



## Attachments

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday 16 July 2025

Date	Wednesday 16 July 2025
Time	3:30pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Thursday 10 July 2025



## **7.1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Ordinary Council Meeting**



# Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday 18 June 2025

Date	Wednesday 18 June 2025
Time	3:30pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Monday 23 June 2025



## Notice of Meeting

Please be advised that an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Wickepin was held at 3:30pm on Wednesday 18 June 2025 at the Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Burton".

David Burton  
Chief Executive Officer  
18 June 2025

### Disclaimer

*No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wickepin for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council / committee meetings or during formal / informal conversations with Shire of Wickepin employees or representatives. The Shire of Wickepin disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council / committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.*

*In particular, and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member, employee or representative of the Shire of Wickepin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be, and is not to be, taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wickepin. The Shire of Wickepin warns anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wickepin must obtain, and only should rely on, written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wickepin in respect of the application.*



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## 1 Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member, Cr Russell declared the meeting open at 3.40pm.

Cr Russell announced that the meeting is being recorded in accordance with section 14I of the Local Government Administrations Regulations 1996. The recordings will be made publicly available and serve as a public record of proceedings.

While section 9.57A of the Local Government Act 1995 provides the Local Government with limited protection from defamation liability for content published on its official website as part of a broadcast or recording of council proceedings, this does not extend to elected members or employees and I encourage all participants to ensure their contributions are respectful, professional, and consistent with the standards expected of Council meetings. Please remember that all comments will form part of the public record.

## 2 Attendance

### 2.1 Present

#### Councillors

J Russell	Shire President (Chair)
W Astbury	Deputy Shire President
F Allan	Councillor
J Mearns	Councillor
L Corke	Councillor
T Miller	Councillor

#### Employees

D Burton	Chief Executive Officer
E Clement	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
G Cross	Manager Works & Services
J Harvey	Executive Support Officer

#### Apologies

P Thompson	Councillor (Leave of Absence)
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## 3 Public Question Time

### 3.1 Responses to Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice

### 3.2 Public Question Time

Nil

## 4 Apologies and Leave of Absence

### 4.1 Apologies

### 4.2 Previously Approved Leave of Absence

Cr Peter Thompson requested a leave of absence for the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### 4.3 Requests for Leave of Absence

Cr John Mearns requested a leave of absence for the Ordinary Council Meeting 16 July 2025 for personal reasons.

#### Council Decision

**Resolution OCM-180625-01**

**Moved** Cr T Miller

**Second** Cr W Astbury

***That Cr John Mearns be granted a leave of absence for the Ordinary Council Meeting 16 July 2025 for personal reasons.***

**Carried** 6/0

**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller

**Against** Nil

## 5 Petitions, Memorials and Deputations

### 5.1 Petitions

Nil

### 5.2 Memorials

Nil

### 5.3 Deputations

Nil

## 6 Declarations of Councillors and Officers Interest

A member or officer who has an impartiality, proximity or financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest have been disclosed –

Item	Item Title	Councillor/Officer	Interest	Reason
13.4	2025-2026 Community Grants	Cr Julie Russell	Impartiality	Arthur Russell (dec) is my husband's uncle, so I am related to him by marriage.
13.5	Sale of 5 Smith Street Wickepin	Cr Ty Miller	Indirect Financial	I was the real estate agent that appraised the house at 5 Smith Street and was paid for it.

## **7 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 21 May 2025**

#### **Officer Recommendation**

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025, as included in Attachment 7.1.1, as a true and accurate record.*

#### **Council Decision**

**Resolution OCM-180625-02**

**Moved** Cr F Allan

**Second** Cr L Corke

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025, as included in Attachment 7.1.1, as a true and accurate record.*

**Carried** 6/0

**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller

**Against** Nil

## **8 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given**

Nil

## **9 Receipt of Committee Minutes or Reports and Consideration of Recommendations**

Nil

## **10 Report by the President**

Presidents report June 2025

Meetings/Workshops attended:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Attended the RDA Economic Development Workshop in Pingelly along with ACEO Peter Clarke, Cr Thompson, Cr Corke and CEDO Sam Hankinson.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Attended the RoeROC Committee meeting at Narembreen along with Cr Wes Astbury and Cr Ty Miller, where we presented our request for the Shire of Wickepin to become a member of RoeROC.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Popped into the Shire Office to welcome our new CEO David Burton, and to say farewell to ACEO Peter Clarke. I Thanked Peter sincerely for his leadership and expertise at guiding our Staff and Council in matters over the past 3

months, and keeping our business moving forward – resulting in much ground being covered over that time.

**Council Decision**

**Resolution OCM-180625-03**

**Moved** Cr F Allan

**Second** Cr L Corke

***That Council accepts the Shire Presidents Report.***

**Carried** 6/0

**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller

**Against** Nil

## 11 Report by the Chief Executive Officer

Nil

### Delegations exercised –

No.	Delegation Name	Delegation To	Delegation Exercised	When Exercised	Persons Affected
A1	Cheque Signing and Account Authorisation	CEO			A/CEO, DCEO
A2	Septic Tank Application Approvals	EHO			
A3	Building Approvals	BO	Building Approval – Lot 77 Railway Parade, Toolibin	21/05/2025	ACEO
			Unauthorised Works Approval – Lot 77 Railway Parade Toolibin	21/05/2025	ACEO
A4	Roadside Advertising	CEO			
A5	Application for Planning Consent	CEO	Planning Approval – Lot 77 Railway Parade, Toolibin	13/05/2025	ACEO
A6	Appointment and Termination of Staff	CEO			
A7	Rates Recovery – Instalment Payments	CEO			
A8	Issue of Orders	CEO			
A9	Legal Advice	CEO			
A10	Permits to Use Explosives	CEO			
A11	Street Stalls	CEO	Temporary Food Stall Approval – Wickepin Hotel 29 May 2025, Event	9/05/2025	ACEO, EHO
A12	Liquor Consumption on Shire Owned Property	CEO	Permission to Consume Alcohol – Wickepin Community Centre 21 February 2026, Ignite Wickepin Festival	26/05/2025	ACEO
A13	Hire of Community Halls / Community Centre	CEO			
A14	The Food Act 2008 and the Food Regulations 2009	CEO			
A15	The Public Health Act 2016	CEO			
A16	Sponsorship, contributions and donations to sporting and community groups	CEO			

## 12 Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting

Nil

## 13 Reports and Information

### 13.1 Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid – May 2025

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<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	-
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	-
<b>File Reference</b>	FM.FR.1212
<b>Author</b>	E Clement – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	The author has no financial, proximity or impartiality interests in this item.
<b>Report Written Date</b>	14 May 2025
<b>Attachment</b>	<b>13.1.1</b> – Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid – May 2025

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#### Summary

Council is required to have a Schedule of Accounts Paid produced each month containing relevant information, as legislated.

The purpose of this report is to present the –

- Schedule of Creditor Accounts Paid, including Corporate Credit Card Reconciliations, for May 2025.

Council is requested to confirm the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid, as included in the attachments.

#### Background

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires Shire officers to, monthly and within a prescribed timeframe, prepare a schedule of payments made from the Municipal Fund and the Trust Fund and present this to Council for confirmation.

#### Comments

Shire officers have prepared the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid, in accordance with legislative requirements, and is contained in **Attachment 13.1.1**.

The schedule of accounts, covering vouchers as listed below, have been checked and are fully supported by vouchers and invoices which are submitted herewith and which have been duly certified as to the receipt of goods and the rendition of services and as to prices computation, and costings and the amounts shown have been remitted.

For the month under review the following summarised details are presented –

<b>Municipal Fund</b>	<b>Vouchers</b>	<b>Amounts</b>
Electronic Funds Transfer	EFT 15388-15416,15419,15421-15437	\$694,700.95
Cheques	15596-16001	\$ 42,693.11
Direct Deductions	May 2025	\$ 1,476.45
Superannuation	May 2025	\$ 16,694.30
Credit Card	May 2025	\$ 120.00
BPay Payments	May 2025	\$ 1,719.28
Payroll	May 2025	\$101,487.00
Licensing	May 2025	\$ 30,094.15
<b>Municipal Fund Total</b>		<b>\$888,985.24</b>
<b>Trust Fund</b>		
Electronic Funds Transfer	EFT 15417,15417,15420	\$ 663.89
Cheques		\$
<b>Trust Fund Total</b>		<b>\$ 663.89</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$889,649.13</b>

### Statutory Environment

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 13. Payments from municipal fund or trust fund by CEO, CEO's duties as to etc.*

Where the local government has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer is to be prepared each month showing details for each account paid.

This list is to be presented to the council at the next ordinary meeting of the council and recorded in the minutes.

### Policy Implications

*Council Policy 3.1.7 – EFT Payment and Cheque Issue*

Council has authorised the Chief Executive Officer to make payments from the municipal fund and the trust fund.

### Financial Implications

#### Current Financial Year

Payments included on the Schedule of Accounts Paid have been undertaken in accordance with appropriate processes and the Annual Budget.

#### Future Financial Years

Nil

### Strategic Implications

#### **Goal - Governance**

Objective:	11	We are proactive about collaboration and forward planning our future success
Strategy	11.2	Long Term Financial Plan is reviewed on a regular basis
	11.3	Ensure integrated planning documents remain current via regular reviews



**Voting Requirement**

Simple majority

**Officer Recommendation**

*That Council, pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 acknowledges payments from the Municipal Fund of \$888,985.24 and Trust of \$663.89 for May 2025, as included in **Attachment 13.1.1**.*

**Council Decision****Resolution** OCM-180625-04**Moved** Cr F Allan**Second** Cr W Astbury

***That Council, pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 acknowledges payments from the Municipal Fund of \$888,985.24 and Trust of \$663.89 for May 2025, as included in Attachment 13.1.1.***

**Carried** 6/0**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**Against** Nil

## 13.2 Statement of Financial Activity – May 2025

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<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	-
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	-
<b>File Reference</b>	FM.FR.1212
<b>Author</b>	E Clement – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	The author has no financial, proximity or impartiality interests in this item.
<b>Report Written Date</b>	14 February 2025
<b>Attachment</b>	<b>13.2.1</b> - Statement of Financial Activity – May 2025

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### Summary

Council is required to have a Statement of Financial Activity produced each month containing relevant information, as legislated.

The purpose of this report is to present the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ended May 2025.

Council is requested to accept the Statement of Financial Activity.

### Background

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* require Shire officers, monthly and within a prescribed timeframe, to prepare financial reports covering prescribed information and present these to Council.

### Comments

Shire officers have prepared the Statement of Financial Activity, and supporting documentation, in accordance with legislative requirements, and is contained in **Attachment 13.2.1**.

### Statutory Environment

*Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4 Financial report*

Local governments are required to prepare and present financial reports, on an annual basis and at any other time, and in any other format, as prescribed.

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 34 Financial activity statement required each month (Act s. 6.4)*

Shire officers are to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on revenue and expenditure as set out in the annual budget. Each statement of financial activity is to be accompanied by information explaining the composition of net assets less committed and restricted assets, any material variances and any other supporting information considered relevant.

### Policy Implications

*Council Policy 3.1.14.2 – Monthly Financial Reporting*

The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure a monthly statement of financial activity complies with all aspects of the Act and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

**Financial Implications**Current Financial Year

Commentary on the current financial position is outlined within the body of the attached reports.

Future Financial Years

Nil

**Strategic Implications****Goal - Governance**

Objective:	11	We are proactive about collaboration and forward planning our future success
Strategy	11.2	Long Term Financial Plan is reviewed on a regular basis
	11.3	Ensure integrated planning documents remain current via regular reviews

**Voting Requirement**

Simple Majority

**Officer Recommendation**

*That Council, pursuant to Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, accepts the Statement of Financial Activity and associated documentation for the period ending May 2025, as included in **Attachment 13.2.1**.*

**Council Decision**

Resolution	OCM-180625-05
Moved	Cr T Miller
Second	Cr W Astbury

***That Council, pursuant to Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, accepts the Statement of Financial Activity and associated documentation for the period ending May 2025, as included in Attachment 13.2.1.***

Carried 6/0

For Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller

Against Nil

### 13.3 Fees and Charges 2025/2026

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<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	-
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	-
<b>File Reference</b>	FM.BU.1208
<b>Author</b>	E Clement – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	-
<b>Report Written Date</b>	4 June 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	<b>Attachment 13.3.1 – Fees and Charges for 2025/2026</b>

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#### Summary

Each year Council is required to, and from time-to-time, consider the level of imposition of fees or charges for any goods or services it provides or may provide.

Shire Officers have assessed the goods and services currently provided, and those which may potentially be provided in the next financial year and have recommended the amount of relevant fees or charges to be imposed.

Council is requested, with regards to the Fees and Charges for 2025/2026, to impose the fees and charges for the provision of the goods and services as included in the attachments.

#### Background

The Annual Budget is to include a schedule of fees and charges for imposition during the relevant financial year.

The adoption of the Annual Budget is generally the mechanism by which Council accepts and imposes fees and charges, however many Councils set new fees and charges earlier so they may be advertised before the budget adoption, and the community advised in advance of any changes.

This Report allows for the early adoption of proposed fees and charges for the 2025/2026 financial year, effective 1 July 2025. The Fees and Charges are contained in **Attachment 13.3.1**.

#### Comments

Shire Officers have undertaken an analysis on the proposed fees and charges to be imposed.

Officers, in reviewing and proposing the applicable fees and charges, haven taken into consideration legislative requirements regarding setting the level of fees and charges.

The proposed schedule of fees and charges, which is included in the attachments, includes –

- Known changes to legislatively / externally set fees and charges at the time of publication, and
- A five percent (5%) increase across all Council-set fees and charges

Shire officers acknowledge the cost of providing goods and services in the district has probably increased greater than five percent (5%) although are conscious a greater increase may result in reduced usage of facilities leading to a downturn in revenue.

Should a need to change the fees and charges arise before the adoption of the annual budget these will be identified and presented to Council at the meeting to adopt the budget.

## Statutory Environment

### *Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.16 Imposition of fees and charges*

Council, by an absolute majority decision, may impose and recover a fee or charge for any goods or services it provides or proposes to provide.

Fees and charges are to be imposed when adopting the annual budget, although may be imposed during the year, and may be amended from time-to-time.

### *Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.17 Setting levels of fees and charges*

In determining the amount of a fee or charge for a service or for goods, Council must consider –

- The cost to provide the service or goods,
- The importance of the service or goods to the community, and
- The price at which an alternative provider could provide the service or goods.

### *Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.19 Local government to give notice of fees and charges*

If a local government wishes to impose or alter any fees and charges not within the adoption of the annual budget, it must first give local public notice of the intention to do so and the date at which the fees or charges will be imposed.

## Policy Implications

Nil

## Financial Implications

### Current Financial Year

Fees and charges constitute approximately fifteen percent (15%) of the operating funds required to undertake the activities of the Shire.

If adopted, due to the fees and charges being determined outside the annual budget adoption, local public notice is required, which has some minor associated advertising expenses.

### Future Financial Years

It is likely there will be greater revenue generated through the proposed increases.

## Strategic Implications

Nil

## Voting Requirement

Absolute majority

## Officer Recommendation

*That Council, with respect to the fees and charges for 2025/2026 and pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995, imposes the fees and charges as included in **Attachment 13.3.1**, effective 1 July 2025.*

**Council Decision**

**Resolution**     **OCM-180625-06**

**Moved**           **Cr W Astbury**

**Second**          **Cr F Allan**

***That Council, with respect to the fees and charges for 2025/2026 and pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995, imposes the fees and charges as included in Attachment 13.3.1, effective 1 July 2025.***

**Carried**    **6/0**

**For**         **Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**

**Against**   **Nil**

**Cr Julie Russell declared an Impartiality Interest in the following item 13.4 and remained in the Chambers.**

### 13.4 2025-2026 Community Grants

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<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	Whole Shire
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	-
<b>File Reference</b>	GS.PRG.1541
<b>Author</b>	Peter Clarke – Acting Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	-
<b>Report Written Date</b>	3 June 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	<b>Attachment 13.4.1 – Community Grant Applications</b> <b>Attachment 13.4.2 – Previous Grant Applications</b>

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#### Summary

Council is being requested to allocate the 2025/2026 Community Grants.

#### Background

Each year the Shire of Wickepin makes a budget provision of a maximum of 2.5% of the previous year's levied rates to distribute to community groups and sporting organisations. It is estimated that this would equate to \$42,279.00 GST exclusive for the coming funding period. The objective of the funding is to establish or improve playing areas or buildings necessary for the conduct of sport or for community use, support for major sporting and community events, support for sporting or coaching clinics, to assist community groups in establishing a service, activity seen as a need for the betterment of and improvement to the enjoyment of life within the community, and increasing visitors to the region.

Details of the funding guidelines are provided in Policy Guidelines 3.1.5 – Sponsorship, Contributions and Donations to Sporting and Community Groups.

#### Policy Guidelines:

- Establishment or improvement of playing areas or buildings.
- Support for major sporting and community events.
- Support for general sporting clinics, including coaching clinics and;
- To assist community groups in establishing a service or activity seen as a need for the betterment of and improvement to the enjoyment of life within the community.
- Increasing visitors to the region.

#### Funding Guidelines:

- **100 %**                      **up to \$2,000.00**
- **75 %**                        **between \$2,000.00 - \$5,000.00**
- **50 %**                        **\$5,000.00 and above**

**Comment**

The Shire of Wickepin invited applications for the 2025/2026 Community Grants with applications closing on Friday 23 May 2025 at 4.00pm. Applications were received from the following groups.

<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Grant Sought GST Incl.</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Applicant Contribution</b>	<b>Policy Funding Guideline</b>
Wickepin Playgroup	\$599.00	\$599.00	Volunteer labour \$50	<b>100%</b> \$599.00
Wickepin Tennis Club	\$960.00	\$960.00	Volunteer labour \$75	<b>100%</b> \$797
Wickepin P&C	\$1604.00	\$2079.00	Volunteer labour \$475	<b>100%</b> \$1604.00
Yealering Golf Club	\$2957.00	\$2957.90		<b>75%</b> \$2217.75
Wickepin CRC	\$2000.00	\$11,110	Black Dog Ride Grant (unconfirmed) \$4500 Ticket sale \$1500 CRC Volunteer labour \$1000 Facey Group Volunteer labour \$500 Shire of Wickepin in kind venue hire \$600	<b>75%</b> \$1500
Ignite Wicky	\$3000.00	\$4350	Volunteer labour \$1350	<b>75%</b> \$2250.00
Facey Group	\$6000.00	\$12,000	Facey Group – In kind contribution \$6000	<b>50%</b> \$3000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,120</b>		<b>\$12,042.75</b>	

The total amount of funding sought (\$17,032.00) is well below the 2.5% of rates allocation that would normally be allocated in the 2025/2026 budget (estimated @ \$42,279.00), an under-subscribed amount of \$25,247.00

As the grant funding amount sought is below the estimated Budget amount, the staff recommendation will be that all applicants be awarded funding of the total amount sought.

Whilst this is contrary to the Policy Guidelines, where grants sought between \$2,000-\$5,000 and \$5,000 and above receive 75% and 50% respectively, a precedent was set in the 2024/2025 funding round, where Council awarded an unincorporated group a total amount of \$8,988.00 with no % reduction based on the Guidelines.

As indicated in the detailed attachments, all projects submitted by the Applicants will either add value to their organisations or to the Shire of Wickepin community at large.

**Statutory Environment:**

N/A.



**Policy Implications:**

*Council Policy 3.1.5 - Sponsorship, contributions and donations to sporting and community groups*

**OBJECTIVE: Provide guidelines for the provision of financial assistance to community and sporting clubs within the Shire of Wickepin.**

A maximum of 2.5% of the previous year's levied rates may be provided for in Council's budget each year to distribute to community and sporting organisations upon application to the Council.

\$3,000 per year will be allocated to a rolling fund for grants under \$500 with the CEO being given delegated authority to authorise the grants under \$500.

**Fund Objective**

Funds from Council may be made available for the following:

- establishment or improvement of playing areas or buildings
- Support for major sporting and community events
- Support for general sporting clinics, including coaching clinics :and
- To assist community groups in establishing a service or activity seen as a need for the betterment of and improvement to the enjoyment of life within the community.
- Increasing visitors to the region

Council may fund the following:

- 100% up to \$2000
- 75% between \$2,000 and \$5,000
- 50% \$5,000 and above

Voluntary labour and equipment may be included in the applicant's contribution at a value of \$25/hour.

Council employees or equipment may be used in lieu of a cash contribution from Council.

Council will favour applications that would not otherwise be funded through other government grants e.g. CSRFF.

**Application Procedure**

Applications for funding must be received at the Shire of Wickepin Office by close of business of the due date each year to be considered in the Council budget. Applications are to be made in writing on the Shire of Wickepin Community Grants form (attached).

Applications should only be made when an applicant group is confident that all cash the applicant proposes to contribute will be readily available if a grant is approved.

The value of work undertaken by volunteers can be included in the local contribution but this value may not exceed one third of the completed value of the project. The voluntary work should be described and valued at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Funds are not to be used for trophies, prizes or expenses (including loan repayments) incurred in the conduct of the sport or community activities.

Council reserves the right for the CEO or his/her delegate to carry out an inspection of the project at any time prior to and at completion of the project.

### Guidelines

All applications must be completed on the Shire of Wickepin Community Grants form attached.
Applications should be supported by 2 written quotes for materials or other goods included in the funding submission if possible.
Applications will be acknowledged as received by Council.
Council reserves the right to request further information on demand.
Council reserves the right to consider and allocate funds without the right of appeal. Money will not be allocated for completed projects. Council reserves the right to set aside large projects as longer term budget items to be funded over more than one year.
No project requiring funding shall commence without the written consent of Council.
Money granted must be spent on the project allocated.
All monies allocated must be spent and claimed by 30 June in the financial year for which it was allocated and any unspent allocation will not be carried over to the next budget year.
Council reserves the right to inspect reserves and buildings without prior notification to the respective committee.
All funded projects are to acknowledge the Shire of Wickepin through project media, community engagement and event promotions. CDO can provide support regarding signage and approved use of the Shires Logo.
Ineligible Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private or commercial ventures or activities</li> <li>- Retrospective Funding</li> <li>- Purchase of Land</li> <li>- Support for an individual pursuit</li> <li>- Events/activities/programs that already receive financial assistance from other source of funding</li> <li>- Events/activities/programs that are eligible under the CSRFF grants scheme</li> </ul>
All successful applicants must provide Council with an acquittal of all grants on an acquittal form available from the Shire Administration Office.

### Strategic Implications:

Aligns with Strategic Community Plan 2018 -2028.

# infrastructure

## GOAL 4: Maintain Shire owned facilities in a strategic manner and also to meet community needs

SHORT TERM STRATEGY	MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY	POINT OF MEASUREMENT	10 YR OUTCOME
4.1 Asset Management Plan is developed and adopted 4.2 Encourage greater usage of current Shire owned facilities	4.3 Asset Management Plan is reviewed 4.4 Support the improvement and maintenance of assets in a strategic manner	- Level of facility usage is maintained and increases - Level of community investment into facilities and equipment	Asset maintenance and preservation is in line with community needs and Shire financial resources

### Recommendation:

*That Council allocates in its 2025/2026 Budget the following Community Grants:-*

- Wickepin Playgroup for funding of \$599.00 inclusive of GST to purchase Bissell cross wave cleaner.***
- Wickepin Tennis Club for funding of \$960.00 inclusive of GST to purchase equipment for kitchen.***
- Wickepin P&C for funding of \$1,604.00 inclusive of GST for the purchase of storage cupboards and tubs for the uniform storeroom.***
- Yealering Golf Club for funding of \$2,957.90 inclusive of GST for the purchase of window blinds for the club house.***
- Wickepin CRC for funding of \$2,000.00 inclusive of GST for the event Just a Farmer.***
- Ignite Wicky for funding of \$3,000.00 inclusive of GST for the art exhibition of Arthur Russell.***
- Facey Group for funding of \$6,000.00 inclusive of GST for the "Stock" Take Baseline Survey Project.***

**Council Decision****Resolution**     **OCM-180625-07****Moved**           **Cr J Mearns****Second**          **Cr F Allan**

*That Council allocates in its 2025/2026 Budget the following Community Grants:-*

- 1. Wickepin Playgroup for funding of \$599.00 inclusive of GST to purchase Bissell cross wave cleaner.*
- 2. Wickepin Tennis Club for funding of \$960.00 inclusive of GST to purchase equipment for kitchen.*
- 3. Wickepin P&C for funding of \$1,604.00 inclusive of GST for the purchase of storage cupboards and tubs for the uniform storeroom.*
- 4. Yealering Golf Club for funding of \$2,957.90 inclusive of GST for the purchase of window blinds for the club house.*
- 5. Wickepin CRC for funding of \$2,000.00 inclusive of GST for the event Just a Farmer.*
- 6. Ignite Wicky for funding of \$3,000.00 inclusive of GST for the art exhibition of Arthur Russell.*
- 7. Facey Group for funding of \$6,000.00 inclusive of GST for the “Stock” Take Baseline Survey Project.*

**Amendment Motion****Moved**           **Cr W Astbury****Seconded**      **Cr T Miller**

*That item 7 be removed to seek clarification.*

**Carried**     **6/0****For**          **Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller****Against**   **Nil****Substantive Motion**

*That Council allocates in its 2025/2026 Budget the following Community Grants:-*

- 1. Wickepin Playgroup for funding of \$599.00 inclusive of GST to purchase Bissell cross wave cleaner.*
- 2. Wickepin Tennis Club for funding of \$960.00 inclusive of GST to purchase equipment for kitchen.*
- 3. Wickepin P&C for funding of \$1,604.00 inclusive of GST for the purchase of storage cupboards and tubs for the uniform storeroom.*

- 4. Yealering Golf Club for funding of \$2,957.90 inclusive of GST for the purchase of window blinds for the club house.**
- 5. Wickepin CRC for funding of \$2,000.00 inclusive of GST for the event Just a Farmer.**
- 6. Ignite Wicky for funding of \$3,000.00 inclusive of GST for the art exhibition of Arthur Russell.**

**Carried 6/0**

**For Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**

**Against Nil**

**Cr Ty Miller declared an Indirect Financial Interest in the following item 13.5 and remained in the chambers.**

### 13.5 Sale of 5 Smith Street Wickepin

---

<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	Whole Shire
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	E Clement, DCEO
<b>File Reference</b>	CP.MAI.565, CP.A7D.502
<b>Author</b>	E Clement – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	The author has no financial, proximity or impartiality interests in this item.
<b>Report Written Date</b>	4 June 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

---

#### Summary

Council is being requested to consider the sale of 5 Smith Street Wickepin.

#### Background

5 Smith Street has previously been listed for sale in 2017. It was taken off the market in early 2018 as it was required for staff housing.

#### Comments

Council purchased 5 Smith Street for \$240,000 in 2009. The house recently has had some major improvements undertaken such as painting inside all rooms and ceilings, new dishwasher, new Range Hood and 3 new air conditioners installed.

A valuation was sought in February 2025.

Council currently has in the Building Reserve \$240,311.08 and council could transfer the proceeds of the sale for future new staff housing.

The purpose of the Building Reserve stated in the Annual Reports is - *to be used for the construction of new buildings, predominantly staff housing.*

#### Statutory Environment

##### 6.11. Reserve accounts

- (1) *Subject to subsection (5), where a local government wishes to set aside money for use for a purpose in a future financial year, it is to establish and maintain a reserve account for each such purpose.*
- (2) *Subject to subsection (3), before a local government —*
  - (a) *changes\* the purpose of a reserve account; or*
  - (b) *uses\* the money in a reserve account for another purpose,*  
*it must give one month's local public notice of the proposed change of purpose or proposed use.*

*\* Absolute majority required.*

- (3) *A local government is not required to give local public notice under subsection (2) —*
  - (a) *where the change of purpose or of proposed use of money has been disclosed in the annual budget of the local government for that financial year; or*
  - (b) *in such other circumstances as are prescribed.*
- (4) *A change of purpose of, or use of money in, a reserve account is to be disclosed in the annual financial report for the year in which the change occurs.*

- (5) *Regulations may prescribe the circumstances and the manner in which a local government may set aside money for use for a purpose in a future financial year without the requirement to establish and maintain a reserve account.*

### **6.8. Expenditure from municipal fund not included in annual budget**

- (1) *A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure —*
- (a) *is incurred in a financial year before the adoption of the annual budget by the local government; or*
  - (b) *is authorised in advance by resolution\*; or*
  - (c) *is authorised in advance by the mayor or president in an emergency.*

*\* Absolute majority required.*

- (1a) *In subsection (1) —*  
*additional purpose means a purpose for which no expenditure estimate is included in the local government's annual budget.*
- (2) *Where expenditure has been incurred by a local government —*
- (a) *pursuant to subsection (1)(a), it is to be included in the annual budget for that financial year; and*
  - (b) *pursuant to subsection (1)(c), it is to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the council*  
*Local Government Industry Award 2020*

### **3.58. Disposing of property**

- (1) *In this section —*  
**dispose** *includes to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, whether absolutely or not;*  
**property** *includes the whole or any part of the interest of a local government in property, but does not include money.*
- (2) *Except as stated in this section, a local government can only dispose of property to —*
- (a) *the highest bidder at public auction; or*
  - (b) *the person who at public tender called by the local government makes what is, in the opinion of the local government, the most acceptable tender, whether or not it is the highest tender.*
- (3) *A local government can dispose of property other than under subsection (2) if, before agreeing to dispose of the property —*
- (a) *it gives local public notice of the proposed disposition —*
    - (i) *describing the property concerned; and*
    - (ii) *giving details of the proposed disposition; and*
    - (iii) *inviting submissions to be made to the local government before a date to be specified in the notice, being a date not less than 2 weeks after the notice is first given; and*
  - (b) *it considers any submissions made to it before the date specified in the notice and, if its decision is made by the council or a committee, the decision and the reasons for it are recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the decision was made.*
- (4) *The details of a proposed disposition that are required by subsection (3)(a)(ii) include —*
- (a) *the names of all other parties concerned; and*
  - (b) *the consideration to be received by the local government for the disposition; and*
  - (c) *the market value of the disposition —*
    - (i) *as ascertained by a valuation carried out not more than 6 months before the proposed disposition; or*

- (ii) *as declared by a resolution of the local government on the basis of a valuation carried out more than 6 months before the proposed disposition that the local government believes to be a true indication of the value at the time of the proposed disposition.*
- (5) *This section does not apply to —*
  - (a) *a disposition of an interest in land under the Land Administration Act 1997 section 189 or 190; or*
  - (b) *a disposition of property in the course of carrying on a trading undertaking as defined in section 3.59; or*
  - (c) *anything that the local government provides to a particular person, for a fee or otherwise, in the performance of a function that it has under any written law; or*
  - (d) *any other disposition that is excluded by regulations from the application of this section.*

### Policy Implications

There is no policy associated with this item.

### Financial Implications

Transfer of the funds to the Building reserve for future Staff Housing.

### Strategic Implications

4. Maintain Shire owned facilities in a strategic manner and also to meet community needs	4.1 Ensure currency of the Asset Management Plan; fund and deliver the asset preservation needs for the organisation's assets including roads, buildings, plant and equipment
	4.2 Support the improvement and maintenance of assets in a strategic manner
	4.3 Encourage greater usage of Shire

### Voting Requirement

Absolute Majority

### Officer Recommendation

*That Council;*

*Place the residence at 5 Smith Street Wickepin on the market for sale by private treaty in accordance with section 3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995.*

*Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to dispose of said premises in accordance with sections 3.58(3) and 3.58(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 for no less than \$200,000.00*



**Recommendation****Resolution** OCM-180625-08**Moved** Cr W Astbury**Seconded** Cr L Corke**That Council;****Moves into suspended standing orders at 3.58pm to discuss item.****Carried** 6/0**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**Against** Nil**Recommendation****Resolution** OCM-180625-09**Moved** Cr L Corke**Seconded** Cr F Allan**That Council;*****Moves back into standing orders at 4.10pm.*****Carried** 6/0**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**Against** Nil**Council Decision****Resolution** OCM-180625-10**Moved** Cr F Allan**Second** Cr W Astbury***That Council;******Place the residence at 5 Smith Street Wickepin on the market for sale by private treaty in accordance with section 3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995.******Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to dispose of said premises in accordance with sections 3.58(3) and 3.58(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 for no less than \$230,000.******REASON - Council considered the item and increased the amount for the delegated authority to the CEO to ensure fair price.*****Carried** 5/1**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr J Mearns, Cr L Corke, Cr T Miller**Against** Cr J Mearns

## 13.6 District Fire Break Notice Approval 2025-2026

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<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council
<b>Location / Address</b>	-
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	-
<b>File Reference</b>	ES.MEE.904
<b>Author</b>	E Clement – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	-
<b>Report Written Date</b>	4 June 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	-

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### Summary

Council is requested to approve the wording for the 2025-2026 Fire Break Notice which is distributed to all owners and occupiers in the district.

### Background

The Bush Fire Control Officers meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 proposed no amendments to the annual Fire Break Notice.

As per legislation, a local government may require an occupier of land to plough or clear a fire break to the satisfaction of the local government or a duly authorised officer.

The requirement includes all or any of the following things –

- To plough, cultivate, scarify, burn or otherwise clear upon the land fire breaks in such manner, at such places, of such dimensions, and to such number, and whether in parallel or otherwise, as determined,
- To maintain the fire breaks clear of inflammable matter, and
- To act as and when specified with respect to anything which is upon the land which is, or is likely to be, conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire.

### Comments

The Bush Fire Control Officers have made no changes to the fire break notice previously passed by Council.

### Statutory Environment

*Bush Fires Act 1954 – Section 33. Local government may require occupier of land to plough or clear fire-break*

A local government may, from time to time, as a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire, give notice to an owner or occupier of land within the district requiring them to undertake activities on the land to remove items which is, or is likely to be, conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire.

### Policy Implications

Nil

**Financial Implications**Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Years

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

Nil

**Voting Requirement**

Simple majority

**Officer Recommendation**

*That Council, in relation to the District Fire Break Notice for 2025-2026 and pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 approves the following text –*

***Bush Fires Act 1954  
Shire of Wickepin  
Annual Firebreak Notice 2025/2026***

*Action is required by owners and/or occupiers of all land in the Shire of Wickepin. Please read this notice carefully. Any queries should be directed to the Shire of Wickepin Administration Centre or Local Shire Bush Fire Control Officer. Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, owners and occupiers of property within the Shire of Wickepin are hereby required on or before 1 October 2025 and thereafter to 14 April 2026 to plough, scarify or otherwise provide and maintain firebreaks clear of all inflammable material at least 2.5 metres wide as follows:*

**Rural Land**

*Inside the boundary of all land held by each owner or occupier, their firebreaks need not follow the perimeter of any paddock but will be acceptable following land contours in an endeavour to overcome water erosion;*

- To subdivide each holding into lots of no greater than 400 hectares; and*
- To surround the homestead, out buildings and fuel storages on any such land.*
- That from the 15th October all harvesting and baling (including cutting and raking) operations, there shall be an operational mobile engine powered firefighting unit or units with a minimum combined capacity of 1,200 litres of available water, located in or immediately adjacent to the paddock being harvested and/or baled. The minimum capacity of any single firefighting unit shall be 600 litres of available water. The responsibility to supply and operate the firefighting unit is that of the landowner/occupier.*

**Townsite Land**

*All lots within the townsites of Harrismith, Tincurrin, Toolibin, Wickepin and Yealering are required to be cleared and maintained free of all debris or inflammable material. Failure to comply with these requirements renders the owner or occupier liable to a penalty of \$5,000.*

**Clearing of Fence Lines**

When clearing for new fence lines adjoining road reserves, you must have written approval from the Shire of Wickepin prior to commencement of clearing works. Landholders are asked to consider locating the fence three (3) metres inside their boundary to avoid any clearing on road reserves. Old fences should first be removed. If landholders wish to place their fence on the boundary, they may clear no more than one (1) metre beyond their boundary. This may be varied in special circumstances at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Any timber removed from the road reserve is to be pushed onto the owner's property.

**Fencing of Road Reserves**

Council encourages farmers to fence off road reserves running through their properties to protect trees on these reserves and to allow new growth of vegetation.

**Burning on Roadsides**

Should property owners wish to carry out burning of the road reserve adjacent to their property, it is necessary to obtain council approval prior to any burning taking place.

**Burning Periods**

Restricted Burning – 1 October 2025 to 13 November 2025

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2025 to 7 February 2026

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2026 to 14 April 2026

**Harvest and Fire Ban 2025/2026 Season**

Harvesting is banned on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Lighting of fires is banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**Procedural Motion****Council Decision**

**Resolution**      **OCM-180625-11**

**Moved**            **Cr J Russell**

**Second**          **Cr W Astbury**

***That the item lie on the table with the reason to seek further advice on the wording of the district firebreak notice Rural Land Restrictions.***

*REASON: To seek advice on the appropriate wording and any necessary additions to be included in the notice.*

**Carried**    **6/0**

**For**        **Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr L Corke, Cr J Mearns, Cr F Allan, Cr P Thompson**

**Against**   **Nil**

## **14 Confidential Reports and Information**

Nil

## **15 Urgent Business**

Nil

## **16 Closure**

With no further business, the Presiding Member Cr Russell declared the meeting closed at 4.16pm

These Minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025.

Presiding Member, Cr J Russell \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **9.1.1 WALGA Central Country Zone Minutes 20 June 2025**

# Central Country Zone Minutes

**20 June, 2025**

**Hosted by the Shire of Williams**

**Commenced at 10.06am**

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## Policy and Advocacy Prioritisation Framework

The Central Country Zone adopted the Framework on 12 April 2024.

How to use the Framework:

- If the majority of the factors are towards the left column, the issue is a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the middle, the issue requires action, but is not a high priority.
- If the majority of the factors are towards the right column, the issue is a low priority.

<b>Impact on Local Government Sector</b> Impact on Local Government sector without intervention	High	Medium	Low
<b>Reach</b> Number of member Local Governments affected	Sector-wide	Significant (multiple regions, Zones, or bands)	Few
<b>Influence</b> Capacity to influence decision makers	High	Medium	Low
<b>Principles</b> Alignment to core principles such as autonomy, funding, general competence	Strong	Partial	Peripheral
<b>Clarity</b> Policy change needed is clear and well-defined	Clear	Partial	Unclear
<b>Decision-maker support</b> Level of support among decision-makers (political and administrative)	High	Medium	Low
<b>Public support</b> Level of support among the public or other stakeholders	High	Medium	Low
<b>Positive consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of positive consequences for WALGA. E.g. enhanced standing among members or leverage for other issues.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Negative consequences for WALGA</b> Prospect of negative consequences for WALGA for not undertaking the advocacy effort. E.g. diminished standing among members or other stakeholders.	High	Medium	Low
<b>Partnerships</b> Potential for partnerships with other stakeholders	Yes (3+)	Possibly (1-2)	No (0)

## ATTACHMENTS

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes;

1. Item 3 Host council Presentation
2. Item 10.4 WALGA Roadwise Report

The full 2 July 2025 State Council Agenda [can be found here](#).

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

---

### 1.1 OPENING

---

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.06am.

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### 1.2 HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

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**1. Welcome:**

The Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, will welcome Zone members and provide OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

**2. Share your name and Local Government:**

Delegates are reminded to ensure that they call their name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

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### 1.3 ATTENDANCE

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<b>Shire of Beverley</b>	President Cr David White Mr Stephen Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Brookton</b>	President Cr Katrina Crute Cr Tamara de Lange Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Chris Paget Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Kulin</b>	Cr Robbie Bowey
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	President Cr Len Armstrong Deputy President Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	President Leigh Ballard Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood Cr Bryan Hotham Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jonathan Hippisley
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick Dr. Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Sheryl Little Deputy President Cr Alan Price Dr. Alistair Pinto, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of West Arthur</b>	Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington Mr Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Shire of Wickepin</b>	President Cr Julie Russell Mr David Burton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

**Shire of Williams**

Cr Tracey Price  
Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

**Guests**

Minister for the Wheatbelt	Hon Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA
Minister for the Wheatbelt	Sarah Rowan, Policy Advisor
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	Damian Katich, Principal Policy Officer   Heritage and Property Services.
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer

**Members of Parliament**

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region  
Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe

**WALGA**

Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer  
Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy  
Naomh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Officer  
Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor

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## 1.4 APOLOGIES

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### MEMBERS

Shire of Beverley	Deputy President Cr Dee Ridgway
Shire of Corrigin	Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Amy Knight
Shire of Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins
Shire of Kulin	Mr Alan Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Narrogin	Cr Clive Bartron
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Jackie McBurney
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell
Shire of Wickpin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of Williams	President Cr Jarrad Logie
Shire of Quairading	Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

### GUESTS

Regional Development Australia WA CBH Group	Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations
Main Roads WA Water Corporation	Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Lachlan Hunter, Member for the Central Wheatbelt  
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

NIL

## 3 HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION

President Cr Tracey Price, Shire of Williams, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on projects and issues facing the Shire of Williams (**Attachment 1**).

## 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIL

## 5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

*All Deputations have a time limit of 20 minutes, which includes questions time.*

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### 5.1 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, LANDS AND HERITAGE

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*Damian Katich, Principal Policy Officer / Heritage and Property Services.*

Damian joined the Central Country Zone meeting to provide a standard Aboriginal Heritage presentation, as well as to discuss queries previously raised at a Zone meeting. The Shire of Dumbleyung brought an item forward regarding the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the State Government's input. During his presentation, Damian spoke to:

1. Whether State Government instructions or guidance has been given to lead agencies to take a more proactive approach to managing Aboriginal cultural and heritage matters in their dealings with proponents, and if yes, what is the approach.
2. Seek Minister's support for a new instruction to be issued to lead agencies using a site by site risk based approach for assessment of Aboriginal cultural and heritage impacts on specific projects.
3. Seek Minister's support for the provision of State Government funding for those LGAs seeking to undertake whole of Registered Site Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage survey assessments to secure (once off) clearance of those sites.

**NOTED**

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### 5.2 MINISTER FOR THE WHEATBELT; HON SABINE WINTON BA BPS MLA

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Minister Winton attended the Budget event in Narrogin, following which the Minister joined the Zone meeting at the Shire of Williams and presented to the Zone.

**NOTED**

## 6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*Any Members of Federal and State Government in attendance are invited to provide a brief update on matters relevant to the Zone.*

The Zone was joined by;

- Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
- Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

**NOTED**

## 7 AGENCY REPORTS

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### 7.1 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

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The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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*Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer*

There was no report for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

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*Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development*

Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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*Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin*

Main Roads Western Australia was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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### 7.5 CBH GROUP

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*Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations*

Kellie Todman was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**



## 8 MINUTES

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### 8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2025

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 11 April 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Karen Harrington**

**Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 11 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

---

### 8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2025

---

#### 8.2.1 (Item 8.2.1) Telstra Closure of 3G Services

*Shire of Dumbleyung*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

At the February meeting, the Zone Resolved;

*Moved: President Cr Amy Knight*

*Seconded: Deputy President Stephen Hunt*

*That WALGA Central Country Zone instigates a region wide survey on the impacts of Telstra's 3G network closure on its residents and report back on the results of the survey at its next April 2025 meeting.*

Since the February meeting, a region wide survey was distributed to the Zone. At the time of writing this Agenda, there were nearly 300 responses.

