

SHIRE OF
WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 18th October 2018

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 15th November 2018 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 18th October 2018.

.....
Cr Karin Day
Shire President

All attachment items referred to in these minutes are available for public perusal at the Shire Office



Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Westonia for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings.

The Shire of Westonia disclaims and liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused by arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during the Council Meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does that persons or legal entity's own risk.

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING	4
2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.31PM – 3.46PM)	4
4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	4
6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES	4
7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	5
9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION	7
9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	7
9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT	7
9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – SEPTEMBER 2018	9
9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT –SEPTEMBER 2018	11
9.1.4 2019 COUNCIL MEETING DATES	13
9.1.5 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE	16
9.1.6 WESTONIA BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES	18
9.1.7 BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN	21
9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY SERVICE	23
9.3 WORKS AND SERVICE	24
9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES	25
10 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	26
11 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING	26
11.1 GREENING AUSTRALIA – COLLECTION OF SEED	26
11.2 WATER CORPORATION PRICING POLICY – COUNCIL OWNED STANDPIPES	29
11.3 REVIEW OF BANKING FACILITIES	34
12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING	36
13 MEETING CLOSURE	36

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

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

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr KM Day	President
Cr WJ Huxtable	Deputy President
Cr DL Geier	
Cr JJ Jefferys	
Cr RA Della Bosca	

Staff:

Mr. JC Criddle	Chief Executive Officer
----------------	-------------------------

Members of the Public:	Ian Mahoney (3.30pm – 4.48pm)
-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Apologies:	Cr RS Corsini
-------------------	---------------

Approved Leave of Absence:	Nil
-----------------------------------	-----

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.31pm – 3.46pm)

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 18th September 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Huxtable	Seconded:	Cr Jefferys
---------------	--------------------	------------------	--------------------

01/10-18	That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th September 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
-----------------	--

CARRIED 5/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Eastern Wheatbelt Biodiversity Group Meeting held on 21st September 2018 be received.

- (4). Sub-regulation (2) does not apply if –
- (a). A person who is a council member fails to disclose an interest because the person did not know he or she has an interest in the matter; or
 - (b). A person who is a council member fails to disclose an interest because the person did not know the matter in which he or she had an interest would be discussed at the meeting and the person disclosed the interest as soon as possible after the discussion began.
- (5). If, under sub-regulation (2)(a), a person who is a council member discloses an interest in a written notice given to the CEO before a meeting then –
- (a). Before the meeting the CEO is to cause the notice to be given to the person who is to preside at the meeting; and
 - (b). At the meeting the person presiding is to bring the notice and its contents to the attention of the persons present immediately before a matter to which the disclosure related is discussed.
- (6). If –
- (a). Under sub-regulation (2)(b) or (4)(b) a person's interest in a matter is disclosed at a meeting; or
 - (b). Under sub-regulation (5) (b) notice of a person's interest in a matter is brought to the attention of the persons present at a meeting.
- The nature of the interest is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Describe the extent of your interest (If seeking to participate in the matter under the s.5.68 of the act)

5.68 – Councils and committees may allow members disclosing interests to participate etc. in meetings

- (1). If a member has disclosed, under section 5.65, an interest in a matter, the members present at the meeting who are entitled to vote on the matter
- (a). may allow the disclosing member to be present during any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the matter; and
 - (b). may allow , to the extent decided by those members, the disclosing member to preside at the meeting (if otherwise qualified to preside) or to participate in discussions and the decision making procedures relating to the matter if –
 - (i) the disclosing member also discloses the extent of the interest; and
 - (ii) those members decide that the interest –
 - (I) is so trivial or insignificant as to be unlikely to influence the disclosing member's conduct in relation to the matter; or
 - (II) is common to a significant number of electors or ratepayers
- (2). A decision under this section is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting relating to the matter together with the extent of any participation allowed by the council or committee.
- (3). This sections does not prevent the disclosing member from discussing, or participating in the decision making process on, the question on whether an application should be made to the Minister under section 5.69.

