



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 31st October 2024

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Closure of Branch



SHIRE OF WESTONIA

Oct/Nov 24

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Thursday 31 October	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Monday 4 November	CEACA Board & AGM Meeting	Kellerberrin	Cr DellaBosca & CEO
Thursday 14 November	GEC Zone Meeting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Roundtable	Merredin	Shire President & CEO
Thursday 21 November	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Thursday 28 November	WEROC Board Meeting	Tammin	Shire President & CEO
Friday 29 November	KABC Tidy Towns Event	Perth Optus Stadium	Interested Crs, CEO and Staff

CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- MRWA has updated the Council's RAMM road data with the recent revaluation of Council's infrastructure assets. This has seen an extra 56.5km of sealed roads included in the data which will have a knock-on effect to future grant funding from the Grants Commission in the future.
- During the month I attended the Westonia Fire Brigade meeting but was an apology for the Advisory Committee meeting due to being in Perth for LG Week.
- I attended LG Week with fellow Councillors from the 8 to 11 October.
- The Tidy Towns judging took place on Wednesday 25th September. Both judges were suitably impressed, and we have since been notified that Westonia is a finalist in two of the three categories nominated. The awards event is being held on Friday 29th November.
- Jim Pascoe has moved into unit 3 of the Pyrite Street units.
- Mort Wignell, Council's EHO, attended Westonia on Wednesday 9th October where he has again issued a notice to the Carrabin Roadhouse to complete the repairs to the men's ablutions, various kitchen upgrades and general clean-up of yard surrounds from grasses to reduce vermin and fire risk. They have 28 days to comply.
- The Pool Kiosk project is progressing well with all finishes and materials being sourced, verandah ceilings being installed, glazier soon to fit all windows and doors.
- The Westonia Progress Association Fuel Depot is working extremely well and is a great addition to the town. From its opening 7 September 23 until the 1 October 24 the depot has sold 179,000L Diesel and 21,000L ULP.
- With the assistance of Shire President Mark Crees and the generous donation from John & Jackie Cheeseman Council has acquired a Linton Seed Grader/Pickler which is being displayed with the other old farm equipment in the main street.



- Also a generous donation from Bob & Joyce Hood-Penn the Caravan Park now has 4 x pushbikes that will be freely available to ride around town by visitors to the Park.



- I met with Mr Alex McKenzie, WDC, on Thursday 17th October to discuss Land and Housing constraints/future plans for Westonia moving forward.
- I conducted a HCS medical trip to Perth for a client on Monday 21st October.
- Assisted new residents located on Lot 109 Jasper Street to have their Water connection to the new house instigated.
- The CEO car suffered some panel damage from a kangaroo strike on Tuesday 15th October. A insurance claim has been lodged.
- The Warm Water Pool project is still being engineered with plans likely in the next couple of weeks. As the planning process has dragged on for some time now we have missed our window of opportunity with the pool installers who have committed to another project until about April 2025. This will all fit in with the other upgrade works proposed for the site anyway.
- The Warralakin Tank restoration project has progressed well with the stage 1 removal of old roof being completed. The second stage concrete treatment process will commence on 12 November, whereby they will address the small leakages on the Egg Rock Tank at the same time. The Hexa Cover products have also been ordered and will arrive in the next few weeks for installation.



- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

- **ROADCREW**

- The construction crew have moved to the North of the Shire to carry out the re-sheeting jobs on Rabbit Proof Fence and Echo Valley Roads.
- The construction crew assisted with the disposal of the old tin and wood that was removed from the Warralakin Tank.
- M Lane has tendered his resignation from the works crew effective from 3rd October. J McDowall,

maintenance grader operator will be filling in the Road Train Operator position until a spare residence becomes available in the new year.

- Traffic counters have been installed on Stoneman, Westonia Carrabin and Leach Road for the harvest period.
- The crew picked some large ornamental moss rocks from Merredin Farms property that will be used in the Pool Kiosk landscaping project.

- - **TOWN**
- Preparation works of the Diorite Street Cul-de-sac and Stadium carpark has commenced in preparation for future sealing and kerbing.
- A first aid course was attended by the new staff on Council.
- Setting up works for the Community markets.

- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 1.10.24.

Item		1.9.24	1.10.24
P1	CAT 140 GRADER	2,994hrs	3,076hrs
P2	CAT 12M GRADER	9,457hrs	9,547hrs
P3	PRIME MOVER (KENWORTH)	23,900kms	26,369kms
P4	ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)	119,224kms	121,719kms
P5	JOHN DEERE LOADER	5,203hrs	5,261hrs
P6	CAT ROLLER (SKIP)	2,118hrs	2,166hrs
P7	MINI-EXCAVATOR	1,254hrs	1,281hrs
P8	TELEHANDLER JCB	12hrs	40hrs
P9	TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)	52,886kms	54,066kms
P10	MITSUBISHI CANTER	20,182kms	22,008kms
P11	TOYOTA HILUX (GARDENER) WT 35	111,361kms	111,635kms
P12	JOHN DEERE (5100)	2,643hrs	2,694hrs
P14	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)	20,121kms	23,785kms
P15	TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)	13,536kms	18,589kms
P16	TOYOTA RAV4 (ADMIN)	106,329kms	107,111kms
P17	TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB	47,709kms	48,827kms
P19	FAST ATTACK	17,880kms	17,880kms
P20	FIRE TRUCK	7,049kms	7,049kms
P18	WESSY BUS	149,112kms	149,843kms
P22	KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)	2,104hrs	2,116hrs
P23	TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)	43,488kms	44,764kms
P24	CAT ROLLER (LOLA)	2,580hrs	2,620hrs
P25	MICK's BEAUT UTE	174,248kms	175,249kms
P27	TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)	57,310kms	59,333kms

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

eID Infrastructure Grants Program

eID reader/wand and hard case are now available for hire from the Shire Office.

Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

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: **17**

Staff delivering services: 7

Services: Administration and Package management, Cleaning and Household tasks, Medical, Personal Care, Social Support, Support work, Gardening & Maintenance

Community activities and resources

We have started planning in preparation of coming events

5/10/24 Mascarade Ball (Community Event Fundraiser) Due to low numbers the organiser's have had to make the difficult decision to postpone the Ball until 20 September next year. We are working with FRRR toward utilising the grant to focus and build on our art project concept. We were planning an artist in residence work shop to produce our drought resilliance themed art work to be displayed and we were hoping to hold a local art exhibition and invite local artist's to display their works and have a wine and cheese evening. Then display the art work amongst other local displays at "WotG 2025".

