



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 20th November 2025

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Urgent Need for Action – Great Eastern Highway (Northam to Merredin)



SHIRE OF WESTONIA

Nov/Dec 25

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Thursday 20 November	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Thursday 27 November	WEROC Board Meeting	Cunderdin	President & DCEO
Monday 1 December	CEACA Board Meeting	Merredin Rec Centre	Deputy President & CEO
Wednesday 3 December	Seniors Xmas Sundowner	Stadium	President, Senior Staff
Monday 15 December	WEROC CEO Meeting	Zoom	CEO
Thursday 18 December	Council Meeting Xmas Function	Westonia	Councillors, Senior Staff

CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- On Friday 24th October I met with the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Native Title Claimants in Kalgoorlie to negotiate possible residential land purchase of townsite lots.
- Cr Geier and I attended a WNESRRG meeting held in Mukinbudin on Tuesday 28 October.
- Councillors and senior staff met with a delegation of Narembeen Council on Tuesday 28 October to showcase recent projects and discuss strategies moving forward followed by a social evening function.
- Council is currently defending itself on some industrial relations issues with Ex Pool Manager, Scott Hugget, who is claiming that he is owed outstanding annual leave payments and some other minor claims. We will be utilizing WALGA Industrial Relations Service when the matter proceeds further.
- A Museum Volunteer sundowner was held for the volunteers on Thursday 30 October as an appreciation for their efforts in working weekend and public holiday rosters as well as allowing them to see the new Coopers garage display firsthand.
- I have been liaising with several sub-contractors who are tendering for the Water Corporation project from 2026. Enquiries have been made on laydown areas, backfill sand, accommodation, office space etc.
- A wonderful evening was held on Friday 7 November for invited guests to the official opening of the Cooper's Garage Museum.

Attended by @ 50 people who were involved in and/or made a contribution to the project with the attendance of Mr Murray Cooper and family, gave the Council the opportunity to extend their appreciation to all of the trades and donors involved in the project

Special acknowledgement was given to Mr Cooper who gave a heartfelt speech about his 40 year love of restoration work of the bowzers, before unveiling a life like mannequin of himself which left him utterly speechless.

A second opening event was held the next day for the general public as part of the Xmas markets event. Appreciation was extended to everyone involved with this project

- Lotterywest (\$ 200,000 part funding for the building extension)
- Peter Antonio Centek Constructions who has done an amazing job on all of the construction works of the buildings.
- Des O'Rafferty from Hi Lo Constructions for his bibs and bobs.
- Anne Marie Jensen for her grant writing skills
- Anthony Nelson, Ancor Electrical for all of the electrical works which is quite complex
- Gordon and Corey Nelson from Merredin Refrigeration.
- Glen and Ric Antonio from West Coast Surface Coaters who have provided an outstanding finish on the floors.
- Ashley Geier for the earthworks
- Ben Gearing for concrete works
- Bob Lockyer who did a power of work in the packing, unpacking, transport and fitting out of the collection.
- Stuart and his fellas from Complete Removals who handled the transport of the bowzers (which has been estimated at about 10T).
- Ted Price for helping with the connection to Murray and that he can lift heavy things.
- Jonesy and Di for their volunteer work in assisting in setting up the display which has been enormous feat.
- Donors of additional display items including the Hood Penns, Jonesy, Mick Cunningham, the Lindley's, Dave Lord, Dave Hendriks and Ross & Sue
- Employees of the Council who always perform above and beyond for the Council and the community.
- Lastly, Council for having the foresight and courage to make decisions that may not be seen as core business, but will have everlasting benefit and legacy to the Westonia community.

- Also to Mick & Glenda Cunningham and Bob & Joyce Hood-Penn who volunteered for many hours over the weekend with the supervision and crowd control of the museums.

The opening was a very satisfying closure to what has been an amazing project and longtime legacy for the Westonia community.



- Work is progressing well on the Warm Water Pool project with a roof installed and the concrete being poured for the surrounds. Honing of the concrete will be taking place later this week and then the walls and windows will be installed over the next couple of weeks.



- I attended a Bendigo Bank Board meeting in Mukinbudin on Wednesday 12 November.
- The Shire President and I attended the Great Eastern Zone Meeting held in Kellerberrin on Thursday 13 November.
- I participated as proxy for Shire President in a GEZ Teams meeting with Mia Davies to discuss strategies required when making a delegation to a Minister.
- Council have had to again write to the proprietors of the Carrabin Roadhouse threatening infringements because of the lack of cleanliness and hygiene in the food preparation areas. This seems to be an ongoing issue with them not getting the message, so it is recommended that enforcement action be imposed in the future.

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- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

- Nil

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- **ROADCREW**

- The construction crew are progressing extremely well on both the Mukinbudin and Nungarin Shires WFN projects on the Nungarin Mukinbudin Roads.
- The maintenance grader has been undertaking drains and batters and summer grading in the northern part of the shire.

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- **TOWN**

- The legs of the shade structure have also been installed at the community hub in readiness for the dome structure to be installed over the next couple of weeks.



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- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 30.11.25.