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

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person And Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **18th October 2018**

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



In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **18th October 2018**

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

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Kay Geier, Senior Finance 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

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 may be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of October 2018. The credit card statements currently show: -

CEO **September 2018 \$3,408.76** associated with the purchase of, Office 365, Seek Advertising, Activ8net, Rates 4 Quartz, Rose Fertiliser and Cat Repellent, Fuel, Food Local Government Week

Works Supervisor **September 2018 \$2,067.13** associated with the purchase of, Containers for Museum, Flowers for Belinda, Heavy Vehicle Ramps, Parking Conf exp.

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 2018/2019 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That September 2018 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers 3676 to 3681 and D/Debits EFT3158 to EFT3208 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$282,802.48 be passed for payment

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Jefferys

Seconded:

Cr Geier



03/10-18

That September 2018 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers 3676 to 3681 and D/Debits EFT3158 to EFT3208 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$282,802.48 be passed for payment

CARRIED 5/0

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – SEPTEMBER 2018

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Executive Support 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

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 30th September 2018 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Summary of Bank Balances
2. Summary of Outstanding Debtors
3. Balance Sheet
4. Budget v Actuals Schedules

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2015/2016 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

9.1.4 2019 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	A2.4.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Background

Regulation 12 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 requires a local government to at least once a year give local public notice of the dates, time and place of:

- a) Ordinary Council meetings; and
- b) Committee meetings that are required under the Act to be open to members of the public or that are proposed to be open to members of the public;

that are to be held in the next twelve months.

Comment

Council's current policy on Council Meetings states that, "A Councillors forum will be held at 1.00pm before each Ordinary Council Meeting and Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held on the third Thursday of each month not including January, commencing at 3.30pm in the Shire of Westonia Council Chambers."

In accordance with the current policy ordinary meetings of Council are to be held in 2019 as follows:-

Ordinary Council meetings:

February – Thursday 21st	March – Thursday 21st
April – Thursday 18th?	May – Thursday 16th
June – Thursday 20th	July – Thursday 18th
August – Thursday 15th	September–Thursday 19th
October – Thursday 17th	November–Thursday 21st
December – Thursday 19th;	

with all meetings commencing at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber, Wolfram Street, Westonia.

The Audit Committee meetings is at this stage proposed for the following dates:

April – Thursday 18th?

August – Thursday 15th

October – Thursday 17th

Thursday 19th December 2019; at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber.

 **Statutory Environment**

Regulation 12 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations.

 **Policy Implications**

Council Policy 1.1

 **Strategic Implications**

Nil

 **Financial Implications**

Nil

 **Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the following meeting schedule for 2019 be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the legislation:-

Ordinary Council meetings:

February – Thursday 21st

March – Thursday 21st

April – Thursday 18th?

May – Thursday 16th

June – Thursday 20th

July – Thursday 18th

August – Thursday 15th

September–Thursday 19th

October – Thursday 17th

November–Thursday 21st

December – Thursday 19th;

with all meetings commencing at 3.30pm in the Council Chambers, Wolfram Street, Westonia.

Audit Committee meeting:

The Audit Committee meetings is at this stage proposed for the following dates:

April – Thursday 18th?

August – Thursday 15th

October – Thursday 17th

Thursday 19th December 2019; at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Huxtable

06/10-18

That the following meeting schedule for 2019 be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the legislation:-

Ordinary Council meetings:

February – Thursday 21st

March – Thursday 21st

April – Thursday 18th

May – Thursday 16th

June – Thursday 20th

July – Thursday 18th

August – Thursday 15th

September–Thursday 19th

October – Thursday 17th

November–Thursday 21st

December – Thursday 19th;

with all meetings commencing at 3.30pm in the Council Chambers, Wolfram Street, Westonia.

Audit Committee meeting:

The Audit Committee meetings is at this stage proposed for the following dates:

April – Thursday 18th

August – Thursday 15th


October – Thursday 17th

Thursday 19th December 2019; at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber.

CARRIED 5/0

9.1.5 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	A2.4.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Background

Council has traditionally closed the office and operations over the festive season to accommodate the taking of leave and public holidays, given that the town is very quiet during this time. Xmas day and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday this year.

It is also anticipated to hold the Annual end of year Christmas function at the conclusion of the December Ordinary Council meeting. This year it falls on the 20th December which coincides with the outside crew break up.

Comment

A few members of the Outside Crew have requested an alteration to the annual shut down period with some not wanting to take the full 4 weeks in one hit. The outside crew will commence the Xmas break on Friday 21st December 2018, with a return to work on either Monday 7th January 2019.