At the April meeting, the Zone Resolved;

*Moved: President Cr Amy Knight*

*Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight*

*That the Central Country Zone write to Telstra's Regional General Manager, Boyd Brown, sharing the full findings of this survey, and requesting a response on how Telstra will actively address the issues within the report.*

This information was shared with Telstra's Boyd Brown. Boyd is unfortunately attending the Northern Country Zone meeting in Geraldton which is on the same day as the Central Country Zone meeting. Boyd is confirmed to attend the August meeting.

#### **NOTED**

## 8.2.2 (Item 8.2.2) Letter to the Minister for Regional Development

### BACKGROUND

At the February meeting:

*The Shire of Dumbleyung suggested that the Zone write the letter of thanks and acknowledgment to the Minister for Regional Development on Wheatbelt Development Commission efforts to coordinate and submit a successful \$32.8M Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative proposal through the Federal Government Housing Support Program (Stream 2).*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Minister and received a positive response.

### NOTED

## 8.2.3 (Item 9.6) Audit Fee 2025 - Change in Charging Practice of Office of Auditor General

*By Tony Brown, Zone Executive Officer*

### BACKGROUND

At the April meeting of the Zone, it was Resolved;

*That the Central Country Zone of WALGA writes to the Auditor General and WA Parliament Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (cc the Minister for Local Government)*

*to express concern that;*

- 1. the Office of the Auditor General has increased the cost of audits by amounts greater than annual inflation again; and*
- 2. has, without consultation with local government, modified their invoicing practices and now require local government to pay 50% of their 2024/25 audit in this financial year*
- 3. that the Office of the Auditor General's commitment to greater transparency and cost control made to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has not been achieved*

The Executive Officer wrote to the Auditor General. We are awaiting a reply.

### Zone Comment

Shire of Brookton also wrote to the Auditor General.

### NOTED

## 8.3 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2025

### 8.3.1 Item For Decision - Central Country Zone 25/26 Budget

The following Budget for 2025-2026 was submitted to the Executive Committee. The Committee recommended this budget to the Zone;

		Budget 2024-25	Actual YTD 30/3/2025	Forecast YTD 30/6/2025	Budget 2025-26	Comments
<b>Income</b>						
						<i>Propose to leave annual subscriptions same as prior year at \$1,000 each</i>
501	General Subscriptions	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
575	Interest Earned	\$500	\$271	\$361	\$400	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$15,271</b>	<b>\$15,361</b>	<b>\$15,400</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
1535	Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$1,248	\$1,025	\$1,200	\$1,285	<i>Assume 3% increase</i>
1546	Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$9,152	\$1,114	\$1,485	\$7,000	<i>Assume 3% increase. Can this budget be reduced?</i>
1555	Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$0			\$0	<i>Not applicable for FY26</i>
						<i>This assumes using external accountants and systems , zone could save costs and use WALGA's financial systems &amp; services.</i>
1558	Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$2,892	\$1,639	\$2,185	\$3,008	
1572	Zone Expenses - Other	\$500			\$0	
1580	Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$2,704		\$2,704	\$2,785	<i>2026 rates assume a 3% increase</i>
1605	Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$500		\$0	\$0	
New account	Consulting / Projects	\$30,000		\$15,000	\$20,000	<i>Zone has discussed spending some</i>

1610	Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$1,000		\$0	\$1,000	of the surplus funds on projects where a consultant could be contracted Allow for some travel
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$47,996</b>	<b>\$3,778</b>	<b>\$22,575</b>	<b>\$35,078</b>	
	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$32,496)</b>	<b>\$11,493</b>	<b>(\$7,213)</b>	<b>(\$19,678)</b>	

Estimated brought forward Balance 1 July	\$76,512	\$76,512	\$76,512	\$69,298
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$32,496)	\$11,493	(\$7,213)	(\$19,678)
Estimated Balance 30 June	\$44,015	\$88,005	<b>\$69,298</b>	<b>\$49,620</b>

		Budget 2024-25	Actual YTD 30/3/2025	Forecast YTD 30/6/2025	Budget 2025-26	Comments
<b>Income</b>						Propose to leave annual subscriptions same as prior year at \$1,000 each
501	General Subscriptions	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
575	Interest Earned	\$500	\$271	\$361	\$400	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$15,271</b>	<b>\$15,361</b>	<b>\$15,400</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>						Assume 3% increase Assume 3% increase. Can this budget be reduced?
1535	Zone Expenses - Audit Costs	\$1,248	\$1,025	\$1,200	\$1,285	
1546	Zone Expenses - In-Person Meetings	\$9,152	\$1,114	\$1,485	\$7,000	
1555	Zone Expenses - Agricultural Freight Group	\$0			\$0	
1558	Zone Expenses - Financial Management	\$2,892	\$1,639	\$2,185	\$3,008	Not applicable for FY26 This assumes using external accountants and systems , zone could save costs and use WALGA's financial systems & services.
1572	Zone Expenses - Other	\$500			\$0	
1580	Zone Representative - Honoraria	\$2,704		\$2,704	\$2,785	
1605	Zone Representative - Meeting Fees	\$500		\$0	\$0	

New account	Consulting / Projects	\$30,000		\$15,000	\$20,000	Zone has discussed spending some of the surplus funds on projects where a consultant could be contracted
1610	Zone Representative - Travel Costs	\$1,000		\$0	\$1,000	Allow for some travel
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$47,996</b>	<b>\$3,778</b>	<b>\$22,575</b>	<b>\$35,078</b>	
	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$32,496)</b>	<b>\$11,493</b>	<b>(\$7,213)</b>	<b>(\$19,678)</b>	

Estimated brought forward					
Balance 1 July	\$76,512	\$76,512	\$76,512	\$69,298	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$32,496)	\$11,493	(\$7,213)	(\$19,678)	
Estimated Balance 30 June	\$44,015	\$88,005	<b>\$69,298</b>	<b>\$49,620</b>	

### Honoraria

The Committee will receive a verbal briefing on honoraria, for which approximately \$2,700 has been budgeted in previous years.

Role	Period From	Period to	Months	Annual Rate	Amount	FY26
Zone President	1/07/2024	30/06/2025	12.00	1,081.60	\$1,081.60	\$1,114.05
Deputy Zone President	1/07/2024	30/06/2025	12.00	270.40	\$ 270.40	\$ 278.51
Zone State Council Delegate	1/07/2024	30/06/2025	12.00	540.80	\$ 540.80	\$ 557.02
Other Zone Exec Committee Members x 3	1/07/2024	30/06/2025	12.00	270.40pp	\$ 270.40pp	\$ 278.51pp
	<b>Total Payable</b>				<b>\$ 2,704.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,785.12</b>

### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: President Cr David White**

**That the Central Country Zone endorse the 2025/2026 budget.**

**CARRIED**

### **8.3.2 Confirmation of Minutes, Executive Committee, 10 June 2025**

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 10 June 2025 were provided as an attachment.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Karen Harrington**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 10 June 2025 be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

## 9 ZONE BUSINESS

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### 9.1 COST SHIFT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT UPDATE

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#### BACKGROUND

At the April meeting of the Zone, Caroline Robinson, consultant with 150SQUARE, presented their draft report on the Cost Shift and Compliance Project they have been carrying out on behalf of the Zone.

The Zone Resolved;

*This item, and the recommendations within the report will be included in the June Agenda, for Discussion.*

A report will be circulated on Monday 16 June 2025 which will include the following:

- Executive Summary including recommendations
- Case Studies (4)
- Revised full report

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: President Cr Phillip Blight**

**That the Central Country Zone;**

- 1. Thanks 150Square for its work to date and acknowledges the presentation of the Cost Shifting and Compliance Report.**
- 2. Does not accept the report in its current form.**
- 3. Establishes a small working group, to update the Zone at the August Zone meeting, to:**
  - a. Work with 150Square to refine and strengthen the report.**
  - b. Develop clear recommendations for the August CCZ meeting that positions the report as an effective advocacy tool against Federal and State cost shifting impacting WA Local Governments.**
- 4. Appoints the following Central Country Zone members to the working group (to work with 150 Square and the Zone Executive Officer)**
  - a. President Cr Katrina Crute**
  - b. President Cr Phillip Blight**
  - c. President Cr Des Hickey**

**CARRIED**

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### 9.2 LIVING WELL IN THE WHEATBELT STRATEGY

---

*By the Shire of Narrogin*

The Wheatbelt District Leadership Group (DLG) endorsed the Living Well in the Wheatbelt Strategy in April and this is now available to share with stakeholders. A copy of the Strategy and a one-page summary of the actions in the Strategy that are relevant to Local Governments for their public planning, aligned with the 4 pillars of the WA State Public Health Plan, were attached.

Implementation is occurring via the Wheatbelt Human Services Managers Forum and its Working Groups. The Wheatbelt DLG hopes the Strategy will usefully guide and inform Local Government in their current Local Public Health (Health & Wellbeing) Plans (LPHPs) under the Public Health Act as a number of actions align with the State Government's PHP priorities and fit well with LPHPs and current activities (e.g. aged friendly communities, maintaining safe green public spaces for walking, playgrounds and social connectedness activities, supporting child care and playgroup activities or seniors activities).

Also attached was a Table showing actions from the Living Well in the Wheatbelt Strategy that LGAs can incorporate and action in their local Public Health Plans.

The WACHS-Wheatbelt Health Promotion Network has provided an overview of the support that the WACHS Health Promotion Network can provide to Local Governments public health planning

The team can be contacted to guide and support Wheatbelt Local Governments in their LPHP planning (contact [Chantelle.Jeffery@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Chantelle.Jeffery@health.wa.gov.au) Wheatbelt Health Promotion Coordinator). The above information will be included in the Zone Agenda for the information on all Local Governments.

### **Secretariat Comment**

The Living Well in the Wheatbelt Strategy will help Local Government's prepare their Local Public Health Plans, which are due by 4 June 2026. WALGA will conduct a Local Public Health Planning masterclass series for delivery in the second half of 2025.

Local Governments are advised to keep an eye out for further information.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: Deputy President Jonathan Hippisley**

**That the Central Country Zone receive the report.**

**CARRIED**

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## **9.3 JACQUI DODD SCHOLARSHIP**

*By WALGA Training Team*

The LGA50220 Diploma of Local Government – Elected Member Scholarship, named in honour of the late Jacqui Dodd, former long-serving WALGA Training Services Manager, has been awarded since 2021. This program is the highest qualification an Elected Member can achieve through WALGA Training and enables participants to increase their skills and knowledge in order to confidently provide leadership to their community.

The scholarship covers 50% of training and assessment fees and provides additional travel expense compensation for regional applicants upon completion of the program. WALGA Training awards this scholarship to two Metropolitan and two Regional Elected Members.

To qualify, applicants must be current Elected Members, have completed all Council Member Essentials training, and must not have previously received the scholarship.

This year's nominations will open on Tuesday, 1 July and close on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 12 noon. The scholarship winners will be announced at the Local Government Convention in September. For more information and details on how to apply please visit the WALGA Training [website](#), contact the team via email [training@walga.asn.au](mailto:training@walga.asn.au), or call us on (08) 9213 2088.



#### Zone Comment:

President Cr Katrina Crute shared her positive experience of this scholarship, and encouraged Local Governments to partake.

#### **NOTED**

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### **9.4 Concerns Regarding the Delays in Electrical Connections by Western Power – Impact on Regional Development in Brookton**

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*By the Shire of Brookton*

The Shire of Brookton wishes to raise serious concerns regarding the significant delays currently being experienced in securing electrical connections to new developments within our community. These delays, attributed to Western Power's current service delivery timeframes, are having a detrimental impact on both the economic viability and social wellbeing of our region.

While we appreciate the challenges involved in managing infrastructure across a large state, the level of delay we are experiencing is becoming increasingly untenable, particularly for regional communities seeking to grow and attract investment.

#### **1. Brookton East Fire Station**

The Shire commenced the process for an electrical connection for the new Brookton East Fire Station in October 2023. This is a critical community safety facility, located immediately adjacent to the transformer servicing the Aldersyde CBH facility. Despite its proximity to existing infrastructure, the site did not receive an electrical connection until May 2025 – more than 18 months after the initial request.

Such an extended delay for a vital emergency services facility is unacceptable and places unnecessary strain on community preparedness and response capacity.

#### **2. Boekemans Machinery Staff Housing**

Boekemans Machinery, a major agricultural machinery dealership, has recently expanded its operations in Brookton through the purchase of an existing retail business. To support their growth and retain qualified staff, the company has invested in local residential property and initiated the construction of two new housing units in a developed residential area of the town.

Applying for an electrical connection in February 2025, Boekemans has been advised that connection works may not be completed for up to 18 months. The transportable housing units — built and delivered on-site well ahead of schedule by the builder — now sit idle, awaiting connection. The inability to accommodate staff is impacting business operations, staff retention, and ultimately, local employment opportunities.

#### **Broader Implications**

The Shire of Brookton is concerned that these examples are indicative of a broader systemic issue that is hindering the economic development and liveability of regional communities like Brookton. Reliable and timely access to electricity is a fundamental enabler of community growth, housing development, and business investment.

The Shire is deeply concerned that ongoing delays in electrical connections are actively discouraging investment in regional Western Australia. Moreover, they are placing unnecessary burdens on local governments and private investors who are working hard to build the accommodation to grow regional towns and strengthen our local economies.

The Shire of Brookton would welcome opportunities to discuss this issue further and work collaboratively toward solutions that support the growth and sustainability of regional communities across Western Australia.

The Shire of Brookton respectfully requests the Zone to consider the following Recommendation:

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Karen Harrington**

**That the Central Country Zone request State Council to;**

- 1. Engage with Western Power to review and improve timelines for electrical connections, particularly in regional areas;**
- 2. Prioritise connections for essential infrastructure, residential housing, and commercial investment projects; and**
- 3. Consider additional resourcing or regional service delivery strategies to ensure timely support for regional development.**

**CARRIED**

## **10 ZONE REPORTS**

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### **10.1 CHAIR REPORT**

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*President Cr Des Hickey*

President Cr Des Hickey attended the recent Powering WA event. He strongly encourages all Local Governments to provide a submission in response to Powering WA's current *Draft Community Benefits Guideline for Renewable Energy Projects*. Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 4 August, 2025

**Resolved**

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### **10.2 GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)**

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*President Jackie McBurney*

President Jackie McBurney was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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### **10.3 WHEATBELT INTERAGENCY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN ADVISORY GROUP**

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*President Jackie McBurney*

President Jackie McBurney was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

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## 10.4 WALGA ROADWISE

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Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor provided a report (**Attachment 2**)

**NOTED**

## 11 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

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### 11.1 STATE COUNCILLOR REPORT

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*Cr Phillip Blight*

The following comments/notes are provided on the WALGA State Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 May.

The Minister for Local Government, Hannah Beasley, addressed the meeting and spoke of priorities for this term of government focusing on Local Government Reform (implementation of the Local Government amendment Acts 2023 and 2024).

The Minister took questions from Delegates, including requests for State direction on Renewable Energy rollout.

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan gave a briefing on WALGA's advocacy post the recent elections and Tony Brown and Sam McLeod provided a presentation on cyber security issues for Local Government.

#### **Item 8.2 Dog and Cat Advocacy Position**

The position of the Central Country Zone to achieve full cost recovery was absorbed into the composite recommendation and passed by majority.

#### **Item 8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position**

In discussion with the Zone Chair Des Hickey prior to the meeting, I was able to move an amendment to the composite recommendation to include the clause "including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons" This had also been proposed by the South West Country Zone but not taken up by the secretariat. Some debate ensued and a division was called when the vote was put on the amendment. Fortunately it was carried.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Leigh Ballard**

**Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**That the State Councillor Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 11.2 WALGA STATUS REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

# COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT June 2025

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of WA Freight Rail Network</b>	That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to: 1. Supports State Government efforts to ensure the on-going sustainability and growth of freight rail in Western Australia; 2. Seeks a commitment from the in-coming State Government to: a. focus on ensuring a competitive freight rail network and services reduce freight on roads; providing road safety, environmental benefits; and b. work with Local Governments and other stakeholders to maximise the local economic growth opportunities provided through effective management of the rail network and corridors.	The Infrastructure Policy Team supported including the proposed advocacy position in a new or consolidated policy statement in relation to freight rail following consultation with Local Governments and other stakeholders to better define the social, economic and environmental benefits sought from a publicly controlled freight rail network.	April 2025	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	7 May State Council Agenda Item <b>8.3 Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position</b>	That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3, with amendments to 1a, and the deletion of 2c.  1. <i>Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:</i> a. <i>introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications <del>and</del> appeals <u>investigations and prosecutions</u>.</i> 2. <i>Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:</i> ... c. <del>enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing</del>	SECRETARIAT COMMENT The issue of ensuring that investigations and prosecutions are undertaken in a timely manner is included in point 2c. Therefore, no change has been made to the Draft Advocacy Position.  STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION  That WALGA replace the following Advocacy Positions: 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves  with an updated Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position as follows:  WALGA calls on the Western Australian Government, in consultation with Local Government, to undertake legislative and policy reform to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the regulatory system for clearing native vegetation in Western Australia, including:	June 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals</li> <li>b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years</li> <li>c. providing a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors, <u>including allowing Local Governments to clear for safety reasons.</u></li> <li>d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. implement an expedited process for clearing permits for projects that prevent death and serious injury (road safety), and state and federally funded or co-funded projects</li> <li>b. establish a dedicated Local Government Unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications</li> <li>ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management</li> <li>iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing</li> <li>d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping</li> <li>ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable</li> <li>iii. <u>ensuring survey data relied upon for decision making is contemporary and accurate, particularly if there has been a change in environmental condition.</u></li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Undertaking bioregional planning for native vegetation management, with a focus on highly cleared areas and implementing strategic solutions for environmental offsets that can be utilised by Local Government.</li> <li>4. <u>Ensuring that environmental offsets are relevant and proportionate, including:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>proximity to the area impacted</u></li> <li>b. <u>the environmental value being impacted.</u></li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
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			<p>5. <i>Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</i></p> <p>RESOLUTION 029.2/2025 <span style="float: right;">CARRIED</span></p>		
<b>Central C</b>	Advocacy for Statewide Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Framework & Renewable Energy Guidelines	<p>That the Central Country Zone of WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the Shire of Narrogin's Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy as a best-practice model for equitable benefit-sharing from large-scale renewable energy projects;</li> <li>Requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for the development of a Statewide Community Enhancements Fund Framework, consistent with the key principles of the Shire of Narrogin's CEF Policy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity;</li> <li>Local Government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit;</li> <li>A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);</li> <li>Alignment with Local Government strategic planning;</li> <li>Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Further requests WALGA to advocate for the adoption of a broader Renewable Industry Framework for WA as outlined in the Shire of Narrogin's Advocacy Position, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning);</li> <li>A State-mandated community engagement framework;</li> <li>Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs;</li> <li>A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities;</li> <li>Empowerment of Local Governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>WALGA acknowledges the work of the Shire of Narrogin. In response to the Central Country Zone resolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the Shire of Narrogin's Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy as a best-practice model for equitable benefit-sharing from large-scale renewable energy projects; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire of Narrogin is used as a case study within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide. This Policy is also referenced in the Guide.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Requests WALGA State Council to advocate to the State Government for the development of a Statewide Community Enhancements Fund Framework, consistent with the key principles of the Shire of Narrogin's CEF Policy, including: <p>A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An indexed contribution is recommended within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide and conversations with State Government have also highlighted the importance of this.</li> </ul> <p>Local Government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government management of cash reserves is one of the governance mechanisms within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide. The right governance mechanism will be different for each Local Government.</li> </ul> <p>A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging with First Nations people is recommended as part of the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide. First Nations involvement in, and compensation for, should be looked at on a project by project basis.</li> </ul> <p>Alignment with Local Government strategic planning;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment with Local Government strategic planning is recommended within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, which will be presented to State Government upon completion.</li> </ul> <p>Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are recommended within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, which will be presented to State Government upon completion.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<b>June 2025</b>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b>  <b>Executive Manager Policy</b>  <b>nmatthews@walga.asn.au</b>  <b>9213 2039</b></p>

			<p>3. Further requests WALGA to advocate for the adoption of a broader Renewable Industry Framework for WA as outlined in the Shire of Narrogin's Advocacy Position, including:</p> <p>Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA continues to advocate to State Government through its advocacy position, 6.17 - Renewable Energy Facilities.</li> </ul> <p>A State-mandated community engagement framework;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA continues to advocate to State Government through its advocacy position, 6.16 - Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework.</li> </ul> <p>Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing solutions are referenced within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, which will be presented to State Government upon completion. Discussions are ongoing with State Government regarding addressing housing issues.</li> </ul> <p>A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WALGA has just engaged a consultant to explore different rating mechanisms for large scale renewable energy projects within WA.</li> </ul> <p>Empowerment of Local Governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowerment of Local Governments to manage benefit sharing is references within the WALGA Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, which will be presented to State Government upon completion. WALGA's rating mechanism work will provide recommendations for the best approach when it comes to rating large scale renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>		
<b>Central C</b>	5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item <b>8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position</b>	<p>That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position:</p> <p>WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide the necessary climate leadership, coordination, and action to deliver a climate change response that improves and maintains the quality of life for all Western Australians for generations to come.</li> <li>provides funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change</li> </ol>	<p>At the March State Council meeting it was agreed:</p> <p>That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 <span style="float: right;">CARRIED</span></p> <p>At the 24 March 2025 Environment Policy Team meeting, it was agreed that WALGA would develop a consultation approach for consideration by the Policy Team.</p> <p>At the 29 May 2025 meeting, the Policy Team agreed to the proposed consultation approach, which involves providing the composite Advocacy Position to all Local Governments for a 10-week consultation period, with Council endorsed or CEO approved feedback preferred. An additional Policy Team meeting will be held to consider comments and a composite resolution.</p>	<b>June 2025</b>	<p><b>Nicole Matthews</b>  <b>Executive Manager Policy</b>  <b>nmatthews@walga.asn.au</b>  <b>9213 2039</b></p>

Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item <b>9.2 Water Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services</b>	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service' (unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority); 2. Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position; 3. Requests that WALGA supports the position of the Central Country Zone and rejects the Water Corporation's attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'; and 4. Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.	WALGA is developing a Background Paper for whole of sector consultation and reviewing its Water Advocacy Position/s, and has included the need for equitable access to drinking water as a key pillar. Some of the themes that have emerged from the consultation focus on water quality and security.  In developing this paper, WALGA has undertaken significant targeted consultation with Local Government CEOs and officers across the State.  WALGA has also raised this issue with Water Corporation representatives.	June 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	7 May State Council Agenda Item <b>8.1 Regulations for CEO KPI's and Online Registers – Walga Submission</b>	That the Central Country Zone opposes the draft regulations which are contrary to theme 2 of the reforms being 'reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity'.	SECRETARIAT COMMENT The State Government have introduced the legislation that requires the publication of CEO KPI's and the publication of on-line registers. Regulations will be introduced, and the WALGA submission is advocating for some of the regulations to be re-considered and suggests alternate information to be included in the regulations.  STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION  That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached ' <i>Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission</i> ', <u>subject to strengthening recommendation 1c to highlight the additional software and resource implications to the sector due to the introduction of public registers.</u>  RESOLUTION 026.2/2025 CARRIED	June 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au
Central C	7 May State Council Agenda Item <b>8.2 Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position</b>	That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming with a revised Dog and Cat Management advocacy position, as follows:  <i>In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:</i> a) <u>that all Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 through a combination of appropriate fees and State Government funding that encourages compliance and serves the interests of all Western Australians regardless of where they live.</u>	SECRETARIAT COMMENT The Zone's suggestion expands on the WALGA recommendation of advocating for Local Governments to achieve full cost recovery and is included in the composite recommendation.  STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION  That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 <i>Puppy Farming</i> with a revised <i>Dog and Cat Management</i> advocacy position, as follows:	June 2025	Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au



		<p>b) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</p> <p>c) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.</p> <p>d) that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.</p> <p>e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.</p> <p>f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.</p>	<p>In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:</p> <p>a) <u>that all Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 through a combination of appropriate fees and State Government funding that encourages compliance and serves the interests of all Western Australians regardless of where they live.</u></p> <p>b) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</p> <p>c) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.</p> <p>d) that the function of PetsWA be restricted to the registration of dogs and cats, exclude ancillary functions such as animal related complaints and infringement notices, and integrate with existing Local Government corporate systems.</p> <p>e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.</p> <p>f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 027.2/2025</p> <p>CARRIED</p>		
Central C	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	<p>Work continues to be undertaken to support Members seeking ICT solutions.</p> <p>WALGA has commenced work with an IT Consultant experienced in the development and assessment of ERP systems for Local Government. The engagement includes the development of Template Documents for an ERP Scope and an Evaluation Guide, these resources will be distributed to Members once finalised.</p> <p>An ERP Vendor scan through the PSP panel has also been initiated, with up-to-date ERP information to be collated and provided as a Member resource once completed.</p> <p>This work is ongoing and being led by WALGA's Commercial Development Team. Any queries can be directed to Brian Ging.</p>	June 2025	<p><b>Tony Brown</b> Executive Director, Member Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au</p>

### **Zone Comment**

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Karen Harrington**

**That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for June 2025 be noted.**

**CARRIED**

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### 11.3 WALGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick**

**Seconded: Cr Julie Russell**

**That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.**

**CARRIED**

### 12 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 2 July 2025

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

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

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

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## 12.1 SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION FOR OFFENCES ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

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*By Jason Russell, Senior Governance Specialist*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The South East Metropolitan Zone (SEMZ) passed a motion requesting that WALGA advocate for additional powers for the Minister to suspend Council Members charged with criminal offences likely to damage the reputation of the Local Government, and disqualify if convicted.
- Suspension, dismissal and disqualification must balance the public interest in elected representatives of good character, with protections for the individual and respect for democratic processes.
- While the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) includes a range of suspension, dismissal and disqualification mechanisms, their operation also depends on how the relevant decision-makers choose to use their powers.
- This report recommends that the dismissal mechanisms under the Act are sufficient to address the Zone's concern, but that WALGA's advocacy position be amended to include an additional suspension power for the Minister of Local Government.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Influence:

- Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government.

Support:

- Provide practical sector-wide solutions based on research and evidence.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current Advocacy Position 2.5.5 Disqualification Due to Conviction position provides as follows:

Position Statement: A new disqualification criterion should be added to the *Local Government Act 1995* that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the *Planning and Development Act*, or the *Building Act* in the preceding five years.

Background: A planning or building system conviction is potentially more serious than a *Local Government Act* conviction because of Local Government's prominent role in planning and building control and the significant personal benefits which can be illegally gained through these systems.

This report recommends that this position is renamed and amended to include an additional point 2, as follows:

*Suspension and Disqualification for Offences*

*The WA Local Government sector advocates that:*

1. *A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.*
2. *A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.*

## **BACKGROUND**

At its November 2024 meeting, the SEMZ asked WALGA to advocate:

*That the Local Government Act 1995 be amended to give the Minister for Local Government the power to:*

1. *Disqualify a person from membership of a council if the person has been convicted of a criminal offence that, in the opinion of the Minister for Local Government, under the advice of the State Solicitor's Office, has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly.*
2. *Suspend the council member who is charged with a criminal offence that has the potential to damage the reputation of the local government or the local government sector more broadly, until the charges are dealt with; and*
3. *Require a person to be paid fees and allowances until they are disqualified.*

## **COMMENT**

The *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) automatically disqualifies someone from membership of a Council if convicted of certain types of offences. The Act also includes mechanisms for suspending and dismissing Council Members. Each mechanism differs in terms of the parties, processes, powers, and preconditions involved.

While suspended, a Council Member cannot perform any of the powers and duties of their role. Suspension does not affect the duration of a Council Member's term or their eligibility to be a candidate for election to Council. If a Council Member is dismissed, the office of the member becomes vacant from the time when the order dismissing the member takes effect. A Council Member that is dismissed is not prevented from standing in future elections. In contrast, persons disqualified are ineligible to hold or be elected to office as a Council Member.

It is necessary for these mechanisms to balance the public interest in ensuring that elected representatives are of good character, with protections for due process, the presumption of innocence and resumption of rights following completion of a sentence. There must also be an appropriate level of respect for the democratic process and the rights of communities to choose their representatives.

Whether the suspension, dismissal and disqualification framework is fit-for-purpose depends on the legislative framework (e.g. legislative settings for disqualification, powers and constraints on powers to suspend and dismiss) and its implementation (e.g. how decision-makers exercise their discretion to intervene).

### Existing Disqualification Provisions

A person may be disqualified from membership of a Council based on the following provisions of the Act:

Provision	A person is disqualified –
2.20	If they are a member of a parliament
2.21	If they are a bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws
2.22	Because of conviction
2.23	If they are a member of another Council
2.24	Because of misapplication of local government funds or property
5.117	If SAT orders disqualification (for not more than 5 years) for serious or recurrent breach, or failure to comply with order

Section 2.22 of the Act provides that a person is disqualified if:

- they have been convicted of a crime and are in prison serving a sentence for that crime,
- have been convicted of a serious local government offence in the previous 5 years, or
- have been convicted of an offence carrying an indictable penalty of imprisonment for more than 5 years.

Clearly, the threshold for disqualification is high, excluding all lower-level offences and even indictable offences with a penalty of 5 years or less. As an example, high-level indecent assault will be dealt with as an indictable offense, with the offender liable for up to 5 years imprisonment. Serious local government offences are offences against the Act for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment or a fine of over \$10,000. A court sentencing a person for a serious local government offence may make an order waiving the disqualification, or reducing the period for which it applies.

There is currently no ability for the Minister to disqualify a person from Council membership. SAT has discretion to order disqualification in some circumstances, while a court has the authority to order that disqualification not apply. In the context of these judicial or quasi-judicial processes, there are strong protections for the rights of the affected person. This reflects the seriousness of this penalty. While the SEMZ motion calls for disqualification, dismissal may be a more appropriate penalty if the exercise of Ministerial discretion is required.

### Current Dismissal Provisions

Under sections 8.15K and 8.15L of the Act, the Minister may recommend that the Governor dismiss a Council Member, if the Minister is satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene. The Minister must be satisfied based on the Director General's written advice that:

- the member is impeding the Local Government's ability to perform its functions and duties under the Act, and/or
- it is in the best interest of the Local Government that the member be dismissed.

The Minister must also be satisfied that the seriousness of the situation for the Local Government requires intervention.

The Minister must give the member:

- a report that includes their proposed recommendation and grounds for the recommendation;
- a show cause notice;
- 21 days to respond.

The Minister must consider the member's response prior to making a recommendation to the Governor that that the member be dismissed.

Best interest is not defined and allows for a broad range of factors to form the grounds for dismissal. This could include where a Council Member has been charged with or convicted of an offence, and the charges or conviction are adversely affecting the Local Government.

It appears that the existing framework for dismissal has the capacity to respond to circumstances referenced in the SEMZ's motion and rationale. WALGA considers it is reasonable to expect that the Local Government Inspector may have greater capacity to provide targeted and timely investigation and advice to support this mechanism.

### **Current Suspension Provisions**

Section 8.15E of the Act enables the Minister to suspend a Council Member or order them to undertake remedial action.

The Minister can only act where they are satisfied that it is appropriate to intervene, based on one or more of the following:

- The member has been charged with a disqualification offence.
- The Director General has made an allegation to SAT against the member, of a serious or recurrent breach.
- The Director General has written to the Minister advising that they suspect on reasonable grounds that one or more of the following applies:
  - The member has failed to perform their role, functions or duties;
  - The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of another person to perform their role, functions or duties;
  - The member's conduct has adversely affected the ability of the Local Government to comply with the principles that apply under section 5.40 of the Act (principles affecting employment by Local Government, including the responsibility to provide safe and healthy working conditions in accordance with WHS legislation).

The Minister must give:

- The member a written notice of the proposed order that provides the allegations and particulars supporting the proposed order is based on.
- The member a show cause notice, allowing 21 days for the member's response
- Any submissions made by the member consideration prior to making the order.

While suspended, a Council Member is not entitled to be paid any fee or allowance to which they would otherwise be entitled. A Council Member is liable to repay annual allowances and fees paid in advance, as if the member had, for the period of their suspension, ceased to hold the office.

### **Options for reform of suspension**

The current system shares some common elements with the Zone's proposal, however, some changes could be made to bring them into closer alignment. Under the current framework, the Director General and Minister would need to be satisfied that any reputational damage resulting from charges was impeding the workings of the Local Government before they could move to suspend a Council Member.

Charges resulting in reputational damage could be included in the legislation as an explicit ground for which the Director General can recommend suspension to the Minister. However, reputational damage may be somewhat narrow or subjective.

A 'best interests' test, consistent with that provided in the dismissal mechanism (discussed above), could allow the consideration of a broad range of factors, including reputational damage. A mechanism could be introduced allowing the Minister to suspend a Council Member who is charged with an offence that, despite not being a disqualification offence, satisfies the Minister that it is in the best interests of the Local Government to suspend the member. Consistent with the other grounds for suspension, this could be on the advice of the Director General, as the State Solicitor's Office will be primarily concerned with avoiding prejudice to any matter currently before the courts.

### **Local Government Reform Amendments**

The *Local Government (Amendment) Act 2024* will transfer the powers of the Director General under these provisions to the soon-to-be-established Local Government Inspector. The Inspector/Inspectorate model has been introduced to provide improved oversight and early interventions capability into the Local Government sector.

The Inspector will be able initiate inquiries into the affairs of a local government and recommend suspension and dismissal of Council Members. It is expected that this newly created office may have greater independence, timeliness, focus and flexibility in addressing conduct issues.

The Governance Policy Team considered and endorsed the proposed advocacy position at its meeting on 19 May.



## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

1. That WALGA amend and rename advocacy position 2.5.5 *Disqualification Due to Conviction* to read as follows:

### *Suspension and Disqualification for Offences*

*The WA Local Government sector advocates that:*

1. *A new disqualification criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 that disqualifies a person from serving as an Elected Member if they have been convicted of an offence against the Planning and Development Act, or the Building Act in the preceding five years.*
  2. *A new suspension criterion should be added to the Local Government Act 1995 allowing the Minister of Local Government to suspend a Council Member charged with an offence, where the Minister is satisfied this would be in the best interests of the Local Government, based on advice of the Director General.*
2. That WALGA incorporate advocacy on this issue into its ongoing legislative reform engagement.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell**

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

**CARRIED**

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## 12.2 STATE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND DECISION MAKING ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

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*By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor Planning*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- It is proposed that Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels be replaced with a new, expanded position that includes all forms of State Government development assessment and decision making.
- The updated position incorporates principles for state decision making, a refined list of recommended reforms to the Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) system and recommends that the significant development pathway be abolished but includes a list of recommended reforms if the pathway is retained.
- The draft position was informed by WALGA's review of the operation of the DAPs and the state significant development pathways, input from Local Government officers, and previous WALGA submissions.
- The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO approved preferred feedback by 23 May.
- The Environment Policy team endorsed the position at their meeting on 29 May.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Rationale for draft advocacy position](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed State Council replace the **current** Advocacy Position **6.4 Development Assessment Panels**:

*The Association does not support Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), in their current structure.*

*Necessary changes to the structure of the DAPs system include:*

1. *The abolishment of the current 'mandatory' mechanism where a proposal has a value of \$10 million or greater, and its replacement with an 'opt in' mechanism for all proposals.*
2. *Raising the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million,*
3. *The composition of DAPs should be modified to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.*
4. *The creation of a distinct Special Matters DAP (SMDAP) is not supported, given there are already multiple avenues for determination on the basis of zoning and monetary value of applications. Should the State Government progress with the implementation of a SMDAP, the following changes are proposed to the model released in March 2022:*
  - *allow proponents with proposals that meet the threshold or criteria being able to opt-out of the SMDAP pathway and allow assessment and determination by Local Government*
  - *mandate consultation with the relevant Local Governments prior to the issuing of a Ministerial Order in relation to SMDAP Precinct Criteria, and ensure SMDAP Precincts be identified through regulations, rather than by the Minister,*

- *include greater professional planning expertise, and knowledge of local context through the Local Government members of the District DAP, by including majority professional town planner panel members, with two Local Government representatives*
  - *expand the role of Local Governments in SMDAP processes and appropriate remuneration for involvement of Local Governments be included to support the SMDAP decision-making process.*
5. *In principle, the further reduction in the number of panels from five to three is supported, to the extent that this reduces the administrative burden on local governments and enhances consistency of decision making.*
  6. *In principle, the permanent appointment of panel members where this results in consistent decision-making is supported as this reduces the potential for conflicts of interest and ensures sound knowledge of DAP processes and procedures.*
  7. *WALGA supports greater transparency around DAP processes and decisions, as community distrust of DAP decision-making is a key area of concern for many local governments.*

with a **new** advocacy position **6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making Advocacy Position:**

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

1. *Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:*
  - a. *consistent and accountable*
  - b. *accessible to local communities*
  - c. *respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.*
2. *Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:*
  - a. *raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
  - b. *modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members*
  - c. *review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner*
  - d. *provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council*
  - e. *allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.*
3. *Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).*
4. *If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:*
  - a. *raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
  - b. *align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs*
  - c. *ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion*

- d. delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in*
- e. undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.*

## **BACKGROUND**

There are a range of development application (DAs) decision makers in the Western Australian Planning system. While Local Governments process and determine the vast majority of DAs, other State Government boards or agencies are also decision makers, particularly for complex proposals and public works. This includes DAPs, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other State Government agencies (i.e. DevelopmentWA) that determine DAs such as DAPs, significant development applications (Part 17 and Part 11B of the *Planning Development Act 2005*) and developments under region schemes, redevelopment schemes and improvement schemes and public works.

WALGA has historically opposed DAPs and the significant development pathway as they erode the role of Local Government in providing a valuable community perspective on planning proposals.

WALGA has undertaken two reviews of the performance of the DAP system in [2016](#) and [2020](#). Those reviews informed WALGA's current advocacy position, endorsed in May 2022, that recommends changes to the DAP system to ensure it operates in an efficient, effective, and transparent way, and appropriately considers matters of local planning context in decision-making.

The current position is being reviewed as part of WALGA's regular position review process and in recognition of significant planning reforms in 2024, specifically the replacement of the proposed special matters DAP with the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B).

To inform the review of the DAP position and its ongoing advocacy, WALGA collated and reviewed data on the operation of the DAPs and the significant development pathway.

The [DAP Report](#) examines DAP data from its inception in 2011 to the end of the 2023-24 financial year, with a focus on observable trends since the previous report in 2020. The report indicates minor improvements in the DAP system, particularly in reliability and consistent decision making. Despite this, the DAP system continues to determine many low-value applications that lack strategic importance and should be redirected to the Local Government pathway.

The [Significant Development Pathway Report](#) examines data from the pathway's commencement in 2020 until 1 April 2025. The report finds that this pathway is used infrequently and does not process applications efficiently, contrary to its intended purpose and that the pathway's other goals, driving economic recovery (Part 17) and aiding housing supply (Part 11B), have also not been met.

The collated data will be uploaded to the [DAP Dashboard](#) on WALGA's website.

WALGA has drafted a revised advocacy position that will sit within the context of the Planning Principles and Reform advocacy position and will expand on the DAP position to:

1. Be applicable to all State Government DAs and approvals (e.g. significant development pathway, DAPs, Public Works, region scheme approvals, Development WA).

2. Establish principles to guide transparent and accountable decision-making on development applications, ensuring that local planning frameworks are appropriately considered, and communities, particularly in regional areas, are granted equitable access to the decision-making process.
3. Include a refined list of reforms to the DAP system, while retaining the position to increase the DAP threshold and for equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members.
4. Include a recommendation that the significant development pathway be abolished based on the findings of the significant development pathway report, and includes a list of reforms if the pathway is to be retained to ensure it operates more efficiently and only processes genuine state significant projects.

The draft position and accompanying review reports were provided to Local Governments for Council endorsed or CEO preferred feedback by 23 May.

#### **COMMENT**

The current DAP advocacy position is outdated and does not reflect the current planning framework, specifically the introduction of the permanent significant development pathway (Part 11B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*).

The proposed new advocacy position will complement WALGA's planning advocacy position, 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform, that notes decisions should be made by the level of government closest to and most impacted by a planning proposal and should appropriately reflect local environment, context, communities and character.

The proposed advocacy position has been informed by feedback from CEO approved and Council endorsed submissions, Local Government officer input and WALGA's previous submissions, specifically on DAP reforms and amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* that introduced the significant development pathway.

Some minor amendments were made to the draft position in response to members' feedback, particularly regarding the recommendations for the state significant development pathway.

Local Government feedback was that the pathway was not functioning effectively in its current form. While some Local Governments advocated for its abolition, others considered that there may be benefits if the pathway was limited to genuine state-significant projects only and operated more efficiently. The draft position calls for the reforms to the pathway and for it be subject to periodic review if retained.

Further information on the rationale for the position and feedback provided is attached.

The Environment Policy agreed to recommend that State Council endorse the new expanded position at their meeting on 29 May.

## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA:

1. Replace Advocacy Position 6.4 Development Assessment Panels with the following:

### *6.4 State Development Applications and Decision Making*

*WALGA calls on the State Government to:*

1. *Ensure that decision making on development applications (DAs) is:*
    - a. *consistent and accountable*
    - b. *accessible to local communities*
    - c. *respectful of, and appropriately applies, local planning frameworks in line with their statutory weight.*
  2. *Reform the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) system to:*
    - a. *raise the DAP threshold from the current \$2 million to \$5 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
    - b. *modify the composition of DAPs to provide equal representation of Specialist Members and Local Government Members*
    - c. *review DAP processes to ensure proponents provide necessary information in a timely manner*
    - d. *provide clear procedural guidance on the roles and functions of Local Government officers and Council*
    - e. *allow access to the State Referral Coordination Unit for DAP applications to ensure timely and adequate referral responses from State Government agencies are provided to Local Governments.*
  3. *Abolish the state significant development assessment pathway (Part 11B of the Planning and Development Act 2005).*
  4. *If the significant development assessment pathway is retained, implement the following reforms:*
    - a. *raise the cost threshold to \$50 million and mandate periodic reviews of the threshold*
    - b. *align statutory timeframes with DAP and Local Government determined DAs*
    - c. *ensure all developments are consistent with applicable local planning instruments and provide comprehensive guidelines for discretionary decision making, including applying extraordinary discretion*
    - d. *delete references to 'mandatory significant development' to ensure the pathway remains entirely opt-in*
    - e. *undertake periodic reviews of its operation and effectiveness.*
2. Notes the Development Assessment Panel 2011 – 2024 Review and State Development Pathway 2020 – 2025 Review reports.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**Seconded: Cr Bryan Kilpatrick**

**That the Central Country Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.2 with the addition of:**

- 5. Reinstate the capacity for the CEO to engage with the Council about the Responsible Authority Report (RAR)**

**CARRIED**

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## 12.3 PUBLIC LIBRARY AGREEMENT (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

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*By Rebecca Hicks, Policy Officer Community*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement).
- The five-year Agreement defines roles and responsibilities in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the WA Public Libraries Strategy and future vision for public library services.
- The current Agreement, endorsed by State Council in July 2020, is due for renewal in September 2025.
- WALGA has participated in the review of the Agreement, which has recommended minor amendments.
- Following the signing of a new Agreement, a sector consultation process will be undertaken for the associated Local Level Agreements between the State Library and Local Governments.
- The Agreement does not include funding arrangements for public libraries. WALGA continues to advocate for increased public library funding.

