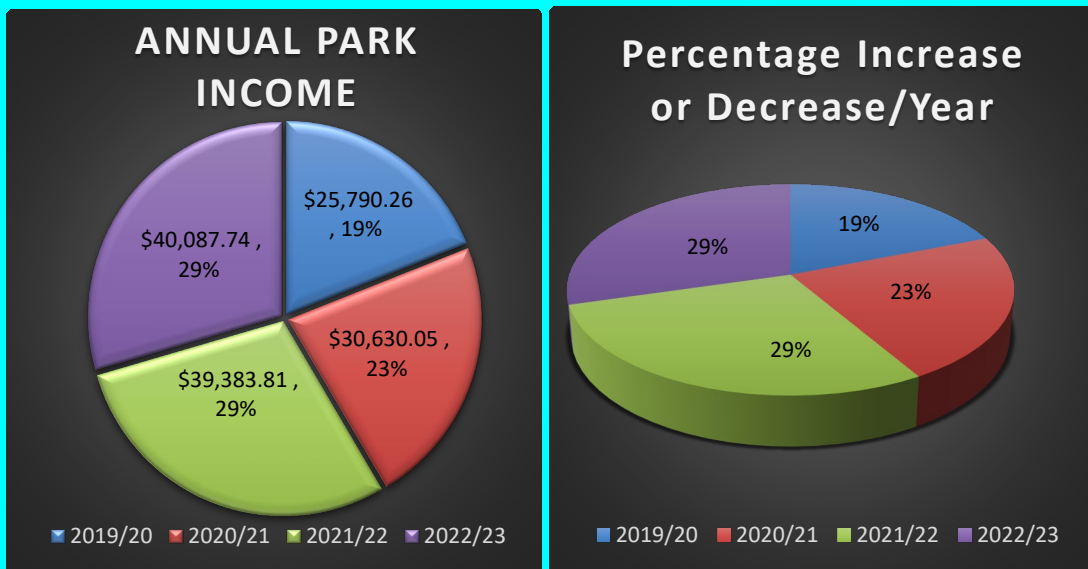
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing. Focal area being bathroom maintenance (fixtures and disabled bathroom upgrade)

FUTURE PROJECTS

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

STATISTICS



HOOD-PENN MUSEUM

On Thursday the 11th Royal Gala Tours arrived with 23 patrons on their Golden Circle Tour. They visited the Hood-Penn Museum and wandered around the main street. They absolutely loved the museum, pub, gardens, murals and facades. Some called in to the office to express their appreciation, in the presentation of our little town, they were very impressed in what we had on offer for tourists. The Tourers were from Manjimup, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Bailingup, Mullalyup, Kirup, Donnybrook, Boyanup, Bunbury & Eaton.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