Item		31.10.25	30.11.25
P1	CAT 140 GRADER	3,930hrs	4,162hrs
P2	CAT 12M GRADER	10,349hrs	10,579hrs
P3	PRIME MOVER (KENWORTH)	62,151ms	79,527kms
P4	ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)	157,935kms	168,400kms
P5	JOHN DEERE LOADER	5,763hrs	5,851hrs
P6	CAT ROLLER (SKIP)	2,781hrs	2,862hrs
P7	MINI-EXCAVATOR	1,390hrs	1,441hrs
P8	TELEHANDLER JCB	504hrs	560hrs
P9	TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)	73,433kms	78,280kms
P10	MITSUBISHI CANTER	33,546 kms	35,843kms
P11	TOYOTA HILUX (HCS) WT 35	113,907kms	114,309kms
P12	JOHN DEERE (5100)	2,776hrs	2,817hrs
P14	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)	13,272kms	20,111kms
P15	TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)	58,574kms	67,412kms
P16	TOYOTA RAV4 (Community)	15,045kms	18,214kms
P17	TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB	68,687kms	74,161kms
P19	FAST ATTACK	20,217kms	20,445kms
P20	FIRE TRUCK	7,416kms	7,451kms
P18	WESSY BUS	153,931kms	154,693kms
P22	KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)	2,173hrs	2,200hrs
P23	TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)	49,628kms	51,002kms
P24	CAT ROLLER (LOLA)	3,185hrs	3,370hrs
P25	MICK's BEAUT UTE	184,431kms	185,927kms
P27	TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)	28,568 kms	35,831kms
P28	TOYOTA HILUX UTILITY (TOWN)	7,773kms	10,215kms
P29	MOWER	6.1hrs	12hrs

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Working group meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month:

Event planning – Masquerade Ball, Painting of Mural old school, Quiz Night, Community fitness and Westonia Swimming Pool activities.

Westonia Workers WhatsApp group is working very well in activating volunteers for events and projects. We are finding more people are using the platform to ask questions, send out information, ask for assistance and getting quick responses. Even though some people are not tech savvy they are still getting information from friends, much quicker than they would usually.

CRC – Annual report and Health check report are due annually by 1 December currently underway.

Westonia Markets and Coopers Garage Opening- this month has been very busy for all involved in these two events we had over 200 people in attendance on Saturday 8/11/25. These two events worked well together and there was much to see and do for those in attendance. See the Westonian write up 13/11/25 for more details.

Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

13/8/25 applied for Collgar Community Fund grant \$6000 to go towards the 28th March 2026 “Back to our roots, Bring your Boots” Ball. Successful applicants will be notified in October

Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

We will be applying for a further \$2000 from another Grant provider in the coming months to go towards expenses for the Ball.

WELLBEING REPORT

Age Care

Westonia Home Care Services

We are continuing to provide community Wellbeing activities

We continue to provide Meals on wheels, Lite N Easy Equipment and Aids for our clients

Westonia Home Care Services Clients: **23**

New clients about to join service: **1?**

Staff delivering services: 5

Services: Administration and Package management, Cleaning and Household tasks, Medical, Personal Care, Social Support, Support work, Gardening & Maintenance, Meals, Allied health, Medicine management, Equipment and Home modifications.

Monthly and annual reporting – Quarterly and annual financial reports to Department of health, disability and ageing. SaHCC annual reporting (Support @ Home cost collection).

Various SaH rollout training sessions (online) ongoing.

Community activities and resources

2025 Activities/ Events:

6th, 13th, 20th & 27th of October – Every Monday the Sewing Group meet at the sewing room from 9am – midday. approx 6pax

7th of October – Scrabble 3 Pax

2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd of October – Bingo 9-11pax.

10/10/25 Plaground Fundraising Group QUIZ NIGHT 60+ pax

15/10/2025 Working Group Meeting 9pax

30/10/25 Museum Volunteer Appreciation Evening 20+pax

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

The Park is still quite busy even though tourist season is all but done and dusted for another year. The overflow camping area has been booked out till December by Streamline Connect who are in the district conducting upgrades for Telstra. Westonia's version of Carols by Candle light will be held on the 12th of December in the BBQ area, this is a beautiful space and hopefully it will bring the community together for a fun evening.