Arrangements are in place to provide for emergencies with a skeleton staff available during the holiday period with contact details being advertised and displayed.

It is proposed that the office will be closed from 5.00pm on 21st December 2018 until 8.30 am on Monday 7th January 2018.

The Chief Executive Officer has holidays booked and will be away from the 2nd January 2019, returning to work on Tuesday the 22nd January 2019.

There has traditionally been no meeting in January in previous years.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

7.12 Christmas Office Shutdown & Two Paid "Grace & Favour" Days for Staff

The Council office & depot will be closed from 12 noon on the last working day prior to the Christmas Day holiday until normal office hours on the day following the New Year public holiday. At least one Senior staff member will remain contactable and reasonably close to town in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire during this shutdown period.

Staff will also be granted 2 paid "grace and favor days" based on their ordinary hours in recognition of time worked in excess of normal hours during the year, to assist with covering their leave over the shutdown period between

Christmas and New Year. Staff required to work during the Christmas Shutdown period as part of responding to an emergency will be granted the equivalent hours of ordinary time paid leave by agreement at another time.



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in relation to this matter.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. approve the office closure from 5.00pm on the 21st December 2018 until 8.30 am on Thursday the 3rd January 2019, and note the absence of the CEO from the 2nd January 2019 until the 22nd January 2019.
2. hold the annual end of year Christmas function at the conclusion of the December Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 20th December 2018.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Geier

Seconded:

Cr Della Bosca

07/10-18


That Council

1. approve the office closure from 5.00pm on the 21st December 2018 until 8.30 am on Thursday the 3rd January 2019, and note the absence of the CEO from the 3rd January 2019 until the 22nd January 2019.
2. hold the annual end of year Christmas function at the conclusion of the December Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 20th December 2018.

CARRIED 5/0

9.1.6 WESTONIA BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	A2.4.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

In accordance with section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 a local government may appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers (FCO's) and of those officers the local government shall appoint two as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Council has established a Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) whose membership is made up of those persons who are appointed as bush fire control officers, a Council delegate and the CEO who serves as executive officer for the Advisory Committee.

Comment

The following persons have been recommended by the BFAC as bush fire control officers for the 2018/19 fire season:

Frank Corsini	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Malcom Nicoletti	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Officer
Steve LeMoignan	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
John McDowall	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Aaron Smith	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Dane Farina	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Malcom Nicoletti	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Tony Murfit	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
Jason Wahlsten	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
Rohan Day	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
Frank Corsini	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Colin Lindley	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Brad Penny	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Bill Price	Shire of Westonia
Jamie Criddle	Shire of Westonia

The use of the common seal now requires the endorsement of the Council.



Statutory Environment

Bush Fires Act 1954, section 38 appointment of bush fire control officers



Policy Implications

Nil



Strategic Implications

Nil



Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority


OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council in accordance with section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 appoint the following persons as bush fire control officers for the 2018/19 bush fire season:

Frank Corsini	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Malcom Nicoletti	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Officer
Steve LeMoignan	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
John McDowall	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Aaron Smith	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Dane Farina	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Malcom Nicoletti	Warralakin Bush Fire Brigade
Jason Wahlsten	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
David Brown	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
Rohan Day	Walgoolan Bush Fire Brigade
Frank Corsini	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Colin Lindley	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Brad Penny	Westonia Bush Fire Brigade
Bill Price	Shire of Westonia
Jamie Criddle	Shire of Westonia

9.1.7 BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO
File Reference:	A2.4.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

Section 17 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations states the CEO is to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of our systems in relation to risk management.

Council engaged the services of LGIS to work with Officers to implement a Business Continuity Plan to adopt procedures to maintain Council's essential services through periods of disruption. The Business Continuity Plan identifies aspects of Council services which may be exposed to risk from natural or manmade disasters.

Comment

The objective of the Business Continuity Plan is to provide a readily accessible, useable and thorough document which enables Council to follow, tried and systematic approach for the management of any disaster. (Refer Attachment).

This included assigning risks that meet any of the following criteria:

- Risks with a level of risk of high or extreme;
- Risk with inadequate existing control rating;
- Risk with consequence rating of catastrophic;
- Risks with likelihood rating of almost certain.

This plan will be monitored by the Executive Management Team and will be subject to a review at least once every 2 calendar years with the results reported to the audit committee.