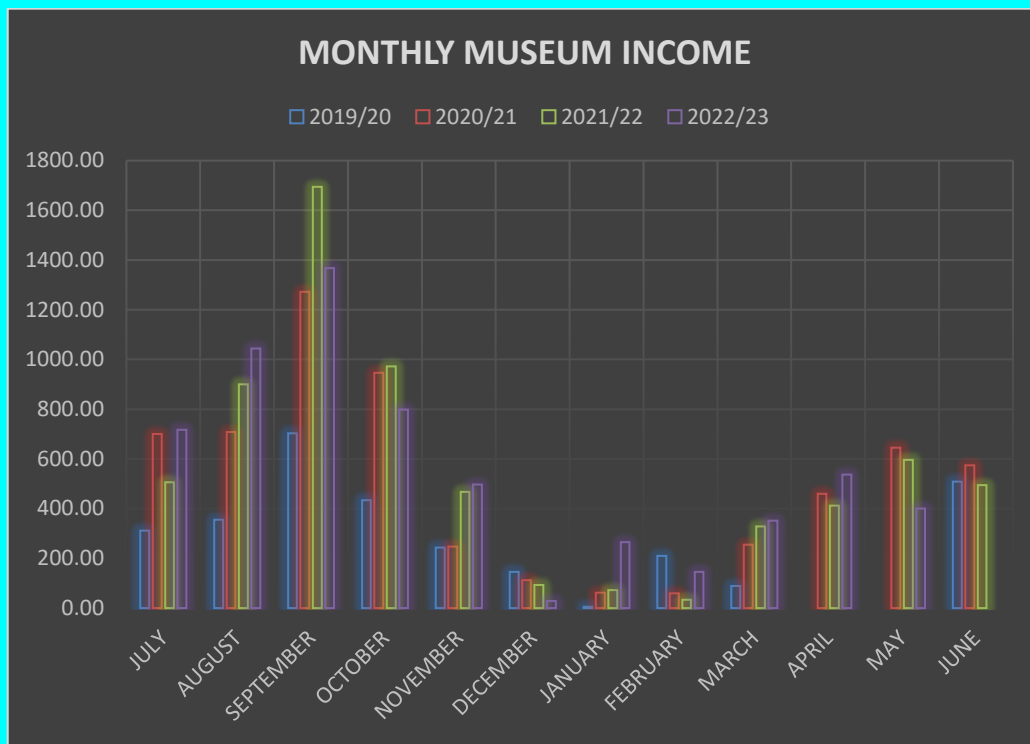
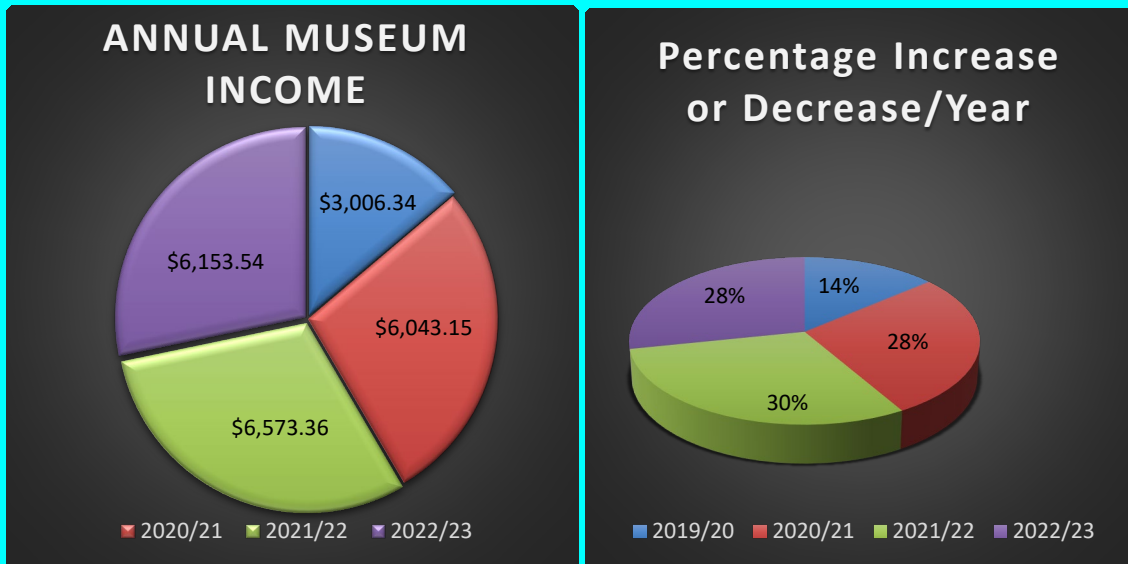
RECENT PROJECTS

- Old Truck modification for farming scene and Back drop in-place.

FUTURE PROJECTS

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

STATISTICS





Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



LGAlert))

Local government reform bill passes through Parliament

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 has passed through Parliament delivering tranche one of the most significant changes to the local government sector across Western Australia in more than 25 years.

The Bill provides reforms to allow for key changes to be implemented for the October 2023 Ordinary Elections for local government.

The changes will deliver a range of major benefits for ratepayers, strengthen local democracy and provide greater transparency and accountability by:

- introducing optional preferential voting, bringing local government elections more in line with State and Federal elections
- requiring direct election of a mayor or president for all larger councils
- abolishing wards for smaller local governments
- aligning the size of councils with the size of the population of each local government area
- enabling reforms to the owners and occupiers roll to prevent the use of 'sham leases', addressing critical findings of the City of Perth Inquiry
- setting State-wide caretaker periods during ordinary council elections
- setting standardised council meeting procedures
- mandating live streaming and recording of council meetings
- establishing mandated communications agreements between council members and the local government administration to ensure timely responses to councillor enquiries

- reforms to require all local governments to publish information through online registers, including registers that disclose information about local government leases, grants, and goods and services contracts
- introducing new requirements for the publication of performance indicators and results for all local government chief executive officers, with provision for limited exemptions for sensitive matters.

