



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

To be held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 22nd May 2025

Commencing 4.00pm

Dear Councillors,

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Westonia will be held on 22nd May 2025 the Council Chambers, Wolfram Street, Westonia.

Concept Meeting – 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Afternoon Tea – 3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Council Meeting – 4.00 pm

BILL PRICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

19 May 2025



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

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



**SHIRE OF
WESTONIA**
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

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

OUR VALUES

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

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

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

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

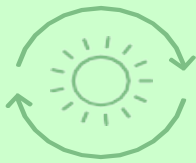
OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

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

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

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

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social Interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

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

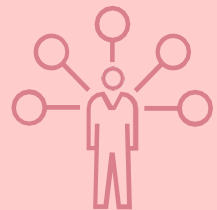
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

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

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

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

GOVERNANCE



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

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

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

The community receives services in a timely manner.

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

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

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

Shire of Westonia: -

A vibrant community lifestyle.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING	5
2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (4.10PM – 4.25PM)	5
4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	5
6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES	5
7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	6
9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION	7
9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	7
9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 2025	7
9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– APRIL 2025	9
9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – APRIL 2025	11
9.1.4 LEASE EXTENSIONS- RAMELIUS	12
9.1.5 DIFFERENTIAL RATES	14
9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS	17
9.2.1 FUNDING APPLICATION COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM	17
9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES	19
9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES	20
9.4.1 D & J McAULIFFE – PLANNING APPLICATION OVERSIZED OUTBUILDING	20
9.4.2 GEERANING FARMS REFORESTATION MANAGEMENT & BUSHFIRE PLANS	22
10. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	24
11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING	24
12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING	24
13. MEETING CLOSURE	24

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Crees welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 3.30pm.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

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

Staff:

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

Members of the Public:

Apologies:

Approved Leave of Absence:

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

NIL

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NIL

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17th April 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the LEMAC Meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2025 be accepted.

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on Thursday 10 April 2025 be accepted.

That the minutes of the WEROC Inc CEO Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025 be accepted.

That the minutes of the WEROC Inc Special Meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 be accepted.

That the minutes of the WPA Meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2025 be accepted

That the minutes of the WEROC Inc Board Meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 be accepted.

**MINUTES
WESTONIA/YILGARN
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
23 ANTARES STREET, SOUTHERN CROSS
THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2025**

Here are the minutes of the Westonia/Yilgarn Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

1 Declaration of Opening

The Chair, Cr Wayne Della Bosca, Declared the meeting open at 7:06 p.m.

2 Record of Attendance & Apologies

2.1 Attendance

In Person

Cr Wayne Della Bosca – Shire of Yilgarn
Nic Warren – Shire of Yilgarn
Kelly Watts – Shire of Yilgarn
Tony Dal Busco – SXVFRS
Cr Donna Newbury – Shire of Yilgarn
Jay Khan - WAPOL

Via Zoom

Ron Burro – Bush Fire Chief
Jo Spadaccini – Department of Communities
Jon Glassford – Covalent Lithium

Apologies

Stephanie Smylie – SX General Practice
Chris Thompson – WAPOL Southern Cross
Michael Phillips – Department of Communities
Louise Davidson – SxDHS
Nat Beaton – St Joseph's Primary School

3 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved; Tony Dal Busco / Seconded; Cr Donna Newbury
The Local Emergency Management Committee meeting minutes held on Thursday, December 12th, 2024, are a true and correct record.

4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- 4.1** Department of Communities new Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP)
- 4.2** Southern Cross Aerodrome Manual
- 4.3** Telstra Factsheet
- 4.4** Telstra Factsheet – Go Repeater

MINUTES
WESTONIA/YILGARN
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
23 ANTARES STREET, SOUTHERN CROSS
THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2025

5 Reports

5.1 Jo Spadaccini – Department of Communities

- 5.1.1 New Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP) – Tabled.

Moved: Nic Warren

Seconded: Wayne Della Bosca

5.2 Jon Glassford – Covalent Lithium

- 5.2.1 Thanks to all who were involved in the Mount Holland fire

5.3 Ron Burro – Bush Fire Chief

- 5.3.1 Refers to the Covalent/Mt Holland fire Debrief – seeks answers to questions raised.

5.4 Tony Dal Busco – SXVFRS

- 5.4.1 Truck fire close to Carrabin, a question was asked: the possibility of the stations having card access to the Shire of Westonia bordering standpipes and vice versa.

ACTION: Contact the Shire of Westonia and inquire about the possibility of card access for the VRFS and BRB.

5.5 Cr Donna Newbury – Shire of Yilgarn

- 5.5.1 Was hoping to introduce new HSM – Romy Babu. Unfortunately, Romy was unavailable. Romy will be at the Southern Cross Hospital on a 12-month contract, working a 10-day fortnight.

ACTION: Kelly is to forward the LEMC Meeting Schedule to Romy

5.6 Nic Warren – Shire of Yilgarn

- 5.6.1 Covalent/Mt Holland fire Debrief was held. Follow-up will take place with Damien Pumphrey and Paul Hayes to discuss concerns raised

5.6.1.1 Communications

5.6.1.2 MAUs with DEFS

5.6.1.3 Attendance at LEMC

ACTION: Follow-up with Shelby Robinson in regards to template MAU's

5.7 Jay Khan - WAPOL

- 5.7.1 In the minutes for the LEMC on the 12th of December, Chris Thompson advised that two new officers were incoming. Unfortunately, the two officers are no longer coming, and the search for replacements is ongoing.

6 General Business

6.1 Cr Wayne Della Bosca – Shire of Yilgarn

- 6.1.1 Referring to the Covalent/Mt Holland fire, it states that, Unfortunately, DEFS can only call the evacuation

**MINUTES
WESTONIA/YILGARN
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
23 ANTARES STREET, SOUTHERN CROSS
THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2025**

centre and LEMC into action. Questions that were raised need answers so that we can understand the lessons.

6.2 Tony Dal Busco – SXVFRS

6.2.1 Refers to the Covalent/Mt Holland fire, we need to clarify and set into place regulations in regards to when and how the LEMC can be activated

ACTION: Ron to ask for clarification at the DOAC.

7 Next Meeting

It is scheduled for Thursday, 22nd of May 2025, although this may vary depending on circumstances.

8 Closure of Meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

WEROC Inc. Special General Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 15 April 2025

Videoconference
Commencing at 1.00pm

CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
2.1	Attendance.....	3
2.2	Apologies.....	3
2.3	Guests.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4.	MATTERS FOR DECISION	3
4.1	Application for Membership to WEROC Inc. by the Shire of Cunderdin	3
5.	OTHER MATTERS	4
6.	FUTURE MEETINGS	4
7.	CLOSURE	4

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held via videoconference on Tuesday 15 April 2025 commencing at 1.00pm.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lisa O'Neill as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 1.02pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Mark Furr
Mr. Raymond Griffiths
Mr. Andrew Malone
Ms. Lisa O'Neill (Chair)
Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan
Ms. Emily Ryan
Mr. Craig Watts

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca
Mr. Mark Crees
Mr. Bill Price
Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Deputy Chair)
Mr. Nic Warren

2.3 Guests

NIL

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 Application for Membership to WEROC Inc. by the Shire of Cunderdin

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 2 April 2025

Attachments: Shire of Cunderdin Application for Membership

Voting Requirement: All Representatives present at the Special General Meeting are entitled to one vote each. Voting will be done by a show of hands. In the event of equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting will have a second vote.

Executive Officer Comment:

On Tuesday 1 April 2025, the Executive Officer received an application for Membership to WEROC Inc. from the Shire of Cunderdin.

As per the WEROC Inc. Constitution the process for dealing with new member applications is as follows:

6.6.3 Dealing with Membership Applications

- (a) The Board must consider each application for membership of WEROC and decide whether to accept or reject the application.
- (b) The Board may delay its consideration of an application if the Board considers that any matter relating to the application needs to be clarified by the applicant.
- (c) The Board must notify the applicant of the Board's decision to accept or reject the application as soon as practicable after making the decision.
- (d) If the Board rejects the application, the Board is not required to give the applicant its reasons for doing so.

Furthermore rule 6.6.4 specifies that an applicant only becomes a member when:

- (a) The Board accepts the application; and
- (b) The applicant pays any membership fees payable to WEROC.

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 17 March 2025 it was agreed that if the Shire of Cunderdin applied for membership before the end of the current financial year, WEROC would forgo the annual contribution pro-rata amount and only request a joining fee. As per the resolution of the Board at the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2024, the new member fee is \$30,000 + GST.

Recommendation:

That the Shire of Cunderdin's application to be admitted as a Member of the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc. be accepted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Seconded: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

That the Shire of Cunderdin's application to be admitted as a Member of the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc. be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. OTHER MATTERS

NIL

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next General Meeting of the WEROC Inc. Board, will take place in Westonia on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

7. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 1.05pm.



WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting

Monday 14 April 2025

Kellerberrin Shire Council Chambers/videoconference

MINUTES

WEROC | Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils

Incorporating the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia, Tammin and Yilgarn

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CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	3
2.1	ATTENDANCE	3
2.2	APOLOGIES.....	3
2.3	GUESTS	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	3
5.	MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION	4
5.1	WATER.....	4
5.2	HOUSING	5
5.3	COMPLIANCE AUDIT	6
6.	OTHER MATTERS	6
6.1	COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND.....	6
7.	FUTURE MEETINGS	7
8.	CLOSURE	7

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Kellerberrin/via videoconference on Monday 14 April 2025.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Craig Watts, Chair of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee, was unable to join the meeting in-person and elected to have one of the CEO's physically present, run the meeting on his behalf.

Mr. Raymond Griffiths was nominated to Chair the meeting.

Mr. Griffiths welcomed members and opened the meeting at 11.10am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr Mark Furr, CEO Shire of Bruce Rock (joined via videoconference)

Mr Raymond Griffiths, CEO Shire of Kellerberrin

Mr Andrew Malone, CEO Shire of Tammin

Mr Nic Warren, CEO Shire of Yilgarn (joined via videoconference)

Mr Craig Watts, CEO Shire of Merredin (joined via videoconference)

Ms Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer WEROC Inc.

2.2 Apologies

Mr Bill Price, CEO Shire of Westonia

2.3 Guests

Mr Stuart Hobley, CEO Shire of Cunderdin

Ms Sandy Turton-Parkinson, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (joined via videoconference)

Mr James McGovern, Governance Consultant, Civic Legal (joined via videoconference)

Mr Anthony Quahe, Managing Principal, Civic Legal (joined via videoconference)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Attachment 1. WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting Minutes 10022025

The Minutes of the previous WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Merredin on 10 February 2025 have been previously circulated and are provided as Attachment 1.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 10 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Andrew Malone

Seconded: Mr. Craig Watts

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 10 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Water

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 17 March 2025, emerging priorities for WEROC were considered and it was agreed that water would be added as a priority. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has been invited to join the WEROC CEO Committee meeting for a round table discussion around water issues and funding support available.

Ms. Sandy Turton-Parkinson, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer – Rural Water Planning, will join the meeting via videoconference at 11.15am. Ms. Turton-Parkinson has provided, in advance of the meeting, the following detail on the Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) program:

- Applications are now open and will close at 5.00pm on 16 May 2025
- Applications will be assessed as they are submitted on a first come, first served basis.
- Program objectives include improving non-potable water supplies, ensuring that water is available for public amenities to reduce reliance on potable water supplies and increasing water available for firefighting to better prepare communities for periods of low rainfall.
- Projects must provide clear benefits to the community, reduce reliance on scheme water, improve public amenities through the irrigation of open spaces and establish or upgrade strategic emergency water supplies for firefighting.
- Up to \$100,000 is available for each project. Requests above \$100,000 may be considered subject to approval by the Department.
- Applicants must contribute a minimum of 30% of the total project cost.

Comments from the meeting:

- Most WEROC Shires are looking at applying for this round of CWSP funding.
- Ms. Turton-Parkinson advised that if Shires are unable to meet the 30% co-contribution requirement, the Department could possibly find ways to cover the gap. It was also noted that the co-contribution can be made up of in-kind components such as the time taken to prepare the grant application, source quotes, etc.
- It was questioned if maintenance (e.g., clearing drainage) is an eligible project activity. Ms. Turton-Parkinson advised that it is.
- The pool of funding available in this round is \$7 million. The turnaround time on applications is around three months.
- DWER are keen to explore options for capturing water from CBH sites.
- DWER can assist in negotiating access to water on Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions managed land.

- Mr. Nic Warren questioned whether DWER can facilitate quick access to funding to cart water when water supplies are depleted. Ms. Turton-Parkinson advised that they can, but to be eligible there cannot be a scheme water supply within 40km.
- It was questioned if there is value in developing a water plan for the WEROC local governments. Ms. Turton-Parkinson indicated that Development Commissions are completing water audits and water planning in other regions and the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) are being encouraged to do the same. It was recommended that WEROC contact WDC and request assistance in completing a water audit for our seven local governments.
- It was also noted that the Shire of West Arthur have already completed a water strategy and the consultants that assisted them (Water Technology) might be worthwhile requesting a quote from.

Ms. Turton-Parkinson left the meeting at 11.55am and did not return.

- It was suggested that, given the CWSP funding can be used to engage consultants and contractors for specialist activities and tasks, WEROC consider applying for funding to complete water audits/strategies for each of the seven Councils.

5.2 Housing

Attachment 2: WEROC Stakeholder and Communication Plan

As advised via email on 8 April 2025, the Department of Communities have providing the following clarification regarding the call for submissions from Local Government:

- The call for submissions (CFS) from local governments operates as a non-competitive, non-time limited, and non-funded framework. Any request for funding through this CFS will depend on the availability of funds from existing or future programs.
- The Regional Grants Round which had up to \$50 million in grant funding available and included the CFS from local government as well as a CFS from Community Housing Providers, has already been fully subscribed and even though submissions don't close until September, there is no money left for projects.
- They said that if the proposal was of interest to them, the Department could help find funding through other programs but at the moment they are not aware of any that they can access. They could also keep the project in mind for any future programs that become available.
- They advised that if WEROC local governments do make a submission, we need to clearly define what we consider to be key worker housing (i.e., have clear eligibility criteria) and document our rent setting parameters to ensure it aligns with their requirement for non-market housing.
- It was also advised that before WEROC make a submission, other funding should be secured because it is far more likely that they will actively support a proposal that already has co-contributions confirmed. The Housing Australia Fund Round 3 is meant to open late 2025 and this could be a potential funding avenue, although local government have not been eligible in the past.

In light of this information, and considering the cost involved (indicative quote from Whitney Consulting was \$19,000) is there still interest in preparing a submission?

The Shire of Cunderdin have now been included in the scope of works for the WEROC housing investigation. An allowance of two weeks has been given for the Shire of Cunderdin to have the Shire and business surveys completed. JE Planning have revised the timeline for delivery of the worker housing needs analysis report and we are now looking at completion in July/August 2025 (refer to Attachment 2).

Comments from the meeting:

- Given that there is no pool of funding attached to the call for submissions, it was discussed that paying a consultant to prepare a submission may not be good value for money.
- It was commented that the Wheatbelt Development Commission housing investigation process assisted the AROC Councils in obtaining federal funding for headworks.
- A consensus was reached that funding avenues, including the Department of Communities call for submission, would be explored further once the workforce housing investigation is completed later this year.

5.3 Compliance Audit

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 17 March 2025 it was suggested that a compliance audit be conducted to understand where each Council sits in terms of compliance with the amended local government act and regulations.

Mr. James McGovern, Governance Consultant at Civic Legal, and Mr. Anthony Quahe, Managing Principal, Civic Legal, will join the meeting via videoconference at 12.00pm, to discuss the requirements for this compliance audit.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths provided initial context for the approach to Civic Legal, explaining that the Shires are seeking a compliance review to ensure adherence to recent and upcoming legislative changes.
- It was clarified that WEROC is seeking to have an internal audit conducted for each Shire to identify any issues that might arise during a formal audit and to highlight areas for improvement in order to achieve best practice.
- Civic Legal advised that they have a program they started approximately five years ago that would fit this requirement. Project AWARE is a governance support service aimed at strengthening governance practices in local government.
- The program consists of six meetings per year, held either online or in person. A template is provided to assist Shires in reviewing and improving their systems and procedures. Shires are responsible for completing the templates internally, and the meetings serve to coach and guide staff in addressing any identified governance issues.
- A query was raised regarding the potential additional resource burden associated with this process. Mr. Quahe responded that most local governments involved in the project do not view the recommendations as additional work, as they are tasks that fall within the general course of business.
- It was requested that Civic legal provide a proposal to deliver Project AWARE across the seven WEROC Shires.
- A separate matter was raised over the difficulty in finding independent persons for audit and risk committees. Mr. McGovern advised that WALGA were looking into establishing a panel of independent persons who could serve on these committees and recommended reaching out to Tony Brown for an update.

Mr. McGovern and Mr. Quahe left the meeting at 12.35pm and did not return.

6. OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Community Benefits Fund

Attachment 3. Shire of Narrogin Future - Community Enhancements Fund

On 25 March 2025, Mr. Raymond Griffiths forwarded details of a community enhancement fund (refer to attachment 3) being considered by the Shire of Narrogin. Mr. Craig Watts advised that the Shire of Merredin are looking at something similar and Mr. Mark Furr advised that the Shire of Bruce Rock would similarly be interested.

The concept of a community benefit fund was discussed at the WEROC Board meeting held on 11 September 2024, and it was recommended by the Executive Officer that the establishment of a regional community benefit fund be considered. At the time there was no support for exploring this option further but in light of recent discussion it may be worth looking at again.

Comments from the meeting:

- Shires will use the Narrogin policy as the basis for their own local policy. These will be taken to respective Councils for endorsement.
- There may be interest in receiving a presentation on the establishment of a community benefit fund or trust once the policies have been approved.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next WEROC Inc. Board meeting will take place in Westonia on Wednesday 7 May 2025. There are no further scheduled meetings of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee at this time.

8. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.05pm.

Great Eastern Country Zone Minutes

10 April 2025

**Hosted by the Shire of Merredin
Merredin Regional Community
Leisure Centre**

ZONE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following items are the Zone's priority issues, as resolved at the February 2024 Zone meeting:

- Regional Health Services to include:
 - Hospitals
 - Aged Care
 - Future of Nurse Practitioner Service
- St John Ambulance Service – Impact on Volunteers and the provision of the service generally.
- Regional Subsidiaries
- Transport – Road Network
- Telecommunications
- Education
- Review of GROH Housing and Regional Housing issues
- Waste Management
- Agricultural Land Use

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	5
1.1.	Opening	5
1.2.	Attendance	5
1.3.	Apologies	6
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	7
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	7
4.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	8
5.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT 'VIRTUAL HOST'	8
6.	GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS	8
6.1.	Speakers for the April Zone Meeting	8
6.1.1.	Ian Duncan, WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure	8
7.	MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.....	8
8.	AGENCY REPORTS	8
8.1.	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.....	8
8.2.	Wheatbelt Development Commission	9
8.3.	Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt.....	9
8.4.	Main Roads Western Australia	9
8.5.	Water Corporation.....	9
8.6.	CBH Group	9
9.	MINUTES.....	10
9.1.	Confirmation of Minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 14 February 2025	10
9.2.	Business Arising from the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 14 February 2025.....	10
9.2.1.	Item 8.1: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Attendance	10
9.2.2.	Item 10.1: Draft Operational Procedure 113: Operational Boundaries and Asset Maintenance Responsibilities: Rural Regions	11
9.2.3.	Item 14.1: WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program 11	
9.2.4.	Tier 3 Rail.....	12
9.3.	Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 April 2025	12
9.4.	Business Arising from the Great Eastern Country Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 April 2025	12
10.	ZONE BUSINESS	13
10.1.	Provision of Rural GP Services in RM 6 and RM 7 Communities	13
10.2.	Potential Initiatives to Invest Cash Reserves	14
10.3.	AvonWest Logistics and Enterprise Hub (Northam Freight Hub) – Potential Traffic Implications for Great Eastern Highway	17
10.4.	Great Eastern Country Zone Conference 2025	18
10.5.	Zone Priorities for Ministerial Briefings.....	20
10.6.	Authorisation of Public Officer for the Zones Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 21	
10.7.	Update on School Bus Services	21
10.8.	Update on Band 4 Local Governments meeting	22
10.9.	Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025	23

11.	ZONE REPORTS	24
11.1.	Chair Report.....	24
11.2.	Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	25
11.3.	WALGA RoadWise.....	26
12.	WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS.....	26
12.1.	WALGA President's Report	26
12.2.	State Councillor Report	26
12.3.	Status Report.....	27
13.	WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA	29
13.1.	Regulations for CEO KPIs and Online Registers – WALGA Submission (State Council Agenda Item 8.1).....	29
13.2.	Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda Item 8.2) 33	
13.3.	Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda Item 8.3)	38
13.4.	Submission on the State Recovery Arrangements (State Council Agenda Item 8.4).....	44
13.5.	Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation (State Council Agenda Item 8.5).....	50
13.6.	Other State Council Agenda Items.....	52
14.	EMERGING ISSUES	52
15.	NEXT MEETING.....	52
16.	CLOSURE	53

ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. Item 6 WALGA Executive Manager Infrastructure presentation
2. Item 8.4 Main Roads WA presentation
3. Item 8.5 Water Corporation presentation

1. OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1. OPENING

Chair, President Cr Tony Sachse opened the meeting at 9:32am.

1.2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	2 Voting Delegates from each Member Council
Shire of Bruce Rock	President Cr Ram Rajagopalan
	Cr Stephen Strange (State Council Representative)
Shire of Cunderdin	President Cr Alison Harris JP
	Deputy President Cr Tony Smith
	Mr Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kellerberrin	Deputy President Cr Emily Ryan
	Mr Raymond Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer (voting delegate)
Shire of Koorda	President Cr Jannah Stratford
	Mr Zac Donovan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Merredin	Cr Mark McKenzie
Shire of Mount Marshall	President Cr Tony Sachse (Zone Chair)
	Mr Ben McKay, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mukinbudin	President Cr Gary Shadbolt
	Ms Tanika McLennan, A/Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Narembeen	Deputy President Cr Holly Cusack
	Ms Rebecca McCall, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Nungarin	Deputy President Cr Gary Coumbe
Shire of Tammin	Deputy President Cr Tanya Nicholls
	Mr Andrew Malone, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Trayning	Mr John Merrick, A/Chief Executive Officer, non voting

Shire of Westonia	President Cr Mark Crees
	Ms Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	President Cr Owen Garner
	Ms Sabine Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Yilgarn	President Cr Wayne Della Bosca
	Mr Nic Warren, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

GUESTS	
Main Roads WA	Mr Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
Regional Development Australia WA	Mr Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development
Water Corporation	Ms Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer & Stakeholder – Goldfields & Agricultural Region
CBH Group	Ms Kellie Todman, Manager Governance and Industry Relations

WALGA	
Cr Paul Kelly, WALGA Deputy President	
Mr Ian Duncan, Executive Manager, Infrastructure	
Mr Sam McLeod, Manager Commercial Services (Zone Executive Officer)	
Ms Chantelle O'Brian, Governance Support Officer	

1.3. APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Shire of Bruce Rock	Mr Mark Furr, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Dowerin	President Cr Robert Trepp
	Deputy President Cr Nadine McMorran
	Mrs Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Kondinin	President Cr Kent Mouritz
	Deputy President Cr Bev Gangell
	Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Koorda	Deputy President Cr Gary Greaves
Shire of Merredin	Deputy President Cr Renee Manning
	Mr Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Mount Marshall	Deputy President Cr Nick Gillett
Shire of Narembeen	President Cr Scott Stirrat

Shire of Nungarin	President Cr Pippa de Lacy
	Mr David Nayda, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Tammin	Cr Nick Caffell
Shire of Trayning	President Cr Melanie Brown
	Cr Michelle McHugh
Shire of Westonia	Deputy President Cr Ross Della Bosca
	Mr Bill Price, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Wyalkatchem	Deputy President Cr Christy Petchell
Shire of Yilgarn	Deputy President Cr Bryan Close

GUESTS	
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Mr Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for Agricultural Region	
Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack	
Mr Rick Wilson MP, Member for O'Connor	
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region	
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region	
Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region	
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for Agricultural Region	
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for Agricultural Region	
Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt	
Mr Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe	

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Great Eastern Country Zone of WALGA acknowledge the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Elected Members must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before the Zone as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors and deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Zone and State Council. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nil.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT 'VIRTUAL HOST'

A Zone member Local Government was invited to make a short presentation on what is occurring in their Local Government.

The **Shire of Wyalkatchem President, Cr Owen Garner** made a presentation to the Zone.

The **Shire of Westonia** is invited to make a presentation to the next Zone meeting, in June.

6. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

6.1. SPEAKERS FOR THE APRIL ZONE MEETING

6.1.1. IAN DUNCAN, WALGA EXECUTIVE MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ian presented on infrastructure matters of interest to the Zone.

The presentation is attached with the Minutes (Attachment 1).

Noted

7. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

There were no Members of Parliament in attendance.

A brief apology was given on behalf of the new Member for the Central Wheatbelt, Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA, noting that the meeting was held during the first sitting week of the new Western Australian Parliament. It was also acknowledged that Mr Hunter's office has indicated an interest in representing Mr Hunter at future Zone meetings when Mr Hunter is unable to personally attend.

Noted

8. AGENCY REPORTS

8.1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

No report was received.

Noted

8.2. WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer

Rob Cossart was an apology for this meeting. A brief update was provided by the Executive Officer.

Noted

8.3. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

The Regional Development Australia report was provided with the Agenda. Mr Pomykala was available to answer questions.

Noted

8.4. MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mohammad Siddiqui, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

Mohammad spoke to his report.

The presentation is attached with the Minutes (Attachment 2).

Noted

8.5. WATER CORPORATION

Rebecca Bowler, Manager Customer and Stakeholder

Rebecca provided a presentation to the Zone.

The presentation is attached with the Minutes (Attachment 3).

Noted

8.6. CBH GROUP

Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations

Kellie provided a verbal update to the Zone.

Noted

9. MINUTES

9.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on 14 February 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Koorda**
Seconder **Shire of Cunderdin**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Great Eastern Country Zone held on 14 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to noting President Cr Mark Crees and CEO Mr Bill Price, Shire of Westonia as apologies.

CARRIED

9.2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

9.2.1. ITEM 8.1: DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES ATTENDANCE

Background

The Zone requested WALGA enquire about DLGSC representatives attending Zone meetings as it has been a significant period of time since the Zone had an attendee. It is understood that DLGSC representatives did not attend the February round of Zone meetings, which fell during the State Government caretaker period.

On 31 March, Machinery of Government changes were announced, including the transfer of the Local Government and Racing & Gaming (Liquor) portfolios to a new **Department of Local Government, Commerce, Industry Regulation and Safety**, to substantially replace the existing Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS).

WALGA will continue to engage with the Local Government portfolio staff to facilitate attendance and reports for Zone meetings.

Noted

9.2.2. ITEM 10.1: DRAFT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE 113: OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND ASSET MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES: RURAL REGIONS

A submission to Main Roads WA with the inclusion of collated feedback from the Sector was submitted on 24 March. This submission was attached to the Agenda.

Since this is a procedure of high significance to the operations of both Main Roads and Local Governments, it has been rerecommended that any subsequent drafts be referred to the sector, including Regional Road Groups for further review.

WALGA has also suggested the formation of a reference group comprising representation from the Main Roads Regions, Local Governments, WALGA and Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) be established to guide the final outcome.

Noted

9.2.3. ITEM 14.1: WA TELSTRA AUTOMATIC TRANSFER UNIT PILOT DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Background

The Zone resolved the following:

WALGA organise a roundtable with WALGA, Telstra, Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to discuss the drafting of Community Support Agents Agreement for the implementation of the WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program.

Comment

Following the February meeting, WALGA has been engaging with a range of stakeholders on this important issue.

WALGA met with Mr Brendon Riley, Chief Executive Officer of Telstra InfraCo, and Mr Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager, Telstra, on 10 March, to discuss a range of matters including the Community Support Agents Agreements for the ATU Pilot. WALGA followed up on this meeting and is awaiting further advice from Telstra on the draft Community Support Agents Agreements. It is understood that Telstra's legal division is still developing agreements.

WALGA met separately with DPIRD on 13 March and has been engaging with DPIRD on the potential options for procuring generators. WALGA understands that final site inspections and confirmation of generator specifications is required before procurement can progress.

The Zone Executive Officer also received a helpful overview of pilot work from the Acting CEO of the Shire of Mukinbudin. Initial trial work with the Shire of Mukinbudin has benefited from the Shire's personnel having pre-existing site access credentials through their prior work experience.

WALGA has been advised of a potential further meeting and is awaiting advice on the next date from the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Noted

9.2.4. TIER 3 RAIL

The Executive Officer advised that WALGA would provide the Zone with WALGA's Advocacy Position on Freight on Rail.

This is WALGA's current Advocacy Position:

5.1.1 Freight on Rail

The Local Government sector supports keeping grain freight (Tier 3) rail lines open.

Please refer to Item 10.3 for a potential related initiative.

Noted

9.3. MINUTES OF THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

The Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Mover	Shire of Cunderdin
Seconder	Shire of Mukinbudin

That the Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 be received.

CARRIED

9.4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

These are reported in Zone Business below.

10. ZONE BUSINESS

10.1. PROVISION OF RURAL GP SERVICES IN RM 6 AND RM 7 COMMUNITIES

Shire of Narembeen

BACKGROUND

Following the WALGA-hosted Band 4 Local Governments meeting on 11 October 2024, where key issues impacting local governments were discussed, the Shire of Lake Grace convened a meeting on 29 November 2024 with six local governments (Band 3 and Band 4) and key stakeholders.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the financial and in-kind contributions made by local governments to secure medical service providers in their communities. It was agreed that submissions be made to both the State and Federal Governments for budget consideration to address this pressing issue.

To support this advocacy, Caroline Robinson from 150 Square was contracted to prepare a comprehensive submission and subsequent actions. A position paper was developed on behalf of the Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kojonup, Narembeen, Lake Grace, and Ravensthorpe and was formally submitted to the Federal Budget Pre-Submission process for consideration.

Additionally, the participating local governments agreed that a motion should be prepared and submitted to the ALGA National Assembly of Local Government, scheduled to be held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025. The Shire of Lake Grace is submitting this motion to ALGA on behalf of the alliance, now collectively referred to as the 'Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils.'

COMMENT

The motion to be submitted to ALGA calls on the Australian Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for regional and remote local governments (RM6 and RM7) to cover costs associated with attracting and retaining general practitioners. The aim is to redirect ratepayer funds back to essential local government responsibilities rather than subsidising medical services.

This initiative aligns with the Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey conducted by Rural Health West and endorsed by WALGA in December 2024.

The full submission detailing the challenges and proposed solutions for attracting and retaining GPs in RM 6 and RM 7 communities was attached to the Agenda for reference.

The current plan is to send up to four delegates to the Assembly, which will also include meetings with relevant government departments.

If the advocacy campaign is successful, local governments will experience financial relief, enabling them to sustainably retain medical services within their communities while reallocating resources to core local government functions.

RECOMMENDATION (SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN)

That the Great Eastern Country Zone notes the motion submitted to the National Assembly of Local Government regarding financial assistance for the provision of medical services to regional and remote local governments.

WALGA SECRETARIAT COMMENT

WALGA supports the Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils' (the Alliance) motion submitted to the ALGA NGA calling for increased Australian Government financial support for Local Governments supporting the provision of essential healthcare services for their communities. The provision of healthcare services in Australia is both an Australian and State responsibility, principally through the Medicare system at the Federal level. Raising this issue at the ALGA NGA provides an opportunity to elevate the issue to an ALGA priority at the National level and gain support from Local Governments experiencing similar cost imposts in other jurisdictions. It is pleasing to hear that the WALGA commissioned Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report (Survey Report) was useful in the development of the Alliances' Position Paper and ALGA motion.

Equitable access to primary healthcare is an important issue for many WALGA, including some that fall outside of the rural zone according to the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classification. Reflective of the financial impact on the sector and building on the Survey Report, WALGA has begun a strategic advocacy plan which includes targeted actions for the Australian and State Governments, leveraging the opportunities of elections, new Cabinet compositions and the renegotiation of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) between the Australian Government and States and Territories. WALGA continues to offer its support to the Alliance on this important issue.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Wyalkatchem**
Seconder **Shire of Koorda**

That the Great Eastern Country Zone supports the motion submitted to the National Assembly of Local Government regarding financial assistance for the provision of medical services to regional and remote local governments.

CARRIED

10.2. POTENTIAL INITIATIVES TO INVEST CASH RESERVES

The Great Eastern Country Zone has approximately \$200,000 in funds currently held at bank. While having adequate reserve funds provides a financial buffer for the Zone, the buffer is very substantial, and there may be opportunities to invest some of the funds towards new initiatives for the general benefit of Zone members.

At the suggestion of the Zone, WALGA have developed a range of suggestions for how some proportion of the reserve funds could be invested in initiatives or the benefit of Zone Local Governments.

A wide range of potential initiatives has been identified. The management time required to coordinate delivery of these initiatives is expected to be significant, so it is suggested that focusing on the delivery of one preferred initiative may provide for timely completion. One approach could be to provisionally schedule a sequential order of initiatives into the future, which could be reviewed on a regular basis.

It is important to consider that, while WALGA will provide support for any initiatives, the success of any initiative will ultimately depend on the degree to which Zone-based officials contribute to managing the practical delivery of the initiative. This is likely to be particularly imperative for projects that involve consultants and/or specific advocacy for the Zone.

Suggestions are as follows. The estimated cost magnitude represents a realistic upper-bound estimate for what the initiative is expected to cost.

Potential Initiative	Potential Cost Magnitude	Other Resourcing Required from Zone
<p>1. Engage a consultant to undertake a study on potential uses of the new powers for Local Governments to mortgage freehold land to fund development or upgrades to Local Government housing (potentially with/through CEACA), to deliver a report for all Zone members.</p> <p>This work could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in ensuring future advocacy is positioned recognising the needs of Zone LGs; Inform engagement with DLGSC in ensuring any regulations on these powers are fit-for-purpose; Assist Zone LGs with asset and budget planning. 	\$50,000	<p>Advice from Zone CEOs on landholdings</p> <p>Lead zone-based person to assist the consultant.</p>
<p>2. Trial of employing a shared resource to strategically target grant funding opportunities (potentially targeting 2026 Disaster Resilience and Recovery Funding as combined applications, etc.)</p>	\$75,000	<p>Zone LG to be employer or principal for contractor. CEOs to assist with access to records etc.</p>
<p>3. Engage consultant to undertake research and opportunity assessment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform advocacy on measures to shift grain freight task back to specific rail routes; and/or Position advocacy in relation to any potential transfer of freight railway transition back to State Government. <p>This work could potentially base on a case study route to be determined by the Zone (as an example that might apply for other railway lines generally, etc.). This work could assist with significant advocacy and earned media.</p>	\$50,000	<p>Zone to determine specific focus of study (routes, issues, etc.)</p> <p>Zone CEOs to be available to brief consultant and provide data if required.</p> <p>May work best if lead LG on relevant freight corridor manage the engagement.</p>

<p>4. Fund a Zone delegation to Perth for specific zone advocacy/engagement aims.</p> <p>Suggest delegation during a Parliament sitting week with the aim of meeting several Ministers on one Parliament Sitting day. Likely to realise greatest value if the delegation was focussed on targeting specific outcomes from political representatives and agencies. This delegation could utilise WALGA's new Member Hub or central city hotel as base.</p> <p>This delegation could also involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with Party Leaders and/or Parliamentary dinner (typically a Tuesday only). • Meetings with key agencies and organisations (PoweringWA, Telstra, Synergy, etc.) • Professional development opportunities for matters or topics of interest to Zone delegates. • Earned media opportunities. 	\$15,000	<p>Zone to resolve key intended aims of trip.</p> <p>Zone to confirm travelling party and priority engagements.</p> <p>Zone LG may need to coordinate some logistics.</p>
5. Delegation to Canberra or elsewhere interstate for ALGA Conference	\$35,000	Zone LG may need to coordinate some logistics.
6. Expanded 2027 conference to include interstate or international speakers (potentially regional development experts, economists, agronomists, etc.).	\$20,000	Zone to give direction on areas of interest.
<p>7. Provide group professional development opportunities for Zone Council Members and/or staff - may be able to facilitate discount on all-in training delivered at host LG.</p> <p>Types of PD activity that may be of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA short courses • Guest speakers on specific topics (e.g. updates on use of technology in regional economic sectors) • Media training • Training for potential future CEOs employed by Zone LGs 	\$15,000	<p>Zone LG to host.</p> <p>Zone to define scope of training (what, for who) advise on types of PD of interest.</p>

There may be other initiatives that have not been identified. Further initiatives could be added to the list at the suggestion of Zone members, although it could be advisable to avoid initiatives which might:

- Overlap or duplicate other initiatives or programs,
- Provide only a benefit for a small number of member Local Governments,
- Involve significant risks, or
- Require unrealistic management overhead.

It is proposed that the Zone discusses potential initiatives and priorities, so that further work and proposed priority initiatives can be presented for a formal decision at the June Zone meeting.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Bruce Rock**
Second **Shire of Mukinbudin**

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

- 1. Notes and reviews this report.**
- 2. Discusses the listed initiatives and adds to the list – Funding for delegates to attend the Local Government Convention and Training for Delegates.**
- 3. Discusses potential considerations for determining priority initiatives.**
- 4. Requests the Executive Committee reports back with proposed priority initiatives for decision at the next Zone meeting on 12 June 2025.**

CARRIED

10.3. AVONWEST LOGISTICS AND ENTERPRISE HUB (NORTHAM FREIGHT HUB) – POTENTIAL TRAFFIC IMPLICATIONS FOR GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

Following the Executive Committee meeting on 1 April, WALGA made inquiries in relation to the proposed Northam Freight Hub – known also as the Avon Logistics Hub (AvonWest) - which has been supported by studies by the Wheatbelt Development Commission: <https://wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/project/northam-freight-hub-study/>.

A desktop review indicated that part of the site was recently rezoned from “Environmental Conservation” to “Light and Service Industry”, with the amendment gazetted on 12/04/2024. The Shire of Northam appears to have indicated support for the proposal through the relevant planning processes.

Public documents appear to indicate that the logistics hub could potentially facilitate logistics strategies such as load consolidation and multimodal transfers via the Avon Rail Yard, which could improve efficiency of heavy vehicle movements on Great Eastern Highway.

In reply to queries, the Shire of Northam advised that:

The developer, Procon Developments, have a website at <https://www.procondevelopmentsaustralia.com/>, which will provide you an overview of their proposal.

Regarding the traffic concerns / implications, [the] Shire and Main Roads have considered the traffic implications and management as part of the subdivision proposals, which have concluded that the traffic can be managed with upgrades to Yilgarn Ave and the entry and exit points of the site that will cater for RAV7 vehicles.

[The Scheme amendment] relates to 2 portions of the site and the remainder of the site was already zoned Light & Service Industry. This amendment did not really reassess the traffic as it was considered as part of an earlier subdivision application.

Additionally, the developer has also been in discussions with Main Roads to manage any impacts relating to the use and upgrading of their existing road train assembly area to ensure that the area can continue to be used during the construction phase.

WALGA is awaiting further advice from the Shire in relation to any forecast traffic implications for Great Eastern Highway.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Cunderdin**
Second **Shire of Wyalkatchem**

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

- 1. Notes this report.**
- 2. Invites the proponent to provide an address at the June Zone meeting.**
- 3. Considers any potential advocacy position in relation to the development.**

CARRIED

10.4. GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE CONFERENCE 2025

The Forum was held on Friday, 28 March at the Bruce Rock Town Hall, and was attended by around 90 delegates. The Forum ran to plan and initial feedback has been positive. After the Forum, a brief media statement was circulated to Wheatbelt media and published on WALGA's website.

The Zone Executive Committee discussed potential learnings and improvements for future conferences as follows:

General comment:

- The Committee thanked the Shire of Bruce Rock for hosting the Forum, thanked all speakers for their contributions, and expressed appreciation to everyone involved in organising the event.
- Local businesses in the Shire of Bruce Rock were thankful for the business due to the Forum.
- Mr. Lachlan Hunter was pleased to be available for the afternoon session.

Things that worked well:

- The MC, Di Darmody, did an excellent job.
- The centrally located venue was ideal for the event and the venue was well suited to the Forum.
- A good amount of time was provided for networking.

Potential improvements for future events:

- Increase the number of Councillors from the Zone by promoting the event earlier, using more impactful advertising, and featuring a high-profile or must-see keynote speaker or presentation.
- Make sessions more interactive by allocating time for questions and answers, ensuring delegates gain the most benefit from the sessions and can leverage the expertise of the speakers.
- Develop a strategy to address the mid-afternoon slump.
- Clearly define the key question each session aims to answer and continually refer back to it to stay on track.

A short attendee feedback survey has been developed and sent to registered delegates, which is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y3HKNVJ>. All attendees are encouraged to complete the survey by 5:00pm on Friday, 11 April.

A report of the outcomes of the Survey will be presented to the June Zone meeting.

During the Acknowledgement of Country, Shayna Campbell gifted the Zone Chair a message stick as a gesture to welcome the Forum to Bruce Rock. It is proposed that this message stick is bequeathed by the Zone to the Shire of Bruce Rock in recognition of the Shire's generous hospitality at the Forum.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Bruce Rock**
Seconder **Shire of Mukinbudin**

That the Great Eastern Country Zone:

- 1. Invites verbal reports from President Cr Gary Shadbolt (Conference Committee Chair) and President Cr Ram Rajagopalan (Host Local Government President) on their reflections on the Forum.**
- 2. Considers the reports and receives any further verbal feedback Zone members wish to provide at the Zone meeting.**
- 3. Bequeaths the message stick received from Shayna Campbell to the Shire of Bruce Rock in recognition of the Shire's hospitality at the Forum.**
- 4. Note that a formal report will be presented to the Executive Committee and Zone during the June meetings.**

CARRIED

Cr Shadbolt Comments

Special thanks to Executive: James (prior to leaving WALGA), Tony, Sam, and Meghan.