26/10/24 Wessy Christmas Markets, we have 26 stalls two food stalls, 2 food vans, the Pub, Gallery, Co-op and Mueseum will be open. The War memorial has been moved to the Museum and the theatre chairs have been placed in storage and some of the old Machinery has been moved away from under the trees at the side of the hall to enable Stalls to go up under the shade of the trees.

5/4/25 WOTG – we are still slowly making progress with Wessy on the green once the Markets are over there will be a heavy focus on this event to make sure we make it great in 2025.

Newtravel meeting 31/10/24 in Westonia – Stacey (Chair), Lani and Bill Hux continue to fly the flag for Westonia within the Wheatbelt way initiative. Stacey attended the Dowerin Machinery Field days on Wednesday the 28th of August to work on the Newtravel stand and promote the Wheatbelt way and our region to the wider WA community. It was a productive day which saw people arriving at our office the very next day who met us the day before and decided to call in and check out our town. We have seen an increase in visitor numbers since the field day and our Wildflower guide rollout.

Wellbeing program is continuing to run within the community – keeping people informed on what is happening and things they can get involved with.

2024 Activities/ Events: October

01/10/24 Scrabble 2Pax

03/10/24 Bingo 8pax
04/10/24 Expert Hearing Clinic 4pax
05/10/24 Hydro Pool 3pax
08/10/24 Scrabble 3Pax
10/10/24 Bingo 10pax
11/10/24 Hydro Pool 4pax
11/10/24 Mukinbudin Seniors visited Westonia 11pax and 6 Westonian's joined the Muka crew for a social game of bowls
15/10/24 Scrabble cancelled
17/10/24 Merredin Seniors Morning Tea
17/10/24 Bingo 12pax
18/10/24 Hydro Pool – cancelled
22/10/24 First Aid with St Johns 10pax
Coming up:
Community Event Working Group are meeting every third Wednesday of the month to discuss community events ideas and initiatives
26/10/24 Westonia Christmas Markets

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

The Caravan Park has been very busy over the last few months and has been booked out most nights. We have had a lot of feedback, especially about how tidy and well kept the park is and the town overall. An email below from a lovely couple who thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Wessy

Good evening

I don't normally write these types of emails but I wanted to say THANK YOU for a great town and community. From the facades in the Main Street, palms lit up at night time, the very friendly locals and staff in the Shire office - THANK YOU.

It is the first time we have been to Westonia and it won't be the last. Thank you for the dump point (it needs emptying), the 48 hour RV stop, the museum etc - WOW - congratulations on a great shire and town.

Keep up the great work.

Chris & Donna Kennington.

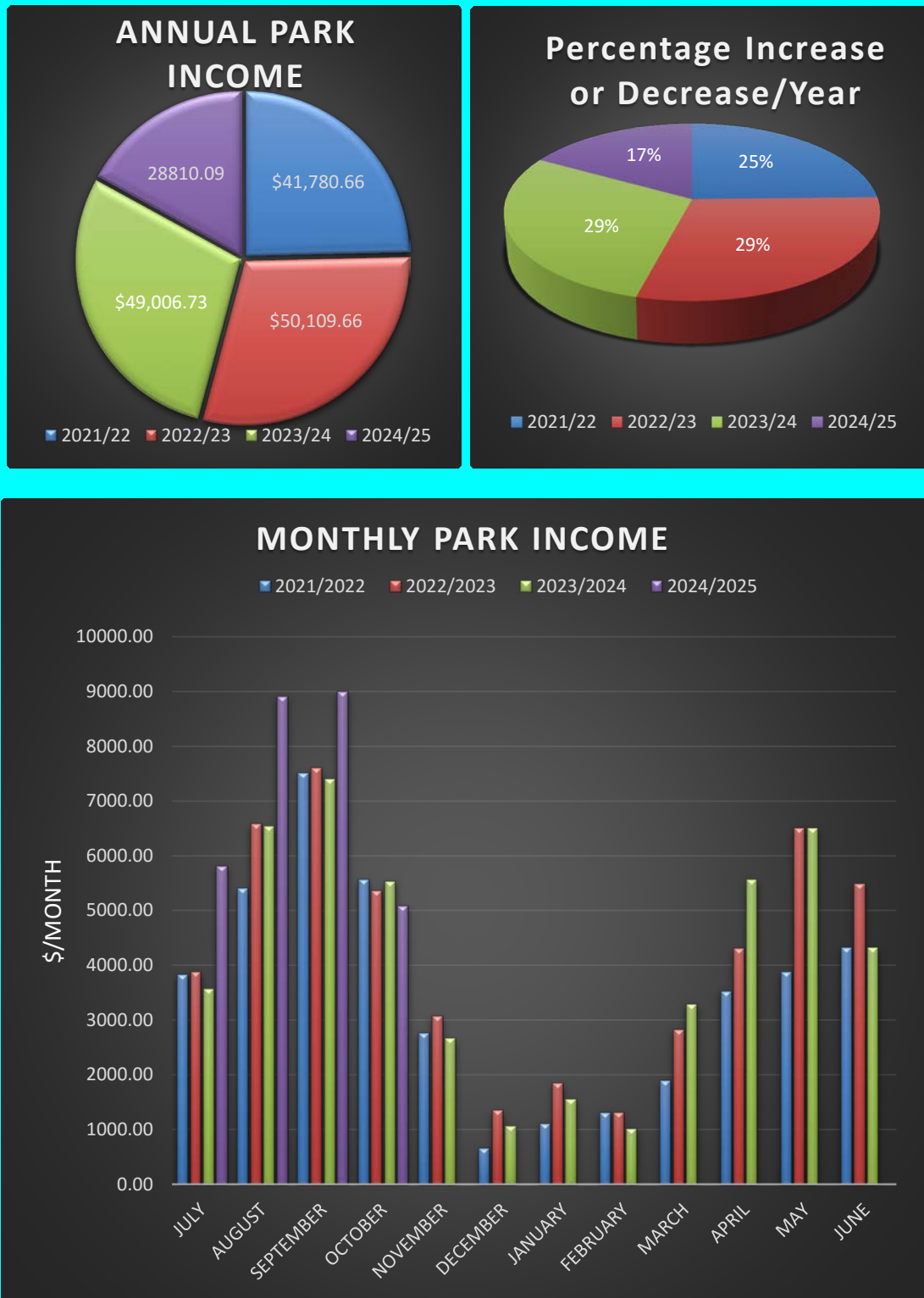
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- 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