The passing of the Bill enables the State Government to implement a number of electoral changes for the upcoming 2023 local government elections including optional preferential voting and changes to council size and representation.

Work on the second tranche of additional legislation to deliver further reforms is continuing in consultation with the local government sector. This includes the establishment of the new Local Government Inspector and the introduction of local government monitors for early intervention.

This was the culmination of an enormous amount of work by the DLGSC Local Government Reform Team.

This sort of reform requires a whole team approach. It required a mix of skills, from administration to legal. Everyone in the team played a part. It involved extensive consultation with the sector, very detailed planning, and of course the complex work of testing and crafting the legislation.

The outcome of this work for the community will be stronger local democracy, and greater transparency and accountability of the local government sector.

But the work is not finished. The team is working on the second tranche of additional legislation to deliver further reforms. This includes the establishment of the new Local Government Inspector and the introduction of local government monitors for early intervention.

Reform of the Local Government Act



Wheatbelt Way

Bright skies. Big horizons.

May 2023 Newsletter

All things tourism in the Shires of Dowerin, Koorda, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Trayning, Westonia and Wyalkatchem.



*Autumn morning sunrise at Baladjie Rock in the Shire of Westonia by
@missminglis.*

We have been busy over the last couple of months really cranking up the marketing activities that NEWTRAVEL had identified to undertake this year. This has included:



Perth C&C Show

Our Wheatbelt trade stand in partnership with AGO at the Perth Caravan and Camping Show at Claremont Showgrounds for 5 days in March saw well over 30,000 people in attendance.



Caravanning Australia Autumn Magazine

Editorial and e-advertising in the 2023 Autumn edition of the Caravanning Australia magazine.



Wheatbelt Weekends Campaign

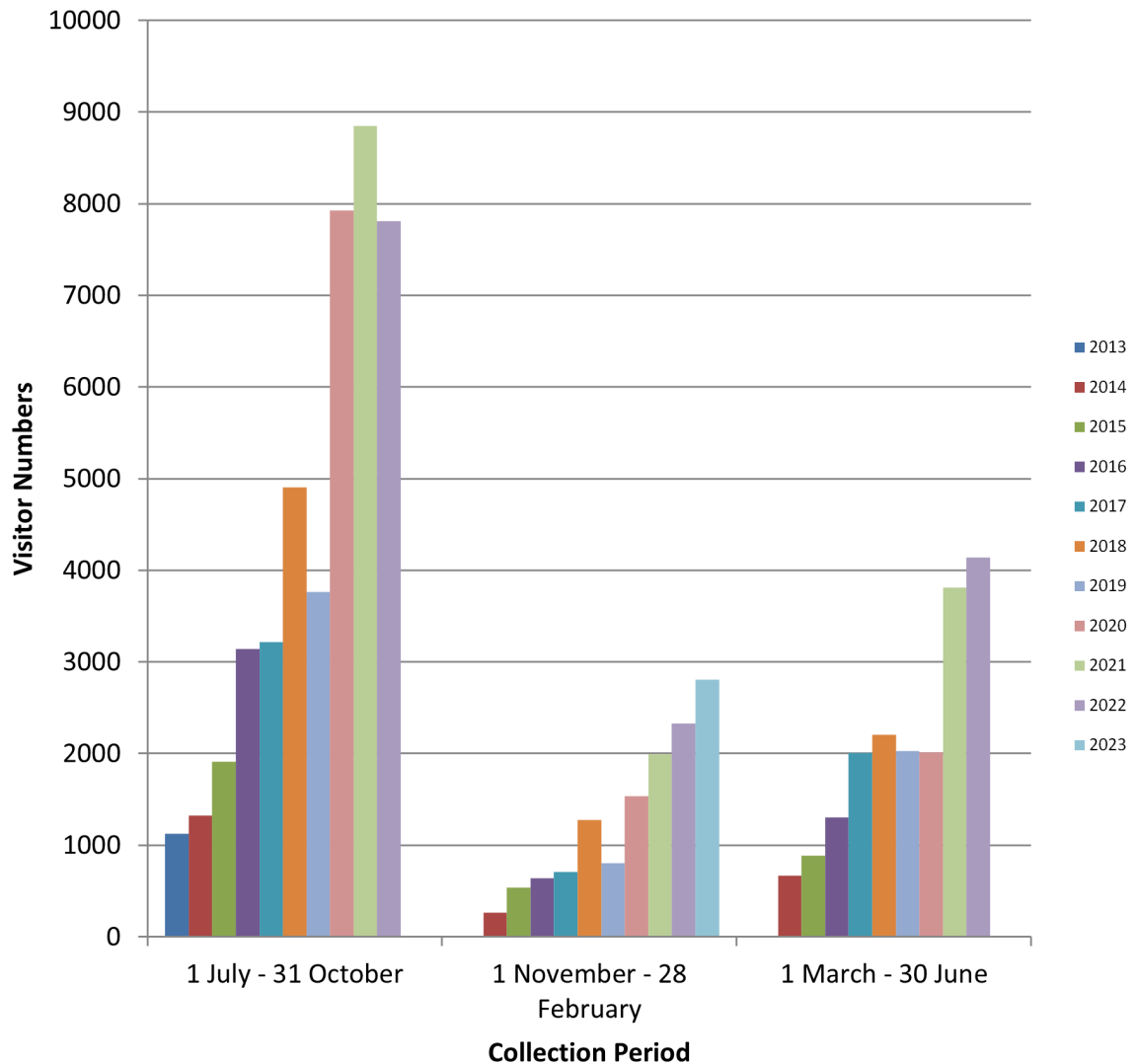
In partnership with AGO and other Wheatbelt Stakeholders saw us undertake a significant investment in [a 4-week campaign](#) that had many components.