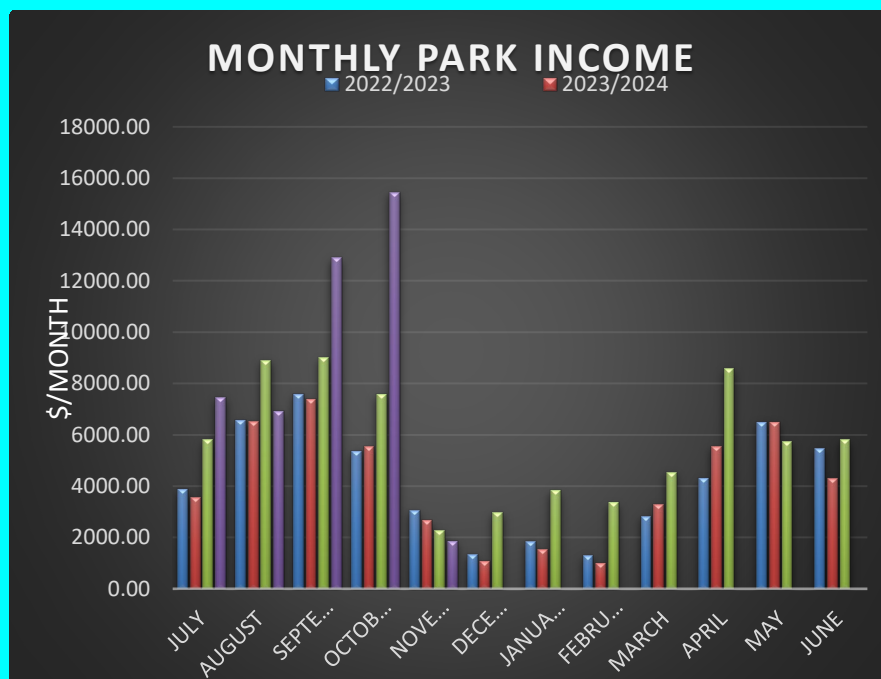
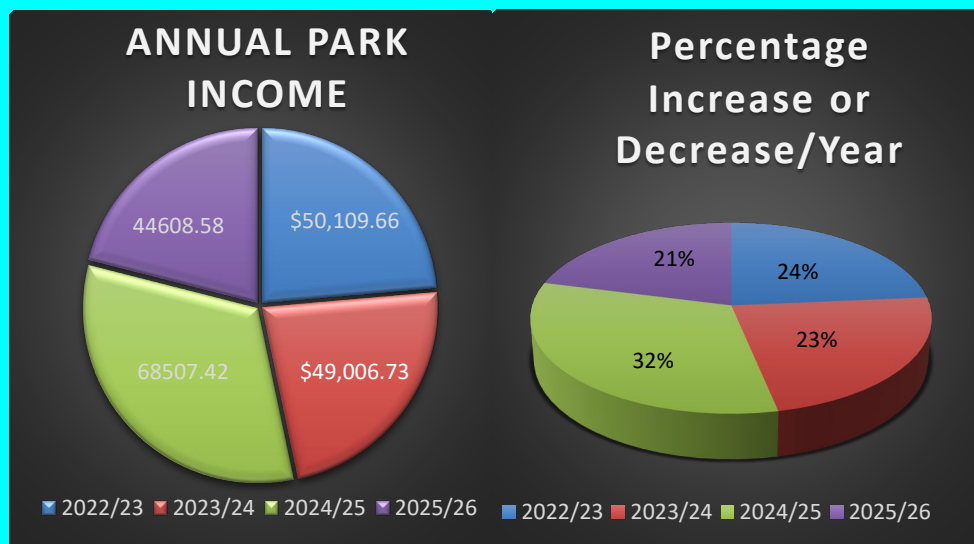
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing. Focal area being bathroom maintenance (fixtures and disabled bathroom upgrade)
- Disabled toilet drainage will need some major work as tree roots have made their way into the pipes.

FUTURE PROJECTS

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

STATISTICS



HOOD-PENN MUSEUM and COOPERS GARAGE MUSEUM

Coopers Garage has officially opened, and wow what a turn out. The shire hosted a volunteer appreciation evening on Thursday the 30th in the garage for a little sneak peak and to familiarise our volunteer crew with the new museum set up. The night before the grand opening the shire again hosted a Cocktail evening to thank everyone that helped make this mammoth project reality. Guests enjoyed a night full of great food fun and laughter. Whilst everyone who helped be it contractors, staff or volunteers are appreciated, Peter Antonio and Des O'Rafferty really dedicated every available minute to completing this project. Pete and Des's commitment to the continual upgrades and improvements to make Westonia great is second to none.



REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

RECENT PROJECTS

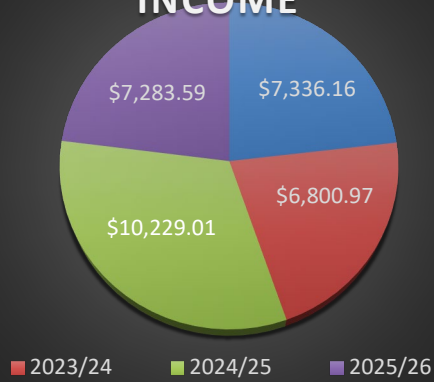
- War Memorial moved from OM Hall and photo signs now installed.
- Model War Planes hung in War Memorial scene

FUTURE PROJECTS

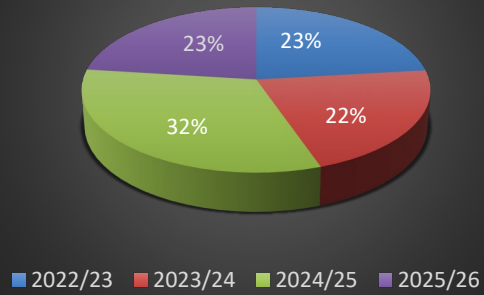
- New scenes to be created in the existing space of the old storage room to tell the stories of our primary industries of which Westonia was founded on.