The museum is still attracting a lot of visitors, the War Memorial is being relocated to the Museum and is replacing the Garage scene which will be reinstated when the new extension has been completed. The relocation of the War Memorial means it will be accessed more than it currently is in the Old Minors Hall.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

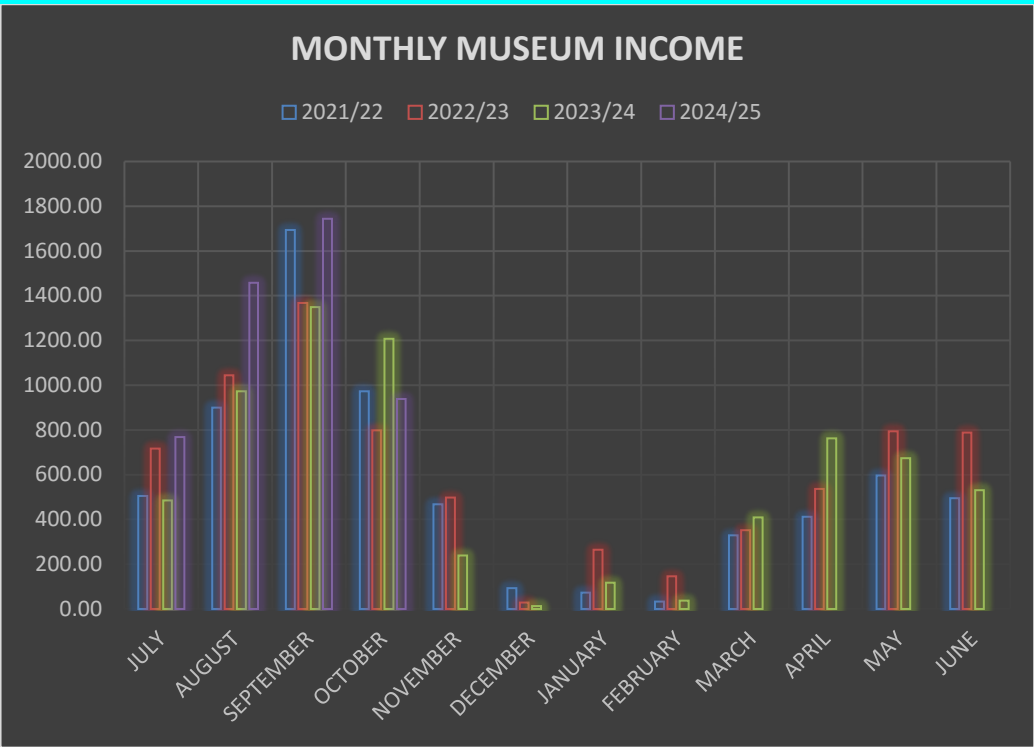
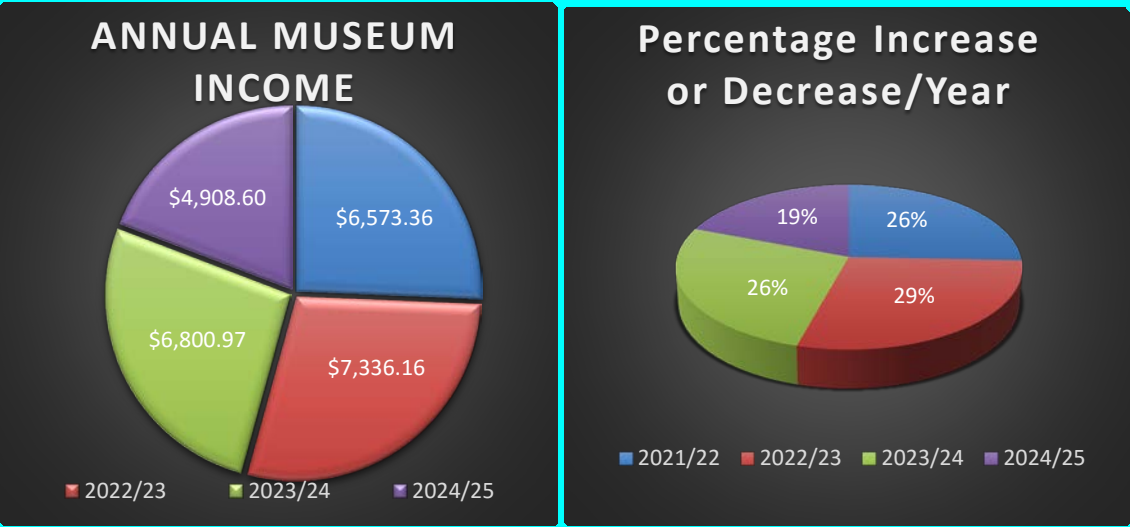
RECENT PROJECTS

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

FUTURE PROJECTS

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

STATISTICS



Joint media statement - Upgrades continue on Great Eastern Highway

Safety upgrades to the Great Eastern Highway are continuing with a \$23 million contract awarded for works in the Wheatbelt Region.

Safety upgrades to the Great Eastern Highway are continuing with a \$23 million contract awarded for works in the Wheatbelt Region.

The upgrades form part of the Australian and Western Australian Government's \$250 million Great Eastern Highway Upgrades, delivering improvements to various sections of the highway through the Wheatbelt and Goldfields-Esperance Regions.

Fulton Hogan received the contract to deliver three sections of road reconstructions, widenings and sealings including:

- 4.4km between Carrabin and Bodallin
- 4.6km between Nulla Nulla South Road and approximately 700m west of Liddell Road (west of Moorine Rock)
- 2.4km between Liddell Road and Granich Road (west of Moorine Rock)

The project also includes upgrades to the intersections of Great Eastern Highway with Smyth Road, Nulla Nulla North Road, Bin Road and Granich Road and the installation of new safety barriers, kerbs, signs and audible edge and wide centre line road markings.