Statutory Environment

S.17 Local Government (Audit) Regulations

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorse the Shire of Westonia Business Continuity Plan.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Jefferys **Seconded:** Cr Geier

09/10-18 That Council endorse the Shire of Westonia Business Continuity Plan.

CARRIED 5/0

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY SERVICE

NIL

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICE

NIL

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

NIL

Community/Stakeholder Consultation

NRM Officer – Dylan Copeland

Comment

The Seed Shed is a recognised body in regard to this type of activity in a number of local government areas. The CEO is not aware of any instances where an approval of this type has been abused

This permission is granted on the following conditions:-

- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence;
- Permission is for a twelve month period, commencing October 2018;
- Collection is by The Seed Shed staff only;
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds;
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat;
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- The Seed Shed is required to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire.
- The Seed Shed to notify the Council of the dates that they are collecting seed

SEED SHED
Quality Seeds, Competitive Prices

Home [About Us](#) Seeds Clients Ordering FAQ Resources Contact Us

About Us

An experienced team from pickers to packers

Back in 1978 Faye and Barrie Vaughan started the first Western Australian seed bank "Vaughan Wildflower Seeds". They worked closely with [Harry Butler](#) and were integral in the instigation of professional quality revegetation within WA.

In 2005 Neroli purchased the business "Vaughans Wildflower Seeds" and in 2010 *South West Native Seed Supply*. The resources of these two great WA companies, evolved into the **Seed Shed**

Meet the Team

Neroli Forster BSc
Owner/Director; Advisor, consultant, assisting you to fulfill your seed requirements.

Maureen Wallace
Order preparation, stock control, database management and organiser extraordinaire.

Colleen Castledine
Order preparation, germination testing, database management and accuracy angel

Leonie Darlington
Office duties, equipment maintenance, germination assistant, behind the scenes achiever

 **Statutory Environment**

Nil

 **Policy Implications**

There are no policies relating to this matter.

 **Strategic Implications**

N/A

 **Financial Implications**

N/A

 **Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council authorise The Seed Shed to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions as shown in the draft letter circulated to members.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca

Seconded: Cr Geier


11/10-18 That Council authorise The Seed Shed to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions as shown in the draft letter circulated to members.

CARRIED 5/0

Ian Mahoney left the meeting at 4.48pm

11.2 WATER CORPORATION PRICING POLICY – COUNCIL OWNED STANDPIPES

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO	
File Reference:	A2.4.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

As Councillors will be aware, the CEO raised the issue of the WA Water Corporation's plan to implement a new management and billing structure from the 1st July

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are entitled to access concessional pricing for water used for their own purposes. This will not change; however high flow rate LGA owned fixed standpipes that are publicly accessible will no longer be charged concessional rates and commercial rates will instead apply.

This change will affect users of high flow LGA owned fixed standpipes in country areas. Although the price is charged to the LGA directly, the costs may be passed on to businesses, farmers and properties not connected to the scheme.

The major change is the way standpipes are billed. They will now be based on four categories shown below.

- LA Standpipe – No Annual Service Charge/\$2.534 per kilolitre Water Use Charge
- Community Standpipe - \$265.41 Annual Service Charge/\$2.534 per kilolitre Water Use Charge
- Commercial Standpipe - \$1,658.93 Annual Service Charge/up to \$8.353 per kilolitre Water Use Charge
- Fire-fighting Standpipe –No Annual Fee 100% discount/No Water Use Charge