### ATTACHMENT

- [State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia 2025 – 2030](#)

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the Agreement aligns with WALGA's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, particularly:

- Influence – Lead advocacy on issues important to Local Government and empower the Local Government sector to build communities equipped for the future.
- Support – Grow opportunities for Local Governments' sharing of services and resources.
- Expertise – Optimise organisational capability to service members' needs and foster relationships between our subject matter experts and stakeholders.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Endorsement of the new Agreement aligns with WALGA's current [Advocacy Position 3.8 Public Libraries](#), which states:

1. *Western Australian Local Government public libraries provide valuable local cultural infrastructure, creating social and community hubs for community capacity building, recreation, education and literacy, digital inclusion, and social connection, cohesion and inclusion.*
2. *WALGA supports the provision of Public Library services in Western Australia through a formal partnership between Local Government and the State Government of Western Australia, governed by the Library Board Act 1951, namely the State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia (2020).*
3. *The WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026 provides a framework for a shared vision, strategic direction and collaborative action in the provision of a vibrant and sustainable 21st century public library network.*
4. *It is essential that a sustainable funding model enables Local Governments to continue to deliver library services to support continued growth and adaptation to changing community needs.*



## BACKGROUND

WALGA is a signatory to the *State and Local Government Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia* (the Agreement), which is due for renewal in September 2025. The Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities for each tier of government in the delivery of public libraries and provides the structure and framework for the delivery of the [WA Public Libraries Strategy 2022-2026](#) and the future vision for public library services.

Following internal endorsement from signatories, the current Agreement received final endorsement in September 2020 by the Public Library Working Group (PLWG), which includes: WALGA, the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA), the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), Public Libraries WA Inc. and Local Government Professionals Australia WA. The same process will be undertaken for this renewal.

Connected to the Agreement are Local Level Agreements between the SLWA and individual Local Governments that provide public library services. Local Level Agreements set out more detailed public library service delivery requirements and will be reviewed in early 2026, including sector consultation.

## COMMENT

WALGA has worked with SLWA to review the Agreement to meet the September 2025 renewal date. Amendments are minor and do not raise any issues for WALGA Members.

The scope of the Agreement does not extend to public library funding. SLWA is currently reviewing the Public Library Material Funding Allocation Model. WALGA and Local Governments will be consulted as part of the review.

State Government funding has failed to keep pace with the needs of public libraries, population growth or inflation. WALGA continues to [advocate](#) for increased overall funding for public libraries to maintain and enhance service levels that meet the diverse needs of communities across WA and support the implementation of the WA Public Library Strategy.

Following the renewal of the Agreement, WALGA will work with SLWA to develop a sector-wide consultation plan for the review of Local Level Agreements.

### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the *State and Local Level Agreement for the Provision of Public Library Services in Western Australia*.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: Deputy President Tamara de Lange

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

**CARRIED**

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## 12.4 OTHER STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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

NIL

## 13 EMERGING ISSUES

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### 13.1 POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER

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*Shire of Wagin*

The Shire of Wagin request the Zone to consider funding in relation to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

**Summary:** Government Investment Trend Analysis (2023–24 to 2028–29)

An analysis of the department's financial data over the six-year period reveals a mixed investment trend with a short-term increase followed by a longer-term decline.

#### 1. Total Appropriations

1. Initial Growth: Appropriations rose from \$314.8 million in 2023–24 to a peak of \$462.7 million in 2025–26.
2. Subsequent Decline: After 2025–26, appropriations dropped to \$296.3 million in 2026–27, with a modest recovery in the following years.

#### 2. Expenses

1. Total Cost of Services increased steadily until 2025–26, reaching \$750.6 million, then declined significantly to \$472.2 million by 2028–29.
2. Net Cost of Services followed a similar pattern, peaking at \$607.5 million in 2025–26, then falling to \$370.1 million by 2028–29.

#### Conclusion

While the government made a short-term investment in the Department 2025–26, the overall trend from 2026–27 onward shows a decline in appropriations, service costs, and cash assets. This suggests a reduction in long-term financial commitment, supporting the case that government investment in this department is declining in the outyears.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Cr Katrina Crute**

**That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to;**

- 1. Call on the State Government to appropriately fund the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development given that the 2025-26 State Budget shows that investment in the Department will drop by \$166m in 2026-27 (35%) and be lower than the investment in 2023-24 which was insufficient to respond to the Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer.**
- 2. Noting; The 2025-26 budget provides just \$50,000 for 'Biosecurity Incident and Emergency Management Response' grants in 2026-27 and no funding in the further out-years.**

**CARRIED**

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### 13.2 THANKS TO PRESIDENT CR KATRINA CRUTE

Prior to closing the meeting, Zone Chair, President Cr Des Hickey, took a moment to thank President Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton, for her monumental contribution to the Zone and to Local Government in general. The June meeting of the Zone was Cr Crute's last meeting, with her upcoming retirement later this year following close to 17 years as an Elected Member, including her time served as a Delegate for the Central Country Zone.

Cr Hickey highlighted Cr Crute's initiative of establishing the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network and all the work the group achieved. Cr Crute's ability to decipher and explain issues brought to the Zone will be missed.

The Zone wished Katrina well and congratulated her on her Local Government contribution.

## NOTED

### 14 NEXT MEETINGS

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 12 August 2025 commencing at 7.30am, via MSTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 22 August 2025 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Beverley.

### 15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.32pm.

# WELCOME TO THE **SHIRE OF WILLIAMS**



PART OF MARRADONG COUNTRY

[williams.wa.gov.au](http://williams.wa.gov.au)



# SNAPSHOT OF WILLIAMS

*Williams is located on the Albany Highway, a strategic road transport link between the Perth metropolitan area and the Great Southern region of WA. The highway has an estimated traffic volume of between of around an average 4,600 vehicles per day.*

## POPULATION



1040

## EMPLOYMENT (15YRS+)



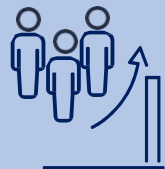
67.6%

## AREA



2307.7 KM<sup>2</sup>

## GROWTH 2016-2021



3.8%

## SEALED ROADS



230KM

## UNSEALED ROADS



332KM

**WILLIAMS PS**  
138 STUDENTS  
ENROLLED

## DISTANCE

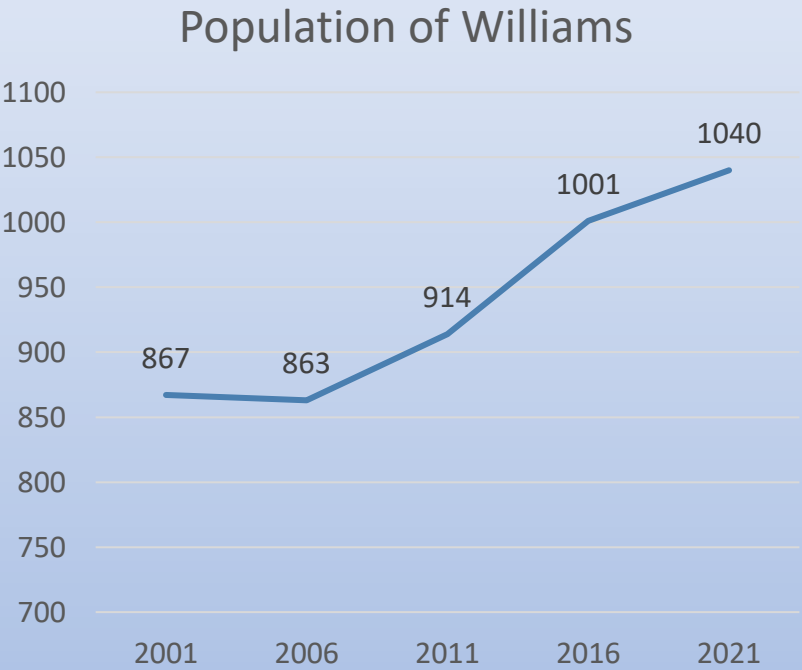
PERTH – 161KM  
ALBANY – 246KM  
MANDURAH – 144KM  
BUNBURY – 141KM  
NARROGIN – 31KM

## SHIRE OF WILLIAMS LOCATIONS

Boraning  
Congelin  
Culbin West  
Dardadine  
Narrakine  
Marradong  
Quindanning  
Tarwonga

# WILLIAMS -

A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND INVEST



Steady population growth over past 2 decades



Proposed Wind Farms  
Small business growth



WA population forecast to grow by 600,000 people by 2036.  
School student numbers up from 115 to 138 in the past 5 years

# MAIN ECONOMIC DRIVERS -

## PRIMARY PRODUCTION, TRANSPORT, TRADE & MANUFACTURING

	Williams
Gross Output	\$183.07m
Wages & Salaries	\$10.29m
Employees	324
Productivity	\$257,129
Value Added	\$83.31m

\*CBH receivals  
664 000t  
\*Demeter grain  
20 000t oats

Redevelopment  
& expansion of  
Marjidin  
Industrial Area

\*Rural  
Businesses  
  
\*Agricultural  
Goods  
Manufacturer's

Export Hay -  
Japan, China,  
Taiwan, Korea &  
Europe

\*Bulk Transport  
  
\*Shearing  
Contractors

- WILLIAMS -  
**A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND INVEST**

\*Livestock  
Feedlots  
  
\*Pellet  
Production





# COMMUNITY EVENTS



ANZAC DAY  
SERVICE



AUSTRALIA DAY  
CELEBRATIONS



# **WILLIAMS RECREATION FACILITIES**

MANY OPTIONS FOR THE SPORTING MINDED

Williams uses  
recycled water to  
maintain parks and  
gardens

An aerial photograph of the Williams Recreation Facilities. The image shows a large oval-shaped green field in the center, surrounded by a blue track. To the left of the field is a large, curved, brownish area, likely a sand or dirt field. To the right of the field is a rectangular green field. Further to the right are several tennis courts. In the foreground, there are several buildings and a parking lot. The background shows a residential area with houses and trees.

TENNIS  
COURTS

HOCKEY  
FIELD

NETBALL /  
BASKETBALL  
COURTS

SWIMMING  
POOL

BOWLING  
CLUB

TROTting  
CLUB

CRICKET  
CLUB

GOLF CLUB

CAMPDRAFT  
GROUNDS



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES



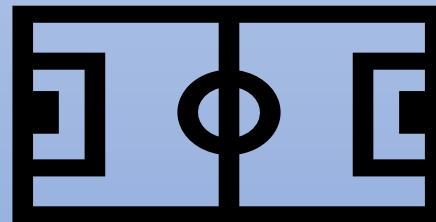
The Community Resource Centre is widely used amongst the community and offer services including internet and email access, Centrelink Access, Williams Public library.

Recreation  
centre upgrade

Stage 1 – new  
indoor court



Willi Wag Tails Childcare Centre is available for full day sessions as well as before and after school care. The centre is licensed for 20 children per day.



# TOURISM IN WILLIAMS

MARRADONG SELF-DRIVE TOURS, LIONS PARK



Lions Park &  
Nature Play  
Ground

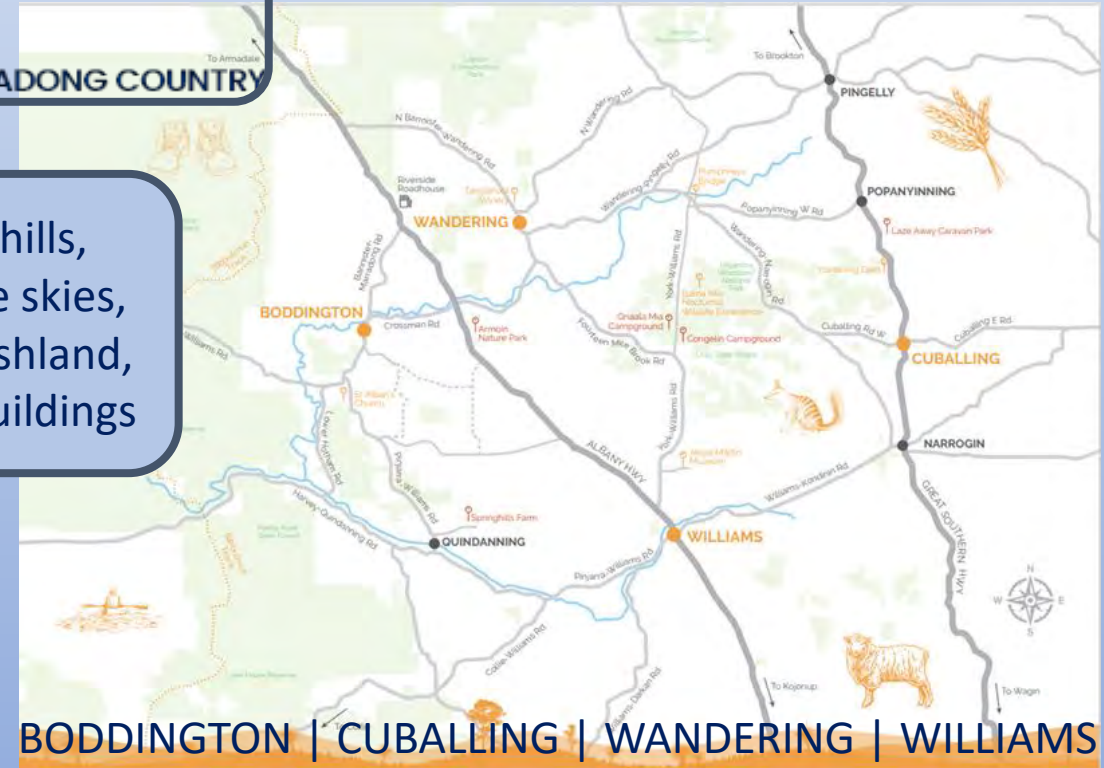


PART OF MARRADONG COUNTRY

Rolling hills,  
expansive skies,  
native bushland,  
historic buildings

Marradong  
Self-Drive Trail

Home of the  
Numbat





Welcome, thankyou ,and enjoy the meeting and the day.



# Central Country Zone Report

June 2025

## RoadWise Council

A key element of this initiative is to capture the contribution RoadWise Councils are making towards road safety. Local Governments deliver a wide range of activities which contribute towards improving road safety performance, capturing this contribution aims to establish a base line, identify road safety priorities and progress towards better practice road safety.

WALGA's Road Safety Advisors work with RoadWise Councils to identify and capture these activities guided by to the RoadWise Framework (the Framework). The Framework, aligned with the safe system approach, is a holistic and systematic approach, designed to guide Local Government through the important governing and management functions that will enable the delivery of better practice, and evidence-based effective road safety interventions and countermeasures.

For further information on the Framework, visit [The RoadWise Framework » WALGA RoadWise](#).

Another part of capturing this activity is to be able to showcase and share the contribution RoadWise Councils deliver to improve their local road safety performance and support national and state road safety targets.

### RoadWise Council Activity

During 1 July 2024 – 31 March 2025, Wheatbelt South RoadWise Councils recorded road safety activities in all areas with the most active areas being Road Manager & Planning Authority and Leadership & Community Development.



## RoadWise Council Priorities

Wheatbelt South RoadWise Councils are prioritising and delivering a variety of actions to improve road safety outcomes for their communities. Some examples are provided below.

### Black Spot Funding

If a potential Black Spot location lacks sufficient crash statistics to qualify for an application, a Road Safety Audit or Inspection is an alternative method to establish eligibility.

Paul Starling is the Local Government Road Safety Manager with Main Roads WA. He is a Senior Road Safety Auditor, who is available to conduct Road Safety Audits and Inspections for Local Governments and help in the submission of Black Spot applications (State and Federal). Paul can be contacted on telephone (08) 9475 8482 or by email [paul.starling@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:paul.starling@mainroads.wa.gov.au).

Feedback from this year's Black Spot application assessors indicates that one of the most common mistakes is applicants failing to organise attachments before beginning the submission process. There are several attachments that should be obtained. These are a requirement within the form and need to be attached to unlock succeeding questions. Ensure that you have the following before you begin:

- **Site photos** – At least two site photos are required. Screen shots from Google Maps and extracted photos from a Road Safety Audit is commonly seen however assessors advise against this. They want to see that you have been to the site and understand the issue.
- **Concept or detailed drawings** – This can be a simple design completed inhouse or a professional drawing, but it must show the assessor what the intent is and be relatively detailed (showing dimensions). Assessors regularly see screen shots with preliminary concept sketches, not to scale. This is not adequate.
- **Costings** – The total estimated project cost needs to be as accurate as possible. Once the application has been submitted and funding received, the funding cannot be altered.
- **Vegetation Clearing Permits** – If any environmental works are required, the permit needs to be issued and attached to the application. These are issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the permit form can be found on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website [here](#). The Department advises that these permits can take between 60 and 90 business days to be processed.
- **Main Roads WA approvals** – Any project impacting traffic controls, or a state road, requires written approval from Main Roads WA. This needs to be issued prior to commencing the application process and attached.

Assessors also noted that applicants would have a higher chance of success if they focused on locations based on quality of crashes and not quantity (crash severity), and to ensure staff are adequately trained in Crash Map and Road View programs as use of these is required to complete the application.

#### 2026-27 timetable

- April 2025 - Call for submissions
- 11 July 2025 - Metropolitan and regional submissions close
- July to October 2025 - Assessment of submissions
- November to December 2025 - Preparation of recommended program



- February to April 2026 - Review and recommendation
- May 2026 - Program approval
- 30 June 2027 - Final expenditure for the 2026-27 program

## Regional Temporary Exemption

Road Safety Audits and Inspections must be performed by an audit team, comprising of at least two people made up of an accredited Senior Road Safety Auditor (potentially Paul Starling) to lead the team and at least one other accredited member. Local Governments can apply for a Regional Temporary Exemption. The exemption permits a temporary exemption to the audit team composition so that a trainee auditor can be used in place of a second accredited audit team member. The advantage of this is that your audits and inspections can be facilitated for free as a second team member does not need to be procured.

WALGA's Road Safety Advisors are trainee Road Safety Auditors and can support RoadWise Councils through the process as a second audit team member if you have an exemption in place. If you need to apply or renew your exemption, information and forms can be found on the Road Safety Audit Portal website; [Regional Temporary Exemption \(road-safety-audit-wa.org\)](http://road-safety-audit-wa.org).

Whilst Local Governments have applied for multiple concurrent exemptions in the past, the intent of these is to allow sufficient time for the organisation to build their auditor resources 'in house' so there is no guarantee that an applicant will be granted approval if they have submitted two or more exemption requests in the past. The decision to grant a further exemption is determined by the Road Safety Audit Panel.

## Auditor Accreditation – Road Safety Inspections Exemption Changes

The Road Safety Panel have recently conducted a review of Auditor accreditation requirements with the aim to further assist regional Shires to develop and build Road Safety Auditor resources, in addition to the current [Regional Temporary Exemption](http://road-safety-audit-wa.org) process and regional training discounts.

As a result of this review, regional Shires are now eligible to use Road Safety Inspections to apply for Auditor accreditation, rather than the previous requirement of completing two design stage road safety audits. This change has been implemented in recognition that regional Shires can have limited opportunities to conduct design stage audits for regional Shires to develop and build accredited Road Safety Auditor resources.

This change has been updated on the [Road Safety Audit Portal](http://road-safety-audit-wa.org) website and is automatically managed through the online application process.

If you have any queries regarding this change, or about the pathway for regional Shires to auditor accreditation please contact the Road Safety Panel by email at [rsaudits@ipwea.asn.au](mailto:rsaudits@ipwea.asn.au).

## Heavy Vehicle Rest Area initiative: apply for funding

### What kind of projects are eligible for funding?

State, territory and local governments can apply for funding for a range of projects. These include:

- simple projects like road marker signs for informal rest areas (green reflectors)
- larger projects such as:
  - o the construction of new rest areas
  - o the expansion of existing rest areas
  - o the upgrade of existing rest area amenities e.g. the installation of new toilet blocks, showers or picnic tables.

Take a look at the [21 HVRA projects that have already been funded](#), to get some ideas.

### How much Australian Government funding can I seek?

Under HVRA, the Australian Government will contribute up to a maximum of \$5 million for each project. For projects submitted by Local Government Authorities, the HVRA will contribute up to 80% of the total project cost for projects located in regional and remote areas, and up to 50% of the total project cost for projects located in urban areas, up to the cap of \$5 million per project. For projects submitted by state and territory governments, the HVRA will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost, regardless of project location, up to the cap of \$5 million per project. The co-contribution/s for projects can come from state or territory governments, private entities, or other eligible Australian Government programs.

### When are applications due?

You can apply at any time, however applications are batched for assessment up to 3 times per year. Applications under the current tranche of HVRA will be batched on 30 June 2025. Applications can still be submitted after this date, and will be assessed later in 2025.

### How do I apply?

Please submit a fully completed [application form](#) addressing all criteria, along with supporting evidence that will help us assess your application. All applications must be submitted through the department's [Infrastructure Management System \(IMS\)](#).

### Useful links

Read the [Heavy Vehicle Rest Area initiative fact sheet](#)

View resources on [how to apply for HVRA funding](#)

[Share your thoughts](#) on locations that need a new or upgraded HVRA



## RoadWise Council Road Safety Case Studies

### Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup's Innovative Approach to Road Safety

The Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup is committed to maintaining a safe and efficient road network. In the past, limited data on road conditions and asset locations made it challenging to identify safety risks and plan timely maintenance. Traditional inspection methods were time-consuming and reactive, often addressing issues after they become hazards. To enhance road safety and improve asset management, the Shire sought a more proactive and data-driven solution.

The Shire implemented an advanced road mapping system that integrates robotics and artificial intelligence. This technology geospatially maps all road assets while identifying defects, hazards, and potential road safety risks across the entire network. By leveraging A.I.-driven analysis, the system provides real-time and highly accurate data, enabling the Shire to make informed decisions without the usual time pressures.

Contractors were engaged to complete a data capture of the road network which was completed in four days. The data is collected with a vehicle-mounted sensor that captures footage of everything that can be seen from the road. The data is run through A.I. to identify and map information on road pavements, footpaths, line marking, signage and other objects that are repeatable on the road. It identifies emerging defects such as potholes, surface deterioration, cracking, shoving, edge drops, faded line marking and signage issues like dirty, damaged or missing signs. This data can then be interrogated for a specific set of information and a report (together with supporting images) will be produced immediately.

The Shire has already leveraged the data to generate four comprehensive audits including a signage audit, footpath audit, curve and channel audit, and a pavement and line marking audit. Traditionally, these audits would have been resource intensive and time consuming however, they can now be produced for any repeatable roadside asset within minutes.

The adoption of this technology has significantly strengthened the Shire's approach. With advanced analytics, the Shire can identify risks earlier and respond more effectively. Data-driven decision-making allows the Shire to direct funding and resources toward the most critical safety improvements. With detailed insights into high-risk areas, road maintenance and upgrades to reduce crash risks can now be prioritised.

### Shire of Dardanup Road Safety Prioritisation Process

The Shire of Dardanup has established a road safety assessment and risk analysis program for roads managed by the Shire and identified roads which have road safety problems based on historical crash data.

Utilising the Main Roads WA Crash Map tool, the Shire has been monitoring local road crashes and has established a prioritisation process to systematically work through and identify risks and recommend treatments in a proactive and practical approach.

The Shire has established a list of roads, identified which can be applied for through Black Spot funding and arranged for a risk analysis site inspection to be conducted to assess if action is required and what this is.

The process focuses on low cost, high impact solutions, and interventions which are widespread. Higher cost treatments are referred to Council for budget consideration, as part of the annual budget process. The Shire also applies safety improvements as part of their maintenance works to progressively improve the safety of the network when works are being undertaken.

The Shire invested in a staff member to complete the Road Safety Audit and Road Safety Engineering training, resulting in the Shire now having an accredited Road Safety Auditor. With an accredited Road Safety Auditor, the Shire no longer needs to get an exemption to conduct Road Safety Inspections, and the staff member can provide safety focused and safe system aligned advice to project designs and works planning.

Completion of the training builds the capabilities of staff to apply safe system application in the treatment of crash locations. It builds the engineering knowledge and experience to systematically make roads safer and aligned to better practice and safe system.

Safety analysis reports are completed with the Shire systematically working through the prioritised list as well as road safety concerns raised both internally, and from the public, and completing a Safety Analysis Report for each assessment. This allows the officers to look at the risks and apply the safe system approach to prevent killed and serious injury crashes and to improve the safety performance of the network. This process has been supported by the executive team and as determined, the Analysis Reports are presented to the Executive to endorse the recommendations and support the budget for the works to be completed.

## Learning and Development

### Compass IoT - Local Government Training Sessions

**Location: Online**

**Dates: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.00pm and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June @ 10.00am**

- Understanding connected vehicle data.
- How to collect and understand data.

For information and to register, visit, [Compass IoT WA Training and Questions](#) or scan QR Code



### Austroads Webinars

Austroads past webinar recordings are free to all, cover a variety of road safety topics and can be accessed from the Austroads website [here](#). Sign in is required, however it is free to create an account.

## Safe System for Local Government Workshops (Vanguards)

**Location:** Perth – University Club of Western Australia

**Dates:** 5 – 7 August 2025

- One-day workshop for Elected Members and executive, 5 August 2025. Provides a short and clear overview of key road safety principles.
- Three-day workshop for Local Government officers, 5 - 7 August 2025. Builds on the day one workshop with a more detailed, hands-on learning about road safety and how to apply it in Local Government.

For more information and to register, visit, [Local Government Support Programs | Main Roads Western Australia](#).

It is anticipated that the workshops will be held in Northam in March 2026 (Shire of Northam, dates to be confirmed).

## WALGA's 2025 Transport and Roads Forum

**Location:** Perth – Frasers State Reception Centre, Kings Park

**Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

- Brought to you by WALGA in partnership with Main Roads WA, we are excited to announce the premier transport and roads event for Local Government is returning for 2025.
- One-day thought provoking sessions, knowledge sharing, robust discussions and networking as we bring the best of the best across all facets of transport, roads and Local Government. This year's theme 'From Vision to Action' focuses on Road Safety, Sustainability, Active Transport and Asset Management.
- The event, for Local Government employees and Elected Members, will conclude with a networking sundowner held between 4.40pm to 6.30pm following the Forum's.

For more information and to register, visit, [Upcoming Events | WALGA](#)

## Australasian Road Safety Conference

**Location:** Pan Pacific Perth, Adelaide Terrace

**Dates:** 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

- The Australasian Road Safety Conference aims to facilitate collaboration and information sharing between road safety stakeholders and decision makers-from Australasia and beyond.

For more information and to register, visit, [Home - ARSC 2025 Conference | Road Safety Excellence - Australasia](#)

## IPWEA Road Safety Audit

Main Roads WA and Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) WA Division Road Safety Audit Panel has developed a competency assessed Road Safety Audit training course that must be successfully completed to be eligible to apply for accreditation as a Road Safety Auditor in Western Australia.

The Road Safety Audit course modules have also been developed to allow students who may not wish to complete the whole Road Safety Audit course but are interested in learning about any of the wide variety of subjects covered in the course, to complete any of the 23 individual modules listed.

The course comprises the following elements:

- [twenty-three online competency assessed modules](#), and
- a competency assessed Practical application module which involves taking part in an assessed road safety audit.

## Road Safety Engineering

Main Roads WA and IPWEA WA Division Road Safety Audit Panel has developed a competency assessed Road Safety Engineering – Treatment of Crash Locations training course that is a vital training resource for individuals involved in the treatment of crash locations. This training must be successfully completed to be eligible to apply for accreditation as a Road Safety Auditor in WA.

The course comprises of:

[10 online competency assessed modules](#).

## Local Government Works Association WA Inc 2025 Conference

**Location: Joondalup Resort, Connolly**

**Dates: 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

For more information and register, visit, [Conference | Local Government Works Association WA Inc](#)

## Contact

For more information or any queries please contact:

**Rodney Thornton**  
**Road Safety Advisor**  
**WALGA RoadWise**

Unit 3, 141 Vincent Street, Beverley WA 6304  
T: 0409 689 313 | [rthornton@walga.asn.au](mailto:rthornton@walga.asn.au)



## 13.1.1 List of Accounts June 2025

		<b><u>List of Accounts Due &amp; Submitted to Council</u></b>		
		<b><u>June 2025</u></b>		
<b>Chq/EFT</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Muni</b>
EFT15498	25/06/2025	BUILDING AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF MINES, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY	\$ 296.40	
EFT15499	25/06/2025	SHIRE OF WICKEPIN	\$ 5.00	
		<b>TOTALS TRUST</b>	<b>\$ 301.40</b>	
EFT15438	04/06/2025	AUSTRALIA POST		\$ 1,066.12
EFT15439	04/06/2025	ALLANS AUTO ELECTRICS AND AIR CONDITIONING		\$ 3,291.75
EFT15440	04/06/2025	TUTT BRYANT EQUIPMENT		\$ 183.56
EFT15441	04/06/2025	BURGESS RAWSON (WA) PTY LTD		\$ 1,858.92
EFT15442	04/06/2025	BEST OFFICE SYSTEMS		\$ 170.00
EFT15443	04/06/2025	BUNNINGS		\$ 250.52
EFT15444	04/06/2025	LANDGATE		\$ 232.45
EFT15445	04/06/2025	DAIMLER TRUCKS		\$ 90.19
EFT15446	04/06/2025	DUFFY ELECTRICS		\$ 5,081.57
EFT15447	04/06/2025	EFIRE & SAFETY		\$ 4,452.25
EFT15448	04/06/2025	FULFORD EARTHMOVING & CIVIL		\$ 3,300.00
EFT15449	04/06/2025	DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY (DFES)		\$ 5,757.70
EFT15450	04/06/2025	FORTUS		\$ 1,712.70
EFT15451	04/06/2025	GREAT SOUTHERN FUEL SUPPLIES		\$ 17,692.72
EFT15452	04/06/2025	HANCOCKS HOME HARDWARE		\$ 7.95
EFT15453	04/06/2025	BERYLE HOLM		\$ 823.80
EFT15454	04/06/2025	INN RANGE REPAIRS		\$ 236.90
EFT15455	04/06/2025	LAKE YEALERING GOLF CLUB		\$ 2,500.00
EFT15456	04/06/2025	Linemarking WA		\$ 34,315.60
EFT15457	04/06/2025	MCINTOSH & SON NARROGIN		\$ 107.78
EFT15458	04/06/2025	NARROGIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		\$ 250.00
EFT15459	04/06/2025	NARROGIN HARDWARE MAKIT		\$ 655.45
EFT15460	04/06/2025	NICHOLLS BUS SERVICE		\$ 251.55
EFT15461	04/06/2025	NARROGIN & DISTRICTS PLUMBING SERVICE		\$ 1,953.60
EFT15462	04/06/2025	PERFECT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS - PCS		\$ 637.50
EFT15463	04/06/2025	REPCO		\$ 214.50
EFT15464	04/06/2025	SHIRE OF CORRIGIN		\$ 320.00
EFT15465	04/06/2025	TANYA MARY SANDS		\$ 144.75
EFT15466	04/06/2025	150 Square Pty Ltd		\$ 5,262.00
EFT15467	04/06/2025	TEAM GLOBAL EXPRESS PTY LTD		\$ 110.56
EFT15468	04/06/2025	TIMBER INSIGHT PTY LTD		\$ 10,270.00
EFT15469	04/06/2025	WICKEPIN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE		\$ 5,000.00
EFT15470	04/06/2025	ZONE 50 ENGINEERING SURVEYS		\$ 5,776.76
EFT15471	18/06/2025	ALBERT FACEY MOTOR INN		\$ 720.00
EFT15472	18/06/2025	AIR LIQUIDE WA PTY LTD		\$ 60.86
EFT15473	18/06/2025	AIR RESPONSE		\$ 464.56
EFT15474	18/06/2025	BUNNINGS		\$ 364.42
EFT15475	18/06/2025	Belvedere Homestead Nursery Pty Ltd		\$ 752.04
EFT15476	18/06/2025	DUFFY ELECTRICS		\$ 181.50
EFT15477	18/06/2025	EDWARDS MOTORS PTY LTD		\$ 510.55
EFT15478	18/06/2025	EWEN RURAL SUPPLIES		\$ 3,907.09
EFT15479	18/06/2025	EVERLON BRONZE		\$ 337.70
EFT15480	18/06/2025	EDGE PLANNING AND PROPERTY		\$ 1,725.07
EFT15481	18/06/2025	FULFORD EARTHMOVING & CIVIL		\$ 4,004.00
EFT15482	18/06/2025	FORTUS		\$ 6,652.80
EFT15483	18/06/2025	GREAT SOUTHERN WASTE DISPOSAL		\$ 7,682.63
EFT15484	18/06/2025	NARROGIN NURSERY		\$ 29.00
EFT15485	18/06/2025	NARROGIN PUMPS, SOLAR AND SPRAYING		\$ 31.74
EFT15486	18/06/2025	NARROGIN QUARRY OPERATIONS		\$ 1,568.85
EFT15487	18/06/2025	NARROGIN BETTA HOME LIVING		\$ 3,495.00
EFT15488	18/06/2025	NARROGIN LIQUOR BARONS		\$ 128.98
EFT15489	18/06/2025	NARROGIN TOYOTA		\$ 414.02
EFT15490	18/06/2025	NARROGIN & DISTRICTS PLUMBING SERVICE		\$ 2,715.90
EFT15491	18/06/2025	PERFECT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS - PCS		\$ 255.00
EFT15492	18/06/2025	CFR MOBILE MECHANICAL		\$ 143.00
EFT15493	18/06/2025	R J SMITH ENGINEERING		\$ 127.00
EFT15494	18/06/2025	TIMBER INSIGHT PTY LTD		\$ 17,634.00
EFT15495	18/06/2025	WA HINO SALES & SERVICE		\$ 175.30
EFT15496	18/06/2025	WET DECK POOLS		\$ 44,000.00

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Trust	Muni
EFT15497	18/06/2025	YEALERING SPRAYING SERVICE		\$ 2,090.00
EFT15500	25/06/2025	ALBERT FACEY MOTOR INN		\$ 333.00
EFT15501	25/06/2025	AIR RESPONSE		\$ 2,508.00
EFT15502	25/06/2025	Dews Excavations		\$ 495.00
EFT15503	25/06/2025	DUFFY ELECTRICS		\$ 181.50
EFT15504	25/06/2025	G & M DETERGENTS		\$ 490.00
EFT15505	25/06/2025	CRAIG JESPERSEN		\$ 630.00
EFT15506	25/06/2025	LGIS INSURANCE BROKING SERVICE		\$ 3,165.80
EFT15507	25/06/2025	METAL ARTWORK CREATIONS		\$ 96.80
EFT15508	25/06/2025	MCPEST PEST CONTROL		\$ 3,960.00
EFT15509	25/06/2025	MAKAYLA GEE		\$ 630.00
EFT15510	25/06/2025	NARROGIN LIQUOR BARONS		\$ 198.97
EFT15511	25/06/2025	NARROGIN CARPETS & CURTAINS		\$ 1,724.80
EFT15512	25/06/2025	OFFICEWORKS SUPERSTORES PTY LTD		\$ 419.55
EFT15513	25/06/2025	CFR MOBILE MECHANICAL		\$ 1,141.80
EFT15514	25/06/2025	SHIRE OF NARROGIN		\$ 1,615.08
EFT15515	25/06/2025	WICKEPIN NEWSAGENCY		\$ 402.50
EFT15516	25/06/2025	WURTH AUSTRALIA PTY LTD		\$ 1,930.65
EFT15517	25/06/2025	WORK HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PTY LTD		\$ 1,155.00
EFT15518	27/06/2025	Adrian Webster		\$ 368.78
EFT15519	30/06/2025	THE AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL OF WA		\$ 415.00
EFT15520	30/06/2025	AIR RESPONSE		\$ 228.22
EFT15521	30/06/2025	COUNTRY PAINT SUPPLIES		\$ 258.90
EFT15522	30/06/2025	LANDGATE		\$ 300.40
EFT15523	30/06/2025	JOSH HOBLEY		\$ 460.23
EFT15524	30/06/2025	MANDURAH SAFETY & TRAINING SERVICES PTY LTD		\$ 2,544.20
EFT15525	30/06/2025	NARROGIN HARDWARE MAKIT		\$ 88.00
EFT15526	30/06/2025	NARROGIN BETTA HOME LIVING		\$ 3,495.00
EFT15527	30/06/2025	NARROGIN & DISTRICTS PLUMBING SERVICE		\$ 8,000.00
EFT15528	30/06/2025	PERFECT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS - PCS		\$ 2,670.00
EFT15529	30/06/2025	RIGHT METAL FENCING		\$ 25,212.00
EFT15530	30/06/2025	ROYS SHEDS		\$ 2,249.24
EFT15531	30/06/2025	SHIRE OF CUBALLING		\$ 1,750.00
EFT15532	30/06/2025	FRANCES ALLAN		\$ 2,088.40
EFT15533	30/06/2025	WES ASTBURY		\$ 2,486.66
EFT15534	30/06/2025	LG CORKE		\$ 1,012.80
EFT15535	30/06/2025	JOHN RAYMOND MEARNES		\$ 1,187.80
EFT15536	30/06/2025	TYRON MILLER		\$ 1,285.30
EFT15537	30/06/2025	JULIE ALEXIA RUSSELL		\$ 7,655.20
EFT15538	30/06/2025	PETER THOMPSON		\$ 1,364.08
EFT15552	30/06/2025	WCP CIVIL PTY LTD		\$ 206,661.91
		<b>TOTALS EFT</b>		<b>\$ 507,010.73</b>
16002	04/06/2025	WATER CORPORATION		\$ 12,178.68
16003	04/06/2025	SYNERGY		\$ 2,195.13
16004	13/06/2025	SHIRE OF WICKEPIN		\$ 9,558.70
16005	18/06/2025	SYNERGY		\$ 4,505.57
16006	18/06/2025	WATER CORPORATION		\$ 1,685.44
16007	24/06/2025	DMIRS - BOND ADMINISTRATOR		\$ 720.00
16008	25/06/2025	DMIRS - BOND ADMINISTRATOR		\$ 260.00
16009	25/06/2025	WATER CORPORATION		\$ 939.83
16010	30/06/2025	SYNERGY		\$ 500.49
16011	30/06/2025	WATER CORPORATION		\$ 1,213.73
		<b>TOTALS CHEQUE</b>		<b>\$ 33,757.57</b>
DD15823.1	02/06/2025	WA TREASURY		\$ 21,416.28
DD15826.1	01/06/2025	CRISP WIRELESS PTY LTD		\$ 238.00
DD15902.1	25/06/2025	3E ADVANTAGE PTY LTD		\$ 1,095.05
		<b>TOTALS DIRECT DEBIT</b>		<b>\$ 22,749.33</b>
DD15922.1	22/06/2025	ANZ BANK		\$ 1,253.01
		<b>TOTALS CREDIT CARD</b>		<b>\$ 1,253.01</b>
63040625	04/06/2025	TELSTRA		\$ 1,758.49
		<b>TOTALS BPAY</b>		<b>\$ 1,758.49</b>

Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Trust	Muni
DD15842.1	11/06/2025	AWARE SUPER		\$ 5,002.47
DD15842.2	11/06/2025	MLC SUPER FUND - PLUM SUPER		\$ 508.39
DD15842.3	11/06/2025	ANZ SUPER		\$ 113.83
DD15842.4	11/06/2025	PRIME SUPER		\$ 575.15
DD15842.5	11/06/2025	FIRSTCHOICE WHOLESALE PERSONALSUPERANNUATION		\$ 525.43
DD15842.6	11/06/2025	NETWEALTH INVESTMENTS		\$ 298.87
DD15842.7	11/06/2025	ESSENTIAL SUPER		\$ 120.96
DD15842.8	11/06/2025	AMP SIGNATURE SUPER		\$ 268.02
DD15842.9	11/06/2025	AUSTRALIAN SUPER		\$ 654.56
DD15885.1	25/06/2025	AWARE SUPER		\$ 5,645.29
DD15885.2	25/06/2025	AUSTRALIAN SUPER		\$ 255.85
DD15885.3	25/06/2025	ANZ SUPER		\$ 106.72
DD15885.4	25/06/2025	PRIME SUPER		\$ 573.97
DD15885.5	25/06/2025	FIRSTCHOICE WHOLESALE PERSONALSUPERANNUATION		\$ 600.10
DD15885.6	25/06/2025	NETWEALTH INVESTMENTS		\$ 319.79
DD15885.7	25/06/2025	ESSENTIAL SUPER		\$ 120.96
DD15885.8	25/06/2025	AMP SIGNATURE SUPER		\$ 268.02
DD15885.9	25/06/2025	REST INDUSTRY SUPER		\$ 276.06
DD15842.10	11/06/2025	REST INDUSTRY SUPER		\$ 272.52
DD15885.10	25/06/2025	MLC SUPER FUND - PLUM SUPER		\$ 508.39
		<b>TOTALS SUPERANNUATION</b>		<b>\$ 17,015.35</b>
89230625	23/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 19.40
98030625	03/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 486.80
98050625	05/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 702.15
98060625	06/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 165.10
98100625	10/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 49.05
98110625	11/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 3,015.90
98120625	12/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 824.30
98130625	13/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 9,753.35
98160625	16/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 98.45
98170625	17/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 61.75
98180625	18/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 7,881.40
98190625	19/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 7,120.05
98200625	20/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 399.70
98240625	24/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 275.15
98250625	25/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 100.80
98260625	26/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 1,521.25
98270625	27/06/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$ 432.95
		<b>TOTALS LICENSING</b>		<b>\$ 32,907.55</b>
11/06/2025	11/06/2025	PAYROLL		\$ 48,375.00
25/06/2025	25/06/2025	PAYROLL		\$ 55,558.00
		<b>PAYROLL</b>		<b>\$ 103,933.00</b>
		<b>ACCOUNT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 301.40</b>	<b>\$ 720,385.03</b>
		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR JUNE 2025</b>		<b>\$ 720,686.43</b>



Chq/EFT	Date	Name	Trust	Muni
		Credit Card Payment Summary		
		23RD MAY 2025- 22ND JUNE 2025		
		CARD ENDING XXXX224175		
	DATE	COMPANY	AMOUNT	
	22/05/2025	STANDARDS AUSTRALIA SYDNEY	\$ 267.01	
	4/06/2025	MANDURAH OCEAN MARINA CHALETs	\$ 936.00	
	10/06/2025	WHEATBELT MERREDIN	\$ 50.00	
			\$ 1,253.01	
		FUEL CARD MAY 2025		
	Job	Comments	Line Total	
	P475	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 214.74	
	P248	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 1,498.50	
	P342	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 296.59	
	P1955A	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 6,753.35	
	P1915	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 457.36	
	P698	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 276.94	
	P2433	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 203.72	
	P2489	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 150.36	
	P2283	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 467.05	
	P664	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 71.38	
	P2473	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 1,363.59	
	P468	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 167.33	
	P706	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 270.39	
	P632	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 427.67	
	PCEO	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 477.71	
	P237	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 116.38	
	P2567	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 641.80	
	PMWS	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 583.01	
	P813	MAY 2025- FUEL ACCOUNT	\$ 3,254.85	
			\$ 17,692.72	



## **13.2.1 Monthly Financial Report June 2025**



## **SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996**

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## **Report Purpose**

This report is prepared to meet the requirements of *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, Regulation 34 .