The upgrades follow the completion of major works on the highway including:

- Widening and sealing between Stephen Road and Noongar South Road
- Realignment through the Bodallin townsite
- Intersection upgrades at Penton Road, Ivey Road, Blyth Road, Bodallin South Road and Bodallin North Road
- Construction of an eastbound passing lane between Bodallin and Moorine Rock
- Construction of a westbound rest area between Bodallin and Moorine Rock

The works funded under the \$23 million contract are expected to be completed in late 2025 with the staged upgrade program continuing along the highway until 2028.

Quotes attributed to Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King:

"Investment in the Great Eastern Highway is essential to keep communities in the Wheatbelt and Goldfields thriving.

"Our Government understands the critical importance of road transport for our freight industry and its many workers.

"From the Bass Highway in Tasmania, to the Bruce Highway in Queensland, and the Great Eastern Highway in Western Australia - we're prioritising upgrades that keep Australians safer and the economy moving."

Quotes attributed to WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti:

"This \$250 million joint project between the State and Australian Governments is helping to improve road safety along this critical road.

"The Great Eastern Highway is an important transport link to the eastern states, as well as for local communities in the Wheatbelt, which makes this program of work absolutely critical.

"The works are also providing a critical source of employment in these local communities, helping drive economic growth in Wheatbelt towns.

"Our Government will continue to invest in initiatives that improve the safety of our road network, make them more efficient and cut down travel times for road users."

Quotes attributed to Senator for Western Australia Glenn Sterle:

"The Great Eastern Highway upgrades continue to deliver the improvements that will keep locals, tourists and truckies safe on our roads.

"This \$23 million is part of a much larger investment across numerous programs that prove to Australian drivers that we're invested in their safety.

"Whether it's rest stops, guardrails, or wider bridges, we're working with state and local governments across the country to make each drive as safe as possible."

Quotes attributed to WA State Member for Kalgoorlie Ali Kent:

"Kalgoorlie locals and businesses use the Great Eastern Highway every day to commute to and from Perth, so it's fantastic to see this significant investment to make the journey safer.

"These upgrades will make the trip to and from Perth easier, faster and safer for Kalgoorlie residents long into the future."

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deb Caruana <debcaruana.dc@gmail.com>

Date: 21 October 2024 at 11:44:28 am AWST

To: Shire of Westonia <shire@westonia.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Historical items found

Good morning

I have come into possession of a couple of historical items relating to Westonia.

The first one is a cash book created by a Mrs BW Austin with entries dating back to 1923. Each page is for a different business in town. It is very interesting.

The second is a photo of two businesses with people standing out the front. One of the businesses is mentioned in the cash book. It is in very good condition. I have included some photos below.

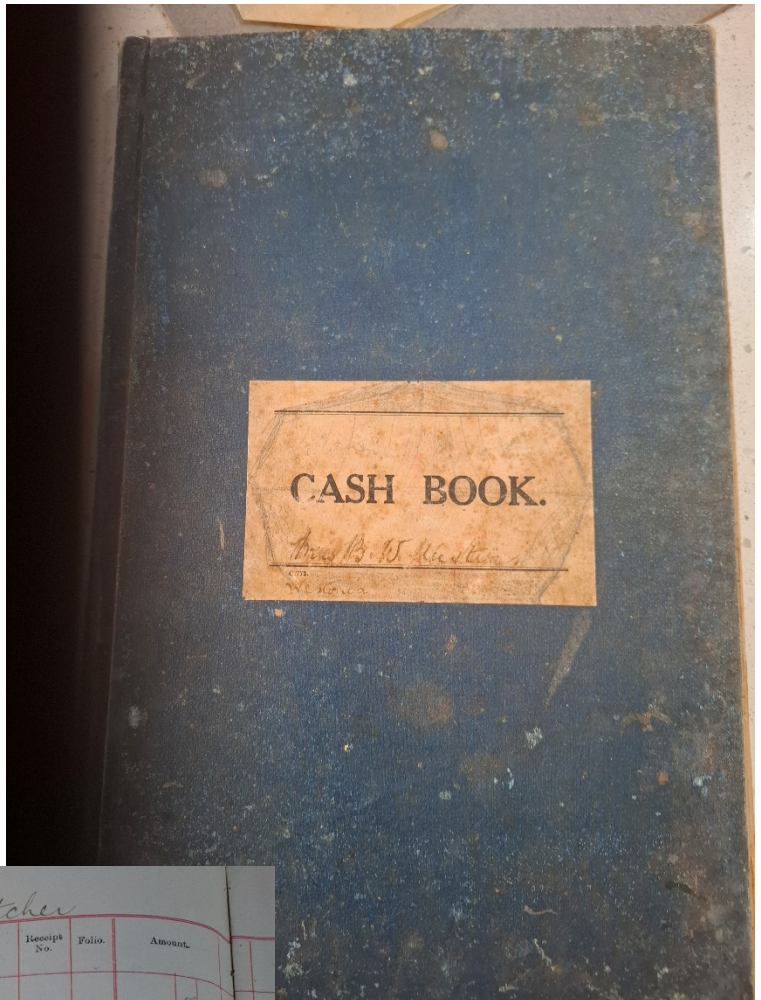
I was just wondering if this is something the Historical Society would be interested in? I would be happy to try and get it to you somehow. I live in Perth.

