

## Governance Update

## APRIL 2020 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DECISIONS

New Local Government Regulations have come into effect which enable local governments to host and attend Council and Committee meetings electronically in a public health emergency, which has been declared by the Federal and State Governments with respect to COVID-19. In order to adhere to the social distancing and self-isolation rules that have been put into place, Council recently held its April Ordinary Council Meeting electronically.

All six Councillors were present at the meeting along with the CEO, but did so electronically via video conferencing platform "Zoom" and from a suitable place, generally at home.

Thankfully the technology performed well with clear images and audio throughout, allowing for a productive meeting and important decisions to be made by the Council which included:

- Freezing any Rate and Fees & Charges increases for the 2020/2021 financial year,
- Zero percent (0%) increase in Councils fees and charges, (remain as per 2019/20);
- 2020/2021 Non-payment of rates penalty interest be reduced to 5% until March 2021;
- No Instalment administration fees on all instalment options for 2020/2021;
- Instalment interest be reduced to 5% on all instalment options for 2020/2021;
- Introduce Financial Hardship Policy and assistance as a result of Covid-19 pressures;



## CAMPING ALERT

After the Premier recently lifted some restrictions on public gatherings and camping, we are delighted to announce that campgrounds within the Shire of Westonia's Reserves such as Elachbutting Rock and Baladjie Rock will be open for local camping and recreational activities from 7am Saturday, 9 May 2020.

Intrastate travel restrictions remain in place, so at this stage visitation and camping will be restricted to people who reside the "Wheatbelt" regional boundary.

We encourage campers to be self-sufficient and to continue to observe social distancing rules and not exceed groups of 10 people.

The four square metres of space per person rule, with particular attention to shared facilities and areas such as ablutions/BBQ shelters and other communal areas, must be followed.

Good hygiene practices should also be implemented.

The Westonia Caravan Park and 48hr Free Campsite located on Wolfram Street, Westonia are still closed until further notice.



The Shire Library will re-open from Monday 18th May 2020 from 8.30am with the following \*Restrictions



## Tourism Update

## NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT WHEATBELT TOURISM

#awindowinthewheatbelt aims to inspire people to take a road trip to the Wheatbelt once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so.

Wheatbelt Local Tourism Groups of NEWTRAVEL, RoeTourism and the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre are asking locals during the month of May to support the regions tourism industry by putting photos taken from their windows on social media to remind everyone of what they're missing -and inspire them to travel once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Wheatbelt locals are invited to take a picture of a view from their property and post it on social media using the hashtag #awindowinthewheatbelt and their location, such as #Westonia

Inspired by this initiative in Scotland by VisitScotland, we hope this campaign will also offer Western Australian Wheatbelt tourism businesses and communities an outlet to showcase their own views of the Wheatbelt and inspire visitors to see them for themselves when they can in the future.



The next Council Meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st May 2020**, from 3.30pm. The meeting will be held at the Westonia CRC Building (Old Shire Administration Building) The meeting's agenda will be published on Council's website from 5.00pm on **Friday 15th May 2020**.

Public Question Time commences as 3:30pm and is limited to 15 minutes

for more info: ☎ (08)90467063  
 www.westonia.wa.gov.au/  
 council-meetings.



Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

**LAURA BLACK**

NEXT VISIT

Thurs 14th May 2020

9.00am—2.00 pm

Booking made through

SHIRE ADMIN on (08) 9046 7063

**DR OLGA WARD**

MBBS, FRACGP, GDRGP, FARGP  
Procedural Surgical GP Westonia

SHIRE ADMIN on (08) 9046 7063

Consulting Dates 2020 (Monday's)

15th of June 2020

13th of July 2020

10th of August 2020

5th of October 2020

9th of November 2020

7th of December 2020

Due to COVID-19 Distancing Precautions, The Shire Medical Waiting Rooms will only Take 2 People at a Time other Patients will be requested to wait Outside or in Vehicles.



**Be Flu Smart  
and get your Flu  
Shot Now!**

Free flu vaccines are available now at Westonia Drs Surgery. **All People who are eligible for the Free vaccine** To book an appointment Please call the Shire Office on **(08) 90467063**

Please be patient as we clear the existing appointment backlog.