## **Overview**

Summary reports and graphical progressive graphs are provided on page 3, 4 and 5.  
No matters of significance are noted.

## **Statement of Financial Activity by reporting program**

Is presented on page 6 and shows a surplus as at 30 June 2025 of \$753,635.

Note: The Statements and accompanying notes are prepared based on all transactions recorded at the time of preparation and may vary.

## **Preparation**

Prepared by: E.Clement DCEO

Date prepared: 4-Jul-25

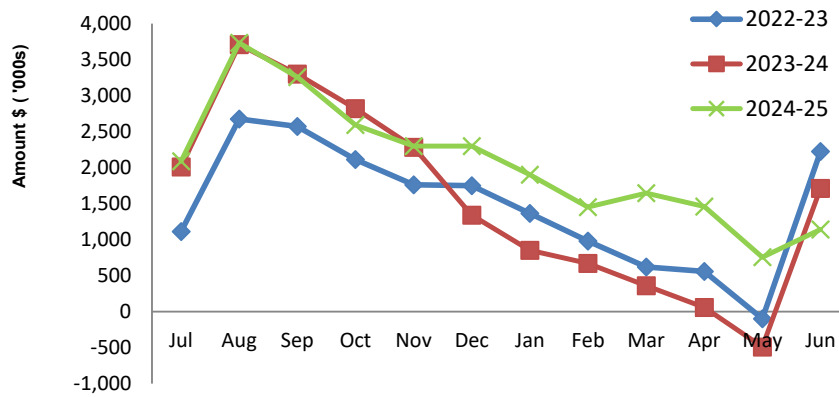
Reviewed by: David Burton CEO

# Shire of Wickepin

## Monthly Summary Information

For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

**Liquidity Over the Year (Refer Note 3)**



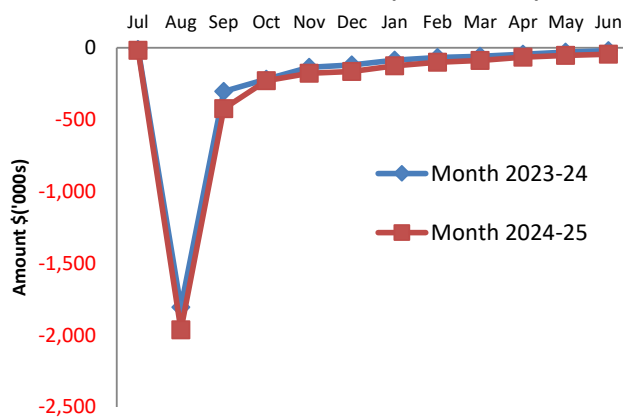
### Cash and Cash Equivalents as at period end

Unrestricted	\$	1,038,997
Restricted	\$	3,681,298
	\$	4,720,295

### Receivables

Rates	\$	44,774
Other	\$	287,679
	\$	332,453

**Rates Receivable (Refer Note 6)**



Accounts Receivable Ageing (non- rates)  
(Refer Note 6)

### Comments

Unrestricted cash includes the following payments in advance

24/25 Grants Commission - General	\$1,156,701
24/25 Grants Commission - Roads	\$650,457
<b>Amounts paid in advance</b>	<b>\$1,807,158</b>

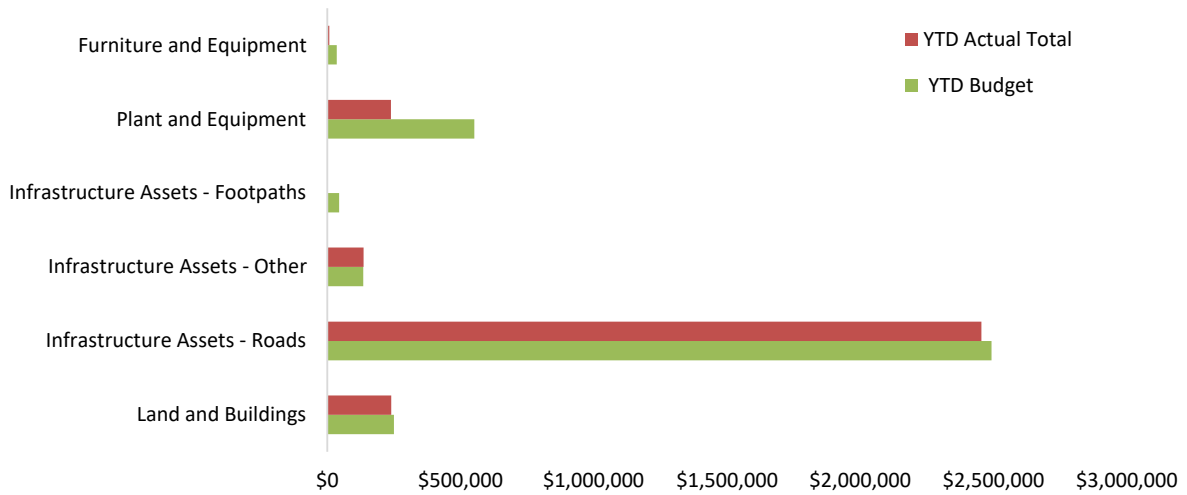
This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

# Shire of Wickepin

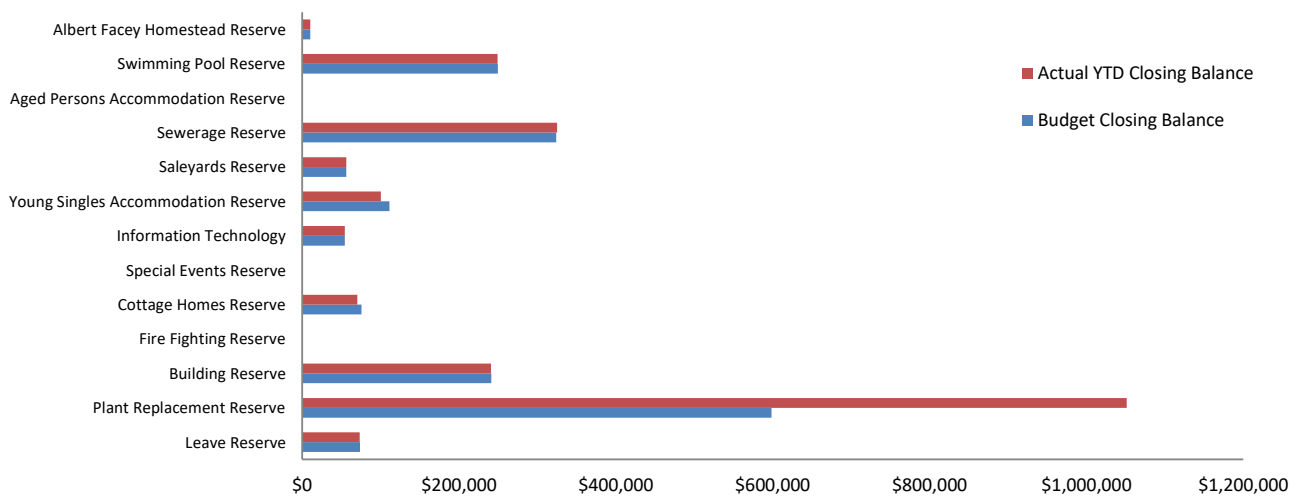
## Monthly Summary Information

For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

### Capital Expenditure Program YTD (Refer Note 13)



### Year To Date Reserve Balance to End of Year Estimate (Refer Note 7)



### Comments

This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

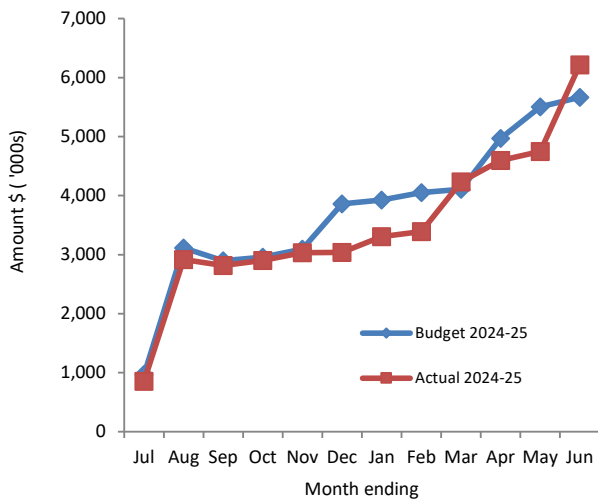
# Shire of Wickepin

## Monthly Summary Information

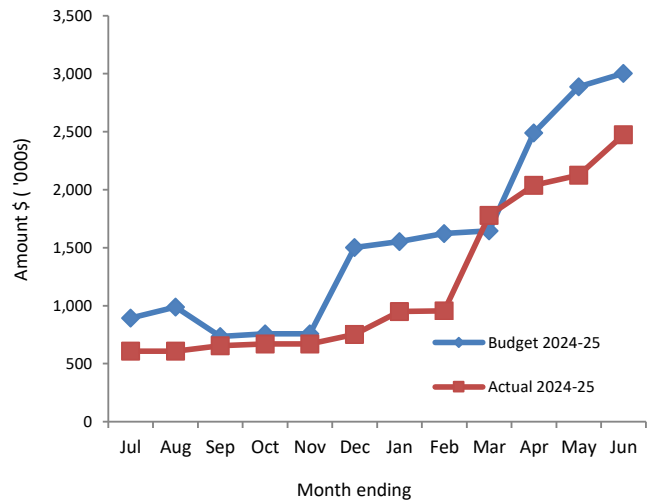
For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

### Revenues

Budget Operating Revenues -v- Actual (Refer Note 2)

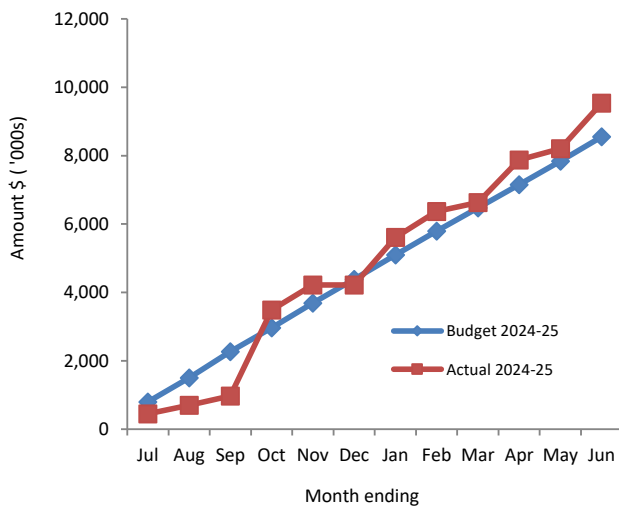


Budget Capital Revenue -v- Actual (Refer Note 2)

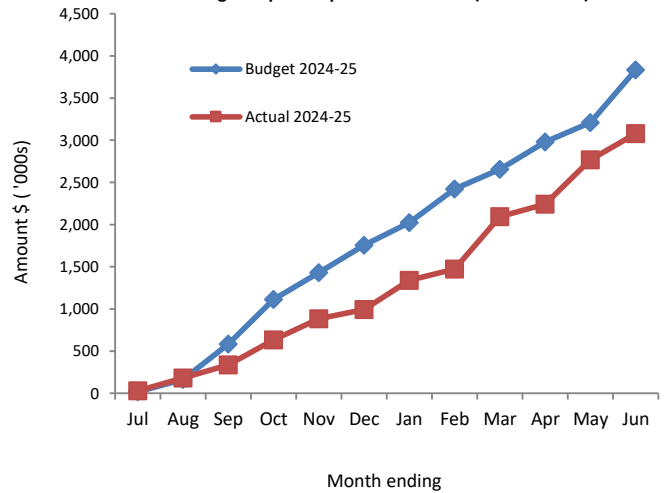


### Expenditure

Budget Operating Expenses -v- YTD Actual (Refer Note 2)



Budget Capital Expenses -v- Actual (Refer Note 2)



### Comments

This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**(Statutory Reporting Program)**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

	Note	Annual Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. \$ (b)-(a)	Var. % (b)-(a)/(a)	Var.
<b>Operating Revenues</b>							
Governance		\$ 2,005	\$ 2,005	\$ 24,513	\$ 22,508	% 1122.60%	▲
General Purpose Funding - Rates	9	1,640,841	1,640,841	1,632,199	(8,642)	(0.53%)	
General Purpose Funding - Other		382,300	382,300	1,328,718	946,418	247.56%	▲
Law, Order and Public Safety		154,996	154,996	190,774	35,778	23.08%	▲
Health		220	220	1,182	962	437.27%	
Education and Welfare		300	300	564	264	87.88%	
Housing		110,850	110,850	102,431	(8,419)	(7.59%)	
Community Amenities		253,714	253,714	221,280	(32,434)	(12.78%)	▼
Recreation and Culture		622,944	622,944	319,400	(303,544)	(48.73%)	▼
Transport		2,366,950	2,366,950	2,237,638	(129,312)	(5.46%)	
Economic Services		100,525	100,525	108,465	7,940	7.90%	
Other Property and Services		30,000	30,000	50,062	20,062	66.87%	▲
Total Operating Revenue		5,665,645	5,665,645	6,217,225	551,580		
<b>Operating Expense</b>							
Governance		(694,484)	(694,484)	(564,016)	130,468	18.79%	▼
General Purpose Funding		(110,227)	(110,227)	(104,837)	5,390	4.89%	
Law, Order and Public Safety		(337,806)	(337,806)	(253,165)	84,641	25.06%	▼
Health		(31,675)	(31,675)	(21,287)	10,388	32.79%	
Education and Welfare		(33,792)	(33,792)	(25,347)	8,445	24.99%	▼
Housing		(214,849)	(214,849)	(254,289)	(39,439)	(18.36%)	▲
Community Amenities		(574,858)	(574,858)	(511,509)	63,349	11.02%	▼
Recreation and Culture		(1,207,243)	(1,207,243)	(1,457,767)	(250,524)	(20.75%)	▲
Transport		(4,564,858)	(4,564,858)	(5,823,076)	(1,258,218)	(27.56%)	▲
Economic Services		(362,710)	(362,710)	(278,488)	84,222	23.22%	▼
Other Property and Services		(417,974)	(417,974)	(242,281)	175,693	42.03%	▼
Total Operating Expenditure		(8,550,476)	(8,550,476)	(9,536,063)	(985,587)		
<b>Funding Balance Adjustments</b>							
Add back Depreciation		4,780,500	4,780,500	6,109,685	1,329,185	27.80%	▲
Adjust (Profit)/Loss on Asset Disposal	8	(76,574)	(76,574)	(12,921)	63,653	(83.13%)	
Adjust Provisions and Accruals		0	0	0	0		
Adjust Rounding		0	0	0	0		
Net Cash from Operations		1,819,095	1,819,095	2,777,927	958,831		
<b>Capital Revenues</b>							
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	8	280,549	280,549	172,264	(108,285)	(38.60%)	▼
Total Capital Revenues		280,549	280,549	172,264	(108,285)		
<b>Capital Expenses</b>							
Land and Buildings	13	(317,017)	(249,913)	(239,793)	313	0.13%	
Infrastructure - Roads	13	(2,492,909)	(2,492,909)	(2,454,953)	37,956	1.52%	
Infrastructure - Footpaths	13	(45,000)	(45,000)	0	45,000	100.00%	▼
Infrastructure -Other	13	(159,504)	(134,504)	(145,447)	(10,943)	(8.14%)	
Plant and Equipment	13	(783,477)	(551,697)	(230,395)	321,302	58.24%	▼
Furniture and Equipment	13	(36,000)	(36,000)	(7,250)	28,750	79.86%	▼
Total Capital Expenditure		(3,833,907)	(3,833,907)	(3,077,839)	529,690		
Net Cash from Capital Activities		(3,553,358)	(3,128,853)	(2,905,575)	444,784		
<b>Financing</b>							
Transfer from Reserves	7	117,000	0	18,000	18,000		
Repayment of Debentures	10	(40,407)	(40,407)	(40,407)	0	0.00%	
Transfer to Reserves	7	(126,918)	0	(459,684)	(459,684)		▲
Net Cash from Financing Activities		(50,325)	(40,407)	(482,090)	(441,684)		
Net Operations, Capital and Financing		(1,784,588)	(1,350,165)	(609,739)	442,884		
Opening Funding Surplus(Deficit)	3	1,784,588	1,784,588	1,750,242	(34,346)	(1.92%)	
Closing Funding Surplus(Deficit)	3	0	434,423	1,140,503	408,538		

Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Budget and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.  
Refer to Note 2 for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

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



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**(By Nature or Type)**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

	Note	Amended Annual Budget	Amended YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. \$ (b)-(a)	Var. % (b)-(a)/(a)	Var.
<b>Operating Revenues</b>							
Rates	9	\$ 1,625,579	\$ 1,625,579.44	\$ 1,616,937	\$ (8,643)	% (0.53%)	
Rates excluding General Rates	9	15,262	15,262	15,262	0	0.00%	
Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	11	530,478	530,478	1,525,692	995,214	187.61%	▲
Fees and Charges		541,918	541,918	583,525	41,607	7.68%	
Interest Earnings		128,500	128,500	136,907	8,407	6.54%	
Other Revenue		0	0	22,115	22,115		▲
Profit on Disposal of Assets	8	77,533	77,533	14,968	(62,565)		
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>		<b>2,919,270</b>	<b>2,919,270</b>	<b>3,915,407</b>	<b>996,137</b>		
<b>Operating Expense</b>							
Employee Costs		(1,582,760)	(1,582,760)	1,694,508	(111,748)	(7.06%)	
Materials and Contracts		(1,638,451)	(1,638,451)	1,209,603	428,848	26.17%	▲
Utility Charges		(267,455)	(267,455)	234,480	32,975	12.33%	▲
Depreciation on Non-Current Assets		(4,780,500)	(4,780,500)	6,109,685	(1,329,185)	(27.80%)	▼
Interest Expenses		(2,706)	(2,706)	3,346	(640)	(23.64%)	
Insurance Expenses		(253,645)	(253,645)	259,002	(5,357)	(2.11%)	
Other Expenditure		(24,000)	(24,000)	23,391	609	2.54%	
Loss on Disposal of Assets	8	(959)	(959)	2,047	(1,088)	(113.50%)	
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>(8,550,476)</b>	<b>(8,550,476)</b>	<b>9,536,063</b>	<b>(985,587)</b>		
<b>Funding Balance Adjustments</b>							
Add back Depreciation		4,780,500	4,780,500	6,109,685	1,329,185	27.80%	▲
Adjust (Profit)/Loss on Asset Disposal	8	(76,574)	(76,574)	12,921	63,653	(83.13%)	
Adjust Provisions and Accruals		0	0	0	0		
Adjust Rounding		0	0	0	0		
<b>Net Cash from Operations</b>		<b>(927,280)</b>	<b>(927,280)</b>	<b>476,108</b>	<b>1,403,388</b>		
<b>Capital Revenues</b>							
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	11	2,746,375	2,746,375	2,301,818	(444,557)	(16.19%)	▼
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	8	280,549	280,549	172,264	(108,285)	(38.60%)	▼
Proceeds from Sale of Assets		0	0	0	0		
<b>Total Capital Revenues</b>		<b>3,026,924</b>	<b>3,026,924</b>	<b>2,474,082</b>	<b>(552,842)</b>		
<b>Capital Expenses</b>							
Land and Buildings	13	(317,017)	(249,913)	(239,793)	313	0.13%	
Infrastructure - Roads	13	(2,492,909)	(2,492,909)	(2,454,953)	37,956	1.52%	
Infrastructure - Footpaths	13	(45,000)	(45,000)	0	45,000	100.00%	▲
Infrastructure - Drainage	13	(159,504)	(134,504)	(145,447)	(10,943)	(8.14%)	
Plant and Equipment	13	(783,477)	(551,697)	(230,395)	321,302	58.24%	▲
Furniture and Equipment	13	(36,000)	(36,000)	(7,250)	28,750	79.86%	▲
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>		<b>(3,833,907)</b>	<b>(3,386,023)</b>	<b>(3,077,839)</b>	<b>529,690</b>		
<b>Net Cash from Capital Activities</b>		<b>(806,983)</b>	<b>(382,478)</b>	<b>603,757</b>	<b>227</b>		
<b>Financing</b>							
Transfer from Reserves	7	117,000	0	18,000	18,000		
Repayment of Debentures	10	(40,407)	(40,407)	40,407	0	0.00%	
Transfer to Reserves	7	(126,918)	0	459,684	(459,684)		▼
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>		<b>(50,325)</b>	<b>(40,407)</b>	<b>482,090</b>	<b>(441,684)</b>		
<b>Net Operations, Capital and Financing</b>		<b>(1,784,588)</b>	<b>(1,350,165)</b>	<b>609,739</b>	<b>442,884</b>		
<b>Opening Funding Surplus(Deficit)</b>	3	<b>1,784,588</b>	<b>1,784,588</b>	<b>1,750,242</b>	<b>(34,346)</b>	<b>(1.92%)</b>	
<b>Closing Funding Surplus(Deficit)</b>	3	<b>0</b>	<b>434,423</b>	<b>1,140,503</b>	<b>408,538</b>		

Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Budget and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.  
Refer to Note 2 for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

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

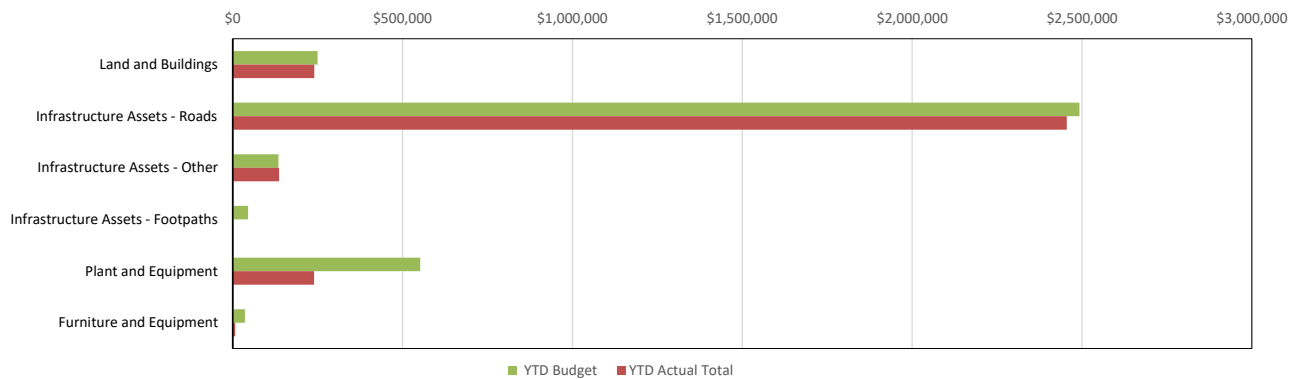
**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS AND CAPITAL FUNDING**  
For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

		YTD 30 06 2025					
Capital Acquisitions	Note	YTD Actual New /Upgrade (a)	YTD Actual (Renewal Expenditure) (b)	YTD Actual Total (c) = (a)+(b)	YTD Budget (d)	Amended Annual Budget	Variance (d) - (c)
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land and Buildings	13	239,793	0	239,793	249,913	317,017	(6,220)
Infrastructure Assets - Roads	13		2,454,953	2,454,953	2,492,909	2,492,909	(37,956)
Infrastructure Assets - Other	13	136,507	0	136,507	134,504	159,504	2,003
Infrastructure Assets - Footpaths	13	0	0	0	45,000	45,000	(45,000)
Plant and Equipment	13	239,335	0	239,335	551,697	783,477	(312,362)
Furniture and Equipment	13	7,250	0	7,250	36,000	36,000	(28,750)
Capital Expenditure Totals		622,886	2,454,953	3,077,839	3,386,023	3,833,907	(535,597)

**Funded By:**

Capital Grants and Contributions		2,746,375	2,746,375	2,746,375
Borrowings	0	0	0	0
Other (Disposals & C/Fwd)	172,264	280,549	(76,574)	108,285
Own Source Funding - Cash Backed Reserves		0	117,000	0
Total Own Source Funding - Cash Backed Reserves	403,900	0	0	403,900
Own Source Funding - Operations		382,478	1,047,106	382,478
Capital Funding Total	576,164	3,386,023	3,833,907	(3,213,760)

Capital Expenditure Program YTD



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(a) Basis of Accounting**

This statement comprises a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities), Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act 1995 and accompanying regulations. Material accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this statement are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the report has also been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

**Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

**(b) The Local Government Reporting Entity**

All Funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in this statement.

In the process of reporting on the local government as a single unit, all transactions and balances between those funds (for example, loans and transfers between Funds) have been eliminated.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the statement, but a separate statement of those monies appears at Note 12.

**(c) Rounding Off Figures**

All figures shown in this statement are rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(d) Rates, Grants, Donations and Other Contributions**

Rates, grants, donations and other contributions are recognised as revenues when the local government obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating period or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates.

**(e) Goods and Services Tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

**(g) Trade and Other Receivables**

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other amounts due from third parties for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Collectability of trade and other receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off when identified. An allowance for doubtful debts is raised when there is objective evidence that they will not be collectible.

**(h) Inventories**

***General***

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

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

***Land Held for Resale***

Land held for development and sale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development, borrowing costs and holding costs until completion of development. Finance costs and holding charges incurred after development is completed are expensed.

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

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

**(i) Fixed Assets**

All assets are initially recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the local government includes the cost of all materials used in the construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Certain asset classes may be revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Assets carried at fair value are to be revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from that determined using fair value at reporting date.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(j) Depreciation of Non-Current Assets**

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in those assets.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis, using rates which are reviewed each reporting period. Major depreciation rates and periods are:

Buildings	30 to 50 years
Furniture and Equipment	4 to 10 years
Plant and Equipment	5 to 15 years
Roads	20 to 50 years
Footpaths	20 years
Sewerage Piping	100 years
Water Supply Piping and Drainage Systems	75 years
Infrastructure - Parks & Ovals	30 to 50 years

**(k) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are normally paid within 30 days of recognition.

**(l) Employee Benefits**

The provisions for employee benefits relates to amounts expected to be paid for long service leave, annual leave, wages and salaries and are calculated as follows:

**(i) Wages, Salaries, Annual Leave and Long Service Leave (Short-term Benefits)**

The provision for employees' benefits to wages, salaries, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months represents the amount the Shire has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees services provided to balance date. The provision has been calculated at nominal amounts based on remuneration rates the Shire expects to pay and includes related on-costs.

**(ii) Annual Leave and Long Service Leave (Long-term Benefits)**

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the project unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. Where the Shire does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, the liability is recognised as a current liability.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(m) Interest-bearing Loans and Borrowings**

All loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs.

After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities that are yield related are included as part of the carrying amount of the loans and borrowings.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Council has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

***Borrowing Costs***

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense when incurred except where they are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. Where this is the case, they are capitalised as part of the cost of the particular asset.

**(n) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when: The council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one of item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

**(o) Current and Non-Current Classification**

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, such as vested long service leave, the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months. Inventories held for trading are classified as current even if not expected to be realised in the next 12 months except for land held for resale where it is held as non current based on Council's intentions to release for sale.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(p) Nature or Type Classifications**

**Rates**

All rates levied under the Local Government Act 1995. Includes general, differential, specific area rates, minimum rates, interim rates, back rates, ex-gratia rates, less discounts offered. Exclude administration fees, interest on instalments, interest on arrears and service charges.

**Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions**

Refer to all amounts received as grants, subsidies and contributions that are not non-operating grants.

**Non-Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions**

Amounts received specifically for the acquisition, construction of new or the upgrading of non-current assets paid to a local government, irrespective of whether these amounts are received as capital grants, subsidies, contributions or donations.

**Profit on Asset Disposal**

Profit on the disposal of assets including gains on the disposal of long term investments. Losses are disclosed under the expenditure classifications.

**Fees and Charges**

Revenues (other than service charges) from the use of facilities and charges made for local government services, sewerage rates, rentals, hire charges, fee for service, photocopying charges, licences, sale of goods or information, fines, penalties and administration fees. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as rubbish collection fees, rental of property, fines and penalties, other fees and charges.

**Service Charges**

Service charges imposed under Division 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995. Regulation 54 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 identifies the These are television and radio broadcasting, underground electricity and neighbourhood surveillance services. Exclude rubbish removal charges. Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

**Interest Earnings**

Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

**Other Revenue / Income**

Other revenue, which can not be classified under the above headings, includes dividends, discounts, rebates etc.

**Employee Costs**

All costs associate with the employment of person such as salaries, wages, allowances, benefits such as vehicle and housing, superannuation, employment expenses, removal expenses, relocation expenses, worker's compensation insurance, training costs, conferences, safety expenses, medical examinations, fringe benefit tax, etc.

**Materials and Contracts**

All expenditures on materials, supplies and contracts not classified under other headings. These include supply of goods and materials, legal expenses, consultancy, maintenance agreements, communication expenses, advertising expenses, membership, periodicals, publications, hire expenses, rental, leases, postage and freight etc. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as contract services, consultancy, information technology, rental or lease expenditures.

**Utilities (Gas, Electricity, Water, etc.)**

Expenditures made to the respective agencies for the provision of power, gas or water. Exclude expenditures incurred for the reinstatement of roadwork on behalf of these agencies.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(q) Nature or Type Classifications (Continued)**

**Insurance**

All insurance other than worker's compensation and health benefit insurance included as a cost of employment.

**Loss on asset disposal**

Loss on the disposal of fixed assets.

**Depreciation on non-current assets**

Depreciation expense raised on all classes of assets.

**Interest expenses**

Interest and other costs of finance paid, including costs of finance for loan debentures, overdraft accommodation and refinancing expenses.

**Other expenditure**

Statutory fees, taxes, provision for bad debts, member's fees or levies including WA Fire Brigade Levy and State taxes. Donations and subsidies made to community groups.

**(r) Statement of Objectives**

Council has adopted a 'Plan for the future' comprising a Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan to provide the long term community vision, aspirations and objectives.

Based upon feedback received from the community the vision of the Shire is:

*A Collaborative Council, dedicated to maintaining and developing our community assets for the benefit of our residents whilst supporting a strong community, vibrant economy, successful businesses and a sound environment*

The Strategic Community Plan defines the key objectives of the Shire as:

- (1) Social – This theme describes the social aspects of life in the Shire incorporating community safety, recreation and leisure, as well as arts, culture and heritage.*
- (2) Environmental – This theme relates to valuing the environment, including natural resource management; sustainable land use, waste management, and recycling.*
- (3) Economic – This theme describes infrastructure planning, transport infrastructure, facilities and services and asset management and inclusive community engagement*
- (4) Civic leadership – This theme describes how the Shire embraces a culture of leadership, customer service .*

*Council operations as disclosed in this statement encompass the following service orientated activities/programs:*

**(s) GOVERNANCE**

Expenses associated with provision of services to members of council and elections. Also included are costs associated with computer operations, corporate accounting, corporate records and asset management. Costs reported as administrative expenses are redistributed in accordance with the principle of activity based costing (ABC).

**GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING**

Rates and associated revenues, general purpose government grants, interest revenue and other miscellaneous revenues such as commission on Police Licensing. The costs associated with raising the above mentioned revenues, eg. Valuation expenses, debt collection and overheads.

**LAW, ORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY**

Enforcement of Local Laws, fire prevention, animal control and provision of ranger services.

**HEALTH**

Health inspection services, food quality control, mosquito control and contributions towards provision of medical health services.



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(s) Reporting Programs (Continued)**

**HOUSING**

Provision and maintenance of rented housing accommodation for pensioners and employees.

**COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

Sanitation, sewerage, stormwater drainage, protection of the environment, public conveniences, cemeteries and town planning.

**RECREATION AND CULTURE**

Parks, gardens and recreation reserves, library services, swimming facilities, walk trails, public halls and Community Centre.

**TRANSPORT**

Construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths, drainage works, parking facilities, traffic control, depot operations, plant purchase and cleaning of streets.

**ECONOMIC SERVICES**

Tourism, community development, pest control, building services, caravan parks and private works.

**OTHER PROPERTY & SERVICES**

Plant works, plant overheads and stock of materials.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT**  
For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

**Note 2: EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL VARIANCES**

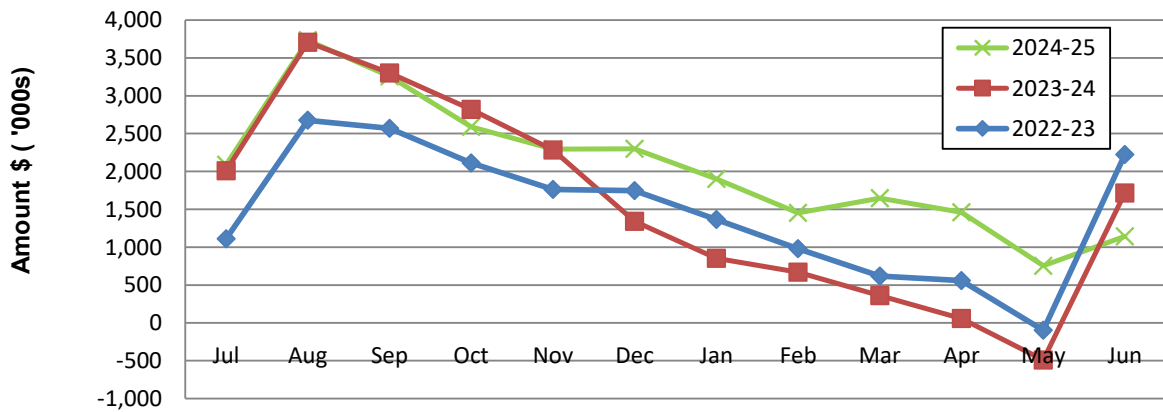
Reporting Program	Var. \$	Var. %	Var.	Timing/ Permanent	Explanation of Variance
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$	%			
Governance	22,508	1123%	▲	Permanent	Grant Income (Aus Day)
General Purpose Funding - Other	946,418	248%	▲	Permanent	Interest to be received, Reduction in General Purpose grant on buddget estimates
Law, Order and Public Safety	35,778	23%	▲	Permanent	ESL Supplement Grant 23/24
Health	962	437%			
Education and Welfare	264	88%			
Housing	(8,419)	(8%)			
Community Amenities	(32,434)	(13%)	▼	Permanent	Sale of Recycled materials, increase in bus hire fees, cemetery fees and Town Planning Fees
Recreation and Culture	(303,544)	(49%)	▼	Timing	LRCI Grant Funding to be received,
Transport	(129,312)	(5%)			
Economic Services	7,940	8%			
Other Property and Services	20,062	67%	▲	Permanent	Workers Comp Reimbursement - 23/24
<b>Operating Expense</b>					
Governance	130,468	18.79%	▼	Timing	Legal, Advertsing, Office Equipment, Consultancy fees not yet spent
General Purpose Funding	5,390	4.89%			
Law, Order and Public Safety	84,641	25.06%	▼	Timing	Bushfire Mitagation, Fire insurance costs down, Animal Control costs down
Health	10,388	32.79%			
Education and Welfare	8,445	24.99%	▼	Timing	Donations, CDO projects not yet spent
Housing	(39,439)	(18.36%)	▲	Timing	Building Maintenance - increase, Depreciation cost increase
Community Amenities	63,349	11.02%	▼	Timing	TPS & TP scheme still to be finalised
Recreation and Culture	(250,524)	(20.75%)	▲	Permanent	Higher insurance cost for 24.25 for buildings
Transport	(1,258,218)	(27.56%)	▲	Permanent	Signage required for roads, Depreciation cost increase due to revaluations
Economic Services	84,222	23.22%	▼	Timing	Harrismith CP Costs down, Water costs down
Other Property and Services	175,693	42.03%	▼	Timing	Staff training still to be completed, Fuel & Oil Cost down, Depot Consumables costs down
<b>Capital Revenues</b>					
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	(444,557)	(16.19%)	▼	Timing	LRCI Funding still to be received
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	(108,285)	(38.60%)	▼	Timing	Assets not yet disposed of
<b>Capital Expenses</b>					
Land and Buildings	28,162	0.13%			
Infrastructure - Roads	12,744	1.52%			
Infrastructure - Other	29,057	(8.14%)			
Infrastructure - Footpaths	22,500	100.00%	▼	Timing	Still to be done
Plant and Equipment	321,302	58.24%	▼	Timing	Truck and bus still to be purchased
Furniture and Equipment	25,750	79.86%	▼	Timing	CCTV Plan still to be done
<b>Financing</b>					
Loan Principal	0	0.00%			

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

**Note 3: NET CURRENT FUNDING POSITION**

		Positive=Surplus (Negative=Deficit)		
		YTD 30 Jun 2025	30 June 2023	YTD 29 Jun 2024
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash Unrestricted	4	1,038,997	2,053,762	3,054,752
Cash Restricted	4	3,681,298	3,272,386	2,824,404
Receivables - Rates	6	44,774	20,237	157,827
Receivables -Other	6	287,679	24,809	5,929
Interest / ATO Receivable/Trust		42,308	17,586	25,304
		5,095,055	5,388,781	6,068,216
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	58,775	(58,836)	(210,020)
Contract Liabilities	-	-	(92,638)	(853,441)
Provisions	-	214,479	(214,679)	(227,654)
	-	273,254	(366,153)	(1,291,116)
Less: Cash Reserves	7	3,681,298	(3,272,386)	(2,824,404)
<b>Net Current Funding Position</b>		<b>1,140,503</b>	<b>1,750,242</b>	<b>1,952,696</b>

**Note 3 - Liquidity Over the Year**



**Comments - Net Current Funding Position**

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 4: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

	Interest Rate	Unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Trust \$	Total Amount \$	Institution	Maturity Date
<b>(a) Cash Deposits</b>							
Municipal Account	0.00%	417,496			417,496	ANZ	At Call
Reserve Bank Account	0.00%		3,681,298		3,681,298	ANZ	At Call
Trust Bank Account	0.00%			79,633	79,633	ANZ	At Call
Cash On Hand	Nil	700.00			700	N/A	On Hand
<b>(b) Term Deposits</b>							
Municipal	4.27%				0	WA Treasury	11-Apr-25
Municipal					0		
Reserve	4.59%				0		03-Jun-25
Municipal	4.80%	620,309			620,309	WA Treasury	At Call
Reserve	4.53%				0		03-Jun-25
Trust	0.40%				0		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,038,505</b>	<b>3,681,298</b>	<b>79,633</b>	<b>4,799,436</b>		

**Comments/Notes - Investments**



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

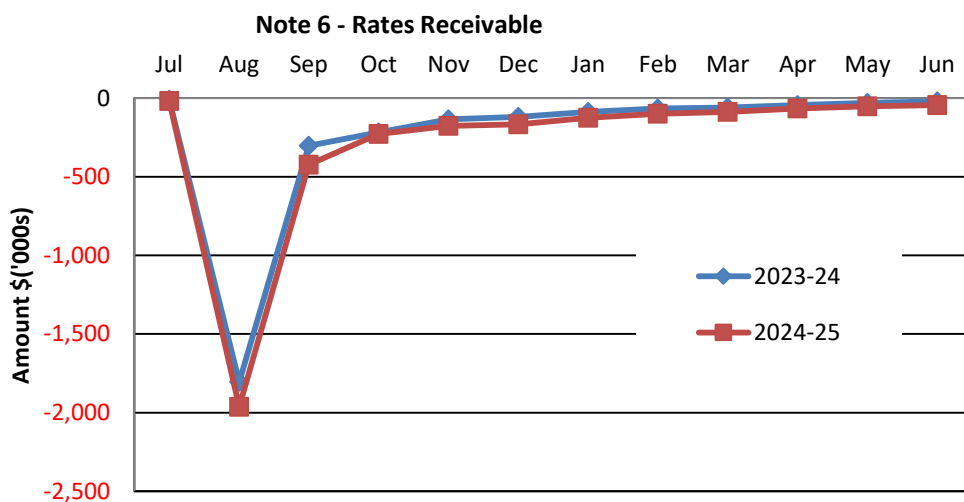
**Note 6: RECEIVABLES**

**Receivables - Rates Receivable**

Opening Arrears Previous Years  
 Levied this year  
Less Collections to date  
 Equals Current Outstanding

**Net Rates Collectable**  
 % Collected

YTD 30 Jun 2025	30 June 2024
\$ 20,238	\$ 16,420
1,834,180	1,753,996
(1,809,644)	(1,750,178)
<b>44,774</b>	<b>20,238</b>
<b>44,774</b>	<b>20,238</b>
97.59%	98.86%



**Comments/Notes - Receivables Rates**

**Receivables - General**

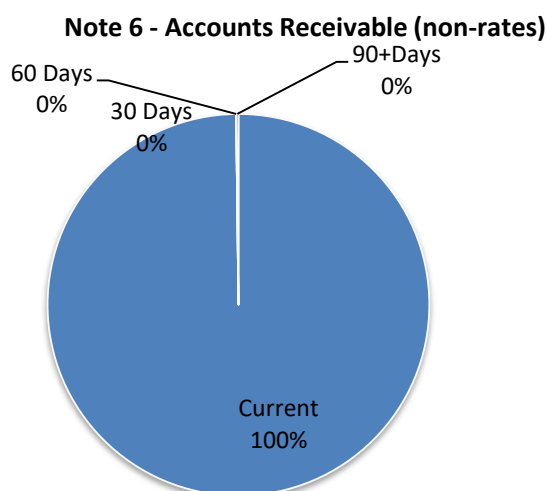
Receivables - General

Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+Days
\$	\$	\$	\$
287,128	0	0	551

**Total Receivables General Outstanding**

**287,679.00**

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)