STATISTICS

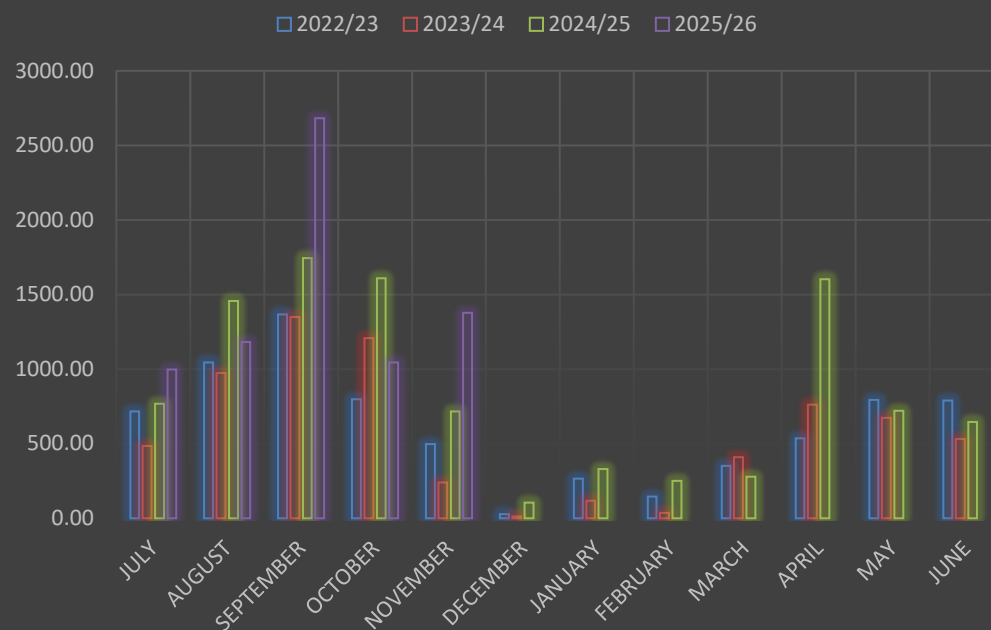
ANNUAL MUSEUM INCOME



Percentage Increase or Decrease/Year



MONTHLY MUSEUM INCOME



Swimming Pool Manager's Report – November 2025

The Westonia Swimming Pool opened on the 1st of November on a cool day, which meant not many swimmers, but we still had around 30 people enjoy the sausage sizzle kindly cooked by Simmo and supplied by the Shire.

The new chlorinator system is running well and settling into its job effectively. John's next task is to repair the aerator, which has seized. He is confident he can fix it. We had a power outage for a couple of hours on the 14th of November, and we believe the aerator would have made a significant difference during start-up, as excess dirt in the filter tends to settle to the floor when the pump isn't running. John will get onto the repair soon, though he has been flat out with moving house.

The cleaner is still required a few times a week. We are hoping the stains on the pool floor will gradually fade as the chlorine continues to work, but it appears that some areas relate to the concrete itself and may need repainting. We know the Shire is aware of this ongoing issue.

We are considering removing a shade cover from the little pool to allow more sun to heat the water, which will help warm the water in the big pool.

The lawn is looking great, thanks to Simmo's ongoing maintenance. John has also installed a tap halfway along the fence so we can hose down the cockie droppings each morning—unfortunately, we still haven't figured out how to get rid of the cockies themselves.

Artificial turf has been laid along the stadium side to reduce sand blowing into the water, and it has also improved the overall appearance of the area.

Early morning swimming has commenced, and we've had participants every session so far. A WhatsApp group has been set up so I can notify swimmers of cancellations. We hope this encourages those from out of town to make the trip in.

Attendance Statistics (as of Sunday 16th November):

- Adults: 82
- Children: 34
- Under 5s: 14
- Early morning swimmers: 8
- **Total: 130**

The Pool Managers are currently very busy moving house and will be extremely relieved when it's all done and dusted. And no—we are *not* having a housewarming party!

Megan & Simmo



Regional Road Group Report

November 2025



Roads

Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)

An investigation into road data collection technologies for Local Governments in WA was recently published on the [LGTRRIP website](#). The development of a road safety rating tool for intersections is progressing.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

The model *pro forma* Interface Agreement template between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure has been disseminated by Arc Infrastructure to Local Governments in the South West, Goldfields, and Great Southern regions. Agreements will be sent to Local Governments in the Mid West and Wheatbelt regions in due course. A memorandum outlining what has changed between the old and new agreements, the main issues of contention, their resolution, and other key updates was also provided to all Local Governments hosting Arc Infrastructure operated rail in July 2025.

Rail Interface Agreements have been required since 2010 with the details now set out under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) 2024*.

Funding

State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC)

WALGA and Main Roads WA have been progressing activities to implement resolutions made by the SAC at the September meeting. These include efforts to reduce funding expected to be carried forward at the end of 2025/26 by calling for additional shovel ready projects in regional locations and additional rehabilitation projects in the Metropolitan region.

SAC have also requested that Main Roads WA and WALGA draft amendments to the State Road Funds to Local Government Procedures to clarify methodologies for the allocation of road project grant funding.

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure Team continues to work with the Regional Road Groups to better align the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding with the Agreement. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. All the Regional Road Groups have commenced the MCA revision process, with the process in the Gascoyne, Great Southern, and South-West region now complete. Significant progress has been made in each of the other regions.

Transport

Active Transport and Micromobility-Discussion Paper

The paper is now published on the WALGA website. The paper provides an overview of the current situation for Active Transport in Western Australia, including existing infrastructure, planning frameworks, and local government initiatives. It also outlines key challenges and opportunities identified through consultation with Local Governments across the State.

The Discussion Paper aims to inform ongoing policy development, encourage collaboration, and support the creation of safer, more connected, and more sustainable transport networks across Western Australia. [Read the discussion paper here.](#)

Active Transport and Micromobility Advocacy Plan

The Active Transport advocacy positions were endorsed by State Council in September. These positions were developed through a process that began with a draft discussion paper, supported by consultations and a stakeholder workshop involving local governments and State agencies. You can view these positions here: [Advocacy-Positions-Manual-\(updated-19-September-2025\).pdf](#).

Work has commenced on an Active Transport Advocacy Plan to guide efforts to achieve the changes identified.