We have also launched and been promoting the Storytowns Podcasts, and we want your support to get on board with more information on how further in this E-news update.

NEWTRAVEL with the support of NEWROC has submitted a funding application for an Events Support Officer which if successful will help our local community hold successful events and further develop events tourism activities in the region.

We have also been working again this Semester with Curtin University Rural Planning Students on their Rural Planning unit, which consisted of a field trip to Dowerin in April and assisting students with research for their unit project work which will be presented back to us via a panel session on the 23 May.

Visitors Numbers to the Wheatbelt Way Local Government Caravan Parks & Accommodation 2013-2023



The November 2022 to February 2023 Visitor Statistics show an increase in visitor numbers (2,806 visitors) to the Wheatbelt Way region by 20% compared to the same period in the previous year. This was a mix of both Holiday and Leisure Visitors and Business/Workers Visitors to our communities and was the most number of visitors ever for this collection period. We welcomed the Wyalkatchem Travellers Park to the data collection this period and continue to invite any other accommodation stakeholders to participate who are located in the Wheatbelt Way.

Visitor numbers are increasing as we head towards our Wildflower period - now is the time to go out and undertake annual site checks to ensure that all

facilities are in good working order! The next NEWTRAVEL meeting will be held on Thursday 27th July 2023 in Dowerin, all members and stakeholders are welcome. If you would like any assistance or further information on anything Wheatbelt Tourism please also feel free to reach out to me.

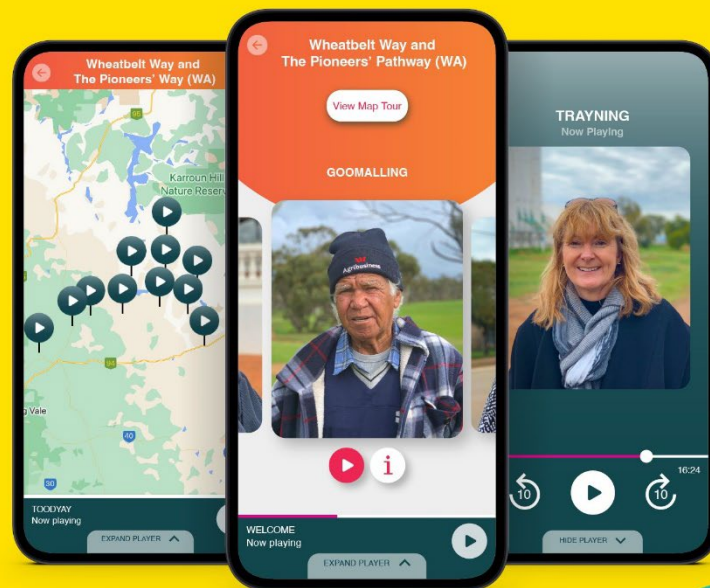
Linda Vernon

Tourism Officer, Wheatbelt Way

E: linda@wheatbeltway.com.au

STORYTOWNS

WHEATBELT WAY & THE PIONEERS' PATHWAY AUDIO TOUR



NEW

Storytowns - Audio Tour Podcasts

The Storytowns Audio Tour Podcast is now live for the Wheatbelt Way and Pioneers' Pathway Drive Trails. This has been a partnership between Storytowns.app, Wheatbelt Way, and Pioneers' Pathway with funding from Regional Arts Australia Cultural Tourism Accelerator Experience Initiative. It features twelve podcasts featuring immersive stories told straight from the heart of celebrated local characters as well as information on history, natural wonders, inspiring art, and local knowledge to generate curiosity and spark

engagement. The Storytowns app is geo-located meaning the podcast will play automatically as you are near the location.