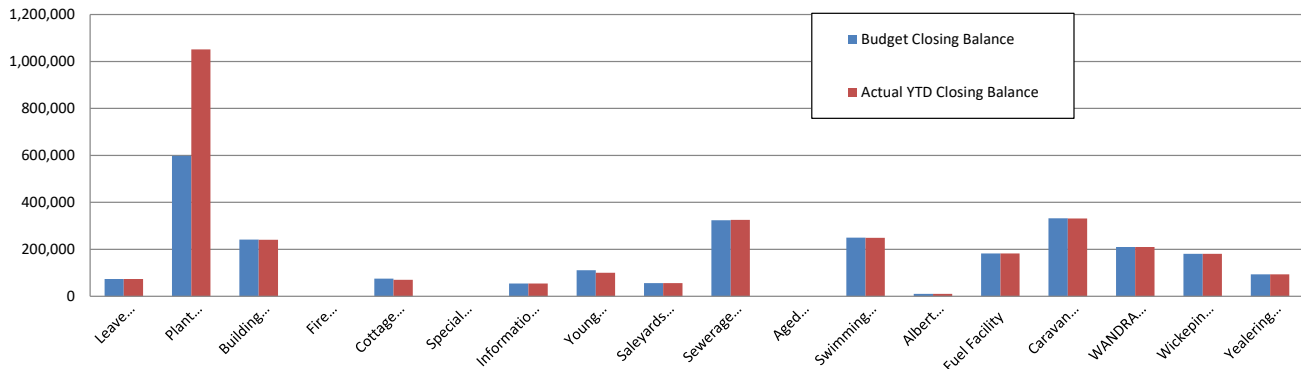
**Comments/Notes - Receivables General**

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 7: Cash Backed Reserve**

2024-25											
Name	Opening Balance	Budget Interest Earned	Actual Interest Earned	Budget Transfers In (+)	Actual Transfers In (+)	Budget Transfers Out (-)	Actual Transfers Out (-)	Transfer out Reference	Budget Closing Balance	Actual YTD Closing Balance	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	
Land Development Reserve	241,979	5,982	5,511						247,961	247,491	\$ 1.83
Waste Management Reserve	132,786	3,287	3,024	5,000	5,000				141,073	140,810	\$ 1.00
Leave Reserve	71,838	1,778	1,636						73,616	73,475	\$ 0.54
Plant Replacement Reserve	686,601	16,997	15,638		349,000	105,000			598,598	1,051,239	\$ 5.18
Building Reserve	235,343	5,968	5,360						241,311	240,703	\$ 1.78
Fire Fighting Reserve	0								0	0	\$ -
Cottage Homes Reserve	68,851	1,704	1,568	5,000					75,555	70,419	\$ 0.52
Special Events Reserve	0								0	0	\$ -
Information Technology	52,995	1,312	1,207						54,307	54,202	\$ 0.40
Young Singles Accommodation Reserve	103,812	2,570	2,364	5,000			6,000		111,382	100,176	\$ 0.78
Saleyards Reserve	66,719	1,651	1,520			12,000	12,000		56,370	56,239	\$ 0.50
Sewerage Reserve	311,278	7,705	7,089	5,000	6,900				323,983	325,267	\$ 2.35
Aged Persons Accommodation Reserve	0								0	0	\$ -
Swimming Pool Reserve	238,740	5,910	5,437	5,000	5,000				249,650	249,178	\$ 1.80
Albert Facey Homestead Reserve	10,254	254	234						10,508	10,487	\$ 0.08
Fuel Facility	178,263	4,369	4,060						182,632	182,323	\$ 1.34
Caravan Park & Accommodation Reserve	324,230	8,058	7,384						332,288	331,615	\$ 2.45
WANDRA events & Emergency Repairs Reserve	205,029	5,086	4,670						210,115	209,698	\$ 1.55
Wickepin Bowling Greens - Replacement	176,888	4,182	4,029						181,070	180,917	\$ 1.33
Yealering Bowling Green - Replacement	91,583	2,029	2,086						93,612	93,669	\$ 0.69
Future Projects Rerserve	42,424	3,076	966	20,000	20,000				65,500	63,391	\$ 0.32
	<b>3,239,614</b>	<b>81,918</b>	<b>73,784</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>385,900</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,249,532</b>	<b>3,681,298</b>	

**Note 7 - Year To Date Reserve Balance to End of Year Estimate**



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 8 CAPITAL DISPOSALS**

Actual YTD Profit/(Loss) of Asset Disposal				Amended Current Budget		
				YTD 30 06 2025		
Cost	Accum Depr	Proceeds	Profit (Loss)	Amended Annual Budget Profit/(Loss)	Actual Profit/(Loss)	Variance
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
				<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
			0	61,479	0	(61,479)
30,675	28,376	13,864	11,565	10,260	11,565	1,305
			0	5,794	0	(5,794)
65,657	11,494	57,566	3,404	(725)	3,404	4,129
50,488	1,259	48,397	(832)	(117)	(832)	(715)
55,475	1,824	52,436	(1,215)	(117)	(1,215)	(1,098)
			0		0	0
			0		0	0
<b>202,296</b>	<b>42,953</b>	<b>172,264</b>	<b>12,921</b>	<b>76,574</b>	<b>12,920.81</b>	<b>(63,653)</b>

**Comments - Capital Disposal/Replacements**



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 9: RATING INFORMATION**

	Rate in \$	Number of Properties	Rateable Value \$	Rate Revenue \$	Interim Rates \$	Back Rates \$	Total Revenue \$	Amended Budget Rate Revenue \$	Amended Budget Interim Rate \$	Amended Budget Back Rate \$	Amended Budget Total Revenue \$
<b>RATE TYPE</b>											
<b>Differential General Rate</b>											
GRV	0.820700	152	1,558,092	129,021	422	0	129,443	129,021			129,021
UV	0.499300	268	312,228,490	1,555,809	(430)		1,555,379	1,554,735	500		1,555,235
Mining UV	0.499300	5	788,230	3,148			3,148	3,148			3,148
<b>Sub-Totals</b>		425	314,574,812	1,687,978	(8)	0	1,687,970	1,686,904	500	0	1,687,404
<b>Minimum Payment</b>	<b>Minimum \$</b>										
GRV	575	108		62,100			62,100	62,100			62,100
UV	575	35		18,975			18,975	18,975			18,975
Mining UV	575	2		1,150			1,150	1,150			1,150
<b>Sub-Totals</b>		145	0	82,225	0	0	82,225	82,225	0	0	82,225
Ex Gratia Rates							1,770,195				1,769,629
Discount							15,262				15,262
Rates Writeoffs							(153,227)				(144,000)
							(31)				(50)
<b>Amount from General Rates</b>							<b>1,632,199</b>				<b>1,640,841</b>
Specified Area Rates											
<b>Totals</b>							<b>1,632,199</b>				<b>1,640,841</b>

**Comments - Rating Information**

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**10. INFORMATION ON BORROWINGS**

(a) Debenture Repayments

Particulars	Principal 1-Jul-24	New Loans	Principal Repayments		Principal Outstanding		Interest Repayments		Loan Completion Date
			Actual \$	Budget \$	Actual \$	Budget \$	Actual \$	Budget \$	
Loan 103 -Staff House	269,509		40,407	40,407	249,353	269,509	2,426	2,426	2/12/2030
	269,509	0	40,407	40,407	249,353	269,509	2,426	2,426	

All debenture repayments were financed by general purpose revenue.

(b) New Debentures

No new debentures were raised during the reporting period.

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 11: GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Program/Details GL	Grant Provider	Approval	2024-25 Budget	Variations Additions (Deletions)			Recoup Status	
					Operating	Capital	Received	Not Received
		(Y/N)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING</b>								
Grants Commission - General	WALGGC	Y	150,400	0	150,400	0	721,491	(571,091)
Grants Commission - Roads	WALGGC	Y	84,600	0	84,600	0	448,729	(364,129)
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>								
Australia Day Grant	Aust Day Council	Y	0	10,000	10,000		9,250	751
<b>LAW, ORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY</b>								
DFES Grant - Operating Bush Fire Brigade	DFES	Y	88,692	0	88,692	0	102,183	(13,491)
DWER - Water Tanks		N		7,705			10,105	(10,105)
DFES= AWARE grant	DFES	N		15,200	15,200	0	15,200	0
<b>COMMUNITY AMENITIES</b>								
Bus grant	Lotterywest	N	67,800			67,800	0	67,800
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>								
	From							
LRCI Phase 3	LRCI Stage 3	Y	181,943			181,943	181,943	0
LRCI Phase 4	LRCI Stage 4	Y	229,513			229,513		229,513
LRCI Phase 4	LRCI Stage 4- CONTRACT	Y	145,127			145,127	92,638	52,489
	EV Charger	Y	25,052			25,052		25,052
Community Night Lights Program	CNLP Grant	Y	14,309			14,309	13,544	765
Community Night Lights Program	CNLP Grant- WDSC	Y	8,000		8,000		7,858	142
Library	SLWA	N	0		5,000		5,000	0
<b>ECONOMIC SERVICES</b>								
EiD Readers	DPIRD	Y	10,000		10,000		9,091	(9,091)
								0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>								
Roads To Recovery Grant - Cap	Roads to Recovery	Y	575,629	0	0	575,629	97,666	477,963
WSFN Grant	WSFN	Y	1,027,002	0	0	1,027,002	1,312,570	(285,568)
WSFN Grant	WSFN	N					33,561	(33,561)
RRG Grants - Capital Projects	Regional Road Group	Y	480,000	0		480,000	476,896	3,104
Direct Grant - Maintenance	Dept. of Transport	Y	196,786		196,786		196,786	0
Main Roads - Bridges	Main Roads	N		93,000			93,000	
			10,000		10,000			
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>3,294,853</b>	<b>125,905</b>	<b>578,678</b>	<b>2,746,375</b>	<b>3,827,510</b>	<b>(429,457)</b>

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 June 2025**

**Note 12: TRUST FUND**

Funds held at balance date over which the Shire has no control and which are not included in this statement are as follows:

Description	Opening Balance 1 Jul 24	Amount Received	Amount Paid	Closing Balance 30-Jun-25
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Housing Bonds	0	7,751	-7,751	0
Master Key Deposits	492	10,080	-9,450	1,122
Building and BCITF	185	4,253	-4,156	282
Cat/Dog Trap Hire	0	0	0	0
WDSC Replacement Greens	0	0	0	0
Wickepin Community Harvest Fund	76,903	0	0	76,903
Albert Facey Homestead	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Trust	2,449	960	-960	2,449
Yealering Bowling Club Greens	0	0	0	0
Licensing		286,948	-286,948	0
	<b>80,029</b>	<b>309,992</b>	<b>-309,265</b>	<b>80,755</b>

## Level of Completion Indicators

0% ○  
20% ○  
40% ●  
60% ●  
80% ●  
100% ●

SHIRE OF WICKEPIN  
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY  
For the Period Ended 30 June 2025

## Note 13: CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS

30/06/2025						
Infrastructure Assets		Annual Budget	Amended YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance (Under)/Over	Strategic Reference / Comment
<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>						
<b>Education &amp; Welfare</b>						
Wickepn Playgroup - Renew Gazebo	XPG1	6,000	6,000	5,200	800	C/Fwd
<b>Education &amp; Welfare Total</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>800</b>	
<b>Housing</b>						
14 Smith St - Upgrade Fencing	CSH12	9,000	9,000	4,973	4,027	
<b>Housing Total</b>		<b>9,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>4,027</b>	
<b>Other Housing</b>						
Independent Living Units	CLCH3	0	0	5,000	(5,000)	
<b>Other Housing Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>						
Swimming Pool - Renew Pump Shed Roof	XSP7	9,000	9,000	8,600	400	C/fwd
Lake Yealering Foreshore Ablutions	LYFA2	140,000	140,000	123,926	16,074	C/fwd
Wickepn Community Centre - Change Rooms- LRCI Phase 4	XCC1	25,913	25,913	26,504	(591)	C/fwd
Wickepn Swimming Pool- Disable Toilet- LRCI Phase 4	XSP6	30,000	30,000	22,502	7,498	C/Fwd
Solar Panels	XSP1	50,104	0	0	50,104	
Yealering Hall	CLPH2	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	C/fwd
Harrismith Cricket Club	XHSO	0	0	5,907		Connection of power
<b>Recreation And Culture Total</b>		<b>275,017</b>	<b>224,913</b>	<b>187,440</b>	<b>93,484</b>	
<b>Transport</b>						
Public Works Dept ( Old He Shed She Shed)	LPWC	10,000	10,000	7,000	3,000	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Economic Services</b>						
Harrismith Caravan Park - Renew Facilities	XCP3	0	0	7,260		Changed from Maintenance
Caravan Park Caretakers Fencing	XCPC1	17,000	0	22,920	(22,920)	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>17,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,180</b>	<b>(22,920)</b>	
<b>Land and Buildings Total</b>		<b>317,017</b>	<b>249,913</b>	<b>239,793</b>	<b>95,511</b>	
<b>Footpaths</b>						
<b>Transport</b>						
Footpaths	LFP1	45,000	45,000	0	45,000	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,000</b>	
<b>Footpaths Total</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,000</b>	
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>						
<b>Governance</b>						
Various Locations - New CCTV System	XCTV	36,000	36,000	7,250	28,750	
<b>Governance Total</b>		<b>36,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>28,750</b>	
<b>Furniture &amp; Office Equip. Total</b>		<b>36,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>28,750</b>	
<b>Plant , Equip. &amp; Vehicles</b>						
<b>Governance</b>						
Ceo Vehicle 4X4 Wagon (1) Renew	XCEO1	60,000	60,000	55,475	4,525	
Ceo Vehicle 4X4 Wagon (2) - Renew	XCEO2	60,000	60,000	56,073	3,927	
<b>Governance Total</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>111,548</b>	<b>8,452</b>	
<b>Transport</b>						
Truck	XPM4	324,000	324,000	0	324,000	
Mechanics Ute	XPM5	37,697	37,697	37,697	(0)	
Bus	XPM6	221,000			221,000	
MWS Ute	XPWS	70,000	70,000	71,350	(1,350)	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>652,697</b>	<b>431,697</b>	<b>109,047</b>	<b>543,650</b>	
<b>Economic Services</b>						
Saleyards (eID Panels)	XSX1	10,780	10,780	9,800	(980)	
<b>Economic Services Total</b>		<b>10,780</b>	<b>442,477</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>542,670</b>	
<b>Plant , Equip. &amp; Vehicles Total</b>		<b>783,477</b>	<b>551,697</b>	<b>230,395</b>	<b>552,102</b>	
<b>Infrastructure Other</b>						
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>						
Harrismith Community Centre Playground- LRCI Phase 4	XHC1	93,886	93,886	69,420	24,466	
Yealering Niche Wall	XYC1	25,000	0	0	25,000	
Tennis Lights	XCNLP	28,618	28,618	27,087	1,531	
Wickepn Swimming Pool	XSP8	0	0	40,000	(40,000)	
<b>Recreation and Culture Total</b>		<b>147,504</b>	<b>122,504</b>	<b>136,507</b>	<b>10,997</b>	
<b>Economic Services</b>						
Saleyards Dust Suppression	CLSY1	12,000	12,000	8,940	3,060	
<b>Economic Services Total</b>		<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>8,940</b>	<b>(29,003)</b>	
<b>Infrastructure Other Total</b>		<b>159,504</b>	<b>134,504</b>	<b>145,447</b>	<b>(16,007)</b>	
<b>Roads</b>						
<b>Transport Regional Road Group</b>						
Wickepn Pingelly Road	RG003	469,840	469,840	399,195	70,645	
Stock Route Road	RRG163	245,645	245,645	359,712	(114,067)	
Rabbit Proof Fence Road - WSNF)	WSB150	1,027,795	1,027,795	1,393,350	(365,555)	
<b>Regional Road Group Total</b>		<b>1,743,280</b>	<b>1,743,280</b>	<b>2,152,257</b>	<b>(408,977)</b>	
<b>Transport Roads to Recovery</b>						
Yilliminning Road	R2R004	575,629	575,629	101,906	473,723	
<b>Roads to Recovery Total</b>		<b>575,629</b>	<b>575,629</b>	<b>101,906</b>	<b>473,723</b>	
<b>Council Resources Construction</b>						
Harrismith Layby - LRCI Phase 4	XH15	50,000	50,000	69,390	(19,390)	
Toolibin Layby (LRCI - Phase 4)	XH16	124,000	124,000	131,400	(7,400)	
<b>Council Resources Construction Total</b>		<b>174,000</b>	<b>174,000</b>	<b>200,790</b>	<b>(19,390)</b>	
<b>Roads Total</b>		<b>2,492,909</b>	<b>2,492,909</b>	<b>2,454,953</b>	<b>45,356.27</b>	
<b>Capital Expenditure Total</b>		<b>3,833,907</b>	<b>3,386,023</b>	<b>3,077,839</b>	<b>748,712</b>	



### **13.3.1 Response Letter – Facey Group – Clarification on funding allocation**



PO Box 129 Wickepin WA 6370  
 Ph: (08) 9888 1223  
 ABN: 59 136 484 550  
 Email: eo@faceygroup.org.au  
 Website: www.faceygroup.org.au

10 JUL 2025

David Burton  
 SHIRE OF WICKEPIN  
 PO Box 19  
 WICKEPIN WA 6370

08/07/2025

Dear David,

Thank you for your communications regarding our application for the **Shire of Wickepin Community Grants Program**, requesting further clarification on our "Stock" Take Livestock Baseline Survey. We appreciate the need for clear information and have included clarification on all points requested below.

#### **What are the main objectives of the survey?**

The Facey Group "Stock" Take Livestock Baseline Survey is a comprehensive data collection project designed to capture accurate, up-to-date, and locally relevant information on livestock enterprises in the Wickepin region and surrounding districts.

The core objectives of this project are as follows:

1. **Understand the current state of local livestock enterprises**
  - Capture baseline data on livestock numbers, classes, grazing systems, and enterprise structures.
  - Identify the diversity of production systems (e.g., merino wool, crossbred lambs, mixed cropping-grazing setups), and the differing management strategies associated.
2. **Identify challenges and decision-making factors**
  - Gain insight into the challenges producers are currently facing (seasonal, financial, labour, pasture management, regulation changes, etc.).
  - Understand how decisions are made around land and pasture use, supplementary feeding, and animal health.
3. **Support planning for future change and adaptation**
  - Use the data to inform future trial designs, extension activities, and support programs (e.g., pasture improvement, grazing strategies, drought preparedness).
  - Build a picture of how producers are (or aren't) adapting to industry changes, including climate variability and regulatory pressures.
4. **Provide a reference point for measuring change over time**
  - Establish a snapshot of the industry now, to track progress and improvements over the coming years, which will provide significant insights as we approach the 2028 Live Sheep Export Ban.
  - Help assess the effectiveness of extension activities and demonstration trials being delivered by Facey Group.
5. **Facilitate tailored support and targeted R&D**



- Enable Facey Group to better tailor projects and extension to the actual needs and goals of producers and the wider community.
- Identify gaps in knowledge, resources, or confidence in all aspects of a livestock enterprise that could be addressed through applied research or workshops.
- 6. Strengthen community engagement and collaboration**
  - Foster deeper conversations between Facey Group and producers through on-farm, discussion-based interviews.
  - Encourage producer input in setting priorities for the group's future livestock and mixed-farming research agenda.

### **What type of data will be collected, and how will it be gathered?**

The "Stock" Take Livestock Baseline Survey covers most aspects of a livestock/mixed farming enterprise. Included in the survey are a large variety of topics, including:

1. **Enterprise details** (e.g. enterprise size, land use, stock numbers and types),
2. **Breeding and reproduction** (e.g. stock breed, reproductive technologies, reproductive management strategies, ram/stud selection and desired traits, lambing and joining data, and pregnancy scanning use),
3. **Animal Health and Management** (e.g. technology use, eID and NLIS knowledge and use, ewe nutrition, management practices for reproduction and health, lamb marking and mulesing, and health/parasite management)
4. **Sales and turn-off data** (e.g. number of lambs sold, final destination of sold stock, type of sale, timing of sale, and finishing strategies prior to sale)
5. **Enterprise Sustainability** (e.g. marginal land data, sustainability practices, pasture management, feed gap data, marginal land improvement practices)
6. **Concerns and changes** (e.g. current issues/challenges impacting livestock enterprises, changes previously implemented, on-farm and industry factors influencing decision making, planned/potential on farm changes in the future, ideas needing more information/research, and interest in future projects concerning livestock in our region)

The survey will be conducted face-to-face, in person by a member of staff from Facey Group. We will reach out to local mixed farming producers to schedule a meeting where an open discussion will take place alongside the survey to provide supportive notes to strengthen the data collected. This approach ensures that all responses will be clearly understood, accurately recorded, and a direct reflection of the producers' answers.

### **How will the results be used and shared – with both participants and the wider community?**

It is a priority for Facey Group that the results from this survey provide insights for both our organisation and the broader community of Wickepin and surrounds.

Once completed, the survey results will be analysed and compiled into a detailed report summarising key findings and identifying common trends, concerns, and emerging needs. This report will directly inform the planning and design of future Facey Group projects, ensuring that upcoming initiatives are aligned with real, on-the-ground challenges and current producer practices. For example, if survey results reveal gaps in pasture and feed management knowledge, future workshops or trials may be developed to address these shortfalls while complementing existing



systems and capabilities. The survey outputs will underpin future projects, including targeted workshops, grant applications, and collaborative research proposals addressing identified knowledge gaps

Importantly, the insights gained will also be shared with local service providers, industry bodies, and community organisations, enabling them to tailor their support services and extension activities more effectively. By delivering a clear picture of the region's livestock sector and its evolving needs, this project will play a vital role in strengthening local service delivery, guiding strategic investment, and supporting the long-term sustainability and resilience of the local farming community.

Alongside using the data to strengthen the research, development, and support systems in place for our community, the results will also be shared via articles in the Facey Group Newsletter, the Watershed (Wickepin and surrounds local newspaper), and Facey Group social media channels to reach a greater audience and share findings to producers and industry alike. The results will also be available on the Facey Group website for future reference of anyone who may wish to review them.

#### **What cost will the funding be applied to?**

The requested funding of \$6,000 represents a vital component of the total project budget, which includes a significant in-kind contribution from Facey Group. This contribution, valued at \$6,000, reflects our staff's dedicated time and expertise in planning, conducting, and analysing the survey. The in-kind labour highlights our commitment to delivering high-quality outcomes and ensures that the grant will be leveraged for maximum community benefit.

As a not-for-profit grower group, Facey Group relies on external funding to deliver research and extension activities that directly support our local farming community. While our team is contributing significant in-kind time and expertise, the requested funding is essential to cover the practical costs of delivering the project on the ground. This includes travel and fuel expenses to visit producers on-farm, as well as general running costs associated with coordinating and conducting in-depth, discussion-based surveys. Additionally, a portion of the funding will be allocated to communication activities to ensure the findings are effectively shared with the broader community, helping to inform future planning, support producer decision-making, and guide local research priorities. This funding will enable us to reach as many producers as possible and maximise the impact of the data collected.



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**Website: [www.faceygroup.org.au](http://www.faceygroup.org.au)**

---

**In Summary:**

We would like to sincerely thank the Shire of Wickepin for considering our application and for the opportunity to seek support for this valuable project. Facey Group is committed to working collaboratively with the community and would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification required to support the Shire's assessment process. Should you require any additional details or supporting documents, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm Regards,



**FACEY GROUP**



*Shaping the Future*

**Tina Astbury**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**A:** 40 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370

**Ph:** (08) 9888 1223 **M:** 0415 804 628 or 0428 882 828 **Email:** [eo@faceygroup.org.au](mailto:eo@faceygroup.org.au)

**Website:** <https://faceygroup.org.au/>



### **13.4.1 Comments from the previous Chief BFCO - Trever Leeson**



## Jordyn Harvey

---

**From:** Trevor Leeson <tkwleeson@activ8.net.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2025 9:16 AM  
**To:** Jordyn Harvey; 'Cal Sims'; 'Dan'; 'Dave & Veronica Stacey'; 'Gordon McDougall'; 'Jimmy Hamilton'; 'Luke & Jenna Lansdell'; 'Matt Pockran'; 'Phil Russell'; 'Roger Butler'; 'Toby Russell'; 'Todd Mullan'; Wes Atsbury - Personal  
**Cc:** David Burton  
**Subject:** RE: District Firebreak Notice 2025/26

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Morning Jordyn,

Firstly, regarding the 25/26 Bush Fire Season Information sheet, I noticed that new FCO Daniel Bird is not on this sheet.

I do not approve of the new wording of the fire break notice.

The way I understand the wording (operations that may cause sparks) pretty well means that all activities that we carry out in our paddocks will require a fire unit. Very open and non-specific terminology. To name a few simple activities where there is an element of risk that may cause a spark – mustering livestock on a motorbike, driving a vehicle doing soil sampling, spreading lime, summer spraying and just general driving around in paddocks has an element of risk to it and would require a fire unit combined 1200L capacity. To give an example I have finished harvesting a paddock and I have moved the header, fire unit and chaser bin to harvest the next paddock 2km away. Left in the harvested paddock is 2 field bins full of grain waiting for a truck. When the truck arrives to be loaded the activity is carried out with no fire unit. This is a common practise and is considered a low-risk activity and currently no fire unit is required.

If the unfortunate were to happen and a bearing failed at the bottom of the field bin which started a fire and burnt into the unharvested paddock next door. Currently it would be considered as accidental, and you would be covered by insurance for any machinery loss or burnt standing crop. Under the new wording the Insurance Company would question as this is an activity that may cause a spark, and a fire unit combining 1200L of water was not located near the activity. This would be considered negligent and no insurance cover.

I'm going to need a fire unit combining 1200L in every paddock just to be covered!

I believe this wording would cause an outrage and requires a lot more discussion on what is trying to be achieved here.

I'm interested to hear everyone else's thoughts.

Kind regards  
Trev

---

**From:** Jordyn Harvey <eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 June 2025 4:39 PM  
**To:** Cal Sims <csimsy08@gmail.com>; Dan (dannepowie@gmail.com) <dannepowie@gmail.com>; Dave & Veronica Stacey <dave\_veronica@bigpond.com>; Gordon McDougall <mcdbro@wn.com.au>; Jimmy Hamilton <sprayyealering@gmail.com>; Luke & Jenna Lansdell <tarwellfarming@gmail.com>; Matt Pockran <pockco@hotmail.com>; Phil Russell <phil@yarloma.com.au>; Roger Butler <rogwen7@gmail.com>; Toby Russell <rusty3018@hotmail.com>; Todd Mullan <todd\_mullan@outlook.com>; Trevor Leeson <tkwleeson@activ8.net.au>; Wes Atsbury - Personal <w.atsbury@bigpond.com>  
**Cc:** David Burton <ceo@wickepin.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** District Firebreak Notice 2025/26

Good Afternoon everyone, I hope you are all well.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 June, the District Firebreak Notice was presented for acceptance. However, it was tabled to allow for further clarification regarding the wording. Since then, we have made a minor amendment to one of the dot points under the 'Rural Land' section. The revised wording has been highlighted for your review.

Could everyone please read through the updated notice and confirm whether you're happy with the changes? We need all Fire Control Officers to respond, either by replying to this email or giving us a call, by the 7<sup>th</sup> of July if possible please. This will ensure we have time to finalise the notice before it is taken back to Council on 16 July.


Thankyou!

Kind Regards,

Jordyn Harvey  
Executive Support Officer



PO Box 19, Wickepin WA 6370  
(08) 9888 1005 e: [eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@wickepin.wa.gov.au)  
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## **13.5.1 Shire of Wickepin Draft Growth Strategy**





# SHIRE OF WICKEPIN

## *Growth Strategy*



[www.150square.com.au](http://www.150square.com.au)

Developing the people of rural WA so *they* can create change in their communities.

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## Executive Summary

The Wickepin Growth Strategy outlines a comprehensive plan to stimulate sustainable economic and population growth in the Shire of Wickepin. With a current population of approximately 701 and a projected gradual decline, the strategy aims to reverse this trend by leveraging local assets, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering liveability.

The strategy identifies seven key priorities:

1. **Unlocking Shire-owned residential land** to address housing shortages, support population and business growth and economic development.
2. **Developing diverse accommodation options** to attract and retain workers and residents.
3. **Unlocking industrial land** to support business expansion and attract new industries for economic development
4. **Securing investment in digital connectivity**, including mobile and internet infrastructure, to support modern living and business operations.
5. **Enhancing tourism through noctourism and caravan park development**, by promotion of natural attractions (Lake Yealering, Lake Toolibin and endemic wildflowers and bushland) and capitalizing on Wickepin's status as an Astrotourism destination.
6. **Investing in townscape improvements** to boost community pride and visitor appeal.
7. **Renewable energy**.

The Shire of Wickepin's economy is predominantly agricultural, contributing \$95.5 million in output, with emerging opportunities in mining (kaolin), tourism, and renewable energy. The Shire's Gross Regional Product (GRP) has grown by 14% over the past decade, reaching \$70.7 million in 2024.

### Challenges and Opportunities

- **Population Decline:** The population has decreased by 8% over the past decade, with an aging demographic.
- **Housing Shortage:** Limited availability of rental and purchase properties across all towns.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Limited fibre upgrades; reliance on satellite and wireless services.
- **Freight and Logistics:** Strategic location near Narrogin and CBH grain sites offers potential for logistics and industrial development.
- **Tourism:** Opportunities in night time tourism, promotion of existing local natural attractions.
- **Renewable Energy:** Proximity to the SWIS network positions Wickepin for future energy projects.

The strategy is heavily underpinned by the Town Planning Scheme and we recommend that the Shire positions itself *as a residential lifestyle and commercial satellite town to Narrogin; where agriculture, mining, and downstream processing co-exist and are supported by local natural attractions and nighttime tourism and events.*

# 1. Rational

## 1.1 THE HISTORY

The Shire of Wickepin is situated in the wheatbelt of Western Australia, rich in history and made up of 5 local areas: Wickepin, Yealering, Harrismith, Tincurrin and Toolibin. The town of Wickepin is just 30 minutes from the regional town of Narrogin and two and a half hours southeast of Perth CBD. It boasts impressive sporting and recreational facilities for a wheatbelt town and a great mix of people with a real country lifestyle.

The Wickepin area was one of several agricultural districts opened up in the 1890's and with the opening of the Great Southern Railway in 1889 and subsequent growth of Narrogin and its surrounds, led to the constitution of the Wickepin Road District on 22 January 1909.

The commercial side of Wickepin grew quickly with three banks, blacksmiths and many other businesses, boasting one of the biggest Ford dealerships in the southern hemisphere. The brick railway station, the stationmaster's house, the hotel, the post office and most of the present shops were all constructed before the end of 1913/ resident police officers and a town doctor arrived in 1911 and the Memorial Hospital was opened in 1923. The first sections of the Town Hall were built in 1920 with various additions taking place up until 1963. Electricity and piped water were connected to the town in 1964.

Cricket and football clubs were very popular from early days in Wickepin and there was a racetrack out of town that held an annual race meeting around New Year. Community activities and interests continue to form the fabric of country communities and during the 1980's, the Wickepin District Sports Club became the main venue for the community's social and sporting functions. Today, the Wickepin Community Centre, which was opened in 1997, provides excellent facilities for the various community functions held in Wickepin.

The Albert Facey Trail provides a fascinating insight into Wickepin's past and the town's well known author of "A Fortunate Life", Albert Facey. His house, which was originally built in 1924, has been relocated to the centre of town and fully restored. The house is connected by a walk trail through the Wickepin Heritage Precinct and recent upgrades to the playground and newly completed skatepark has added to the vibrancy of the centre of town.

Wickepin is also home to the highly regarded Facey Group, a not-for-profit agricultural grower-led group steering relevant and localised research, extension, information and networking aimed to build the profitability and sustainability of broadacre farming in the region.

To the north of Wickepin lies the town of Yealering on the banks of Lake Yealering, which supports a large variety of birdlife and is a popular summer recreation and picnic spot for locals and tourists. Overlooking the lake are modern sporting facilities including tennis courts, bowling green and cricket oval and an 18-hole gold course that surrounds the lake. The Town Hall and caravan park are also located on the lake shore.

To the south, you will find Toolibin Lake, one of the last remaining freshwater wetlands in the southwest of Australia and further east, Harrismith boasts a wonderful wildflower walk trail. In spring, the Tincurrin area has a stunning display of wildflowers and is especially renowned for its verticordias.



Wickepin Township Map. Source: Google Earth

## 1.2 POPULATION

Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measure of the population of areas in Australia according to a usual residence population concept. Wickepin's estimated resident population as of 30 June 2023 is 701.

Between 2001 and 2012 there was a gradual upward trend in the population. Since that time the population has been in steady decline, reducing by 8% between 2013 and 2023.

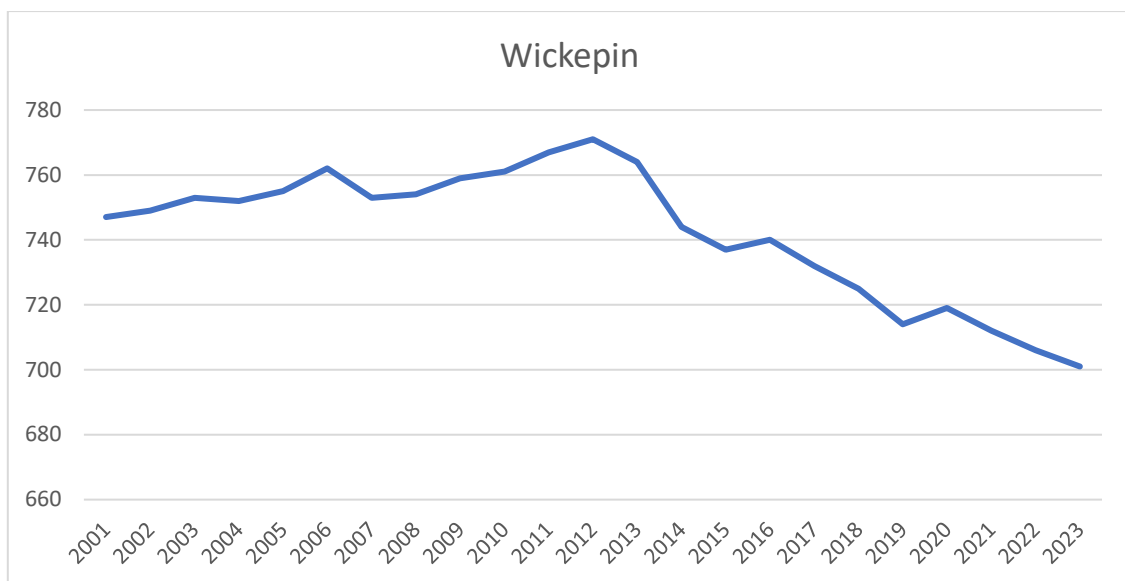


Figure 1 Estimated Resident Population of Wickepin as of 30 June each year from 2001 - 2023. Source: ABS Population Estimates by LGA [Regional population, 2022-23 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

The WA Tomorrow Population Report 12 median forecast is for the Shire of Wickepin to experience an average annual growth rate of -0.2% over the next decade, declining to a total population of 685 by 2036.

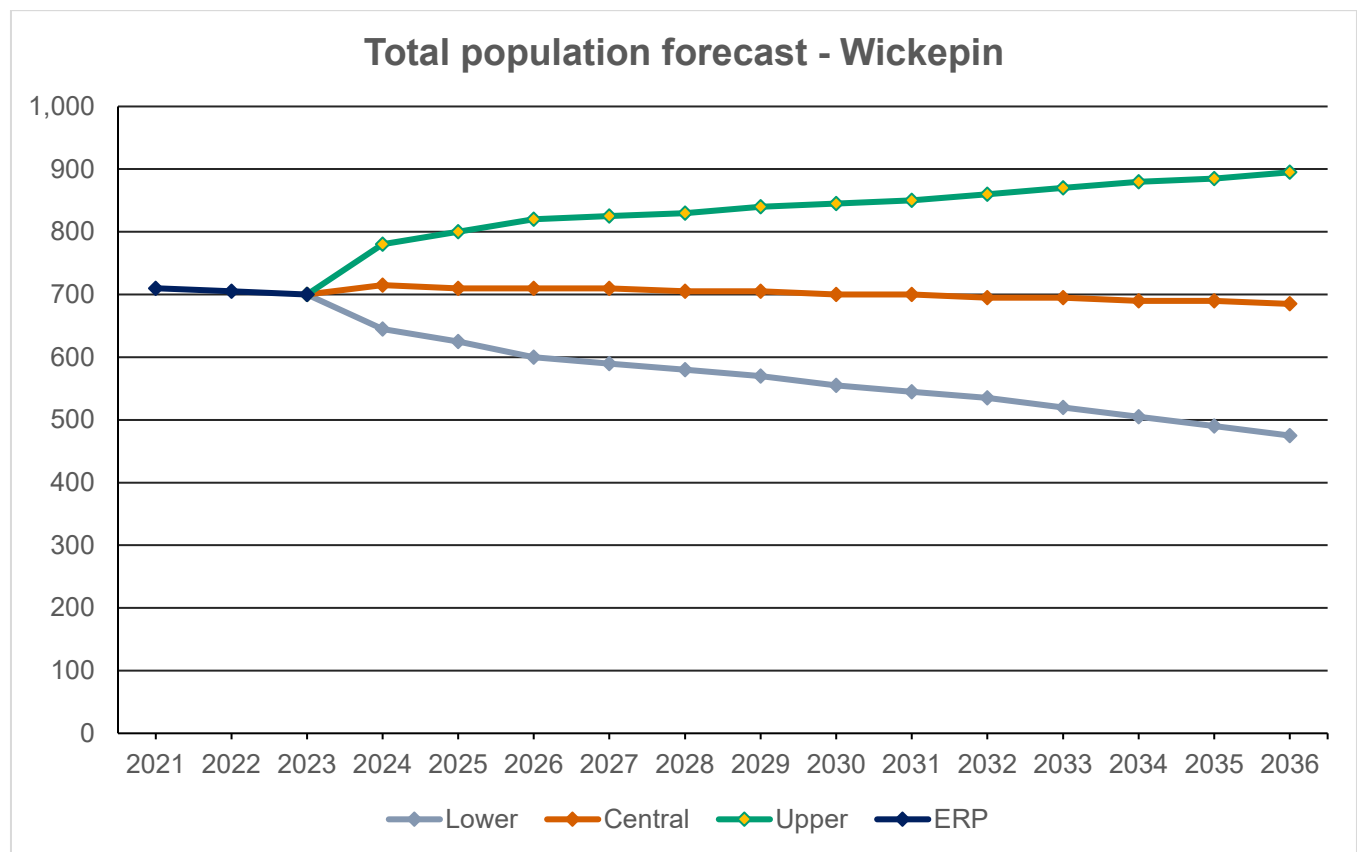


Figure 2 Population forecast for Wickepin. Source: WA Tomorrow Population Report 12

## 2. Objectives

Following a Council session in December 2024, the following objectives were agreed to for the Growth Strategy:

- ✓ Develop and release serviced land as per the Town Planning Scheme;
- ✓ Enable population growth and economic development; and
- ✓ Provide essential local services to stop economic leakage.

The Growth Strategy uses the Town Planning Scheme as its main enabler and framework. At the time of this Strategy the Town Planning Scheme had been submitted to WA Planning for adoption.

Additional enablers for the Shire of Wickepin in working towards the vision of this Strategy include:

- The Wickepin Community Resource Centre ('soft infrastructure' and alignment to DPIRD's Service Level Outcomes for CRCs)
- Ignite Wicky (Wickepin Town Team that supports local placemaking)
- Local progress associations

Based on the information presented in this Strategy, the Shire of Wickepin should position itself as:

*A residential lifestyle and commercial satellite town to Narrogin; where agriculture, mining, and downstream processing co-exist and are supported by local natural attractions and nighttime tourism and events.*

### 3. Context Analysis

#### 3.1 THE WHEATBELT TODAY

The top 5 industries by regional economic output in the Wheatbelt (total output is \$17.4B)

1. Agriculture \$4,997.244
2. Mining \$4,237.905
3. Construction \$1,234.345
4. Manufacturing \$1,166.057
5. Rental and hiring \$1,042.877

The [Wheatbelt Development Commission](#) has emphasised the following foundations for economic growth across the region:

1. Digital connectivity: data demand is rising fast
2. Freight and logistics: efficient supply chains are vital to regional competitiveness
3. Liveable communities: regional migration is accelerating and occurring across the central coast. To sustain growth, towns must offer services, infrastructure and a high quality of life.

The Shire of Wickepin should note these foundations and acknowledge these will influence the Growth Strategy and will also be priorities.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission has also identified the following opportunities and challenges for the Wheatbelt:

Opportunities	Challenges
Agriculture Downstream Processing Mining Downstream Processing Manufacturing and construction services Renewable energy and biofuels Tourism and visitor economy Lifestyle and liveability Transport and logistics (freight hubs and networks)	Workforce shortages Infrastructure gaps (insufficient industrial land and utility services are constraining business growth) Supply chain vulnerabilities driving up costs and reducing regional competitiveness

#### 3.2 WHEATBELT SOUTH SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In 2014, the Wheatbelt Development Commission engaged economists RPS to develop the Wheatbelt South Sub-Regional Economic Development Plan<sup>1</sup>. This plan was intended as a framework to guide investment and decision making to support economic and population growth in this sub-region of the Wheatbelt.

This plan identified three key areas of economic opportunity for the Shire of Wickepin:

- 1) *Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply Chain*: Opportunity to capture increased activity, businesses and employment from broadacre cropping and livestock production and in particular

---

<sup>1</sup> RPS, 2014. Wheatbelt South Sub-Regional Economic Development Plan



from the upgraded (2013) sale yards. The development of agritourism to showcase local attractions could also be supported.

- 2) *Lifestyle, Amenity and Retirement*: Close proximity to Narrogin (30km) presents an opportunity for Wickepin to be marketed as a satellite community. Trail experiences and interpretation could improve townscape amenity and increase the range of recreation options.
- 3) *Mining*: The presence of the Kaolin mine site presents an opportunity for mining to become a greater economic contributor.