Please email or call if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards

Deb Caruana 0420959052





Dr. <i>Oliver Pettit Butcher</i>		Receipt No.	Folio.	Amount.
Date.	Particulars.			
17/6/23.	6lb Roast Beef. 1/2 lb Sausages			5 10.
20/6/23.	5lb Corn Round			4 8
"	1 lb Sausages.			10
28/6/23.	6 1/2 lb Mutton Foreqt.			8 8
"	Marrow Bone			9
30/6/23.	6 1/2 lb Mutton Foreqt.			5 6
"	1 lb Sausages.			11
"	1 Marrow Bone.			6
July 7/23	6 1/2 lb Foreqt Mutton			4 9
"	Marrow Bone			5
"	1 lb Rump			
July 18/23.	7 lb Forequarters			8 3
"	1 lb Rump			
"	Marrow Bone.			
July 20	6 1/2 lb Foreqt. 1 lb Sausages.			7 1
"	1 lb Bone.			
July 19	4 lb Roast. 1 lb Chops.			4 11
July 28	4 1/2 Roast Beef (Frozen)			3 10
27	Foreqt. Mutton M. Bone / Saus. Paid Aug 2/23			6 11
Aug 4	5 1/2 Roast Hm Foreqt M.B. 1 Suet.			8 11
"	1 1/2 Leg M. 1 Saus. M.B. 1 Steak.			7 4
"	1 1/2 Foreqt 6 1/2 1 Saus. 1 M.B.			6 9
20	Leg M. 5 1/2 1 Steak 2 Kidney. 1 Saus.			8 4
30	Leg M. 5 1/2 1 Saus. Steak 2 Kidney. 1 Suet.			8 6
Sept 3	1 Oxtail - 1 lb Chops.			10 9
8	4 lb Rib Beef 4 1/2 C Beef Rans.			9 9
11	4 1/2 Rib Beef. 4 1/2 Corn Beef 1 1/2 Saus.			9 9
21	3 1/2 Rib Beef. 4 1/2 C Beef 1 1/2 Steak 1 Saus.			9 9
28	1 lb R. 1 lb C. 1 lb S.			9 9



Department of **Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries**
WA Local Government Grants Commission

Our ref 24/4322
Enquiries Grants Commission
Phone 08 6552 1673
Email grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Mr Arthur (Bill) Price
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Westonia
41 Wolfram Street
WESTONIA WA 6423

Dear Mr Price

2024-25 FINAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The WA Local Government Grants Commission (**Commission**) has been advised by the Commonwealth Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kristy McBain MP, that the 2024-25 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (**FA Grants**) have been formally approved.

In 2024-25, Western Australia's share of the final funding pool available for distribution is \$400,032,981 (includes adjustment for 2023-24). Of this \$245,557,008 is General Purpose funding (\$208,757,650 paid in advance in June 2024) and \$154,475,973 is Local Road funding (\$130,658,557 paid in advance in June 2024).

In 2024-25, 32 local governments received the minimum grant general purpose grant allocation. The remaining general purpose grant funding pool allowed for 68.8 per cent of calculated grant need to be paid to the remaining local governments.

The FA Grants for the Shire of Westonia in 2024-25 are as follows:

2024-25 Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants)

- General Purpose Grant Entitlement	\$1,189,661.00
- Minus Adjustment for 2023-24 Grant	\$-2,926.00
Total General Purpose Grant after adjustment	\$1,186,735.00
- Road Grant Entitlement	\$669,638.00
- Plus Adjustment for 2023-24 Grant	\$2,204.00
Total Road Grant after adjustment	\$671,842.00
Bridges:	\$0.00
Aboriginal Access Roads:	\$0.00
Total Special Projects	\$0.00

Advance Payment paid in June 2024

General Purpose Grant:	\$1,009,339.00
Local Roads Grant:	\$610,778.00

Remaining payment to be made in 2024-25 Financial Year

- General Purpose Recoup of 2023-24 Under/Over Payments and 2024-25 balancing adjustments	\$-23,650.00
Total General Purpose Grant cash payment remaining	153,747.00
- Remaining Over/Under Payments	\$0.00
- Local Roads Under and Over Adjustments	\$511.00
Total Local Road Grant cash payment remaining	\$61,575.00

TOTAL FA Grants **\$1,835,439.00**

Financial Impact of Advance Payments in 2023-24 and 2024-25

In June 2023, the Commonwealth Government decided to make a 100 per cent advanced payment of the estimated entitlement as calculated at that point in time. This then led to very limited quarterly payments being made throughout the 2023-24 financial year. The decision made by the Commonwealth Government was to provide an immediate boost to local government cash reserves to help manage the cumulative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural disasters.

The allocation to local governments from the Commonwealth was based on grant recommendations from the previous year (2022-23) with indexation in line with the growth to the grant allocation to Western Australia. However, the Commission's methodology allocates funding not purely based on indexation of the grant pool but based on a variety of factors to ensure equitable distribution in accordance with the legislation that is appropriate for the State. Therefore, the 100 per cent advance payment in 2023-24 created Over and Under payments for every local government in Western Australia.

For many local governments, the Commission identified that the difference was likely to be very small, and not having a material impact on the local governments budget. Other local governments, however, needed to consider the likely impact on their 2024-25 FA Grant funding. Written notifications were sent out to the affected local governments that met the threshold of a variance of greater than \$50,000, or less than \$50,000 but greater than 2 per cent of the rates revenue.

As you may be aware, the Commonwealth Government announced there will be an advance payment of the 2024-25 FA Grants to all jurisdictions nationally, it was advised that the funds are were being paid early to help councils facing immediate cash flow pressures, ensuring they can continue to deliver for their communities.

In June 2024, an advance payment of 85 per cent of the estimated 2024-25 entitlement was paid to the local governments, as calculated at that point in time. This again resulted in limited capacity to make quarterly payments to local governments. This year the remaining quarterly payments came to a total of \$60,616,774.

The Commission faced some challenges this year, the most impactful was the compounding issues caused by the 100 per cent advanced payment (over and under payment) of the 2023-24 FA Grants and a negative adjustment from the 2023-24 FY.

While the Commission intended to redistribute all of the over and under payments caused by the 100 per cent advance payment (over and under payments) of the 2023-24 FA Grants, unfortunately this was not possible due to the operation of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth), it is hoped the redistribution of these funds will be completed by the 2025-26 FA Grants. The Commission will continue to communicate with affected local governments throughout this process.

Additionally, Western Australia also had a negative adjustment of approximately (-\$500,000) in the current allocation from the final 2023-24 allocation. Due to the negative adjustment, the minimum grant principle and the remaining funds being limited (approximately 15 per cent of the funding pool), variances of the over and under payments occurred.

The Commission has identified the Shire of Westonia was overpaid by \$15,446.00 for their 2023-24 FA Grant entitlement. This has resulted in the Shire 's FA Grant allocation to be reduced by approximately this amount in the 2024-25 allocation as well as taking into account additional balancing adjustments.