The Program was excellent.

Discussed the process for planning the Forum.

A future suggestion would be to have more time for Q&A in all sessions.

Cr Rajagopalan Comments

Thanks to the Zone for allowing Bruce Rock to host.

Additionally, thanks to Executive team.

Central location within the Zone was a good place to have the Forum for attendance.

Executive arriving to the region early was well regarded.

Suggestion of an Officer CEO speaker/s maybe a panel for perspective in the role of CEO.

10.5. ZONE PRIORITIES FOR MINISTERIAL BRIEFINGS

By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager, WALGA

BACKGROUND

Following the March election, the Cook Government has unveiled its new Cabinet, emphasizing regional representation by appointing a dedicated Minister for each region.

The new Cabinet structure shows that the Government intends to have a greater focus on regional WA during this term.

WALGA has written to all Ministers responsible for specific regions, inviting them to participate in upcoming meetings of their respective WALGA Zones.

WALGA will also provide each Minister with a written briefing on the key issues facing their region.

To ensure these briefings are comprehensive, WALGA is seeking input from the Zones to identify the top three to five priorities they would like highlighted.

The Great Eastern Country Zone identified its priority issues at the February 2024 Zone meeting (see page 2) and may like to use these as a basis for identifying their top priorities.

The Zones provide an important opportunity for the Government to have a direct line of communication and engagement with regional WA and ensure that local issues are considered in the broader policy agenda.

WALGA will report on engagements with Ministers responsible for specific regions through the President's report at future Zone meetings.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Yilgarn**
Second **Shire of Wyalkatchem**

That the Great Eastern Country Zone provide the below top three items to WALGA as the Zone's priorities:

- a. Housing**
- b. GP Services including Locums**
- c. Roads**

CARRIED

10.6. AUTHORISATION OF PUBLIC OFFICER FOR THE ZONES AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE (ATO)

By Richard May, Finance Manager

Managing the Zones for taxation, registration, and annual reporting requirements occurs through the ATO online services. To ensure adequate cover of authorised officers, the Zone is requested to approve the access to the following WALGA Finance team member:

Public Officer

Richard Andrew Murray Chief Financial Officer

RESOLUTION

Mover Shire of Bruce Rock

Seconded Shire of Cunderdin

That the Great Eastern Country Zone authorise Richard Andrew Murray as Public Officer for the Great Eastern Country Zone.

CARRIED

10.7. UPDATE ON SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Further to comments about potential School Bus Route changes at the February Executive meeting, the Executive Officer lodged an inquiry with the Public Transport Authority (PTA). It is understood that the PTA review School Bus Routes at the commencement of every school year to make route adjustments in line with enrolments.

In line with the findings of the 2022 Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into the Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework, the PTA has been working to re-institute School Bus Advisory Committees. Further information on those is available here: <https://schoolbuses.wa.gov.au/News/TabId/598/ArtMID/1748/ArticleID/84/School-Bus-Advisory-Committee.aspx>.

After the April Executive Committee meeting, the PTA provided an email response as follows:

"There are no significant changes as such with regard to the way routes are altered i.e. eligibility drives where buses are directed for farm gate pick ups.

"The best way for Shires to get an understanding of school bus routes for 2025 throughout regional Western Australia is to access the spatial data set from SBS' GIS mapping database (MAPNET). Any Shire can access this data by utilising SLIP, which is hosted by Landgate. PTA regularly updates spatial data to SLIP so the bus routes are reasonably up to date. As the start of the new school year results in the most changes of bus routes, it may take a couple of months for all routes to be published via SLIP. Specific detail can also be raised with our Contract Officers. Contact details are on our website linked to regional towns at www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au."

WALGA has mapped the latest available School Bus Route data for the Great Eastern Country Zone (Attachment 5). It should be noted that this data and map may not yet reflect route changes for the 2025 school year.

If required, WALGA could re-map this dataset following the next update being published by the PTA.

Noted

10.8. UPDATE ON BAND 4 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEETING

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services

BACKGROUND

Following the Band 4 roundtable meeting hosted by the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, on 3 September 2024, WALGA was pleased to host a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments to continue the discussion.

The meeting was held on 11 October 2024 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. All 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend. Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 WA Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

Caroline Robinson, Director of 150 Square facilitated the discussion.

As the main outcome of the meeting, the group identified the top four strategic and operational issues facing Band 4 Local Governments (from most pressing to least pressing):

1. Housing;
2. Audit;
3. Provision of medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants (timing).

WALGA has since undertaken considerable work on the above issues.

An update report on the work done to date was recently circulated to all Band 4 CEOs and Presidents and is provided as an attachment (Attachment 6)

Noted

10.9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS) REGULATIONS 2025

By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

BACKGROUND

The State Government's 2021 updates to the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* included measures to improve consistency and transparency for DAP applications, including clarifying the respective role of Elected Members and officers to remove Elected Members from what were deemed to be administrative DAP functions.

These changes were not included in amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, but were included as part of the 2024 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* through the insertion of a new section (s. 9.69 B) to allow for the creation of regulations that specify DAP functions that must be performed on behalf of the Local Government by the CEO or authorised officer.

On Tuesday 1 April, new *Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025* (the Regulations) were gazetted. The Regulations come into full effect from 1 May, and will apply to all Development Assessment Panel (DAP) applications lodged from that date. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) sent an LG Alert to the sector on 2 April advising of the new regulations.

The Regulations:

- require Responsible Authority Reports (RARs) to be prepared and submitted by the CEO of a Local Government, or an employee authorised by the CEO
 - CEOs of Class 1 and 2 Local Governments must authorise at least one employee
 - Local Governments will still be able to engage external consultants to assist in preparing RARs
- prohibit the Council from directing the CEO, an authorised employee or a consultant in preparing the RAR or directing the CEO to engage a particular consultant
- require the CEO and authorised employees to disclose conflicts of interests in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and not undertake any DAP functions in which they have a conflict of interest.

The Regulations are available on the [WA Legislation website](#).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#) 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels.

COMMENT

Local Governments have one month to consider and implement the appropriate authorisations, and any resulting changes to systems and processes. WALGA will produce template authorisations and will host an officer information session with the relevant departments to assist Local Governments.

While Councils will be prevented from directing staff in the preparation of RARs, the administration can continue to brief Council on the content and progress of any DAP applications. There are no changes to the composition of DAPs.

WALGA will continue to oppose changes that erode Local Government autonomy and influence in the WA planning system and will continue to advocate for reforms that recognise the benefits of local decision making in planning.

WALGA is commencing a review of its Development Assessment Panel advocacy position and will consult with the sector and zones as part of that process.

Questions regarding the Regulations can be directed to the local government reform team at actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au or the DAP secretariat at daps@dplh.wa.gov.au.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Cunderdin**
Seconder **Shire of Yilgarn**

That the GECZ requests the Executive considers the DAP changes and seek advice from WALGA planning staff, to report back to the June meeting.

CARRIED

11. ZONE REPORTS

11.1. CHAIR REPORT

President Cr Tony Sachse

Welcome to our April 2025 meeting.

The Zone Executive met on Tuesday 1st of April. The minutes of the meeting were attached with the Agenda.

The GECZ Forum was held in Bruce Rock on Friday 28th of March. Many thanks to the guest speakers, Shire of Bruce Rock for hosting, MC Di Darmody, WALGA and to the GECZ Forum Subcommittee for organising the forum. It was very successful and well attended. There is an Agenda item including a debrief today. Congratulations to everyone involved.

We welcome and congratulate Ministers Dawson (Regional Development), Winton (Wheatbelt), and Beazley (Local Government) with their appointments in the State Government. We look forward to working with you and hope that you can attend future meetings of our Zone.

Thank you to all the Agency representatives for sending in their respective reports and for your attendance today. There will be sufficient time to give an overview and take questions during the meeting.

The Shire of Wyalkatchem provided a 10-minute presentation.

Some other Agenda items include Provision of Remote GP Services, Zone actions, the Northam Freight Hub and Great Eastern Highway implications, potential initiatives to invest cash reserves, and WALGA business including State Council recommendations. It has been suggested that sufficient time be allowed to go through the WALGA State Council Agenda Items with appropriate input from WALGA Zones.

Thanks to the Shire of Merredin for hosting us today.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Westonia**
Seconder **Shire of Mukinbudin**

That the Zone Chair's report be received.

CARRIED

11.2. WHEATBELT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

President Cr Tony Sachse

The last meeting of the Wheatbelt DEMC was on 12 March. At the time of writing the minutes are not yet available.

Agenda items included:

- Overdue LEMA
- Advising of Agency exercises
- DEMC Webinars and Exercises
- Heatwave Reflection led by WA Country Health Services
- High Risk Weather Period Reflections – OASG Activations
- Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Implementation Plan Project: For Noting
- SEMC Policy Response Subcommittee – EM Districts
- Other information including exercising, OASG debriefs/outcomes, LEMC dates, LEMA status
- Agency Reports

Please note that there have been some very informative webinars run by the DEMC over recent months.

The Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG)/ISG is now meeting on an as needed basis.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Koorda**
Second **Shire of Nungarin**

That the Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3. WALGA ROADWISE

Tracey Peacock, Regional Road Safety Advisor is an apology for the meeting.

Nil.

12. WALGA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

12.1. WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Deputy President, Cr Paul Kelly presented the President's report.

The WALGA President's Report was attached with the Agenda.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Bruce Rock**
Second **Shire of Merredin**

That the WALGA President's Report be received.

CARRIED

12.2. STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cr Stephen Strange

State Councillor, Cr Stephen Strange provided an update from the previous State Council meeting and State Councillor report to the Zone.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Mukinbudin**
Second **Shire of Tammin**

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

12.3. STATUS REPORT

Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
13 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 14.1 WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program	That the Great Eastern Country Zone requests WALGA organise a roundtable with WALGA, Telstra, Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to discuss the drafting of Community Support Agents Agreement for the implementation of the WA Telstra Automatic Transfer Unit Pilot Deployment Program.	<p>The Infrastructure Policy Team supported this proposal.</p> <p>WALGA met with senior representatives from InfraCo (a subsidiary that holds Telstra's exchanges, poles, ducts, pits and pipes, and fibre network) and Telstra.</p> <p>Discussions with DPIRD have commenced.</p>	April 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	The Zone supported the recommendation. However, the Zone also requests that WALGA remains open minded to further conversations on climate change.	<p>State Council ALTERNATE MOTION</p> <p>That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 CARRIED</p>	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
11 April 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.2 Agricultural Land Use	<p>That the Great Eastern Country Zone recommend that WALGA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In considering Agricultural Land Use, establishes and promotes policy templates to guide Local Governments for their individual adoption to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land. 2. Within the Policy includes such uses but not limited to tree planting for offsets or carbon, 	<p>State Council endorsed the Renewable Energy Facilities Advocacy Position at its meeting of 4 September, 2024. This position calls for the State Government to develop a renewable energy facility state planning policy that would provide greater guidance to applicants and decision makers.</p> <p>WALGA is continuing its energy transition advocacy and has written to the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA seeking further discussion on this issue.</p>	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

	<p>renewable energy generation and transmission.</p> <p>3. Investigates potential impacts to local government rates on rural land, that has approved long term tree planting for different purposes, for example but not limited to planting for carbon offsets, planting for clearing offsets, or planting for renewable fuels; and renewable energy investments.</p> <p>4. Provides advice to local government on what Policies or Special Area Rates should be considered for the land affected.</p>	<p>In respect to the rating issues, it is noted that the land remains rateable land. In WA, rural property is generally based on Unimproved Value (UV) unlike NSW and Victoria which use Capital Improved Value as the basis. Also in Victorias there is Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR) system. Established under section 94(6A) of the Electricity Industry Act 2000 (EI Act), the Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework allows for councils and electricity generators to negotiate annual payments. The methodology combines a fixed charge with a variable charge based on the capacity of the power station in megawatts.</p> <p>WALGA is currently scoping a piece of work to research the rating system and other charging regimes. This work is ongoing.</p>	<p>April 2025</p>	<p>Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>
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Noted

Shire of Koorda left the meeting at 12.49pm and did not return.

13. WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

Zone Delegates are invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which was provided as an attachment to the Agenda and can be found via the link [here](#).

The Zone can provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation on any of the items, including the items for noting. The Zone comment will then be presented to the State Council for consideration at their meeting.

The State Council Agenda items requiring a decision of State Council are extracted for Zone consideration below.

13.1. REGULATIONS FOR CEO KPIS AND ONLINE REGISTERS – WALGA SUBMISSION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Consultation is open on the draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which give effect to reforms relating to the publication of online registers, publication of CEO performance criteria and performance reviews, and other CEO matters.
- The Local Government legislation reform platform from the State Government indicated that one of the reform outcomes was "Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity".
- The overwhelming sector feedback is that these reforms will not achieve this aim and will instead increase red tape without any clear public benefit.
- Sector feedback has been collated and identifies overarching concerns listed in this report.
- The attached submission, informed by this feedback, is recommended for endorsement.

ATTACHMENT

- [Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers Draft WALGA submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's existing advocacy positions are based on the high-level reform proposals provided for public consultation in 2022.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are:

2.2.4 CEO Recruitment Panel

The Local Government sector supports the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries establishing a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels.

2.5.27 Online Registers

The Local Government sector supports requiring Local Governments to report specific information in online registers on the Local Government's website, including registers for leases, community grants, interests disclosures, applicant contributions and contracts (excluding contracts of employment).

2.5.28 Publishing CEO Key Performance Indicators

- 1. The Local Government sector conditionally supports the reporting of CEO Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are consistent with the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, subject to exemptions for publishing KPIs of a confidential nature.*
- 2. The Local Government sector does not support results of CEO performance reviews being published.*

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (2023 Amendment Act) contained the Tranche 1 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). This included the following changes which are yet to commence:

- Requirements for Local Government CEO's performance criteria and performance reviews to be published.
- Establishment of a panel of independent persons for CEO performance reviews.
- A requirement for Local Governments to publish and maintain registers on their website.

The draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which will give effect to these reforms, have been released for public consultation. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) have requested comment by 8 May. Information is available on the [DLGSC website](#), including a copy of the [Draft Regulations](#) and a [DLGSC Consultation Paper](#).

WALGA circulated a discussion paper and request for comment to all Local Governments on 30 January.

COMMENT

Responses received from Local Governments indicate serious concerns with the detail of the Draft Regulations. Overarching concerns include:

- The creation of red tape and excessive administrative burden, in conflict with a stated aim of the reform, and without clear public benefit.
- Continued proliferation of compliance requirements for Local Governments, including overlapping but inconsistent reporting obligations.
- Unreasonable implementation timeframes given existing Local Government workload, cumulative burden of ongoing program of reform and upcoming elections.
- Confusion and lack of clarity (plain English drafting) in the Draft Regulations.

Specific concerns are discussed in relation to each proposal.

CEO matters: Publishing performance criteria and reports on performance review

Of the submissions that provided comment on this aspect of the Draft Regulations, over half expressed strong opposition to publication of CEO KPIs and performance reviews. Opposition was based on factors including the inconsistency with public sector practice, risks to CEOs, mechanisms for reporting on organisational rather than individual performance and the erosion of Local Government autonomy. A small number of Local

Governments broadly supported the regulations or their intent. In addressing the content of Draft Regulations 18AA and 18FAA, submissions raised concerns with the proposed reporting of target achievement and the mechanisms for exclusion of performance criteria from publication.

CEO matters: Independent persons panel (CEO recruitment)

Key concerns included a lack of clarity about the selection criteria and processes to be followed by the Departmental CEO in establishing the panel, the capacity for Councils to appoint independent members from within their own districts, and the management of conflicts of interest.

CEO matters: Certification, recruitment and termination

There were divided views on the requirement for separate certification, but support for the retention of a requirement to conduct a selection process before contract expiry, the option to include additional information in a performance criterion and the proposed modification of the CEO Standards in relation to termination during probation.

Registers: General considerations

Local Governments articulated a range of concerns that are applicable to all registers, including the administrative burden, unreasonable commencement and retrospectivity, lack of clarity and difficulty in applying the requirements, and the implications of the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (the PRIS Act).

Lease register

Submissions raised considerable concerns with this proposed register. Issues include the breadth of the lease definition, safety and confidentiality for residents and community groups, commercial in confidence information and the ability of Local Governments to generate best value from assets, whether through commercial returns or community benefits.

Grants and sponsorships register

Some Local Governments provided general support for the register, subject to the exclusion of retrospectivity. However, the majority of submissions identified concerns regarding the value threshold, privacy and confidentiality, and a lack of clarity in the calculation of value.

Development contributions register

The majority of submissions expressed concerns regarding the administrative burden with limited improvements in transparency and oversight of Developer Contribution Plans (DCPs) than is currently provided for under the state planning framework. This burden is exacerbated by the retrospectivity and short implementation timeframe. Those Local Governments with a high number of DCPs advise that this is likely to lead to delays and increased costs in the administration of DCPs. Privacy considerations and practical issues with the calculation of interest for individual contributions, and the list of items and percentage of expenditure were also identified.

Contracts for goods and services register

All submissions that commented on the contract register highlighted concerns including the administrative burden associated with the unreasonably low threshold value and duplication of existing reporting requirements. Members raised heightened fraud risks, and issues relating to commercial in confidence information. There is also a lack of clarity regarding the definition of contract and contract value.

This sector feedback and detailed analysis of the Draft Regulations has informed the preparation of the attached draft WALGA submission.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached *'Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission'*.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Cunderdin**
Second **Shire of Kellerberrin**

That the Zone strongly support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.1 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.2. DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement and Marnie Herrington, Governance Specialist

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Motions from Zones regarding the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database provide an opportunity to review the existing *Puppy Farming* advocacy position and replace it with a new *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position.
- The purpose of the new position is to reflect the progression of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* and the emerging concerns of the Local Government sector regarding the PetsWA centralised registration system.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 24 March.

ATTACHMENT

- [Comparison table between current Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming, and proposed advocacy position Dog and Cat Management.](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a new *Dog and Cat Management* position.

The current Advocacy Position is as follows:

2.12 *Puppy Farming*

1. *The WA Local Government sector:*
 - a) *Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming.*
 - b) *Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes, and request further information on the complexities associated with de-sexing of dogs prior to considering supporting the proposal.*
 - c) *Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government.*
 - d) *Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
 - e) *Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres.*
 - f) *Requests there be a Local Government-specific consultation process in relation to the proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act to introduce Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Animals including dogs.*
 - g) *Supports a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from professional registered breeders.*
 - h) *Requests the State Government discontinue the use of the term 'Farming' due to the negative connotation that may be associated with other regulated industries, and consider re-naming the initiative 'Stop Puppy Mills'.*

2. *The Local Government sector advocates that:*
 - a) *any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and*
 - b) *the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*

The recommended new Advocacy Position is as follows:

Dog and Cat Management

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- a) *that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- b) *that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- c) *that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- d) *that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.*
- e) *for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- f) *for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

A table comparing the current and proposed advocacy position can be seen in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

- At its September 2018 meeting, State Council adopted a detailed position in relation to the Stop Puppy Farming Initiative (*Resolution 103.6/2018*).
- At its March 2020 meeting, State Council resolved that "WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form" (*Resolution 13.1/2020*).
- At its September 2021, State Council adopted additional points to the advocacy position, supporting WALGA continuing to advocate that:
 - a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and
 - b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.
 (*Resolution 275.5/2021*)
- In December 2021, the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (the Act) was passed by Parliament. The Act amended both the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011* in several ways.

- The implementation of the legislation is occurring in phases, with existing pet shops needing to transition to adoption centres by obtaining a 'pet shop approval' through their Local Governments by 26 May.
- It is anticipated that dog breeding approval provisions and mandatory sterilisation of dogs (unless an exemption is in place) will take effect later in 2025. In August 2024, the State Government awarded a contract to Seisma Group to establish PetsWA (the new centralised registration system for dogs and cats), which is anticipated to be operational later in 2025.

Fees and cost recovery

In a letter to WALGA dated 1 November 2021, Minister John Carey confirmed that “the State Government has committed to covering the costs associated with the establishment of the Centralised Registration System, to centrally record the registration of all domestic cats and dogs within Western Australia”. However, the State Government position relating to ongoing costs associated with the system and the particulars about revenue generated from registrations has not been made clear.

In early 2024, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released a Consultation Paper prepared by consultants Marsden Jacob Associates on the new and existing fees and charges under the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011*. WALGA provided a submission in line with State Councils advocacy position as follows.

That WALGA:

1. *Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;*
2. *Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;*
3. *Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and*
4. *The Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed biennially and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*

Zone resolutions

Central Country Zone

At the Central Country Zone Meeting of 15 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the administrative costs of the PetsWA central registration system would be withheld by the State Government from registration fees collected by Local Governments. As already noted, registration fees are already insufficient to cover the costs of Local Government cat and dog management responsibilities.

The Zone resolved:

That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to:

- a) *advocate to the Government of Western Australia that 100% of the revenue derived from pet registrations (both dogs and cats) continue to be returned directly to Local Governments to effectively administer the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011.*
- b) *recommend that the new centralized PetsWA Pet Registry Scheme, administered by the State Government, should not retain any commission or portion of the registration fees for its operations, as the current fee structure does not adequately cover the costs associated with pet management at the Local Government level.*

North Metropolitan Zone

At the North Metropolitan Zone Meeting of 20 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the community would be able to lodge complaints through the PetsWA centralised registration system and that infringements would be issued through the system. As no integration with Local Government systems has been advised, this would create a duplicate workload for officers.

The Zone resolved:

That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database scope to be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding complaints and infringements) that integrates with Local Government's existing corporate systems.

COMMENT

As the Act has progressed, the existing advocacy position should be reviewed to reflect the current state.

A comparison between the current and proposed advocacy position is provided in Attachment A, with key themes addressed below.

Cost Recovery

Under the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021*, Local Governments will have increased responsibilities, including approvals to breed and pet shop approvals, as well as associated investigation and enforcement functions. WALGA has continued to advocate to the State Government for fees and charges to be set at a level that achieves full cost recovery and that any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government. The proposed advocacy position retains these key positions.

The fees from registrations and animal related infringements do not currently cover all costs associated with Local Government responsibilities. There is a risk that the State Government could administer the PetsWA system in a way which reduces Local Government income from registrations.

WALGA's existing advocacy position supports PetsWA to be managed by the State (Advocacy Position 2.12.b). The proposed *Dog and Cat Management* Advocacy Position expands on the existing position to make it absolutely clear that there should be no loss of registration fee revenue to the Local Governments in administering the database.

Scope of PetsWA

The Act provides for a centralised registration system, known as PetsWA, to be managed by the State Government. DLGSC has been tasked with the implementation of the system. The contract to develop PetsWA was awarded on 2 August 2024 and is expected to launch in the second half of 2025. PetsWA is intended to replace the dog and cat registers managed by individual Local Governments with a single online system, used state-wide. PetsWA will allow dog and cat owners to register their pets and make payments online.

In addition to uncertainty about revenue from fees and charges under PetsWA, there is ambiguity about the scope of information recorded within PetsWA. DLGSC has noted that PetsWA could be used to manage public complaints, request ranger visits, manage dangerous dog notices, and issue infringements. This could increase administrative burden

on Local Government staff by duplicating data entry with existing record management systems, as there is no clarity on the extent of the integration with Local Government's existing systems.

To avoid this, PetsWA should be integrated with Local Government's existing systems and the scope should be restricted to its original function as a centralised registration system.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a revised *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position, as follows:

In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:

- a) that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- b) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- c) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- d) that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.*
- e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Cunderdin**
Second **Shire of Bruce Rock**

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.3. NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING REGULATIONS ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy and Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The effectiveness, cost and complexity of the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing has been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to its impacts on the delivery of road and other infrastructure projects.
- WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.
- WALGA's current [advocacy positions](#) relating to the regulation of clearing of native vegetation were endorsed by State Council in 2004 (5.2.1) and 2006 (5.2.2).
- Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements have occurred since that time which has resulted in some improvement, however, problems persist.
- The updated Advocacy Position, seeks to respond to feedback and issues raised by the sector, calls the State Government to:
 - implement **legislative, policy and process changes**, including the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals; increasing the duration of clearing permits; providing a permanent exemption to enable clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors; and strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
 - allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
 - undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
 - **reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.
- At their joint meeting on 24 March, the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations advocacy position.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper](#)
- [Road Safety Briefing Note](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Positions 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act and 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves with a new *Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations* position.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are as follows:

5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act

Impact on Road Reserves Position Statement. The Local Government sector supports continued advocacy to minimise the impact on road reserves and in regards to

Regulations, processing times, access to vegetation data and a Code of Practice on maintenance activities.

5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves

The Local Government sector supports Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 as a permanent exemption for the maintenance of existing transport corridors and supports the continued advocacy for improvements to processing and timelines of the current clearing legislation.

The proposed Advocacy Position is as follows:

Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations

WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:

- 1. Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
 - a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals*
 - b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
 - c. provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*
 - d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
- 2. Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
 - a. implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects*
 - b. establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
 - i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
 - ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
 - iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
 - c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*
 - d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
 - i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
 - ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
- 3. Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.*
- 4. Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

BACKGROUND

Western Australia is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth and has significant regional endemism, meaning it has plants and animals that only live in a particular location (Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute). Eight of Australia's 15 declared biodiversity hotspots are in WA and the South West Ecoregion, (running from Shark Bay in the northwest to Esperance in south east with a narrow strip along the southeastern coast to the border between WA and SA) is one of only 34 internationally recognised Global Biodiversity Hotspots (and the only in Australia). A Global Biodiversity Hotspot is defined as a geographical region that has at least 1,500 vascular plant species and has lost at least 70 per cent of its original supporting habitat.

In Western Australia the clearing of native vegetation is primarily regulated under Part V Division 2 of the [Environmental Protection Act 1986](#) (EP Act) and [Environmental Protection \(Clearing of Native Vegetation\) Regulations 2004](#) (Regulations). Under section 51C of the EP Act clearing of native vegetation is an offence unless a permit has been granted, or an exemption applies.

The Regulations provide exemptions for routine land management practices, including for clearing done for maintenance in existing, previously legally cleared transport (road and rail) corridors, provided that the previous clearing occurred within the preceding 10 years (Regulation 5, Item 22). Schedule 2, cl. 2 of the Regulations specify the extent of maintenance clearing for an area or purpose:

Area or purpose	Extent of clearing
Crossover area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for the area.
Lateral clearance area	Complete clearing to the width and height previously cleared for that stretch of road or railway.
Maintenance and protection of transport corridor infrastructure	Clearing to the extent necessary to – a) Maintain the efficacy and safety of the infrastructure; b) Protect the infrastructure (for example from fire); and c) Provide access to the infrastructure to maintain it.
An area that is a public roadside facility	Clearing to the extent necessary to maintain (but not extend) the intended use of the area.
Sight line area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for that area.

Schedule 2, cl. 1 of the Regulations provides the following definitions:

- *crossover area* means the area occupied by a crossover from a road to a property adjacent to the road and any associated sight line areas;
- *lateral clearance area*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, means the area (if any) parallel to and immediately adjacent to the stretch of road or railway that is ordinarily cleared;
- *public roadside facility* includes a camping area, rest area, information bay, road train assembly area or parking area or a footpath or cycle track in the road reserve;

- *transport corridor infrastructure*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, includes barriers, signs, guideposts, drains, levies, embankments, gutters, bridges, overpasses and other similar structures or works.

While this exemption does not apply in an environmentally sensitive area, an area that would otherwise be an environmentally sensitive area is not an environmentally sensitive area to the extent it is in a maintenance area of transport corridor.

The Australian Government regulates clearing that is likely to impact a matter of National Environment Significance through the application of Parts 7 - 9 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) and *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.

The effectiveness, cost, complexity and timeframes associated with the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing have been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to impacts on the delivery of road projects, which make up approximately 60 per cent of Local Government clearing permit applications and 30 per cent of referrals (Dec 2021 – Oct 2024). WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has three [advocacy positions](#) related to native vegetation clearing regulation dating (2004, 2006, 2018). Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes have occurred since that time, aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements, including the Western Australian Offset Policy (2011) and Guideline (2014), the Review of the Western Australian Offsets Framework (2019), the implementation of cost recovery for clearing permit applications (2019), the release of the [Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia](#) in 2022, the [Independent \(Vogel-McFerran\) Review of WA Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures](#) (2023) and amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in 2020 and 2024.

As a result of these changes, the exemption for clearing in previously cleared transport corridors increased from 5 to 10 years, a referral process was introduced for low impact clearing and minor scheme amendments no longer require referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.

While these changes have resulted in some improvements, problems persist. This was recognised by the Vogel-McFerran Review, which found that “approvals processes have become overly complex, time-consuming, and costly – holding back economic development without any benefit to the environment”.

In 2024, to inform the development of an updated advocacy position on native vegetation clearing regulation, WALGA undertook research and analysis of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Office of the Appeals Convenor data, previous submissions and Zone resolutions/feedback and held a sector webinar to inform the development of an [Issues Paper](#). The Paper was considered by the Environment Policy Team and included in the November 2024 Zone meeting Agendas for feedback.

The main themes from the consultations, Zones and issues paper feedback were:

- key challenges faced by the sector related to the complexity of the regulatory system, costs associated with the process and the time taken for assessment and appeals; and

- these challenges can delay critical road and infrastructure projects and impact Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

COMMENT

A consolidated, updated advocacy position will enable WALGA to comprehensively advocate for members to address the challenges of operating in a complex and costly regulatory environment, whilst balancing the protection of the environment.

The updated Advocacy Position calls on the State Government to:

- Implement **legislative, policy and process changes** including:
 - the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals;
 - a permanent exemption for clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors;
 - increasing the duration of clearing permits; and
 - strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
- Allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
- Undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
- **Reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions:

5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act

5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves

with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:

WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:

1. *Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
 - a. *introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals*
 - b. *increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
 - c. *provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*
 - d. *strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
2. *Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*

- a. *implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects*
 - b. *establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
 - i. *case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
 - ii. *provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
 - iii. *support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
 - c. *enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*
 - d. *increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
 - i. *funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
 - ii. *making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
3. *Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.*
 4. *Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Bruce Rock**
Seconder **Shire of Mukinbudin**

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.4. SUBMISSION ON THE STATE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is consulting on revised State Recovery Arrangements via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#). Formal consultation closes Friday, 2 May.
- WALGA was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.
- The revised arrangements integrate lessons from past recoveries, current best practices, and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- There are no significant changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework.
- The Commonwealth - State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Western Australia (DRFA-WA) are not part of the State Emergency Management Framework and are outside the scope of the review.
- WALGA's draft submission was shared with Local Governments and the draft final version incorporates feedback.
- WALGA's submission is generally supportive of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, which provide improved clarity on roles and responsibilities in recovery, particularly for State Government, and clearer arrangements for transitioning from response to recovery and from recovery to business as usual.
- WALGA's submission highlights the need for State Government investment in streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms for recovery and resilience building, and the need to ensure adequate support to Local Governments.
- The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at its 18 March meeting.

ATTACHMENT

- [Draft State Recovery Arrangements – WALGA submission](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission on the State Recovery Arrangements is aligned to the following [Advocacy Positions](#) :

8.1 Emergency Management Principles

- 1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.*
- 2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.*
- 3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.*

8.2 State Emergency Management Framework

Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:

- 1. Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;*
- 2. Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;*
- 3. Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;*
- 4. Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and*
- 5. Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.*

8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management

Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:

- 1. Empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;*
- 2. Supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;*
- 3. Is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context; and*
- 4. Develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and*
- 5. Is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.*

8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)

- 1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
- 2. A reformed LEMA system should:*
 - a. Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
 - b. Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
 - c. Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
 - d. Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
 - e. Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
 - f. Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
 - g. Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

5.4.3 Betterment (resilience)

The Local Government sector supports increased funding for the replacement or restoration of damaged assets to a more resilient standard following an event.

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, Western Australia has faced complex recovery challenges from events like Cyclone Seroja, Wooroloo bushfires, and Kimberley floods, necessitating greater State involvement. The review of State Recovery Arrangements aims to integrate lessons from past recoveries, update best practices, and clarify roles.

There are no changes to Local Government's responsibility to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district as set out in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (s36b). There are no substantive changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities for recovery under the State Emergency Management Framework.

The proposed changes to the State Recovery Arrangements include:

- introducing four State Strategic Recovery Priorities which are informed by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery in the [Australian Disaster Recovery Framework](#).
- implementing a new four-tiered Model for State Involvement in Recovery where the State's involvement increases with the complexity of the recovery.
- clarifying roles and responsibilities for Local Government, Hazard Management Agencies, State agencies, and support organisations. The improved clarity in State roles in recovery should make it easier for Local Governments to access the support they need to coordinate community-led recovery.
- emphasising greater community engagement in recovery.
- reduced emphasis on an Impact Statement as a trigger for transitioning recovery coordination from the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) to Local or State Government and a new requirement for transition arrangements to be planned/agreed with Local Governments.
- clarifying the requirement for a planned transition from recovery arrangements to 'business-as-usual' service delivery for Local and State Government.

WALGA and Local Governments have been involved in preliminary consultations to support the development of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, including through the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (LGEMAG) and Local Government Focus Groups.

COMMENT

WALGA requested and was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.

WALGA's draft submission incorporates feedback from preliminary consultation, WALGA's advocacy positions, and input from the sector via the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review and the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey. This feedback has consistently demonstrated support within the sector for shared responsibility for recovery, with the level and type of support required varying with the size, scale and complexity of the event and Local Government capacity.

Overall, the amended State Recovery Arrangements provide much improved clarity on how responsibility for recovery is to be shared and therefore a better foundation for recovery coordination.

The submission recommends:

1. The State Government should develop streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms to invest in Local Government recovery and resilience building.
2. Investment in recovery should not be limited by the eligibility requirements of the DRFA-WA and should meet the recovery requirements of Local Governments and Communities.
3. The DRFA-WA must be urgently reviewed to streamline administration, approvals and evidentiary requirements, address the cash-flow impacts of the reimbursement model and enable resilient reconstruction / betterment following a disaster.
4. The State Government should invest in effective risk assessment and risk reduction, in addition to ensuring to providing effective and fit for purpose State Recovery Arrangements.

State Strategic Recovery Priorities

5. WALGA supports the proposed four State Strategic Recovery Priorities: 1. Assist people to meet their recovery needs; 2. Enable community-centred recovery; 3. Restore community function and wellbeing; 4. Foster community disaster resilience.

Model for State Involvement in Recovery

6. WALGA supports the proposed 4-tier Model for State involvement in Recovery.
7. WALGA supports the roles assigned to Local Government under each recovery level (R1-4). The roles and responsibilities are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
8. WALGA supports the roles assigned to State Government under each recovery level (R1-4), which provide improved clarity.

Roles and responsibilities

9. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Local Governments in the revised State Recovery arrangements, including section 6.3 of the revised State EM Policy, with minor amendments as outlined in Appendix 1. The roles and responsibilities in the revised arrangements are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
10. WALGA recommends that the revised State Recovery Arrangements clearly reinforce the role of the State Recovery Coordinator to confirm individual Local Government's capacity to undertake their allocated roles and responsibilities during recovery and ensures additional support is provided as required.
11. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Hazard Management Agencies and Controlling Agencies in section 6.6 of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
12. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to State agencies in section 6.7 and Appendix F of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
13. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should formalise coordination protocols between Local Governments and State agencies to enable rapid mobilisation of essential workers in disaster impacted communities.
14. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should consider inclusion of roles, responsibilities and coordination protocols for essential services, as coordinated restoration of essential services is fundamental to early recovery.
15. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should reinforce compliance with data sharing arrangements under 6.1.72 of the EM Act to ensure that State Agencies are sharing information effectively in recovery and include this as a specific function of the State Recovery Coordinator / Controller.

Greater emphasis on engaging community

16. WALGA supports the greater emphasis on engaging communities in planning recovery, and the flexibility in approach so that this can be adapted to meet Local Government and community needs and capacities.

Phases of Recovery

17. WALGA supports amendments to the State EM Plan to introduce three phases of recovery: 1) Recovery Planning. 2) Response and Early Recovery. 3) Recovery Operations.
18. Considering Phase 3) Recovery Operations:
 - a. The requirements for Local Governments to review and evaluate the Local Operational Recovery Plan should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context and supported by simple and effective guidance.
 - b. All monitoring and evaluation requirements for DRFA-WA programs, if applicable, should be coordinated by the State Government.
19. Recovery Operations should be supported by pre-prepared State-level Urgent Recovery Programs and surge capacity for implementation.
20. Streamlined guidance should be provided for needs assessment, review and evaluation. The approach should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context.

Public Information and Communication

21. WALGA supports nomination of DFES, instead of the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator to coordinate State-level recovery public information and communications. DFES should consult and coordinate with Local Governments on recovery communications.

Transition between response and recovery

22. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination by agreement between the Hazard Management Agency and Local Government for R1 and R2 recoveries.
23. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination between the Hazard Management Agency and State Government for R3 and R4 recoveries with a written transition plan.

Transition from recovery to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements

24. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for the State to plan the de-escalation of State recovery involvement and transition to 'business as usual' service arrangements. The requirements for a transition plan are clearly described and sufficient, however should be outlined in a written plan.

Requirement for an Impact Statement

25. WALGA supports the requirement that the HMA prepares an Impact Statement in all Level 2 and 3 incidents.

Local Operational Recovery Plans

26. WALGA supports the general requirement for a Local Operational Recovery Plan to be prepared for R2, R3 and R4 events.
27. The Local Recovery Guideline should be revised to provide better guidance to Local Governments on how to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan.

28. State Recovery support should be provided to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan, if requested by the Local Government.
29. WALGA Recommends renaming the Local Operational Recovery Plan to [Event] Recovery Action Plan.

Executive Government Forum

30. WALGA supports provisions to enable strategic oversight and direction for complex recovery issues via referral to an existing cross-government executive forum or a Director General/Chief Executive Officer-level forum.

The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at their 18 March meeting.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Yilgarn**
Seconder **Shire of Tammin**

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.5. HEALTH (PUBLIC BUILDINGS) REGULATIONS CONSULTATION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Health (DoH) is seeking feedback on the [Consultation Paper 2025 Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations 1992](#) (Consultation Paper), which examines whether the Regulations should be repealed without replacement.
- Repealing the Regulations is not supported by the sector, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to proactively manage and mitigate public health risks.
- Revised Regulations are supported to provide a contemporary, risk-based approach to public building management, eliminating unnecessary building construction requirements and incorporating modern compliance and enforcement tools.
- WALGA received an extension of time from DoH to allow the submission to be considered by State Council as part of the May Agenda.

ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA's submission on the Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations Consultation](#)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission is consistent with the following [WALGA Advocacy Position](#)

6.6 Building Act and Regulations

Assessments of the effectiveness of building control systems across Australia have recognised that there is diminishing public confidence in the building and construction industry, and that change is required to ensure buildings are safe and perform to expected standards. Now more than ever, the focus is on Local Government building departments to deliver good governance, local leadership and sustainable services that meet the needs of their communities whilst supporting local jobs and economic growth. The Association has the following endorsed positions:

1. *Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the Building Act 2011.*
2. *Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings; however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.*
3. *Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:*
 - a. *Quality buildings that are cost efficient.*
 - b. *Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.*
 - c. *Good decision making in all aspects of building.*
 - d. *Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.*
 - e. *Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.*
 - f. *Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.*
4. *Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.*
5. *WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying*

profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.

6. *WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.*

BACKGROUND

The *Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992* (the Regulations) were established to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of people using public buildings in Western Australia. The current definition of a public building is broad, and captures most public areas where people gather for a pre-determined purpose, including for entertainment, sports and recreation, worship and educational purposes.

These Regulations set standards for the construction, maintenance, and operation of public buildings, covering aspects such as occupancy limits, emergency exits, evacuation plans, ventilation, lighting and sanitary facilities. Local Governments play a crucial role in enforcing the Regulations, specifically by conducting routine inspections to ensure ongoing compliance with health and safety standards.

In 2018, the DoH released a Discussion Paper *Managing public health risks in public buildings in Western Australia*, that sought feedback on two options: repealing the Regulations without replacement or providing new, updated Regulations under the *Public Health Act 2016*.

WALGA's submission at the time supported the latter option as Regulations would continue to allow for the assessment and maintenance of the operational safety of public buildings that would maintain patron safety and provide adequate control and enforcement tools for Local Government officers.

This was the position of DoH when the Consultation Summary Report was published in 2019. The report also noted that the Regulations shouldn't duplicate the construction requirements in building legislation and instead focus on the ongoing management of public health risks associated with the building. No updated Regulations were released.

In February, DoH released the Consultation Paper that re-examined if the Regulations should be repealed without replacement. The paper outlines relevant legislative and regulatory changes since 2019 and further examines the need for Regulations in addition to the WA building legislation and the National Construction Codes (NCC) that set safety standards and protocols for building construction.

COMMENT

WALGA does not support the repealing of the Regulations, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to undertake routine inspections, proactively managing and mitigating public health risks related to public buildings.

WALGA's submission acknowledges that the Regulations are outdated, and they should be reviewed and updated to ensure they are contemporary, fit for purpose and focus on the ongoing management of public buildings, rather than building construction requirements.

Health provisions, specifically the ongoing management of public buildings, are not appropriately placed within building legislation, and the building sector is not adequately trained or resourced to effectively manage ongoing public health risks.