Asset Management

Road Assets and Expenditure (RAE) Report Project

Procurement to appoint a qualified contractor to undertake the works associated with improving the data collection, interpretation and presentation of information concerning Local Government road assets and expenditure closed on 17 October. Work is now underway to evaluate the proposals and award the tender. The study detailing the current processes used to develop the Road Asset and Expenditure Report and a future state will be used as a basis for completing this work. This phase will include the development of a database, reporting interface, and dashboard.

Review of the WALGA Road Visual Condition Assessment Manual

The WALGA Road Visual Condition Manual was published in 2016. Significant technology advances and stakeholder feedback have triggered the need for a review and update. Consultants, CivilSE, have been appointed to undertake the review, which will include comprehensive consultation with users, and preparing a second edition. Work has progressed on the report and WALGA is currently undertaking a review of the updated document. This manual provides important support to Local Government road managers and provides the framework for being able to understand the condition of the road network statewide.

Road Safety

2025 Australasian Road Safety Conference

Western Australia's hosted more than 600 delegates from across the globe at the 2025 Australasian Road Safety Conference in October. WALGA's expertise through the RoadWise program contributed to the impact of this event including by: participating in the organising committees, planning and delivering a conference workshop especially for Local Governments, and showcasing Local Government contributions to road safety program through an exhibition booth and the presentation of two papers. [Home - ARSC 2025 Conference | Road Safety Excellence - Australasia](#)

Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit

WALGA provided a submission to the National Office of Road Safety in response to the Consultation Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit. This submission is based on advocacy positions endorsed by State Council in August 2022 and May 2023.

Road Safety Council

The Road Safety Council Communiques can viewed at [Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques](#)

28 October 2025

Via email: ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au

Bill Price
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Westonia

Dear Bill

2025-26 High-Threat Season – Information for Local Governments

As Western Australia enters the high-threat bushfire and cyclone season, I am providing all Chief Executive Officers with information about how WALGA supports our members during emergencies. The WALGA President has sent similar correspondence to all Mayors and Presidents.

Situational Awareness – All Hazards Liaison Group

In the event of a bushfire, severe weather or cyclone emergency in your community, WALGA maintains situational awareness through attending the online All Hazards Liaison Group (AHLG) meeting convened by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES - the Hazard Management Agency for all natural hazards). All key State Government stakeholders, including telecommunications and power agencies and the State Recovery Team, participate in the AHLG. Local Governments should be represented at regional levels through the Operational Area Support Group (OASG) meetings and at the incident level through the Incident Support Group (ISG) meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like WALGA to raise through the AHLG to the State level, or with WALGA Emergency Management policy staff, please call the WALGA Emergency Management phone number 0438967185 or email em@walga.asn.au.

Coordination of Response - State Emergency Coordination Group

Should the State Government convene a State Emergency Coordination Group (SECG) meeting for an emergency, I will attend to represent the Local Government sector, alongside senior State Government officials and key stakeholders. The overarching purpose of the SECG is to ensure front-line services are across the details of the emergency and to coordinate agency activities in the best interests of community safety in WA.

I am very conscious that Local Government resources are stretched during emergencies and do not want to add to your workload by contacting you during an incident. However, I may contact you if an SECG meeting is scheduled and your Local Government has been impacted to enquire if you have any significant concerns requiring immediate attention that you wish to be communicated to senior officials at the SECG. These could include:

- **Community** – how are they impacted, is there a segment of your community that requires additional support, higher risk cohorts, Aboriginal communities, etc.
- **Economic** – likely impacts on business continuity, tourism, or industry etc.
- **Social Setting** – are you working with the WA Police Force, Department of Education, Department of Communities, Government agencies and social service providers? Are there any concerns or issues at this stage, or likely to evolve?

- **Governance** – does your Local Government have enough resources and the required capabilities to deal with the emergency? Please flag any additional resource requirements that you may need.
- **Infrastructure** – Is there any major damage to your infrastructure, or infrastructure required by your community?
- **Environment** – Are there natural or cultural assets that require protection or may have been impacted?

Local Knowledge

The State Emergency Management Framework recognises that local knowledge during emergencies is vital. DFES and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have four State Bushfire Pre-Formed Teams (PFT) which are deployed to complex incidents (some Level 2 and all Level 3). The Pre-Formed Teams have several allocated positions for Local Government personnel, including a Local Government Advisor, Deputy Logistics Officer and Accommodation Officer. I encourage you to identify suitable staff that could perform these roles during an emergency. Where your capacity is challenged to fill these roles, it may be worthwhile liaising with neighbouring Local Governments to support each other.

The DFES Community Liaison Unit (CLU), is deployed to incidents with significant community impact as part of the PFT. They serve as a bridge between the community and the Incident Management Team (IMT). When a community briefing is scheduled, the CLU will collaborate with the Local Government to coordinate the event, and to identify a Local Government representative to facilitate the meeting and provide updates. The briefing can also be live streamed via Local Government social media channels, with the CLU offering assistance as needed.

For further information contact Superintendent State Coordination, Noel Buckland, by email at superintendent.statecoordination@dfes.wa.gov.au or by telephone on (08) 9395 9678.

Recovery

Local Governments have a legislated responsibility to manage recovery after an emergency. We recommend that you review your Local Recovery Plan and ensure your Local Recovery Coordinator(s) have the required knowledge and awareness ahead of the season.