Quarterly Payments to Local Governments

The first quarterly payment was made on 16 August 2024. The remaining three quarterly payments are expected to be deposited in the middle of November, February and May of the 2024-25 financial year.

Payments of Special Projects Grants

Payment of Special Project allocations will be included with the four quarterly payments of the General Purpose Grants and Local Road Grants.

Main Roads WA contributes \$1 for every \$2 allocated to Special Projects by the Commission. This contribution is made on the condition that the Special Project funds are spent on the project to which the funds have been allocated. Your local government should consult Main Roads before commencing work.

Please ensure that proper records of these grants are kept for your local government's annual audit at the end of the financial year. Local governments can contact Dr Chris Berry by email at chris.berry@dlgsc.wa.gov.au regarding queries relating to the Aboriginal Access Roads and Bridge Special Projects Grants allocations and how these are determined.

Special Project Grants – Aboriginal Access Roads

The Commission has allocated \$3,586,333 of Commonwealth road funds for the improvement of local government access roads to remote Aboriginal Communities as part of its Special Project funding program.

The allocations have been based on advice from the Aboriginal Roads Committee, which includes representatives of the WA Local Government Association, Main Roads WA, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (formerly Department of Aboriginal Affairs), Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Aboriginal Roads Committee has been advised that some Aboriginal Communities are concerned that road works are often carried out without proper consultation with them. It should be understood that the Special Project grants are made on the premise that local governments consult with Aboriginal Communities before decisions are made on road works.

Please note that the Special Project funds are allocated for road improvements and re-sheeting gravel roads, not routine maintenance. Provision for maintenance is made through the Commonwealth road funds allocated in accordance with asset preservation needs.

Special Project Grants – Bridges

The Commission has allocated \$7,172,667 of Commonwealth road funds for the preservation of bridges on local government roads as part of its Special Project funding program.

The allocations have been based on advice from the Bridge Committee, which includes representatives of the WA Local Government Association and Main Roads WA.

The Commission is highly aware of the impacts and unpredictability that the advance payments have created and is working to identify how any variance in the future allocations can be prevented or reduced.

Of course, the long-term and annual budgeting forecast are subject to change and change impacts results reported in annual financial statements.

The Commission will continue to advocate for advance payments that do not impact on the financial sustainability of local governments and the normalisation and consistency in the advance distribution.

Documentation outlining the FA Grant allocations including the calculations and FA Grant Schedules are available via the department's website.

Should you have any queries, please contact the Grants Commission on 08 6552 1673 or by email grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Taryn Cox'.

Taryn Cox
Manager, Board Governance and Reporting
WA Local Government Grants Commission

18 October 2024

From: [Bill Price](#)
To: [Chantelle Pedrotti](#)
Subject: FW: Application - Community Housing Provider
Date: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 1:43:11 PM
Attachments: [CEACA Tier 3 Registration Certificate_081024.pdf](#)

From: Jo Trachy <jo.trachy@ceaca.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:12 AM
To: ceo@brucerock.wa.gov.au; stephenstrangecots@icloud.com; ceo <ceo@kellerberrin.wa.gov.au>; gardiner@kellerberrin.wa.gov.au; ceo@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au; crsachse@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au; ceo@merredin.wa.gov.au; Bradley Anderson <cranderson@merredin.wa.gov.au>; ceo@mukinbudin.wa.gov.au; crshadbolt@mukinbudin.wa.gov.au; ceo@narembreen.wa.gov.au; Holly Cusack <crcusack@narembreen.wa.gov.au>; CEO <ceo@dowerin.wa.gov.au>; Natalie Ness <natalie.ness@quairading.wa.gov.au>; Bill Price <ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au>; Ross DellaBosca <cr.DellaBosca@westonia.wa.gov.au>; ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au; cr.stratford@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au; Brian Jones <ceo@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>; cr_wdellabosca@yilgarn.wa.gov.au
Cc: Richard Marshall <richard.marshall@ceaca.org.au>; tuck.noels@bigpond.com
Subject: Application - Community Housing Provider

Good Morning all,

CEACA was informed that prior to any funding applications being considered, it must apply to become a registered Community Housing Provider ("CHP") with the Department of Communities. CEACA commenced the application process in February 2024 with an expectation of completion by June 2024. The process was detailed, lengthy and included review of many policies and procedures, creation of new ones, meetings with the Department, systems training and much research.

The CHP process has brought about improved governance for CEACA, including policies and procedures, property management systems and corporate governance more generally.

CEACA submitted the CHP application in April 2024. Between then and now there has been numerous requests for further documentation and clarification.

Pleasingly the Department has now approved CEACA's application and confirmed our registration as a CHP. Please see attached Certificate of Registration.

A lot of effort has gone into this. I would like to say a big thank you to Jo for her hard work and commitment to the process.

Regards

Richard Marshall

Executive Officer
Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc.
C/- Regus, The Garden Office Park, PO Box 1257, Osborne Park WA 6017
P: (08) 9441 4815 M: 0411 056 576
E: richard.marshall@ceaca.org.au
W: www.ceaca.org.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

WA Community Housing

Certificate of Registration

Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance Inc

Is hereby recognised as a

Tier 3 Community Housing Provider

*In recognition of satisfactory fulfilment of the requirements of registration
under the Community Housing Regulatory Framework*

Community Housing Registrar

8 October 2024

Registration Date



The U13 and U16 Merredin Colts

would like to thank you for your

Sponsorship in 2024

We could not have done it without your support!





LIVE EXPORT DOLLARS A SLAP IN THE FACE, DAVIES

16th October 2024

Member for Central Wheatbelt Mia Davies has slammed the Federal Labor Government's latest transition package offer for the live sheep export industry saying it was rubbing salt in the wounds of those impacted.

"If the Minister has shown up expecting bouquets for increasing the transition funding, she'll be disappointed," Ms Davies said.

"They either don't care or don't understand - we don't want funding, we want our industry to continue."

Ms Davies said she stood by the thousands of people and hundreds of businesses and livelihoods linked to the live sheep export industry.

"I stand by those farmers, truck drivers, shipping companies, livestock agents, veterinarians, port workers, shearers, feedlot businesses and all involved in the sector – no legitimate and ethical industry should ever be closed for political ideology, or to suit activist agendas," she said.