Additionally, the general public health duty under the updated *Public Health Act 2016*, along with other legislation and inspections undertaken by government agencies, does not provide effective management and compliance mechanisms to address public building safety.

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health.

RESOLUTION

Mover **Shire of Mukinbudin**
Second **Shire of Merredin**

That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.

CARRIED

13.6. OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Zone Delegates are invited to raise for discussion, questions or decision any of the items in the State Council Agenda, including the Items for Noting, Policy Team and Committee Reports or the Key Activity Reports.

14. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 June commencing at 8:00am, via MSTeams.

The next Great Eastern Country Zone meeting will be held on Thursday, 12 June commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Kellerberrin.

Depending on confirmation of speakers, it is provisionally anticipated that this meeting will partly have a focus on matters related to Renewable Energy.

The Chair raised the duration of guest speakers and the potential to limit agency speakers at future meetings to 10 minutes. The issue will be raised at the next Executive Committee meeting for possible adjustments to future Zone meetings.

16. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 1:20pm.



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Westonia Progress Association held at the Council Chambers Wednesday 16 April 2025 commencing at 6.30pm

1. Present

Lex Townrow – Chairperson
Tim Della Bosca – Deputy Chairperson
Peter Antonio
Daimon Geier
Brendon Crees
Brad Penny

Jasmine Geier – Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Price – Shire CEO
Brad Penny
Ainslie Faithfull
Frank Corsini

The Chairperson, welcomed the committee and declared the meeting open at 6.35pm.

2. Apologies
Nil

3. Previous Meeting Minutes

That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on be 25 March 2025 passed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Brad Penny **Seconded:** Ainslie Faithfull

01/04-25 Moved that the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on be 25 March 2025 passed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 10/0

4. Presentation of Financial Statements March 2025

As per Attached report

That the financial statement for the period ending 31 March 2025 be received.

Moved: Bill Price **Seconded:** Daimon Geier

02/04-25 Moved that the financial statement for the period ending 31 March 2025 be received.

CARRIED 10/0

5. General Business

WOTG – Change to BP Cards update regarding the grant offered as 2 x \$2,500 fuel gift cards for our fuel depot – since the winners are from Kulin and Perth, we'll need to change the cards to BP gift cards to ensure accessibility for both locations.

5.1 Cropping Schedule

Moved: Brad Penny

Seconded: Brendan Creeves

03/04-25 Moved that Tim DellaBosca be nominated and appointed as Cropping Coordinator for the 2025 season.

CARRIED 10/0

Tim has developed a plan to seed 260 hectares with wheat for the 2025 season. The estimated cost to establish the crop is approximately \$43,000, which includes all necessary inputs and operational expenses. As part of this plan, a 32,000-litre water tank will be purchased for the Corsini Block to support the cropping program. Bill has noted that Council will assist by carting water to this site as needed.

In addition, Tim has expressed interest in applying for the CSBP Fertilisers Community Grant Program to help support the cropping initiative. Jasmine applied for the CSBP Fertilisers Community Grant Program a follow-up phone call was received from the CSBP Customer Service team confirming the application has been acknowledged. Notification of the outcome—whether successful or not—is expected within two weeks.

Moved: Bill Price

Seconded: Ainslie Faithfull

04/04-25 Moved that Progress supports the Cropping Coordinator's plan to seed 260ha with wheat for the 2025 season, at an estimated cost of approximately \$43,000, including the purchase of a 32,000L water tank for the Corsini Block.

CARRIED 10/0

5.2 Housing Lifestyle Unit 12 Quartz Street, Westonia

Ramelius Resources – Edna May Operations Pty Ltd will move into care and maintenance at the end of April. As a result, Unit 12 Quartz Street, Westonia will be returned to the Westonia Progress Association (WPA).

At the last committee meeting, it was discussed that future leasing options for Unit 12 would follow an Airbnb-style lease arrangement. With the house now vacant, WPA will need to proceed with fully furnishing the property to prepare it for short-term accommodation use.

Moved: Bill Price

Seconded: Tim DellaBosca

05/04-25 Moved That Ainslie and Jas proceed with fully furnishing Unit 12 Quartz Street, Westonia, with a budget of approximately \$10,000.

CARRIED 10/0

6. Meeting Closure

With no further business the Chairperson, Lex Townrow closed the meeting at 7.16pm

Next Meeting Date 9th September 2025 @ 6.30pm.



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday 7 May 2025

Shire of Westonia
Wanderers Stadium

CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
2.1	Attendance	3
2.2	Apologies	3
2.3	Guests.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4.	PRESENTATIONS	4
4.1	Ben Redman and Brendon Riley, Wheatbelt Connect, 11.00am	4
5.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	5
5.1	Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Monday 17 March 2025	5
5.2	Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025	5
5.3	Business Arising – Status Reports	5
5.3.1	Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 17 March 2025	5
5.3.2	Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2025 ..	6
6.	WEROC INC. FINANCE	7
6.1	WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 30 April 2025	7
6.2	Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet	9
7.	MATTERS FOR DECISION	10
7.1	WEROC Inc. Budget 2025-26.....	10
7.2	Water Audits	14
7.3	Proposal to host Eastern Wheatbelt Projects Update	16
7.4	Governance Services Proposal	17
8.	PROJECT UPDATES	18
8.1	Marketing/Promotion	18
8.2	Housing	19
9.	EMERGING ISSUES.....	19
9.1	Turf Contractor	19
9.2	Member for the Central Wheatbelt.....	19
9.3	Wheatbelt Minister	20
10.	OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION)	20
10.1	Shared Services.....	20
10.2	Strategic Artificial Intelligence Support for Local Governments	20
11.	FUTURE MEETINGS	20
12.	CLOSURE	21

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in Westonia on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lisa O'Neill as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed guests and Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 9.34am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Mark Crees

Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Mr. Mark Furr

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Mr. Andrew Malone

Ms. Lisa O'Neill (Chair)

Mr. Bill Price

Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan

Ms. Emily Ryan

Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Nic Warren

Mr. Craig Watts

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Nil

2.3 Guests

Mr. Stuart Hobley, CEO Shire of Cunderdin

Ms. Alison Harris, President Shire of Cunderdin

Mr. Ben Redman and Mr. Brendon Riley, Wheatbelt Connect (joined the meeting at 11.22am and left the meeting at 12.20pm)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Ben Redman and Brendon Riley, Wheatbelt Connect, 11.00am

Wheatbelt Connect is a project that partners QANTAS, INPEX and ANZ and aims to deliver land restoration and diversified income opportunities for landholders. Additional information is available on the [Wheatbelt Connect](#) website.

Wheatbelt Connect have requested an opportunity to present to the WEROC Board to provide an overview of their objectives and activities.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Ben Redman and Mr. Brendon Riley provided an overview of the foundations of Wheatbelt Connect, benefits to land owners and some examples of projects they have undertaken.
- In response to a comment regarding Wheatbelt Connects focus on tree plantings on marginal/less productive land, it was noted that what they consider to be “marginal” is still productive agricultural land and there are concerns that the market for carbon will outweigh considerations around preserving farmland for food production.
- Wheatbelt Connected discussed the concept of integrated farming practices (essentially tree planting alongside cropping) but it was argued that while the concept of integrated farming sounds good, it is not a reality because agricultural products do not grow in tree plantings.
- Mr. Nic Warren noted that community benefit from renewable projects is very topical at the moment and there are plenty of examples to follow in terms of policies and formulas to work out a fair and reasonable return. Mr. Warren questioned if there is a way that they could work this out and incorporate it into a policy for tree planting. For example could it be based on the value of carbon credit units generated or the anticipated profit from the planting?
- Mr. Riley responded to say that there isn’t really an established method of determining return of benefit to a community, and at the moment it comes down to an individual negotiation with Shires. Mr. Riley noted that the cost of generating carbon credits is more expensive than what they can buy in the market, so they are essentially operating at a loss and therefore a percentage of profits would not be a suitable model.
- Mr. Riley advised that all projects are listed on the [Clean Energy Regulator](#) website. For each project, detail is provided on the anticipated carbon credits that will be issued. The value of each credit can be calculated through an online search of the market value at the time and from this it would be possible to determine the anticipated return and make a determination about what might be fair to contribute back to the community.
- It was questioned when project information is made available on the Clean Energy Regulator website. Mr. Riley advised that it is generally posted at the same time they are going through the development application process.
- Mr. Riley advised that there are not enough credits being created to meet demand and they anticipate that there will be a supply pinch around 2028 which will drive the price considerably higher than the \$30-\$35 that units are currently being traded at.
- Ms. Charmaine Thomson asked how long a carbon credit lasts and at what point they can claim credits. Mr. Riley responded that there is no clear answer on how long a credit can be held before it needs to be sold, but the permanence period for a planting is 25 years. It was noted that if a fire goes through and the trees are lost, the credit issuance will stop. In relation to when they can claim credits, Mr. Riley indicated that there is an establishment period and in-fill process to replace trees lost in planting that has to be completed before they can claim credits. Typically they claim from government within three to five years.

- Ms Alison Harris asked if they know how much land is required to meet the governments requirement for carbon credits. Mr. Riley's response was that there isn't enough land to meet the government requirement.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Monday 17 March 2025

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 17 March 2025 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 17 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

Seconded: Mr. Mark Furr

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Merredin on Monday 17 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025

Attachment 1: WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting Minutes 14 April 2025

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Kellerberrin and via videoconference, on Monday 14 April 2025 are provided as Attachment 1.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Kellerberrin and via videoconference on Monday 14 April 2025 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Craig Watts

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Kellerberrin and via videoconference on Monday 14 April 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

5.3 Business Arising – Status Reports

5.3.1 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 17 March 2025

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
5.3 Business Arising	Invite Member for the Central Wheatbelt, Lachlan Hunter to a future WEROC meeting to discuss cultural intricacies/challenges and to seek clarity on requirements and points of contact.	The Member for the Central Wheatbelt will join the meeting to discuss cultural and other matters.
7.2 WEROC Priorities	1) Contact James McGovern to request assistance with a compliance audit for WEROC Councils. 2) Contact Department of Communities and request a meeting to discuss the Local Government call for submissions.	James McGovern and Anthoy Quahe from Civic Legal, joined the WEROC CEO Committee meeting on 14 April 2025 and discussed options for a compliance audit. The Department of Communities was contacted with a request to

	3) Contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and request a meeting to discuss water supply issues and funding opportunities.	meet with the WEROC CEOs. This request was declined. A representative from DWER joined the WEROC CEO Committee meeting on 14 April.
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5.3.2 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2025

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
5.1 Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Source a quote for water audits. 2) Investigate eligibility to apply for Community Water Supply Program funding to enable water audits. 3) Contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission to ascertain if they have capacity to assist WEROC with water audits. 	Please refer to agenda item 7.2 for further detail.
5.3 Compliance Audit	Request a quote from Civic Legal to deliver Project AWARE across the seven WEROC Shires.	A quote has been submitted. Please refer to agenda item 7.4 for further detail.
6.1 Community Benefits Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Each Shire to adapt the Narrogin Policy for their own local policy and present to individual Councils for endorsement. 2) Once policies have been approved, look at the option of having a presentation on the establishment of a community benefit fund or trust. 	It may be appropriate for WEROC CEOs to provide an update on how they are progressing with their local policies.

Recommendation:

That the status reports be received.

Comments from the meeting:

- WEROC CEOs were invited to provide an update on their progress in developing local policies for community benefit funds. The Shires of Yilgarn, Kellerberrin, and Merredin have adapted the Shire of Narrogin's policy and are nearly ready to present their versions to their respective Councils. It was noted that the Shire of Narrogin's policy did not include provisions for tree farms.
- Mr. Bill Price commented that INPEX (aka Wheatbelt Connect) are a proponent in the Shire of Westonia, and they have been fairly accommodating in terms of the community benefit aspect. The Shire have been able to negotiate a return based on capital input costs not long term return.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

Seconded: Mr. Craig Watts

That the status reports be received.

CARRIED

6. WEROC INC. FINANCE

6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 30 April 2025

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 30 April 2025

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 9 May 2024 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025 was adopted. The approved Budget 2024-25 is used as the basis for the financial report.

An explanation for each of the notations on the financial report is provided below.

Note 1	Annual Financial contributions paid by Member Local Governments.
Note 2	Interest paid on term deposit
Note 3	GST received
Note 4	GST refund for Q4 BAS 2023-24
Note 5	Executive Officer services
Note 6	Executive Officer travel to Board and CEO meetings. This is higher than budgeted due to additional CEO meetings.
Note 7	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software
Note 8	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for the 2023-24 financial year audit
Note 9	Payments to Vanessa King for Town Team Builder services, HR Cornerstone for IR/HR consultancy services, Carol Taylor for social media marketing campaign, Lauren Clarke for the branding guide and logo refresh, JE Planning and Econosis for the WEROC housing investigation, Australia's Golden Outback for cooperative marketing activities, Shire of Merredin for an advertisement in the Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide and the two WEROC interns' meal allowance.
Note 10	Payments to PWD for website domain name renewal, website security upgrade and audit, and 12-months website hosting. This is higher than budgeted because only the website hosting was accounted for. The domain name renewal and website upgrade were unknown expenses.
Note 11	Catering expenses for WEROC CEO farewell in Kellerberrin on 9 May and ERP demonstrations in Kellerberrin on 6 August
Note 12	Personal accident, workers compensation, associations liability, public & products liability and cyber insurance renewals
Note 13	GST paid

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

		Budget 2024/2025	Actual to 30/04/2025	Notes
	INCOME			
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00		
0575	Interest received	\$4,863.29	\$4,863.29	2
584	Other Income	\$0.00		
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	3
	GST Refunds	\$6,184.00	\$5,143.00	4
	Total Receipts	\$90,247.29	\$89,206.29	
	EXPENSES			
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$35,383.84	\$29,463.62	5
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$1,400.00	\$2,252.50	6
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,000.00	\$681.80	7
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,050.00	\$984.00	8
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$60,000.00	\$57,774.88	9
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$420.00	\$844.50	10
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$829.09	11
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,020.79	12
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00		
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00		
1854	Transfer to Term Deposit	\$4,863.29	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00		
3384	GST Input Tax	\$10,835.39	\$8,949.87	13
	ATO Payments	\$3,464.57	\$4,960.00	
	Total Payments	\$127,517.09	\$112,761.05	
	Net Position	-\$37,269.79	-\$23,554.76	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$64,270.72	\$69,784.64	
	CASH BALANCE	\$27,000.93	\$46,229.88	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 April 2025, be received.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Craig Watts noted that there was an error in the report, with the expenses being cut and paste into the wrong line items and the Executive Services expenses being duplicated. It was questioned if changed, would this alter the net position. The Executive Officer advised that it was just a formatting error and would not alter the net position.
- The correction has been made and is reflected in the report shown in these minutes.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Craig Watts

Seconded: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 April 2025, be received with the corrections to the expenses against budget line items being made.

CARRIED

6.2 Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 30 April 2025

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 March to 30 April 2025 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance		65,016.88		
07 Mar 2025	150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	3,516.00	61,500.88
17 Mar 2025	Australia's Golden Outback	0.00	3,300.00	58,200.88
07 Apr 2025	150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	5,371.00	52,829.88
24 Apr 2025	Payment: JE Planning	0.00	6,600.00	46,229.88
TOTAL		0.00	18,787.00	
Closing balance		46,229.88		

Balance Sheet

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc
As at 30 April 2025

	30 APR 2025
Assets	
Bank	
Term Deposit	100,000.00
Westpac Community Solution One	46,229.88
Total Bank	146,229.88
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	66,960.00
Total Current Assets	66,960.00
Total Assets	213,189.88
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	2,112.35
Total Current Liabilities	2,112.35
Non-current Liabilities	
GST Clearing	244.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	244.00
Total Liabilities	2,356.35
Net Assets	210,833.53
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	38,884.81
Retained Earnings	171,948.72
Total Equity	210,833.53

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 March 2025 to 30 April 2025 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 March 2025 to 30 April 2025 totalling \$18,787 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 30 April 2025 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Nic Warren

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 March 2025 to 30 April 2025 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 March 2025 to 30 April 2025 totalling \$18,787 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 30 April 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 WEROC Inc. Budget 2025-26

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 30 April 2025

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: Nil

Financial Implications: As per budget

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The WEROC Inc. Constitution states that:

17.3 The Board will prepare and approve the annual budget at least 1 month before the end of the financial year.

As there are no further scheduled meetings of the WEROC Inc. Board before the end of the financial year, to adhere to the rules of our Association, a draft budget for WEROC Inc. for the financial year commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026 has been prepared and is presented for the Board's consideration.

The proposed budget assumes that the \$12,000 (Ex. GST) annual subscription per Member Council will remain consistent with previous years. On the matter of subscriptions, the WEROC Inc. Constitution does not specify the amount of the annual subscription rather it states:

10.1 Annual Subscriptions: Members are not required to pay a membership fee or annual subscription but may be required to pay an annual financial contribution as determined by the Association with such contributions to be in equal shares.

Under the proposed budget, it is anticipated that WEROC Inc. will have a cash balance of \$50,716.74 on 30 June 2026. This assumes that the \$100,000 in the term deposit will be reinvested at maturity.

BUDGET NOTES

Income

- A. The draft budget assumes that the annual subscription amount will be retained at \$12,000 (Ex. GST) per Member Council.
- B. The estimated income in the Consultancy and Project Reserve to 30 June, is Shire contributions toward the WEROC workforce housing analysis.
- C. Budgeted interest is based on the current rate on the Westpac Term Deposit of 4.80%.
- D. GST on General Subscriptions.
- E. GST refunds have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

Expenditure

- 1. The Westpac Community Solution One Account does not incur any fees and therefore no fees have been budgeted for.
- 2. Proposed budget is based on the Executive Officer's estimated hours (38 hours per month standard plus additional hours for attending meetings and WMSIP) and a rate of pay of \$70 Ex. GST per hour.
- 3. Budget based on anticipated travel for the Executive Officer to attend 10 meetings (CEO and Board) averaged at 350km for a return trip at the current ATO rate of 0.88c per km.
- 4. Current contract expires on 1 March 2026 therefore a provision has been made for recruitment of an Executive Officer.
- 5. The proposed budget for Financial Services includes the monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software (\$81.82 Ex. GST).
- 6. The financial services audit allocation is based on the accepted quote of Audit Partners Australia for \$1,000 Ex. GST and an allowance for disbursements.
- 7. This allocation enables WEROC Inc. to engage consultants and to undertake special projects. Co-operative marketing initiatives are also allocated to this budget line item. The budgeted amount includes \$7,000 for tourism/marketing initiatives, \$11,000 for the final payment to JE Planning for the workforce housing analysis (it is assumed that the second payment will be made in the 2024/25 financial year), \$20,160 for Econosis to complete the cost benefit analysis and \$3,000 for WDC to complete the feasibility testing for the housing project. The remaining allocation is an allowance for new projects.
- 8. The allocation for the management of the WEROC Inc. website is based on the hosting fee of \$40 (Ex. GST) per month. The hosting fee is currently paid up until October 2025. An allowance is also included for renewal of the WEROC domain names, security upgrades and SSL certificate.
- 9. Host Council's will generally cover all meeting expenses. A small allocation is provided for any unforeseen meeting costs.
- 10. The proposed budget allocation for insurance is based on the current financial years actual expenditure, with an allowance for premium increases for the following forms of insurance cover:
 - Public & Products Liability
 - Associations and Officials Liability
 - Workers Compensation
 - Personal Accident – Volunteers
 - Cyber Insurance
- 11. A small allocation is made for legal expenses to cover any eventuality.
- 12. The estimated expenditure to June 30 for WEROC Incorporation Expenses is the cost to submit a change to the WEROC Constitution.
- 13. A small allocation is made for any miscellaneous items.
- 14. GST Input Tax is calculated on budgeted expenditure items subject to GST.
- 15. ATO payments have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

WEROC Inc.
DRAFT BUDGET 2025-2026

		Budget 2024/2025	Actual to 30/04/2025	Estimated Income/ Expenditure to 30 June 25	Proposed Budget 2025-2026	Notes
INCOME						
0501	General Subscriptions	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$102,000.00	\$84,000.00	A
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00		\$30,872.70	\$0.00	B
0575	Interest received	\$4,863.29	\$4,863.29	\$4,863.29	\$4,392.33	C
584	Other Income	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$13,287.30	\$8,400.00	D
	GST Refunds	\$6,184.00	\$5,143.00	\$5,143.00	\$6,399.00	E
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$90,247.29	\$89,206.29	\$156,166.29	\$103,191.33	
EXPENSES						
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$35,383.84	\$29,463.62	\$34,936.66	\$38,920.00	2
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$1,400.00	\$2,252.50	\$2,704.70	\$3,080.00	3
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	4
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,000.00	\$681.80	\$818.16	\$1,080.00	5
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,050.00	\$984.00	\$984.00	\$1,100.00	6
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$60,000.00	\$57,774.88	\$68,774.88	\$70,000.00	7
1850	Management of WEROC Website	\$420.00	\$844.50	\$894.50	\$900.00	8
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$829.09	\$829.09	\$500.00	9

WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Wednesday 7 May 2025 - Minutes

1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,020.79	\$6,020.79	\$6,300.00	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	11
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	12
1854	Transfer to Term Deposit	\$4,863.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00		\$0.00	\$300.00	13
3384	GST Input Tax	\$10,835.39	\$8,949.87	\$10,666.03	\$12,518.00	14
	ATO Payments	\$3,464.57	\$4,960.00	\$4,960.00	\$9,088.71	15
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$127,517.09	\$112,761.05	\$131,638.81	\$146,786.71	
	Net Position	-\$37,269.79	-\$23,554.76	\$24,527.48	-\$43,595.38	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$64,270.72	\$69,784.64	\$69,784.64	\$94,312.12	
	CASH BALANCE	\$27,000.93	\$46,229.88	\$94,312.12	\$50,716.74	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2026, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

Comments from the meeting:

- There was discussion over the need to increase subscription fees in light of the budget operating in deficit year on year and the eventuality that the carry over funds will run out at some point.
- It was noted that with the \$100,000 in the term deposit and the anticipated closing balance of approximately \$50,000 at the end of the next financial year, there is no immediate need to increase subscriptions. This will be reviewed again next year.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Seconded: Mr. Mark Crees

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2026, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

CARRIED

7.2 Water Audits

Author:	Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose.
Attachments:	Attachment 2. Shire of West Arthur Water Security Strategy
Consultation:	WEROC CEO's, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Financial Implications:	Unknown
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority

Background:

Ms. Sandy Turton-Parkinson, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer – Rural Water Planning, joined the WEROC CEO Committee meeting on 14 April 2025 and discussed the Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) program and opportunities for Councils to apply for funding for water infrastructure projects.

A question was raised over the value in developing a water plan for the WEROC Local Governments to enable targeted investment in water infrastructure over the short, medium and long term. Ms. Turton-Parkinson indicated that a water audit would be valuable and noted that Development Commissions are completing water planning in other regions and the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) are being encouraged to do the same. Ms. Turton-Parkinson recommended that WEROC contact WDC and request assistance in completing water audits for each of the seven WEROC local governments.

Subsequent to the discussions with Ms. Turton-Parkinson, the WEROC CEOs discussed the possibility of applying for funding through the CWSP program to cover the cost of water audits.

Executive Officer Comment:

The Executive Officer emailed Mr. Grant Arthur and Ms. Renee Manning from the Wheatbelt Development Commission on 16 April 2025, requesting clarification on what, if any, work the Commission was doing in regard to a regional water plan or audit.

Ms. Manning replied on 16 April 2025, and advised as follows:

Hi Bek

I reached out to my GSDC colleague, and Sandy is referring to a piece of work being undertaken through the Inland Great Southern Regional Drought Resilience Plan implementation funding. It is like the work WEROC is looking to do and is across 8 Shires.

WDC were going to fund a similar project for the 5 Southern Wheatbelt Shires, though given there 3 of the Shires have undertaken similar work (including the Shire of Wagin), that funding will be allocated towards feasibility and planning work for specific infrastructure projects.

WDC would encourage WEROC to pursue the Community Water Supply Planning funding option for a water supply, demand and opportunities assessment project.

It would be a good use of the funding as it builds the evidence base to support future investment by the Shires, and also for applications to grant programs such as the CWSP.

I have advised Sandy (and will discuss with Renae Thorpe, the A/Rural Water Planning manager) to reiterate our support of the use of CWSP funding for this work.

The WEROC approach could serve as a model for other sub-regional groups.

As discussed, West Arthur and Wagin's recently completed water plans (Wagin is due for completion May) could be a useful guide.

GSDC has a list of potential consultants that could be of interest to WEROC for this work. They are in the process of developing a detailed scope of works. I can introduce you if you like.

Unsurprisingly, water is emerging as the key challenge to build regional drought resilience and in supporting ongoing growth and development of the Wheatbelt economy and communities.

WDC would be keen to stay across the WEROC project as it progresses. I can get back to you on the possibility of direct funding support. We can also discuss any in-kind support – eg scope development and review, collation of existing water planning work.

Let's stay in touch. Might be worth us having a chat with the DWER team on this.

Regards

Renee

The Executive Officer requested quotes from the consultants who completed the West Arthur Water Security Strategy (Water Technology) and a Hydrology company (JDA Consultant Hydrologists) recommended by the Great Southern Development Commission. Water Technology have indicated an interest in working with WEROC but as yet have not supplied a quote and JDA advised that they were not in a position to assist WEROC.

The Executive Officer emailed Ms. Turton-Parkinson on 21 April 2025 to seek clarification on whether water audits are eligible for funding under the CWSP program. Ms. Turton-Parkinson is on leave until 1 May 2025 and so no response had been received at the time of preparing this agenda.

Recommendation:

That:

- 1) The Board provide in-principal support for WEROC to pursue funding for water audits for each of the seven member Councils.
- 2) If a water audit is confirmed as an eligible project under the CWSP program and a quote is provided by Water Technology, the Executive Officer to forward this information to members of the Board and seek endorsement of an application via flying email.
- 3) WEROC make a financial co-contribution of up to 30% of the total project cost, as is a requirement of the CWSP program.

Comments from the meeting:

- The value in undertaking a project to develop water audits or strategies was questioned. It was noted that a piece of work like this will be essential to establish the case for bigger scale projects (e.g., desalination) and to prevent changes to water allocations.
- The Executive Officer advised that two consultants had now provided indicative pricing. The estimated price for all seven strategies is between \$140,000 and \$175,000 (\$20,000 - \$25,000 per Shire).
- Discussion was had over the key requirements for the strategies. It was agreed that the primary purpose of this work is to ensure a sustainable supply of water (for all uses and purposes) to WEROC communities in the future. It is an expectation that from of this work the Shires will get a better understanding of:
 - The capacity of existing potable and non-potable water supply and how well this is equipped to meet current and future demand.
 - How existing water infrastructure and resources can be better utilised.
 - How water capture and storage can be increased to reduce reliance on the scheme supply
 - What alternative water sources exist that are not currently being utilising.
- It is also an expectation that from this work, each Shire will be provided with a clear list of projects/recommendations (both small scale quick wins and big picture) that they can undertake to achieve the goal of a sustainable water supply.

- The consultants engaged to quote on this work advised that they have capacity to undertake a couple of strategies concurrently. For logistical reasons it was recommended that the Shires be grouped and the work undertaken in stages as per the below:
 - Yilgarn and Westonia
 - Bruce Rock and Merredin
 - Kellerberrin, Tammin and Cunderdin
- The amount being requested from DWER was discussed. It was agreed that the full cash amount would be applied for, and the WEROC/Shire contribution would be in-kind. If required, further discussion will be had at a later time to resolve a financial contribution.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Mark Furr

Seconded: Mr. Andrew Malone

That WEROC Inc. proceed with an application to the Community Water Supply Partnerships Program for the full cash component of the water strategy project and each Shire will contribute in-kind to cover the 30% co-contribution requirement.

CARRIED

7.3 Proposal to host Eastern Wheatbelt Projects Update

Author:	Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose.
Attachments:	Nil
Consultation:	NEWROC Executive Officer, RoeROC Executive Officer
Financial Implications:	Unknown
Voting Requirement:	Simple Majority

Background:

The Wheatbelt Development Commission recently presented at the Great Eastern Country Zone Conference. Key takeaways from the presentation were that economic development projects and priorities in the region should align with the Federal Government's Future Made in Australia Policy, and the State Government's policies; Diversify WA and Made in WA.

The Wheatbelt Futures Forum, which is taking place in Northam on 2 May 2025, is focused on bringing Wheatbelt businesses, local government, and government representatives together to focus on business opportunities in the coming year and beyond. The event is industry focused, with brief presentations from delegates representing a range of Wheatbelt industries.

The Dowerin Down Town event held in July each year focuses on promoting agriculture to government, private and community stakeholders as well as promoting the Dowerin Machinery Field Days.

What is missing from these events is an opportunity for local governments to pitch investment and partnership opportunities to government and industry and to discuss ambitions for growth in our region.

Executive Officer Comment:

The [Midwest & Gascoyne Major Projects Update](#) event, held on April 8-9, 2025, at Novotel Perth Langley, focused on investment, project development, and collaboration across the region. Key topics included economic growth, diversification, renewable energy, and infrastructure development. The attendees of the event are predominantly Federal and State Government representatives, members of Parliament and major industry.

The Executive Officers of NEWROC, RoeROC and WEROC have had an initial discussion about hosting a similar event. The aim of this event would be to:

Showcase Regional Projects: Highlight ongoing and upcoming projects within the Eastern Wheatbelt (across all three ROCs and a pipeline of projects that the Wheatbelt Development Commission has)

Attract Investment: Provide a platform for attracting investment and partnership opportunities.

Promote Collaboration: Foster collaboration between local government, industry, and community stakeholders through networking time.

Discuss Key Topics: Address critical issues such as renewable energy, infrastructure development, housing and economic diversification.

Key Benefits include:

Networking Opportunities: Facilitate connections between regional leaders of the ROCs, investors, and industry experts.

Economic Growth: Stimulate economic growth by promoting what we have, and not what we don't have.

Knowledge Sharing: Share insights and best practices on regional development and evidence of our collaboration already.

It is proposed that the costs of the event would be jointly shared by the three ROCs. RDA Wheatbelt and the Wheatbelt Development Commission could be approached to support the event.

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Board:

- 1) Discuss the interest in, and feasibility of hosting a major project update event in conjunction with NEWROC and RoerOC in the second half of 2025.
- 2) Discuss a potential theme and topics for the event (assuming there is support for the concept).
- 3) Approve the WEROC Executive Officer working in collaboration with the NEWROC Executive Officer and RoerOC Executive Officer to develop a proposal and budget for the event.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer advised that both RoerOC and NEWROC have approved to concept.
- General support for hosting this event, was given from the Board.
- It was suggested that to minimise costs, consideration be given to using the conference facilities at WALGA.
- Topics WEROC would like to see included are protection of agricultural land, funding for Local Governments, land development and housing, and roads (particularly in the context of escalating construction costs and no contribution from the State).
- It was noted that to have impact, both Federal and State Government representatives need to be around the table.
- It was suggested that a component of the event be a discussion around how the ROCs can work better together.
- It was suggested that WALGA be consulted on key advocacy pieces to make sure we are aligned.
- The Executive Officer will work with the RoerOC and NEWROC Executive Officers on a proposal and email it to Board members for review and approval.

7.4 Governance Services Proposal

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Attachment 3: Project AWARE cover letter
Attachment 4: Project AWARE Proposal

Consultation: Civic Legal
Financial Implications: \$94,500 ex. GST
Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 17 March 2025, priorities for WEROC in 2025 were discussed and in relation to the challenges being faced by Local Governments in meeting escalating compliance requirements, it was recommended that governance consultant Mr. James McGovern be contacted with a request to facilitate a compliance audit for each of the WEROC Shires.

Executive Officer Comment:

Mr. James McGovern, Governance Consultant and Mr. Anthony Quahe, Managing Principal at Civic Legal, joined (via videoconference) the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee meeting held on 14 April 2025, to discuss the requirements of the audit. It was advised that Civic Legal have a governance support and improvement service – Project AWARE - that would deliver the outcomes being sought by the WEROC Shires. Civic Legal were requested to provide a proposal to deliver Project AWARE to the seven WEROC Councils.

As per the proposal, which is provided as Attachment 4, Civic Legal can provide 12-months governance support to the seven WEROC Councils at a rate of \$13,500 ex. GST per Shire (total of \$94,500 ex. GST). This is a discount on the regular rate of \$16,250 ex. GST per Shire.

Recommendation:

That the proposal be discussed and, if supported, consideration be given to whether WEROC should contribute financially or if the cost should be covered by individual Councils.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Shires of Bruce Rock and Merredin have discussed the proposal and feel that they do not stand to gain any value from this program. The Shire of Westonia concurred and indicated that, given the size of their operations, this level of support is not required.
- Mr. Andrew Malone noted a concern that through this process, they will just be told what they are missing now and not what they need to do to prepare for future requirements. This defeats the initial intent of the audit, which was to ensure that Shires are prepared to accommodate new regulations.
- It was questioned whether the discounted price would be offered if only a smaller number of Councils decide to proceed with the project. The Executive Officer will query this with Civic Legal.
- It was also questioned whether a revised proposal could be prepared, which offers a one off audit rather than a 12 month service. The Executive Officer will contact James McGovern with this query.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

8.1 Marketing/Promotion

WEROC as a partner organisation to the Wheatbelt Co-operative Marketing Group, committed \$3,000 + GST in the 2024-25 financial year to cooperative marketing initiatives in conjunction with Roe Tourism, NEW Travel, Pioneers Pathway and Australia's Golden Outback. Part of this funding was used toward a Wheatbelt Weekends autumn campaign which ran from 22 March to 28 April 2025. The campaign used a variety of media targeting the Perth metro audience. This campaign included the development of a road trip reel which featured on Australia's Golden Outback social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1364775284835504>

And sponsored Perth Now articles:

[Pack the car: Four weekend road trips the whole fam will love | PerthNow](#)

[A weekend holiday to remember | PerthNow](#)

Comments from the meeting:

- It was noted that now that the Shire of Cunderdin are a member of WEROC, they should be included in the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail.
- A quote to revise the map will be sourced and the Executive Officer will work with the Shire of Cunderdin on the content.

8.2 Housing

Attachment 5: WEROC Housing Investigation Stakeholder Engagement & Communication Plan

The Shire of Cunderdin have now been included in the scope of works for the WEROC housing investigation. JE Planning have revised the timeline for delivery of the worker housing needs analysis report and we are now looking at completion in July/August 2025 (refer to Attachment 5).

Once the Workforce Housing Needs Analysis Report is completed the next stage of the project involves a housing options analysis and feasibility testing. The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) will prepare workforce housing models for two locations. The intention is that these models can then be adapted to the priority development sites identified for each town. The adaption of the housing models for additional sites is not included in the costed scope of works.

Given previous discussions indicating that some Shires will be ready to proceed with housing developments sooner than others, it may be worthwhile the Board considering whether WEROC should advise WDC on where to prioritise the initial two housing models.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer suggested that rather than prioritising the two housing models, the additional amount required to have all six completed, should be considered.
- The two included in the scope of works are being done at a cost of \$3,000 so it is assumed that the cost for an additional four will be \$6,000.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

Seconded: Mr. Wayne Della Bosca

That:

- 1) The Executive Officer contact the Wheatbelt Development Commission to confirm that cost of having the additional four housing models completed will be \$6,000.
- 2) If the cost is no greater than \$6,000 WEROC will cover the expense to have these completed.

CARRIED

9. EMERGING ISSUES

9.1 Turf Contractor

Mr. Raymond Griffiths advised that he had been contacted by a local contractor looking at setting up a turf management business and was wanting to get an idea of the level of interest from Local Government. The business would provide comprehensive care of turf surfaces including conducting soil testing, spraying, coring, etc.

Mr. Griffiths will provide contact details for each of the WEROC CEOs to the turf contractor so that they can discuss their individual requirements for this type of service.

9.2 Member for the Central Wheatbelt

Mr. Lachlan Hunter, Member for the Central Wheatbelt, was invited to attend this meeting and was a late cancellation. It was suggested that Mr. Hunter's office be contacted and asked to advise a time and place where members of the WEROC board can meet with him.

9.3 Wheatbelt Minister

In light of the recent appointment of a new Minister for the Wheatbelt, it was discussed that rather than individual approaches from 42 Local Governments, there should be consensus across the region about the best avenue for communicating with the Minister. It was agreed that advancing matters through the Zones would likely yield the greatest influence and impact.

10. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION)

10.1 Shared Services

Attachment 6: Legal and Governance Models for Shared Resources in Local Government

The option of formalising shared resources across the WEROC Shires has been discussed several times. Over the past five years we have looked at the option of a shared ranger, Environmental Health Officer, compliance officer, regional waste coordinator, emergency services coordinator (for those Shires without a CESM) and a tourism development officer. More recently there was discussion around a shared resource for town planning/building approvals. To date no shared resource arrangements have been entered into, with the exception of the visitor servicing provided by the Shire of Merredin through the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre.

It is recommended that the Board consider the value in developing a shared services framework or plan for WEROC, to provide a formal structure that can support shared service arrangements should the need arise.

Comments from the meeting:

- It was suggested that a cost analysis be conducted to get a better understanding of what Shires are paying for outsourced services and the potential for cost savings through a shared resource arrangement.
- This will be included on the agenda for discussion at the next WEROC CEO Committee meeting.

10.2 Strategic Artificial Intelligence Support for Local Governments

LG Professionals WA has entered into a new partnership with Component6 to provide Local Government Subscribers discounts on a range of Artificial Intelligence (AI) service offerings. Options are available to band 3 and 4 local governments to join as a group to minimize costs. An option that may be of interest to WEROC Shires is:

AI Readiness assessment - *Assessment across your organisation of your readiness to adopt AI. A dynamic report will be produced, providing scoring and highlighting the likelihood of AI adoption in different parts of your organisation along with areas that may drive significant benefit.*

Comments from the meeting:

- It was generally agreed that something of this nature will be worthwhile given the increasing use of AI across all sectors, but the timing is not right.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The approved schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2025 is as follows:

WEROC Inc. Board Meetings

Date	Host Council
Wednesday 17 March 2025	Merredin
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Westonia
Wednesday 31 July 2025	Kellerberrin

Wednesday 24 September 2024	Southern Cross
Thursday 27 November 2024	Bruce Rock

Given that the Shire of Cunderdin have now joined WEROC, the Board might like to consider an adjustment to the host council rotation for the rest of the year.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths requested that the meeting scheduled to take place in Kellerberrin on 31 July, be moved to Wednesday 13 August to align with the LGISWA Inter-municipal Golf Tournament. The meeting will be held in the morning, followed by lunch and enable those who are participating, to then carry on to the golf tournament.
- The Shire of Bruce Rock offered the Shire of Cunderdin the opportunity to host the November meeting. The Shire of Cunderdin accepted the offer. The November meeting will therefore now be held in Cunderdin.
- The September meeting date clashes with the WALGA convention. The date or the location for this meeting will need to be moved. The Executive Officer will provide options once the proposal for the joint ROC event is finalised.

12. CLOSURE

Ms. Alison Harris thanked the WEROC Board for their acceptance of the Shire of Cunderdin's application. Ms. Lisa O'Neill formally welcomed the Shire of Cunderdin on behalf of the WEROC Board.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.27pm.

DECLARATION

These minutes were confirmed by the WEROC Inc. Board at the meeting held _____

Signed _____

Person presiding at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:

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

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:

Councillor Huxtable advised having attended the following meetings:

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Financial** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **15th May 2025**.

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

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person and Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **15th May 2025**.

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



In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity. interest** were made at the Council meeting held on **15th May 2025**.

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

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 2025

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

Purpose of the Report

☐

Executive Decision

☒

Legislative Requirement

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

Background

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

Comment

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

MasterCard Transactions

CEO April 2025 \$1516.30 associated with the purchase of 1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring, 1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring, 1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly, Active8me internet service, 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring, 1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring, Starlink - CEO Internet - April/May, Bunnings - Plants Unit 7 and Card Fee

DCEO April 2025 \$3308.02 associated with the purchase of, Australia Post - PO Box Renewal, Trybooking - WOTG Tickets, Ciminal History Check – Coulter, JB HiFi - Speakers/Microphone, PayPal - Canva Subscription, Guardian Personal Alarms - Alarm pouch – Stephens, Westonia Shire – Licensing, Paypal - OZWashroom - Baby change stations and Card Fee

Fuel Card Transactions Totalling Nil

CEO April 2025 \$43.42 associated with the purchase of Diesel

DCEO Nil

Construction Supervisor Nil

Statutory Environment

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



Policy Implications

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



Strategic Implications

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



Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That April 2025 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4532 to DD4557 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7548 to EFT7619 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$461,877.87 be passed for payment.