Where recovery needs are complex and/or beyond the capacity of the Local Government the DFES-appointed State Recovery Coordinator will activate operational support, who will maintain situational awareness and may reach out to better understand local context and recovery needs. The State Recovery Coordinator can be contacted on 9395 9549, which is monitored at all times, or by emailing StateRecoveryCoordinator@dfes.wa.gov.au. You can also reach out to your District Emergency Management Advisor.

Following an event, the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) may be activated. These arrangements are a funding mechanism available to local governments to support individuals and communities to recover from eligible disaster events. The DRFAWA reimburses eligible costs that meet specific criteria and evidence requirements. The DFES Recovery Funding Directorate administers the DRFAWA for the State and can be contacted at drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au or 1800 920 659. To learn more about the DRFAWA, including activation criteria and assistance measures visit dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding. Training options, including pre-High Threat Season

virtual training, are also available. For further details or to book a session, please email drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au.

In preparation for the High Threat Season, WALGA is hosting a practical and interactive **Pre-season Emergency Management Webinar** on **Thursday 6th November 2:00PM - 4:15PM** designed to help Local Government CEOs, Elected Members, and Emergency Management staff get ready for the upcoming high-threat bushfire season. You can register here: [Upcoming Events | WALGA](#).

WALGA's Biennial Emergency Management Survey is also currently in the field, closing **Friday 14 November**. This survey, which WALGA conducts every two years, is invaluable in identifying sector priorities, pressure points, and emerging issues to inform our policy development and advocacy. The 2023 survey achieved a 75% response rate and this year, we are aiming to exceed that. If you have not yet responded, your unique survey link is: <https://src.ecu.edu.au/SE/1/WALGA25/?&P=604>. For any questions, contact em@walga.asn.au.

Finally I also recommend WALGA's suite of [training courses in emergency management](#), in particular, the half-day 'Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders' course, designed for CEOs, Mayors, Presidents, Elected Members and senior staff.

Thank you for all you do to keep your community safe over the High Threat Season and throughout the year. Please be assured that WALGA is here to support you. Do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Team or me directly on 0408 941 792 should you require urgent advice or assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Sloan', written in a cursive style.

Nick Sloan
Chief Executive Officer

Good morning CEOs

Today, the State Government introduced the Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025 to Parliament.

The Bill aims to give effect to the decision to legislate changes to the rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land, undermining the decision of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

WALGA has serious concerns about the proposed legislation, which, if passed, will:

- Prohibit Local Governments from rating Crown land that is the subject of a Miscellaneous Licence or a Small Prospecting Licence held under the Mining Act 1978. A Small Prospecting Licence is defined as a prospecting licence held in respect to land which does not exceed 10 ha. Collectively these are referred to as 'licence land'.
- Extinguish all rates imposed on licence land dating back to the 2017/2018 financial year.
- Compel Local Governments to refund any rates collected for licence land during this time period, including any additional charges, interest or costs of proceedings to recover rates.
- Require Local Governments to pay any refunds within 28 days from the day after the Amendment Act receives Royal Assent.
- Allow a ratepayer to recover the paid amount in the courts as a debt due if the Local Government does not meet the 14-day time period.

WALGA considers the proposed amendments to be unnecessarily punitive and disproportionate in their impact on any Local Government that has lawfully levied rates on occupied land under miscellaneous licences.

We have written to the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne to express our strong concerns and urge the Cook Government to reconsider both the scope and timing of the proposed changes.

WALGA maintains that Local Governments should retain the right to rate miscellaneous licences, as determined by the Supreme Court.

However, if the Government proceeds with the exemption, we are advocating for it to take effect from the 2026/27 financial year, with a prohibition on reassessing rate records for miscellaneous or prospecting licences. This would prevent future levying while allowing communities to retain rates already collected lawfully.

To assist us with our ongoing advocacy, we ask Members to complete the following short survey by COB 31 October 2025. The survey link can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards

Nick

PREFERRED SUPPLIER PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

All Member Local Governments can purchase goods and services through the WALGA Preferred Supplier Program. The PSP simplifies procurement for Members, enabling them to save time and money by engaging prequalified Preferred Suppliers and avoiding the requirement to undertake a full tender process. Through the PSP, Members can access over 1,000 different Preferred Suppliers across 12 panels which include over 150 categories. In 2024-25:

- Local Governments procured over **\$508 million worth of goods and services** through the PSP.
- Over **1,677 requests for quotations** were initiated through WALGA's online portal, VendorPanel (eQuotes).



\$508M

Annual
expenditure



1,100

Preferred
Suppliers



1,677

VendorPanel
Requests



\$87K

annual expenditure



6

PSP Panels used



0

VendorPanel requests



9

Preferred Suppliers
engaged

The Shire has seen a decrease of **1.1%** in expenditure in the 2024/25 Financial Year through the Preferred Supplier Program.