"Labor's decision is devastating, driven by the desire to appease animal activists and capture inner-city votes.

"The Albanese Labor Government is no friend of Western Australia."

Ms Davies said she'd never seen a less enthusiastic, muted and defeatist attitude than that shown by Minister Jacqui Jarvis and Premier Cook when standing up for West Australians on this issue.

"If they truly supported the industry, they would be on the front foot *every day* railing against this decision," she said.

"Instead, they shrug their shoulders and relinquish this important industry to a political hatchet job by their own Party and Prime Minister."

Ms Davies said industry and its leaders should demand more of their State Agriculture Minister, and WA should send a clear message to the Albanese Government at the polls at the next election.

"I am pleased that Federal Nationals Leader David Littleproud has committed to repealing the legislation as his first act in the Parliament should we be returned to Government," she said.

"Western Australia handed the Prime Minister the keys to the Lodge in Canberra and all we've had since is misery.

"Households are worse off financially and this Labor Government continues to pursue policy and legislation that makes it harder for agriculture, mining and small business to operate, the very sectors that underpin our State and national economy."

For more information contact Mia Davies on 9041 1702 or mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au.



Our Ref: F24/244

Mr Arthur Price
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Westonia
41 Wolfram Street
WESTONIA WA 6423

7th Floor, Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street, Perth

Mail to: Perth BC
PO Box 8489
PERTH WA 6849

Tel: 08 6557 7500
Email: info@audit.wa.gov.au

Email: ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Price

CONTRACT AUDIT SERVICES - RETENDERING - OAG02331

The Office of the Auditor General has decided to call for tenders for the annual audit of your entity. The successful tenderer would be contracted for an initial period of three years commencing with the 2025 financial audit.

The following firms will be invited to tender for the annual audit of your entity:

AMD Audit & Assurance PTY LTD	Crowe
Dry Kirkness	Moore Australia Audit (WA)
Nexia Perth Audit Services Pty Ltd	Pitcher Partners BA & A PTY LTD
William Buck (WA) Pty Ltd	

We request you notify procurement@audit.wa.gov.au if you have any conflicts of interest or feedback regarding any of the firms listed above by 25 October 2024. If we do not hear from you we will assume you do not have any conflicts of interest to declare or feedback to provide about any of the proposed firms.

Your support during this process by being available to brief prospective tenderers appropriately will be greatly appreciated by all and will ensure quality submissions are received. You may wish to consider holding a briefing session for all invited audit firms to ease the internal burden. We may also consult with you and/or your Chief Finance Officer during the selection process.

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

Selection of the contractor should be completed by no later than 29 November 2024. If you have any queries, please contact the OAG Engagement Leader responsible for your audit.

Yours sincerely

Grant Robinson
Assistant Auditor General
Financial Audit

From: Bill Price
To: Chantelle Pedrotti
Subject: FW: Western Power reference D2X1P0808157
Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 1:26:22 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

From: Western Power (No Reply) <noreply@westernpower.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Bill Price <ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Western Power reference D2X1P0808157



*** This email is sent from a no reply mailbox that is not monitored ***

Dear Bill

Thank you for contacting us regarding complaint reference D2X1P0808157 (project reference WS-538706PIN0).

We apologise for the delay in responding to your initial query logged on 3 September 2024 under reference P7G4K0801433. I can confirm feedback has been forwarded to the appropriate area.

Western Power is currently experiencing a high volume of work which is ultimately affecting our delivery timeframes and distribution customer delivery expectations due to an increase from around 3500 applications per year to around 5500 applications. We are aware of the current situation being faced by our customers and have implemented several initiatives including working with external design vendors, actively recruiting specialists as part of the distribution design team to increase capability and output and publishing indicative timeframes on our website for varying connection requests to allow customers to plan their project and or construction schedules accordingly.

The current indicative timeframe (subject to change) is available to customers at the time of making their application and published on the Western Power website:

Single residential connection



Who is this for?

For a single home with or without an existing connection, wanting to connect via underground.



How long will it take?

3 months to provide you with a technical assessment

4-6 months to provide you with a design and quote, depending on the complexity of your project

3 months to construct, upon payment of quote and confirmation your site is ready

Timeframes indicative only and subject to change based on demand.



How much will it cost?

We'll provide a quote after we complete the scoping and design of your project.

[View detailed cost breakdown](#)

After reviewing your project our records show that an online submission was made to Western Power on 23 May 2024. The application was accepted, and the invoice design fee was sent 17 June 2024. Payment was not received until two months later on 16 August 2024.

I can confirm your project is progressing in accordance with our published timeframes and is currently in the queue to be allocated to a designer and the design and quote will be sent to the nominated person for the project once completed.

Unfortunately, we are unable to meet your request to expedite your application. Western Power is committed to providing all customers with a fair and equitable service, therefore prioritising one project over another is not possible as it would unfairly impact customers and their projects further ahead of yours in the queue. The exception to this being hospitals, medical facilities, schools, and community housing which are reviewed case by case.

I apologise if we have not met your expectations to date and assure you, we will continue to work as quickly as possible to progress and complete not only your project, but all projects in our queue(s). I appreciate this may not be the outcome you had hoped for, however, I trust my email clarifies Western Powers position concerning this matter. You may request to have your complaint considered for review by another Western Power senior employee. Additionally, more information about Western Power's complaints handling process is available on our website <https://westernpower.com.au/faqs/complaints/> or by calling 13 10 87.

Yours sincerely

Natasha Greenaway
Complaints and Resolutions Officer
Community and Stakeholders
A 363 Wellington Street Perth 6000
Emergencies and outages - 13 13 51 | General enquiries - 13 10 87



Ngala kaaditj Noongar moort keyen kaadak nidja boodja.

Electricity Networks Corporation, trading as Western Power
ABN: 18 540 492 861

TO THE ADDRESSEE - this email is for the intended addressee only and may contain information that is confidential. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email or by telephone. Please also destroy this message and any electronic or hard copies of this message.

Any claim to confidentiality is not waived or lost by reason of mistaken transmission of this email.

Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects

Teams Group Terms of Reference

Background

WALGA have heard from many of our Member Councils that large scale renewable energy projects, and the impact they will have on local communities, is a growing concern. In response to this, WALGA developed three advocacy positions on the energy transition, which were recently approved at the September State Council meeting (items 6.16, 6.17, 6.18 in our Advocacy Manual [here](#)).