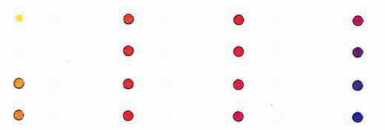
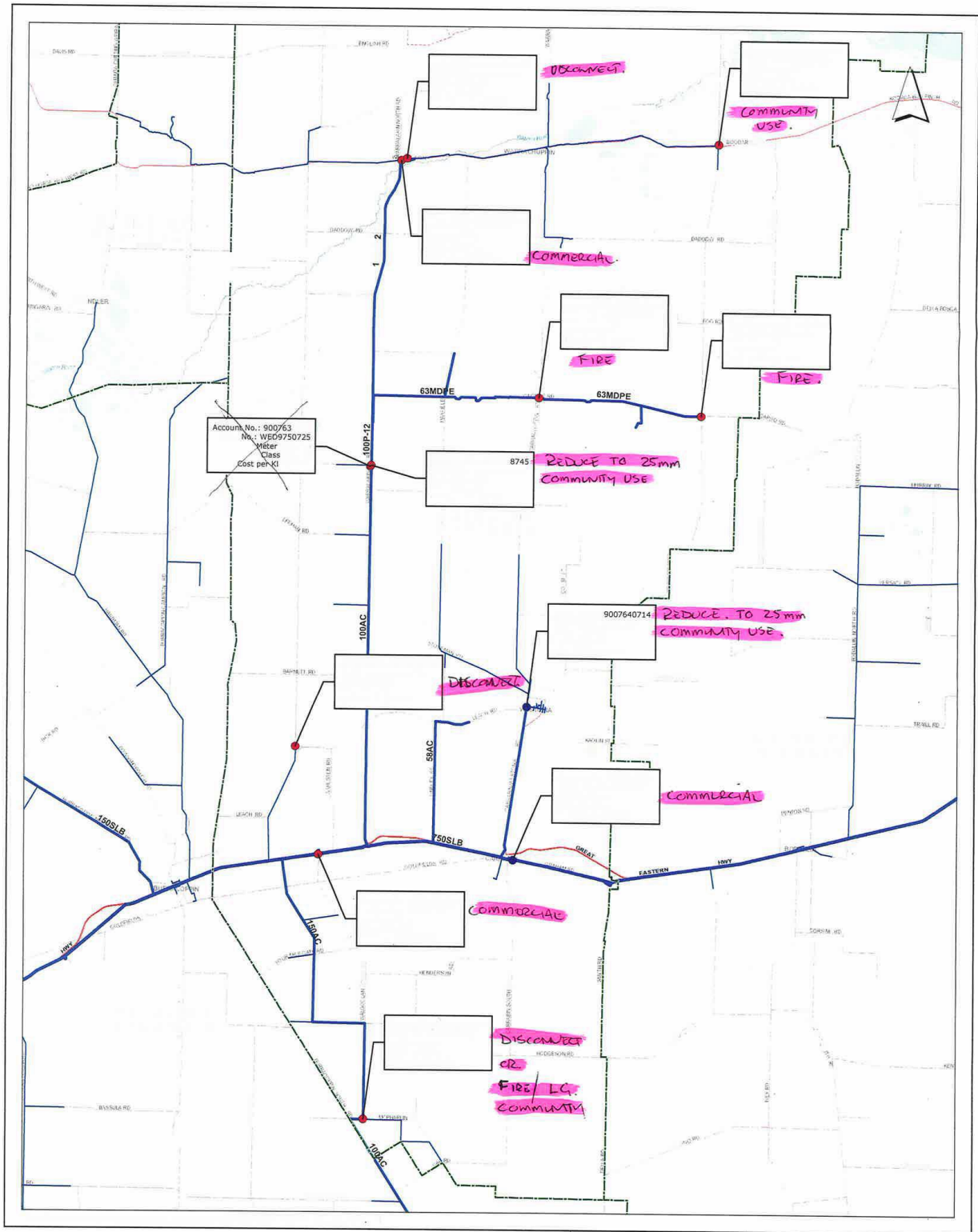
How will rates and charges be applied to fixed standpipes?

The new pricing structure is linked to the size of the standpipe meter, as this determines the flow rate. Small standpipes (20mm and 25mm) generally deliver between 20 – 40 litres per minute. Large standpipes (any pipe larger than 25mm) generally deliver from 80 litres per minute and above.

All LGA standpipes with a meter size of 20mm or 25mm will receive concessional rates and are to be used by the LGA or for community purposes only (such as drought assistance for farmers or households not connected to scheme water when a drought condition is announced by the Government). All standpipes with a meter size above 25mm will be charged at a commercial rate, but an exemption to consumption charges will apply for water used for fire-fighting purposes.

Standpipes with a meter above 25mm that are located in a shire depot or locked for Shire use only will be able to access the concessional rate by providing evidence of the ability to control user access.

There will be no change to Fire Standpipes or fixed standpipes installed on privately owned property.