List of Accounts Due & Submitted to Council April 2025

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Description	Amount	Bank	Type
EFT7548	01/04/2025	STACEY GEIER	Community Events	-106.48	1	CSH
EFT7549	01/04/2025	Ron Bateman & Co	Water Tanker Part	-557.60	1	CSH
EFT7550	01/04/2025	Two Dogs Home Hardware	Road Maintenance	-2221.47	1	CSH
EFT7551	01/04/2025	Fulton Hogan	Warralakin Rd Works	-27688.32	1	CSH
EFT7552	01/04/2025	Karis Medical Group	Medical Consult	-110.00	1	CSH
EFT7553	01/04/2025	Merredin Carpet's & Flooring Centre	Housing Maintenance	-1750.00	1	CSH
EFT7554	01/04/2025	Merredin Steel Supplies	Depot Maintenance	-29.88	1	CSH
EFT7555	01/04/2025	Out West Mechanical	Batteries for Standpipes	-12761.95	1	CSH
EFT7556	01/04/2025	MACE Services Pty Ltd	02WT Service	-348.72	1	CSH
EFT7557	01/04/2025	Lite n'Easy	HACC Meals	-211.43	1	CSH
EFT7558	01/04/2025	Western Plumbing & Gas Fitting	Septic System	-39444.57	1	CSH
909	03/04/2025	FEE - BANK FEES	BANK FEES	-391.17	1	FEE
DD4532.1	06/04/2025	Aware Super - Accumulation	Payroll deductions	-5992.97	1	CSH
DD4532.2	06/04/2025	AUSTRALIANSUPER	Superannuation contributions	-1189.23	1	CSH
DD4532.3	06/04/2025	MLC Masterkey	Superannuation contributions	-324.78	1	CSH
DD4532.4	06/04/2025	Netwealth Superannuation	Superannuation contributions	-135.27	1	CSH
DD4532.5	06/04/2025	Australian Retirement Trust	Superannuation contributions	-402.40	1	CSH
DD4532.6	06/04/2025	Amp Flexible Lifetime Super	Superannuation contributions	-269.45	1	CSH
DD4532.7	06/04/2025	Hostplus	Superannuation contributions	-182.26	1	CSH
DD4532.8	06/04/2025	Macquarie Super	Superannuation contributions	-324.78	1	CSH
	08/04/2025	Employee Payroll	Salaries & Wages	-41843.14	1	PAY
EFT7559	08/04/2025	Services Australia Child Support	Payroll deductions	-852.19	1	CSH
DD4537.1	08/04/2025	Bendigo Business Mastercard	IT Support, Fuel, Medical Supply, Advertising, Licensing, Permit	-6123.00	1	CSH
EFT7560	09/04/2025	Centek Constructions	Museum Expansion	-27500.00	1	CSH
EFT7561	09/04/2025	Westcoast Fireworks Pty Ltd	WOTG - Fireworks	-6600.00	1	CSH
EFT7562	09/04/2025	Megavision	WOTG Sound Lighting	-5057.25	1	CSH
EFT7563	09/04/2025	Flowers by Elli Paige	WOTG Flowers	-320.00	1	CSH
EFT7564	09/04/2025	Brother & I	WOTG Entertainment	-600.00	1	CSH
EFT7565	09/04/2025	WA Birds Of Prey Centre	WOTG Display	-1650.00	1	CSH

List of Accounts Due & Submitted to Council April 2025

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Description	Amount	Bank	Type
EFT7566	09/04/2025	William Higginson	WOTG Band	-1900.00	1	CSH
EFT7567	09/04/2025	Adele Oliver	WOTG Entertainment	-1500.00	1	CSH
EFT7568	09/04/2025	Quairading Vintage Club	WOTG Entertainment	-850.00	1	CSH
EFT7569	09/04/2025	Sideshow Amusements Pty Ltd	WOTG Entertainment	-11000.00	1	CSH
DD4546.1	14/04/2025	TELSTRA CORPORATION LIMITED	Telephone Usage	-1757.77	1	CSH
4079	16/04/2025	Synergy	Power usage & supply	-935.33	1	CSH
EFT7570	17/04/2025	Avon Waste	Waste Management	-1872.89	1	CSH
EFT7571	17/04/2025	Winc Australia Pty Ltd	Stationery	-31.59	1	CSH
EFT7572	17/04/2025	Westonia Progress Association Inc.	Fuel March 2025	-14336.35	1	CSH
EFT7573	17/04/2025	Copier Support	Copier Support	-1295.42	1	CSH
EFT7574	17/04/2025	Toll Transport Pty Ltd	Freight	-142.30	1	CSH
EFT7575	17/04/2025	Hersey's Safety Pty Ltd	Consumables	-932.80	1	CSH
EFT7576	17/04/2025	Dylan Copeland	Clearing Permit	-1770.45	1	CSH
EFT7577	17/04/2025	Great Southern Fuel Supplies	Fuel OWT	-76.42	1	CSH
EFT7578	17/04/2025	Westonia Community Cooperative Limited	March Purchases	-1848.24	1	CSH
EFT7579	17/04/2025	BUILDING COMMISSION	Building Services Levy	-687.12	1	CSH
EFT7580	17/04/2025	Moore Australia (WA) Pty Ltd	Budget Workshop Training	-1430.00	1	CSH
EFT7581	17/04/2025	Thompson Signs	Museum Display	-4411.00	1	CSH
EFT7582	17/04/2025	Australia Post	Postage Stamps	-162.00	1	CSH
EFT7583	17/04/2025	Ancor Electrical	Caravan Park Maintenance	-2365.79	1	CSH
EFT7584	17/04/2025	WA Contract Ranger Services P/L	Ranger Services	-693.00	1	CSH
EFT7585	17/04/2025	Sound Balance Physiotherapy	HACC Products	-145.00	1	CSH
EFT7586	17/04/2025	Flight Plan Digital Pty Ltd /ta Live Life Alarms	HACC Products	-150.00	1	CSH
EFT7587	17/04/2025	Wongan Hills Pharmacy	HACC - Webster Packs	-45.00	1	CSH
EFT7588	17/04/2025	Infiniti Designer Pools Pty Ltd	Warm Water Pool Progress Payment	-22425.48	1	CSH
EFT7589	17/04/2025	Inter City Belmont	Training Accom	-550.00	1	CSH
EFT7590	17/04/2025	Amy Hampton-Brock	HACC Services	-315.00	1	CSH
EFT7591	17/04/2025	Business & Safety Printing	Take 5 Books	-513.70	1	CSH
EFT7592	17/04/2025	Merredin Fine Arts Society Inc	Art Aquisitions	-1150.00	1	CSH

List of Accounts Due & Submitted to Council April 2025

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Description	Amount	Bank	Type
DD4554.1	20/04/2025	Aware Super - Accumulation	Payroll deductions	-6059.56	1	CSH
DD4554.2	20/04/2025	BT Panorama Super	Superannuation contributions	-102.91	1	CSH
DD4554.3	20/04/2025	AUSTRALIANSUPER	Superannuation contributions	-1189.23	1	CSH
DD4554.4	20/04/2025	MLC Masterkey	Superannuation contributions	-324.78	1	CSH
DD4554.5	20/04/2025	Netwealth Superannuation	Superannuation contributions	-79.29	1	CSH
DD4554.6	20/04/2025	Australian Retirement Trust	Superannuation contributions	-381.06	1	CSH
DD4554.7	20/04/2025	Amp Flexible Lifetime Super	Superannuation contributions	-269.45	1	CSH
DD4554.8	20/04/2025	Hostplus	Superannuation contributions	-261.99	1	CSH
DD4554.9	20/04/2025	Macquarie Super	Superannuation contributions	-324.78	1	CSH
	22/04/2025	Employee Payroll	Salaries & Wages	-43820.33	1	PAY
EFT7593	22/04/2025	Services Australia Child Support	Payroll deductions	-852.19	1	CSH
909	24/04/2025	2VNET - 2VNET MONTHLY MAINTENANCE FEE	2VNET MONTHLY MAINTENANCE FEE	-578.95	1	FEE
EFT7594	24/04/2025	Westonia Progress Association Inc.	Q3 MOU	-15209.38	1	CSH
EFT7595	24/04/2025	Copier Support	Copier Support	-1027.35	1	CSH
EFT7596	24/04/2025	Merredin Rural Supplies Pty Ltd	Fencing/Strainers	-515.08	1	CSH
EFT7597	24/04/2025	Westonia Tavern	Council Refreshment WOTG Accommodation	-681.00	1	CSH
EFT7598	24/04/2025	Liberty Oil rural Pty Ltd	Ad Blue	-1280.00	1	CSH
EFT7599	24/04/2025	HI-LO CONSTRUCTION	Building Maintenance	-9598.60	1	CSH
EFT7600	24/04/2025	State Library Of WA	Library Expense	-890.00	1	CSH
EFT7601	24/04/2025	Great Southern Fuel Supplies	WOTG Raffle Prizes	-5050.00	1	CSH
EFT7602	24/04/2025	Merredin Flowers & Gifts	ANZAC Wreaths	-225.00	1	CSH
EFT7603	24/04/2025	Wattleup Tractors	Slasher Parts	-832.50	1	CSH
EFT7604	24/04/2025	Wessie Pty Ltd Atf: The Geier Family Trust	Gravel Pit Pushup	-6435.00	1	CSH
EFT7605	24/04/2025	Fuel Distributors Of Western Australia Pty Ltd	Diesel Purchase	-6519.20	1	CSH
EFT7606	24/04/2025	Graham L & Diane Jones	Parts & Repairs Heritage Displays	-638.34	1	CSH
EFT7607	24/04/2025	Medelect Biomedical Services	Defib Annual Service	-312.95	1	CSH
EFT7608	24/04/2025	CORSIGN WA PTY LTD	Guide Posts, Traffic Cones	-6469.10	1	CSH
EFT7609	24/04/2025	Industrial Automation Group Pty Ltd	Standpipe Cards	-880.00	1	CSH
EFT7610	24/04/2025	Merredin Steel Supplies	RHS Tube	-160.62	1	CSH

List of Accounts Due & Submitted to Council April 2025

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Description	Amount	Bank	Type
EFT7611	24/04/2025	Combined Tyres Pty Ltd	Truck Tyres	-4191.00	1	CSH
EFT7612	24/04/2025	Gearing Construction Contractors	Museum Expansion	-22968.00	1	CSH
EFT7613	24/04/2025	Erin Francis Pope	WOTG Entertainment	-500.00	1	CSH
EFT7614	24/04/2025	The Eastern Line	WOTG Entertainment	-2000.00	1	CSH
EFT7615	24/04/2025	Lite n'Easy	HACC Meals	-287.84	1	CSH
EFT7616	24/04/2025	C&F Building Approvals	Building Permits	-1210.00	1	CSH
EFT7617	24/04/2025	Western Plumbing & Gas Fitting	Septic Works	-32684.96	1	CSH
EFT7618	24/04/2025	Wongan Hills Pharmacy	HACC Products	-457.83	1	CSH
EFT7619	24/04/2025	Slipperys Earthmoving & Contracting	Caravan Park Maintenance	-2200.00	1	CSH
DD4557.1	28/04/2025	Water Corporation	Water supply & usage	-19825.87	1	CSH
909	30/04/2025	TPORT - DEPT TRANSPORT LICENSING	DEPT TRANSPORT LICENSING	-4251.70	1	FEE
909	30/04/2025	FEE - BANK FEES	BANK FEES	-51.07	1	FEE


-\$ 461,877.87

The above list of accounts has been paid under delegation, by the Chief Executive Officer, since the previous list of accounts. Municipal D/Debits from DD4532 to DD4557 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7548 to EFT7619 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$461,877.87 submitted to each member of the Council on Thursday 15th May 2025, have been checked and are fully supported by vouchers and duly certified invoices with checks being carried out as to prices, computations and costing.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– APRIL 2025

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

Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision ☒ Legislative Requirement

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

Background

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

Comment

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

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

Statutory Environment

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

Policy Implications

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

Strategic Implications

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

Financial Implications

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

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

SHIRE OF WESTONIA

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

(Containing the required statement of financial activity and statement of financial position)

For the period ended 30 April 2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statements required by regulation

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

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

	Supplementary Information	Adopted Budget Estimates (a) \$	YTD Budget Estimates (b) \$	YTD Actual (c) \$	Variance* \$ (c) - (b)	Variance* % ((c) - (b))/(b)	Var.
OPERATING ACTIVITIES							
Revenue from operating activities							
General rates	9	1,223,285	1,160,865	1,227,655	66,790	5.75%	▲
Grants, subsidies and contributions	12	2,070,100	1,249,000	1,212,048	(36,952)	(2.96%)	▼
Fees and charges		841,750	1,002,643	1,137,663	135,020	13.47%	▲
Interest revenue		229,500	116,240	123,817	7,577	6.52%	▲
Other revenue		262,650	68,975	77,036	8,061	11.69%	▲
Profit on asset disposals	6	66,000	53,600	66,644	13,044	24.34%	▲
		4,693,285	3,656,223	3,844,863	188,640	5.16%	
Expenditure from operating activities							
Employee costs		(1,362,000)	(868,065)	(924,060)	(55,995)	(6.45%)	▼
Materials and contracts		(1,304,450)	(759,415)	(751,290)	8,125	1.07%	
Utility charges		(307,350)	(180,780)	(169,554)	11,226	6.21%	▲
Depreciation		(1,886,850)	(1,807,920)	(2,341,302)	(533,382)	(29.50%)	▼
Insurance		(164,250)	(148,992)	(164,064)	(15,072)	(10.12%)	▼
Other expenditure		(57,000)	(33,680)	(34,844)	(1,164)	(3.46%)	
Loss on asset disposals	6	(18,000)	0	0	0	0.00%	
		(5,099,900)	(3,798,852)	(4,385,114)	(586,262)	(15.43%)	
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities	Note 2(b)	1,838,850	1,754,320	2,274,658	520,338	29.66%	▲
Amount attributable to operating activities		1,432,235	1,611,691	1,734,407	122,716	7.61%	
INVESTING ACTIVITIES							
Inflows from investing activities							
Proceeds from capital grants, subsidies and contributions	13	1,407,590	1,130,325	1,275,853	145,528	12.87%	▲
Proceeds from disposal of assets	6	285,000	170,000	224,273	54,273	31.93%	▲
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans		0	0	0	0	0.00%	
Distributions from investments in associates		0	0	0	0	0.00%	
		1,692,590	1,300,325	1,500,126	199,801	15.37%	
Outflows from investing activities							
Payments for property, plant and equipment	5	(3,260,000)	(1,769,530)	(1,773,662)	(4,132)	(0.23%)	
Payments for construction of infrastructure	5	(2,374,500)	(1,803,700)	(1,459,095)	344,605	19.11%	▲
		(5,634,500)	(3,573,230)	(3,232,758)	340,472	9.53%	
Non-cash amounts excluded from investing activities	Note 2(b)	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,941,910)	(2,272,905)	(1,732,632)	540,273	23.77%	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES							
Inflows from financing activities							
Proceeds from new debentures	10	0	600,000	600,000	0	0.00%	
Transfer from reserves	4	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0.00%	
		1,000,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	0	0.00%	
Outflows from financing activities							
Repayment of borrowings	10	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities		0	0	0	0	0.00%	
Transfer to reserves	4	(1,881,000)	0	0	0	0.00%	
		(1,881,000)	0	0	0	0.00%	
Amount attributable to financing activities		(881,000)	1,600,000	1,600,000	0	0.00%	
MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT							
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year		1,654,414	1,654,414	2,467,737	813,323	49.16%	▲
Amount attributable to operating activities		1,432,235	1,611,691	1,734,407	122,716	7.61%	▲
Amount attributable to investing activities		(3,941,910)	(2,272,905)	(1,732,632)	540,273	23.77%	▲
Amount attributable to financing activities		(881,000)	1,600,000	1,600,000	0	0.00%	
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates		(1,736,261)	2,593,200	4,069,512	1,476,312	56.93%	▲

KEY INFORMATION

▲ ▼ Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Budget and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.

* Refer to Note 3 for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and Notes.

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

	Supplementary Information	30 June 2024	30 April 2025
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	6,974,685	7,444,947
Trade and other receivables		179,050	193,504
Inventories	7	0	(39,376)
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		7,153,735	7,599,075
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories		40,339	40,339
Property, plant and equipment		13,641,497	14,499,426
Infrastructure		76,193,300	76,133,029
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		89,875,136	90,672,794
TOTAL ASSETS		97,028,871	98,271,869
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	201,500	108,896
Employee related provisions	11	285,527	285,527
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		487,027	394,423
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	10	0	600,000
Employee related provisions		29,305	29,305
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		29,305	629,305
TOTAL LIABILITIES		516,332	1,023,728
NET ASSETS		96,512,539	97,248,141
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		23,207,787	24,935,149
Reserve accounts	4	4,315,820	3,315,820
Revaluation surplus		68,988,932	68,988,932
TOTAL EQUITY		96,512,539	97,239,901

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION

This prescribed financial report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations.

Local Government Act 1995 requirements

Section 6.4(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* read with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, prescribe that the financial report be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, the Australian Accounting Standards. The Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities) and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board were applied where no inconsistencies exist.

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* specify that vested land is a right-of-use asset to be measured at cost, and is considered a zero cost concessionary lease. All right-of-use assets under zero cost concessionary leases are measured at zero cost rather than at fair value, except for vested improvements on concessionary land leases such as roads, buildings or other infrastructure which continue to be reported at fair value, as opposed to the vested land which is measured at zero cost. The measurement of vested improvements at fair value is a departure from AASB 16 which would have required the Shire to measure any vested improvements at zero cost.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, regulation 34 prescribes contents of the financial report. Supporting information does not form part of the financial report.

Accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

All funds through which the Shire controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the financial statements. A separate statement of those monies appears at Note 14 to these financial statements.

Judgements and estimates

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The balances, transactions and disclosures impacted by accounting estimates are as follows:

- estimated fair value of certain financial assets
- impairment of financial assets
- estimation of fair values of land and buildings, infrastructure and investment property
- estimation uncertainties made in relation to lease accounting
- estimated useful life of intangible assets

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICES

Significant accounting policies utilised in the preparation of these statements are as described within the 2023-24 Annual Budget. Please refer to the adopted budget document for details of these policies.

PREPARATION TIMING AND REVIEW

Date prepared: All known transactions up to 31 March 2025

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

2 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY INFORMATION

(a) Net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity	Supplementary Information	Adopted Budget	Last Year	Year to Date
		Opening 30 June 2024	Closing 30 June 2024	30 April 2025
Current assets		\$	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,008,873	6,974,685	7,444,947
Trade and other receivables		368,120	179,050	257,335
Other financial assets		4,397,554	0	0
Inventories	7	19,308	0	(39,376)
		6,793,855	7,153,735	7,662,906
Less: current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	8	(240,276)	(201,500)	(108,896)
Employee related provisions	11	(201,888)	(285,527)	(285,527)
		(442,164)	(487,027)	(394,423)
Net current assets		6,351,691	6,666,708	7,268,483
Less: Total adjustments to net current assets	Note 2(c)	(4,198,971)	(4,198,971)	(3,198,971)
Closing funding surplus / (deficit)		2,152,720	2,467,737	4,069,512

(b) Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities

The following non-cash revenue and expenditure has been excluded from operating activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 32*.

Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities		Adopted Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
		\$	(a)	(b)
		\$	\$	\$
Adjustments to operating activities				
Less: Profit on asset disposals	6	(66,000)	(53,600)	(66,644)
Add: Loss on asset disposals	6	18,000	0	0
Add: Depreciation		1,886,850	1,807,920	2,341,302
Total non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities		1,838,850	1,754,320	2,274,658

(c) Current assets and liabilities excluded from budgeted deficiency

The following current assets and liabilities have been excluded from the net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 32* to agree to the surplus/(deficit) after imposition of general rates.

		Adopted Budget	Last Year	Year to Date
		Opening 30 June 2024	Closing 30 June 2024	30 April 2025
		\$	\$	\$
Adjustments to net current assets				
Less: Reserve accounts	4	(4,315,820)	(4,315,820)	(3,315,820)
Add: Current liabilities not expected to be cleared at the end of the year:				
- Current portion of employee benefit provisions held in reserve	4	116,849	116,849	116,849
Total adjustments to net current assets	Note 2(a)	(4,198,971)	(4,198,971)	(3,198,971)

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT CLASSIFICATION

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. Unless otherwise stated assets or liabilities are classified as current if expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle.

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

3 EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL VARIANCES

The material variance thresholds are adopted annually by Council as an indicator of whether the actual expenditure or revenue varies from the year to date actual materially.

The material variance adopted by Council for the 2024-25 year is \$10,000 or 5.00% whichever is the greater.

Description	Var. \$	Var. %	
	\$	%	
Revenue from operating activities			
General rates	66,790	5.75%	▲
Grants, subsidies and contributions	(36,952)	(2.96%)	▼
Other revenue	8,061	11.69%	▲
Expenditure from operating activities			
Utility charges	11,226	6.21%	▲
Insurance	(15,072)	(10.12%)	▼
Inflows from investing activities			
Proceeds from disposal of assets	54,273	31.93%	▲
Outflows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment	0	0.00%	
Payments for construction of infrastructure	344,605	19.11%	▲
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year	813,323	49.16%	▲
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates	1,476,312	56.93%	▲
Due to variances described above			

	Timing Variance
	Material Variance

Schedule 03 General Purpose Funding

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Rates Income								
Operating Expense								
03	03100	ABC Costs- Rate Revenue	33,000	26,200	22,320	(3,880)	(15)%	
03	03101	Rate Notice Stationery expense	500	500	435	(65)	(13)%	
03	03102	Rates Recovery - Legal Expenses	1,500	0	0	0		
03	03103	Valuation Expenses and Title Search	4,000	100	156	56	56%	
03	03107	Rates Written-off	500	10	19	9	94%	
			39,500	26,810	22,930	(3,880)		
Operating Income								
03	03104	General Rates Levied	(1,220,000)	(1,224,500)	(1,222,609)	1,891	(0)%	
03	03105	Ex-Gratia Rates Received	(5,200)	(5,200)	(5,031)	169	(3)%	
03	03106	Penalty Interest Raised on Rates	(7,500)	(7,500)	(10,357)	(2,857)	38%	
03	03109	Instalment Interest Received	(2,000)	(2,000)	(4,754)	(2,754)	138%	
03	03110	Rates Administration Fee Received	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,080)	(80)	8%	
03	03112	Other Revenue	(500)	(500)	(1,200)	(700)	140%	
			(1,236,200)	(1,240,700)	(1,245,031)	(4,331)		
Other General Purpose Funding								
Operating Expense								
03	03210	Bank Fees Expense	7,000	3,247	3,662	415	13%	
			7,000	3,247	3,662	415		
Operating Income								
03	03201	Grants Commission Grant Received	(178,000)	(121,500)	(115,310)	6,190	(5)%	
03	03202	Grants Commission Grant Received	(107,000)	(53,000)	(46,181)	6,819	(13)%	
03	03204	Interest Received	(220,000)	(106,740)	(108,706)	(1,966)	2%	
03	03205	Other General Purpose funding rece	(250)	0	(0)	(0)		
			(505,250)	(281,240)	(270,198)	11,042		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			46,500	30,057	26,592	(3,465)		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(1,741,450)	(1,521,940)	(1,515,229)	6,711		

Schedule 04 Governance

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Members Of Council								
Operating Expense								
04	04100	Members Travelling Expenses paid	500	170	164	(6)	(4)%	
04	04101	Members Conference Expenses	15,000	15,000	14,169	(831)	(6)%	
04	04102	Council Election Expenses	0	0	0	0		
04	04103	President's Allowance paid	6,000	3,000	2,912	(88)	(3)%	
04	04104	Members Refreshments & Receptio	25,000	18,100	20,152	2,052	11%	
04	04105	Members - Insurance	15,000	15,000	16,473	1,473	10%	
04	04106	Members - Subscriptions	72,550	64,500	63,995	(505)	(1)%	
04	04107	Members - Donation & Gifts	3,000	300	461	161	54%	
04	04108	Members Telephone Subsidy Paid	0	0	2,109	2,109		
04	04109	Members Sitting Fees Paid	25,000	12,500	11,652	(848)	(7)%	
04	04110	Consultant Fees Expense	38,000	1,500	1,500	0	0%	
04	04111	Training Expenses of Members	5,000	0	0	0		
04	04112	Maintenance - Council Chambers	3,200	2,650	2,736	86	3%	
04	04113	ABC Costs- Relating to Members	82,000	59,330	55,788	(3,542)	(6)%	
04	04114	Audit Fees expense	31,000	31,000	36,200	5,200	17%	
04	04118	Advertising	3,000	2,500	2,494	(6)	(0)%	
04	04120	Public Relations/ Promotions	2,500	0	0	0		
04	04199	Depreciation - Members of Council	50	0	0	0		
			326,800	225,550	230,805	5,255		
Operating Income								
04	04121	Contributions, Reimbursements	(1,000)	0	(218)	(218)		
04	04122	Photocopying	(100)	0	0	0		
04	04124	Sale of Electoral Rolls	(50)	0	0	0		
			(1,150)	0	(218)	(218)		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			326,800	225,550	230,805	5,255		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(1,150)	0	(218)	(218)		

Schedule 05 Law, Order & Public Safety

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Fire Prevention								
Operating Expense								
05	05100	ABC Costs- Fire Prevention	24,500	17,410	16,771	(639)	(4)%	
05	05101	Bush Fire Control Maintenance Plan	10,000	7,497	4,929	(2,568)	(34)%	
05	05102	Bush Fire Control Maintenance Lanc	1,500	250	230	(20)	(8)%	
05	05103	Bush Fire Control	1,000	0	0	0		
05	05104	Bush Fire Control Insurance	20,000	20,000	19,083	(917)	(5)%	
05	05112	Bush Fire Clothing, Training & Accs.	3,200	50	23	(27)	(54)%	
05	05113	Utilities Communication & Power	4,500	4,500	7,405	2,905	65%	
05	05114	Other Goods & Services	1,000	200	749	549	275%	
05	05199	Depreciation - Fire Prevention	21,500	17,910	17,723	(187)	(1)%	
			87,200	67,817	66,913	(904)		
Operating Income								
05	05106	Bush Fire Reimbursements	0	0	0	0		
05	05107	FESA Operating Grant	(33,000)	(33,000)	(33,434)	(434)	1%	
05	05108	Edna May MOU Emergency Services	(10,000)	(10,000)	(13,636)	(3,636)	36%	
05	05111	FESA ESL Admin Fee	(4,500)	(4,500)	(4,400)	100	(2)%	
			(47,500)	(47,500)	(51,470)	(3,970)		
Capital Expense								
05	5110	Purchase Plant Fire Prevention	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
Animal Control								
Operating Expense								
05	05200	Expenses Relating to Animal Contro	0	0	0	0		
05	05201	Animal Control - Ranger Expense	5,000	5,000	4,200	(800)	(16)%	
			5,000	5,000	4,200	(800)		
Operating Income								
05	05202	Fines and Penalties - Animal Contro	(100)	0	0	0		
05	05203	Dog Registration Fees	(750)	(500)	(509)	(9)	2%	
05	05301	Income Relating to Other Law	(50)	0	0	0		
			(900)	(500)	(509)	(9)		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			92,200	72,817	71,113	(1,704)		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(48,400)	(48,000)	(51,979)	(3,979)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			0	0	0	0		

Schedule 07 Health

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Health-HACC								
Operating Expense								
07	07110	HCS -Salaries	80,000	72,660	72,967	307	0%	
07	07112	Expenses Relating to Health HCS	85,000	49,330	46,642	(2,688)	(5)%	
07	07114	HCS - ABC Costs	66,000	46,000	44,650	(1,350)	(3)%	
			231,000	167,990	164,259	(3,731)		
Operating Income								
07	07101	Service Fee	(255,000)	(230,000)	(231,923)	(1,923)	1%	
07	13198	Profit on Sale of Asset	(12,000)	(9,600)	(9,547)	53	(1)%	
			(267,000)	(239,600)	(241,471)	(1,871)		
Capital Expense								
07	07405	Purchase Plant - HCS Vehicle	65,000	38,000	37,771	(229)	(1)%	
			65,000	38,000	37,771	(229)		
Capital Income								
07	07109	Proceeds on Sale of Asset	(35,000)	(35,000)	(32,000)	3,000	(9)%	
			(35,000)	(35,000)	(32,000)	3,000		
Preventative Services - Administration & Inspections								
Operating Expense								
07	07400	ABC Costs- Preventative Services - /	16,000	12,330	11,160	(1,170)	(9)%	
07	07404	Analytical Expenses	400	400	372	(28)	(7)%	
07	07406	Contract - EHO Expense	8,000	4,000	4,516	516	13%	
			24,400	16,730	16,048	(682)		
Operating Income								
07	07401	Income Relating to Preventative Ser	0	0	0	0		
07	07407	Reimbursement	(100)	0	0	0		
			(100)	0	0	0		
Preventative Services - Pest Control								
Operating Expense								
07	07500	Mosquito Control Preventative Serv	2,500	2,000	2,023	23	1%	
			2,500	2,000	2,023	23		
Preventative Services -Other								
Operating Expense								
07	07600	Ambulance Services - Other	2,000	230	264	34	15%	
07	07601	Medical Rooms & Dr Expense - Othe	12,500	11,660	11,849	189	2%	
08	08600	ABC Costs- Other Welfare	57,000	11,550	11,160	(390)	(3)%	
			71,500	23,440	23,273	(167)		
Operating Income								
07	07602	Reimbursement Rural Health West	(12,000)	(5,000)	(5,418)	(418)	8%	
			(12,000)	(5,000)	(5,418)	(418)		
Other Health								
Operating Expense								
07	07700	Nurse Practitioner Clinic	35,500	27,590	25,617	(1,973)	(7)%	
07	07799	Depreciation - Health	2,100	1,750	1,699	(51)	(3)%	
			37,600	29,340	27,316	(2,024)		
Operating Income								
07	07701	WAPHA /Other Funding	0	0	0	0		
07	07703	Voluntry Contribution Nurse Practit	(12,000)	(10,000)	(8,750)	1,250	(13)%	
07	07704	Medicare Benefits	(10,000)	(10,000)	(15,239)	(5,239)	52%	
			(22,000)	(20,000)	(23,989)	(3,989)		
Capital Expense								
07	07702	Purchase Buildings - Medical Centre	20,000	12,000	11,778	(222)	(2)%	
			20,000	12,000	11,778	(222)		
Capital Income								
07	07603	WAPHA - Medical Centre Upgrades	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			367,000	239,500	232,919	(6,581)		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(301,100)	(264,600)	(270,877)	(6,277)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(35,000)	(35,000)	(32,000)	3,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			85,000	50,000	49,549	(451)		

Schedule 08 Education & Welfare

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Pre-Schools								
Operating Expense								
08	08100	ABC Costs - Expenses Relating to Sch	16,000	16,000	39,068	23,068	144%	
08	08101	Westonia Primary School	53,000	39,813	36,711	(3,102)	(8)%	
08	08199	Depreciation - School	14,000	12,660	12,978	318	3%	
			83,000	68,473	88,757	20,284		
Operating Income								
08	08103	Income School Facility/Main Buildin	0	0	0	0		
08	08105	Income Unit Accomodation	(20,000)	(18,660)	(19,559)	(899)	5%	
			(20,000)	(18,660)	(19,559)	(899)		
Capital Income								
08	08107	LotteryWest	(250,000)	(130,000)	(135,975)	(5,975)	5%	
08	08108	Collgar Renewables	(10,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	0	0%	
			(260,000)	(135,000)	(140,975)	(5,975)		
Capital Expense								
08	08104	Purchase Land & Buildings- Leisure	200,000	37,500	37,240	(260)	(1)%	
08	08203	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - L	95,000	2,530	2,180	(350)	(14)%	
			295,000	40,030	39,420	(610)		
Aged & Disabled - Senior Citizens								
Operating Expense								
08	08401	Seniors Activities	7,500	5,950	4,745	(1,205)	(20)%	
08	08402	Wheatbelt Agcare	500	500	600	100	20%	
			8,000	6,450	5,345	(1,105)		
Operating Income								
08	08403	Income Relating to Aged & Disabled	(5,000)	0	0	0		
			(5,000)	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			91,000	74,923	94,103	19,180		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(25,000)	(18,660)	(19,559)	(899)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(260,000)	(135,000)	(140,975)	(5,975)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			295,000	40,030	39,420	(610)		

Schedule 09 Housing

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Staff Housing								
Operating Expense								
09	09100	Staff Housing - ABC Costs	24,000	17,500	16,744	(756)	(4)%	
09	09101	Maintenance 20 Diorite St -DCEO	25,000	9,240	9,973	733	8%	
09	09102	Maintenance 11 Quartz St - Swimmi	5,000	2,500	2,277	(223)	(9)%	
09	09104	Maintenance 37 Diorite St - Rental	500	2,000	1,980	(20)	(1)%	
09	09105	Maintenance 7 Quartz St - Plant Op	4,800	4,800	6,817	2,017	42%	
09	09108	Depreciation - Staff Housing	53,000	44,160	42,896	(1,264)	(3)%	
09	09109	Maintenance 13 Pyrite Street -Plant	5,200	5,200	6,056	856	16%	
09	09201	Maintenance 4 Quartz St - Plant Op	5,300	3,300	3,887	587	18%	
09	09202	Maintenance 55 Wolfram St -Admin	11,800	11,800	16,938	5,138	44%	
09	09211	Maintenance 301 Pyrite Street - Sen	4,800	4,800	6,535	1,735	36%	
			139,400	105,290	100,646	(4,644)		
Operating Income								
09	09121	Income 20 Diorite St -Rental	0	0	(120)	(120)		
09	09122	Income 11 Quartz St - Swimming Po	(2,600)	(2,160)	(2,220)	(60)	3%	
09	09124	Income 37 Diorite St - Rental	(1,000)	(4,000)	(3,570)	430	(11)%	
09	09125	Income 7 Quartz St - Plant Operator	(2,600)	(2,160)	(1,680)	480	(22)%	
09	09130	Income 13 Pyrite Street -Plant Oper.	(2,600)	(2,160)	(2,100)	60	(3)%	
09	09220	Income 4 Quartz St - Plant Operator	(2,600)	(2,160)	(2,100)	60	(3)%	
09	09221	Income 55 Wolfram St -Administrati	(7,800)	(7,800)	(8,259)	(459)	6%	
09	09230	Income 301 Pyrite Street - Senior Fir	(2,600)	(2,160)	(2,010)	150	(7)%	
			(21,800)	(22,600)	(22,059)	541		
Other Housing								
Operating Expense								
09	09103	CEACA Contribution 3Units	153,000	0	0	0		
09	09200	Other Housing - ABC Costs	24,000	19,500	16,744	(2,756)	(14)%	
09	09203	Maintenance - Lifestyle	14,000	9,600	9,638	38	0%	
09	09206	Maintenance Quartz Street Age Uni	14,450	12,310	15,485	3,175	26%	
09	09208	Maintenance - 17 Pyrite Street JV U	14,250	11,970	12,192	222	2%	
09	09212	Rental Lifestyle Village - Westonia P	13,500	13,500	13,572	72	1%	
09	09236	Depreciation Other Housing	60,500	48,410	47,037	(1,373)	(3)%	
			293,700	115,290	114,668	(623)		
Other Housing								
Operating Income								
09	09222	Income - Lifestyle	(70,000)	(65,875)	(66,627)	(752)	1%	
09	09227	Income 17Pyrite St - JV Units	(9,360)	(9,360)	(11,200)	(1,840)	20%	
09	09231	Income - Ramelius Resources Lease	(24,000)	(18,000)	(18,132)	(132)	1%	
09	09238	Income -Age Units Quartz Street	(14,040)	(14,040)	(14,725)	(685)	5%	
09	09298	Profit on Sale of Asset	(7,000)	0	0	0		
			(124,400)	(107,275)	(110,684)	(3,409)		
Capital Expense								
09	09127	Purchase - Staff Housing - Shed 4 Q	30,000	15,000	14,155	(845)	(6)%	
09	09128	Purchase Land & Buildings - New Sta	0	0	0	0		
			30,000	15,000	14,155	(845)		
Capital Income								
09	09237	Income -Sale of 37 Diorite St, Westo	(80,000)	0	0	0		
			(80,000)	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			433,100	220,580	215,313	(5,267)		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(146,200)	(129,875)	(130,183)	(308)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(80,000)	0	0	0		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			30,000	15,000	14,155	(845)		

Schedule 10 Community Amenities

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Sanitation - Household Refuse								
Operating Expense								
10	10100	ABC Costs- Household Refuse	24,000	18,500	16,740	(1,760)	(10)%	
10	10103	Domestic Refuse Collection	10,000	10,000	11,188	1,188	12%	
10	10105	Refuse Collection Public Bins	15,000	9,460	8,774	(686)	(7)%	
10	10106	Refuse Maintenance	15,000	13,000	13,645	645	5%	
10	10107	Waste Oil Recycling	500	0	0	0		
10	10108	Containers for Change Recycling Bin	0	0	0	0		
			64,500	50,960	50,347	(613)		
Operating Income								
10	10120	Income Relating to Sanitation - Hou	(14,000)	(14,000)	(13,957)	43	(0)%	
10	10122	Drum-Muster	0	0	0	0		
			(14,000)	(14,000)	(13,957)	43		
Other Community Amenities								
Operating Expense								
10	10704	Maintenance - Public Conveniences	9,000	7,990	8,957	967	12%	
10	10705	Maintenance - Cemetery	0	0	0	0		
10	10706	Maintenance - Grave Digging	11,000	9,736	8,523	(1,213)	(12)%	
10	10799	Depreciation - Community Services	21,200	20,780	25,130	4,350	21%	
			41,200	38,506	42,611	4,105		
Operating Income								
10	10701	Income Relating to Other Communi	0	0	0	0		
10	10708	Cemetery Fees	(2,000)	(1,500)	(1,582)	(82)	5%	
			(2,000)	(1,500)	(1,582)	(82)		
Capital Expenditure								
10	10702	Purchase Land & Buildings - Niche V	20,000	10,000	10,269	269	3%	
			20,000	10,000	10,269	269		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			105,700	89,466	92,958	3,492		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(2,000)	(1,500)	(1,582)	(82)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			20,000	10,000	10,269	269		

Schedule 11 Recreation & Culture

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Public Halls & Civic Centres								
Operating Expense								
11	11100	ABC Costs- Public Halls & Civic Cent	82,000	59,330	55,794	(3,536)	(6)%	
11	11104	Maintenance - Public Halls	34,500	13,320	14,327	1,007	8%	
11	11105	Maintenance - Complex/ Gym	25,000	19,320	20,852	1,532	8%	
11	11106	Maintenance - Wanderers Stadium	20,000	20,000	20,857	857	4%	
11	11107	MOU Westonia Progress Payment	30,000	30,000	31,910	1,910	6%	
11	11199	Depreciation - Public Halls	67,800	56,490	56,684	194	0%	
			259,300	198,460	200,425	1,965		
Operating Income								
11	11110	Income Relating to Public Halls & Ci	(200)	(100)	(318)	(218)	218%	
11	11111	Income Edna May MOU 33%	(19,000)	(19,000)	(20,583)	(1,583)	8%	
11	11112	Income Charges Stadium	(500)	(375)	(209)	166	(44)%	
11	11114	Income Edna May MOU WPA 67%	(30,000)	(30,000)	(41,791)	(11,791)	39%	
			(49,700)	(49,475)	(62,901)	(13,426)		
Capital Expense								
11	11102	Purchase Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0		
11	11103	Purchase Furniture & Equipment -G	70,000	40,000	40,480	480	1%	
11	11607	Furniture & Equipment - Disabled R	20,000	0	0	0		
			90,000	40,000	40,480	480		
Swimming Pool								
Operating Income								
11	11202	Swimming Pool Donations	0	(2,500)	(2,500)	0	0%	
			0	(2,500)	(2,500)	0		
Operating Expense								
11	11207	Maintenance Westonia Swimming F	40,000	35,192	38,273	3,081	9%	
11	11208	Chlorine Expenses	3,500	500	523	23	5%	
11	11209	Management Contract Charges	75,000	45,000	45,297	297	1%	
11	11210	Water Charges	7,000	7,000	6,664	(336)	(5)%	
11	11299	Depreciaton - Swimming Pool	32,700	32,700	249,220	216,520	662%	
			158,200	120,392	339,977	219,585		
Capital Expense								
11	11204	Purchase Land & Buildings -Kiosk/At	1,400,000	1,282,000	1,281,791	(209)	(0)%	
11	11205	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - S	0	0	0	0		
			1,400,000	1,282,000	1,281,791	(209)		
Other Recreation & Sport								
Operating Expense								
11	11307	Maintenance - Playground, Tennis &	265,000	239,137	243,755	4,618	2%	
11	11308	Maintenance - Recreation Oval	49,000	44,180	53,314	9,134	21%	
11	11399	Depreciation - Other Rec & Sport	66,500	66,500	139,516	73,016	110%	
			380,500	349,817	436,584	86,767		
Operating Income								
11	11302	Marquee Hire Charges	(100)	(100)	(500)	(400)	400%	
			(100)	(100)	(500)	(400)		
Capital Income								
11	11301	DFES Grant	(35,000)	(16,000)	(16,022)	(22)	0%	
11	11310	LRCIP Grant Round 3 Stadium Final	(180,500)	(180,500)	(180,616)	(116)	0%	
11	11211	LRCIP Grant Round 4 Kiosk/Ablution	(259,000)	(208,000)	(207,126)	874	(0)%	
			(474,500)	(404,500)	(403,764)	736		
Capital Expense								
11	11303	Purchase Land & Buildings - Bowling	0	0	0	0		
11	11304	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - S	10,000	4,000	4,297	297	7%	
11	11309	Bowling Green Redevelopment - CA	0	0	0	0		
			10,000	4,000	4,297	297		
Television and Rebroadcasting								
Operating Expense								
11	11401	Maintenance - Television and Rebro	4,000	500	734	234	47%	
11	11499	Depreciation - TV & Radio	5,500	4,580	4,528	(52)	(1)%	
			9,500	5,080	5,263	183		
Capital Expense								
11	11404	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - T	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		