The Roads, Infrastructure and Depot Services Panel captured the largest annual expenditure totalling

\$56K

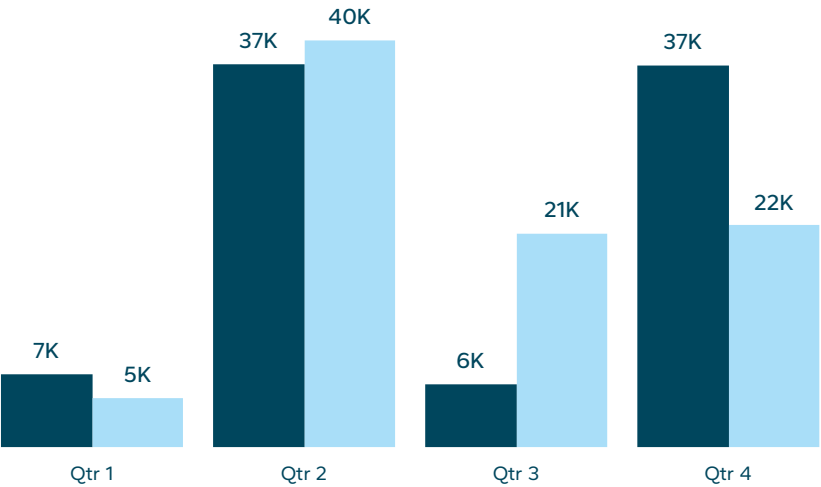
Through the Shire's use of the Preferred Supplier Program, WALGA has received a Management Fee of

\$1K

SHIRE OF WESTONIA

PSP EXPENDITURE

2023/24 2024/25



PSP Expenditure

Supplier	Panel	Reported Expenditure (\$)
Betta Roads	PSP009	\$38,400
Twinkarri	PSP010	\$20,295
MJB Industries	PSP009	\$17,852
Corsign WA	PSP008	\$6,057
WINC Australia	PSP008	\$2,071
HOST	PSP008	\$1,177
Marketforce	C09_19	\$386
Jason Signmakers	PSP008	\$324

Top Suppliers Engaged

SHIRE OF WESTONIA

PANEL BREAKDOWN

2023/24 Financial Year		2024/25 Financial Year	
Panel Contracts	Expenditure (\$)	Expenditure (\$)	Expenditure Variance
Group Advertising & Other	\$998	\$386	-61.30% ▼
Construction and Building Environments (PSP012)	\$0	\$0	-
Engineering Environmental & Technical Consultancy (PSP002)	\$0	\$0	-
Financial & Corporate Services (PSP004)	\$2,507	\$0	-100.00% ▼
Fleet (PSP006)	\$1,666	\$178	-89.31% ▼
Information and Communication Technologies (PSP001)	\$1,738	\$39	-97.76% ▼
Leisure, Cultural and Community Services (PSP005)	\$0	\$0	-
Parks and Gardens (PSP010)	\$33,187	\$20,295	-38.85% ▼
Professional Consultancy Services (PSP003)	\$0	\$0	-
Roads, Infrastructure and Depot Services (PSP009)	\$30,720	\$56,252	83.11% ▲
Temporary Labour & Recruitment (PSP011)	\$0	\$0	-
Waste and Energy (PSP007)	\$0	\$0	-
Workplace Goods & Services (PSP008)	\$16,920	\$9,589	-43.32% ▼
Total	\$87,736	\$86,740	-1.13% ▼



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Panel Contracts Managed:

- PSP006
Fleet
- PSP007
Waste & Energy
- PSP010
Parks & Gardens



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Panel Contracts Managed:

- PSP009
Roads, Infrastructure & Depot
Services
- PSP012
Construction & Built Environments



CARLI BAILEY

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Panel Contracts Managed:

- PSP001
Information & Communications
Technologies
- PSP003
Professional Consultancy Services
- PSP004
Financial & Corporate Services
- PSP005
Leisure, Cultural & Community
Services



SCOTT YELLAND

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Panel Contracts Managed:

- PSP002
Engineering, Environmental
& Technical Consultancy
- PSP008
Workplace Goods & Services
- PSP011
Temporary Labour & Recruitment

31 October 2025

Hon Rita Saffioti BBus MLA

Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation

Dumas House

2 Havelock Street

WEST PERTH WA 6005

c/o Minister.Saffioti@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Urgent Need for Action – Great Eastern Highway (Northam to Merredin)

The Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc. (WEROC) is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation whose members include representatives from the Shires of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn. WEROC exists to support the growth and development of the Eastern Wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

We are writing to express our considerable concern regarding the deteriorating state of the Great Eastern Highway between Northam and Merredin. This section of the highway is exhibiting significant surface failures and extensive potholing, exacerbated by recent winter conditions. The surface is uneven and rough, creating hazardous driving conditions and contributing to increased vehicle wear and tear.

In addition, insufficient overtaking opportunities pose serious safety risks. Between Merredin and Northam, there is currently only one designated overtaking lane in each direction.

As you will be aware, the Great Eastern Highway is a sealed, two-lane rural road that forms a key segment of the Perth to Adelaide corridor. It is a critical transport link for heavy haulage and an essential component of the national logistics chain supporting Western Australia's mining, agricultural and export industries. For many Wheatbelt communities, it also serves as the primary connection between towns and essential services.

Evidence of Need

Infrastructure Australia's *Infrastructure Priority List* identifies *Great Eastern Highway Improvements* as a nationally significant but currently unfunded proposal, which has progressed only through Stage 1 of the assessment framework. The initial evaluation highlights that while certain sections of the highway have received funding for upgrades, there is still 305 km where the age, standard, geometry and deteriorating quality of the road is resulting in relatively poor safety, increased travel times and vehicle operating costs, reduced reliability of ageing bridges and relatively high road maintenance costs. This includes the 223 km section east of Northam.

The *RAC WA Risky Roads Survey (2024/25)*, the largest road safety survey in the state, ranked the Great Eastern Highway from the Lakes to Coolgardie as the second most risky road in Western Australia. The Great Eastern Highway has been identified as one of the riskiest roads in regional WA for four consecutive surveys, with recurring concerns including poor surface quality, narrow lanes and bridges, and a lack of overtaking opportunities.