Scale bar	



Not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the Corporation. This document is the property of the Corporation and should be returned to the Corporation if it is lost, stolen, or otherwise comes into the possession of any other person. It is to be kept confidential and its contents should not be disclosed to any other person without the written consent of the Corporation.

Why are these changes being made?

Some commercial customers have in the past accessed LGA owned standpipes with concessional rates which are below the regulated Town Class rate for the location as set by Government. Water is a precious resource and is regulated like any other valuable natural resource and correct pricing must be enforced.

When the incorrect water rates are used, it creates inequity and results in the community and State Government subsidising the activities of private enterprises on an unequal basis.

Fixed standpipes provide an essential source of water for customers who are remote from reticulated water schemes, amenities to communities by enabling local governments to maintain street trees and undertake minor building activities, and enable economic growth by supplying businesses that rely on carted water as an input to production

These changes will ensure the rate commercial customers pay is consistent across the state.

Why is the cost of water going up for commercial users when we have been accessing water without any issue?

Water is a valuable resource and regulated charges are set by the State Government based on its use. Pricing of water is based on a 'user pays' principle and in regional Western Australia it has not been implemented according to legislation for fixed standpipes. Having a regulated pricing structure ensures all users are paying the correct rate for water use no matter where they are located across the State. Current usage patterns on fixed standpipes have shown that commercial suppliers are getting charged at the concessional level by accessing LGA standpipes which is inequitable for other commercial operators that are charged correctly. Accessing large volumes of water from a fixed standpipe can also cause water supply issues to other users on the scheme and any large users need to be directed to the Water Corporation to be set up on a major consumer agreement.

What happens in drought conditions for the price of water to farmers?

A 'Water Deficiency Declaration' is a government response to safeguard the commercial interests of farmers during very dry periods.

When a state government declared drought zone exists, all large shire-owned fixed standpipes will be made available at concessional rates to the community for drought relief in accordance with the terms of the declaration conditions. If conditions for commercial use relief are not specified then standard rates will apply.

If water carters are hired by farmers to transport water during a drought, this cost is the responsibility of the farmer and water will be available at the concessional rate since the end use is for the farmer.



Comment

Council resolved at the September meeting to seek feedback from the Community on how the Regional Fixed Standpipe Review may impact the water availability and the financial impacts to its stakeholders.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca

Seconded: Cr Jefferys

**10/09-
18**

That Council

- 1. Write to the WA Water Corporation opposing their proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern wheatbelt;**
- 2. Write to the Department of Water and suggest that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections;**
- 3. Inform all ratepayers/farmers of the proposed changes to the WA Water Corporations fee structure and seek comment on the Shire proposed rationalisations by 15th October 2018.**

CARRIED 5/0

If Council does not reclassify each Standpipe, WaterCorp will charge Commercial Fees which will have a significant financial implication for Council and the Community.

Council and the Community will need to take into consideration, the Annual Service Charge applicable to the Standpipes according to the size of the meter size and purpose assigned to the Standpipe. For example, a 50mm Commercial Standpipe will attract an annual fee of \$1,658.93 as opposed to the existing \$250.39 annual fee.

The other, more significant change as listed above is the extensive increase in the tariff charged per kilolitre. Current rates across the Shire are \$2.39 per kL. The proposal is to increase that to between \$2.534 and \$8.353 per kL.

Council can simply not allow any water to be used from fixed standpipes without charging.

Water - Meter Based Size Charges Meter Size (mm)			
		2017/18	2018/19
20mm	Community	\$250.39	\$265.41
25mm	Community	\$391.26	\$265.41
30mm	Commercial	\$563.38	\$597.18
40mm	Commercial	\$1,001.63	\$1,061.73
50mm	Commercial	\$1,565.03	\$1,658.93
80mm	Commercial	\$4,006.46	\$4,246.85
100mm	Commercial	\$6,260.10	\$6,635.71

The problem with the Water Corporations proposed new fee structure is that it caters to a “One size fits all” policy. The Minister and the Water Corp are assuming that all land holders have direct or at least close connect with scheme reticulated water. This is not the case in the north of the Westonia Shire and is probably the case in outlying Councils such as Dalwallinu, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Yilgarn, Kondinin and Lake Grace.