Schedule 11 Recreation & Culture

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Other Recreation & Sport								
Operating Expense								
11	11500	Expenses Relating to Libraries	0	0	0	0		
11	11504	Library Salaries	20,000	16,660	17,169	509	3%	
11	11505	Library Expenses	3,500	2,625	3,270	645	25%	
			23,500	19,285	20,439	1,154		
Operating Income								
11	11501	Income Relating to Libraries	(100)	(75)	0	75	(100)%	
11	11502	Fines & Penalties Charged	(100)	(75)	0	75	(100)%	
			(200)	(150)	0	150		
Capital Expense								
11	11503	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - L	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
Other Culture								
Operating Expense								
11	11605	Nature Reserve Management	20,000	14,000	13,705	(295)	(2)%	
11	11606	Maintenance Walgoolan Gazebo	600	0	0	0		
			20,600	14,000	13,705	(295)		
Operating Income								
11	11602	Income Charges History Books	(200)	(200)	(573)	(373)	186%	
11	11604	Ramelius Common Management - I	0	0	0	0		
			(200)	(200)	(573)	(373)		
Capital Expense								
11	11603	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - P	10,000	2,000	1,653	(347)	(17.3)%	
			10,000	2,000	1,653	(347)		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			851,600	707,034	1,016,392	309,358		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(50,200)	(52,425)	(66,474)	(14,049)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(474,500)	(404,500)	(403,764)	736		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			1,510,000	1,328,000	1,328,222	222		

Schedule 12 Transport

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Streets Roads Bridges & Depot Construction								
Capital Expense								
12	12101	Roads Construction Council	724,500	362,500	362,467	(33)	(0)%	
12	12103	MRWA Project Construction	595,000	595,000	611,920	16,920	3%	
12	12104	Roads to Recovery Construction	515,000	182,000	181,466	(534)	(0)%	
12	12108	Footpath Construction	50,000	5,000	4,472	(528)	(11)%	
			1,884,500	1,144,500	1,160,325	15,825		
Streets Roads Bridges & Depot Maintenance								
Operating Expense								
12	12202	Power - Street Lighting	8,500	7,080	5,967	(1,113)	(16)%	
12	12203	Maintenance - GRM	590,000	374,650	374,080	(570)	(0)%	
12	12204	Maintenance - Depot	30,500	27,500	29,016	1,516	6%	
12	12205	Maintenance - Footpaths	500	0	0	0		
12	12206	Traffic Signs Maintenance	22,000	12,000	12,154	154	1%	
12	12208	Townsite Beautification	50,000	7,000	7,783	783	11%	
12	12219	RRG Expenses	0	0	0	0		
12	12299	Depreciation - Street, Roads, Bridge	1,192,500	1,192,500	1,425,574	233,074	20%	
			1,894,000	1,620,730	1,854,574	233,844		
Operating Income								
12	12201	Income Relating to Streets, Roads, E	0	0	0	0		
12	12212	Grant - MRWA Direct	(193,500)	(193,500)	(193,449)	51	(0)%	
12	12213	Grant - MRWA Specific	(396,490)	(350,250)	(350,270)	(20)	0%	
12	12214	Grant -Electric Car Charging Station	(100)	0	0	0		
12	12216	Grant - Roads to Recovery	(421,000)	(415,000)	(415,000)	0	0%	
			(1,011,090)	(958,750)	(958,719)	31		
Capital Expense								
12	12220	Concrete Depot Shed-LB	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
			20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Road Plant Purchase								
Operating Expense								
12	12359	Loss on Sale of Asset	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
Operating Income								
12	12398	Profit on Sale of Asset	(33,000)	(33,000)	(46,155)	(13,155)	40%	
			(33,000)	(33,000)	(46,155)	(13,155)		
Capital Income								
12	12306	Proceeds on Sale of Asset	(142,500)	(63,000)	(62,273)	727	(1)%	
			(142,500)	(63,000)	(62,273)	727		
Road Plant Purchase								
Capital Expense								
12	12304	Telehandler - CAPITAL	180,000	105,500	105,455	(45)	(0)%	
12	12307	Outside Staff Veichles - CAPITAL	40,000	40,000	36,875	(3,125)	(8)%	
12	12309	Water Cart Trailer - CAPITAL	0	13,000	21,931	8,931	69%	
			220,000	158,500	164,261	5,761		
Aerodromes								
Operating Expense								
12	12604	Airport Maintenance	4,900	3,160	2,701	(459)	(15)%	
			4,900	3,160	2,701	(459)		
Operating Income								
12	12601	Income Relating to Aerodromes	(100)	0	0	0		
			(100)	0	0	0		
Capital Expense								
12	12605	Airport Land - CAPITAL	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			1,898,900	1,623,890	1,857,275	233,385		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(1,044,190)	(991,750)	(1,004,874)	(13,124)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(142,500)	(63,000)	(62,273)	0		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			2,124,500	1,303,000	1,324,586	21,586		

Schedule 13 Economic Services

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Rural Services								
Operating Expense								
13	13100	ABC Costs- Rural Services	0	0	0	0		
13	13119	Project TBA	0	0	0	0		
13	13123	NRM Contract	5,000	2,500	2,587	87	3%	
13	13125	Noxious Weed Control	2,000	0	0	0		
13	13126	Wild Dog Contribution	0	0	0	0		
			7,000	2,500	2,587	87		
Operating Income								
13	13105	Govt. Grant Funding	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
Capital Expense								
13	13107	Purchase Plant & Equipment - Warr	270,000	270,000	299,614	29,614	11%	
			270,000	270,000	299,614	29,614		
Capital Income								
13	13108	Warralakin Water Tank DWER	(270,000)	(270,000)	(281,131)	(11,131)	4%	
			(270,000)	(270,000)	(281,131)	(11,131)		
Tourism & Area Promotion								
Operating Expense								
13	13200	Admin Allocations Tourism & Area F	49,000	34,830	36,022	1,192	3%	
13	13210	Area Promotion	8,000	4,000	4,486	486	12%	
13	13211	SUBS- CW Visitor Centre	3,000	2,500	2,273	(227)	(9)%	
13	13212	SUBS- Newtravel	7,000	7,000	7,105	105	2%	
13	13213	Maintenance Caravan Park	163,250	143,870	145,595	1,725	1%	
13	13214	Information Bay- Carrabin	11,050	8,360	8,471	111	1%	
13	13215	Old Club Hotel Museum -Maintenar	50,500	30,060	30,247	187	1%	
13	13299	Depreciation - Tourism & Area Prom	39,000	32,490	32,113	(377)	(1)%	
			330,800	263,110	266,312	3,202		
Operating Income								
13	13201	Income Relating to Tourism & Area	0	0	0	0		
13	13202	Caravan Site Charges	(50,000)	(50,000)	(56,931)	(6,931)	14%	
13	13203	Tent Site Charges	(500)	(410)	(500)	(90)	22%	
13	13204	Souvenir Sales	(500)	(500)	(563)	(63)	13%	
13	13221	Income - Old Club Hotel Museum E	(10,000)	(9,163)	(8,862)	301	(3)%	
13	13223	Electric Car Charging Station - INCOI	0	0	(47)	(47)		
			(61,000)	(60,073)	(66,904)	(6,831)		
Capital Expense								
13	13216	Museum Expansion Project - CAPITA	850,000	70,000	69,483	(517)	(1)%	
			850,000	70,000	69,483	(517)		
Capital Income								
13	13222	Loan Proceeds	(600,000)	0	0	0		
13	13225	LotteryWest Grant- Muesuem	(250,000)	(230,000)	(228,182)	1,818	(1)%	
			(850,000)	(230,000)	(228,182)	1,818		
Building Control								
Operating Expense								
13	13301	Contract EH Services	7,000	4,400	4,400	0	0%	
			7,000	4,400	4,400	0		
Operating Income								
13	13303	Building Permit Charges	(2,000)	(2,500)	(3,869)	(1,369)	55%	
13	13304	Demolition Charges	(100)	0	0	0		
13	13305	Commission BRB	(200)	0	0	0		
13	13307	Planning Fee	0	0	0	0		
			(2,300)	(2,500)	(3,869)	(1,369)		
Community Development (CRC)								
Operating Expense								
13	13400	ABC Costs - Community Developme	65,000	48,160	44,650	(3,510)	(7)%	
13	13401	Programs / Activities	10,000	3,000	3,283	283	9%	
13	13402	Workers Compensation Premiums	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0%	
13	13403	Superannuation	13,000	8,830	7,371	(1,459)	(17)%	
13	13404	Salaries	107,500	59,580	58,420	(1,160)	(2)%	
13	13405	Community Events	40,000	40,000	55,196	15,196	38%	
13	13406	Grant Generated Expenditure	0	0	0	0		
13	13610	Building Maintenance	10,000	6,740	7,081	341	5%	
			252,500	173,310	183,000	9,690		

Schedule 13 Economic Services

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Operating Income								
13	13410	Grant Funding Opportunities	(40,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0	0%	
13	13411	DPIRD Grants Funding (CRC)	(110,000)	(92,000)	(91,614)	386	(0)%	
13	13412	Income Relating to Westonia CRC O	0	0	(300)	(300)		
13	13413	Events Income	0	0	(47,474)	(47,474)		
			(150,000)	(112,000)	(159,388)	(47,388)		
Plant Nursery								
Operating Expense								
13	13502	Nursery Operating Costs	1,800	250	160	(90)	(36)%	
			1,800	250	160	(90)		
Operating Income								
13	13505	Tree Planter Hire	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
Other Economic Services								
Operating Expense								
13	13600	ABC Costs to Other Economic Servic	8,000	6,970	6,624	(346)	(5)%	
13	13611	Water Supply Standpipes	161,500	52,660	51,777	(883)	(2)%	
13	13613	Ramelius ResourceLease - Industrial	0	420	470	50	12%	
13	13614	St Lukes Church	5,000	50	47	(3)	(6)%	
13	13615	CO-OP Bus -Expense	0	0	0	0		
13	16106	Loan Interest Loan # 99	15,000	0	0	0		
13	13699	Depreciation- Other Economic Servi	73,500	73,500	75,688	2,188	3%	
			263,000	133,600	134,606	1,006		
Other Economic Services								
Operating Income								
13	13602	Community Bus Hire Charges	(2,000)	(3,000)	(2,915)	85	(3)%	
13	13603	Ramelius Resource Lease - Industria	(20,000)	(15,000)	(14,211)	789	(5)%	
13	13604	Police Licensing Commissions	(9,000)	(6,000)	(5,443)	557	(9)%	
13	13607	SSL Interest Reimbursement	(5,600)	(5,600)	(5,627)	(27)	0%	
13	13608	SSL Principal Reimbursement	(12,800)	(12,800)	(12,720)	80	(1)%	
13	13609	Standpipe Water Charges - per kL	(120,000)	(120,000)	(127,946)	(7,946)	7%	
13	13618	Reimbursements General	(200)	(200)	(2,004)	(1,804)	902%	Pride First Aid Course Rimburesm
			(169,600)	(162,600)	(170,866)	(8,266)		
Capital Expense								
13	13606	Land & Buildings - Wolfram Street S	0	0	0	0		
			0	0	0	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			862,100	577,170	591,065	13,895		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(382,900)	(337,173)	(401,026)	(63,853)		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(1,120,000)	(500,000)	(509,313)	(9,313)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			1,120,000	340,000	369,096	29,096		

Schedule 14 Other Property & Services

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Private Works								
Operating Expense								
14	14102	Private Works	25,000	23,250	23,375	125	1%	
			25,000	23,250	23,375	125		
Operating Income								
14	14100	Private Works Income	(25,000)	(35,000)	(52,823)	(17,823)	51%	Repairs to Warrachuppin Road
			(25,000)	(35,000)	(52,823)	(17,823)		
Public Works Overheads								
Operating Expense								
14	14200	Administration Allocations to PWOH	266,300	201,910	196,086	(5,824)	(3)%	
14	14202	Sick Leave Expense	20,000	25,000	23,928	(1,072)	(4)%	
14	14203	Annual & Long Service Leave Expenses	100,000	82,330	89,797	7,467	9%	
14	14204	Protective Clothing - Outside Staff	6,000	4,500	5,228	728	16%	
14	14205	Conference Expenses- Engineering	4,000	1,000	820	(180)	(18)%	
14	14206	Medical Examination Costs	500	500	425	(76)	(15)%	
14	14207	Public Works Overheads Allocated to	(649,300)	(642,080)	(605,405)	36,675	(6)%	
14	14208	OSH Expenses	4,500	4,500	4,985	485	11%	
14	14211	Unallocated Wages	0	0	0	0		
14	14214	Eng. & Technical Support	10,000	10,000	9,444	(556)	(6)%	
14	14215	Staff Training	24,000	4,000	4,951	951	24%	
14	14216	Insurance on Works	17,000	25,000	23,070	(1,930)	(8)%	
14	14217	Supervision Costs	24,000	20,000	19,426	(574)	(3)%	
14	14218	Service Pay	7,000	5,830	5,847	17	0%	
14	14219	Superannuation Cost	120,000	103,000	103,869	869	1%	
14	14220	Allowances & Other Costs	38,000	19,660	16,694	(2,966)	(15)%	
14	14221	Fringe Benefits Tax - Works	8,000	6,000	8,311	2,311	39%	
			0	(128,850)	(92,526)	36,324		
Operating Income								
14	14201	Income Relating to Public Works Ov	(7,000)	(5,830)	(7,470)	(1,640)	28%	
			(7,000)	(5,830)	(7,470)	(1,640)		
Plant Operation Costs								
Operating Expense								
14	14302	Insurance - Plant	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0%	
14	14303	Fuel & Oils	240,000	208,000	208,653	653	0%	
14	14304	Tyres and Tubes	20,000	7,000	7,047	47	1%	
14	14305	Parts & Repairs	140,000	106,660	106,435	(225)	(0)%	
14	14306	Internal Repair Wages	33,500	25,910	21,251	(4,659)	(18)%	
14	14307	Licences - Plant	9,000	6,000	6,315	315	5%	
14	14308	Depreciation - Plant	200,000	172,660	175,849	3,189	2%	
14	14309	Plant Operation Costs Allocated to V	(704,500)	(509,000)	(539,153)	(30,153)	6%	
14	14310	Blades & Tynes	15,000	9,500	10,305	805	8%	
14	14311	Consumable Items	20,000	13,660	9,702	(3,958)	(29)%	
14	14312	Expendable Tools	10,000	3,500	3,281	(219)	(6)%	
			0	60,890	26,685	(34,205)		
Stock Fuels & Oils								
Operating Expense								
14	14402	Purchase of Stock Materials	0	0	5,927	5,927		
			0	0	5,927	5,927		
Operating Income								
14	14404	Diesel Fuel Rebate	(50,000)	(40,500)	(40,225)	275	(1)%	
14	14405	Sale of Stock	(500)	(200)	(182)	18	(9)%	
14	14406	Sale of Fuel and Scrap	(2,000)	(2,000)	(1,954)	46	(2)%	
			(52,500)	(42,700)	(42,361)	339		
Administration								
Operating Expense								
14	14500	Expenses relating to Administration	494,000	369,660	361,600	(8,060)	(2)%	
14	14501	Administration Office Maintenance	72,500	60,890	68,602	7,712	13%	
14	14502	Workers Compensation Premiums-	28,000	28,000	29,545	1,545	6%	
14	14503	Office Equipment Maintenance - Ad	5,000	1,000	980	(20)	(2)%	
14	14504	Telecommunications - Admin	0	0	0	0		
14	14505	Travel & Accommodation - Admin	2,000	0	0	0		

Schedule 14 Other Property & Services

Prog	COA	Description	Original Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Var. \$	Var. %	Comment
Administration								
Operating Expense - Continued								
14	14506	Legal Expenses Administration	5,000	4,000	4,200	200	5%	
14	14507	Training Expenses - Admin	7,500	2,500	2,772	272	11%	
14	14508	Printing & Stationery - Admin	10,000	5,600	6,526	926	17%	
14	14509	Fringe Benefits Tax - Admin	17,000	12,000	12,463	463	4%	
14	14510	Conference Expenses - Admin	6,000	2,000	1,287	(713)	(36)%	
14	14511	Staff Uniform - Admin	3,000	1,500	716	(784)	(52)%	
14	14515	Administration Costs Allocated to Pr	(818,000)	(557,660)	(558,000)	(340)	0%	
14	14517	Postage & Freight	1,500	925	875	(50)	(5)%	
14	14521	IT/Accounting Programs	43,500	36,000	36,875	875	2%	
14	14522	Advertising	3,000	0	0	0		
14	14559	Admin Loss on Sale	18,000	0	0	0		
14	14599	Depreciation - Admin	37,000	30,830	31,678	848	3%	
			(65,000)	(2,755)	120	2,875		
Operating Income								
14	14525	Admin - Reimbursement	(1,000)	(1,000)	(2,937)	(1,937)	194%	
14	14598	Profit on Sale of Asset - Admin	(14,000)	(11,000)	(10,943)	57	(1)%	
			(15,000)	(12,000)	(13,880)	(1,880)		
Capital Expense								
14	14519	Admin Server - CAPITAL	30,000	28,000	27,606	(394)	(1)%	
14	14520	CEO Vehicle - CAPITAL	120,000	0	0	0		
14	14523	Administration Vehicle - CAPITAL	80,000	70,000	70,698	698	1%	
			230,000	98,000	98,305	305		
Operating Expense								
14	14602	Gross Salaries & Wages	1,500,000	1,230,000	1,174,451	(55,549)	(5)%	
14	14603	Less Sal & Wages Alloc to Works	(1,500,000)	(1,230,000)	(1,174,451)	55,549	(5)%	
			0	0	0	0		
Unclassified								
Operating Income								
14	14701	Income Relating to Unclassified	(20,000)	(40,000)	(50,760)	(10,760)	27%	Sale 4x Land Sales
14	14705	Ramelius Resources Haulage Operat	(150,000)	(325,000)	(355,552)	(30,552)	9%	
			(170,000)	(365,000)	(406,312)	(60,618)		
Unclassified								
Capital Expense								
14	14704	Land Development	100,000	2,000	2,179	179	9%	
			100,000	2,000	2,179	179		
Capital Income								
14	14799	Proceeds on Sale of Assets	(175,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	0	0%	
			(175,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	0		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE			(40,000)	(47,465)	(36,419)	11,046		
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME			(269,500)	(460,530)	(522,846)	(81,622)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			330,000	100,000	100,483	483		
TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME			(175,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	0		

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Council Fin Pos Cat Data	1
2	Variations	31
3	Key Information	46
4	Key Information - Graphical	47
5	Cash and Financial Assets	48
6	Reserve Accounts	49
7	Capital Acquisitions	50
8	Disposal of Assets	52
9	Other Current Assets	53
10	Payables	54
11	Other Current Liabilities	55
12	Grants and contributions	56
13	Capital grants and contributions	57
14	Trust Fund	58

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

3 CASH AND FINANCIAL ASSETS

Description	Classification	Unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total Cash \$	Trust \$	Institution	Interest Rate	Maturity Date
Cash on hand								
PETTY CASH and FLOATS	Cash and cash equivalents	870	0	870	0		NIL	On Hand
MUNICIPAL BANK ACCOUNT	Cash and cash equivalents	4,128,257	0	4,128,257	0	Bendigo	Variable	Cheque Acc.
RESERVE FUND	Cash and cash equivalents	0	3,315,820	3,315,820	0	Bendigo	Variable	Term Deposit
TRUST FUND CASH AT BANK	Cash and cash equivalents	0	0	0	45,029	Bendigo	Variable	Cheque Acc.
Total		4,129,127	3,315,820	7,444,947	45,029			
Comprising								
Cash and cash equivalents		4,129,127	3,315,820	7,444,947	45,029			
		4,129,127	3,315,820	7,444,947	45,029			

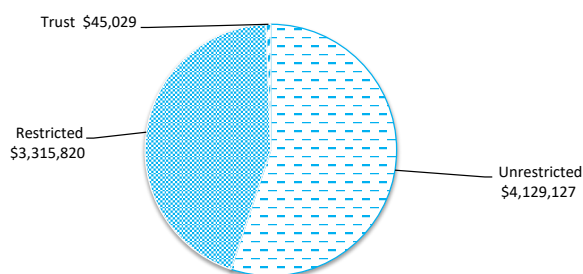
KEY INFORMATION

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of net current assets.

The local government classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

Financial assets at amortised cost held with registered financial institutions are listed in this note other financial assets at amortised cost are provided in Note 4 - Other as



Corporate MasterCard	Transaction Summary	Total Amount	Institution	Interest Rate	Period End Date
		\$			
Card # **** *693					
Price, Arthur W	1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring	50.00	Bendigo	17.99%	30-Apr-25
	1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring	39.04			
	1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly	128.70			
	Active8me internet service	403.90			
	1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring	264.99			
	1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring	371.80			
	Starlink - CEO Internet - April/May	139.00			
	Bunnings - Plants Unit 7	114.87			
	Card Fee	4.00			
		1516.30			
Card # **** *035					
Geier, Jasmine L	Australia Post - PO Box Renewal	130.00	Bendigo	17.99%	30-Apr-25
	Trybooking - WOTG Tickets	47.63			
	Trybooking - WOTG Tickets	157.25			
	Ciminal History Check - Coulter	64.80			
	JB HiFi - Speakers/Microphone	1068.00			
	PayPal - Canva Subscription	164.99			
	Guardian Personal Alarms - Alarm pouch - Stephens	34.00			
	Westonia Shire - Licensing	67.35			
	Paypal - OZWashroom - Baby change stations	1570.00			
	Card Fee	4.00			
		3308.02			
		4824.32			
Corporate Fuel Cards	Transaction Summary	Total Amount	Institution	Interest Rate	Period End Date
		\$			
Card #**** *7401					
Bill Price	OWT P14 LC300 V6 DSL GXL Land Cruiser	\$76.42	BP		30-Apr-25
		76.42			
Card #**** *5677					
Kevin Paust		0.00	BP		30-Apr-25
Card #**** *5510					
Jasmine Geier		\$0.00	BP		30-Apr-25
		0.00			
		76.42			

SHIRE OF WESTONIA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

4 RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Reserve name	Budget Opening Balance	Budget Interest Earned	Budget Transfers In (+)	Budget Transfers Out (-)	Budget Closing Balance	Actual Opening Balance	Actual Interest Earned	Actual Transfers In (+)	Actual Transfers Out (-)	Actual YTD Closing Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Restricted by Council										
Reserve -Long Service Leave	116,849	5,000	0	0	121,849	116,849	0	0	0	116,849
Reserve -Plant	961,371	15,000	100,000	0	1,076,371	961,371	0	0	0	961,371
Reserve -Building	1,588,298	15,000	545,000	(600,000)	1,548,298	1,588,298	0	0	(600,000)	988,298
Reserve -Communication/Inforrr	73,718	3,000	0	0	76,718	73,718	0	0	0	73,718
Reserve -Community Developm	463,368	20,000	650,000	0	1,133,368	463,368	0	0	0	463,368
Reserve -Waste Management	130,705	5,000	0	0	135,705	130,705	0	0	0	130,705
Reserve -Swimming Pool Redev	483,996	3,000	500,000	(400,000)	586,996	483,996	0	0	(400,000)	83,996
Reserve -Roadworks	497,515	20,000	0	0	517,515	497,515	0	0	0	497,515
	4,315,820	86,000	1,795,000	(1,000,000)	5,196,820	4,315,820	0	0	(1,000,000)	3,315,820

5 CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS

Capital acquisitions	Adopted		YTD Actual	YTD Actual Variance
	Budget	YTD Budget		
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buildings - specialised	2,540,000	1,426,500	1,424,715	(1,785)
Furniture and equipment	235,000	76,530	76,217	(313)
Plant and equipment	485,000	266,500	272,730	6,230
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	3,260,000	1,769,530	1,773,662	4,132
Infrastructure - roads	2,054,500	1,528,700	1,155,010	(373,690)
Infrastructure-footpaths	320,000	275,000	304,086	29,086
Acquisition of infrastructure	2,374,500	1,803,700	1,459,095	(336,340)
Total capital acquisitions	5,634,500	3,573,230	3,232,758	(332,208)
Capital Acquisitions Funded By:				
Capital grants and contributions	1,407,590	1,130,325	1,275,853	145,528
Other (disposals & C/Fwd)	285,000	170,000	224,273	54,273
Reserve accounts				
Reserve -Building	600,000	0	600,000	600,000
Reserve -Swimming Pool Redevelopment	400,000	0	400,000	400,000
Contribution - operations	2,941,910	1,672,905	6,332,883	4,659,978
Capital funding total	5,634,500	3,573,230	9,433,009	5,859,779

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Each class of fixed assets within either plant and equipment or infrastructure, is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Assets for which the fair value as at the date of acquisition is under \$5,000 are not recognised as an asset in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 17A (5)*. These assets are expensed immediately.

Where multiple individual low value assets are purchased together as part of a larger asset or collectively forming a larger asset exceeding the threshold, the individual assets are recognised as one asset and capitalised.

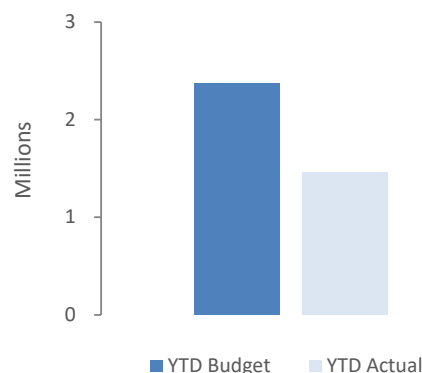
Initial recognition and measurement for assets held at cost

Plant and equipment including furniture and equipment is recognised at cost on acquisition in accordance with *Financial Management Regulation 17A*. Where acquired at no cost the asset is initially recognise at fair value. Assets held at cost are depreciated and assessed for impairment annually.

Initial recognition and measurement between mandatory revaluation dates for assets held at fair value

In relation to this initial measurement, cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. For assets acquired at zero cost or otherwise significantly less than fair value, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Shire includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

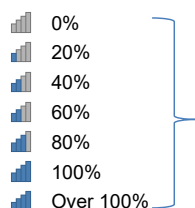
Payments for Capital Acquisitions



5 CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS - DETAILED

Capital expenditure total

Level of completion indicators



Percentage Year to Date Actual to Annual Budget expenditure where the expenditure over budget highlighted in red.

Level of completion indicator, please see table at the end of this note for further detail.

			Adopted		Variance
Account Description			Budget	YTD Budget	(Under)/Over
			\$	\$	\$
Building					0
07702	Purchase Buildings - Medical Centre Upgrades		20,000	12,000	222
08104	Purchase Land & Buildings- Leisure Centre Project		200,000	37,500	260
09127	Purchase - Staff Housing - Shed 4 Quartz Street		30,000	15,000	845
10702	Purchase Land & Buildings - Niche Wall Cemetery		20,000	10,000	(269)
11204	Purchase Land & Buildings -Kiosk/Ablution Redevelopmen		1,400,000	1,282,000	209
12220	Concrete Depot Shed-LB		20,000	-	-
13216	Museum Expansion Project - CAPITAL		850,000	70,000	517
			2,540,000	1,426,500	1,424,715
Furniture & Equipment					-
08203	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - Leisure Centre Project		95,000	2,530	350
11103	Purchase Furniture & Equipment -Generator Complex		70,000	40,000	(480)
11304	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - Stadium S/S Benches		10,000	4,000	(297)
11603	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - Playground Fencing		10,000	2,000	347
11607	Furniture & Equipment - Disabled Ramp Access @ Old Hall		20,000	-	-
14519	Admin Server - CAPITAL		30,000	28,000	394
			235,000	76,530	76,217
Plant & Equipment					-
07405	Purchase Plant - HCS Vehicle		65,000	38,000	229
12304	Telehandler - CAPITAL		180,000	105,500	45
12307	Outside Staff Veichles - CAPITAL		40,000	40,000	3,125
12309	Water Cart Trailer - CAPITAL		-	13,000	(8,931)
14520	CEO Vehicle - CAPITAL		120,000	-	-
14523	Administration Vehicle - CAPITAL		80,000	70,000	(698)
			485,000	266,500	272,730
Infrastructure-roads					-
C0010	Begley Road (No 0010)		44,500	37,080	8,393
C0023	Clothier Road (No 0023)		76,000	63,330	63,330
C0018	George Road (No 0015)		88,000	73,330	63,756
C0092	Leeman Road (No 0092)		44,000	36,660	1,773
C0011	Maxfield Road (No 0011)		78,000	65,000	65,000
C0025	Rabbit Proof Fence Road (No 0025)		76,000	41,670	(6,196)
C0025N	Rabbit Proof Fence Road North (No 0025)		82,000	-	-
C0069	Wahlsten Road (No 0069)		76,000	63,330	62,354
C0015	Echo Valley Gravel Resheet		98,000	81,660	(35,214)
C0030	Maisefield Gravel Resheet		130,000	108,330	26,593
C0021	Warrachuppin North Road (No 0021)		-	-	-
C0022	Henderson Roas (No 0022)		-	-	-
FLOOD	Bitumen Floodways		20,000	-	-
C0013	McPharlin Road (No 0013)		76,000	33,330	(7,691)
MRWA Project Construction					-
RRG84C	Warralakin Road Reconstruction		595,000	495,830	(116,090)
Roads to Recovery Construction					-
R2R04	Walgoolan South Road (No 0004)		85,000	70,830	(4,626)
R2R55	Diorite Street Roundsbout & Carport (No 0055)		170,000	141,660	138,810
R2R54	Jasper Street (No 0054)		160,000	133,330	126,227
R2R05	Warrachuppin Road (No 0005)		156,000	83,330	(12,727)
			2,054,500	1,528,700	1,155,010
Infrastructure-footpaths					-
12108	Footpath Construction		50,000	5,000	528
13107	Purchase Plant & Equipment - Warralakin Water Tank DWER		270,000	270,000	(29,614)
			320,000	275,000	304,086
			5,634,500	3,573,230	3,232,758
					311,387

6 DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Asset Ref.	Asset description	Budget				YTD Actual			
		Net Book	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)	Net Book	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)
		Value				Value			
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Plant and equipment								
507	HSC Vehicle - 09WT	23,000	35,000	12,000	0	22,453	32,000	9,547	0
415	Single Cab Ute	8,000	15,000	7,000	0	0	0	0	0
470	Telehandler	27,000	60,000	33,000	0	30,370	60,000	29,630	0
503	WT0339 StoneStar Water Tanker	0	0	0	0	45,748	62,273	16,525	0
558	Toyota LandCruiser - 0WT	118,000	100,000	0	(18,000)	0	0	0	0
545	Toyota Prado -02WT	61,000	75,000	14,000	0	59,057	70,000	10,943	0
		237,000	285,000	66,000	(18,000)	157,629	224,273	66,645	0

7 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

	Opening Balance 1 July 2024	Asset Increase	Asset Reduction	Closing Balance 30 April 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other current assets				
Inventory				
Fuel and materials	0	0	(39,376)	(39,376)
Total other current assets	0	0	(39,376)	(39,376)
Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)				

KEY INFORMATION

Other financial assets at amortised cost

The Shire classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

Inventory

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for resale

Land held for development and resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development, borrowing costs and holding costs until completion of development.

Borrowing costs and holding charges incurred after development is completed are expensed.

Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss at the time of signing an unconditional contract of sale if significant risks and rewards, and effective control over the land, are passed onto the buyer at this point.

Land held for resale is classified as current except where it is held as non-current based on the Council's intentions to release for sale.

Contract assets

A contract asset is the right to consideration in exchange for goods or services the entity has transferred to a customer when that right is conditioned on something other than the passage of time.

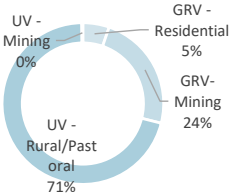
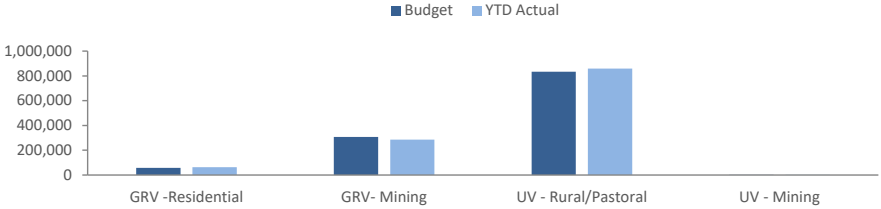
9 RATE REVENUE

General rate revenue

General rate revenue				Budget			YTD Actual		
RATE TYPE	Rate in \$ (cents)	Number of Properties	Rateable Value	Rate Revenue \$	Reassessed Rate Revenue \$	Total Revenue \$	Rate Revenue \$	Reassessed Rate Revenue \$	Total Revenue \$
Gross rental value									
GRV -Residential	0.07236	59	819,856	57,902	0	57,902	59,878	4,127	64,005
GRV- Mining	0.23534	2	1,216,200	307,303	0	307,303	286,217	0	286,217
Unimproved value									
UV - Rural/Pastoral	0.01171	127	73,305,447	833,500	0	833,500	858,457	0	858,457
UV - Mining	0.01171	6	221,011	2,630	0	2,630	2,596	0	2,596
Sub-Total		194	75,562,514	1,201,335	0	1,201,335	1,207,147	4,127	1,211,275
Minimum payment	Minimum Payment \$								
Gross rental value									
GRV -Residential	370	15	28,944	5,920	0	5,920	5,550	0	5,550
Unimproved value									
UV - Rural/Pastoral	370	19	200,253	7,030	0	7,030	7,030	0	7,030
UV - Mining	200	20	68,591	3,800	0	3,800	3,800	0	3,800
Sub-total		54	297,788	16,750	0	16,750	16,380	0	16,380
Amount from general rates						1,218,085			1,227,655
Ex-gratia rates						5,200			0
Total general rates						1,223,285			1,227,655
Total						1,223,285			1,227,655

KEY INFORMATION

Prepaid rates are, until the taxable event for the rates has occurred, refundable at the request of the ratepayer. Rates received in advance give rise to a financial liability. On 1 July the prepaid rates were recognised as a financial asset and a related amount was recognised as a financial liability and no income was recognised. When the taxable event occurs the financial liability is extinguished and income recognised for the prepaid rates that have not been refunded.



10 BORROWINGS

Repayments - borrowings

Information on borrowings		New Loans			Principal Repayments		Principal Outstanding		Interest Repayments	
Particulars	Loan No.	1 July 2024	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Antique Fuel Industry Museum Dis	1		600,000		0	0	600,000	0	0	0
Total		0	600,000	0	0	0	600,000	0	0	0
Non-current borrowings		0					600,000			
		0					600,000			

All debenture repayments were financed by general purpose revenue.

New borrowings 2024-25

Particulars	Amount Borrowed	Amount Borrowed	Institution	Loan Type	Term Years	Total Interest & Charges	Interest Rate	Amount (Used)		Balance Unspent
	Actual	Budget						Actual	Budget	
	\$	\$				\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Antique Fuel Industry Museum Dis	600,000	600,000	Treasury Corp	Semi- Annual	10	153,436	5	0	0	600,000
	600,000	600,000				153,436		0	0	600,000

KEY INFORMATION

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense when incurred except where they are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. Where this is the case, they are capitalised as part of the cost of the particular asset until such time as the asset is substantially ready for its intended use or sale.

Fair values of borrowings are not materially different to their carrying amounts, since the interest payable on those borrowings is either close to current market rates or the borrowings are of a short term nature. Non-current borrowings fair values are based on discounted cash flows using a current borrowing rate.

11 OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Other current liabilities	Note	Opening Balance 1 July 2024	Liability transferred from/(to) non current	Liability Increase	Liability Reduction	Closing Balance 30 April 2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Employee Related Provisions						
Provision for annual leave		179,808	0	0	0	179,808
Provision for long service leave		105,719	0	0	0	105,719
Total Provisions		285,527	0	0	0	285,527
Total other current liabilities		285,527	0	0	0	285,527

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)

A breakdown of contract liabilities and associated movements is provided on the following pages at Note

KEY INFORMATION

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Shire has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Employee Related Provisions

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the calculation of net current assets.

Other long-term employee benefits

The Shire's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as employee related provisions in the statement of financial position.

Long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur. The Shire's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Shire does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

Contract liabilities

An entity's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the entity has received consideration (or the amount is due) from the customer.

Capital grant/contribution liabilities

Grants to acquire or construct recognisable non-financial assets to identified specifications be constructed to be controlled by the Shire are recognised as a liability until such time as the Shire satisfies its obligations under the agreement.

12 GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Provider	Grants, subsidies and contributions revenue				YTD Revenue Actual
	Adopted Budget Revenue	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	Expected	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grants and subsidies					
Grants Commission Grant Received - General	178,000	121,500	178,000	178,000	115,310
Grants Commission Grant Received- Roads	107,000	53,000	107,000	107,000	46,181
FESA Operating Grant	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,434
LRCIP Grant Round 4 Kiosk/Ablution	259,000	208,000	259,000	259,000	207,126
Grant - MRWA Direct	193,500	193,500	193,500	193,500	193,449
	770,500	609,000	770,500	770,500	595,501
Contributions					
Edna May MOU Emergency Services	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	13,636
Income School Facility/Main Building	0	0	0	0	109
Income Relating to Aged & Disabled - Senior Citize	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	0
Income 20 Diorite St -Rental	0	0	0	0	120
Income 301 Pyrite Street - Senior Finance Officer	0	0	0	0	120
Income Relating to Public Halls & Civic Centres	0	0	0	0	109
Income Edna May MOU 33%	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	20,583
Income Edna May MOU WPA 67%	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	41,791
Swimming Pool Donations	0	2,500	0	0	2,500
DFES Grant	35,000	16,000	35,000	35,000	16,022
LRCIP Grant Round 3 Stadium Final	180,500	180,500	180,500	180,500	180,616
Income Relating to Streets, Roads, Bridges & Depo	0	0	0	0	55
Grant -Electric Car Charging Station	100	0	100	100	0
Warralakin Water Tank DWER	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	0
Loan Proceeds	600,000	0	600,000	600,000	0
Grant Funding Opportunities	40,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	20,000
Events Income	0	0	0	0	2,000
LotteryWest Grant- Muesuem	0	0	0	0	227,273
DPIRD Grants Funding (CRC)	110,000	92,000	110,000	110,000	91,614
	1,299,600	640,000	1,299,600	1,299,600	616,547
TOTALS	2,070,100	1,249,000	2,070,100	2,070,100	1,212,048

13 CAPITAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Provider	Capital grants, subsidies and contributions revenue				YTD
	Adopted	YTD	Annual	Expected	Revenue
	Budget	Budget	Budget		Actual
	Revenue				
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital grants and subsidies					
LotteryWest	250,000	130,000	250,000	250,000	135,975
Collgar Renewables	10,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000
Income -Sale of 37 Diorite St, Westonia - CAPITAL	80,000	0	80,000	80,000	0
Income Relating to Libraries	100	75	100	100	0
Grant - MRWA Project	0	0	0	0	87,568
Grant - MRWA Specific	396,490	350,250	396,490	396,490	350,270
Grant - Roads to Recovery	421,000	415,000	421,000	421,000	415,000
Warralakin Water Tank DWER	0	0	0	0	281,131
LotteryWest Grant- Muesuem	250,000	230,000	250,000	250,000	909
TOTALS	1,407,590	1,130,325	1,407,590	1,407,590	1,275,853



SHIRE OF WESTONIA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2025

14 TRUST FUND

Funds held at balance date which are required by legislation to be credited to the trust fund and which are not included in the financial statements are as follows:

Description	Opening Balance 1 July 2024	Amount Received	Amount Paid	Closing Balance 30 Apr 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$
LGMA - Receipts	7,272	0	(7,272)	(0)
Westonia Tennis Club	9,202	0	0	9,202
Westonia Historical Society	23,445	2,000	0	25,445
Cemetery Committee	8,292	2,000	90	10,382
	48,211	4,000	(7,182)	45,029

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – APRIL 2025

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

Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision ☒ Legislative Requirement

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

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at April 2025 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 \$23,243.00 for the period ending April 2025 adopted.

Shire of Westonia
Business Activity Statement
April 2025

Total Sales and Purchases		\$
G1	Total Sales	290,521
G3	Other GST Free Sales	85,671
G4	Input Taxed	18,000
G10	Capital Purchases	61,620
G11	Non-Capital Purchases	138,080

Amounts you owe the ATO (Credits in ledger)		\$
1A/ G9	GST On Sales (GL Balance)	16,986
4	PAYG (GL 94660)	24,816
6A	FBT Instalment	
7C	Fuel Tax credit over claim	-
<i>Total you owe the ATO</i>		<u>41,802</u>


PAYG		\$
W1	Total Salary Wages & Other	117,539
W2	Amount withheld from Payments at W1	24,816
W4	Amount withheld where no ABN is quoted	
W3	Other amounts withheld	

Amounts the ATO owes you (Debits in ledger)		\$
1B/ G20	GST on Purchases (GL Balance)	14,892
7D	Fuel Tax Credit	3,667
<i>Total the ATO owes you</i>		<u>18,559</u>


FBT		\$
F1	FBT Instalment Amount	

Activity Statement Net Amount		\$
Amounts you owe the ATO (Credits in ledger)		41,802
Amounts the ATO owes you (Debits in ledger)		18,559
Payment (Red - Refund)		<u>23,243</u>

Authorisation

Prepared By: 


Date: 15/05/2025

Checked & Lodged By: 

Date: 15/05/2025

BAS Journal		
Debit	Credit	Description
1405000 - GST Income (Liability)	16,986	BAS liability due to ATO
1406010 - PAYG Tax Gen	24,816	PAYG paid to ATO
1304000 - GST Expense (Asset)	14,892	BAS purchases claimed from ATO
1144040.114 - Fuel Tax Credit Gen	3,667	FTC
1145090.580 - Fringe Benefits Tax - Admin Gen		FBT
1142210.502 - Fringe Benefits Tax - Works Gen		FBT
1406020 - ATO Clearing Account	23,243	Due from/to ATO
		BAS-Rounding
	<u>41,802</u>	<u>41,802</u>

9.1.4 LEASE EXTENSIONS- RAMELIUS

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

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to enter into lease agreement extensions with Ramelius Edna May Operations for the following Council properties

- Industrial Shed Wolfram Street
- Carpark Jasper Street
- Camp Accommodation Jasper Street

Background

Council would be aware having lease agreements with the Edna May Operations for the life of the project to date and that the term for the Industrial Shed and Carpark leases have previously expired with the leases being operated under a holding over clause. The Camp Accommodation lease is due to expire on 30 June 2025.