Marketing of Storytowns has begun in March and NEWTRAVEL stakeholders are encouraged to support the promotion of this product through their own platforms (social media, website, etc). More information on how to do this can be found in the marketing launch pack below. If you need further assistance please just get in touch.

Storytowns Marketing Launch Information



AGO Tourism Destination Management Plan Feedback

You may have been approached by Tourism Western Australia (Tourism WA) seeking your input into the draft of Australia's Golden Outback: Tourism Destination Management Plan 2023-2033 (AGO TDMP) and correlating Regional Tourism Development Strategy (RTDS). These documents have been prepared in partnership with Australia's Golden Outback Regional Tourism Organisation and the Mid West, Gascoyne, Wheatbelt, and Goldfields-Esperance Development Commissions. These documents have been developed to guide the region's decision-making, investment, and capability development for the tourism industry over the next ten years.

The AGO TDMP establishes a tourism direction for the AGO tourism region, supported by goals and key priorities designed to drive tourism at all levels. These key priorities are underpinned by Regional Tourism Development

Strategies for the Mid-West, Gascoyne, Wheatbelt, and Goldfields-Esperance Commission regions. These plans seek to address the gaps and opportunities of the region, ensuring a holistic approach to tourism for the next ten years.

The Wheatbelt Regional Tourism Development Strategy is not being distributed in this feedback round, as portions of it are shared with the Destination Perth tourism region, which is still being finalised. This document will be made available for comment in the coming months.

The priorities and key infrastructure projects contained within the attached strategies have been determined through stakeholder engagement and a desktop review of existing strategic documents, to guide forward planning for the economic expansion of the tourism industry.

If you do not wish to provide your own direct feedback, NEWTRAVEL will be providing a response to this feedback request and welcomes any views from members as a part of our submission. If you can forward any of your views **by Wednesday 18th May** to Linda by [email](#) or call [0428 831 074](tel:0428831074) to be included.

[View the AGO TDMP Here](#)

Wheatbelt Way News & Updates

Marketing opportunity



1 Man & A Bike

1 Man and a Bike are currently reaching out to many stakeholders with expressions of interest about participating in episodes for their next series. NEWTRAVEL does not have the budget to participate in this type of marketing so therefore is not an activity we are pursuing at this point in time, but would be happy to discuss any partnership

opportunities with other NEWTRAVEL stakeholders if you have an interest in participating.



Applications Close 30 June 2023

REDS Grants - Round 6

The [Wheatbelt Regional Economic Development \(RED\) Grants](#) support economic growth and development in the Wheatbelt region are now open. The program provides financial assistance to eligible businesses, organizations and local governments for projects that promote job creation and economic diversification in the region. If you would like support from NEWTRAVEL for your application please just get in touch.



New
Reels

@WHEATBELTWAY

Reel Help Needed!

I am still really keen to connect (and pay) with any locals (teenagers or anyone who may be interested) and okay with making videos, Instagram reels, Tik Tok videos. I have put together a guide on what I am looking for, but also open to any suggestions. I would also be keen to explore with CRCs and community groups about opportunities to run any workshops in this digital media space to increase engagement. Check out the guide on the link below.

[Working with Wheatbelt Way - Instagram Reels](#)

Blog Posts and News of Interest



8 reasons why your tourism brand should be on TikTok.

A 4 minute read with 8 reasons why you should be on Tiktok by Media Mortar!



How Councils Can Support Events.

A blog from the Tilma Grop on how Councils can support events to increase their benefits.

Please share your events?

We want to help you promote your event to visitors to Wheatbelt Way. Please forward your event information and posters to us so that we can include them on our website and in our marketing campaigns.