**Restricted Burning Period ENDING**

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 000**

The Restricted Burning Period for the Shire of Westonia has ended, as of Thursday 30 April, 2020 Burning is now permitted without a permit.



**SHIRE OFFICE CLOSURE**

Please note the Shire Office and Public Library will be closed on the following Public Holidays:-

**WA DAY—1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

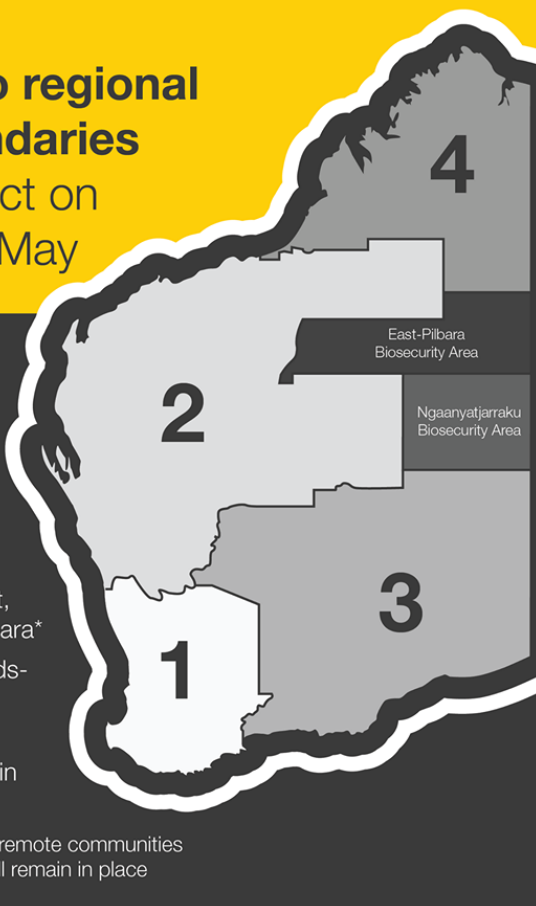


**Changes to regional travel boundaries will take effect on Monday 18 May**

**From that date, travel will be allowed:**

1. Between Perth, Peel, Wheatbelt, South West and Great Southern
2. Between Mid-West, Gascoyne and Pilbara\*
3. Within the Goldfields-Esperance region\*
4. Between local government areas in the Kimberley\*

\* Restrictions on travel to remote communities and biosecurity areas will remain in place



**COVID-19 WA roadmap**

**Phase 1**

27 April 2020



- Gatherings limit raised from 2 to 10 people
- Some additional non-contact public activities permitted
- Soft start to Term 2 for public schools introduced
- Home opens permitted in accordance with the limit on gatherings
- Weddings and funerals, up to 10 people
- Outdoor personal training (no shared equipment) up to 10 people

**Phase 2**

18 May 2020



- Non-work gatherings limit raised to 20 people
- Weddings and funerals up to 20 people inside or 30 outside
- People are encouraged to return to work, unless they are unwell or vulnerable
- Regional travel restrictions relaxed, travel permitted between:
  1. Perth, Peel, Wheatbelt, South West & Great Southern
  2. Mid-West, Gascoyne & Pilbara\*
  3. Within the Goldfields-Esperance region\*
  4. Local Government Areas in the Kimberley\*
- \* Restrictions on travel to biosecurity zones and remote communities remain in place
- Public pools permitted to open with strict rules
- Cafes and restaurants permitted to reopen with meal service, including within pubs, bars, clubs, hotels and casinos, up to 20 patrons, with the 4sqm rule applied
- Places of worship, libraries, community centres & community facilities may reopen, with a 20 patron limit
- Indoor and outdoor fitness and dance classes allowed, with a 20 participant limit, minimal shared equipment and 4sqm rule applied
- Non-contact community sport and training allowed, with a 20 person limit

**Phase 3**

Around 4 weeks after Phase 2

- Further increases in non-work gatherings
- Contact community sport
- Beauty therapy services
- Public playgrounds, skate parks, cinemas and concert venues

Phase 3 will be subject to health advice, but will focus on continuing to build stronger links within the community and include further resumption of commercial and recreational activities. It may include:

- Further increase to non-work gathering limits
- Reopening playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment
- Reopening galleries, museums, zoos, theatres, cinemas and concert venues
- Resuming beauty therapy and personal care services
- Resuming community contact sport
- Restrictions further relaxed for gyms, health clubs and indoor sport centres
- Reopening auction houses and real estate auctions
- Possible further adjustments to regional boundaries

**Phase 4**

Future easing of restrictions will be determined and occur in line with expert health advice



**Avoid close contact with others**  
Keep at least 1.5 metres away



**Healthy hygiene**  
Wash your hands regularly  
Cover your mouth/nose when you cough/sneeze



**4 square metres per person**



**Download the COVIDSafe app**

**We're all in this together.**

WA.gov.au

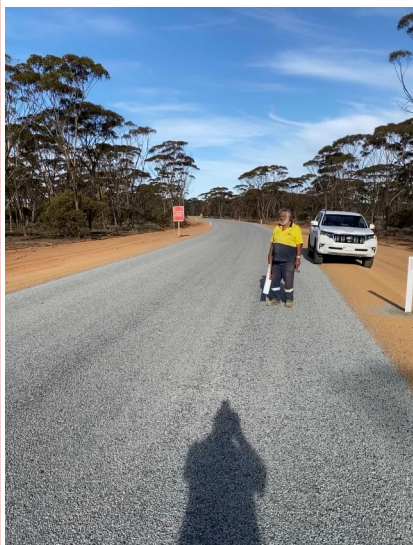
Further Council information is available at Shire of Westonia 41 Wolfram Street, Westonia 6423  
Telephone: 08 9046 7063 Email: shire@westonia.wa.gov.au Web: westonia.wa.gov.au





## ROADWORKS

The roads crew have completed the construction of the 1.1km realignment of the Warrachuppin Road to accommodate the expansion of the Ramelius "Greenfinch" operation. Both the Boodarockin & Warrachuppin Roads have been a major undertaking for the roads crew over the last few months and the quality of work needs to be commended. A special mention to the local contractors who also assisted in the projects' success. This now concludes the major works involved in the haul roads with the crew looking forward undertaking normal shire operations. Road users are asked to take care on the new section of Warrachuppin as there is still some loose stone on the surface which will be swept at a later date when the emulsion and stone has bedded itself down.



- The roads crew have completed a 2km re-sheet of a section of Maxfield Road between Poole and Daddow Roads.
- The roads crew are now geared up to undertake a winter grading program should conditions start being favorable

## STANDPIPE TANKS

The Council have installed several 30,000L storage tanks at the following standpipe locations to increase the storage of water at these sites, due to the slow fill up rates from the scheme. They will be commissioned over the next couple of weeks.

2 x McPharlin Road

1 x Warralakin Townsite  
(connected to existing concrete tank)

1 x Boodarockin (connected to existing fibreglass tank)

The existing overhead railway water tank located at Warralakin will be locked for fire fighting purposes only.



### COVIDSafe app

The COVIDSafe app speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). This helps us support and protect you, your friends and family.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2020/2021

Pursuant to Section 6.33 and 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, notice is hereby given to ratepayers of the intention of the Shire of Westonia to impose the following differential and minimum rates for the 2020/2021 rating year. This rate is taking into consideration Council's decision at April meeting to impose a 0% rate increase:

### RATE IN THE DOLLAR

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	7.2073	355.00
GRV Mining	20.4953	355.00

The proposed rates-in-the-dollar and minimum payments are based on estimates at the time of giving public notice and may change as part of Council's 2020/21 budget consideration. The object and reasons for each proposed rate may be inspected at the Shire Office, Wolfram Street, Westonia during normal business hours or by visiting our web site [www.westonia.wa.gov.au](http://www.westonia.wa.gov.au). All submissions in writing with reference to the proposed differential rates or minimum payments should be forwarded to the Shire of Westonia no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Since the creation of the Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards in 2002, it has aimed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional and rural Western Australia. The awards recognise and pay tribute to their achievements, which contribute to making regional Western Australia a better community.

### Important Dates

**Nominations Open:** Friday 5 June 20

**Nominations Close:** Friday 7 Aug 20