Ramelius has expressed an interest in extending the said leases for a further period of 5 years (4 years 6 months in the case of the Camp) up to and until 31 December 2029, whilst the operations are in a Care and Maintenance period, likely resulting in a sale.

Comment

As the Industrial Shed and Carpark Lease terms had expired, I have tasked WA Property Lawyers to provide new modern lease documents for this purpose.

As the existing Camp lease term does not expire until 30 June 2025, WA Property Lawyers have provided a Deed of Extension and Variation of Sublease for this purpose.

Statutory Environment

S3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995 – Disposal of Assets.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Economic – Partner with the mine to develop long term business plans for the mine.

Financial Implications

Additional lease income generated from the leasing of 3 x Council assets.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority




Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council enter into 5-year lease agreement extensions with Ramelius Edna May Operations ending 31st December 2029 for the following Council properties

- Industrial Shed Wolfram Street
- Carpark Jasper Street
- Camp Accommodation Jasper Street

9.1.5 DIFFERENTIAL RATES

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	R1.1.1 Rates General	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	1. Differential Rates Advert 25/26, 2. Objects & Reasons for Differential Rates, 3. Statement of Rating Information	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The Purpose of this report is for Council to propose a Differential rate and initiate the legislative due process for doing so.

Summary

Council is requested to support the differential rates in the dollar and minimums proposed for the 2025/2026 financial year and advertise the proposed rates for a 21 day comment period. Council is required to seek Minister approval for proposing to impose a Mining GRV differential rate that is more than twice the lowest rate.

Background

In accordance with sections 1.7 and 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 (after 1st May).

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

Community / Stakeholder Consultation:

An advertisement on the 23rd May 2025 will be included in the public notice section of the Newspaper circulated in the district. The community will have 21 days to make submissions. (16th June 2025)

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 2025/2026 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 are 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 legislation allows these rates 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 2024/2025 and the rate in cents and minimum amounts; GRV Rate Category:

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	7.2360	370.00
GRV Mining	23.538	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.1710	370.00
UV - Mining	1.1710	200.00

The Proposed rates for 2025/2026 are listed below:

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.384	370.00
GRV Mining	24.710	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.077	370.00
UV - Mining	1.077	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

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The Shire's principal 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 or you will see a reduction in services.

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. Reviews and adopts the statements in relation to
 - a) Objects and Reasons for implementing a Differential Rate 2025-26
 - b) Statement of Rating Information 2025-26
2. Support the following differential rates in the dollar and minimum payments for the GRV and UV rated properties, subject to finalisation of the 2025-26 draft budget:

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.384	370.00
GRV Mining	24.710	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.077	370.00
UV - Mining	1.077	200.00

3. Seek the Minister for Local Government's approval to impose differential general rates more than twice the lowest rate; and
4. That Council publicly advertises its intention to impose differential rates, pursuant to section 6.36 (1) of the Local Government Act 1995 and invites public submissions for a period of twenty-one days; and
5. That Council consider any submissions in respect of imposition of differential rates as part of the 2025-26 Budget deliberations.



SHIRE OF WESTONIA
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2025/2026

Pursuant to Section 6.33 and 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, notice is hereby given to ratepayers of the intention of the Shire of Westonia to impose the following differential and minimum rates for the 2025/2026 rating year. This rate is taking into consideration Council's proposal at May meeting to impose a 5% rate increase:

RATE IN THE DOLLAR

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.384	370.00
GRV Mining	24.710	370.00
UV - Rural/Pastoral	1.077	370.00
UV - Mining	1.077	200.00

The proposed rates-in-the-dollar and minimum payments are based on estimates at the time of giving public notice and may change as part of Council's 2025/26 budget consideration. The object and reasons for each proposed rate may be inspected at the Shire Office, Wolfram Street, Westonia during normal business hours or by visiting our web site www.westonia.wa.gov.au. All submissions in writing with reference to the proposed differential rates or minimum payments should be forwarded to the Shire of Westonia no later than 12.00pm Monday 16th June 2025.

Bill Price
Chief Executive Officer

Base

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		7.985	61589.99	14	0.00	65453.07	6.27	19.12
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.025		860396.00	20	0.00	865605.95	0.60	20.46
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		23.534	286216.86		0.00	286216.86	0.00	-2.23
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.025		2533.96	13	0.00	4699.68	85.46	15.12
	241	84163642.00	1987520.00				1210736.81			1221975.56	92.33	52.47

2% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.145	62821.77	14	0.00	66658.52	6.10	21.31
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.046		877598.80	20	0.00	882764.96	0.58	22.85
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		24.000	291888.00		0.00	291888.00	0.00	-0.29
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.046		2584.60	13	0.00	4741.67	83.45	16.15
							1234893.17			1246053.15	90.13	60.02

102%

3% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.225	63437.22	14	0.00	67260.84	6.02	22.41
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.056		886158.24	20	0.00	891302.62	0.58	24.04
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		24.239	294794.72		0.00	294794.72	0.00	0.70
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.056		2609.83	13	0.00	4762.55	82.48	16.66
							1247000.01			1258120.73	89.08	63.81

103%

4% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.384	64668.98	13	0.00	68471.22	5.87	24.61
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.066		894801.76	20	0.00	899924.13	0.57	25.24
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		24.475	297664.95		0.00	297664.95	0.00	1.68
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.066		2635.29	13	0.00	4783.64	81.52	17.17
							1259770.98			1270843.94	87.96	68.70

104%

5% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.384	64667.46	13	0.00	68469.72	5.87	24.61
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.077		903361.46	20	0.00	908462.03	0.56	26.43
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		24.710	300523.02		0.00	300523.02	0.00	2.66
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.077		2660.49	13	0.00	4804.53	80.58	17.69
							1271212.43			1282259.30	87.01	71.39

105%

6% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.464	65285.28	13	0.00	69077.93	5.80	25.72
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.087		912004.53	20	0.00	917083.13	0.55	27.63
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		24.945	303381.09		0.00	303381.09	0.00	3.64
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.087		2685.95	13	0.00	4825.62	79.66	18.20
							1283356.85			1294367.77	86.01	75.19

106%

7% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.544	65900.79	13	0.00	69683.83	5.74	26.82
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.097		920564.05	20	0.00	925620.83	0.54	28.82
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		25.181	306252.54		0.00	306252.54	0.00	4.62
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.097		2711.18	13	0.00	4846.53	78.76	18.71
							1295428.56			1306403.73	85.04	78.97

107%

8% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.624	66517.07	13	0.00	70290.53	5.67	27.92
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.107		929207.53	20	0.00	934242.33	0.54	30.02
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		25.416	309114.26		0.00	309114.26	0.00	5.59
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.107		2736.60	13	0.00	4867.60	77.87	19.23
							1307575.46			1318514.72	84.08	82.76

108%

9% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.704	67132.56	13	0.00	70896.42	5.60	29.03
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.118		937767.23	20	0.00	942780.22	0.53	31.20
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		25.651	311967.46		0.00	311967.46	0.00	6.57
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.118		2761.83	13	0.00	4888.49	77.00	19.74
							1319629.08			1330532.59	83.13	86.54

109%

10% Increase

	Total Props	UV Value	GRV Value	Min Amts	UV %	GRV %	Calculated Rates	Props on Min	Concession	Actual Rates to Raise	% Var Exp	% Var LY
GRV	72	0.00	771320.00	370.00		8.783	67745.05	12	0.00	71499.98	5.54	30.12
UV	149	83916500.00	0.00	370.00	1.128		946410.32	20	0.00	951401.34	0.52	32.40
GRV MINING	2	0.00	1216200.00	370.00		25.887	314837.69		0.00	314837.69	0.00	7.55
UV MINING	18	247142.00	0.00	200.00	1.128		2787.26	13	0.00	4909.59	76.14	20.26
							1331780.32			1342648.60	82.20	90.33

110%



SHIRE OF WESTONIA 2024/2025 DIFFERENTIAL RATES STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Objects and Reasons for Implementing a Differential Rate

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the **Local Government Act 1995** and the Council's "Notice of Intention to Impose Differential Rates", the following Information details the objectives and reasons for those proposals.

What are Rates?

The raising of rates is the primary source of revenue of all Councils throughout Australia. The purpose of levying rates is to meet Council's proposed budget requirements each year in a manner that is fair and equitable to the ratepayers of the community.

In Western Australia land is valued by Landgate Valuation Services (Valuer General's Office – a State Government agency) and those values are forwarded to each Local Government.

Two types of values are calculated:

- Gross Rental Value (GRV); and
- Unimproved Value (UV)

To calculate the rates to be charged, Council multiplies a rate in the dollar by the supplied value. The rate in the dollar is determined by the level of revenue the Council wishes to raise and is dependent on its proposed budget.

Apart from the need to ensure sufficient revenue to meet its expenditure needs, Council must be mindful of the impact and affordability of rates to the community.

The following are the estimated Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the Shire of Westonia for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Rating Category	Minimum Rate	Rate in the Dollar (cents)
GRV General	\$370	8.384
GRV Mining	\$370	24.710
UV - Rural/Pastoral	\$370	1.077
UV - Mining	\$200	1.077

Differential Rating

Local Governments, under section 6.33 of the Local Government Act, have the power to implement differential rating in order to take into account certain characteristics of the rateable land. These characteristics include:

- The purpose for which the land is zoned under the town planning scheme in force;
- The predominant use for which the land is held or used as determined by the local government; and

Differential rates may be applied according to any, or a combination of the above characteristics. However, local governments are constrained in the range of differential rates that they may impose. That is, a local government may not impose a differential rate which is more than twice the lowest differential rate applied by that local government unless approval from the Minister is sought.

The Shire of Westonia proposes to Differentially Rate all Gross Rental Value (GRV) Mining rates to the Gold Mine as the land has an improved classification. The minimum payments proposed for all rate categories have been set at \$370, which are considered to be the maximum for the long term, with the exception of UV Mining which is set at \$200.00. and infrastructure to the entire community and visitors to the area.

GRV – Residential

The object of the GRV rates and minimum payments is to ensure a fair contribution to the revenue requirements of the Shire, while not imposing additional financial pressure on town residents. The minimum payments proposed for all rate categories have been set at \$370, which are considered to be the maximum for the long term. The proposed rate in dollar for GRV Residential is 8.384 cents in the dollar.

GRV – Mining

The object of the GRV rates associated with the Gold Mine is to ensure the mine contributes to the maintenance of the Shire's assets and services to the extent that the mining operators and their connections use them. The population of the 160-man mining camp situated in the Westonia townsite almost triples that of the general population of the town and creates a massive burden on the Council's resources. The minimum payments proposed for all rate categories have been set at \$370, which are considered to be the maximum for the long term. The proposed rate in dollar for GRV Mining is 24.710 cents in the dollar.

UV – Rural

The object of the UV Rural rate is to permit the imposition of rates on Rural Properties that is reasonably proportional to the financial resources of those who will bear the burden of the rates and striking a reasonable balance between the capacity to pay and the fairness of the requirement. The minimum payments proposed for all rate categories have been set at \$370, which are considered to be the maximum for the long term. The proposed rate in dollar for UV Rural is 1.077 cents in the dollar.

UV – Mining

The object of the UV Mining rate is to ensure a fair contribution to the revenue requirements of the Shire and to permit the imposition of rates on mining tenements that is reasonably proportional to the financial resources of those who will bear the burden of the rates and striking a reasonable balance between the capacity to pay and the fairness of the requirement. The minimum payments proposed for all rate categories have been set at \$200, *as per section 6.35 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 53 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* which are considered to be the maximum for the long term, subject to section 6.33 of the Local Government Act. The proposed rate in dollar for UV Mining is 1. 077 cents in the dollar.

GRV Differential Rate - Mining

The Local Government Act 1995 determines that properties of a non-Rural purpose be rated using the Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) as the basis for the calculation of annual rates. The Valuer General determines the GRV for all properties within the Shire of Westonia every five years and assigns a GRV.

The current valuation is effective from 1 July 2024. Interim valuations are provided monthly to Council by the Valuer General for properties where changes have occurred (i.e. subdivisions or strata title of property, amalgamations, building constructions, demolition, additions and/or property rezoning). In such instances Council recalculates the rates for the affected properties and issues interim rates notices.

It refers to all land for which a mining tenement has been issued by the Department of

Mines and Petroleum (DMP), and valued as such by the Valuer General's Office
The valuation determined by the Valuer General for mining tenements is calculated by multiplying the following factors.

- Rental cost of the tenement type (mining lease, prospecting lease, exploration license, petroleum producing licence etc);
- GRV basis as determined by the DMP, and
- Tenement/license area

Objects and Reasons for GRV Mining Differential Rate

Land used for Mining is rated higher than the UV-Rural differential rate to improve fairness and equity outcomes by:

- Ensuring mining rates payable are no less than the average rates payable, per property, in

Policy Area C (General Farming), in part to;

- compensate for the different method and comparatively lower valuation level;
 - to recognise the often short term tenure of mining projects in the region; and
 - to maintain comparability with other commercial operations in the rural sector.
- Applying a percentage premium above the average rates payable, per property, in Policy

Area C (General Farming), at a level determined by the Council, to reflect the following:

- the impacts of higher road infrastructure maintenance costs to Council as a result of frequent very heavy vehicle use over extensive lengths of roads throughout the year;
- additional emergency service arrangements that have to be put in place;
- the monitoring of environmental impacts of clearing, noise, dust and smell;
- planning, building and health assessment cost; and
- additional costs of amenities and services provided to cater for the employees of the mining operations, such as recreation, parking and law, order and public safety.

Minimum Payments

The setting of general minimum payment level within all rating categories is an important method of ensuring all properties contribute an equitable rate amount to non-exclusive services.

Submissions

Submissions are invited from any elector or ratepayer with respect to the proposed rates, and any related matter, within a minimum 21 days of the date of this notice. Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Westonia, PO Box 11, WESTONIA WA 6423, by 12.00pm Monday 16th June 2025.

Submissions should be clearly marked 'Submission – 2025/2026 Differential Rates.

Bill Price

Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Westonia.



Statement of Rating Information 2025-26

Including Objects and Reasons for the Current Rating Structure

This Statement is published by the Shire of Westonia in accordance with Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995 to advise the public of its objectives and reasons for implementing differential rates.

The purpose of levying of rates is to meet Council's budget requirements in each financial year in order to deliver services, facilities and community infrastructure. Property valuations provided by the Valuer General are used as the basis for the calculation of rates each year. Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act provides the ability to differentially rate properties based on zoning and/or land use as determined by the Shire of Westonia. The application of differential rating maintains equity in the rating of properties across the Shire, enabling the Council to provide facilities, services and infrastructure to the entire community and visitors to the area.

Gross Rental Values (GRV)

The Local Government Act 1995 provides that properties of a non-rural purpose be rated using the Gross Rental Valuation (GRV) as the basis for the calculation of annual rates. The Valuer General determines the GRV for all properties with a non-rural purpose within the Shire of Westonia approximately every five years and provides a GRV. The current valuation is effective from 1 July 2024. Interim valuations are provided regularly to Council by the Valuer General for properties where changes have occurred during the year (i.e. subdivisions or strata title of property, amalgamations, building constructions, demolition, additions and/or property rezoning). In such instances Council recalculates the rates for the affected properties and issues interim rate notices.

GRV – General Rate

All land within the Shire used for non-rural purposes (GRV) is rated using a uniform GRV Rate. The uniform rate is calculated and adopted after the consideration of many factors such as current economic conditions, increases to land valuations as assessed by the Valuer General's Office, the infrastructure and service improvement proposals contained in the Budget, as well as other factors. The rate in the dollar set for the GRV-General category forms the basis for calculating all other GRV differential rates.

Unimproved Values (UV)

The Local Government Act 1995 provides that properties predominantly used for a rural purpose are assigned an Unimproved Value as supplied and reviewed by the Valuer General on an annual basis. The unimproved value of land refers to the market value of the land in its natural state without improvements such as buildings, fences, dams etc. Interim valuations are provided regularly to Council by the Valuer General for properties where changes have occurred during the year (i.e. subdivisions of property, amalgamations, and/or property rezoning). In such instances Council recalculates the rates for the affected properties and issues interim rate notices. It is considered that for this financial year the valuations imposed by the Valuer General

provides the capacity for the additional rate contributions that may be required from different zoning/land use and therefore the need for a differential rate is not deemed necessary.

GRV Differential Rate - Mining

The Local Government Act provides for rural use properties used for mining, exploration or prospecting purposes are assigned a Gross Rental Value supplied and reviewed by the Valuer General. It refers to all land for which a mining tenement has been issued by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) and valued as such by the Valuer General's Office.

The valuation determined by the Valuer General for mining tenements is calculated by multiplying the following factors.

- Rental cost of the tenement type (mining lease, prospecting lease, exploration license, petroleum producing licence etc);
- GRV basis as determined by the DMP, and
- Tenement/license area

The valuation of mining tenements is not reviewed each year, as occurs with other UV properties and only changes when the tenement rental is amended.

Objects and Reasons for GRV Mining Differential Rate

Land used for Mining is rated higher than the GRV-General rate to improve fairness and equity outcomes by:

- Ensuring mining rates payable are no less than the average rates payable, per property, in part to;
 - compensate for the different method and comparatively lower valuation level;
 - to recognise the often short term tenure of mining projects in the region; and
 - to maintain comparability with other commercial operations in the rural sector.
- Applying a percentage premium above the average rates payable, per property, at a level determined by the Council, to reflect the following:
 - the impacts of higher road infrastructure maintenance costs to Council as a result of frequent very heavy vehicle use over extensive lengths of roads throughout the year;
 - additional emergency service arrangements that have to be put in place;
 - the monitoring of environmental impacts of clearing, noise, dust and smell;
 - planning, building and health assessment cost; and
 - additional costs of amenities and services provided to cater for the employees of the mining operations, such as recreation, parking and law, order and public safety due to the increased population of the 160 man mining camp situated in the Westonia townsite which almost triples the population of the town and creates a massive burden on Council's resources.

Minimum Payments

The setting of general minimum payment level within all rating categories is an important method of ensuring all properties contribute an equitable rate amount to non-exclusive services.

Objections & Appeals

Objections to valuations must be lodged with the Valuer General's Office within 60 days after issue of the rates notice. Rates are still required to be paid if an objection is lodged with a refund paid if the objection is successful. Forms are available from the Shire Office or on our web site.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995, a property owner is able to lodge an objection to the rates imposed by a Council on the following grounds:

- There is an error on the rate assessment, either in respect to the owners or property details; or
- The characteristics of the land differ from that used in the differential rating system. The objection is to be received within 60 days of the issue of the rate notice.

Please contact Shire Staff if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Pensioner's Discount

Eligible Pensioners are entitled to receive a discount on their rates. Council shall determine the nature and extent of entitlement from details as at 1 July, in relation to ownership and occupation. Also a pro-rata rebate amount will be paid if a person becomes the holder of an eligible card type during the financial year which is effective from the date of registration. A deferral arrangement is also possible.

If the circumstances of a Pensioner, who is already claiming the rebate, have changed during the previous year, they will need to update their details (ie. card number, etc) with Council.

Submissions


Submissions are invited from any elector or ratepayer with respect to the proposed rates, and any related matter, within a minimum 21 days of the date of this notice. Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Westonia, PO Box 11, WESTONIA WA 6423, by 12.00pm Monday 16th June 2025

Submissions should be clearly marked 'Submission – 2025/2026 Differential Rates.

Bill Price
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Westonia.

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS

9.2.1 FUNDING APPLICATION COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Draft Application CWSP Program	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

☒ Executive Decision ☐ Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the application submitted on behalf of WEROC Councils to the Community Water Supply Partnership Program (CWSP) to undertake a comprehensive audit and compile a strategic plan for sustainable water supplies in the future.

Background

The Community Water Supply Partnership Program is a joint funded program involving both the Federal and State Government. It provides regional communities in dryland agricultural areas with funding to improve their non-potable water supplies and is administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

The WEROC meeting held on the 7th May 2025 it was resolved by the Board to make a funding application to the program on behalf of all Council's.

Comment

The aim of this project is to ensure long-term water security for our communities. Developing a water strategy is essential to achieving this, as it will support informed planning and prioritisation of water infrastructure investments over the short, medium, and long term. Through this project we expect to gain a better understanding of:

1. The capacity of our existing potable and non-potable water supply and how well this is equipped to meet both current and future demands,
2. How we can make better use of existing water infrastructure and resources,
3. How we can increase water capture and storage to reduce reliance on the scheme supply; and
4. What alternative water sources exist that we are not currently utilising.

The Shire of Westonia will offer in-kind support for the project through staff time, venue hire, transport, catering, office expenses, and other assistance as needed to facilitate community engagement and data collection activities.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Having a Strategic Water Supply Plan for the district for the future.



Financial Implications

Council in-kind support is required and maybe a small financial co contribution will be required to be determined once the preferred consultant is selected.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorse the application submitted on behalf of WEROC Councils to the Community Water Supply Partnership Program (CWSP) to undertake a comprehensive audit and compile a strategic plan for sustainable water supplies in the future.

Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) program

CWSP

The Community Water Supplies Partnerships (CWSP) program is 50:50 co-funded by the National Water Grid Connections Fund and the Western Australian Government through Royalties for Regions. It provides regional communities in dryland agricultural areas with funding to improve their non-potable water supplies and is administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department).

Program objectives

- To assist broadacre farming communities in establishing or improving non-potable water supplies
- Increase water available for emergency livestock and firefighting to better prepare communities for periods of low rainfall
- Ensure water is available for public amenities to reduce reliance on potable water supplies for non-potable needs
- Provide assistance to areas that have a history of water deficiency or where on-farm and non-potable community water supplies are unreliable

What are the priority funding objectives?

- Establish or upgrade strategic emergency water supplies for firefighting and livestock
- A project must provide clear benefits to the community
- Reduce reliance on scheme water; and
- Increase public amenities through the irrigation of open spaces, such as ovals, gardens and parks

How much funding is available?

- Up to \$100,000 is available for each project and all funds must be acquitted within two years of award
- Funding requests of above \$100,000 may be considered subject to approval by the department
- Multiple projects can be applied for per LGA.

How much co-contribution must applicants make?

- Applicants must contribute a minimum of 30 per cent of the total project cost
- Greater co-contribution ratios will be held in higher regard
- Contribution may include in-kind funding
- Please note that the grant amount cannot be increased. The onus is on the applicant to ensure they have contingency funds outside of the project budget to cover any unexpected increases in costs associated with the project
- Funds received from other government funding programs cannot be used to satisfy the Community Water Supply Program co-contribution requirement.

Who is responsible for ongoing operation and management of infrastructure purchased through program funding?

- The department will not be responsible for the ongoing operation, management and associated costs of infrastructure purchases with program funds
- Applicants must explain how they will meet ongoing operation and management requirements, and any necessary agreements must be in place
- It is important that community water supplies are maintained following the completion of the project.

CWSP WISER R5 2025

CWSP WISER Application Form 2025

Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

The department will use the information provided in this form to assess whether a project is eligible for funding. All sections must be completed in sufficient detail. All supporting documentation referred to in your application must be submitted with the completed application form.

Applications must be submitted in the appropriate template to ensure all required information is provided. At any stage during the assessment process, the department may request further information or clarification from the applicant.

When you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your submitted application attached. This will be sent to the email you used to register with Smartygrants.

If you do not receive an email within 24 hours after submitting your application, please contact us on 1800 780 300.

The level of detail required is based on the complexity of the proposed project. It is recommended that you discuss your project with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Rural Water Planning team as early as possible in this process.

Before starting an application, please ensure you have read the [Information for Applicants](#) handout.

For further information please contact the Rural Water Planning team via ruralwater@dwer.wa.gov.au

Application form

*** indicates a required field**

Local Government Authority *

Shire of Bruce Rock, Shire of Cunderdin, Shire of Kellerberrin, Shire of Merredin, Shire of Tammin, Shire of Westonia, Shire of Yilgarn

Name of local government authority or group making this application *

WHEATBELT EAST REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS INC

Applicant name *

Mrs Rebekah Burges

Applicant position *

Executive Officer

E.g. Works Manager, NRM

Applicant project Address *

3570 Goomalling-Meckering Rd
Meckering WA 6405 Australia

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Applicant contact phone number *

0428 871 202

Must be an Australian phone number.

CWSP WISER R5 2025

CWSP WISER Application Form 2025

Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

Applicant mobile phone number

0428 871 202

Must be an Australian phone number.

If different to contact phone

Applicant contact Email *

rebekah@150square.com.au

Must be an email address.

Other email address (if required)

rebekah.burges@bigpond.com

Project Title (brief is best) *

Securing Water for the Future: WEROC Sustainable Water Supply Planning

1. Dryland agriculture area

*** indicates a required field**

A) Is the local government within the dryland agricultural area receiving less than 600mm average rainfall per annum?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If no please contact the department to discuss your eligibility.

B) Has rainfall been declining in the local government over the past 30 years? Please provide reference data as an attachment or detail in the comments box below. (ie Bureau of Meteorology, DPIRD, etc.) *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Upload supporting data *

Filename: 2024-state-of-the-climate.pdf

File size: 10.6 MB

Filename: Bruce_Rock_future_climate.pdf

File size: 713.2 kB

Filename: Cunderdin_future_climate.pdf

File size: 709.2 kB

Filename: Kellerberrin_future_climate.pdf

File size: 712.4 kB

Filename: Merredin_future_climate.pdf

File size: 712.4 kB

Filename: Southern_Cross_future_climate.pdf

File size: 712.8 kB

Filename: Tammin_future_climate.pdf

CWSP WISER R5 2025

CWSP WISER Application Form 2025

Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

File size: 712.2 kB

Filename: Western_Australian_Climate_Projections_Summary.pdf
File size: 5.0 MB

Filename: Westonia_future_climate.pdf
File size: 712.5 kB

Comments *

The south-west of Western Australia, which includes the seven WEROC Shires, has experienced a sustained and well-documented decline in annual rainfall since the 1970s. According to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Western Australia Climate Projections Summary (2021), this region has recorded the greatest reduction in rainfall of any area in Australia—and this drying trend is expected to continue.

Supporting this, the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO's State of the Climate 2024 report highlights a significant long-term decline in rainfall across the south-west. Specifically, rainfall from April to October has decreased by approximately 16%, and from May to July by around 20% since 1970.

DWER's climate projection summary indicates that, under all emissions scenarios, winter rainfall in the south-west is expected to decrease by up to 15% by 2030. Concurrently, evaporation rates are projected to rise due to hotter and drier conditions, further intensifying the risk of drought and reduced water availability.

The Australian Governments, My Climate View, tool provides tailored insights into changing climate conditions for specific locations. This information indicates that under a medium emissions scenario, the WEROC Shires will experience on average a 23mm decline in average annual rainfall over the coming decades.

Is there a history of Water Deficiency Declarations and if so how many in the past 10 years? *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Comment box

C) Local Government water management strategy - Does the local government have a water management strategy (or similar)? *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, how does this proposal fit into the strategy?

2. Scope

* indicates a required field

2.1 Project description *

This project will deliver tailored water strategies for each of the seven local governments that form the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC): Bruce Rock,

Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Tammin, Westonia, Merredin, and Yilgarn.

The scope of work includes establishing a robust baseline of data to support projections of future water demand. A comprehensive audit of existing water supplies will be conducted to identify current sources, assess their capacity, and highlight any vulnerabilities that may affect their reliability in the future.

Engagement with key stakeholders will form a central part of the planning process. This will include consultation with the Water Corporation to understand any planned developments or changes to scheme water supply in each local government area over the coming decade. Input from WEROC communities will also be sought to explore local perspectives and preferences regarding future water supply options.

The outcome of the project will be a prioritised list of actionable projects aimed at securing a long-term, sustainable water supply for each of the seven WEROC Shires.

Provide a description of the project and its components (e.g. construction of new tanks or dams).
Provide details if the project receives funding from other sources.

2.2 Purpose *

This project aims to secure long-term water sustainability for communities within the WEROC region. Developing tailored water strategies for each of the seven WEROC local government areas is critical to achieving this goal. These strategies will guide informed decision-making and help prioritise water infrastructure investments over the short, medium, and long term.

By identifying a clear list of priority projects, these strategies will support more effective and strategic investment in water supply initiatives.

Each participating Shire will gain insights into:

- Projected water demand over the next 10 years
- The ability of current potable and non-potable water supplies to meet both current and future needs
- Opportunities to maximise the efficiency of existing water infrastructure and resources
- Options for increasing water capture and storage to reduce dependency on the scheme supply—particularly for irrigating community spaces such as ovals, parks, and gardens
- Potential alternative water sources that have yet to be explored

Describe the purpose of the project.

2.3 Benefits

Describe the benefits of the project, including social, economic and environmental

2.3.1 Social *

As detailed earlier in this application, the south-west of Western Australia, which includes the seven WEROC Shires, has experienced a consistent and well-documented decline in annual rainfall since the 1970s. Current climate projections indicate that this trend will continue, leading to reduced water availability and increased pressure on scheme water supplies.

As water becomes scarcer, restrictions on outdoor water use will become increasingly necessary. This presents challenges for social infrastructure—such as sports fields, parks, and public gardens—that rely on regular irrigation. These community assets are vital to the livability, health, and sustainability of rural towns.

This project will assess social infrastructure across the WEROC region to identify facilities currently reliant on scheme water and therefore at risk in the face of future water constraints. It will also identify and evaluate alternative, sustainable water sources—such

as stormwater harvesting, groundwater reuse, or treated wastewater—that can be used to maintain these critical community assets.

By securing water supply for green and recreational spaces, the project will enhance the long-term resilience of rural communities, protect vital public infrastructure, and support continued population retention.

What is the expected benefit from this water (e.g. will it be used for facilities that are currently under watered, or where water is not available?).

2.3.2 Economic *

Water is critical to the economic prosperity of communities across the WEROC region. Key industries such as agriculture and mining rely heavily on a consistent and reliable water supply for their day-to-day operations. Any disruptions or constraints in water availability pose a significant risk to these sectors, which in turn threatens the broader economic stability of the region.

This project will identify priority areas for water supply development to support both existing industries and future expansion. It will also provide a clear understanding of water demand and the water quality requirements specific to different industrial activities.

The water strategies will focus on reducing reliance on scheme water by helping each Shire optimise existing water resources and explore alternative sources to meet current and future needs. Reliable access to water is a key consideration for businesses planning to establish or expand operations, and having a strategy in place will instil greater investor confidence.

For the participating Shires, the direct economic benefit that will be returned from this project, lies in shifting from reactive to strategic investment in water infrastructure. This proactive approach will help extend the lifespan of municipal water assets, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and prevent investment in projects that do not deliver lasting water security. A comprehensive strategy will also serve as the evidence base required to support future funding applications for water infrastructure and initiatives.

What are the financial benefits to the project?

2.3.3 Environmental *

Climate change – manifesting as hotter, drier conditions and increased rates of evaporation – is increasing pressure on regional water resources. Without targeted intervention, these climatic changes, compounded by unsustainable water use practices, will accelerate the depletion of critical water supplies. The resulting environmental impacts will be substantial, including the degradation of ecosystems that support plant and animal life.

Through this project, the capacity of existing water sources will be assessed in conjunction with demand modelling, to help avoid over-extraction. Additionally, the project will evaluate options for more efficient water systems aimed at reducing overall consumption and ensuring sufficient water remains available to sustain local ecosystems.

Detail the environmental benefits of the project

2.3.4 Other

Developing water strategies concurrently across the seven WEROC Shires offers significant advantages. This coordinated approach will enable the identification of synergies between local governments which will assist in devising complementary water supply solutions and encourages consistent data collection which will result in more reliable and comparable information across the region.

Water security is becoming an increasingly significant issue for Wheatbelt communities. Addressing water security as a shared regional challenge creates a platform for joint advocacy which will strengthen the region's position when seeking funding and support

CWSP WISER R5 2025

CWSP WISER Application Form 2025

Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

from state and federal agencies. It also encourages knowledge-sharing, innovation, and capacity-building among participating Shires, which can lead to the adoption of best practices in sustainable water management. The collective approach from the WEROC local governments could serve as a model to other sub-regional groupings of Councils.

Explain any additional benefits not already mentioned.

2.4 Design *

This project will involve the development of seven strategic water plans for local governments in the central and eastern wheatbelt.

Provide a detailed design of the project. This may include, but is not limited to, design drawings, specification tables, and material lists. This information may be provided as attachments in section 14 which must be referred to in this section. All components of the proposed works and infrastructure to be installed should be detailed.

2.5 Project location and land tenure *

This project will take place within the WEROC region, which includes the local government areas of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn. A map of the WEROC region is provided as an attachment to this application. Land tenure does not apply to this project.

A map of the project location must be provided either in this section or as an attachment. If attached, the name of the attachment must be referred to in this section. Please also complete the section below.

Land tenure (who owns the land, if project is across multiple lots, list with associated tenure). *

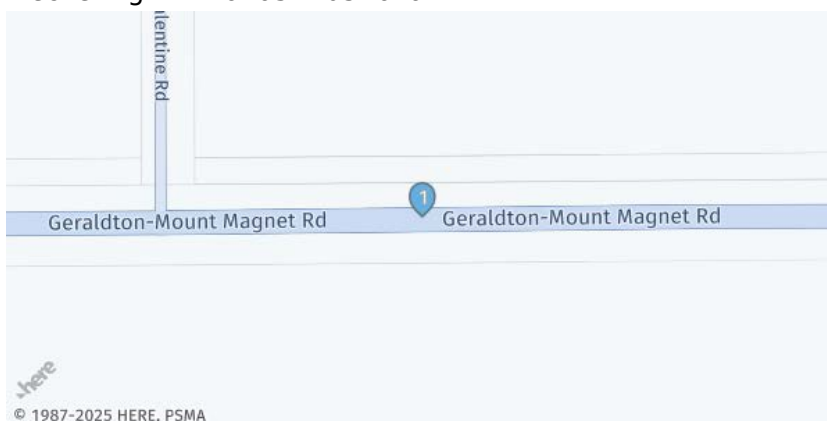
Not applicable to this project.

Location *

The address provided below is the registered address for the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Address *

3570 Goomalling-Meckering Rd
Meckering WA 6405 Australia



Latitude: -31.587 | Longitude: 116.95

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

2.6 Out of scope *

Not applicable to this project

Describe any aspects of the proposed works and infrastructure that are not part of this proposal

3. Feasibility

*** indicates a required field**

In this section, you must demonstrate the feasibility of the project. This section should be discussed with the department and may include:

- details of site investigations
- the adequacy of the site to meet proposed project design requirements and specifications
- examples of previous similar successful projects
- statutory obligations (including approvals and timeframes to achieve these)
- test drilling / pit results - depth, soil testing, foundation design or stability analysis
- rainfall and evaporation data
- catchment and runoff data
- hydrological investigations (for groundwater resources) - yields, aquifer type, water balance
- topographic survey data - contour maps, datum
- dam design capacities and specifications - pumps, bores, tanks, pipelines - including calculations and location details

The level of reporting and field investigations required should be discussed with the department during the early development or conceptual stages of the project:

The proposed project is grounded in a clear need for improved water planning and security across the seven WEROC Shires. The project will be delivered by qualified consultants, using established methodologies for water demand modelling, supply auditing, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring a robust and evidence-based approach.

Letters of support from WEROC Shires and the Wheatbelt Development Commission provide evidence of stakeholder support for this project.

The project scope, timeline, and deliverables have been carefully defined to ensure practical and achievable outcomes within the 18-month timeframe.

By identifying and prioritising water security projects across the region, the strategy will create a platform for future investment, regional collaboration, and long-term sustainability. This project aligns with the CWSP funding priorities including assisting in the establishment of non-potable water supplies, increasing water available for all purposes and all users and reducing reliance on potable water supplies for non-potable needs.

Please upload any supporting documentation in section 14

4. Project timeline and works breakdown

*** indicates a required field**

Detail the estimated commencement and completion dates and any factors that influence the timing of this project (e.g. seasonality, availability of workforce, approvals etc.)

A detailed timeline of works and major milestones should be provided in this section. This may be provided as an attachment in section 14 and the name of the attachment should be referenced in this section. Preferably this will be provided in the form of a Gantt chart. It must include a breakdown of works to be completed, including who will be responsible for each job.

The project will produce, over an 18-month period, individual water strategies inclusive of a prioritized list of projects for each Shire. The work is estimated to commence in July 2025 and conclude by December 2026

Producing seven strategies at once is not possible with the resources available to the consultants undertaking this work. As such a staged approach has been adopted, with two or three strategies to be completed at one time as follows:

- 1) Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia (July - December 2025)
- 2) Shires of Merredin and Bruce Rock (January - June 2026)
- 3) Shires of Kellerberrin, Tammin and Cunderdin (July - December 2026)

Shires have been grouped by geographic location not by need. Once funding for this project is secured the WEROC Board may wish to revise the order of the strategies being completed at each stage.

Some stages may overlap. For example, work may commence on successive strategies while the Shires from an earlier stage are still reviewing documents.

5. Budget

*** indicates a required field**

5.1 Budget information

- **Applicants must contribute a minimum of 30 per cent of the total project cost**
- **Specify all sources of funding including cash and in-kind contributions from all parties.**
- **Clearly indicate funding requests.**
- **Clearly describe how costs have been estimated.**
- **Provide written quotes for all items over \$5,000. Attach quotes to the application in section 14 and refer to them in this section.**
- **Please note that the grant amount cannot be increased. The onus is on the applicant to ensure they have contingency funds to cover any unexpected increases in costs associated with the project. A contingency of at least 10% is recommended, this is not to be included in the budget.**
- **Attach signed letters in section 14 of commitment from individuals and organisations who have agreed to make a tangible contribution (cash or in-kind) to the proposed project. *Note, these contributions must be identified in the letter and must match items in the timeline and budget.***

CWSP WISER R5 2025

CWSP WISER Application Form 2025

Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

- **Funds received from other government funding programs cannot be used to satisfy the Community Water Supply Program co-contribution requirement.**

*

As per the quotes supplied in section 14, the total cost to deliver on the seven local government water strategies will be \$181,020.

WEROC Inc. is seeking a total of \$153,000 through the CWSP program to deliver this project. This equates to \$21,857 per participating Shire. While this request exceeds the standard individual project funding cap of \$100,000, WEROC believes that the scale and regional significance of the project—spanning seven local government areas—warrants consideration for additional funding.

Each WEROC member Shire will provide an in-kind contribution valued at approximately \$4,600. These contributions include staff time dedicated to administrative support, data collection, and document review; costs associated with hosting community engagement activities (such as venue hire, catering, and materials); and travel-related expenses to support consultant site visits and on-the-ground assessments of water sources and infrastructure.

In addition, WEROC Inc. will contribute an estimated \$2,800 in-kind, representing up to 40 hours of project management and administrative support over the 18-month project delivery period, and make a cash contribution of up to \$31,063.

Provide project cost breakdown using template below (exclusive of GST)

[Project cost breakdown template](#)

Total Amount Requested

\$153,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Attach project cost breakdown (exclusive of GST) *

Filename: CWSP WISER - Budget project cost breakdown template 2025.xlsx

File size: 97.5 kB

6. Maintenance and ongoing operational costs

*** indicates a required field**

Provide details of the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the installed infrastructure, including who will be responsible for carrying out the maintenance. Any agreements should be attached and referenced here.

*

Not applicable to this project

7. Procurement plan

*** indicates a required field**

Provide details of the procurement processes that will be undertaken for the proposed works, goods and services related to the project proposal.

WEROC Inc. has prepared a project brief and scope of works and has invited quotes from multiple qualified suppliers. Subject to the outcome of this funding application, the WEROC Board will assess the submitted proposals and select a preferred consultant.

While cost-effectiveness is an important consideration, the lowest-cost submission will not automatically be selected. The Board will also take into account, how well each proposal responds to the project brief, along with the consultant's proven capacity to deliver a project of this scope and complexity.

For smaller project-related expenses such as catering, WEROC Shires will engage local suppliers in line with their standard procurement processes.

WEROC Inc. will be responsible for managing the consultant contract, including oversight of key milestones, monitoring performance, and processing payments. The WEROC Executive Officer will provide regular progress updates at each Board meeting, ensuring accountability and alignment with agreed project deliverables and expenses.

Filename: WEROC Sustainable Water Supply Planning_Project Procurement Plan.pdf
File size: 224.6 kB

8. Roles and responsibilities

*** indicates a required field**

Provide details of the roles and responsibilities for this project. This must include details of project management responsibilities and résumés for key technical and management personnel.

Overall project management and administration will be the responsibility of the WEROC Executive Officer. Strategic oversight will be provided by the WEROC Board, which comprises the President (or a sitting Councillor) and the Chief Executive Officer from each of the member local governments.

Within each Shire, the Chief Executive Officer will coordinate internal support by assigning staff to assist with data collection, stakeholder engagement, and other relevant activities. Each individual Council will be responsible for identifying their local priorities and for reviewing and endorsing their Shire-specific strategy.

WEROC has an established governance framework and the project management capability to effectively lead this initiative. The organisation will be supported by experienced consultants engaged to deliver the technical aspects of the project.

This project structure builds on WEROC's recent experience in delivering regionally

coordinated initiatives. WEROC is currently managing a regional worker housing investigation across six of its seven member Shires using a similar delivery model. Additionally, WEROC previously completed a regional strategic waste management project that included infrastructure audits, waste generation forecasts, and individual action plans for each participating Shire to address current and future waste management needs.

The consultants who have submitted quotes for this project have demonstrated both the capacity and relevant expertise required to successfully deliver the proposed scope of works.