The following actions were identified as requiring implementation in order for the Shire of Wickepin to effectively leverage these economic opportunities:

- Continue to promote the new sale yard facility for sub regional use, including sale events.
- Support Kaolin mine in exploration opportunities and expansion plans.
- Investigation into the expansion of residential zoned land, including lifestyle lots.
- Investigation into the development of light industrial zoned land and available lots.
- Investigate the development of an additional 4-6 Key Worker Housing Units.
- Implement the Wickepin Walk trails Master Plan

Progress to date on the above implementation strategies:

- Sale yards were upgraded in 2021
- Construction of four new independent living units was completed in October 2024

### 3.3 STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The Shire of Wickepin Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033 identifies four key priorities:

- 1) Attracting new populations and retaining our current population
- 2) Growing our local economy and providing opportunities that benefit local businesses across the Shire
- 3) Protecting, enhancing and receiving value from our natural environment
- 4) Ensure positive financial positions in Councils budget

The Plan is structured around four strategic pillars, each with a set of defined goals:

Infrastructure	Economy	Community	Governance
<i>Roads are a key economic driver across the Shire</i>	<i>We are an agricultural hub that innovates and leverage opportunities</i>	<i>Our communities are engaged, have a healthy lifestyle and are safe</i>	<i>Our organisation is well positioned and has capacity for the future</i>
<i>Improve the amenities and aesthetics of townsites</i>	<i>New businesses are attracted, and existing businesses grow</i>		<i>We are proactive about collaboration and forward planning our future success</i>
<i>The Shire of Wickepin Caravan Park amenities are of a high standard</i>	<i>Residents and visitors can access reliable telecommunications services</i>		<i>Our communities are informed via multiple channels at regular intervals</i>
<i>Maintain Shire owned facilities in a strategic manner and also to meet community needs</i>	<i>Tourism opportunities create value to our communities</i>		

4. Economic Overview

Of the total \$17.794 billion output generated in Wheatbelt region, \$135.858 million is generated in the Wickepin Shire (0.8%). Of the \$8.694 billion value added in the Wheatbelt Region \$68.643 million value is added by Wickepin.

The local economy is underpinned by agriculture. Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the Shire’s largest output (gross revenue) generating sector, supporting an estimated output of \$95.510 million (70.3% of all output generated in the Shire). The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry is also the Shires largest exporter (generating exports estimated at \$84.834 million) and importer (spending an estimated \$36.7 million on regional imports).

Top 5 Output Generating Industry Sectors across the Shire of Wickepin



The districts estimated Gross Regional Product (GRP) for 2024 is \$70.707 million. GRP is a measure of the value of goods and services produced in a region. The Wheatbelt region’s GRP for 2024 is estimated at \$8.865 billion, which means that 0.8% of the value of goods and services produced in the Wheatbelt, come from the Wickepin Shire. As per Figure 7., the Shire of Wickepin’s GRP has grown by 14% over the last decade.

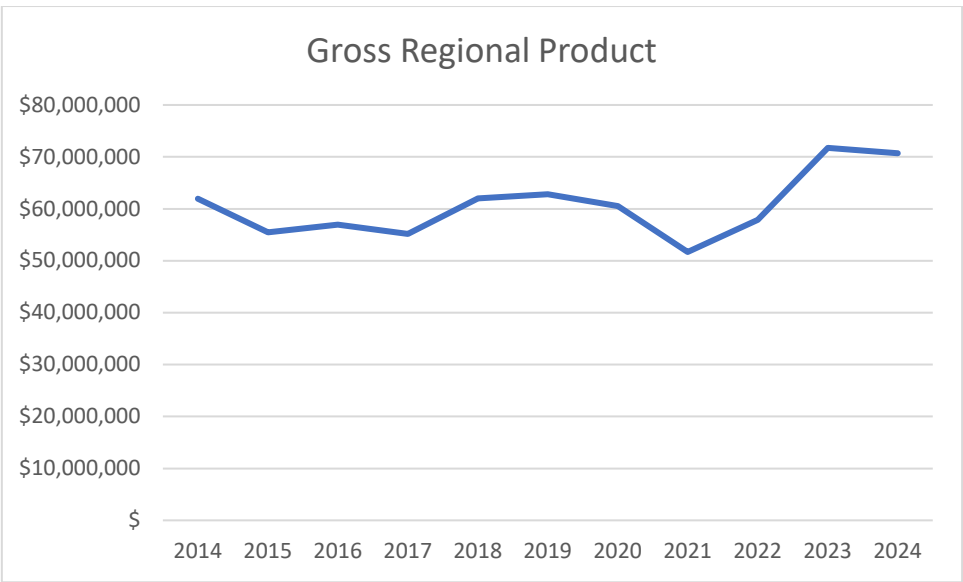


Figure 4 Real Gross Regional Product for the Shire of Wickepin 2014-2024. Source: REMPLAN

Using the Wheatbelt Development Commission’s three foundations for economic growth, the following is an assessment of the Shire of Wickepin’s current status in these areas.



## 4.1 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY STATUS

Connectivity matters because:

- Regional businesses, education, healthcare and emergency services all depend on fast reliable internet
- Digital connectivity drives the economic growth and job creation. A critical component of regional attraction strategies.
- The demand for higher speeds and more reliable connections continues to grow.

According to the NBN, the average WA home/business on the nbn network used 461.65 GB per month over 2024, slightly higher than the national average.

One of the top 5 'data hungry' local government areas included nearby Narrogin (387.72 GB average monthly data usage per household) which signifies the development occurring in the regional centre, this helps to define the role of the Shire of Wickiepin.

The nbn has indicated Wickiepin is a satellite community and does not have any fibre upgrades planned. Residents and businesses can currently access Starlink and an alternative WA provider – Crisp Wireless.

### Mobile Connectivity

The National Audit of Mobile Coverage aims to better identify mobile coverage black spots across Australia to help target future investment, and to provide an independent resource that better reflects on ground experiences of mobile coverage provided commercially by mobile providers.

The Audit is a component of the Government's Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia. The Audit will run until 30 June 2027. Accenture Australia has been contracted to undertake the Audit on behalf of the Government.

The current mobile coverage across the Shire of Wickiepin (through crowd sourced data) is as follows:

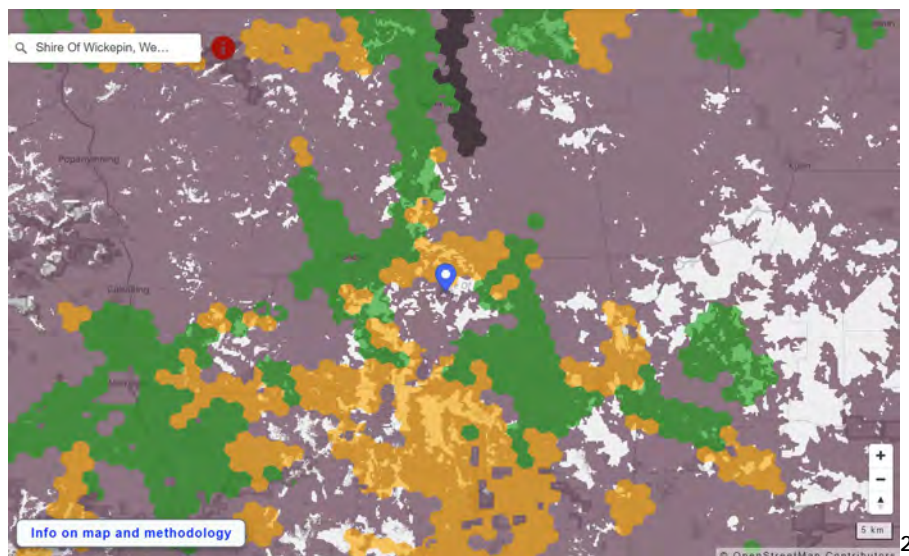


Figure 5 Green - Acceptable | Yellow - Modest | Purple - 4G coverage (based on ACCC information)<sup>13</sup> | White - Insufficient data to indicate coverage

<sup>2</sup> National Audit of Mobile Coverage April 2025

<sup>3</sup> This dataset provides data on mobile sites and coverage maps within Australia and is sourced from information collected under the ACCC's Audit of Telecommunications Infrastructure Assets – Record Keeping Rules (Infrastructure RKR). The information is collected from the three national Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Singtel Optus Pty Limited (ACN 052 833 208) (Optus), Telstra Corporation Limited (ACN 051 775 556) (Telstra), TPG Telecom Limited (ACN 093 058 069) (TPG).

## Internet Connectivity

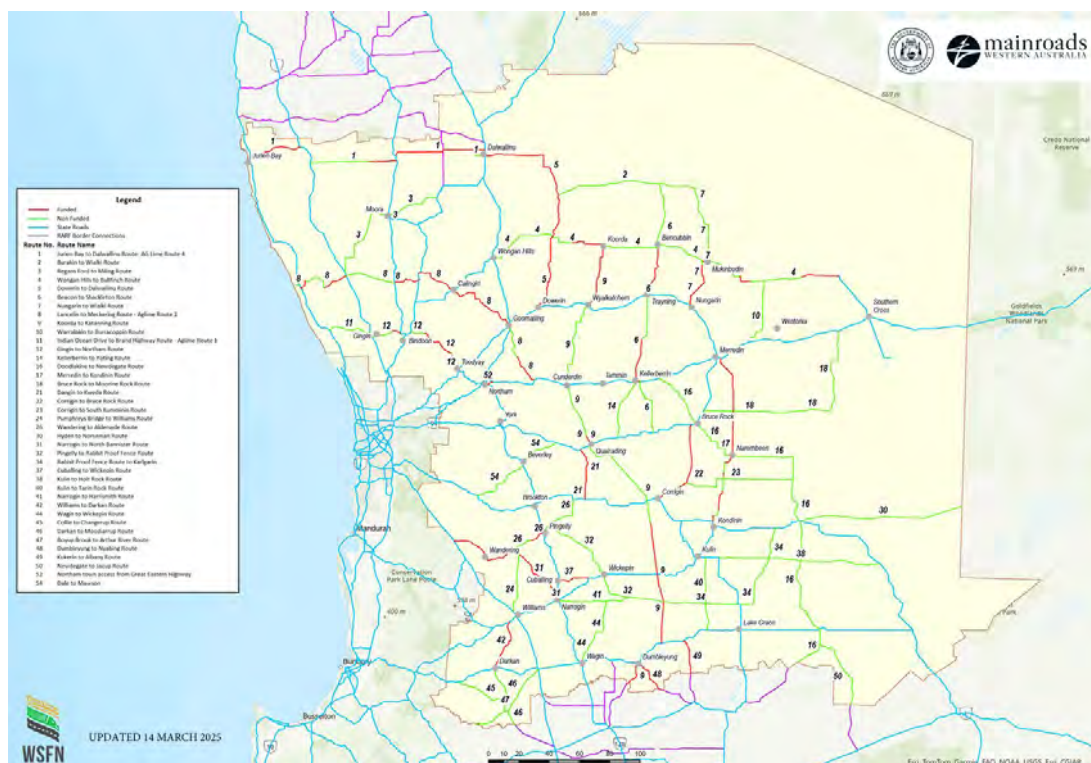
On the horizon for residents and businesses in the Shire of Wickepin regarding internet coverage is nbn is launching low earth orbit satellite solutions (like Starlink) before Sky Muster satellites reach end of life in the coming years.

## 4.2 FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS

### Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network

The Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) is a jointly funded program between Commonwealth, State and 42 Wheatbelt Local Governments working together to strategically improve the regional road freight safety and efficiency across the key transport routes that support the region's major industries. Through this collaboration, a total of 4,400km of high priority routes will be upgraded in a rolling works program.

Identified routes that are within or that will benefit the Shire of Wickepin include the Wagin to Wickepin route (not funded) and Cuballing to Wickepin route (funded)



## CBH and Rail Network

Co-Operative Bulk Handling operate three grain receival sites within the Shire of Wickepin. The Wickepin site has a total storage capacity of 243,975 tonnes and consists of seven open bulk heads and three silos. As one of the 100 strategic network sites for CBH, upgrades including the installation of open bulk heads, new conveyor loading systems, new truck marshal areas and improvements to traffic flow, were undertaken over 2018 and 2019. At Yealering and Tincurrin there are non-network sites.

\*Please note, the ACCC has aggregated the frequency band coverage maps submitted by the MNOs to create additional technology level coverage maps which are available below (where the technology level maps were not provided by the MNOs). Further information on this is provided in the data interpretation guide (below) that supports this data release.

In January 2025, the State Government announced it would enter negotiations to secure control of Western Australia's freight rail network. This decision represents a pivotal moment for regional communities, where rail infrastructure is a critical lifeline for agriculture, industry, and the local economy.

If regional centres like Narrogin, in close proximity to the Shire of Wickepin, reclaim their role as a central player in servicing and expanding the rail network across the region and supporting rail operations, from maintenance to logistics, this also presents an opportunity for Wickepin as a satellite town to Narrogin.

## **WA Kaolin**

WA Kaolin has an established Ore Reserve Estimate of more than 64 million tonnes of high-grade, easy access kaolinite at a site near the town of Wickepin. This represents one of the largest known remaining premium primary resources of kaolin in the world. Commercial operations have been established at the Wickepin site and produces kaolin products which are shipped to major producers and customers through the ports of Fremantle and Bunbury. The Wickepin site has an 80yr lifespan across 3,500 acres. Currently the operation is seeking 6 additional staff for 5 shifts as it moves towards 24/7 operation (currently it is 24hrs 5 days a week). The mine processes 230,000 tonnes and has a market for the raw materials, with a view to increasing to 450,000 tonnes.

From the Wickepin site the business exports 60 containers a week, but this will significantly increase as the business moves to 24/7 operations.

For the mine to increase to these production levels will require additional staff (most come from neighbouring communities as drive in and drive out), improvements to roads to meet the freight task and local accommodation.

## **Livestock Sales**

The Wickepin sheep saleyards which are owned by the Shire of Wickepin, were upgraded in 2021 with loading/unloading ramps and fixed platforms and walkways to meet Australian Standards. The Shire's 2024/25 budget indicates a sale yard fee per head of \$0.55.

A decade ago (2015-2016) there were an estimated 97,692 sheep and lambs and 28 agricultural businesses supported by this industry, in the Wickepin Shire<sup>4</sup>. The ABS agricultural commodities report released in July 2022<sup>5</sup> indicates that this number had grown to 120,262 sheep and lambs and 35 businesses by 2021. The ABS have ceased the release of statistics on agricultural commodities so there is no recent data to reflect current stock numbers in this area.

The Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Sheep Industry update from April 2025 reported that "industry confidence is low due to tough seasonal conditions, poor prices and changes in government policy. This had led to very high rates of turn-off as producers reduce the size of their sheep enterprise. This has likely resulted in significant flock decline between 2022 and 2024 and will likely continue into 2025 unless the rate of sales slows significantly and seasonal conditions are favourable". DPIRD estimate that the WA sheep flock may have declined to around 9.5 million in July 2024, down from 12.4 million in July 2022, and if current levels of turn-off are sustained for the remainder of 2024-25 the flock may decline further to between 8 and 8.5 million.

Although no area-specific data is available, it is assumed that flock numbers in Wickepin have declined in line with the broader state trend. Declining stock numbers will reduce the volume of

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<sup>4</sup> Agricultural commodities, Australia and state/territory and LGA regions - 2015-16, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 30 October 2018

<sup>5</sup> Agricultural Commodities by Local Government Areas 2020-21, Australian Bureau of Statistics, July 2022

livestock passing through the saleyards and directly impact on the Shires ability to generate revenue from this facility.

Agroforestry

A development proposal was submitted in 2025 for a agroforestry/tree planting carbon project at Wyoming Downs. The project proponents, Wheatbelt Connect are proposing to establish a native vegetation carbon project covering approximately 450 hectares and to register the project under the Federal Government’s Emissions Reduction Funding, to deliver carbon abatement through Australian Carbon Credit Unites over a minimum 25 year period.

4.3 LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Energy

Demand for energy is growing at pace.

By 2030 the Federal and State Governments seek to have achieved a phase out of coal. There is however a generation capacity shortfall with further investment in generation and network capacity required to meet future shortfalls.

Additionally, the way we generate electricity is changing. As can be seen in the figure below the SWIS generation output % by calendar year and fuel shows how generation is changing:

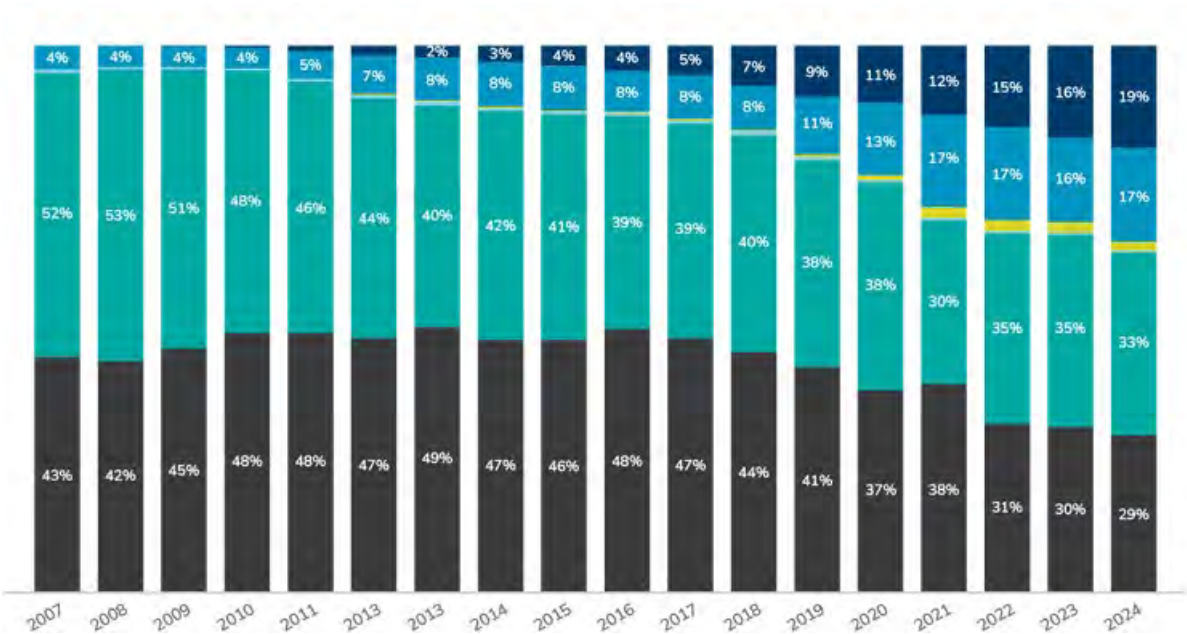


Figure 6: SWIS generation output % by calendar year and fuel

Source: Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Key:





As industry and government move towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, it is expected demand for renewable energy supplied through the State's main electricity network, the South West Interconnected System (SWIS), will increase significantly.

Initial modelling suggests that if 7.2 GW of new industrial loads were to connect to the SWIS by 2042, the level of electricity required could grow to be five times greater than it was in 2022.

Supplying this level of demand with electricity generated largely from renewable energy sources would require almost 10 times the amount of generation capacity currently on the SWIS.

The [SWIS Demand Assessment](#) 2023 - 2042 indicates that investment in transmission infrastructure is essential to enable the supply of low-emissions electricity to all SWIS users.



Figure 7 SWIS nodal map. Source: Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Since the 2020 Whole of System plan modelling was conducted, the scale of the potential renewable energy requirements has shifted. The industry-wide focus on decarbonisation is driving a substantial increase in demand for renewable generation.

Some of Western Australia's best solar and wind resources are located outside the reaches of the existing transmission network. Communities along or near transmission lines (such as Wickiepin) should be prepared for renewable energy proponents (see map below of the SWIS network). Transmission refers to energy infrastructure that works in a similar way to the highway of the state's road network, taking very large amounts of power, up to the voltage of 330kV from big generators, and transferring it via towers and wires to the network to reach customers.

In the network there is more than 7,600km of transmission circuit feeding power into the SWIS.

The transmission system takes power from coal and gas generators and renewable sources like large wind and solar farms and transfers it in bulk to several substations. From there energy is transferred into the distribution system, with voltage being reduced at each stage to a safe level suitable for properties and appliances.

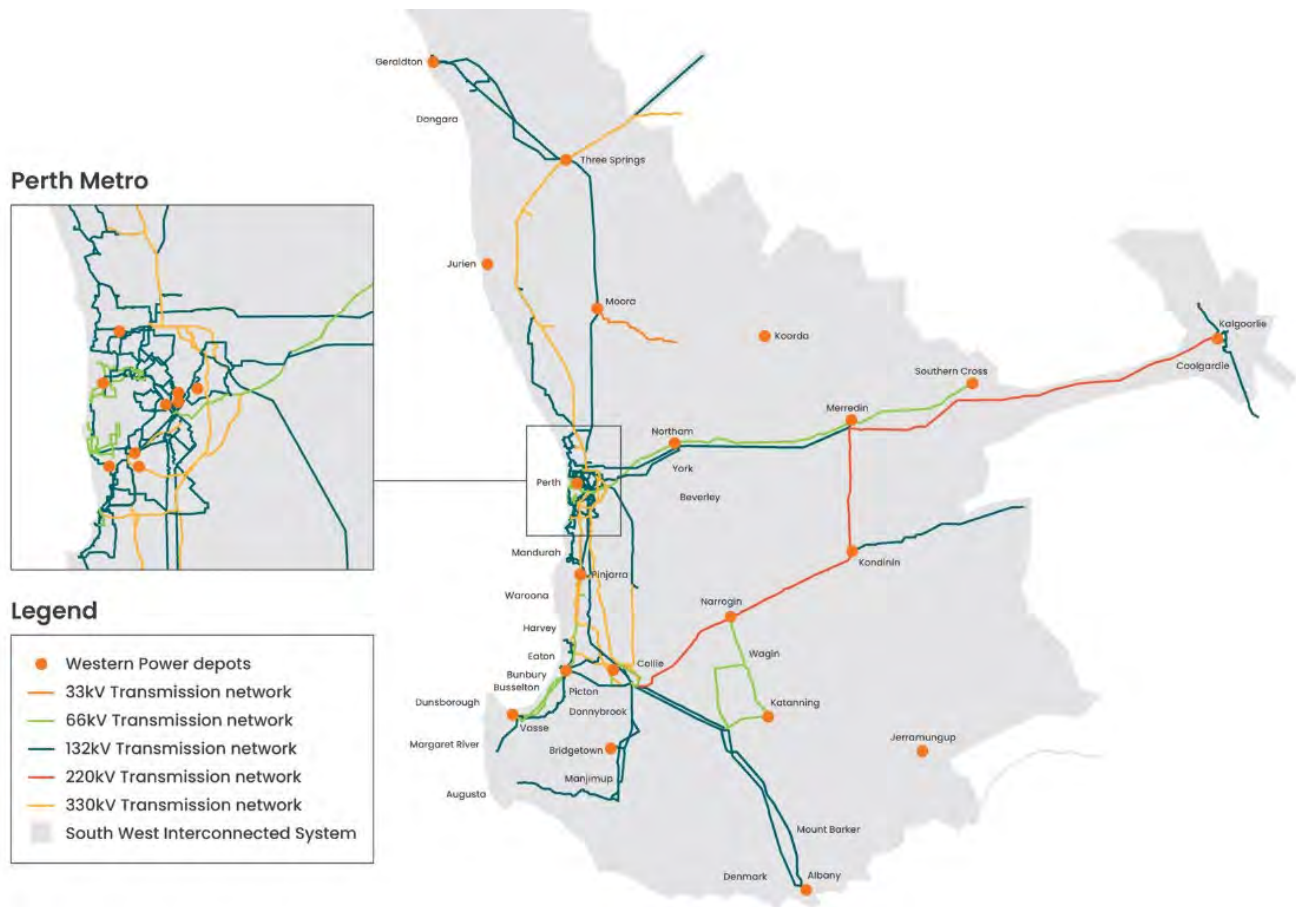


Figure 8 SWIS Network. Source: Western Power

Many of the new renewable energy generation and storage projects the State needs will be built in regional locations, often in areas that are unfamiliar with hosting large-scale energy infrastructure projects. There are a number of renewable energy projects operating in the Wheatbelt with more in the pipeline. In close proximity to the Shire of Wickiepin is the future projects: Kulin West Wind Farm and the Bellwether Wind Farm in the Shire of West Arthur.

## Housing

According to REIWA<sup>6</sup> as of December 2024, there are three residential properties for sale in Wickepin and zero properties to rent. The median house price in Wickepin is \$260,000. The median house price has increased at an average annual rate of 4.3% over the past 10 years.

In Yealering, Harrismith and Tincurrin there are no houses available to rent or purchase as of December 2024.

The majority of residential properties in the Shire are houses and are either fully owned or being purchased (i.e., owned with a mortgage).

Ownership Types	Wickepin	Yealering	Harrismith
Fully owned	48.6%	62.4%	46.6%
Being purchased	22.6%	37.6%	26.7%
Being rented	28.8%	0%	26.7%
Other	0%	0%	0%
Property Types	Wickepin	Yealering	Harrismith
House	93.4%	100%	100%
Apartment/unit	2.6%	0%	0%
Duplex/villa	2%	0%	0%
Other	2%	0%	0%

Figure 9 Residential ownership and property types. Source: REWIA Suburb Profiles

Value

At the 2021 Census, around 97.4% of Shire of Wickepin residents live in separate detached dwellings, which is above the WA average of 79.7%. There is limited range of housing choice in the Shire.

Land

	Serviced residential lots available	Un-serviced residential lots available
Wickepin	2	1
Yealering		
Harrismith		
Tincurrin		2
	Serviced industrial lots available	Un-serviced industrial lots available
Wickepin	1	4
Yealering		
Harrismith		
Tincurrin		

<sup>6</sup> [Wickepin Suburb Profile | Property Market, House Prices and More - REIWA](#)

## List of Council Owned Vacant Land

Lot Number	Address	Town	Lot Size	R-Code	Land Type	Owner	Any Known Site Restrictions	Serviced	Any Other Comments from Shire
<b>3119</b>	Keeping Street	Tincurrin		R2	Residential	Council		Unsure	Unknown details
<b>100451</b>	Keeping Street	Tincurrin		R2	Residential	Council		Unsure	Unknown details
<b>218</b>	Central Avenue	Wickepin		R2	Reserve	Council	Vested - Public Recreation	Unsure	
<b>8</b>	Collins Street	Wickepin	1103 m2	R2	Residential	Council		Yes	Proposed for new Shire House
<b>9001</b>	Curlew Way	Wickepin	91.247ha	RR	Rural Residential	Council		No	English Land for Subdivision - Has been in development phase. Growing Better Regions grant was going to be applied for. Missed Round 1 and Round 2 the scope changed and headworks were no longer eligible.
<b>600</b>	Johnson Street	Wickepin		C2	Commercial	Council		No	Civic/ Cultural. This is an area behind the medical centre and beside the town hall. Is used for car parking. Was looked at a couple of years ago to seal as a carpark but then that was rejected because of cost
<b>41</b>	Moss Parade	Wickepin	1601 m2	R2	Residential	Council		Yes	Executive / Group Housing
<b>46</b>	Moss Parade	Wickepin		R3	Reserve	Council	Drainage Reserve 39623	No	
<b>207</b>	Peters Street	Wickepin		R3	Reserve	Council	Vested Recreation	Unsure	No direction or ideas about options for this block
<b>73</b>	Richter Street	Wickepin	1012 m2	I1	Industrial	Council		Yes	No direction or ideas about options for this block
<b>209</b>	Richter Street	Wickepin		I1	Industrial	Council		No	Current Parking for Sheep Yards
<b>48</b>	Richter Street	Wickepin		I1	Industrial	Council		No	Current Parking for Sheep Yards
<b>47</b>	Richter Street	Wickepin		I1	Industrial	Council		No	Current Parking for Sheep Yards
<b>69</b>	Richter Street	Wickepin	1043m2	I1	Industrial	Council	Prone to flooding	No	
<b>57</b>	Wogolin Road	Wickepin	1032 m2	T1		Council	This has a drainage channel in it	Yes	Town Centre. This and lot 59 Wogolin Rd
<b>99</b>	Connor Street	Yealering		R3	Reserve	Council	Reserve 31560	Unsure	Dept of Planning lands and Heritage
<b>3217</b>	Dalton Street	Yealering		R3	Reserve	Council	Vested as reserve	Unsure	No direction or ideas about options for this block
<b>100458</b>	Dalton Street	Yealering		R3	Reserve	Council	Vested as reserve	Unsure	No direction or ideas about options for this block



## Tourism

Of the \$345.036 million tourism output generated in the Wheatbelt region \$2.222 million is generated in the Wickepin Shire.

The industry sector in the Shire which captures the most value from visitor expenditure is accommodation and food services. It is estimated that this sector captures \$0.67 for every dollar spent by visitors to the Shire of Wickepin. In the Wickepin Shire, tourism supports 10 jobs.

The average stay of domestic overnight visitors as of 2023, was 3 nights and international visitors is 17 nights. The average spend per trip for domestic day visitors is \$190, for domestic overnight visitors it is \$635 and for international visitors it is \$857. The average spend per night for domestic overnight visitors is \$186 and for international visitors is \$56<sup>7</sup>.

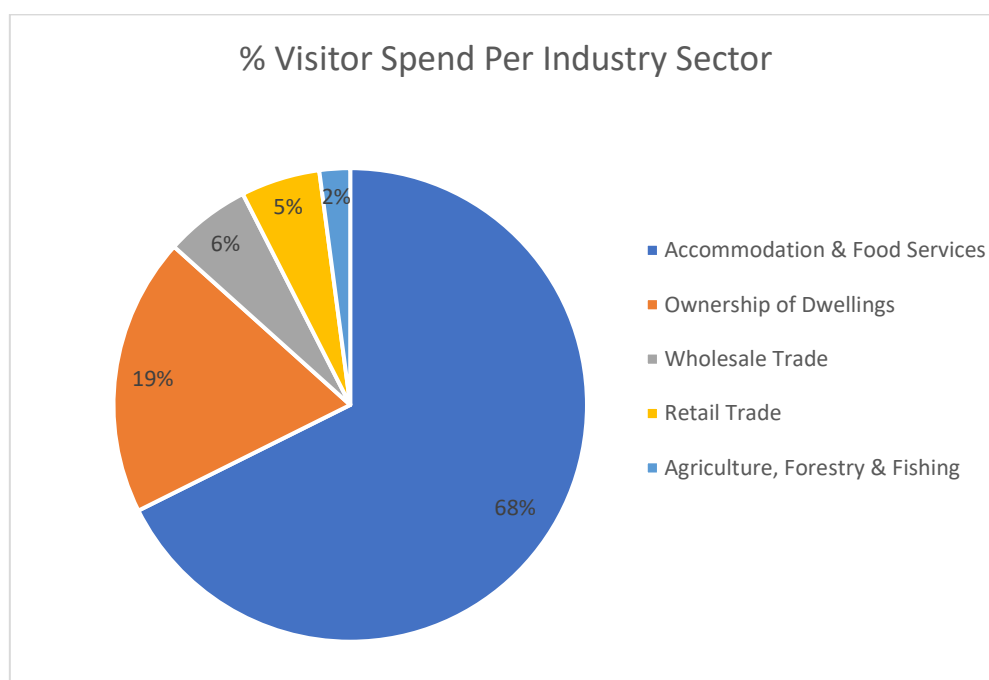


Figure 6 Percentage of visitor spend per industry sector in the Shire of Wickepin. Source: REMPLAN Economy

## Noctourism

Star-gazing, nude solstice swims and spectacular light shows are part of a growing travel trend known as "noctourism" that's injecting hundreds of millions of dollars into Australia's economy each year.

A global survey of more than 27,000 travellers found noctourism was a top travel trend for 2025, according to booking.com, with a growing demand for night experiences.

Wickepin became an Astrotourism Town in August 2020. The Shire have invested in several Astrotourism initiatives including events and infrastructure. The Shire installed a concrete viewing platform at Lake Yealering along with a giant Planisphere and Stargazing for Beginners sign. The Wickepin Community Centre has also been established as a stargazing site. In 2024, the Shire of Wickepin in collaboration with the WA Parks Foundation and Astrotourism WA hosted a stargazing weekend, which attracted around 80 people to the area.

<sup>7</sup> [Wheatbelt Region Economy, Jobs, and Business Insights | Visitor Expenditure, Tourism | REMPLAN](#)

Astro tourism as a night time activity increases overnight stays and as such has the potential to capture increased visitor spend. Astrotourism is also a year round activity so has the potential to increase visitation in “off-peak” seasons. In 2024 the Shire of Wickepin discontinued their membership with Astrotourism WA.

## **Aged Care**

The Shire of Wickepin currently has two independent living unit (ILU) complexes in Wickepin - Cottage Homes and Woodland Court ILUs - with a total of three single bedroom units, one two-bedroom unit and four three bedroom units. The ILUs are owned and managed by the Shire of Wickepin with Council staff responsible for day to day operations under the guidance of policies and procedures established by Council.

In September 2019, the Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food, announced that \$2.8m (of a \$5.09m project) would be contributed towards an aged housing project that would deliver 14 independent living units across four local governments in the Wheatbelt south - Wickepin, Cuballing, Kondinin and Corrigin. Of the 14 units being constructed, four would be built in Wickepin. The construction of the Woodland Court ILU's in Wickepin, which was also supported by funding through the Australian Governments Drought Communities Program and the Shire of Wickepin, was completed in October 2024.

WA Country Health Service operates a Commonwealth Home Support Program from the Wickepin health centre on Mondays and Tuesdays. Services available include domestic assistance, home maintenance, transport and personal care.

Older residents of Wickepin are also supported by the Staying in Place initiative. This initiative, which was pioneered by the Pingelly Community Resource Centre, provides local place-based care services for seniors in Pingelly, Wandering, Cuballing and Wickepin. The initiative provides the necessary physical supports (e.g., meal preparation, cleaning, etc.) alongside the social support that enables seniors to maintain their mental well-being through connection to people and community.

## 5. Planning

### Key Takeaways from Local Planning Strategy - Land Development and Optimisation

Opportunity / Project	Action	Rationale	Timeframe
Crown land: land release / development Promote land release in townsites.	Negotiate with State Government agencies for assistance in creating a variety of lot sizes in and around the townsites through the Town Planning Scheme.	Support development in appropriate locations.	Short Term
Increase industrial land availability. Currently there is limited industrial zoned land.	Nominate secure and develop industrial areas to the south and south-west of the Wickepin townsite.  Based on reviewing opportunities in and around the Wickepin townsite, landowner advice, feasibility considerations and land suitability, an area to the south of Wickepin townsite plus formalising the current use of land east of Dumbleyung Road are the preferred new light industrial areas. Additionally, there are opportunities for general industrial development to the south-west of the Wickepin townsite (east and south of the CBH facility).	Industrial and light industrial areas are focused on the Wickepin townsite. Landowners near the current industrial area in Wickepin do not support expanding the inadequate industrial estate. The site selection process reveals Shire owned land to the south of the Wickepin townsite, adjoining the Wickepin-Harrismith Road plus land to the east of Dumbleyung Road (used by the Shire) are suitable for industry-light uses. Land to the east and south of the CBH facility is well suited for general industry uses.	Short Term
Wickepin residential expansion	The following technical studies to be considered in any applications for structure planning and/or rezoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage and water management;</li> <li>• Movement and access arrangements;</li> <li>• Land use compatibility;</li> <li>• Bushfire risks;</li> <li>• Environmental (fauna) impacts; and</li> <li>• Utilities and servicing capacity.</li> </ul>	Residential land is strategically important for the Shire's Economic Development and for the growth of the businesses and towns.	Commence in 2025/26
Existing public open space and reserves Review community needs, location of public open space and opportunities.	Review existing parks and recreation reserves and public open space in the townsites including tenure, usage and management. This could include a fit-for-purpose Public Open Space Strategy.	Possible scope to better utilise public open space. The Council seeks to consolidate its recreational resources in fewer, but better serviced areas of public open space.	Draft to be completed by December 2025
Yealering residential expansion	Retain residential zoning of unallocated Crown lots on western edge of town (fronting Connor Street and Baxter Street) and on northern edge of town (fronting Hill Street). Extend residential zoning east of Baxter Street (fronting Connor Street).	There is limited land for residential expansion in the Yealering townsite. The unallocated Crown lots are adjacent to existing residential lots and can be easily serviced.	Activate next 1 - 2 years

## Land Development and Optimisation - Other

Opportunity / Project	Action	Rationale	Timeframe
Council land availability Understanding what land is already available	Staff to undertake a review of records of ownership and purpose of Council owned land, to be completed in format provided by 150Square.	To gain a clear understanding of what land Council currently owns, the land type, R-Code, any restrictions and designated purpose.	To be completed by June 2025
Land activation Increase land availability	Develop Business Case for headworks	Increase attraction opportunities for residential and light industrial land development within the Shire	Draft to be completed by October 2025
Key Worker Housing Business case for increased key worker housing in Wickepin	Liaise with the Wheatbelt Development Commission for the development of an audit, business case analysis, cost benefit analysis and proposed action plan for the activation of land and funding needs for delivery of key worker housing.	Advocate to local industry and government to seek funding to assist in provision of increased key worker housing for the Shire. These documents will assist in developing a funding application.	2025/26

## 6. Regional Centre – Shire of Narrogin

It would be remiss to not include information on the nearby regional centre of Narrogin. Understanding the future direction of the Shire of Narrogin is integral to determining the role the Shire of Wickepin plays in the sub region.

The Shire of Narrogin is home to about 5,000 residents and is the regional centre for nearby communities including Cuballing, Wickepin, Wagin and Williams, all of which provide a feeder population of more than 10,300 people.

Narrogin's infrastructure, health, education facilities and specialty retail outlets also regularly attract more than 9,000 residents from the outlying Shires of Brookton, Corrigin, Dumbleyung, Kulin, Kondinin, Lake Grace and Pingelly, providing a total catchment of over 20,000 people.

Agriculture is the dominant industry in the region, however Narrogin's position as a key transport hub for the area, its big population base, shopping options, facilities and services and its close proximity to Perth make it an attractive location for new business and industry.

With a steadily growing population and a newly established future industries park, the Shire of Narrogin is planning for the future by opening large parcels of land for new industries.

Narrogin is a regional road transport hub with heavy haulage routes surrounding the town. The Great Southern Rail Line is a designated Tier 1 rail line which extends from Perth through Northam and south to Albany. The Narrogin Airstrip is five kilometres from the town.

Narrogin is also a hub for aged care services with Narrogin home care providing in home services, Narrogin Cottage Homes and Dillon's providing a range of residential care and a new dementia facility provided at Narrogin Cottage Homes.

## 7. Growth Strategy Priorities

GROWTH STRATEGY	PRIORITY	IMPACT	DETAILS	SHIRE ROLE	ENABLING PARTNERS
1. Unlock Shire owned residential land	High	High	a) Town Planning Scheme adoption b) Shire of Wickepin Housing Study and include shovel ready options to activate Shire owned land	Deliver	WA Planning Wheatbelt Development Commission
2. Accommodation options and development	High	High	a) Shire of Wickepin Housing Study	Deliver	Wheatbelt Development Commission CBH WA Kaolin
3. Unlock industrial land in Wickepin	High	High	a) Town Planning Scheme adoption b) Business case for industrial land headworks	Deliver	WA Planning
4. Secure investment in enabling infrastructure - digital connectivity	High	High	a) Telstra back up power to exchanges and towers	Advocate	Telstra
5. Enhance liveability - tourism	Medium	High	a) Astro-tourism international accreditation b) 'Dark sky' lamp investment c) Caravan Park development (all towns) d) Noctourism event plan e) Promote natural local attractions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Yealering</li> <li>- Lake Toolibin (DBCA)</li> <li>- Seasonal Wildflowers</li> </ul>	Deliver	WA Parks Foundation Astrotourism WA Western Power
6. Enhance liveability - enhance heritage and townscape	Medium	Medium	a) Public Open Space Strategy. b) Main street activation plan for each town for future townscape improvements and enhancing heritage buildings and places.	Deliver	Ignite Wicky and Town Team Movement
7. Enhance liveability	Medium	Low	a) Develop a Community Benefit Framework for Renewable Energy Projects	Deliver	WALGA

## 8. Appendices

### Community Profile

#### Age profile

The Wickepin Shire has a median age of 47 compared to the state and national average of 38. Between the 2011 and 2021 ABS Census the Shire has experienced some significant shifts in its population profile.

- Several age groups have experienced significant **decline**:
  - Persons aged 45 - 49 years have declined by 47% (76 in 2011 down to 40 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 0-4 years have declined by 45% (77 in 2011 down to 42 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 40-45 years have declined by 40% (53 in 2011 down to 32 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 50 - 54 years have declined by 33% (63 in 2011 down to 42 in 2021)
- Several age groups have experienced a significant **increase**:
  - Persons aged 80 - 84 years have increased by 91% (up from 11 in 2011 to 21 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 85 and over have increased by 80% (up from 10 in 2011 to 18 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 75 - 79 years have increased by 54% (up from 24 in 2011 to 37 in 2021)
  - Persons aged 55 - 59 years have increased by 54% (up from 46 in 2011 to 71 in 2021)
- The percentage of the population aged 55-64 years is higher than both state and national averages (18.2% compared to 11.8% for WA and 11.9% Australia).
- The percentage of the population aged 75 - 84 is higher than both state and national averages (8.3% compared to 4.9% at state level and 5.4% at a national level).

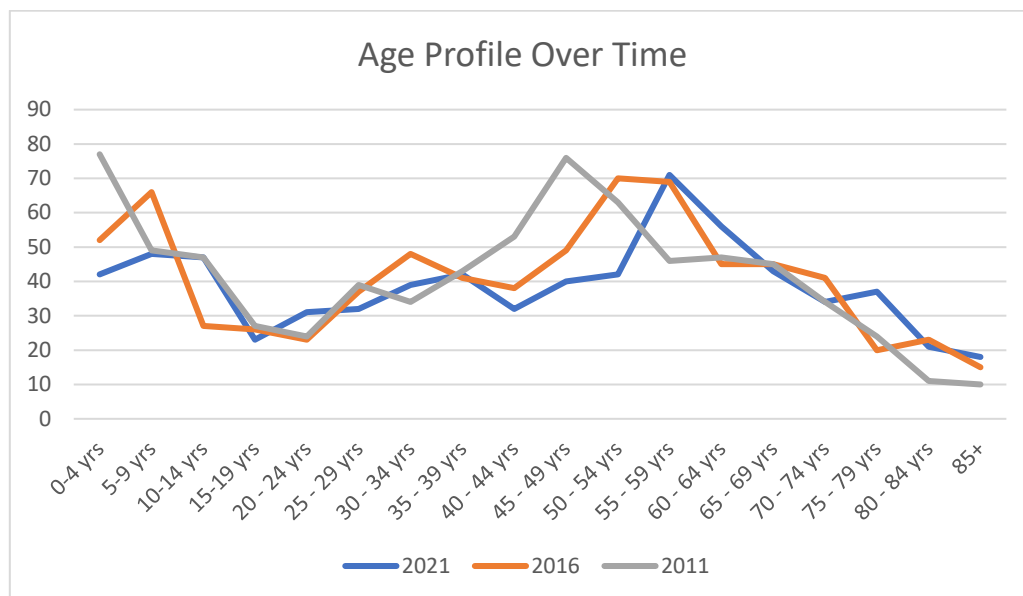


Figure 3 Age Profile of the Shire of Wickepin 2011 to 2021. Source: ABS Census 2011, 2016 and 2021 Quick Stats

The forecast age profile for the Shire of Wickepin suggests that the largest age cohort in the Shire will be 55 - 59 year olds by 2036. This age group will represent 8% of the total population by 2036 based on the latest population forecast modelling.