[See 2023 Wheatbelt Way Events](#)



Dear CEO,

Yesterday the Economic Regulation Authority published the draft Western Power price list for 2023/24. Western Power proposes to increase prices for streetlighting by an average of **43.85% from 1 July 2023**. The tariff paid by Local Governments to Synergy or Horizon Power is set by the Government through the State Budget process. However, the price paid by Synergy to Western Power for streetlighting is an important consideration, if Synergy is to be able to recover its costs, including the electricity, through the tariff.

The most common streetlight on Local Government roads is an 80 watt mercury vapour light (about 47% of all lights). The proposed Western Power price list shows this increasing from \$125.62/light/year to \$181.02/light/year. (Note that the Synergy tariff for this light which includes the electricity to operate it is currently \$166.71/light/year excl GST). The Western Power proposed price increase is \$55.40/light/year.

For the newer lighting types, such as the 16 watt LED, also used on residential streets, the proposed Western Power price increase is \$34.26 per light per year. The proposed price increase for a 250 watt HPS, used on major roads and intersections, is \$70.34 per light per year. Depending on the number and types of lights in each Local Government area, the financial impact could range from a few hundred thousand dollars to several million dollars per year.

The Economic Regulation Authority is required to review the Western Power proposal, consider feedback and make a decision concerning the proposed prices by 18 May 2023. WALGA is preparing an initial submission to the Economic Regulation Authority and encourages all Local Governments that will be significantly impacted to urgently do so also. The number and types of lights in each Local Government area are provided on the invoice from Synergy. The prices and how they are calculated is set out in the [Proposed Price List](#).

Western Power attributes the majority of the proposed price increase to increased (in real terms) operating expenses, an increase in the required return on capital due to higher interest rates in the market, and inflation. There is no proposed change in the performance standards.

We will provide you a copy of the submission to the ERA, but it is important that each Local Government tailor their submission to highlight the financial impacts, particularly at this stage of the annual budget cycle. If we can assist you further with this, please contact [Daniel Thomson](#), Economist on 9213 215

Note – this advice applies to those Local Government areas that are serviced by Synergy.

Regards

Nick

Nick Sloan | Chief Executive Officer | WALGA



WALGA

(p) (08) 9213 2025 | (m) 0408 941 792 | (e) nsloan@walga.asn.au

Good afternoon,

Further to last week's advice regarding Western Power's proposed increases to street lighting tariffs for 2023/24, I can advise the following:

- WALGA has written to both the Minister for Energy and Minister for Local Government highlighting the issue and associated impact on Council budgets, and the community more broadly. Copies of the correspondence are attached for your information.
- The issue has been covered extensively in the media through WALGA, with additional information detailing the direct financial impact provided by Metropolitan and Regional Local Governments.
- I have discussed the issue directly with the Chair of the ERA who has provided the following public statement.
 - *Following our recent decision approving Western Power's revenue over the next five years, the ERA is surprised at Western Power's proposal to increase street light tariffs by 43.85%.*
 - *The ERA has approved increases to network charges generally of roughly 7.5% per annum, and the ERA will be considering why streetlight tariffs should increase above this amount.*
 - *The ERA is undertaking a detailed assessment of Western Power's calculations.*
 - *As a matter of approach, the ERA will seek to smooth increases over time rather than a once-off large increase.*
 - *The ERA will consider the reasonableness of the proposed increase and the impact on local governments and their residents.*

The State budget is being handed down on Thursday however the critical decision regarding tariffs is a matter for the ERA which will be handed down next week.

I will continue to keep you updated as this issue progresses and appreciate the support many of you have provided in our coordinated advocacy efforts.

Regards,

Nick

Nick Sloan | Chief Executive Officer | WALGA

(p) (08) 9213 2025 | (m) 0408 941 792 | (e) nsloan@walga.asn.au



www.walga.asn.au | www.youreveryday.com.au

4 May 2023

Via email: minister.carey@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon John Carey MLA
Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government
11th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth, 6005

Dear Minister Carey,

Proposed Price Increases for Street Lighting

The Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) recently published the draft Western Power price list for 2023/24, which proposed to increase prices for street lighting by an average of 43.85% from 1 July 2023. As the regulator, the ERA is now in the process of assessing the proposed price list and is due to provide a decision on whether to approve the proposed increase by 17 May.

As you are aware, an increase of this magnitude in Fixed Asset Charges for street lighting exit services will have a significant financial impact on Local Governments and, ultimately, local communities. Early feedback from Local Governments is that absorbing this unexpected increase will require community services to be cut, or a higher than budgeted increase to rates at a time of increasing cost of living pressures on ratepayers and households.