9. Environmental considerations

*** indicates a required field**

Detail any environmental risks for the project and actions being taken to mitigate these *

Not applicable to this project

10. Clearances, approvals and agreements

*** indicates a required field**

- Detail all clearances, approvals and agreements that have been obtained including but not limited to access, cultural heritage, bore licences, clearing of vegetation permits, drainage.
- Detail all clearances, approvals and agreements that still need to be obtained and provide a plan for those that are still outstanding.
- Provide details of affected landholders and written evidence of agreements.

Not applicable to this project

● By ticking this box, the applicant is aware the onus to identify all relevant clearances, permits, approvals, agreements etc are the responsibility of the applicant, and must be obtained prior to the implementation of this project.

11. Water Supply

*** indicates a required field**

11.1 Water security

11.1.1 Current issues with water availability *

The seven Shires participating in this project span a large and diverse area across the central and eastern Wheatbelt region. Each Shire faces unique challenges related to water availability, influenced by a range of factors including variations in annual rainfall, the number and geographic spread of towns they support, population size, the extent and type of public infrastructure they maintain, and the scale and nature of water-dependent industries operating within their boundaries.

For instance, some WEROC Shires experience consistently lower rainfall, making them more susceptible to drought and reducing the viability of conventional water capture methods. Others are responsible for maintaining extensive irrigated public spaces or support industrial activities—such as mining, construction, and road works—that place significant demand on scheme water supplies. WEROC's smaller population Shires lack the economies of scale required to invest in modern water infrastructure, which limits their ability to secure and manage sustainable water sources. Shires, such as Yilgarn, that cover large geographic areas face challenges in capturing and distributing sufficient water to meet the needs across their vast boundaries.

As highlighted above, water supply challenges vary not only in scale but also in type. This project will address these diverse needs by developing tailored strategies for each Shire while also identifying opportunities for shared solutions and regional collaboration.

Detail current issues with water availability in the area

11.1.2 How will this project contribute to water security *

This project will make a significant contribution to water security across the WEROC region by delivering customized, evidence-based water strategies for each of the seven member Shires. Guided by the United Nations (UN)-Water definition of water security, the project is focused on ensuring sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for all users—including households, industry, emergency services, and agriculture—while supporting long-term community well-being and economic development.

A core component of the project will be the identification of alternative water sources, as well as opportunities for improved water capture and storage. This work is essential to reducing reliance on scheme water and addressing the increasing pressures of climate change, including higher temperatures and reduced rainfall. Each strategy will be shaped by local context—recognizing that water sources, infrastructure, and vulnerabilities differ across communities—and will respond to the unique needs and conditions of each Shire.

The strategies will be built on a foundation of accurate data, local engagement, and demand modelling to ensure a practical and informed approach. By planning for both current and projected water demand, the project will help secure a reliable water supply now and into the future.

Outline how the project contributes to water security for the area

11.1.3 What volume of water will be made available annually by the proposed project? *

As this project is a strategic planning initiative, it will not directly generate water, but it will help to identify and prioritise future actions and investments that will improve water availability and security across the WEROC region.

Estimate how much water will be made available per annum through the project in kilolitres (kL)

11.1.4 Current and projected demand for water in the local government *

This project will include demand modelling for residential, industrial, and emergency services water use. The analysis will provide an understanding of current consumption trends and forecast future demand, taking into account factors such as population growth,

economic/urban developments, and climate variability. Modelling will be conducted separately for each of the seven local government areas, resulting in water demand profiles for each shire.

Detail current and projected demand for water in the local government area.

11.2 Scheme water

11.2.1 Reliability of scheme water. This includes any issues with pressure or availability *

Scheme water across the WEROC local government areas is generally reliable, with no significant issues reported in terms of availability or pressure within serviced townsites. However, some challenges have been noted as follows:

- Water pressure can be inconsistent in areas serviced by spur lines.
- In various parts of the region, farmers lack direct access to scheme water and instead rely on standpipes for their water needs.
- Some communities have a heavy reliance on scheme water and due to the high volume of use incur the highest tariff rates.

Concerns have also been raised in regard to long-term availability of potable water in light of broader supply pressures and competing demands for water.

These and other issues related to scheme water reliability will be examined in the development of the water strategies.

Describe the reliance on scheme water including pressure or availability requirements for particular purposes.

11.2.2 Will the project reduce the reliance on scheme water? *

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

11.2.3 If yes, what volume of scheme water is currently utilised for the intended purpose?

This project will not directly or immediately reduce the volume of scheme water being used. Its purpose is, however, to provide each of the seven WEROC local governments with clear, practical guidance on how to implement sustainable alternatives to scheme water, with the goal of reducing reliance over time.

e.g. if the project will provide water to irrigate the football oval, how much water is currently used to irrigate the oval? Detail the amount of scheme water (kL) currently utilised for the intended purposes.

11.2.4 What is the expected scheme water saving (volume and cost) from implementing the project?

Given that this project is a planning initiative it is not possible to quantify the expected scheme water saving as the solutions have not yet been identified.

Estimate the expected savings in terms of kilolitres and dollars from implementing the project.

11.3 Non-potable water

11.3.1 Existing non-potable water sources utilised in the community (i.e. strategic community water supplies) *

Existing non-potable water sources utilised in WEROC communities are summarised below:

Bruce Rock: Rec Centre Dam, Water Corp Dam and Tank, Railway Dam, Negri Dam / Round

Cunderdin: Town Dam

Merredin: Irrigates with Desalinated water, effluent reuse water and captured stormwater.

Kellerberrin: Water corporation deep sewage for re-use on Councils facilities.

Yilgarn: Sewage re-use in Southern Cross, town dam, Moorine railway dam, Bodalling agricultural dam, rocky outcrop capture at Mt. Hampton and Dulyalbin.

Tammin: Town dam, bores at town tip

Provide details of existing non-potable water sources that are currently utilised in the community.

11.3.2 Existing non-potable water sources not utilised by the community *

Bruce Rock: Negri Dam Square, Negri Dam-Rear, Negri Front, Turkey Nest

Cunderdin: Old water Corp/ railway dam, water Corp sewerage dam

Yilgarn: Rocky outcrops not captured include Keokanie Rock, Moorine Rock, Strawberry Rock, Frog Rock, Jilbadjie Rock

Outline existing non-potable water sources not currently utilised by the community

11.3.3 Detail why the new water source is required and why it is the best option *

Not applicable to this project

Provide an explanation on why the water source is required and why it is the best option, provide examples if it assists in the justification

11.4 Strategic and emergency water

11.4.1 Will the project make water available for emergency farmland use? *

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Will the project make water available for emergency firefighting use? *

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

11.4.2 Strategic community water supplies within 40km of this new supply (see your local government's website for a map of strategic community water supplies) *

Strategic Community Water Supplies as of February 2022, that fall within the WEROC local government boundaries are summarized below:

Bruce Rock: Town Site, standby

Yilgarn: Bodallin Dam, 7,000kL; Dulyalbin Rock Bore, bore; Dulyalbin Rock, Rock Catchment, 4,546kL; Mt Hampton, 15,000kL

Westonia: Egg Rock, 1,045kL; Warralackin Tank, 9,400kL; Waterbidden Rock, 5,500kL.

Kellerberrin: Town Site, 50,000kL

Detail how many strategic water supplies are in existence within 40km of this proposal Provide details of the volume of water (kL) available when full

11.4.3 Volume available for strategic emergency farmland water supplies

- Outline what volume of water will be made available for strategic emergency farmland water supplies.
- Detail how this water will be accessed and what infrastructure will be installed to facilitate emergency farmland use.
- how many farmers will benefit from this supply?

*

Given that this project is a planning initiative it is not possible to quantify the volume of water that will be made available for strategic emergency farmland supply. Identifying opportunities to increase the volume of water made available for this purpose is within the scope of the project.

11.4.4 Volume available for emergency firefighting water supplies

- Outline what volume of water will be made available for emergency firefighting water supplies.
- Detail how this water will be accessed and what infrastructure will be installed to facilitate emergency firefighting use.

*

Given that this project is a planning initiative it is not possible to quantify the volume of water that will be made available for emergency firefighting water supply. Identifying opportunities to increase the volume of water made available for this purpose, is within the scope of the project.

11.4.5 Will the project provide water for public amenities such as open spaces, ovals, street gardens and sporting facilities? *

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, what volume of water will be available for improving public amenities?

Given that this project is a planning initiative it is not possible to quantify the volume of water that will be made available for improving public amenities. Identifying opportunities to increase the volume of water made available for this purpose is within the scope of the project.

11.4.6 Are there any other uses for this water not detailed in previous sections? *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, describe these other uses and how much water they utilise.

11.4.7 Would you like the location and details of the water source to be listed on the strategic community water supplies database for access during emergencies? (i.e. firefighting and stock watering?) *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

12. Community support

*** indicates a required field**

Has the community been engaged in this project? *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, provide details of the following:

- The level of community support for this proposal and describe how the level of support has been determined.
- Detail the number of people who will benefit from the project and describe how they will benefit.
- Provide any written supporting documentation as an attachment in section 14, and reference it in this section.

Community engagement has not been undertaken yet but is an important element of the proposed approach to developing the water strategies. The engagement completed through this project will ensure that local voices help shape the water supply priorities within each of the seven WEROC local government areas.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' latest Estimated Resident Population figures (30 June 2024), the WEROC region is home to 8,735 residents. All residents stand to benefit from this project, which is designed to enhance regional water security and safeguard access to a reliable, sustainable water supply. By involving the community in strategy development, the project aims to build local ownership, ensure the relevance of proposed solutions, and improve resilience across the region.

13. Risks

*** indicates a required field**

Identify risks and their management actions to reduce the risk. A minimum of three risks and no more than seven should be identified in this section. *

1. Limited relevance of project outputs, leading to a reduced return on investment.

To mitigate this, a clearly defined scope of works has been developed to guide the project from the outset. Ongoing oversight by the WEROC Executive Officer and regular reporting to the WEROC Board will ensure that project delivery remains aligned with the agreed objectives. In addition, local Councils will be actively involved in prioritising proposed projects within their respective strategies, ensuring that the outcomes are practical, locally relevant, and achievable.

2. Insufficient funding to deliver the full project scope.

To address this, WEROC has requested a funding amount that reflects the regional scale and complexity of the project, acknowledging that it exceeds the typical cap for individual projects under this program. Should full funding not be secured, the WEROC Board will review the scope of the project and explore avenues to reduce costs. To ensure that WEROC can meet its financial obligations toward this project, funding will be allocated over multiple financial years (2025-26 and 2026-27).

3. Lack of stakeholder engagement or community buy-in

If local stakeholders (e.g., residents, farmers, businesses) do not actively participate or support the outcomes, implementation of the strategies may be limited. To mitigate this risk, diverse engagement methods will be used and outcomes from any engagement will be reported back to participants to demonstrate how their input was used.

4. Limited implementation capacity at the local level

Some Shires may lack the resources, staff capacity, or technical expertise to implement

recommended actions once the strategies are developed. To mitigate this, the strategies will include practical, staged and prioritized recommendations and clearly identify potential funding sources and partnership opportunities.

14. Attachments and supporting documentation

*** indicates a required field**

Attachments and supporting documents *

- ☐ Design drawings/specification tables/materials lists
- ☒ Location map
- ☐ Feasibility reports/investigations/data/surveys/consultant findings
- ☐ Gantt Chart
- ☒ Letters of funding commitment (cash or in-kind)
- ☐ Maintenance agreements
- ☐ Resumes for key personnel
- ☐ Approvals, agreements and permits
- ☒ Written documentation in support of the project
- ☒ Other:

Upload all documentation for this project (maximum 25MB) *

Filename: C0140_WEROC WSS_Environnivate.pdf
File size: 453.3 kB

Filename: LETTER - Kellerberrin Letter of Support WEROC Inc_Community Water Supply Partnership 09.05.25.pdf
File size: 226.3 kB

Filename: Letter of Support DWER Application_Shire of Tammin.pdf
File size: 450.1 kB

Filename: Letter of Support From the Shire of Bruce Rock.pdf
File size: 189.2 kB

Filename: Letter of Support Shire of Cunderdin.pdf
File size: 210.5 kB

Filename: Letter of support_Shire of Merredin.pdf
File size: 324.1 kB

Filename: Letter of Support_Westonia_Weroc Application Community Water Supply Partnership.pdf
File size: 383.1 kB

Filename: WEROC Region Map.png
File size: 314.7 kB

Quote from Environnivate to complete seven water strategies.

List other attached documentation supporting this application

Once the application form is filled out in its entirety including the relevant signatories using hyperlink below, please ensure all attachments and supporting

CWSP WISER R5 2025
CWSP WISER Application Form 2025
Application No. C.6719 From Rebekah Burges - DRAFT

documentation is included.

[Local government endorsement template](#)

Upload signed endorsement page *

Filename: CWSP endorsement Bruce Rock.pdf
File size: 163.6 kB

Filename: CWSP endorsement Tammin.pdf
File size: 133.3 kB


Filename: CWSP endorsement Westonia.pdf
File size: 182.8 kB

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES

Nil

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

9.4.1 D & J McAULIFFE – PLANNING APPLICATION OVERSIZED OUTBUILDING

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	D2.1.2	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Site Plan	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the planning application for an oversized outbuilding proposed for a new property located at 43 -45 Jasper Street Westonia.

Background

Dan & Jude McAuliffe have recently purchased lots 58 & 59 Jasper Street from Council under the Conditional Land Release program. They have since commenced the process of amalgamating the lots which is currently being considered by WAPC giving them an area of 2024sqm.

The proponents have provided the Council with a preliminary site plan drawings which illustrates the positioning and scale of the proposed building improvements including the residence, outbuildings water tanks and driveways.

The proposed Residence and adjoining carport totals 369m² and the main outbuilding/shed is proposed to be 300m² which equates to @ 33% development over the entire lot. This allows ample space for the setback requirements, driveway access and septic systems on the remainder of the lot

Comment

The Shire of Westonia does not have a town planning scheme, therefore there are no specific zonings or density ratings for lots deemed to be "Residential".

Under the Residential Design Codes of Western Australia 2002 (R Codes) the standard size a shed or garage on land zoned "Residential" is 60m². Based on standard sizes for sheds, sizes up to 64m² are deemed to comply with the R Codes. In this instance a shed of 300m² is significantly larger and requires Council approval.

Council has previously granted approval for over-sized sheds or garages to several properties within the townsite with a general ruling that 90m² is the maximum shed size allowed on 1000m² blocks and we have allowed a 175m² to date on a double block. This application is currently a double sized block. Each application needs to be considered on its own merits, because it is dependant on the other buildings being located on the property and the overall coverage these combined have on the available area. As advised all proposed improvements only cover @ 33% of the land area.

Planning approval is required prior to any Building approval being sought.

Statutory Environment

Compliance with the Town Planning & Development Act 1928, and the Residential Design Codes of Western Australia 2002.



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council grants conditional planning approval to Dan & Jude McAuliffe to construct a new 300m² area outbuilding, located at 43-45 Jasper Street Westonia, subject to structural drawings being approved by Councils Building Surveyor.

50-29

40.24

Back

Gate

4mt
WT

WT

WT

Toilet/BR

12mt

Shed

Carport

20mt

5mt

Driveway

Lawn

WT

6mt
Carport

4mt

15mt

11mt

4 x 2 House

19mt

23mt

Garden

11mt

6mt


Front / Road

WT - Water Tanks

Driveway

Driveway

9.4.2 GEERANING FARMS REFORESTATION MANAGEMENT & BUSHFIRE PLANS

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	D2.1.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Reforestation Management Plan	
Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for the Council to approve the Reforestation Management and Bushfire Plan for the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project.

Background

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA), as Operator of the Wheatbelt Connect project (Wheatbelt Connect), proposes to undertake an environmental planting project to extend native vegetation on the Geeraning property at Elachbutting WA in the Shire of Westonia.

Geeraning is a farming property owned and managed by Elachbutting Pty Ltd (Sprigg Family). The property is predominantly utilised for cropping and sheep grazing. Wheatbelt Connect aims to achieve sustainable land use through the integration of strategic revegetation into broadacre farming systems in the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

The key objectives of this proposed planting project are to:

1. Establish a native vegetation carbon project across approximately 272 ha inclusive of firebreaks (approximately 1% of the 30,000 ha] property).
2. Register the project under the Federal government's Emissions Reduction Fund to allow the planting to deliver carbon abatement in the form of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) over a minimum 25-year period.
3. Ensure the plantings are maintained for at least the permanence period of the registered project and achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover and 2m height at maturity.
4. Contribute towards achieving local and regional biodiversity objectives.
5. Protect and provide for the continuation of agricultural production on the remaining land through the provision of supplemental income from carbon farming.
6. Slow down/reduce the further salinisation of soils.
7. Allow for the reintroduction of livestock grazing to the planted areas, once the seedlings have reached sufficient maturity (approximately 3-4 years) if desired by the landowner.

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA) has executed a lease with Elachbutting Pty Ltd and will manage the plantation on behalf of the Wheatbelt Connect Joint Venture.

Comment

Council at its February 25 ordinary meeting granted Planning Approval to the Geeraning Agroforestry Proposal subject to terms and conditions adopted by the Council for Agroforestry projects within the Shire of Westonia.

As part of those conditions requires the proponent to

1. Prior to the commencement of planting, the applicant is to lodge a final Tree Farm Permanence Plan and updated Plantation Design maps with distances determined between planting lines and a list of local species being planted, for separate written approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

2. The owner/applicant is to lodge updated Bushfire Management Plans that include:
- (a) contact details of a locally employed plantation manager and/or fire officer; and
 - (b) contact details of owners/occupiers of neighbouring lots; The Bushfire Management Plan(s) are to be lodged within 3 months of the date of this approval, or an alternative time period approved in writing by the Chief Executive Officer.



Statutory Environment

Local Planning Strategy - Council's Local Planning Strategy states that *'Rural use of land should be protected to support agricultural activity while facilitating a wide variety of complimentary land uses'*



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the Reforestation Management and Bushfire Plan for the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project.



Geeraning Farm Carbon
Project 2025

Reforestation Management Plan

21-March-2025

Wheatbelt Connect

A joint venture between



Contents

1	Overview.....	2
2	Landowner Details	3
	2.1 Land Information.....	3
3	Management Plan	5
	3.1 Relevant Law, Codes of Practice, Guidelines and Standards	5
	3.2 Planting description	5
	3.3 Site Features and Current Condition	6
	3.3.1 Land use history	6
	3.3.2 Physiography.....	6
	3.3.3 Land system mapping.....	7
	3.4 Ground preparation	9
	3.4.1 Ripping.....	9
	3.4.2 Mounding.....	10
	3.5 Weeds, Pests and Diseases	10
	3.6 Climate Factors	11
	3.7 Bushfire	11
	3.8 Measurement, Monitoring and Maintenance	11
	3.9 Roads, Tracks and Firebreaks.....	12
	3.10 Fertiliser	12
	3.11 Continuation of Existing Agricultural Activities	12

Appendices

Appendix 1: Bushfire Management Plan.....	14
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Figures

Figure 1: Regional overview of planting location	4
Figure 2: Local overview of planting areas demarcated by yellow polygons.....	4
Figure 3: An example of a drain within the valley landform unit	7
Figure 4: Land systems intersecting the Geeraning Farm property.....	9
Figure 5: Annual rainfall at Geeraning Farms 1992 to 2023	13
Figure 6: Average monthly rainfall at the Geeraning Farm property 1992 to 2023	13

Tables

Table 1: Landowner Details	3
Table 2: Land Information	3
Table 3: Soil-landscape map unit hierarchy.....	8

1 Overview

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA), as Operator of the Wheatbelt Connect project (Wheatbelt Connect), proposes to undertake an environmental planting project to extend native vegetation on the Geeraning Farm property. Wheatbelt Connect is a joint venture between INPEX, ANZ and Qantas (refer to www.wheatbeltconnect.com.au).

Wheatbelt Connect aims to achieve sustainable land use through the integration of strategic revegetation into broadacre farming systems in the Western Australian Wheatbelt. The key objectives of this proposed planting project are to:

1. Establish a native vegetation carbon project across approximately 270 ha of the 30,000 ha property (approximately 1 per cent, inclusive of fire breaks, of the total property area).
2. Register the project under the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme to allow the planting to deliver carbon abatement in the form of ACCUs over a minimum 25-year period.
3. Ensure the plantings are maintained for at least the permanence period of the registered project and achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover and 2 m height at maturity.
4. Contribute towards achieving local and regional biodiversity objectives.
5. Protect and provide for the continuation of agricultural production on the remaining land through the provision of supplemental income from carbon farming.
6. Contribute to the mitigation and management of waterlogging and dryland salinity.
7. Allow for the reintroduction of livestock grazing to the planted areas, once the seedlings have reached sufficient maturity (approximately 3-4 years).

The Sprigg Property holdings are primarily used for annual cropping and sheep grazing. The Geeraning property is owned by Elachbutting Pty Ltd (the company Directors Andrew Boyd Sprigg and Stephen Garth Sprigg).

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA) has executed a lease with the Directors of Elachbutting Pty Ltd and will manage the planting on behalf of the Wheatbelt Connect Joint Venture partners.

2 Landowner Details

Table 1: Landowner Details

Name	Andrew Boyd Sprigg
Address	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Road, Elachbutting, 6479, WA
Phone number	0417 987 971
Email	spriggandrew@gmail.com

Name	Stephen Garth Sprigg
Address	1525 Moondon Road North Waialki, 6473, WA
Phone number	0427 484 023
Email	futera4horses@gmail.com

2.1 Land Information

Table 2: Land Information

Property name	Geeraning Farm					
Location numbers	Lot	Deposited plan	Volume	Folio	Title type	
	1238	203976	1293	114	Multi-lot title	
	1239					
	1240					
	1241					
	1256	203976	1317	635		
	1244	203987	1684	884		
Tree species for revegetation area	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissopholia</i>					
Total revegetation area	~270 ha – the proposed revegetation area will comprise 14 blocks ranging in size from around 3 to 31 ha, as shown in Figs. 1 & 2 below.					
Previous land use	Annual cropping and grazing					
Adjacent land use	Annual cropping and grazing					

The Geeraning Farm Carbon Project spans multiple locations within the Shire of Westonia, extending from approximately 20 km south-east of the Bonnie Rock townsite to approximately 45 km northeast of the Mukinbudin (Fig. 1).

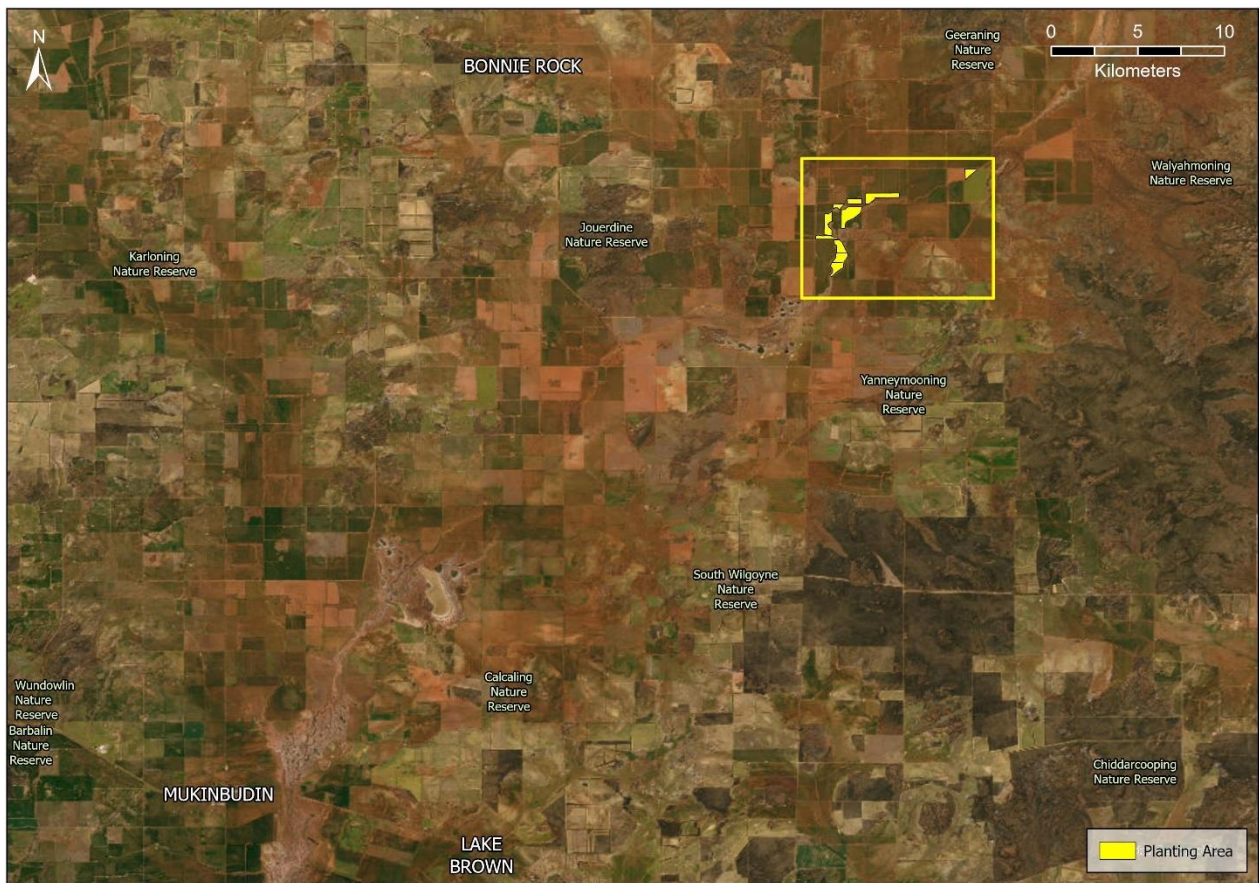


Figure 1: Regional overview of planting location



Figure 2: Local overview of planting areas demarcated by yellow polygons

3 Management Plan

3.1 Relevant Law, Codes of Practice, Guidelines and Standards

Key legislation, standards, and guidelines relevant to the implementation of Wheatbelt Connect projects include:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (Cmth)*
- *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015 (Cmth)*
- *Carbon Rights Act 2003*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cmth)*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1950*
- *Tree Plantation Agreements Act 2003*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- DFES Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection (2011)
- FESA Firebreak Location, Construction and Maintenance Guidelines.
- Code of Practice for the Use of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals in Western Australia (2005)
- Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Registered Pesticides Containing 1080, PAPP and STRYCHNINE for Vertebrate Pest Management in Western Australia
- Managing Phytophthora Dieback – Guidelines for Local Government
- Western Australian Natural Resource Management Framework 2018
- Wetland Conservation Policy for Western Australia 1997

The registration of our business under the Carbon Dioxide Removal Registry, and standards established by INPEX, commit us to a rigorous standard of scientific integrity and the pursuit of positive environmental and community outcomes. As a core value, INPEX is committed to conduct all aspects of its business dealings and operations in a professional, open and ethical manner.

3.2 Planting description

The Geeraning Farm project aims to establish a ~270 ha mallee planting registered under the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011*, and specifically in accordance with the *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings—FullCAM Methodology Determination 2024*. The permanence period of the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project will be 25 years. The project will consist of the tree species (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissopholia*) which is classified as a mallee species under the *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings—FullCAM Methodology Determination 2024*. **The project's carbon estimation areas will be configured as a block plantings of *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissopholia* with spacing in accordance with the**

CFI Mapping Guidelines. The planting density is expected to be approximately 500 stems per hectare, and will be estimated in accordance with the Determination.

3.3 Site Features and Current Condition

3.3.1 Land use history

The Geeraning Farm property has a long history of broadacre farming land use (i.e. cropping and sheep grazing). The property and surrounding landscape were cleared during the 20th century; within the Shire of Westonia, remnant vegetation now comprises approximately 40% of the land area. Secondary salinity has developed in low lying, valley areas.

3.3.2 Physiography

The property is situated within a vast area of internal saline drainages, on an extensive plain that is the easterly continuation of the Darling Plateau. The generalised landscape pattern of granitic hills and ridges separated by broad valleys has resulted from the dissection of an old erosional surface.

The proposed planting areas are concentrated in a broad paleovalley that drains in a southwest to south direction. The elevation ranges from about 350 mAHD at the head of the valley to 320mAHD at the downgradient end, with a gentle grade of about 0.2 to 0.5%. Within the valley a network of historically constructed drains helps to facilitate the removal of floodwaters and shallow, saline groundwater near the southern end of the system. A photographic example is shown in Figure 3.

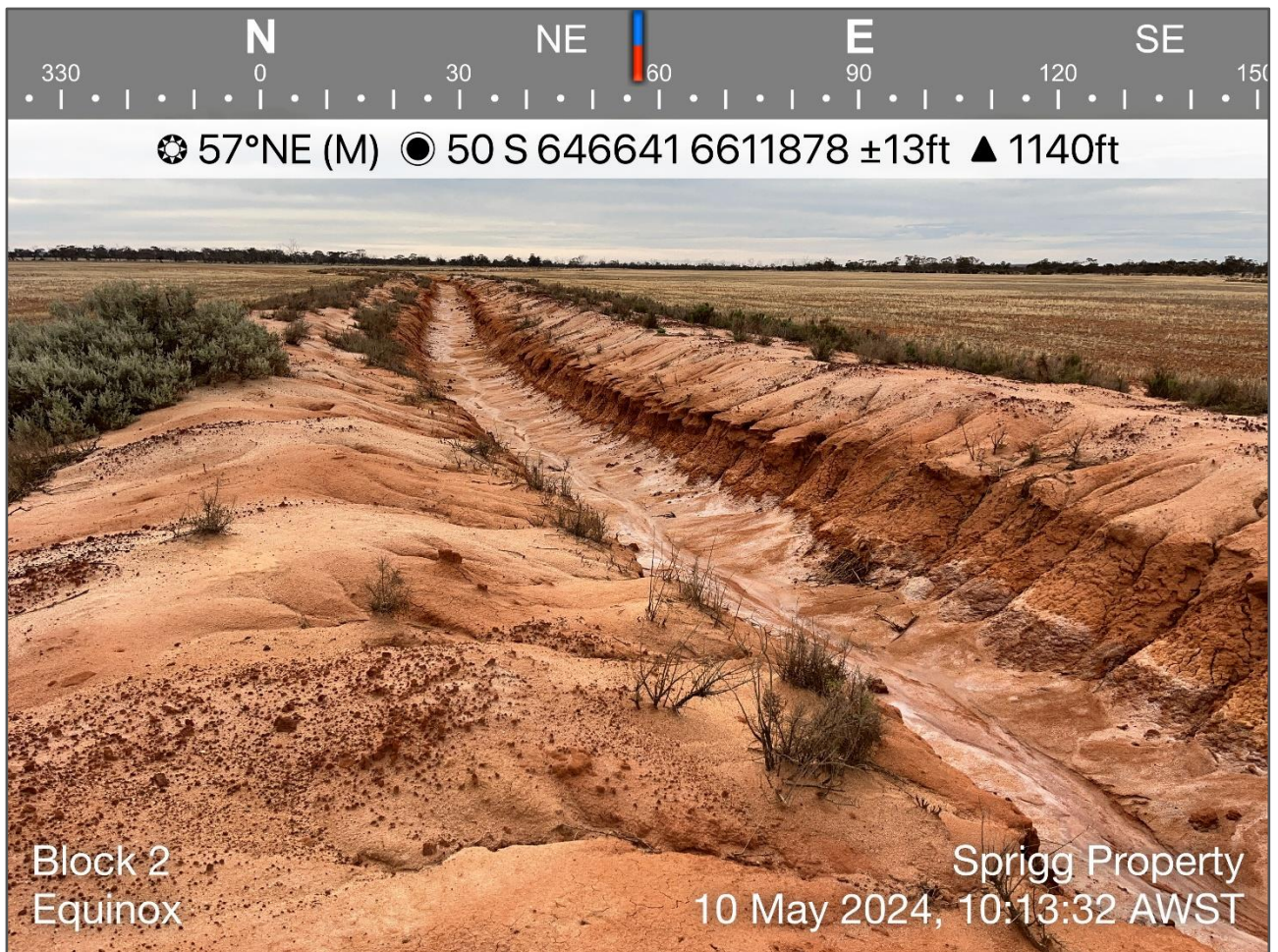


Figure 3: An example of a drain within the valley landform unit

3.3.3 Land system mapping

Soil-landscape mapping information for the property was obtained from the DPIRD NRInfo spatial information platform (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/resource-assessment/nrinfo-natural-resource-information-western-australia>). Land system mapping units are classified on the basis of landform, geology, soils and vegetation. The DPIRD mapping hierarchy has six levels, as described in Table 1. For further information on the mapping methodology and map unit hierarchy used in the project locality, refer to (Grealish and Wagnon 1995)¹.

¹ Grealish, G J, and Wagnon, J. (1995), Land resources of the Bencubbin area. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Report 12

Table 3: Soil-landscape map unit hierarchy (from Schoknecht et al. 2004).

Level of the hierarchy	Polygon size	Mapping scale	Landscape criteria	Soil pattern described using:
1 – Region: a broad morphogenetic unit	$>10^6$ km ²	1:25,000,000	Continental scale tectonic regions, major climate zones	Orders ¹¹
2 – Province: a broad-scale unit	10^4 – 10^6 km ²	1:5,000,000	Geology (lithology and stratigraphy) and regolith	Orders and Suborders ⁹ or Supergroups ¹⁰
3 – Zone: a regional unit	10^3 – 10^4 km ²	1:1,000,000	Geomorphology, relief (reflecting erosion/deposition patterns and landscape maturity)	Orders and Great Groups ⁹ or Supergroups ¹⁰
4 – System: a regional unit	10^3 – 10^5 ha	1:250,000	Relief/modal slope class, landform pattern, generic type of soil parent material	Great Groups, Subgroups ⁹ or associations of WA Soil Groups ¹² or soil series ¹³
5 - Subsystem: a local unit	10^2 – 10^4 ha	1:100,000	Landform element and morphological type	WA Soil Group with qualifier ¹⁰ or associations of soil series ¹¹
6 - Phase: a local unit based on land use interpretation requirements	10–1000 ha	1:50,000 to 1:20,000	One or more of drainage, salinity, slope and erosion	WA Soil Group with qualifier ¹⁰ or soil series ¹¹

The major soil-landscape mapping units in proximity to the proposed planting areas are shown in Figure 3.

All of the planting areas are contained within the Beacon System, which is coincident with valley floor landscapes adjacent to salt lake chains. The regolith comprises quaternary alluvium with loose, unconsolidated sediments (clay, silt, sand and gravel). In places this may overlie older, Tertiary sediments associated with the paleochannel. Soils consist of calcareous loamy earths, red loamy and sandy earths, minor red sandy and loamy duplexes and clays. The remnant vegetation is typified by Salmon Gum-Gimlet-Wandoo-York gum woodlands.

The valley sediments host a saline groundwater system associated with the paleochannel. In low points (e.g. salt lakes) saline groundwater discharges at the surface causing salinity impacts. The drain network likely plays a role in mitigating further expansion of salt-affected areas.

The proposed plantings will be undertaken in accordance with the *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings—FullCAM Methodology Determination 2024* for the creation of ACCUs. The key tasks involved in establishing the planting areas are as follows:

- In autumn 2025, the site will be ripped and mounded with rip lines with a spacing of 6 m and rip line distance of 1.667 km per ha.
- Following the break of season (April/May), and conditional upon weed burden, a knockdown herbicide (such as glyphosate) and a pre-emergent herbicide (such as simazine) will be applied to the rip lines prior to planting.
- The site will be hand-planted with nursery raised seedlings in winter 2025, following significant rain events, at a density of approximately 500 seedlings per hectare (i.e. approx. 3.3 m spacing along the rip lines).
- The site will be monitored approximately every three months following planting.
- If the need is identified, post-planting weed control using selective herbicides may be implemented to control late germinating weeds (e.g. Annual Ryegrass).

- If the need is identified, infill planting will be conducted in 2026 to help meet the forest cover requirement of the method.

All activities associated with this proposal will be undertaken on existing cleared areas (i.e. ex-farmland), there will be no clearing of remnant vegetation. The tree species and planting configurations used will have the potential to attain a height of at least 2 metres, and a crown cover of at least 20%. The selected tree species (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *lissopholia*) has been widely used successfully in historical plantings in the broader locality/region and is well suited to the prevailing climate and target soil-landscape units.

No additional infrastructure is proposed to be installed other than possible farm fencing where control of sheep is required.

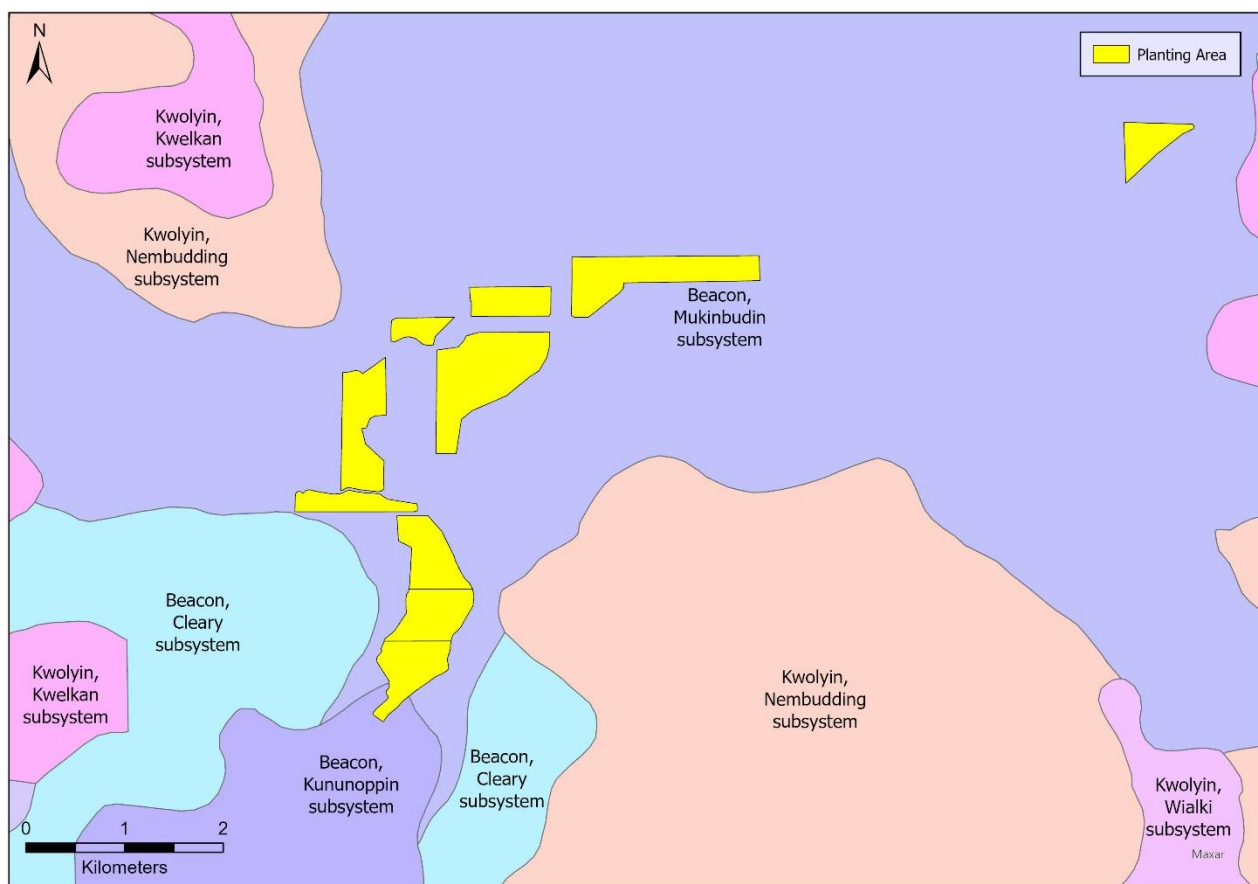


Figure 4: Land systems intersecting the Geeraning Farm property

3.4 Ground preparation

The chosen ground preparation for the predominantly heavy textured soils in the proposed planting areas is ripping and mounding.

3.4.1 Ripping

Ripping is the process of fracturing subsoil hardpans formed by agricultural activities. These can include a cultivation hardpan and/or traffic hardpan, formed as a result of physical subsoil compaction. Some soil profiles also include natural hardpans (for example cemented layers of ferricrete or silcrete) that can be treated by ripping.

Fracturing the hardpan loosens the soil to enable rapid root penetration, allowing access to deeper moisture containing layers in the early phases of seedling establishment. Ripping improves water filtration and can mitigate problems associated with shallow sub-surface waterlogging. The loosening of soil also promotes the interception of surface water.

Ripping provides a planting line, which defines the orientation of the planting and enables accurate plant spacing. The loosening of the soil also facilitates the use of seedling planting tools and, where required, prepares the soil for mounding.

3.4.2 Mounding

Mounding involves the creation of a raised bed along the seedling row using modified plough disc type equipment. Mounding has traditionally been used on sites prone to seasonal waterlogging and/or salinity. Creating an elevated planting bed improves drainage and salt flushing in the seedling planting zone.

Mounding also provides the benefits of topsoil nutrient concentration and soil aeration regardless of landscape position. It has been used with good success for establishing on a wide variety of upland and lowland sites. Mounds aligned on the contour can intercept surface water flows and enhance on site water infiltration. In flat land situations, mounds should be aligned to facilitate the safe removal of flood waters.

Mounding can provide a physical weed control function along planting lines and is often timed to follow weed germination events. However, the soil disturbance created by mounding can also stimulate weed germination, including species that have otherwise remained dormant on some sites (in particular broad leaf weed species), thereby demanding an integrated weed control strategy.