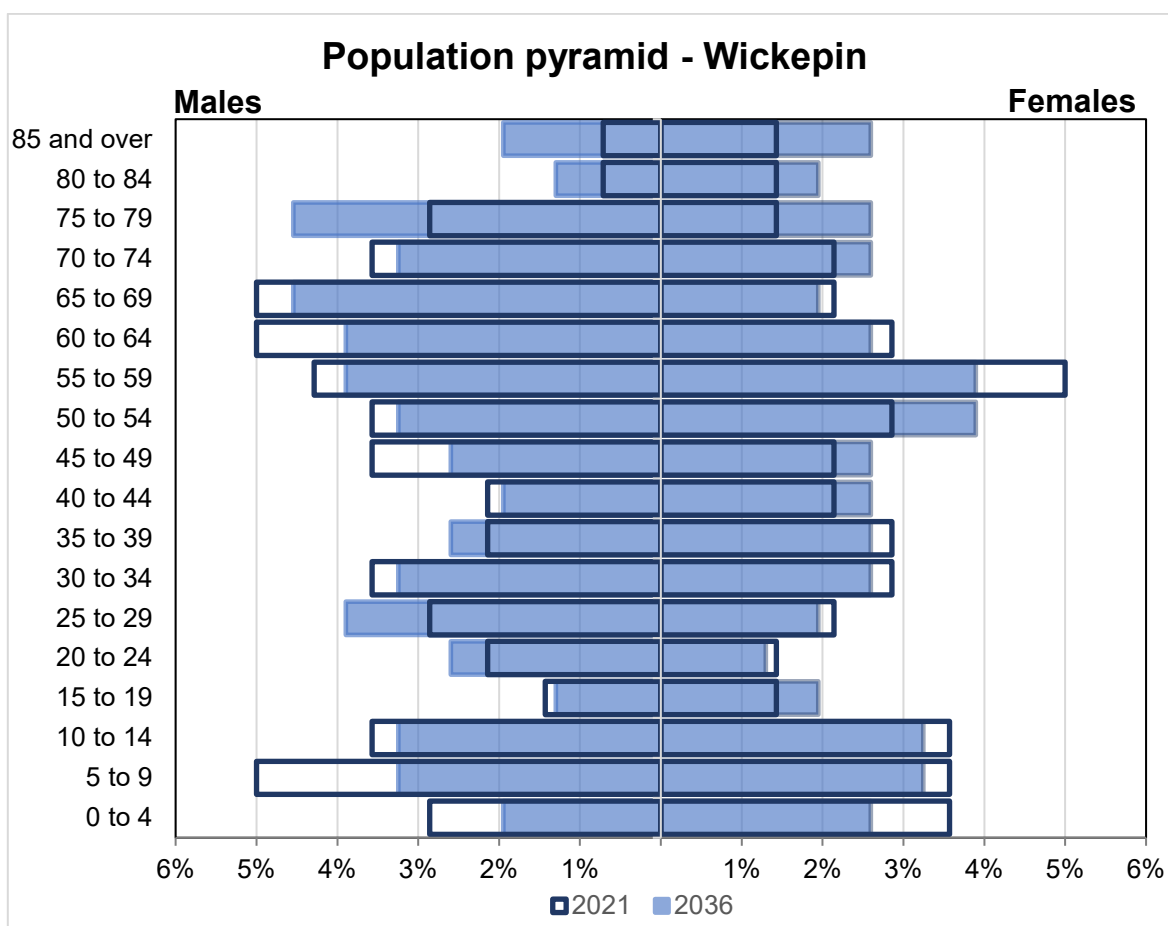


Figure 4 Forecast Age & Sex Profile for Shire of Wickepin 2021 - 2036. Source: WA Tomorrow Population Report No. 12<sup>8</sup>

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) population of Wickepin Shire is small, with just 20 people (2.9% of the population) identifying as ATSI at the time of the 2021 Census. Almost half (46.1%) of all Wickepin residents are of Australian ancestry. This is much higher than the state average of 29.7% and national average of 29.9%. Residents are predominately English speaking (82.8%).

	Wickepin		Western Australia		Australia	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	20	2.9%	88,693	3.3%	812,728	3.2%
Non-Indigenous	562	81.4%	2,431,204	91.4%	23,375,949	91.9%
Indigenous status not stated	105	15.2%	140,128	5.3%	1,234,112	4.9%

ATSI Population of Shire of Wickepin. Source: ABS Census 2021 Quick Stats

<sup>8</sup> WA Tomorrow Population Report 12, released February 2025



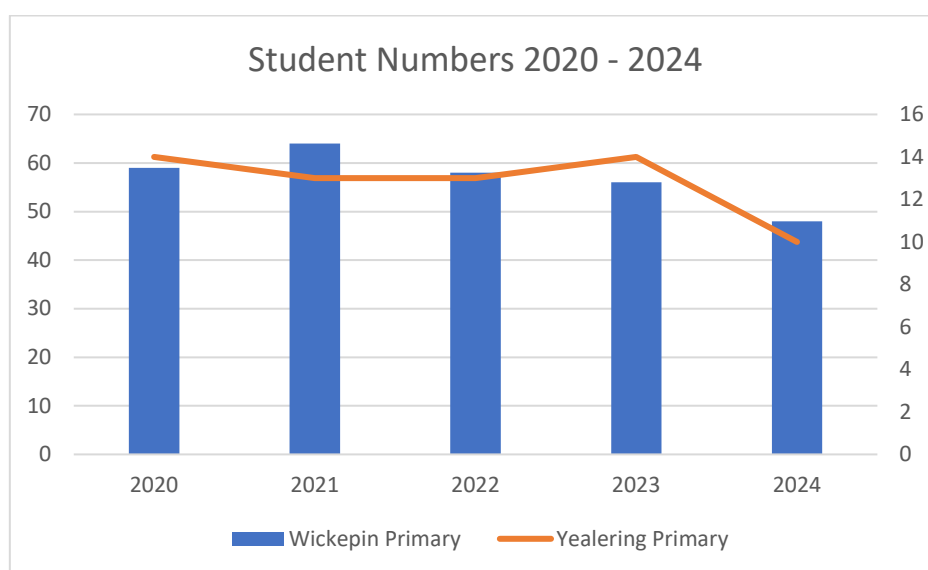
	Wickepin		Western Australia		Australia	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Australian	318	46.1%	789,282	29.7%	7,596,753	29.9%
English	286	41.4%	1,000,796	37.6%	8,385,928	33%
Scottish	67	9.7%	232,541	8.7%	2,176,777	8.6%
Irish	66	9.6%	233,323	8.8%	2,410,833	9.5%
Italian	32	4.6%	137,255	5.2%	1,108,364	4.4%

Source: ABS Census 2021 Quick Stats

## EDUCATION

Wickepin Primary School is a Level 3 Public School, catering to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Yealering Primary School is a small school likewise catering to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Student numbers at Wickepin Primary have declined by 19% over the last five years (down from 59 in 2020 to 48 students in 2024). Yealering Primary student numbers remained fairly steady from 2020 to 2023 before experiencing a fairly significant drop in 2024 when numbers declined from 14 to 10 students.

At the time of the 2021 Census there were 105 primary school aged children (4 - 12 years) in the Shire<sup>9</sup> and a total of 77 students enrolled across the two Primary Schools. This indicates that some parents are choosing to educate their children outside of the Shire.



Student Number Trends, as of Semester 2, 2024. Source: Department of Education, Schools Online

In the Shire of Wickepin the highest level of educational attainment for the majority of persons aged 15 and over is Year 10 or Year 12. The percentage of people who have attained a Bachelor Degree or above is significantly lower than the state and national averages.

	Wickepin	Western Australia	Australia
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<sup>9</sup> ABS 2021 Census Wickepin Community Profile. Age by sex tables.

Bachelor degree or above	9.4%	23.8%	26.3%
Diploma	6%	9.3%	9.4%
Cert III or IV	15.2%	17.8%	16.1%
Year 12	17.8%	15.5%	14.9%
Year 10	19.4%	11.3%	10%
Year 9 or below	7.2%	5.4%	7.2%

Highest Level of Educational Attainment. Source: ABS Census 2021 Quick Stats

## FAMILIES

Wickepin Shire has a higher percentage of couple families without children compared to state and national averages. The percentage of couple families with children has gradually been in decline, down from 37.1% in 2011 to 36.6% in 2016 and 34.3% in 2021.

	Wickepin	Western Australia	Australia
Couple family without children	53%	38.8%	38.8%
Couple family with children	34.2%	44.6%	43.7%
One parent family	9.6%	15.1%	15.9%
Other family	2.4%	1.6%	1.6%

Family Composition. Source: ABS Census 2021 Quick Stats

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

The Age Pension and Pension Concession Card are the main benefit payments received by residents of the Wickepin Shire. Between 2016 and 2023 there was a 15% increase in the number of pension concession card holders and a 13% increase in those receiving the age pension. The number of residents receiving Family Tax Benefit A (-33%) and B (-37%) has declined over this same period. These trends are consistent with the observed increase in the population of Wickepin that is eligible for the age pension (i.e., aged 67+) and the declining number of couple families with children.

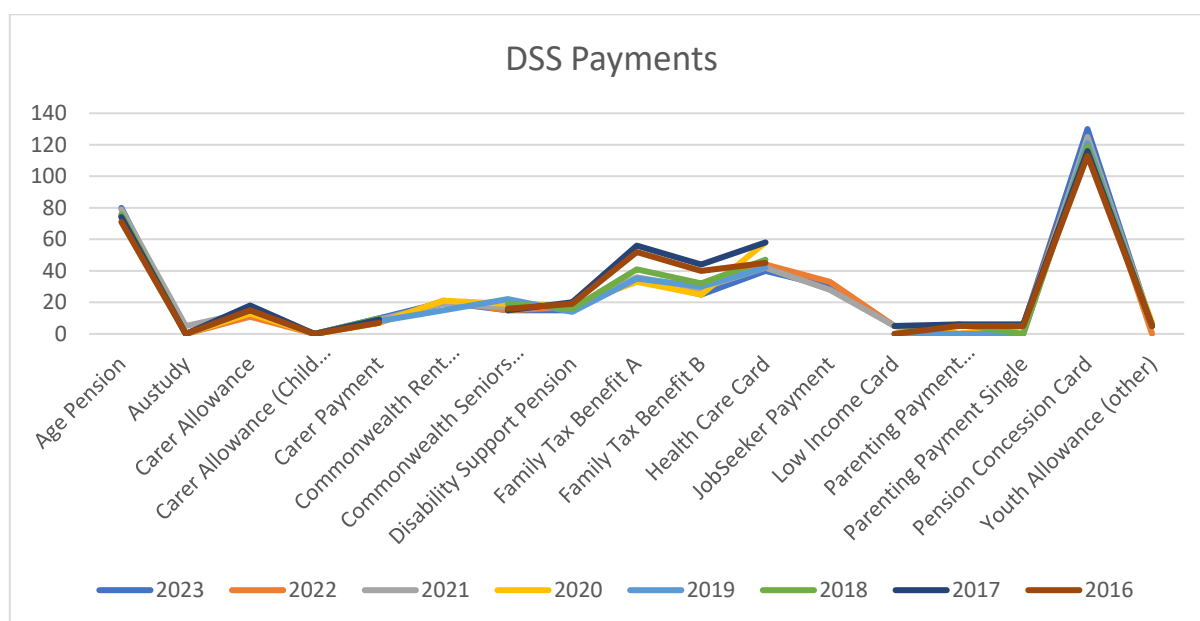


Figure 5 Department of Social Services Payments. Source: [DSS Payments by Local Government Area - Dataset - data.gov.au](#)

On the Local Government Area Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage 2021<sup>10</sup>, Wickepin scored 994, which ranks it 75<sup>th</sup> in terms of relative socio-economic disadvantage out of the 139 Local Government in Western Australia. This indicates that the Wickepin Shire is relatively advantaged, particularly when compared to neighbouring Shires such as Narrogin (ranked 46<sup>th</sup>), Pingelly (ranked 18<sup>th</sup>) and Wagin (ranked 30<sup>th</sup>).

## SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

TYPE	EXISTING SERVICES
HEALTH CARE	Centre staffed by a Registered Nurse. Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am - 2pm.
AGED CARE	Aged housing - independent living units on Johnston Street, Cottage Homes (owned and administered by the Shire). Commonwealth Home Support Program operates from the health centre on Mondays and Tuesdays. Services include domestic assistance, home maintenance, transport, personal care.
PARKS & GARDENS	Picnic areas in Wickepin, Yealering and Harrismith. Wickepin War Memorial Park. Exercise Park in Wickepin. Wogolin Playground.
SPORT & RECREATION	Wickepin swimming pool. Multi-use oval in Wickepin catering to football, hockey and cricket. Cricket ovals in Yealering and Harrismith. Wickepin Districts Sports Club.

## ECONOMY

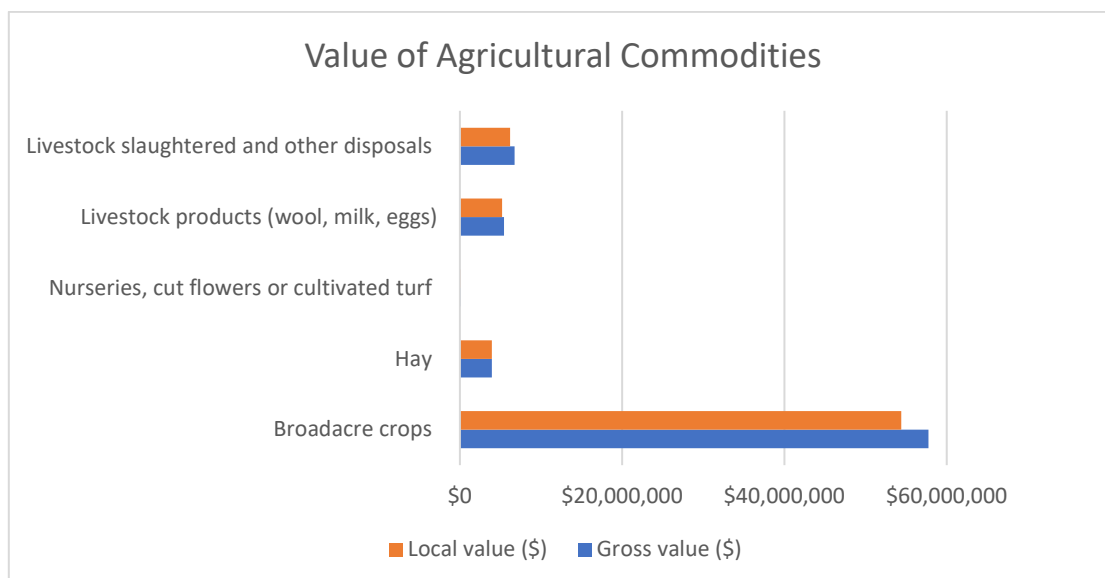
### AGRICULTURE

The gross value of all agricultural production in the Wickepin Shire in 2020-21 was \$73,930,329. The local value of agricultural production was \$69,746,447. The major value generating activity is broadacre cropping.

According to the ABS, in 2020-21 there were 120,262 sheep and lambs in the Wickepin Shire which represents 0.18% of the Australian sheep flock<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA) 2021

<sup>11</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, July 2022. Agricultural Commodities by Local Government Areas 2020-21

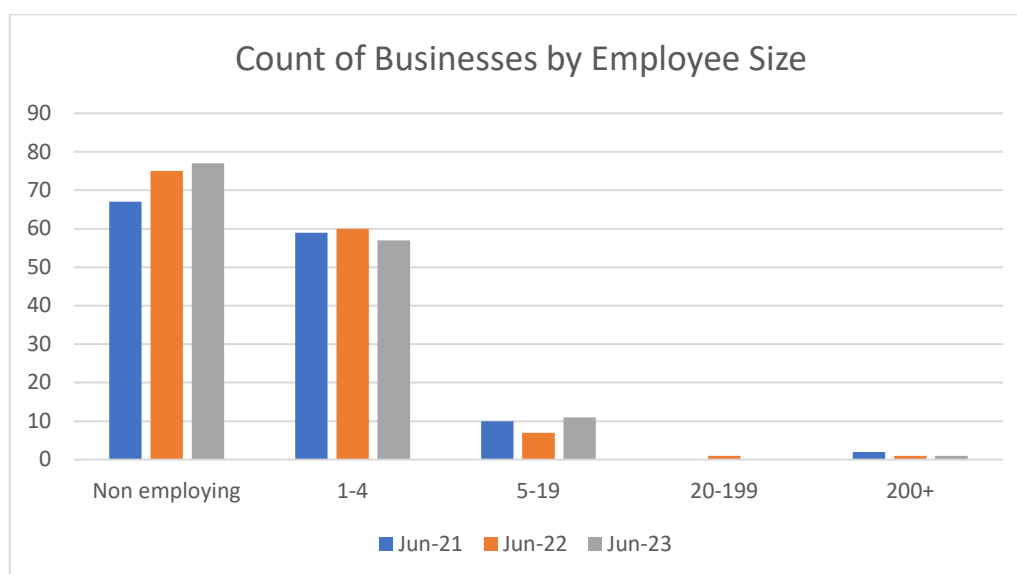


Value of Agricultural Commodities in Wickepin. Source: Agricultural Commodities by Local Government Areas 2020-21, Australian Bureau of Statistics, July 2022

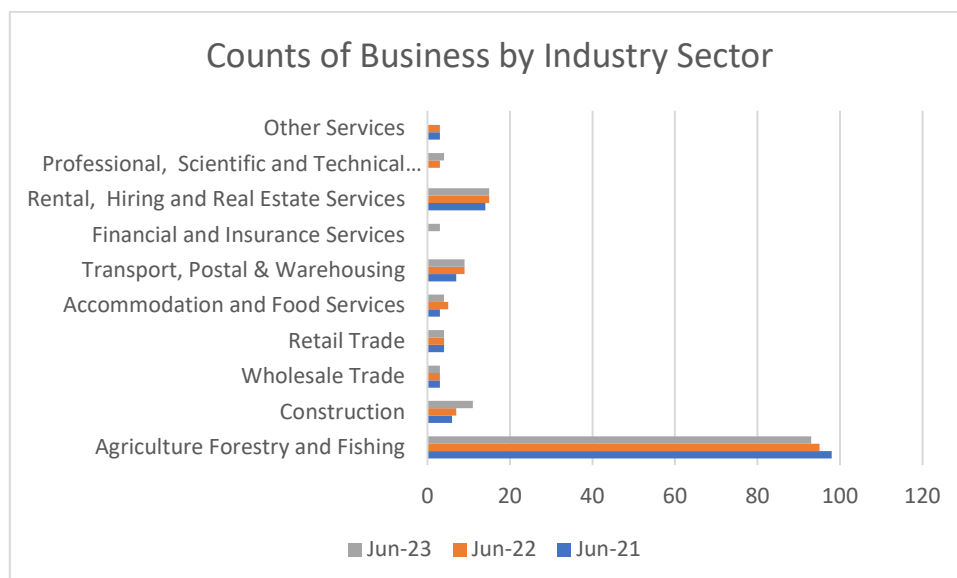
## BUSINESSES

As of June 2023, there are 146 registered businesses in the Shire of Wickepin. The number of businesses has increased by 8 since 2021 (up from 138). Over this period businesses were gained in the construction (6 in 2021 up to 11 in 2023), professional, scientific and technical services (0 in 2021 up to 4 in 2023), and financial and insurance services (0 in 2021 up to 3 in 2023) sectors. Businesses were lost in the agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (98 in 2021 down to 93 in 2023) and “other services” sector (3 in 2021 down to 0 in 2023).

The majority of businesses are non-employing (53%) or low employing (39%) and are classified as being in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry sector (64%).



Count of Businesses by Employee Size from 2021 to 2023. Source: REMPLAN Economy Trends



Count of Businesses by Industry Sector from 2021 to 2023. Source: REMPLAN Economy Trends

## WORKFORCE

The Shire of Wickepin economy supports 260 jobs. The majority of employed persons work full-time (57.9%) and the principal occupation of employed persons in Wickepin is “manager” (41%). The largest employing industry is agriculture, with 158 people employed in this industry. Agriculture pays \$4.769m in wages, which is more than any other industry. Despite having a kaolin mine in the Shire, there are only three people employed in the mining industry.

### Top 5 Occupations

Manager	Labourer	Technicians & Trades	Machinery Operator	Community & Personal Service
41%	14.3%	9.3%	7.8%	6.8%

Occupation top responses. Source: ABS Census 2021, QuickStats

Industry sector	Number of People Employed	Wages & Salaries Paid
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	158	\$4,769,332
Education & Training	22	\$2,563,466
Public Administration & Safety	17	\$3,124,818
Wholesale Trade	12	\$1,624,163
Accommodation & Food Services	10	\$494,746
Retail Trade	9	\$552,692
Transport, Postal & Warehousing	8	\$674,202
Other Services	6	\$363,880
Administrative & Support Services	6	\$909,542
Construction	5	\$428,806
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4	\$557,898
Mining	3	\$433,380

Number of Employed Persons and Wages & Salaries Paid by Industry Sector. Source: REMPLAN Economy

	2011	2016	2021
Worked full-time	62.4%	57.6%	57.9%
Worked part-time	28.1%	31.1%	28.2%
Away from work	6.2%	7%	8%

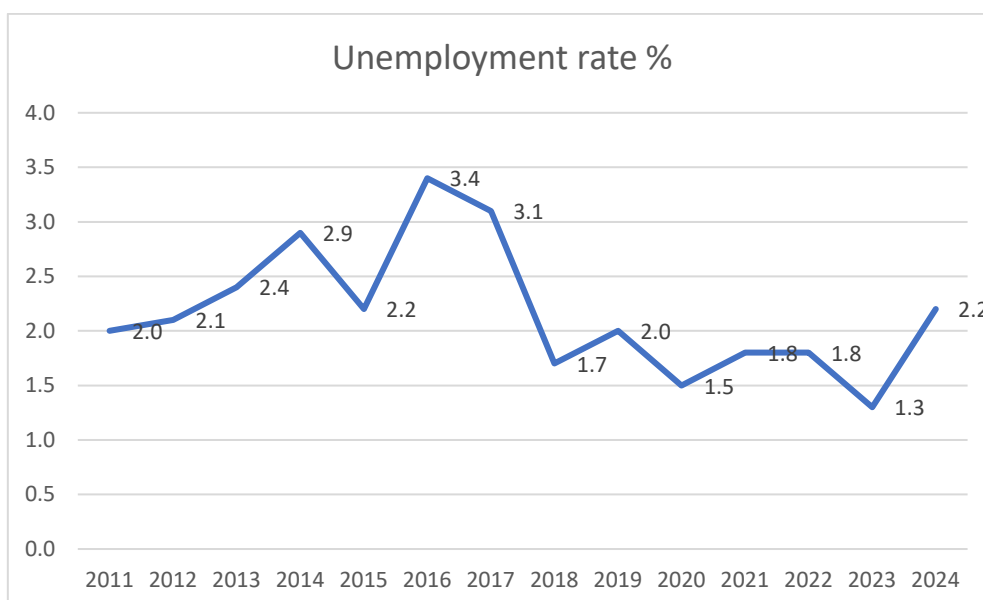
Employment Status. Source: ABS Census QuickStats

## UNEMPLOYMENT

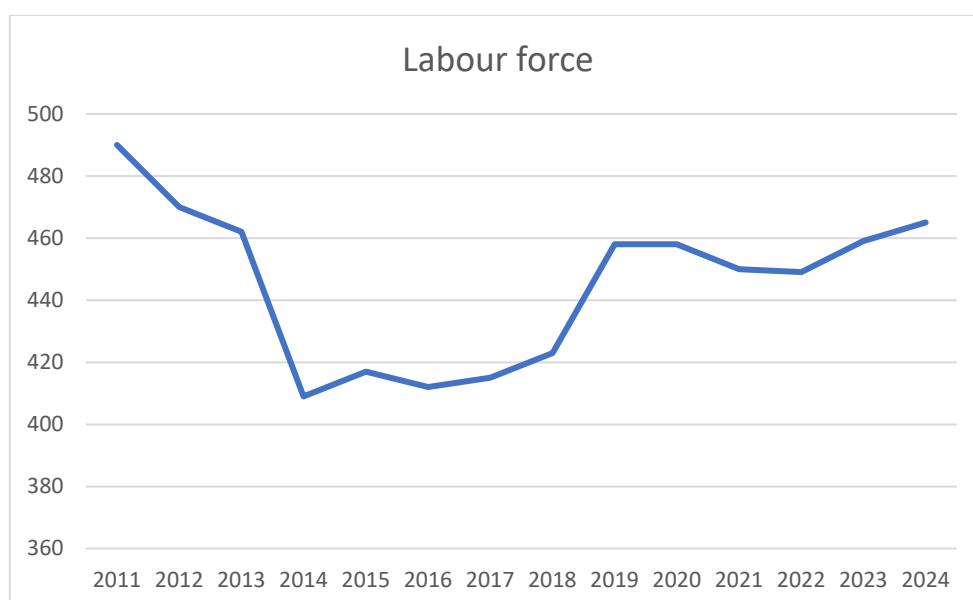
The unemployment rate in the Shire of Wickepin as of the June quarter 2024, was 2.2%. This is much lower than the state unemployment rate of 3.8% and national rate of 4.1%<sup>12</sup>. The Shire's unemployment rate has consistently remained low. Unemployment in the Shire peaked at 3.4% in the June quarter of 2016 and was at its lowest (1.3%) in the June quarter of 2023.

The local labour force (i.e., those employed or unemployed but looking for work) has declined from 490 in June 2011 to 465 in June 2024. This is not surprising given that the population overall is declining and aging.

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/abs\\_labour\\_force\\_results\\_-\\_june\\_2024.pdf](https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/abs_labour_force_results_-_june_2024.pdf)



Shire of Wickepin unemployment rates for June quarters from 2011 to 2024. Source: Jobs & Skills Australia, Small Area Labour Market LGA data tables



Labour Force for June quarters from 2011 to 2024. Source: Jobs & Skills Australia, Small Area Labour Market LGA data tables

## INCOME

The median weekly incomes reported at the time of the 2021 Census were lower in the Shire of Wickepin than the state medians across all categories (personal, family and household).

	Wickepin	WA
Personal	\$742	\$848
Family	\$1,662	\$2,214
Household	\$1,256	\$1,815

Median weekly income. Source: ABS Census 2021 QuickStats



## Wickepin Recent Achievements

The Shire of Wickepin and Wickepin community have invested in a number of town improvement projects in recent years. A sample of these projects is provided below.



**Wogolin Playground**  
Historically inspired playground, officially opened in November 2021.



**Wickepin Skate Park & Basketball Court**  
A new skate park and half-court basketball were incorporated in to the nature playground within the Wogolin Road Recreation Precinct. The works were completed in December 2023.



**Independent Living Units**  
Construction of four independent living units on Johnston Street was completed in October 2024.





**Town Murals**  
 Wickepin pool mural  
 (completed 2015)  
 School mural  
 (completed 2018)  
 Newsagent (completed  
 2022)



Astro-tourism  
Giant Planisphere and  
Stargazing for Beginners  
signs at Lake Yealering  
Observing Site.



Lake Yealering



Toolibin Lake





## Wildflowers



0403 225 900

PO Box 309, Narembeen WA 6369

[caroline@150square.com.au](mailto:caroline@150square.com.au)

[www.150square.com.au](http://www.150square.com.au)

ABN - 60 526 723 638

Developing the people of rural WA so *they* can create change in their communities.



### **13.7.1 Letter from the WA Legislative Council**

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION



Your ref: LD.LL.14 OCR2025137  
Our ref: A1140573, 4208:12 DW

24 June 2025

Cr Julie Russell  
President  
Shire of Wickepin  
77 Wogolin Road  
Wickepin WA 6370

**Attn: Mr Peter Clarke, Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Email: [ceo@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@wickepin.wa.gov.au)**

Dear President

### **Shire of Wickepin Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2024**

I refer to the letter from Mr Peter Clarke, Acting Chief Executive Officer, dated 7 April 2025, which enclosed a copy of the above local law and the associated explanatory material.

The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation considered the local law at its meeting yesterday and resolved to write to you about the following matters.

#### **Australian Standard adopted**

Clause 1.4 defines 'symbol' as including:

*any symbol specified by Australian Standard 1742.11-1999 and any symbol specified from time to time by Standards Australia for use in the regulation of parking and any reference to the wording of any sign in this local law shall be also deemed to include a reference to the corresponding symbol;*

This definition effectively adopts any symbols specified by the named standard, as well as any other symbol specified by Standards Australia from time to time for use in parking regulation. The Committee notes that the adopted standard has been superseded by Australian Standard 1742.11-2016. The reference to the standard should be updated.

#### **Typographical error – Clause 3.1(3)**

Clause 3.1(3) reads as follows:

##### **3.1 Restrictions on parking in particular areas**

...

(3) A person shall not park a vehicle—

(1) in a no parking area;

- (2) *in a parking area, except in accordance with both the signs associated with the parking area and with this local law;*
- (3) *in a stall marked "M/C" unless it is a motorcycle without a sidecar or a trailer, or it is a bicycle.*

The numbering of the subparagraphs in clause 3.1(3) should be alphabetised as (a), (b) and (c), and that is how they are referenced in Schedule 2 of the instrument, which lists prescribed offences. To ensure that there is consistency between clause 3.1(3) and Schedule 2, the subparagraphs should be alphabetised.

#### **Drafting error – Clause 3.5(2)(k)(i)**

Clause 3.5 of the instrument provides as follows:

#### **3.5 General prohibitions on parking**

...

- (2) *Subject to any law relating to intersections with traffic control signals a person shall not park a vehicle so that any portion of the vehicle is—*
  - (a) *between any other stationary vehicles and the centre of the carriageway;*
  - (b) *on or adjacent to a median strip;*

... [other various prohibited parking positions] ...

- (k) *within 10 metres of the nearer property line of any thoroughfare intersecting the thoroughfare on the side on which the vehicle is parked,*
  - (i) ***unless a sign or markings on the carriageway indicate otherwise.*** (bolding added)

In comparison, clause 3.5 of the WALGA template parking local law provides that:

#### **3.5 General prohibitions on parking**

...

- (2) *Subject to any law relating to intersections with traffic control signals a person shall not park a vehicle so that any portion of the vehicle is—*
  - (a) *between any other stationary vehicles and the centre of the carriageway;*
  - (b) *on or adjacent to a median strip;*

... [other various prohibited parking positions] ...



- (k) *within 10 metres of the nearer property line of any thoroughfare intersecting the thoroughfare on the side on which the vehicle is parked,*

***unless a sign or markings on the carriageway indicate otherwise.***

(bolding added)

Clause 3.5(2)(k)(i) of this local law currently relates to, and modifies the effect of, the parking position prohibited by clause 3.5(2)(k). However, the corresponding paragraph in clause 3.5 of the WALGA template is not numbered and is positioned so that it aligns with the text of clause 3.5(2). This difference in alignment and lack of numbering changes the effect of the corresponding paragraph – it relates to, and modifies, the effects of all the parking positions prohibited by clauses 3.5(2)(a)–(k), not just the parking position prohibited by clause 3.5(2)(k).

The Committee believes that the numbering and alignment of clause 3.5(2)(k)(i) were drafting errors and should be rectified.

### **Undertakings**

To address the above issues, the Committee requests the following undertakings:

The Council will:

1. within one year, amend the local law as follows:
  - a) in the clause 1.4 definition of 'symbol', replace '1999' with '2016'
  - b) in clause 3.1(3), alphabetise the numbering of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) to (a), (b) and (c), respectively
  - c) in clause 3.5(2)(k)(i), delete the numbering (i) and reposition the paragraph to align with the text of clause 3.5(2)
  - d) make all consequential amendments arising from the above amendments
2. not enforce the local law to the contrary before it is amended in accordance with undertaking 1
3. ensure that a copy of these undertakings accompanies the local law wherever it is made publicly available by the Shire, whether in hard copy or electronic form.

The undertakings should be given in the form of a letter signed by you as President, not the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the Shire. This is because, pursuant to section 2.8(1)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the 'Mayor or President speaks on behalf of the local government' to the Parliament of Western Australia.

Noting that your Council will meet on 16 July 2025, the Committee requests the undertakings be provided by **30 July 2025**.

To assist you, I attach a suggested form of Council resolution to provide the undertakings.

Please also note that undertaking 1 can only be fulfilled by making an amendment local law that complies with all the mandatory procedural steps contained in section 3.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.



I draw your attention to the confidentiality disclaimer below. This letter, and any of its contents, is not to be disclosed publicly, including in the minutes of Council meetings. Public disclosure could amount to a breach of parliamentary privilege. Please contact Committee staff if you have any questions.

Please provide your response by **30 July 2025**. If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Denise Wong, Advisory Officer (Legal) on 9222 7408 or at [delleg@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:delleg@parliament.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Mr Mark Folkard MLA**  
Chair

Att: *Suggested form of Council resolution*

*This correspondence including any attachments is confidential and privileged. Your local government may only discuss the content of this letter and any attachments with the Western Australian Local Government Association, the department responsible for local government, and the Shire's legal advisors, to the extent necessary to obtain information the Committee seeks. Each person to whom you distribute this material must be made aware of its confidential and privileged status.*

### **Suggested form of Council resolution to provide the undertakings**

The Council of the Shire of Wickepin resolves to undertake to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation that the Council will:

1. within one year, amend the local law as follows:
  - a) in the clause 1.4 definition of 'symbol', replace '1999' with '2016'
  - b) in clause 3.1(3), alphabetise the numbering of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) to (a), (b) and (c), respectively
  - c) in clause 3.5(2)(k)(i), delete the numbering (i) and reposition the paragraph to align with the text of clause 3.5(2)
  - d) make all consequential amendments arising from the above amendments
2. not enforce the local law to the contrary before it is amended in accordance with undertaking 1
3. ensure that a copy of these undertakings accompanies the local law wherever it is made publicly available by the Shire, whether in hard copy or electronic form.



### **13.8.1 Community benefits guideline draft (2025)**



Department of **Energy, Mines,  
Industry Regulation and Safety**  
**Energy Policy WA**



**PoweringWA**

2025

# Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects

Consultation Paper



*An appropriate citation for this paper is: Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects - Consultation Paper*

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# Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	Electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind and solar energy.
<b>Wind Projects</b>	Renewable energy projects that predominantly comprise of wind turbines, with an installed capacity of more than 25MW <sup>1</sup> .
<b>Large-scale solar Projects</b>	Renewable energy projects that predominantly comprise of solar panels, with an installed capacity of more than 25MW <sup>2</sup> .
<b>SWIS</b>	South West Interconnected System, the main electricity grid in WA.
<b>MW</b>	Megawatt, a unit to measure electricity output.

<sup>1</sup> As defined under eligibility for the LRET; [Eligibility for the Renewable Energy Target | Clean Energy Regulator](#).

<sup>2</sup> As above.



# Overview

The energy transition is underway in Western Australia (WA). To meet our State's future energy needs, we need to decarbonise our energy system, moving away from carbon intensive resources (such as coal) to renewable resources, firmed by storage and gas.

The energy transition will have significant benefits and opportunities for regional communities hosting this infrastructure, such as economic growth and investment, but will also bring challenges and changes to the local landscape. Benefits are not always experienced in proportion to the impact these projects have on hosting communities.

The larger benefits of renewable energy infrastructure are often strategic and shared across the State, including major industries and export sectors. Unlike other projects which have high levels of employment and economic activity created throughout the life of the project, renewable energy projects are characterised by large assets with much lower ongoing activity in the surrounding regions.

Community benefit sharing involves sharing the rewards of renewable energy development with local communities. It aims to integrate a development in the local community by contributing to the future vitality and success of the region. It is based on a desire to establish and maintain positive long-term connections to the area and to be a good neighbour.

Ultimately community benefits flow through to electricity costs, and so policy frameworks for community benefits must balance the need to recognise and support the contribution played by host communities with ensuring that electricity prices remain affordable.

The purpose of this paper is to respond to requests from communities and renewable energy developers to provide a resource for determining appropriate community benefits arrangements for renewable energy infrastructure. This guideline can be applied to renewable energy generation infrastructure such as wind turbines, solar farms and batteries. The principles in this guideline are broad and can be applied across WA. However, many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects in the State's South-West, especially those intending to connect to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

Community benefits are only one part of social performance for renewable energy projects, and there are many other ways that projects can contribute to local communities. It is expected that projects will follow best practice in how they are developed, including local training and employment, procurement of goods and services and development and use of local infrastructure. Renewable energy projects are only a subset of electricity infrastructure – for instance, social performance for transmission infrastructure is also important and will be considered separately.

Feedback is sought on the proposed guideline as outlined in this paper; as well as case studies for inclusion in the final paper.

## Introduction

### The Energy Transition

The energy transition is underway in Western Australia (WA), bringing clean, reliable and affordable energy to Western Australians that can underpin our economic diversification and create opportunities. To meet our State's future energy needs, we need to decarbonise our energy system, moving away from carbon intensive resources (such as coal) to renewable resources.

Increasing demand for electricity from households and industry, coupled with projected economic growth, means that we may need to produce as much as ten times the current level of electricity for the State's main grid to reach WA's target of net zero by 2050.

The most cost-effective way to manage this transition is to build large-scale wind and solar power, supported by storage and gas, to maintain reliability. The transition from coal-fired generation to large-scale renewable energy generation projects represents a significant change to the energy system and surrounding landscape. These projects will need to be located throughout the state in areas where there is strong renewable resource availability and proximity to high voltage transmission infrastructure.

Many of these projects will be in regional areas, consistent with planned extensions and upgrades to the state's main transmission network, the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

### Communities and the Energy Transition

Large-scale renewable energy brings significant benefits to Western Australia, reducing our emissions and helping to deliver more affordable and reliable power supply.

Regional communities located where there is strong renewable resource availability will play a key role in this energy transition. Many communities are located close to new electricity infrastructure.

Importantly, this transformation will ensure cleaner, affordable and more reliable energy for all Western Australians and growing WA industry into the future. The energy transition will bring significant benefits and opportunities to communities, such as economic growth and investment, but will also bring challenges and changes to the local landscape.

In addition to direct benefits to hosting landholders and sometimes neighbours, wider community opportunities can include local jobs and business procurement, community infrastructure, and local economic development. However, the greater benefits of renewable energy infrastructure are often strategic and shared across the State. Benefits are not always experienced in proportion to the impact these projects have on hosting communities. Hosting renewable energy infrastructure can also present challenges for regional communities. The construction process can cause disruption in the community, and objections by some community members may cause social and economic division.

Community benefits seek to promote equitable outcomes and participation by regional communities throughout the transition, and to recognise impacts on those hosting the infrastructure. These arrangements encourage greater empowerment of communities to derive equitable benefit from the energy transition, as well as improve investor certainty and reduce delays in the development of large-scale electricity infrastructure.

Renewable energy project proponents and communities are actively discussing community benefits, but to date these discussions have been inconsistent. This guideline is intended to support these discussions through providing a tool for developers and communities to refer to when negotiating community benefits contributions. Reflecting the diverse makeup of regional communities is key to developing a benefits framework that serves each unique community. This includes a reflection of the

local government needs, representation of diverse groups within a community, and other features specific to each community and project.

While community benefits are important, it is vital that they are based on specific community needs and proportionate to the impacts of the project. Early and continuous consultation with the community, local government, and impacted groups is crucial to maintain social licence and social performance throughout the lifecycle of the project. By prioritising transparent communication and proactive engagement, proponents can foster strong community relationships that support the success of their projects.

At the same time, it is important to ensure that these projects remain viable. This includes considering the cumulative costs, and local government rates. Striking the right balance is essential to keep energy affordable for households and businesses while delivering real outcomes for regional communities.

## **Purpose of this Paper**

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Provide information to communities about the types of benefit sharing arrangements available for the renewable energy infrastructure they are hosting,
- Provide information to developers about State Government expectations for community benefits arrangements,
- Provide a guide on appropriate value of community benefits in different contexts,
- Provide suggestions for the governance and administration of community benefits funds, and
- Provide confidence and clarity for proponents and investors by setting out a clear framework for benefit-sharing arrangements across Western Australia.

This guideline can be applied to large-scale, grid-connected renewable energy generation and storage projects, such as wind turbines and solar farms, and battery installations. It is not intended for behind the meter or embedded generation projects. The principles in this guideline are broad and can be applied across WA, particularly to projects located within the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) in Western Australia. It is important to note that projects in the North West Interconnected System (NWIS) may require tailored approaches due to different network characteristics and community contexts. Many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects in the State's South-West, especially those intending to connect to the SWIS.

## **Invitation for Submission**

On behalf of the State Government, PoweringWA is seeking feedback on this guideline.

### *Making a Submission*

The closing date for providing comments is 4 August 2025.

Submissions should be sent by email to [poweringwa@demirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:poweringwa@demirs.wa.gov.au).

Submissions may also be sent by post, addressed to:

PoweringWA  
Locked Bag 100  
East Perth WA 6892

### *Publication*

PoweringWA will publish a summary of submissions received on the [Energy Policy WA website](#).

Please indicate in your submission any information you would prefer to keep confidential, for example your name or organisations name, or information or data in your submission which should be redacted.

Please note that submissions made in response to this paper will be subject to freedom of information requests and will be treated in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA).

### *Next Steps*

PoweringWA will review submissions and publish a finalised guideline, informed by the submissions received.

Detailed documentation will also be developed to enable and support the implementation of the final positions, including case studies which may support engagement between proponents and communities. The timing of the implementation of these positions will be dependent on the nature of any changes.

## Community Benefits

Community benefits seek to recognise the contribution hosting communities are making to the energy transition and share value from renewable energy projects with host communities, through direct support for local projects or financial contribution towards a local or regional fund. This has historically been referred to as ‘benefit sharing’. Many new renewable energy projects provide community funds and negotiate these proposals with local communities to deliver meaningful benefits. These payments are considered separately and in addition to landholder agreements and compensation, planning / environmental conditions applied to manage and mitigate impacts, and in some other jurisdictions, payment in lieu of rates.

Community benefits can be financial or non-financial, and the appropriate mix of community benefits for each project can be negotiated between the developer and community. A financial commitment to a community fund is one of the clearest and most practical ways to deliver lasting benefits. It also gives proponents confidence they’re meeting community expectations, especially when funds are managed appropriately and reflect best practice. This guideline sets out clear expectations to help get good projects off the ground and deliver benefits for communities and the broader energy system.

Community benefits should be based on the desire to establish and maintain the project’s positive connection to an area in the long term – a legacy for the community. Benefit sharing for the community brings positive economic and social outcomes to the broader community – not just landholders hosting projects. It is vital that benefit sharing should reflect the needs and desires of each host community, as what is appropriate for one community doesn’t always fit another. Flexibility is also important to ensure that lasting economic benefits can be achieved, particularly where there are multiple projects in a location.