One half of the Westonia Shire’s land mass does not have access to scheme water, requiring landholders to travel upward of 70km to Warralakin to cart water for domestic purposes. Management does not argue with the fact that landholders with the ability to draw from their own on farm water storage, should be charge a commercial rate should they wish to extract from a Council controlled Standpipe, but with no access to scheme water there should be an exemption to allow certain landholder to access domestic and stock water at a reduced rate, being that water is a “Necessity of Life”.

As you can see with the attached map, there is a large unserved area north-east of Mukinbudin, north of Warralakin to Bullfinch, south of Moorine Rock and potentially further south of Naremben, Kondinin and Lake Grace. What makes it more frustrating is the fact that the Water Corp have effectively decommissioned the Geelakin Water Tank north of Warralakin (rock catchment), furthermore limiting the available water to the north-east of the Westonia Shire. There also seems to be a lack of appetite to push this issue further which is demonstrated by the extensive scheme pipe network located in the Councils to the west of Westonia back to Northam.

The Chief Executive Officer advertise for public comment the WA Water Corporations future intentions in relation to Fixed Standpipes with comments closing on Monday 15th October 2018. Councils action Plan is required to be submitted by 31st October 2018.

At the time of the report, no submissions were received from the community.



 **Policy Implications**

Nil

 **Strategic Implications**

Nil

 **Financial Implications**

Significant cost increases will occur if standpipes are not regulated.

 **Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council discusses any public submissions received from the community and informs the Water Corporation of its intentions with all Council controlled standpipes.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca


Seconded: Cr Jefferys

12/10-18 That Council

1. Discusses any public submissions received from the community;
2. Seeks an extension of time to respond to the Water Corporations Action Plan for Council Controlled Standpipes;
3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to attend the Rural Water Council meeting in Northam on Friday 19th October to raise Council's issues with the new fee structure;
4. Reaffirm September motion to write to the WA Water Corporation opposing their proposed fee structure in remote parts of the eastern wheatbelt;
5. Reaffirm September motion to write to the Department of Water and suggest that as a result of the increased Standpipe water costs that they re-introduce the Farm Water Grants to allow effected landholders the ability to create on-farm water storage and water connections;

CARRIED 5/0

11.3 REVIEW OF BANKING FACILITIES

Responsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
Author:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
File Reference:			
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment		
Signature:	Officer	CEO	

Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background




Council have previously discussed reviewing its current suite of banking functions to deliver Council and the community the best deal.

Community/Stakeholder Consultation

BankWest, Commonwealth Bank, Westpac Bank

Comment

The Chief Executive Officer recently sought expressions of interest from the three major banks in Merredin, being BankWest, Commonwealth Bank and Westpac Bank. Submissions were received from BankWest and Commonwealth Bank. A copy of the summary of options is attached below.

				
Municipal Account				
	Current	Business Zero Bankwest Option 1	High Interest Bankwest Option 2	Commonwealth
Balance Needed	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Credit interest Rate	0.00 to 0.10%	0.00%	0.80%	0.00 to 0.3%
Account Maintenance	\$10 per Month	\$0.00 per Month	\$10.00 per Month	Waived
Electronic Transaction	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.08 per Item
Paper-based Transaction Fee	\$0.60 per item (10free/mth)	\$0.00 per item	\$0.20 per item	\$0.65 per item
Over the Counter Fee	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30 per Transaction
BPAY	N/A	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.10
BPAY Upload	N/A	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05
Trust Account				
Balance Needed	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00
Credit interest Rate	0.00 to 0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00 to 0.3%
Account Maintenance	\$10 per Month	\$0.00 per Month	\$0.00 per Month	Waived
Electronic Transaction	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item
Paper-based Transaction Fee	\$0.60 per item (10free/mth)	\$0.00 per item	\$0.00 per item	\$0.00 per item
Over the Counter Fee	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.30 per Transaction
BPAY	N/A	\$0.80	\$0.80	N/A
BPAY Upload	N/A	\$0.05	\$0.05	N/A
Reserve Account				
Balance Needed	\$ 618,000.00	\$ 995,000.00	\$ 995,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Credit interest Rate	2.35%	1.05%	1.05%	1.00% to 1.60%
Account Maintenance	\$0.00 per Month	\$0.00 per Month	\$0.00 per Month	Waived
Electronic Transaction	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item	\$ 0.00 per Item
Paper-based Transaction Fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00 per item
Over the Counter Fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.30 per Transaction
BPAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BPAY Upload	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