3.5 Weeds, Pests and Diseases

Effective control of annual weeds e.g. Annual ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*) and Wild Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) is crucial for successful revegetation of ex-farmland areas. It is anticipated that the ripped and mounded lines will be sprayed with a knockdown herbicide after opening rains have stimulated weed germination.

Post planting weed control requirements will be based on weed surveillance outcomes. Where deemed necessary, it will be controlled using appropriate herbicides. Paddy melon (*Cucumis myriocarpus*) and/or Afghan melon (*Citrullus lanatus*) are summer active weeds that may similarly require control during the late spring and summer months.

It is the responsibility of both Wheatbelt Connect and the landowner to monitor and control, if necessary, pests (such as insects, rabbits, and kangaroos), diseases and declared weeds. Skeleton Weed (*Chondrilla juncea*) is a declared weed, under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, that is known to occur in nearby areas. Due care will be taken to ensure that Wheatbelt Connect personnel, contractors and other vehicles avoid the risk of spreading this weed.

Generally, dieback disease caused by the soil fungus *Phytophthora* spp. is not an issue in the Shire of Westonia owing to the relatively hot and dry climate. However, due care will be taken to ensure that Wheatbelt Connect personnel, contractors and other vehicles travelling from outside the region do not introduce *Phytophthora* spp. infected soil.

3.6 Climate Factors

The Shire of Westonia experiences a Mediterranean type of climate characterised by hot, dry summers and cool wet winters. The mean annual rainfall is about 267 mm. The mean maximum monthly temperature ranges between about 17.8°C in winter and 34.3°C in summer. Minimum temperatures in the winter months are typically above 5°C and frost days are rare.

Water is the key factor limiting vegetation establishment and growth in this environment. Climate data² for the locality has been reviewed, indicating that winter and spring rains are generally reliable (Figure 2). Drought is considered a low risk to the project as *E. loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia* is native to the Shire of Westonia and is adapted to the growing conditions at the property.

Climate change projections for the southwest of Western Australia suggest that temperatures will increase, and annual rainfall will decline during the remainder of the 21st century (Sudmeyer et al. 2016³). Management options to address climate change include matching of species to site conditions and using stocking rates that prevent excessive soil water depletion and stand level competition between trees. The proposed planting designs incorporate these principles.

3.7 Bushfire

Bushfires are a seasonal risk in the Shire of Westonia, coinciding with the hotter and drier months between October and April. Accordingly, a Bushfire Management Plan (BMP), for the prevention and management of unplanned fire in the planting areas at Geeraning Farm, will be implemented. The BMP is provided in Appendix 1.

3.8 Measurement, Monitoring and Maintenance

The sites will be monitored by Wheatbelt Connect personnel approximately every three months following planting and at least annually over the first five years. Thereafter, there will be at least one field inspection in each reporting period. Key objectives of these field inspections include:

- Confirmation of seedling health and survival, and correlation of outcomes with potential explanatory factors (e.g. drought, waterlogging, frost, bushfire, strong winds etc.).
- Identify post planting weed and pest control requirements.
- Confirm if any infill planting is required in 2026. Survival counts will occur in September/October of the first year (2025) so that any requirements for infill planting are identified in time to place seedling orders for the 2026 planting season.
- Identify and document any disturbance events, or forest loss from events, as defined under the *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings—FullCAM Methodology Determination 2024*.

If sections of the plantings are damaged or destroyed, then the re-establishment of forest cover and carbon stocks may be required as per ACCU Scheme requirements.

² Climate data sourced from the SILO database of Australian climate data:

<https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/silo/>

³ Sudmeyer, R, Edward, A, Fazakerley, V, Simpkin, L & Foster, I 2016, 'Climate change: impacts and adaptation for agriculture in Western Australia', *Bulletin 4870*, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, Perth

3.9 Roads, Tracks and Firebreaks

Maintenance of access tracks and firebreaks will be the shared responsibility of Wheatbelt Connect and the landowner. This includes installing and maintaining all firebreaks in accordance with the requirements of the Shire of Westonia, as set out in the BMP (refer to Appendix 1).

On occasion, the plantings will need to be accessed by Wheatbelt Connect personnel or contractors, who will notify the landowner.

3.10 Fertiliser

It is anticipated that fertiliser will not be required at this site due to the agricultural land use history at the property, and the selection of native species that are adapted to relatively low fertility soils.

3.11 Continuation of Existing Agricultural Activities

Grazing by sheep or other livestock will be permitted once the trees are assessed by Wheatbelt Connect as being sufficiently mature to withstand grazing. This will typically involve short term or rotational grazing approaches in the spring to early summer period, when weeds are actively growing. Due care will be exercised to prevent overgrazing and erosion risk. If used, grazing is generally expected to occur from approximately three years after planting.

As well as providing income for the landowner, grazing has other important benefits including:

- Reducing the weed burden.
- Reducing fuel loads and hence fire risk (refer to BMP).
- Reduced lower foliage of the trees, which will reduce the risk of a ground fire transferring into the tree crowns and may also improve access, in the rare event that fire suppression activities are necessary.

Our approach to grazing is guided by sustainable land management practices that aid to balance livestock production with environmental conservation. Species that are susceptible to grazing will be protected using temporary electric (e.g. 3-line 'hotwire' fencing) or permanent (e.g. 7-line ringlock and top wire) fencing options.

Monitoring and adaptive management practices will be used to assess grazing impacts, vegetation response and ecological indicators. This will enable the project team to make informed decisions and adjust grazing strategies, as needed, to meet shared land use objectives.

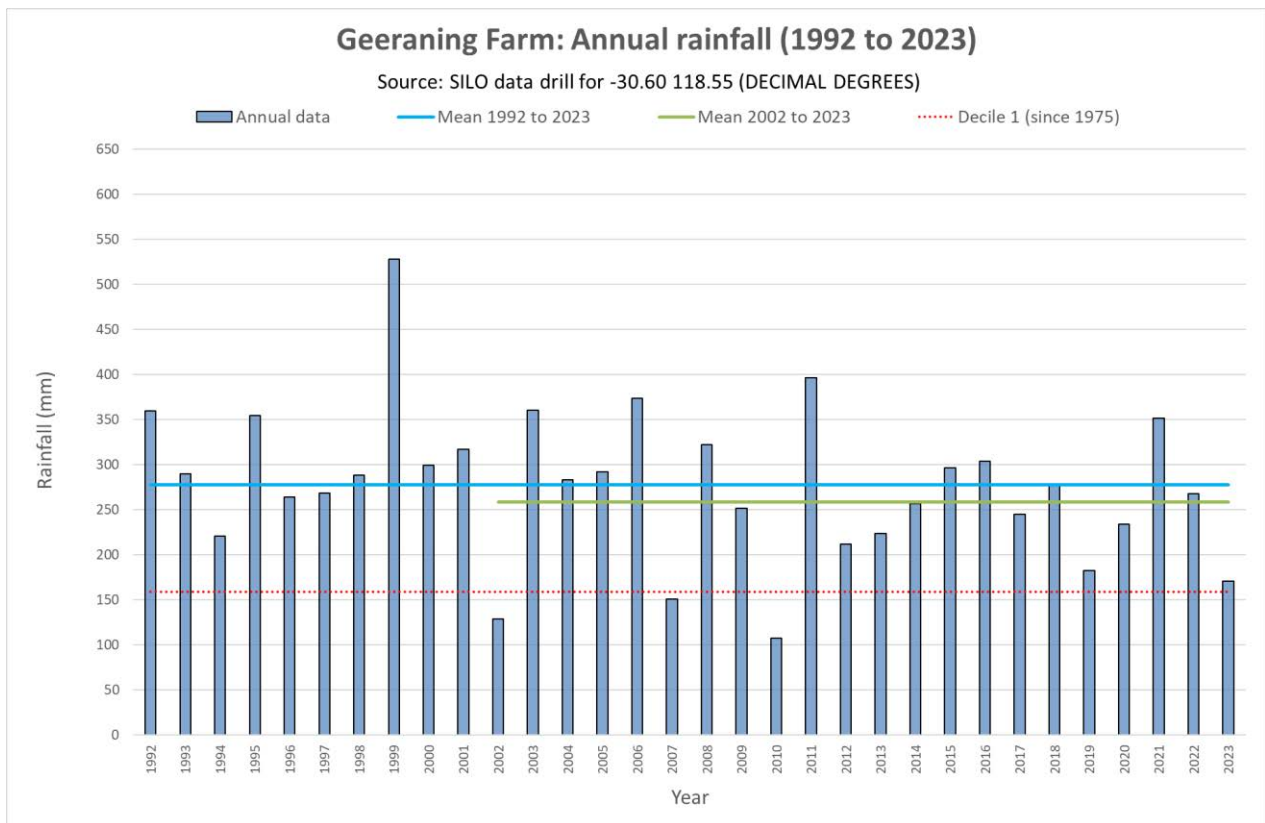


Figure 5: Annual rainfall at Geeraning Farms 1992 to 2023

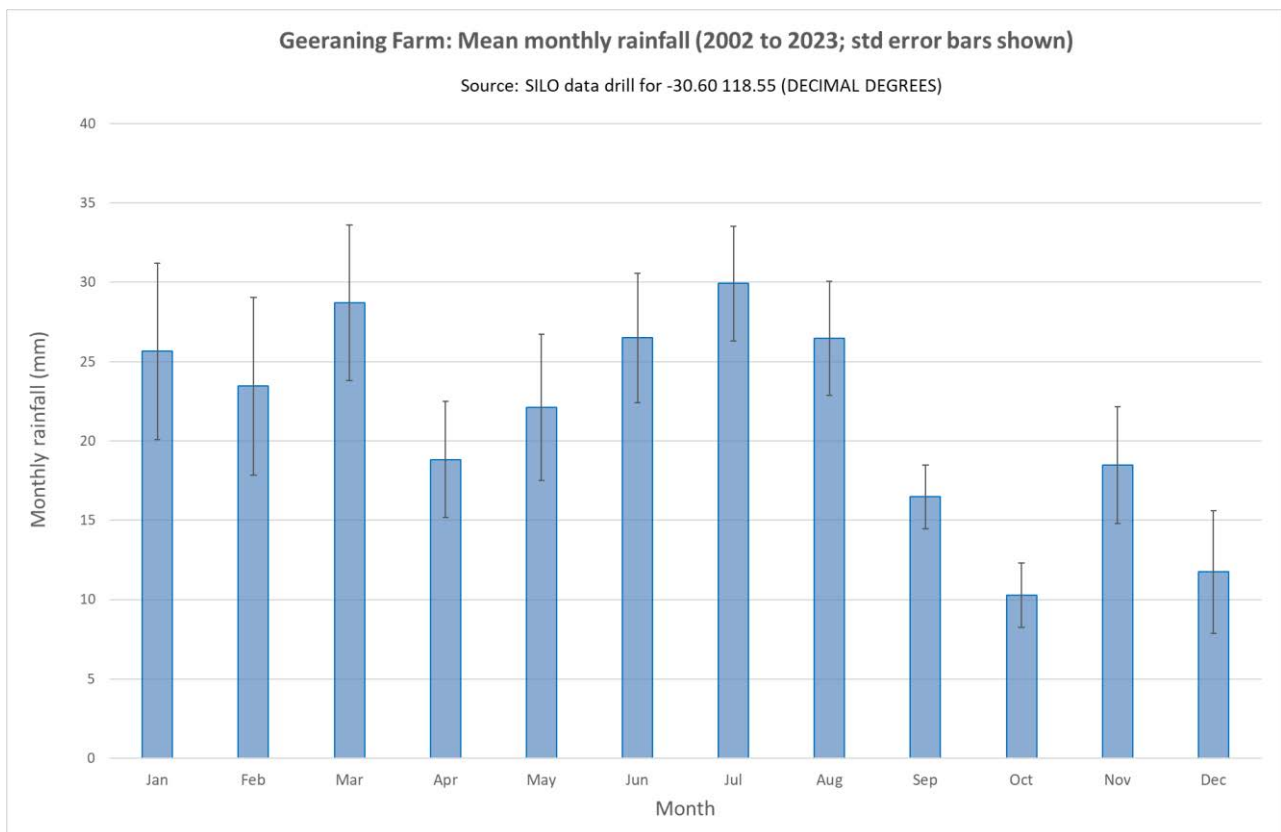


Figure 6: Average monthly rainfall at the Geeraning Farm property 1992 to 2023

Signed: Beren Spencer-Grayling

Date: 19/03/2025

Beren

**Wheatbelt
Connect**

A joint venture between





Appendix 1

Geeraning Farm Bushfire Management Plan

21-March-2025

Wheatbelt Connect

A joint venture between



Contents

1	Purpose and Scope	3
2	Site Details.....	3
	2.1 Property description.....	3
	2.2 Location Plans.....	4
3	Contact Details.....	6
	3.1 Team Contact Details	6
	3.2 Local Fire Agencies	6
	3.3 Neighbour Contact Details	7
4	Fire Risk Management	8
	4.1 Ignitions Risks	8
	4.2 Risk Mitigation	8
	4.3 Seasonal Fuel Load and Firebreak Assessment	9
	4.4 Vehicle Access	9
	4.5 Fire Maps	9
	4.6 Firebreaks	9
	4.6.1 Firebreak dimensions.....	9
	4.6.2 Firebreak Maintenance	10
	4.7 Fire Detection, Reporting and Initial Response	10
	4.8 Post Emergency Fire Management	10
	4.9 Water Points and Fire Equipment.....	10
	4.10 Fuel load management with livestock	11
	4.11 Training.....	11

Figures

Figure 1: Regional Location Plan.....	5
Figure 2: Local Location Plan including access roads.....	5
Figure 3: Location of neighbours	8

Tables

Table 1: Property Details.....	4
Table 2: Fire contact details.....	6
Table 3: Fire contact details - Bonnie Rock Fire Brigade	7
Table 4: Neighbour Contact Details.....	7
Table 5: On farm firefighting equipment	11

Appendices

Appendix 1: Regional Bushfire Advice Map	12
Appendix 2: Local Bushfire Advice Map	13
Appendix 3: Shire of Westonia Bushfire Information 2024/25.....	14

1 Purpose and Scope

This Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) has been developed for application to the proposed Wheatbelt Connect revegetation project at Geeraning Farm, Elachbutting, WA (hereafter referred to as the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project).

The BMP:

- describes measures for the prevention and management of unplanned fire in the proposed revegetation areas at Geeraning Farm.
- **details how Wheatbelt Connect will manage fire risks and integrate with the landowner's property scale fire management plan.**
- provides the basis for ensuring compliance with the Shire of Westonia bushfire management requirements.

In developing this BMP, the Shire of Westonia has been consulted with respect to bushfire management services and requirements including firebreaks. For reference, the Shire of Westonia Bushfire Information 2024/25 notice is provided in Appendix 3.

The BMP will be reviewed annually prior to the fire season (circa 16 September to 31 March) and may be updated at other times as appropriate (e.g. if key contact details or other circumstances change).

State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire (SPP 3.7) has also been considered in the development of this BMP. SPP 3.7 became operational on 18 November 2024, along with the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines (the Guidelines). The policy seeks to implement effective, risk-based land use planning and development which, in the first instance, avoids the bushfire risk, but where unavoidable, manages and/or mitigates the risk to people, property and infrastructure to an acceptable level. The policy also aims to achieve a balance between bushfire risk mitigation and conservation measures. SPP 3.7 and the accompanying Guidelines provide a framework for preparing Bushfire Management Plans for lands in designated bushfire prone areas.

2 Site Details

2.1 Property description

Property details for Geeraning Farm are summarised in Table 1 (overleaf).

The Geeraning Farm Carbon Project is located within the Shire of Westonia, approximately 20 km south-east of the Bonnie Rock townsite and approximately 45 km northeast of the Mukinbudin (Fig. 1).

The proposed planting areas are located in a broad, flat valley forming part of a paleodrainage system that flows into a tributary to the Yilgarn River, and ultimately into the northeastern part of the Swan–Avon drainage basin. The valley includes a chain of small salt lakes and a network of artificial drains installed to help manage dryland salinity and assist with controlled transfer of floodwaters.

The property has a long history of broadacre farming land use and has been heavily cleared in the past. Most of the proposed revegetation area is on low productivity land that is mainly unsuitable for cropping.

Remnant vegetation in the valley landscape unit is mostly confined to road reserves and small strips and blocks amongst farm paddocks. It predominantly comprises of Salmon gum- Gimlet-Wandoo-York gum woodlands. Salt affected areas constitute natural low fuel/firebreak zones.

Nearby conservation areas occur on adjacent granitic uplands including Jouredine Nature Reserve (R37034) approximately 9 km to the west, un-named reserve R23991 approximately 4 km to the west, Geeraning Nature Reserve (R23338) approximately 8 km to the northeast, Walyahmoning Nature Reserve (R35752) approximately 10 km to the east and un-named reserve R24465 approximately 4 km to the west.

The proposed revegetation areas are all in existing cleared and fenced paddocks, variably affected by waterlogging and salinity and with a history of cropping and sheep grazing. These areas do not contain any buildings, powerlines or other infrastructure excepting surface drains.

Table 1: Property Details

Site Address:	Geeraning Farm - 8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting, WA, 6473				
Site Area:	Lot	Deposited plan	Volume	Folio	Title type
	1238	203976	1293	114	Multi-lot title
	1239				
	1240				
	1241				
	1256	203976	1317	635	
	1244	203987	1684	884	
Owner details:	Elachbutting Pty Ltd Andrew Boyd Sprigg Stephen Garth Sprigg				
Manager Details:	INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA)				

2.2 Location Plans

This section contains the following maps:

- Regional location (Figure 1)
- Bushfire Management Plan overview (Figure 2)
- Location of neighbours (Figure 3)
- Bushfire Advice Maps (Appendices 1 & 2)

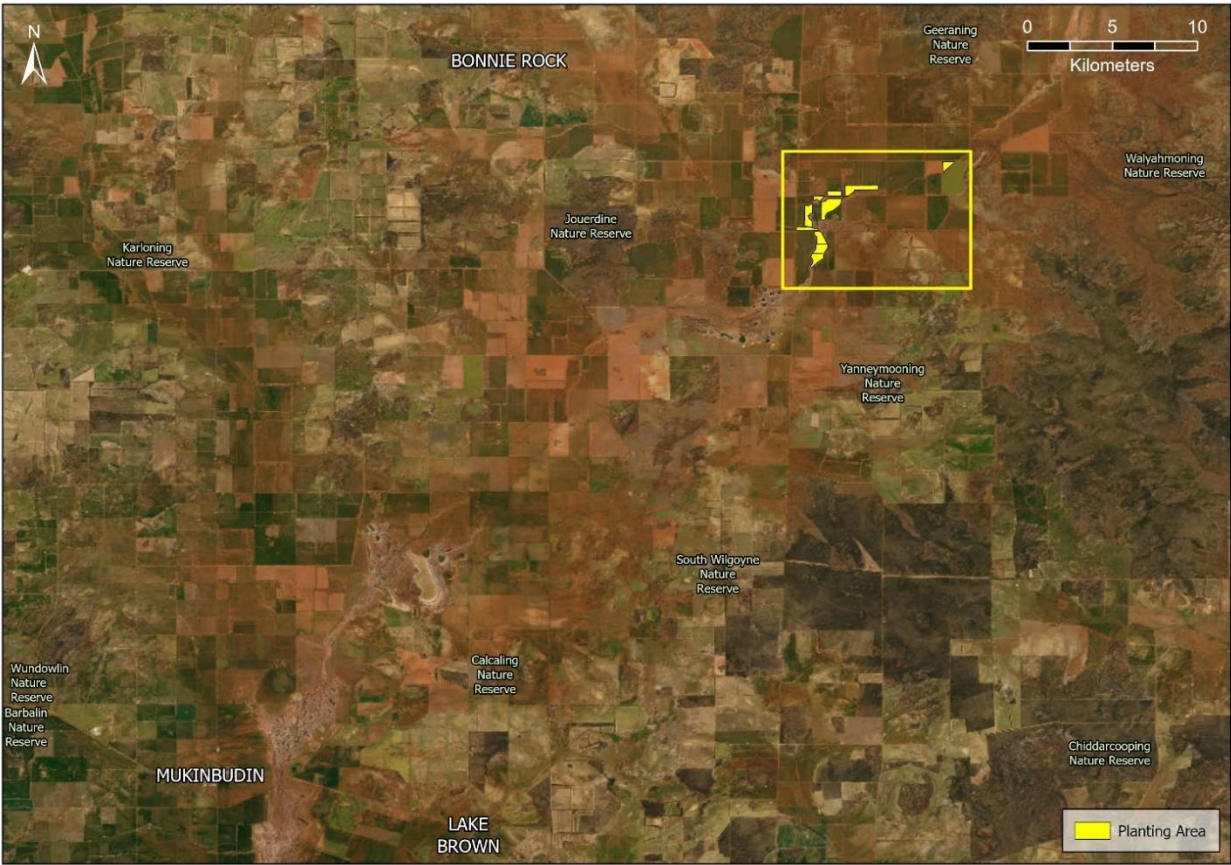


Figure 1: Regional Location Plan



Figure 2: Local Location Plan including access roads

3 Contact Details

3.1 Team Contact Details

Wheatbelt Connect representatives and the landowner of the property will be the primary contacts for bushfire related matters.

Contact Details below:

Wheatbelt Connect Plantation/Site Management
Murray Crane
INPEX – New Energy Business
Level 22, 100 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000
Mobile +61 429 376 689
murray.crane@INPEX.com.au

Wheatbelt Connect Project Management
Brendon Riley
INPEX – New Energy Business
Level 22, 100 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000
Mobile +61 421 284 632
brendon.riley@INPEX.com.au

Wheatbelt Connect Revegetation Specialist
Beren Spencer
INPEX – New Energy Business
Level 22, 100 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000
Mobile +61 462 278 882
beren.spencer@INPEX.com.au

Wheatbelt Connect Land Coordinator
Sam Harma
INPEX – New Energy Business
Level 22, 100 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000
Mobile +61 428 820 499
sam.harma@INPEX.com.au

Wheatbelt Connect Local Fire Officer
Andrew Sprigg
8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd
Elachbutting, WA, 6473
Mobile +61 417 987 971
spriggandrew@gmail.com

3.2 Local Fire Agencies

Table 2 provides contact details for the fire agencies in the Shire of Westonia.

Table 2: Fire contact details

Agency	Address	Phone	Contact Person
For all fire emergencies		000	
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)	Western Australia	13 33 37	
Shire of Westonia	41 Wolfram Street, Westonia WA 6423	90467063 90467001	
Shire of Westonia	41 Wolfram Street, Westonia WA 6423	0429 467 042 9046 7042	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Frank Corsini
Shire of Westonia	41 Wolfram Street, Westonia WA 6423	0428 449 004	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Michael Crook

Table 3: Fire contact details - Bonnie Rock Fire Brigade

Agency	Address	Phone	Contact Person
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0417 987 971	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Andrew Sprigg
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0429 470 025	First Lieutenant - Kim Graham
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0411 182 972	Second Lieutenant - Troy Baker
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0427 414 763	Secretary/Treasurer - Romina Nicoletti
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0459 102 427	Fire Control Officer - Trevor Watson
Bonnie Rock Ward (MBL)		0427 484 048	Deputy Fire Control Officer - Vernon Bent

3.3 Neighbour Contact Details

Contact details for neighbouring properties are shown in Table 3 and their locations relative to the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project in Figure 3.

Table 4: Neighbour Contact Details

Property Number	Landowner	Address	Phone number
1	Nick Priest & Romina Nicoletti	9290 Rabbit Proof Fence Road, Elachbutting 6479	0428470016 0427414763
2	Trevor Watson	1487 Cunderin Road, Bonnie Rock 6479	0459102427
3	State Government of Western Australia	384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park WA 6101	(08)94707500

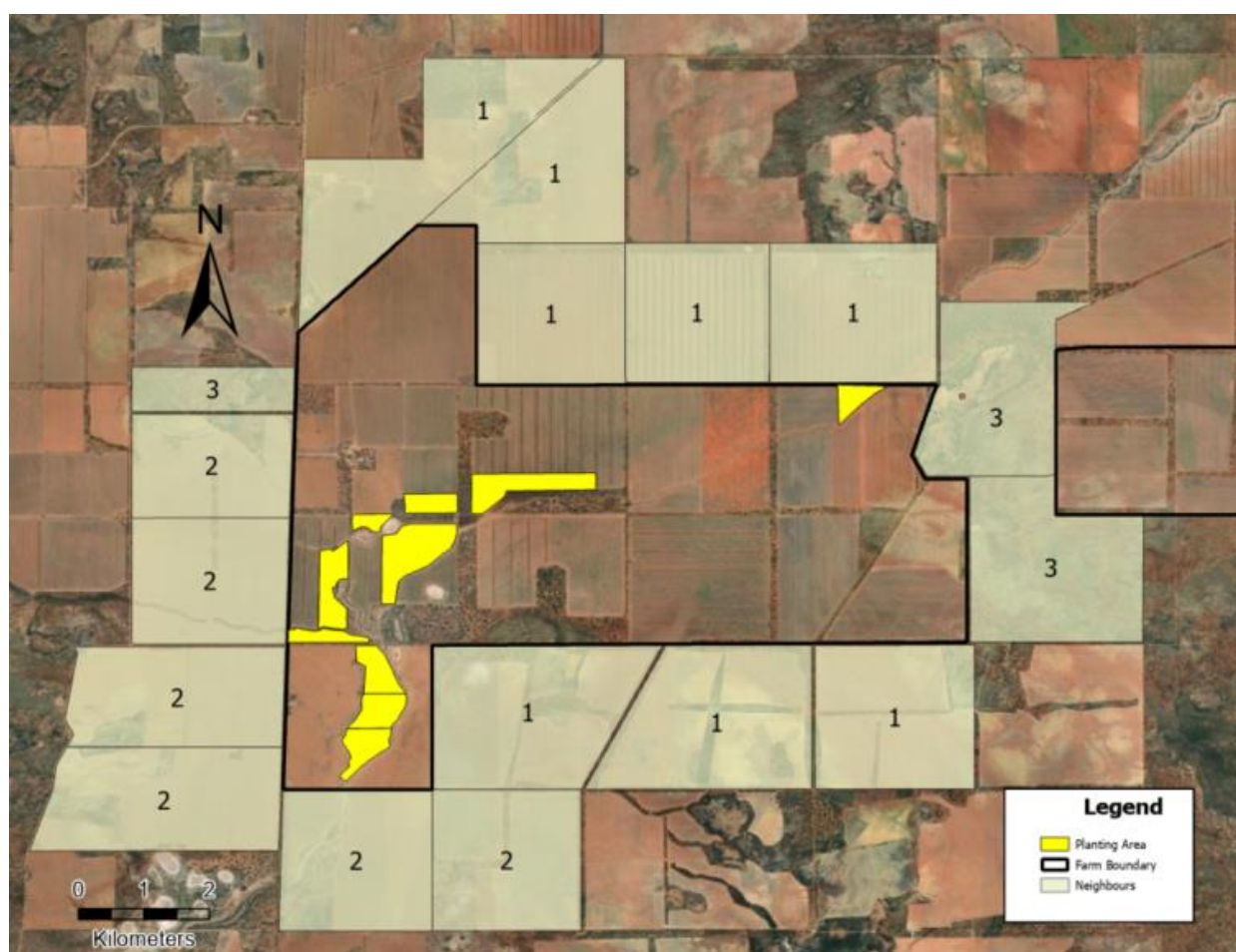


Figure 3: Location of neighbours

4 Fire Risk Management

4.1 Ignitions Risks

The main ignition risks within or proximal to the proposed revegetation areas are:

- Lightning strikes.
- Operation of agricultural vehicles and machinery on the property, i.e., vehicle movement across paddocks, vehicle refuelling etc.
- Escaped fires on adjacent or nearby lands (this could include direct passage of the fire front or ember attack).
- Intentional (i.e. arson) or accidental ignitions (e.g. damaged powerlines, hot work tools, cigarette butts).

4.2 Risk Mitigation

Key approaches to mitigating these risks include:

- Planting layouts will include strategic fire breaks for access and minimising planting block sizes (<32 ha) in accordance with section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act (1954)* and Shire of Westonia requirements.
- Maintaining a vehicle access track network at the property.
- Maintaining suitably accessible water storage for firefighting on the property.

- Monitoring of fuel loads and strategic reduction of fuel loads as required, using methods such as grazing, slashing or controlled burns in accordance with Shire of Westonia requirements.
- Refuelling of vehicles will only be permitted at designated refuelling points on the property.
- Avoidance of vehicle access during high fire risk conditions, including compliance with Shire of Westonia Harvest, Vehicle Movement Bans.
- All workers visiting the property must assess bushfire risks prior to accessing the property. This may include reviewing the fire danger rating as well as subscribe to the Shire's Harvest Ban Information System free SMS service available at: <https://www.westonia.wa.gov.au/forms/the-shire-of-westonia-integrated-sms-info-line/12>

4.3 Seasonal Fuel Load and Firebreak Assessment

Prior to the commencement of the summer fire season (nominally 16 September to 31 March as per Shire of Westonia notices), an assessment of firebreaks and fuel loads within, abutting and adjacent to the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project planting areas will be completed in consultation with the landowner. Remedial actions to achieve an acceptable level of fire risk and meet Shire of Westonia Fire Break Notice, and/or agreed fire break requirements, will be identified and implemented as necessary.

4.4 Vehicle Access

Vehicle access to the property will be facilitated via dedicated access tracks as required. Access will be restricted to minimise risks, and vehicles will be required to meet minimum requirements appropriate to the risks i.e., carry fire extinguishers; communications; and maps detailing routes, muster locations and water points.

Laneways and access to water supplies in the area shall be maintained.

4.5 Fire Maps

Property Bushfire Advice Maps have been prepared (see appendices 1 & 2) showcasing access points, tracks, water points, key infrastructure, hazards, and operational layout. This map will be reviewed once the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project planting areas have been established, prior to the 2025/26 bushfire season and periodically thereafter as part of regular review of this BMP.

The Fire Advice Maps will be provided to the necessary emergency services (e.g. local bushfire brigades). Copies of the Fire Advice Map (A3 laminated) showing locations of water points, property access points will be installed in information tubing affixed to posts at selected property entry points.

4.6 Firebreaks

4.6.1 Firebreak dimensions

Wheatbelt Connect has reviewed the Shire of Westonia firebreak requirements applicable to the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project. The following firebreaks will be implemented for the project:

- 3-metre-wide fire break surrounding the perimeter of planted trees internal to the property.
Note: for adjacent cropping land, there will be an additional 3m firebreak on the other side of the planting boundary

- 6-metre-wide fire break where the perimeter of the planted trees adjoins the property external boundary.
- Planting area compartments (i.e. contiguous blocks) will be limited to an area of less than 32 hectares in size.
 - Adjacent compartment boundaries are to have a 6-meter-wide fire break between the compartments.

4.6.2 Firebreak Maintenance

Firebreaks within and bordering the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project planting areas will be maintained by Wheatbelt Connect. Firebreaks on parts of the property outside the planting areas will be maintained by the property manager or their delegate. All firebreaks must be maintained accordance with the agreement with the Shire of Westonia.

- Annually, on or before the date specified by the LGA, Wheatbelt Connect shall comply with the directives outlined in section 4.6.1 (above) to reduce the outbreak, spread and extension of a bushfire and maintain at that standard until the date specified by the LGA annually under section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.
- Firebreaks for all planting areas shall comply with requirements contained in the DFES *Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection (2011)* except where a deviation has been agreed with the Shire, as appropriate for the nature of the specific planting area.

4.7 Fire Detection, Reporting and Initial Response

The landowner, neighbours and passersby, and the existing Shire of Westonia & Bonnie rock brigade system will undertake fire detection. In the event of unplanned or loss of control of a planned fire dial 000.

Emergency WA will notify Shire of Westonia Chief Fire Control Officer or nominated delegate. The Shire of Westonia Chief Fire Control Officer will liaise with Emergency WA for coordination of the initial suppression.

If a major wildfire develops, other firefighting organisations may become involved in the fire suppression action e.g. Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) in the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

4.8 Post Emergency Fire Management

Once initial fire suppression is completed, responsibility to manage the fire and any related mop up duties will generally be handed back to the plantation manager / landowner. Assistance will be provided by brigades as required; however, shire volunteers and staff are not expected to monitor the property once the fire is under control.

4.9 Water Points and Fire Equipment

Firefighting water supplies on Geeraning Farm are shown in the Bushfire Advice Maps (Appendices 1 & 2) and include the following:

- Emergency community water supply within 10 km of the project area
- Extensive water tank network throughout the property maintained and operated by the property manager.

Equipment for fire and fuel load suppression activities located on the property is summarised in Table 5.

Equipment for fire and fuel load suppression activities will be provided to the Shire of Westonia prior to the commencement of the fire season.

4.10 Fuel load management with livestock

It is anticipated that livestock may be introduced to the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project planting areas at approximately age three years old, or otherwise when the trees are sufficiently mature to withstand grazing. Besides controlling weeds, the grazing will have the beneficial effect of reducing fire fuel loads and improving access between the tree rows for vehicles.

4.11 Training

Wheatbelt Connect team members involved in Bushfire response shall have undertaken suitable training to ensure competency to undertake this role.

Table 5: On farm firefighting equipment

Owner	Unit	Available on-site during agricultural harvest and other fire-risk operations?	Storage location
P. Sprigg & Co	Three light tanker units	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	Two trailer unit	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	Two Trucks with 8,000 & 2,000 L tanks	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	Prime mover with 9000 L water tank	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	45-foot offset disks	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	19 tonne 856H Liugong loader	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	Heavy-duty tow-behind grader unit	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	D6C bulldozer with a 4.5m rake	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting
P. Sprigg & Co	Three light tanker units	Yes, onsite or on local associated property within the business	8846 Rabbit Proof Fence Rd, Elachbutting





The information contained on this map is confidential and for information only, and must not be communicated to other persons without the prior written consent of INPEX. Any unauthorised use of such information may expose the user and the provider of that information to legal risk. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information presented, no guarantee is given nor responsibility taken by INPEX for any errors or omissions. INPEX accepts no liability for any use of the said information or reliance placed on it.

BURNING PERMITS

- PERMITS** to burn are required for the whole of the Restricted Burning Periods and can only be obtained from your local FCO. Contact the CBFCO (0429 467 042), the Deputy CBFCO (0428 449 004) to be put in touch with your FCO to obtain a permit.
- CAREFULLY READ** and adhere to all of the conditions of the permit as any breach or negligence could make you liable for any damage to neighbouring properties and/or infringements/penalties.
- ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS** imposed by the FCO when issuing permits must be strictly adhered to. The Shire may check that permit conditions are being complied with during the Restricted Burning Period.
- INFRINGEMENTS / ON THE SPOT FINES of \$250 & UPWARDS** apply to any breaches of the permit conditions/special conditions. Contact your FCO if in doubt.
- PERIOD OF NOTICE** to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than 28 days or less than 4 days although lesser notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.
- NO PERMITS** will be issued for burning on **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS** during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods.
- GARDEN REFUSE & RUBBISH** Prior to the burning of garden refuse and rubbish a 3 metre radius perimeter around the waste heap is to be cleared of all flammable material. Burning of garden refuse and rubbish is not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period and during the Restricted Burning Periods it will require a permit from a Fire Control Officer.
- CAMP FIRES** During the Restricted Burning Period a permit is required for any cooking and camping fire. Cooking and Camp fires are not permitted throughout the Prohibited Burning Period. Gas barbecues can still be used during this period.

Please note that if deemed necessary the 'Restricted Burning Period' may be extended by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

You should consult with your local FCO or contact the Shire of Westonia to find out if the Restricted Burning Period has been extended before lighting any fires

Contact Us

p. (08) 9046 7063
e. shire@westonia.wa.gov.au
a. 41 Wolfram Street, PO Box 11
Westonia WA 6423

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www.westonia.wa.gov.au



Australian Fire Danger Rating System

What is the Australian Fire Danger Rating System?

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program is redesigning the forecasting of fire danger in Australia. The AFDRS is a project of national significance being developed collaboratively by each state and territory, and the Commonwealth government. It aims to improve public safety, reduce the impacts of bushfires and better support the community with nationally consistent ratings and messaging. The AFDRS will be implemented on 1 September 2022 across Australia.

What are Fire Danger Ratings?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires. Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and vegetation information. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring.

How is the AFDRS different from our current system?

The current Fire Danger Rating System is largely based on 60-year-old science applied on a large scale. New technology and research have greatly improved our ability to more accurately predict fire behaviour and the potential threat to the community. The AFDRS will have four levels with action-oriented messages to encourage people to take action.

Supporting messages, including localised information, will clearly explain what community response is required at each level. The AFDRS also introduces an 'off' or 'no rating' level (white strip under Moderate) for days where no proactive action is required. This does not mean that fires cannot happen, but that they are not likely to move or act in a threatening way.

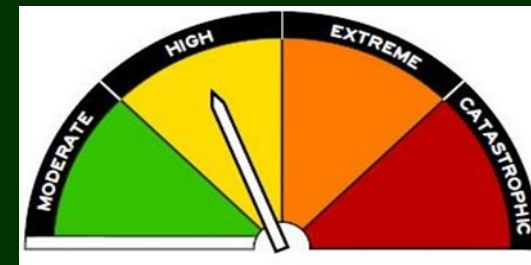
The ratings and high-level messages are:

Moderate: Plan and prepare.

High: Be ready to act.

Extreme: Take action now to protect life and property

Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bush-fire risk areas.



FIRE BANS

Fire bans may be applied during both the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods.

A **TOTAL FIRE BAN (TFB)** is a ban put in place by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES). When declared, TFBs are in place for the whole day from midnight to midnight. They may be revoked during the day if the forecast weather does not eventuate or if weather conditions ease. Further information about what activities may / may not be undertaken during a TFB can be found by visiting DFES' website - www.dfes.wa.gov.au. To find out if a ban is in place listen to ABC radio, follow DFES on Twitter / Facebook, go to the DFES website or call 133 337.

A **HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN (HVMB)** is a ban put in place by the Shire of Westonia. It carries different conditions as to what activities can be undertaken than a TFB. Visit the Shire website (www.westonia.wa.gov.au) to find out what activities may / may not be undertaken. If you would like to be on our 'SMS List' please contact Jasmine on 9046 7063 or admin@westonia.wa.gov.au with your name and mobile number.

Harvesting is not permitted on Christmas Day and New Years Day. Harvesting is permitted on all Sundays and other Public Holidays except where a harvesting or movement ban has been imposed due to extreme weather conditions.

The penalty for failing to comply with this order is a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5000) and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed by this notice, if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this notice.

BILL PRICE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DEFINITIONS

In this Fire Break Order unless the contrary intention appears:

- **"Rural Land"** means all land not located within the boundaries of a town site.
- **"Town Site Land"** means all land located within the boundaries of a town site.
- **"Firebreak"** means ground from which all flammable material has been removed to a height of 4 metres and on which no flammable material is permitted;
- **"Flammable Materials"** means material that can be easily ignited, i.e. – dead or dry grass, leaves, timber, paper, plastic and other material or thing deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion but does not include green growing trees or green growing plants in gardens;
- **"Occupier of Land"** means a person or persons as defined in Section 7 of the *Bushfires Act 1954*.

OTHER INFORMATION

RADIO STATIONS DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY

During a fire emergency all landowners and occupiers are encouraged to listen to ABC Radio as they are the official emergency broadcast radio station. Local frequencies for Westonia are 531, 558 and 720.

FIRE INCIDENT REPORTS

All landowners and occupiers who incur a bushfire have an obligation to assist the Fire Control Officer to compile a Fire Incident Report Form.

LANDOWNERS & OCCUPIERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The *Bush Fires Act 1954* requires the occupiers of the land to take all reasonable measures to control fires on their land, at their expense, regardless of how the fire started. Whilst local volunteer fire fighters will come out and assist in the control of the fire, landowners and occupiers are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for fires on their property including monitoring the fire after fire crews have left. Penalties apply and recovery of costs can be made by Council for those who do not comply with these provisions.

BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, please contact the CBFCO (0429 467 042), the Deputy CBFCO (0428 449 004)

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Residents are strongly encouraged to have and maintain firefighting equipment for the protection of their own property.

VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING A FIRE IN THEIR OWN VEHICLE

Must immediately report to the onsite Fire Control Officer for safety and insurance purposes.

Enquires relating to this Firebreak Order or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire office on 90467063

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Frank Corsini | 0429 467 042

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Michael Crook | 0428 449 004

Westonia Brigade Fire Control Officer

Frank Corsini | 0429 467 042

Colin Lindley | 0427 467 004

Brad Penny | 0429 467 046

Walgoolan Brigade Fire Control Officer

Jason Wahlsten | 0429 447 020

Shaun Crees | 0428 447 057

Warralakin Brigade Fire Control Officer

Michael Crook | 0428 449 004

Steve LeMoignan | 0428 449 002

Shire Fire Control Officer

Bill Price | 0427 467 063

(General enquiries ONLY. In an emergency call 000)

Harvest Ban SMS

Call 9046 7063 to subscribe



Wolfram Street, PO Box 11
WESTONIA WA 6423

(08) 9046 7063

shire@westonia.wa.gov.au

www.westonia.wa.gov.au

Follow us:



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL LAND OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS WITHIN THE SHIRE OF WESTONIA



BUSH FIRE INFORMATION 2024/2025

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

16 September 2024 to 31 October 2024

15 February 2025 to 31 March 2025

BURNING PERMIT REQUIRED

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

1 November 2024 to 14 February 2025

NO BURNING PERMITTED

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 000



Wheatbelt Connect

A joint venture between



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

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 19th June 2025 commencing at 4.00pm.

13. MEETING CLOSURE

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