It is important to ensure that benefits-sharing arrangements reflect the unique nature of renewable energy projects. These projects differ to mineral and petroleum projects, transmission infrastructure or other significant energy infrastructure developments. These are established industries embedded in regional WA which provide a range of benefits. Renewable energy is creating new opportunities in regions with strong wind and solar resources, and community benefit arrangements are a way to ensure locals see real value. Community benefits are about making sure the regions that power WA’s clean energy future also share in the jobs, investment and long-term benefits that come with it.

## Current Situation

Increasingly, developers are recognising that community benefits are a fundamental part of project development. These community benefits arrangements differ in value, governance and longevity. This lack of consistency creates uncertainty for both communities and proponents.

Often, these arrangements are managed by the developer, in consultation with stakeholders who they have identified as being impacted by the development. The developer will provide benefits to some part of the community through a mechanism such as sponsorship, or through a central fund that community members can apply to. This approach may favour small, visible contributions rather than those most highly valued by the community, and those which can build lasting economic benefits. Of the community benefit examples available, those undertaken collaboratively and with community can be the most effective arrangement for community benefits.

Therefore, a more consistent approach to agreeing benefits arrangements between community representatives, the relevant Local Government(s), regions and the developer is proposed.

## Types of Community Benefit

Community benefit sharing arrangements can take many forms. The approach for each community should be tailored to that community's needs and provide benefit throughout the renewable energy infrastructure's life.

These arrangements can be financial or non-financial, however there is usually some financial contribution from the developer. Some examples of different benefit-sharing arrangements are outlined below.

Benefit sharing can include:

- *Legacy funding and grant fund initiatives.* These financial arrangements are explained in greater detail below, along with a suggested range for contribution.
- *Sponsorship.* This contributes to local groups and/or activities and can also build the local reputation of a project. Sponsorship can work well in combination with more long-term funding or support.
- *Community Infrastructure.* Infrastructure for the use of the community, such as local housing used as worker accommodation during construction of the development, can be donated to the community by the developer or constructed with direct financial support by the developer. Where there is a community need for these services, project proponents can also fund or supply upgraded solar, battery and/or telecommunications infrastructure.
- *Innovative financing and co-ownership.* Developers may choose to offer the local community additional opportunities to become involved in local projects.

## Principles for community benefit arrangements

The following principles should be considered when developing community benefit arrangements.

- *Appropriate:* the arrangements should consider the project size and its impact on the host community, with the contribution being commensurate to the scale of the project.
- *Provide Opportunity:* the arrangements should support the community to benefit from hosting a project and reap lasting economic benefits.
- *Equitable and Inclusive:* the arrangements should aim to include affected community as much as practicable and distribute benefits equitably.
- *Legacy Building:* the arrangements should leave a lasting positive impact on the community.
- *Bespoke:* the arrangements should be created with local input to address specific needs and concerns in the area.
- *Transparent:* the arrangements should be clearly communicated, with local involvement and collaboration whenever possible.

## Community Benefits Arrangements in WA

As outlined above there is currently significant variability across individual projects in terms of the agreed approach to community benefit sharing. For new developments, there is an opportunity to improve consistency and provide upfront guidance to developers, local governments, and the broader community. To assist in building a more consistent approach and managing expectations across parties, the WA Government suggests community benefits be designed in line with the below guidelines, in accordance with the principles detailed above. Payment into a defined community benefits fund is presented as an option and to assist in providing a standard baseline for approaching these negotiations.

### Application of this guideline

This guideline can be applied to communities hosting renewable energy projects across Western Australia. However, many of the suggested benefits values are most relevant to projects intending to connect to the SWIS. In areas of the State where communities can look very different – such as the Pilbara – it is important that a benefit sharing program takes the uniqueness of that community into account. These guidelines are not intended to apply to embedded renewable generation projects (such as those directly supplying mining operations) as these are by their nature part of a larger project with associated economic activity.

### Benefit value guidelines

Guidance for community benefits values is informed by benchmarking of best practice arrangements across Australia. Recognising that each project is unique, flexibility is encouraged within a range of:

- \$500–\$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects; and
- \$150–\$800 per MW per annum for solar projects,

paid over the life of the development and indexed to inflation.

While no range is proposed for storage projects (there is no industry benchmark for this currently), it is expected that these projects also provide some benefit to the hosting community. Where projects have multiple elements, benefits should be paid for each.

Under this guideline, a 200MW wind project would contribute between \$100,000 and \$300,000 in benefits per annum.

The final benefits offering should be informed by the impact of the project on the community, the size of the impacted community, whether there are multiple communities impacted and the extent that neighbouring landholders have also shared in benefits. This includes factors such as the impact on community services and amenity for community members, the ability of the community to access economic value from ongoing maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure (e.g. availability of accommodation and housing), and the cumulative impact multiple projects may have on a single community or region. In sparsely populated areas, a lower per MW amount may be appropriate compared to areas of higher population or small landholdings or multiple communities/Local Government areas impacted. Additionally, a wider spread of benefits might be appropriate where services are delivered through a regional centre.

#### Note on this draft:

It is intended that the final version of this guideline will showcase some of the innovative benefits sharing arrangements that some developers and communities have negotiated, which recognise the needs and aspirations of the community in question.



### *Criteria for application of guidelines*

Factors considered by developers and communities when agreeing a community benefits arrangement with a value within the proposed range could include:

- the population and population density of the community (or communities) most impacted by the renewable energy infrastructure;
- the impact a potential renewable energy project will have on the amenity of the area;
- the scale and staging of the renewable energy project;
- whether a high proportion of community members experiencing impacts to their amenity are also receiving neighbour or landholder compensation;
- the application of other fees and charges incurred by the developer, including local government rates and any pre-existing community focused financial commitments;
- the ability of the community or regional centre to support the ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure and infrastructure deficits that need to be addressed to ensure ongoing community benefits;
- the community benefits experienced as a result of the project's construction, such as local employment and supply chain opportunities and improved housing or temporary worker facilities that can be repurposed for ongoing use;
- the cumulative impact of multiple renewable energy projects on the community; and
- other unique factors specific to each project and community.

### *Developing Community Benefits arrangements*

Effective community engagement is crucial to developing a community benefits solution that will help maintain community acceptance throughout the project lifecycle. The following engagement principles are based on the National Guidelines for Community Engagement and Benefits for Transmission Projects, which provide a strong foundation that can be applied to developing community benefit arrangements for generation projects.

To achieve best practice in community engagement for developing community benefits, developers should adhere to the following principles:

- Engage early, to ensure community benefits arrangements can be agreed to in principle before the Development Application is submitted.
- Ensure engagement is diverse, equitable and inclusive, through ensuring members of the community have an ability to have a direct say or direct participation in the design of benefits arrangements.
- Be responsive to community input and enable participation.
- Engage with Aboriginal people and be responsive to their input and influence.
- Partner with the community.
- Provide accurate, transparent and accessible information.
- Engage impacted groups in the process.
- Be aware of community expectations.
- Build long-term legacy.
- Measure broadly and regularly.
- Report accurately and transparently.



## *Benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians*

The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy sets out the principles and actions that all governments, industry and community should take to ensure that First Nations peoples across the country are supported to participate in the energy transition. The WA State Government has endorsed the vision, goals and objectives of the Strategy, which considers the intersection between the clean energy transition and the rights and interests of all First Nations peoples.

Western Australia is a geographically diverse state, with equally diverse communities. An Aboriginal perspective should be included all community consultation and consideration of benefits programs to ensure a social licence to operate renewable energy projects. This is particularly the case in parts of the State where the proximate communities have a predominantly Aboriginal population. This social licence to operate is separate, but related to specific statutory rights and processes under State and Federal legislation such as the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993* (which includes a statutory right to compensation), as well as specific rights held by the parties in the South West Native Title Settlement and Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement areas.

## *Governance and Administration*

### *Governance Structure*

There are several options for the administration and governance of a community benefits fund, should this option form part of the community benefits arrangement. These arrangements must also contemplate the delivery of the scheme, in particular recognising the varying level of interest and capacity of Local Governments in implementing such arrangements. A series of models are suggested here; however, the exact governance structure will depend on the hosting community.

- *Local Government Administered* – Suitable in a community where the Local Government has the capacity and resources to manage community benefit programs but not the resources to set up and manage an additional trust structure. Several Local Governments have expressed a preference for this option.
- *Community Trust Fund* – Suitable where the community has the capacity and resources to set up and manage a trust fund. Members would need to be representative of the community, and it would aim to support programs, services or infrastructure that reflects local needs and delivers enduring benefits for local communities. Decisions on funding would include representatives from the relevant Local Government/s, community and proponent/s. This would take the form of a consultative community panel and could include representatives from existing community organisations. The panel would identify, review and recommend appropriate funding opportunities for a local community benefits fund.
- *Local Government-led Community Trust Fund* – Suitable where a Local Government has the capacity to set up a trust fund to support the allocation of funding. Decisions on funding would ideally be made in a consultative way similar to the above option, but governance would ultimately sit with the Local Government. This is similar to the model proposed in some other jurisdictions, where community benefits are attached to Renewable Energy Zones. Involvement in this structure would be subject to restrictions placed on Local Governments under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Often, multiple projects will fall in one area due to the renewable resource availability and/or grid connections. Where there are multiple projects in one area, developers are encouraged to collaborate on a benefit sharing arrangement where possible. Governance through a community trust fund is well suited to this.

### Commencement of benefit sharing arrangements

The WA Government recognises that renewable energy infrastructure development impacts hosting communities starting in the planning phase, peaking in the construction phase, through operation to decommissioning. Local communities may have an expectation that benefits will begin to be delivered during the construction phase to compensate for this.

However, in the case of a community benefits fund arrangement, commencing payment into the fund before a project is generating income may adversely impact the viability of a project. There can be a significant gap between the first construction stages of a renewable energy project, and the date that revenue is first received from the electricity generated by that infrastructure.

Discussion between the developer and affected community is encouraged to agree on a commencement date for community benefits, taking both perspectives into account. The facilitation of these arrangements could be staggered, providing different benefits between construction and operation periods, but this is at the discretion of the developer and the hosting community.

### Length of Arrangements

Community Benefits arrangements are suggested to take place throughout the life of the project. All members of the community should have an opportunity to derive benefits from the proposal, as opposed to the benefits being distributed within the first 1 – 5 years of operations. This means that community benefits arrangements should be tied to a specific project, rather than the project proponent, and should be maintained regardless of any change in project ownership.

Ongoing contributions into a fund, as an alternative to single one-off payment benefit arrangement, may assist in maintaining a project's social licence over time and assist in the building of longer-term legacy benefits for proponents.

Consistent with the above principles, community benefits arrangements are most successful where there is an ongoing commitment tailored to the needs of unique communities, and the knowledge that these may change over the project lifecycle.

### *Reporting and Review*

Renewable energy projects have a long lifespan. For example, a wind farm can operate for up to 30 years, so it is crucial that evaluation of impact on the community is reviewed over time, as local needs and priorities may shift. Developers need certainty too, as projects age and maintenance increases. There are ongoing roles for communities and developers over the life of a project, and benefit sharing should strike a balance between supporting communities while giving proponents the confidence to plan ahead.

What is considered effective for a community now might not be the same in a decade, so evaluating the role and effectiveness of community benefits should always be an ongoing process. How often evaluation takes place is dependent on project needs.

Some key considerations include:

- Clearly setting evaluation objectives is an important first step. Benefits arrangements vary by community and project, so evaluation of outcomes should be clearly linked to the success of the project. Methods of evaluation should always be highly tailored to project needs. Where benefits are delivered through a fund, responsibility for monitoring outcomes will rest with the fund administrator and should be addressed through the fund's governance arrangements.
- The identification of key questions, concepts, or factors to measure community benefits consistently throughout the project should be considered early.
- Evaluation needs to encompass measurement across diverse community groups for greater accuracy.

- Using indirect and direct sources of data can be useful when reviewing community benefits. For example, a direct source of evaluation could be the amount of money distributed through a community-run grants program, while an indirect source could be the reported satisfaction with the project and benefits program from the community.
- Communicating results and establishing a feedback loop between the developer and community is important for productive evaluation.

### *Monitoring Implementation of the Framework*

Consistency with this guideline will support a project's progression through the planning, regulatory and connection processes, as well as eligibility for Commonwealth Government support, such as the Capacity Investment Scheme.

## **Other considerations**

### *Nearby communities*

Communities or regional centres outside of the hosting local government area, but near where the renewable energy project is located should be considered in the allocation of community benefits. There may be instances where broader regional investment would assist the whole region to support the energy transition (i.e., where the project is far from population areas, but regional centres will be important for hosting the servicing and maintenance of the infrastructure). There may also be impacts on nearby communities that should be considered (e.g., in terms of traffic flows, wear and tear on roads, water use, sand and gravel available for local road maintenance). Providing community benefits for projects is an opportunity for a mutual win for both members of the community and developers. Community benefits assist in ensuring both parties see benefits and minimal costs associated with renewable energy projects.

### *Neighbours*

Neighbours are a part of the community, and the relationship between landholders directly hosting renewable energy projects and the neighbouring property can be a key part of the community's acceptance of a new renewable energy development. While any neighbour payments are separate to community benefits arrangements, they can be considered in ensuring an appropriate split of landholder payments, neighbour payments and community benefits. Suggestions for agreements with neighbours, and other considerations for neighbours to those hosting, are outlined in the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Observations and Recommendations.

### *The role of rates*

Most Local Governments are not currently collecting rates revenue from renewable energy projects but at the same time are incurring costs from these projects. Unless otherwise agreed, community benefits should be viewed as separate to any cost recovery undertaken by Councils, including rates specific to renewable energy projects. Nevertheless, communities and Local Governments should consider the cumulative impact of any change in ratings approach along with any independently negotiated community benefits program. This will ensure commerciality is maintained, sovereign risk is reduced, and that additional revenue is split fairly between hosting councils seeking to recover their costs, and communities seeking benefits for hosting new renewable energy projects.

Landholders considering hosting renewable energy infrastructure should ensure that consideration of rate increases on their land, and how these are passed through, is included in their agreement with the developer.

## *Development benefits*

The way in which developers undertake projects can also result in lasting benefits for communities. For instance, the development of local skills, job opportunities and housing. Where possible, projects should optimise their overall impact on the community. Development benefits may offer a way to accelerate the delivery of planned regional economic development activities. For example, contributions to headworks for residential or industrial land development that may support the ongoing operation of renewable energy projects.

Flexibility in community benefits acknowledges that some important benefits may be able to be delivered through a considered approach to project development, and that this should be acknowledged.

## *Additional Resources*

- [Clean Energy Council \(CEC\) guide to benefit sharing options for renewable energy projects](#) – This CEC guide has provided communities and developers with a resource since 2019. The suggestions in this guide provide a good overview of the options available for benefit sharing. This paper aims to supplement the CEC guide by providing current, WA-specific guidance and resources.
- [CEC best practice charter for developers](#) – This charter outlines a commitment by signatories to engage respectfully with the communities in which they plan and operate projects, to be sensitive to environmental and cultural values and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which they operate.
- [Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Observations and Recommendations](#) – This includes a number of observations and recommendations for consideration in relation to the governance, development and operation of wind farms, solar farms and energy storage facilities.
- [National guidelines for community engagement and benefits for electricity transmission projects](#) – These guidelines were developed following extensive consultation. While they are specific to transmission infrastructure, the principles are also relevant for generation projects in WA.
- [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy](#) – This is a useful resource for inclusion of First Nations people in a community benefits arrangement. The Strategy is a national framework to guide investment, influence policy, and support First Nations people to self-determine how they participate in, and benefit from, Australia's clean energy transition.
- [CEC/KPMG Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects](#) – This provides a national guide on First Nations engagement, participation and benefit sharing for renewable energy projects.
- [On the frontline: climate change and rural communities](#) – This provides an overview of the opportunities for rural communities in the energy transition. It also outlines the effects of climate change on rural communities, and the long-term role that renewable energy can play in mitigating these.



## **13.8.2 Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects**

# Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects WALGA Submission

June 2025

### HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Further information on the *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Project* consultation is available [here](#). The formal consultation period closes at 5pm, 18 August 2025.

**WALGA requests your feedback on this draft submission by 5pm, 25 July 2025.** The draft submission will then be considered by State Council prior to being provided to PoweringWA as a formal submission on behalf of the Sector.

In providing feedback Local Governments are asked in particular to consider the following sections of WALGA's draft submission:

- Section 2.2.1 - Benefit value guidelines;
- Section 2.2.6 - Commencement of benefit sharing arrangements; and
- Section 2.2.9 - Monitoring implementation of the framework.

Please provide your feedback via the SurveyMonkey form, which can be found [HERE](#).

DRAFT



## **About WALGA**

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member-based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector.

Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State. WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

We advocate to all levels of Government on behalf of our Local Government Members, and provide expert advice, services and support to Local Governments. WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located, and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

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## 1. Introduction

Western Australia's energy sector is transforming to achieve the State and Australian Governments' 2050 net zero emissions target. Local Government is a key stakeholder in this change, with many regional communities experiencing an increase in engagement from renewable energy proponents and the prospect of their regions undergoing significant transformation.

It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and results in benefits for local communities that host the energy transition infrastructure. Many Local Governments see the benefit that large scale renewable energy projects can bring to their area, however a transformation of this size doesn't come without its challenges.

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the State's *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects* and looks forward to working with PoweringWA to deliver positive outcomes for Local Governments and their communities.

### 1.1. WALGA's work on large scale renewable energy

The impact of large scale renewable energy projects on communities has become a growing and pressing issue for Local Governments. After consultation with Members, discussions with State Governments and other jurisdictions, WALGA developed [three advocacy policy positions](#) related to the renewable energy transition (see appendix 1). These were endorsed by all WALGA zones and State Council at its September 2024 State Council Meeting:

- 6.16 Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework
- 6.17 Renewable Energy Facilities
- 6.18 Priority Agriculture

These advocacy positions have guided a number of WALGA's initiatives to support Local Governments. These initiatives include:

- **Energy Transition Survey:** In September 2024, WALGA conducted a survey to capture data on Local Government sentiment on the energy transition. The survey was targeted towards Local Government CEOs.
- **WALGA Research Paper:** The paper outlines how other State Governments are responding to renewable energy projects and highlights relevant energy strategies and stakeholders in State and Federal Government.
- **Planning resource:** "Empowering Local Governments - Planning for Renewable Energy" provides an overview of the State and Local planning frameworks and tools available to Local Governments for managing renewable energy facility development. It also outlines the three development assessment pathways for renewable energy proponents.
- **Teams Group for Local Government Leaders:** A Teams Group was established for CEOs and Elected Members to facilitate continued collaboration and knowledge sharing between Local Governments.

- **Large Scale Renewable Energy Forum:** A Forum was held in November 2024, bringing together State Government, industry and Local Government to discuss the opportunities and challenges of large scale renewable energy projects, and the support required by Local Governments when engaging with proponents.
- **Rating research paper:** Work is underway on a research paper that explores Local Government rating of renewable energy facilities. The paper will include a:
  1. Legislative Framework Review - to determine the current legislative provisions available to WA Local Governments and provide recommendations for any legislative changes in relation to the rating of renewable energy facilities.
  2. National and Local Review - to research how other Australian jurisdictions are managing the rating of renewable energy facilities and consult with a selection of Western Australian Local Governments.
  3. Way Forward - providing a summary of options and recommendations of the rating of renewable energy facilities by Local Governments going forward.
- **Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum:** On June 12 2025, a Forum was held bringing together State and Local Government. State Government Ministers, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, and Hon John Carey MLA, addressed Local Governments on their plans for the renewable energy transition and the State Government's priorities. As Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation, Minister Sanderson also engaged in a roundtable discussion with Local Governments, alongside a workshop session conducted by Powering WA, focusing on community benefits.

Negotiating community benefits and engaging with developers in the absence of a State framework has continued to be a key challenge for Local Governments. WALGA commenced work on developing a Community Benefits and Engagement Guide at the beginning of 2025. The purpose of the Guide was to provide succinct guidance to the sector on managing engagement and community benefit challenges when it comes to large scale renewable energy projects.

WALGA's Guide complements the State Government's *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects*, building on many of the principles and providing more detailed operational guidance on how to engage with developers. Local and State Government were engaged throughout the creation of WALGA's Guide, including PoweringWA. The final Guide is being presented at the July 2 State Council meeting.

## 1.2. Summary of WALGA Recommendations

WALGA's recommendations and comments are as follows:

1. WALGA supports the proposed types of community benefit sharing arrangements.
2. WALGA supports the proposed principles for community benefit arrangements.
3. In consideration of the benefit value guidelines, WALGA:
  - a. Does not support the ranges of \$500 - \$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects and \$150 - \$800 per MW per annum for solar projects.
  - b. Recommends there is a single figure for wind projects and a single figure for solar projects to provide clearer guidance on expectations of developers. This figure should be the upper end of the proposed rates (ie \$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects and \$800 per MW per annum for solar projects), providing a floor for rates paid.
  - c. Recommends a rate is included for storage projects.
  - d. Supports the payment of these rates over the life of the development and indexation to inflation.
4. WALGA supports the proposed criteria for applications of the Guidelines, except for the consideration of 'The application of other fees and charges incurred by the developer, including local government rates and any pre-existing community focused financial commitments.'
5. WALGA supports the proposed principles for developers engaging with the community, on community benefit arrangements.
6. WALGA supports the consideration of benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians.
7. WALGA supports the proposed flexibility in governance structures.
8. There should be stronger guidance on when benefit sharing arrangements should commence.
9. WALGA supports the proposed length of arrangement for community benefits.
10. WALGA supports the ongoing reporting and review of community benefit arrangements.
11. The Guideline needs to be mandated.
12. WALGA supports the consideration of nearby communities and neighbours in the allocation of community benefits.
13. There needs to be clearer guidance on when developers should engage with neighbouring Local Governments.
14. WALGA supports community benefits being viewed as separate to rates.
15. WALGA supports additional development benefits being considered.

## 2. **WALGA Recommendations on the Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Proponents**

WALGA welcomes the release of the State Government's *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects* (the Guideline). It provides much needed guidance for Local Governments and industry on how to engage and negotiate positive outcomes for the communities housing large scale renewable energy projects.

It is important to note that while WALGA broadly supports many of the principles within the Guideline, more work is required to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of benefits within communities. This includes mandating the Guideline.

Statements such as 'ultimately community benefits flow through to electricity costs...' are not seen as helpful and can potentially cause a further divide within communities. WALGA is aware however, that there is a balance between delivering community benefits and ensuring projects remain viable. Clear, legislated guidance will help to ensure a balance is maintained.

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to PoweringWA's *Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects*. WALGA's response is informed by direct engagement with Local Governments on this submission, as well as engagement with the sector over the last 12 months on the issue of community benefits and engagement.

### 2.1. **Community Benefits**

#### 2.1.1. **Types of community benefits**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the proposed types of community benefit sharing arrangements.

As noted in the Guideline, the approach to community benefit sharing arrangements should be tailored to the community's needs. The Guideline should not be prescriptive in the exact type of community benefit arrangements that must be negotiated. Each Local Government is unique and the final arrangement with the developer should reflect this. Local Governments have expressed the importance of legacy funding, that provide long lasting benefits to the community. This is reflected in WALGA's Energy Transition Survey results, where upgrades of infrastructure, services or facilities (62%) and new infrastructure, services or facilities (47%) were listed as the two most important aspects of a community benefits framework for Local Governments.

#### 2.1.2. **Principles for community benefit arrangements**

##### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the proposed principles for community benefit arrangements.

The proposed principles underpin what Local Governments are seeking from developers- bespoke benefits, that provide the opportunity for their communities to see long lasting benefits from the transition. A particular emphasis should be placed on transparency from



developers where possible, ensuring clear communication and significant collaboration with the community when designing community benefit arrangements.

## 2.2. Community Benefit Arrangements in WA

### 2.2.1. Benefit value guidelines

#### WALGA Recommendation

1. In consideration of the benefit value guidelines, WALGA:
  - a. Does not support the ranges of \$500 - \$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects and \$150 - \$800 per MW per annum for solar projects.
  - b. Recommends there is a single figure for wind projects and a single figure for solar projects to provide clearer guidance on expectations of developers. This figure should be the upper end of the proposed rates (ie \$1,500 per MW per annum for wind projects and \$800 per MW per annum for solar projects) providing a floor for rates paid.
  - c. Recommends a rate is included for battery storage projects.
  - d. Supports the payment of these rates over the life of the development and indexed to inflation.

While flexibility is required in negotiating the type of community benefit arrangements, it is important there is clarity in the expectation of developers when it comes to the financial contribution they should be making. A range offers little incentive for developers to contribute more than the lowest figure, which may not be suitable for projects that have a higher impact on the community. Local Governments are seeking a rate which sits at the higher end of the proposed ranges and reflects the conversations they are already having with developers. In making these rates a floor, it not only provides certainty for all stakeholders involved, but also provides a way for developers to demonstrate their commitment to the community if they do choose to offer above the floor rate.

It is recommended that a rate is included for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), especially given the Guideline states that the principles of the Guideline can be applied to renewable energy generation infrastructure, including batteries. Without a clear rate, Local Governments may struggle to negotiate a financial contribution from battery storage. It is noted in the Guideline that there is no industry standard, however the \$150 per megawatt hour per annum for stand-alone battery energy storage systems located in a rural zone stated within the NSW's [Benefit Sharing Guideline](#), may be a first step in developing a figure for a WA context.

### 2.2.2. Criteria for application of guidelines

#### WALGA Recommendation

1. WALGA supports the proposed criteria for applications of the Guidelines, except for the consideration of '*The application of other fees and charges incurred by the developer, including local government rates and any pre-existing community focused financial commitments.*'



Community benefits should be viewed as separate to Local Government rates and other fees and charges. The ability to rate renewable energy projects is important when it comes to Local Governments recouping costs incurred by these kinds of developments. The Guideline also acknowledges under the section '*The role of rates*' that rates and community benefits should be viewed separately. Rating should not be a factor considered by developers and communities when agreeing on a community benefits arrangement. Any fees/charges of particular concern should be defined in the Guideline to provide clarity to all parties.

### **2.2.3. Developing community benefit arrangements**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

2. WALGA supports the proposed principles for developers engaging with the community, on community benefit arrangements.

Ongoing community engagement is critical to positive outcomes when it comes to the development and delivery of community benefits. It is particularly critical that community benefit arrangements are agreed early on in the project's development, and that there is ongoing assessment of the agreement's effectiveness.

### **2.2.4. Benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the consideration of benefits for Aboriginal Western Australians.

In developing community benefit arrangements, Local Governments will want engagement with all key sections of their community, notably Aboriginal populations. WALGA agrees with the statement in the Guideline that an Aboriginal perspective should be included in all community consultations and consideration of benefits programs.

### **2.2.5. Governance structure**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

2. WALGA supports the proposed flexibility in governance structures.

Local Governments should be involved in the governance of any kind of community benefit arrangements. WALGA agrees with the sentiment in the Guideline that the exact governance structure should be dependent on the hosting community, and there should be flexibility around the exact structure and the involvement from community.

### **2.2.6. Commencement of benefit sharing arrangements**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. There should be stronger guidance on when benefit sharing arrangements should commence.

While it is recognised projects will not begin generating income until they are operational, the impact these projects have on the communities housing them begins long before this, during the construction phase. To ensure social licence continues to be granted by the

community, a portion of the community benefits arrangements should be delivered during the construction phase of the project.

### **2.2.7. Length of arrangements**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the proposed length of arrangement for community benefits.

It is important that Local Governments are adequately compensated throughout the lifetime of any large scale renewable energy development in their area, and therefore community benefit arrangements should be ongoing through the life of the project. A particular concern of Local Governments is the impact the change in project ownership could have to any community benefit arrangements. WALGA is supportive of the statement within the Guideline, that community benefit arrangement should be tied to a specific project rather than a proponent and should be maintained regardless of any change to project ownership. There needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure this takes place.

### **2.2.8. Reporting and review**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the ongoing reporting and review of community benefit arrangements.

Given the long lifespan of renewable energy projects, and how quickly the energy landscape is changing, there must be a process for the continual review of any community benefit arrangements. WALGA supports the key considerations stated within the Guideline as they allow for flexibility in the process depending on the agreed governance structure.

### **2.2.9. Monitoring implementation of the framework**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. The Guideline needs to be mandated.

While the document implies that developers will have their projects looked upon more favourably by State Government approval processes if they are consistent with the principles within the Guideline, there is no clear mechanism stated for ensuring community benefit arrangements are actually delivered. Local Governments have mixed experiences when dealing with developers, some of which are open to engaging with the community, and others which are not interested. To be truly effective, community benefits need to be mandated, ensuring communities housing renewable energy projects see benefits delivered.

There are several options that should be examined as potential mechanisms to mandate this requirement, including (but not limited to) amendments to existing planning or energy legislation or new, standalone legislation.

### **2.2.10. Nearby communities and neighbours**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports the consideration of nearby communities and neighbours in the allocation of community benefits.
2. There needs to be clearer guidance on when developers should engage with neighbouring Local Governments.

Neighbouring Local Governments may bear the brunt of construction and operation more so than communities where the project is housed. The Guideline should provide greater guidance about when developers need to engage with nearby Local Governments to ensure communication is ongoing between the communities affected the most.

### **2.2.11. The role of rates**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports community benefits being viewed as separate to rates.

Large scale renewable energy developments will often have an impact on local services and infrastructure, such as roads. It is critical there is a mechanism in which Local Governments can recoup these associated costs, with rates already having established a precedent to do this. As it stands, many Local Governments are not collecting any additional rates from large scale renewable energy projects - the rates being levied are on the current landowners based on the existing land use, not the improved value from the renewable energy development.

Rates should be seen as separate to community benefits, which are designed to build social license and ensure that communities share in the economic and social gains of the energy transition. WALGA is supportive of the statement within the Guideline, which states community benefits should be viewed a separate to any cost recovery undertaken by Councils.

### **2.2.12. Development benefits**

#### **WALGA Recommendation**

1. WALGA supports additional development benefits being considered.

Beyond financial arrangements, there are other ways that renewable energy developers can provide benefits to local communities, including the development of local skills, job opportunities and housing. In delivering large scale renewable energy projects, developers should consider how the work they must undertake could be delivered in a way that can provide further positive outcomes to the community.

### 2.3. Additional Comments

While the Guideline addresses many of the aspects of community benefits and engagement, there are several outstanding issues which will impact the document's effectiveness.

#### Statewide strategy for the rollout of the energy transition

The Guideline is only one component of what is required to ensure an orderly and fair renewable energy transition. Project proponents are actively pursuing opportunities in many rural, remote, and regional areas. There is no coordinated approach to integrating these investments into existing communities and industries, leaving individual Local Governments and their communities to 'reinvent the wheel' in their efforts to achieve the best outcomes for their communities. It is also creating confusion from some Local Governments about their role in the transition and anxiety in communities about the potential impacts on their local area.

WALGA's 2025 State Election Priorities calls for the development of a comprehensive, Statewide strategy as a priority to facilitate the development of large scale renewable energy projects across WA, to manage the impacts and maximise the benefits of renewable energy for the State's communities, economy and environment.

#### Cumulative impacts

The Guideline refers to the cumulative impact that multiple projects may have on a single community or region, however it doesn't provide guidance on how these impacts should be measured, and whose responsibility that should be.

WALGA considers that the State Government should lead and coordinate regional cumulative impact assessments for large scale renewable projects, in consultation with proponents and Local Governments.

WALGA notes that having a comprehensive understanding of the cumulative impacts of multiple large scale renewable projects in a region (ideally informed by the statewide strategy referred to above) is an important consideration beyond community benefits. Any assessment process should also include considerations around the cumulative impacts on the environment, agricultural production, waste, demand for housing, basic raw materials and other goods and services, local roads, and implications for emergency management.

## **Appendix 1 - WALGA Advocacy Positions on Renewable Energy**

### **Energy Transition Engagement and Community Benefit Framework**

#### Position Statement

It is essential that the energy transition currently underway delivers economic opportunities, ensures reliable and affordable electricity, and the greatest possible benefits for the community. WALGA calls on the State Government to develop a comprehensive framework to manage the impact of the energy transition that includes local engagement and the realisation of local community benefits from energy transition projects as a priority.

#### Background

Western Australia's energy industry is transforming to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050. In WA there is no framework that provides a consistent approach to how proponents of major energy projects consult with local communities and how they can share in the benefits of the energy transition. To ensure that local communities and Local Governments are supported in achieving this vision it is important that a framework is delivered to guide the development of this infrastructure to ensure that communities see long-term, tangible, local and sustained benefits from the energy transition. As the projects are currently being rolled out, it is critical that this framework be developed as a priority.

### **Renewable Energy Facilities**

#### Position Statement

The growth in the number, size, and complexity of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia is expected to continue as energy generation and other traditional industries de-carbonise their facilities and operations. The renewable energy state planning framework requires changes to ensure it is fit for purpose to guide the ongoing development of this sector.

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. Adopt a new State Planning Policy for renewable energy facilities, to replace the existing Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities, that:
  - a. Facilitates the orderly development of renewable energy facilities across Western Australia;
  - b. Outlines the key planning and environmental considerations, for the location, siting, design and operation of renewable energy facilities and their associated infrastructure;
  - c. Provides a framework that clearly stipulates the minimum required documentation and technical reports that need to be submitted with proposals for renewable energy facilities;

- d. Supports the development of Local Planning Policies by Local Governments to further guide locally appropriate planning consideration of renewable energy facilities;
- e. Provides a clear relationship with:
  - i. i. State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land, to ensure planning decisions adequately balance the need to protect and preserve rural land for rural purposes;
  - ii. ii. State Planning Policy 2.4 - Planning for Basic Raw Materials to ensure proposals for renewable energy facilities consider their impact on basic raw material supply at the earliest stage of the planning process; and
  - iii. iii. State Planning Policy 2.9 - Planning for Water to ensure water resources impacted by renewable energy facilities are identified and adequately managed.
- f. Includes policy measures to address:
  - i. possible negative impacts on or alienation of productive agricultural land;
  - ii. their proximity to lot boundaries with particular attention to potential negative, impact on town sites and sensitive land uses;
  - iii. potential negative impacts on airport operations;
  - iv. their appropriateness in the 'General Industry' zone and impacts and suitable location on heavy industry sites
  - v. the need for local engagement and the realisation of community benefits from the development of renewable energy facilities.
- 2. Review the definition of 'renewable energy facility' considering the increasing size and scope of facilities and consider creating definitions based on the scale of the facility (Utility-scale and other), and the form of facility (solar energy and wind energy).
- 3. Provide guidance to Local Governments on the consideration of green hydrogen production facilities on rural land where it is an incidental use to a renewable energy facility.

### Background

The placement and management of renewable energy facilities have become contentious issues in local communities across Western Australia. Concerns have been raised regarding the location of these facilities on agricultural land, their proximity to rural boundaries and residences, and their potential impact on right-to-farm practices such as aerial spraying activities.

The 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolved that WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

The Great Eastern Country Zone passed a similar resolution at their April Zone meeting.



The Central Country Zone made a similar resolution, requesting WALGA advocate to the State Government to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to guide the management and placement of renewable energy facilities; including but not limited to wind, solar, battery, renewable diesel and associated infrastructure.

Furthermore, Local Governments have also raised concerns with the coordination of renewable energy facilities in industrial areas, particularly in relation to their appropriateness in the 'General Industry' zone and impacts and suitable location on heavy industry sites. The existing State Government Position Statement: Renewable energy facilities is inadequate to address these concerns, leading to inconsistent application and approvals of renewable energy facilities across the State.

## Priority Agriculture

### Position Statement

The state planning framework should provide sufficient statutory protections for areas identified as high quality agricultural land.

WALGA calls on the State Government to:

1. Amend the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 to:
  - a. Create a new model zone under Schedule 1, Part 3, Clause 16 for land identified as high quality agricultural land known as the 'Priority Agriculture' zone, with the following objectives:
    - i. to retain priority agricultural land for agricultural purposes; and
    - ii. limit the introduction of sensitive land uses which may compromise existing, future and potential agricultural production.
  - b. Define 'Priority Agriculture' zone under Schedule 2, Part 1, Clause 1 to align with the definition provided in State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning.
2. Review the areas which have been identified by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as high quality agricultural land and expand the extent of mapping to address the whole of Western Australia.
3. Undertake a 'health check' of *State Planning Policy 2.5 - Rural planning and Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of rural land*, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

### Background

A 2023 WALGA Annual General Meeting resolution and subsequent resolution by the Great Eastern Country Zone requested WALGA establish and promote policies to protect and prioritise the preservation of agricultural land against its displacement by non-agricultural activities that lead to a net reduction of the State's productive agricultural land.

WALGA prepared a Research Paper: Protection of Productive Agricultural Land (Research Paper) which provided policy context, WALGA advocacy and analysis of State and Local



Government approaches to land use protections. The Research Paper described the process of high quality agricultural land being identified by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, which can then inform Local Governments who choose to adopt priority agricultural land provisions within their local planning frameworks.

This work identified a lack of consistency between the subregional planning strategies across the different regions of WA that has impeded the implementation of best practice planning controls into local planning frameworks, and thus produced inconsistent application across the State.

DRAFT



### **13.8.3 Infopage Communications Agreements Consultations**

# INFOPAGE

**To:** All Local Governments **From:** Tony Brown,  
Executive Director Member Services

**Date:** 16 June 2025

**Subject:** Sector Feedback – Communications Agreements

<b>Operational Area:</b>	Governance
<b>Key Issues:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local Governments are requested to provide comments on the Department's Consultation process on Communications Agreements</li><li>WALGA is seeking feedback to assist with a sector-wide response</li></ul>
<b>Action Required:</b>	Response to WALGA by <b>4:00pm Monday, 28 July 2025</b> Council consideration required.

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* was assented to in May 2023. Provisions relating to Communications Agreements were included in this amending legislation but are yet to commence.

On 5 June 2025, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (the Department) commenced a consultation process on draft regulations and a draft Ministerial Order that will give effect to the amendments.

The Department has extended the consultation period to conclude on 22 August 2025.

WALGA seeks feedback from Local Governments to assist in the composition of a sector-wide response to the Department's consultation. Provided with this Infopage is a Discussion Paper summarising the proposed regulatory amendments, together with commentary for your Local Government's consideration.

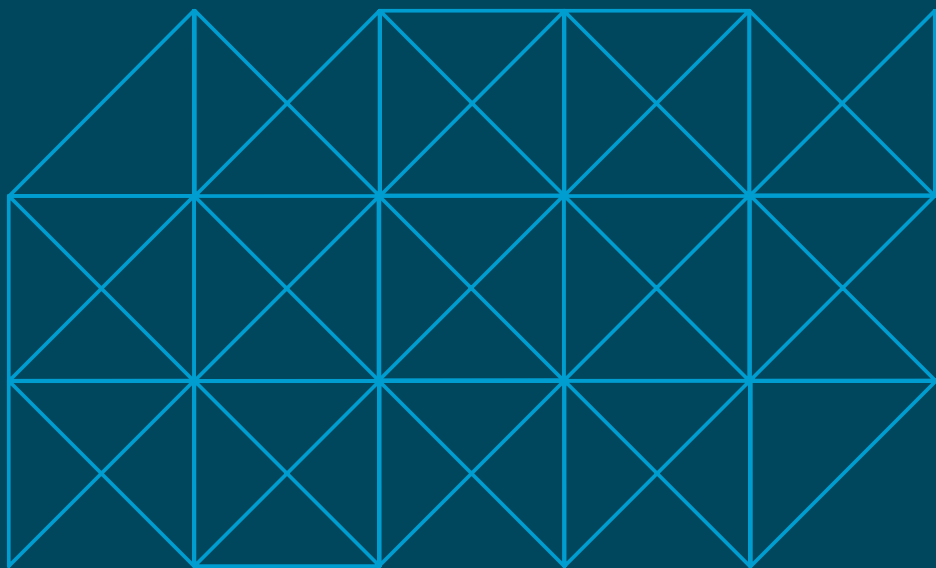
To inform an item for consideration by State Council, feedback is requested by 28 July 2025.

For more information, please contact Tony Brown on 9213 2051 or Felicity Morris on 9213 2093.

Please provide responses to [governance@walga.asn.au](mailto:governance@walga.asn.au).



## **13.9.1 WALGA LGC25-Program-20250624-1\_1**



# *LEAN* INTO LEGACY

WALGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONVENTION 2025



WALGA



**WALGA's Local Government Convention will return to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 September 2025.**

Our 2025 theme 'Lean into Legacy' delves into how the decisions we make today form the building blocks for tomorrow. With a focus on reflective, current and future legacy, we will explore how leaving a lasting, positive legacy as a Local Government means making choices that endure far beyond election cycles.

Detailed information about the keynote speaker, breakout sessions and Program will be provided shortly and updated on the Convention website when published.



## MONDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

9:00am **Planning Showcase Registration (only)**

9:30am–3:15pm **Planning Showcase**

11:00am **Registration Desk Opens**

11:30am–2:30pm **Heads of Agency Lunch**

3:30pm–5:00pm **Mayors and Presidents Forum**

4:00pm **Exhibition Opens**  
Pavilion 1

6:00pm–9:00pm **Welcome Drinks**  
Pavilion 1



## TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

7:30am	<b>Registration Desk Opens</b>
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8:00am	<b>Exhibition Opens</b>
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### SESSION ONE - BELLEVUE BALLROOM 1 & 2

9:00am	<b>Opening Segment, Welcome to Country</b>
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9:15am	<b>MC Welcome</b>
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9:20am	<b>Opening Address</b>
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9:35am	<b>WALGA President Address</b>
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9:55am	<b>Keynote Address</b>
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10:55am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
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### SESSION TWO - BELLEVUE BALLROOM 1 & 2

11:45am	<b>State of Play</b>
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1:15pm	<b>Address</b>
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1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
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### AGM - BELLEVUE BALLROOM 1 & 2

2:15pm–5:00pm	<b>WALGA Annual General Meeting</b>
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4:00pm	<b>Exhibition Closes</b>
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6:00pm–10:00pm	<b>Convention Cocktail Gala</b> Location: The Art Gallery of WA
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## WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

6:30am **Registration Desk Opens**

7:00am–8:45am **Icons Breakfast**

7:00am **Exhibition Opens**

8:45am **Icons Photo Opportunity**

8:30am **Procurement Network Forum Registrations Open**

9:00am–4:30pm **Procurement Network Forum**

### OPENING SESSION - BELLEVUE BALLROOM 1 & 2

9:45am **Opening**

9:55am **Panel Session**

10:55am **Address**

11:10am **Morning Tea**

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:40am–1:10pm **Breakout Session 1**

11:40am–1:10pm **Breakout Session 2**

1:10pm **Lunch**

### CLOSING SESSION

2:30pm **Closing Keynote**

3:30pm **Closing Remarks**

3:45pm **Convention Close**



WALGA

# *LEAN* INTO LEGACY

WALGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CONVENTION 2025

\*Please note: this information was correct at the time of publication and is subject to change.