Survey Year	Rank	Section	Key Issues
2024	2	The Lakes to Coolgardie	Poor road surface quality, lack of overtaking opportunities and narrow road, lanes and bridges
2022	2	The Lakes to Coolgardie	Poor road surface quality, lack of overtaking opportunities and narrow road, lanes and bridges
2019	3	The Lakes to Northam and Merredin to Coolgardie	Poor road surface quality, lack of overtaking opportunities and tight curves or blind crests.
2017	2	The Lakes to Northam and Merredin to Southern Cross	Tight curves and blind crests, narrow road, lanes or bridges, lacks overtaking opportunities.

Current Investment

The Australian and Western Australian Governments have jointly committed \$250 million for upgrades along the Great Eastern Highway between Coates Gully in the Shire of Northam and Coolgardie. This investment encompasses works on specific sections of the highway, namely between Southern Cross and Coolgardie, El Cabello and Bakers Hill, and Walgoolan and Southern Cross.

While WEROC welcomes this long-overdue investment, it is deeply concerning that recently completed works between Walgoolan and Southern Cross are already exhibiting premature failure with expanding potholes, uneven surfaces, and pronounced bitumen edge drop-offs emerging along multiple stretches. These issues suggest that the design and materials used are not withstanding current traffic demands, particularly given the growing volume of heavy vehicles and road trains transporting ore between Yilgarn mine sites and Perth.

Equally concerning is that the committed funding failed to account for the increase in traffic flow and heavy vehicle load on the unfunded section between Northam and Merredin. This critical stretch now bears the compounded impact of intensified freight movements without any planned upgrades, despite its strategic importance to the State's freight network and its rapidly deteriorating condition.

Crash and Traffic Data

According to Main Roads WA's crash database, between 2019 and 2023 there were 55 crashes on the Great Eastern Highway between Northam (intersection with Yilgarn Avenue) and Merredin (intersection with Barrack Street). Around 15% of these crashes were the direct result of overtaking. The limited number of dedicated overtaking lanes along this section contributes to driver frustration and risky overtaking behaviour, significantly increasing the potential for serious and fatal collisions.

Mapping of Wheatbelt road trauma between 2020–2024 indicates that there were five fatalities and ten serious injury crashes on this section during that period. A scan of media reports suggests that there have been an additional five or more serious injury crashes or fatalities up to October 2025, underscoring the ongoing and unacceptable level of risk faced by road users.

Main Roads WA's *Traffic Digest* provides traffic volumes and vehicle classification reports at several sites along this section of the highway. However, recent published traffic counts are limited, and of the monitoring sites between Northam and Merredin, only one location (west of Kellerberrin) has up-to-date data.

Data from Site No. 30078 shows that weekday traffic volumes have increased by 9% over the past five years, with heavy vehicles now comprising over 40% of all traffic. Given that around 18% of all road deaths nationally involve heavy vehicles (*National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030*), this trend highlights the compounding safety risks and the need for urgent intervention.

Site no. 30078 Located West of Kellerberrin				
Year	Monday - Friday	% Trucks	Monday - Sunday	% Trucks
2025/26	2,262	41.8%	2,154	39.4%
2024/25	2,255	42.2%	2,142	39.9%
2023/24	2,247	42%	2,134	39.5%
2022/23	2,240	40.9%	2,124	38.4%
2021/22	2,098	40.4%	1,995	37.9%
2020/21	2,069	37.7%	1,987	35.1%

The lack of current, publicly available traffic data for this critical freight and passenger route is a concern. Greater transparency and more frequent publication of traffic and heavy vehicle movement data are essential to inform planning, investment, and safety interventions. Improved data accessibility would also help local governments and regional stakeholders to better understand road use trends and advocate for targeted infrastructure upgrades.

Urgency for Action

The development of the AvonWest Logistics Hub, located on a 63-hectare site at the intersection of Yilgarn Avenue and the Great Eastern Highway in the Shire of Northam, presents an additional and pressing concern. The facility is designed to improve supply chain efficiency by reducing road train turnaround times and avoiding cross-docking within the metropolitan area. A commissioned report by TM Insight indicates that the hub could enable trucks to complete up to 27 additional interstate crossings per year.

Given the already compromised condition of the Great Eastern Highway east of Northam, the implications of this projected increase in heavy vehicle movements are significant. With planning approvals secured and construction well underway, AvonWest is expected to be operational by late 2026, making the need for investment in the highway's upgrade both clear and time-critical.

Request for Action and Consultation

In light of the data and the importance of this corridor, WEROC strongly urges the State Government to prioritise and fast-track Stage 2 of Infrastructure Australia's assessment process for the Great Eastern Highway improvements.

We also request that Local Governments along this section of the highway be actively involved in discussions, planning, and progress reporting. These communities are deeply affected by the condition of the road, the associated safety risks, and the economic implications of inadequate infrastructure. Meaningful engagement with local government will ensure that upgrades are locally informed, consistent, and integrated across the route.

The Great Eastern Highway is fundamental to the safety, connectivity and economic resilience of the Wheatbelt region and the state as a whole. We therefore ask that the Government take immediate steps to progress this critical infrastructure priority. We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this matter further.

Yours Sincerely



Rebekah Burges

Executive Officer, Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.