The scale of this increase has not been factored into Local Governments' budgets for 2023-24, which have been set on the basis of 2.81% assumed change for 2023-24 that was set out in the 2022-23 Budget Papers for customers in the South West Interconnected System.

As you may be aware, the actual increase in tariffs paid by Local Governments will be even higher once Synergy applies its retail margin.

WALGA has written to the Chair of the ERA to express the Local Government sector's strong concerns regarding such a significant tariff increase. A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

WALGA is currently collecting information from affected Local Governments on the financial impact of this proposed increase, and in coming days will also provide this to the ERA to inform their decision-making process. Some Local Governments will also lodge submissions and/or write to the ERA individually. Already, several outer metropolitan Local Governments have calculated that a 43.85% average increase, exclusive of potential increases in the retail margin, is likely to result in additional expenditure on street lighting of between \$1.1 million and \$2 million per annum.

While WALGA respects the independence of the ERA and the regulatory process underway, it would welcome a discussion with you regarding the lack of advice and information provided to the Association and Local Governments around each of the factors that have contributed to the proposed increase, and the impact on Local Governments' budgets and, ultimately, local ratepayers and residents.

To arrange a meeting or discussion at your earliest convenience, please have your office contact Kelsey Nicholson, Executive Assistant on 08 9213 5217 or eaceo@walga.asn.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Chappel".

Cr Karen Chappel JP
President

4 May 2023

Via email: minister.johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations
9th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth, 6005

Dear Minister Johnston,

Proposed Price Increases for Street Lighting

As you are aware, the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) recently published the draft Western Power price list for 2023/24, which proposed to increase prices for street lighting by an average of 43.85% from 1 July 2023.

On behalf of the Local Government sector, WALGA would like to express its disappointment to you as Minister for Energy at the magnitude of the increase in Fixed Asset Charges for street lighting exit services set out in Western Power's proposed 2023-24 price list. That disappointment also extends to the lack of advice and information from Western Power on the basis for such a significant increase.

WALGA is also gravely concerned at the potential impact on local communities should this increase be approved by the ERA. Early feedback from Local Governments is that absorbing this unexpected increase will require community services to be cut, or a higher than budgeted increase to rates – costs that will ultimately be borne by the community at a time of increasing cost of living pressures on ratepayers and households.

The scale of this increase has not been factored into Local Governments' budgets for 2023-24, which have been set on the basis of 2.81% assumed change for 2023-24 that was set out in the 2022-23 Budget Papers for customers in the South West Interconnected System.

As you are aware, the actual increase in tariffs paid by Local Governments will be even higher once Synergy applies its retail margin.

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WALGA is currently collecting information from affected Local Governments on the financial impact of this proposed increase, and in coming days will also provide this to the ERA to inform their decision-making process. Already, several outer metropolitan Local Governments have calculated that a 43.85% average increase, exclusive of potential increases in the retail margin, is likely to result in additional expenditure on street lighting of between \$1.1 million and \$2 million per annum.

While WALGA respects the independence of the ERA and the regulatory process underway, it would welcome a discussion with you regarding each of the factors that have contributed to the proposed increase, including the Increases in the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) and operating expenditure for maintenance and fault repair, as well as the proposed implementation of the increase in one step rather than being smoothed out over the forward estimates.

To arrange a meeting or discussion at your earliest convenience, please have your office contact Kelsey Nicholson, Executive Assistant on 08 9213 5217 or eaceo@walga.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Cr Karen Chappel JP
President

[View this email in your browser](#)



Good evening,

Mark McGowan has handed down the 2023-24 State Budget.

As was the case in Tuesday's Federal Budget, providing cost of living relief was a key plank of the State Budget given the strong increases in inflation that have been experienced in recent times.

However, the Budget also announced a range of new funding commitments aimed at addressing current pressure points for the community in housing and health, as well the challenges facing the state over the longer term to transition to Net Zero and diversify the state's economy.

It also includes a record \$39 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years.

\$17.4 million is provided in cost-of-living relief for households over the next four years.

A range of measures are included in this package, such as a \$400 electricity bill rebate for all households, with additional support for those most in need; increased payments under the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme; additional funding for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme; and keeping increases to State Government fees below inflation in 2023-24



The Budget also includes a significant investment in healthcare, with a record \$2.7 billion to be spent on a range of initiatives over the next four years.

The majority of this will be directed towards hospital services, however funding is also provided for COVID-19 response, addressing emergency department pressures, workforce attraction and retention and ICT projects.