Many Local Governments, in particular in the regions, are keen to collaborate with one another when it comes to navigating renewable energy projects. The Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects Teams Group provides a forum for these conversations to take place.

Purpose

To provide a forum for CEOs and Elected Members to collaborate and share knowledge around large scale renewable energy projects and how they are navigating conversations with energy proponents and their communities. The Teams Group provides a place to share any relevant documents and policies which may be of use to other Local Governments, as well as a place for WALGA to share updates on the renewable energy work they have been undertaking.

The Group is focussed on large-scale renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, battery storage, hydrogen and transmission lines. Critical minerals and gas are out of scope for this group.

Membership

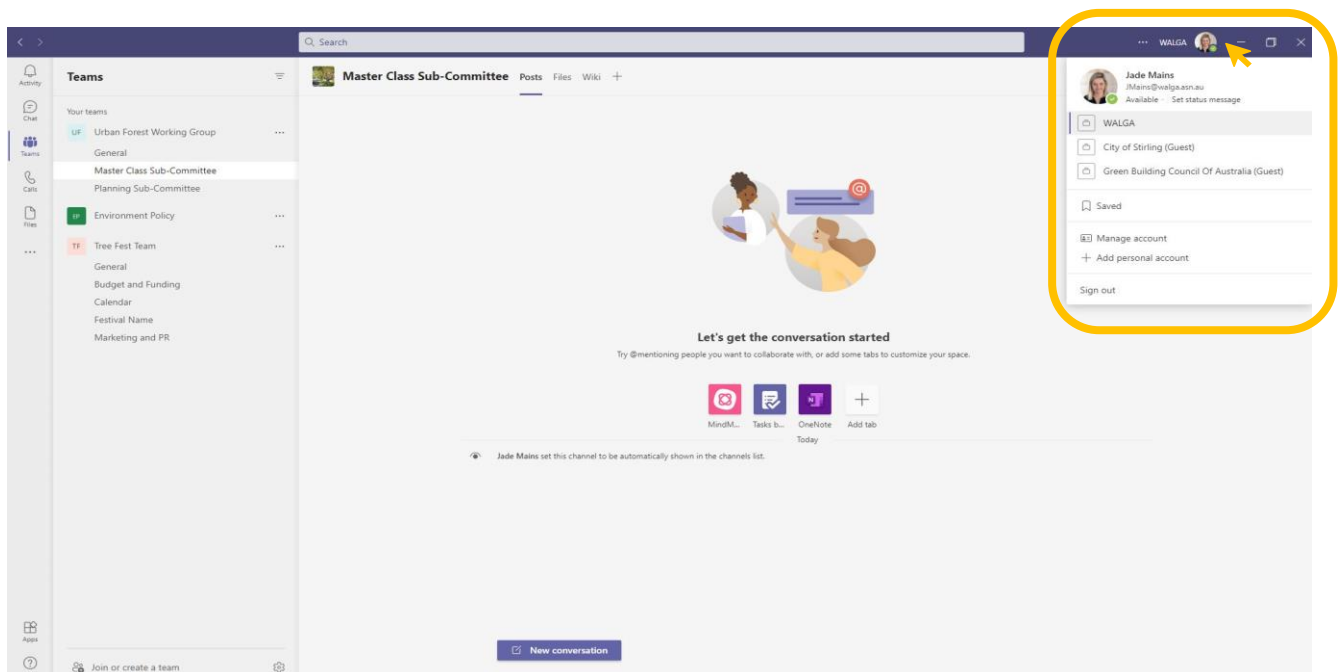
Membership of the Teams Group is open to CEOs and Elected Members of WA Local Governments. In the first instance there will be a maximum of two people per Local Government admitted to the Group.

Guide for Joining the Microsoft Teams Group

As the Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects Teams Group has been created by WALGA (and thus sits outside of your organisation), it will not show up in your normal Teams list on the left-hand toolbar.

To access the group:

1. Upon receiving your email invitation to join the group, accept the invitation.
2. Open the Teams app or open Teams in your web browser.
3. Click on your profile picture on the top right-hand corner of Teams and select the WALGA organisation from the drop-down menu.
4. Once you have selected WALGA, you will switch to our organisation and the Large Scale Renewable Energy Project Teams Group will be visible.



From: [Bill Price](#)
To: [Chantelle Pedrotti](#)
Subject: FW: Closure of Merredin Toyota
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 7:51:29 AM

From: Merredin Toyota <admin@avtoyota.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:38 PM
To: Bill Price <ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Closure of Merredin Toyota



Closure of Merredin Toyota

To Our Valued Client,

I am writing to inform you that regrettably we will be closing Merredin Toyota on the 24th December, 2024.

For many months now we have been dealing with staff shortages and have been unable to source the staff that we need to be able to provide the level of service required to meet the needs of our customer base. Coupled with declining sales and increased operating costs, this has left us with no option other than closing the business.

Unfortunately, we are not able to sell the business to another party as under Toyota Australia's franchise agreement, Merredin Toyota is classed as a branch of Avon Valley Toyota in Northam and not a stand-alone dealership. Toyota Australia do not currently have any plans to establish a primary marketing area in Merredin.

We are very aware that losing any business in a regional town is a huge loss and do not underestimate the effect this decision will have on the local community.

We will be available through to Christmas Eve for all your servicing, sales and parts requirements and would recommend that if you do require a service before Christmas, you book in at your earliest convenience.

In the New Year, Avon Valley Toyota in Northam will be available to meet the requirements of our customers.

We would like to thank you for your support over the many years that Merredin Toyota was part of the business community in Merredin and surrounds.

We also appreciate in advance, the kindness and understanding you offer to our staff in Merredin as they transition through a very difficult time.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision, please do not hesitate to reach out to me on (08) 96 225622 or via email lknipe@avtoyota.com.au.

Yours Sincerely

LEONIE KNIPE
Dealer Principal and Managing Director

[View this email in your browser](#)

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To view our Privacy Policy <https://www.avonvalleytoyota.com.au/privacy/>

Our mailing address is:

c/- Avon Valley Toyota
32 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6401

DL20461 MRB 4293