\$750 million has also been provided for additional investment to boost housing supply and housing choice.

Climate change is also a focus area for the Budget to support the State's transition to net zero. The estimates include a \$3 billion investment to support the Government's plan to decarbonise electricity production and move towards cleaner energy.

The most significant Climate Action initiative is \$2.3 billion for Synergy to deliver a 500 MW Battery Energy Storage System in Collie. \$38.9 million has been allocated for a range of climate adaptation measures.

The state's strong budget position has underpinned its ability to invest in these priorities. A \$3.3 billion surplus is predicted in 2023-24, as a result of strong increase in royalty income, Commonwealth Grants, and property tax revenues.

Surpluses in excess of \$2 billion are expected to be maintained across the forward estimates.

HEADS OF AGENCIES - FINAL CALL

Don't miss your opportunity to talk to key State Government decision-makers about the today's State budget.

WALGA has opened the Heads of Agencies breakfast up to enable two representatives from each Local Government to attend.

[Click here to register now](#)

Key Budget Measures for Local Government

For Local Governments, the Budget provided funding for a number of important areas identified in WALGA's State Budget Submission.

- The Budget papers confirm the State Government's ongoing funding commitment to the **State Road funds to Local Government** to assist Councils with the management of the local road network.
- \$3.8 million has been allocated to deliver a grant program over 2023-24 and 2024-25 to **increase tree canopy cover** and improve biodiversity within Western Australia's urban centres.
- An additional \$15 million has been added to the **Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund**, which will be spent over 2023-24 and 2024-25, bringing the Fund to \$20 million for these two years respectively.
- Additional expenditure of \$77 million has been approved over the forward estimates for the ongoing operational costs associated with the **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021** and to fund Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services.
- Spending on **regional health and mental health initiatives** will increase by \$342 million, including the continuation of the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service and additional investment in WA Health's regional workforce.
- An additional \$12 million is allocated for the **Regional Development Assistance Program** over 2023-24 to 2026-27 for residential, industrial, commercial and tourism-related land and infrastructure projects.
- \$3.6 million has been allocated in 2023-24 to assist with **mid-tier transport planning**.
- \$300,000 is provided to develop a business case to support a Stage 2 Infrastructure Australia proposal for a Western Australian **coastal hazard adaptation program**.

- An additional \$1.1 million will be spent in 2023-24 for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to continue the consolidation of existing emergency services legislation into a new **Emergency Services Act**.

Full WALGA Analysis



Other Measures

- An additional \$61.6 million is provided over the forward estimates period to address demand for **Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)**. This includes \$40.9 million to acquire new dwellings and purchase land for future construction and \$19.7 million to refurbish 133 existing GROH properties. \$1.1 million will also be spent on a comprehensive review and reform of the GROH program.
- \$11.3 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2024-25 (jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments) for infrastructure projects that will increase the **State's organic waste processing capacity**.
- \$81.7 million is allocated to upgrade and maintain the State's **emergency radio network** and equipment used by frontline officers including police officers and firefighters.
- \$24.4 million has been provided to permanently appoint 29 dedicated **disaster recovery officers** to form WA's largest ever recovery team

- An additional \$175 million will be spent in 2024-25 (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments) to continue **safety treatments on regional roads** to reduce run off crashes.
- Over 2022-23 and 2023-24, an additional \$20.7 million will be spent on the **regional airfares cap**
- An additional \$52.5 million has been invested in the provision of **Family and Domestic Violence services** in metropolitan and regional Western Australia
- \$24.4 million is provided over 2022-23 to 2026-27 to implement initiatives approved as part of **Planning Reform Phase Two**. This includes the centralised assessment of Development Contributions Plans, implementing Development Assessment Panel Reforms and the establishment of a permanent determination pathway for State and regionally significant developments.

More Information

The Budget also contains estimates for regulated fees and charges. Of note to Local Governments, street lighting tariffs are projected to increase by 4.8% across the forward estimates.

However, this figure remains an estimate and will be finalised in coming weeks.

The Economic Regulation Authority is currently considering the proposed 44% increase put forward by Western Power for network costs and will make its decision in coming days.

You can read more about [what the State Budget means for Local Governments here](#).

WALGA will work through the detail of the Budget in coming weeks and keep the sector informed on any major issues affecting Local Government.

If you have any further questions on the State Budget, email WALGA's Economics team.

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