



## Attachments

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday 21 May 2025

Date	Wednesday 21 May 2025
Time	3:30pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Friday 16 May 2025



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



## Unconfirmed Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday 16 April 2025

Date Wednesday 16 April 2025  
Time 3:30pm  
Location Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers  
77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370  
Distribution Date Thursday 17 April 2025



## Notice of Meeting

Please be informed an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Wickepin will be held at 3:30pm on Wednesday 19 March 2025 at the Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Clarke".

Peter Clarke  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

### 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.*

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Declaration of Opening .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Attendance.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Present .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Question Time.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Responses to Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice .....	5
3.2	Public Question Time .....	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Apologies and Leave of Absence .....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Apologies .....	7
4.2	Previously Approved Leave of Absence .....	7
4.3	Requests for Leave of Absence .....	7
<b>5</b>	<b>Petitions, Memorials and Deputations .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Petitions .....	7
5.2	Memorials .....	7
5.3	Deputations.....	7
<b>6</b>	<b>Declarations of Councillors and Officers Interest.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings.....</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 19 March 2025.....	8
<b>8</b>	<b>Status Report.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Receipt of Committee Minutes or Reports and Consideration of Recommendations .....</b>	<b>15</b>
10.1	Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025...15	
<b>11</b>	<b>Report by the President .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Report by the Chief Executive Officer .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Reports and Information.....</b>	<b>18</b>
14.1	Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid – March 2025 .....	18
14.2	Statement of Financial Activity – March 2025.....	21
14.3	Shire of Wickepin Standing Orders – 5. Meetings - Order of Business.....	23
14.4	Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Proposed Terms of Reference .....	25

14.5 Draft Local Planning Policy No. 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy  
Facility: Submitted for Consent to Publicly Advertise .....27

**15 Confidential Reports and Information .....30**

**16 Urgent Business.....30**

**17 Closure.....30**

## 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 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
L Corke	Councillor
P Thompson	Councillor

#### Employees

P Clarke	Acting Chief Executive Officer
E Clement	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
G Cross	Manager Works & Services

#### Apologies

J Mearns	Councillor (Leave of Absence)
T Miller	Councillor (Leave of Absence)

## 3 Public Question Time

### 3.1 Responses to Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice at March 2025 OCM

Mrs Jennifer McLaughlin

#### **QUESTION 1**

Why has there been no offer of "Assistance to Employee's Programmes" to the Pool Manageress by the Shire? An employee for 7 years plus.

#### **QUESTION/COMMENT 2**

The Shire President presented the Swimming Carnival with their Awards at the conclusion of the programme, but no acknowledgement or greeting was given to the Pool Manageress. A courtesy I would have thought.

**QUESTION/COMMENT 3**

The Offender of this whole situation sat in her car on the Childrens Swimming Carnival on Monday 10/3/2025 watching the Pool Manageress through the window of the Pool Office from a distance of 10yds or so – breaching her VRO and voicing vitriolic statements to a passer by.

I am personally very disappointed with the handling by the Shire of this matter. Wickepin public and users (sic) of the pool need to stand up & voice their concerns as the closure of the same affects you all & your children especially.

**Response (Shire President)**

Thank you, Jen, thank you very much for that. As your questions relate to a staff matter, we will take your questions on notice and we will provide you with a written response very soon. As you well know, Councillors do not get involved in staff matters, that is the concern of the CEO to deal with. You will get your response.

Ms McLaughlin responds – thank you.

**RESPONSE IN WRITING TO MRS MCLAUGHLIN – FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING DATE**

I refer to the questions that were raised at the above meeting which were “Taken on Notice” by the Shire President. As advised at the meeting, the Shire President indicated that a written response would be provided to each question, which are detailed below:-

**RESPONSE TO Q1**

*From the notes of the incident provided by the previous CEO regarding the incident at the Pool, the CEO had indicated an opportunity for the Swimming Pool Manager to access an Employee Assistance Program was offered by the Shire of Wickepin through their Insurers. Again, from the notes above, following the Swimming Pool Manager providing a Medical Certificate no further action was taken, nor did the Swimming Pool Manager enquire further regarding the need for this service.*

**RESPONSE TO Q2**

*The Shire President attended the Pool for the specific task of presenting the Carnival Awards. The matter concerning the Swimming Pool Manager, and in particular the incident that occurred is primarily the responsibility of the CEO as it relates to a staff matter and one that Councillors do not involve themselves in.*

**RESPONSE TO Q3**

*It is understood that the Swimming Pool Manager did apply for a VRO against the person in question and if this is the case, then the matter becomes a Police issue and not one for the Shire of Wickepin. If the VRO was in place and the offender was breaching the conditions imposed, the Swimming Pool Manager should have referred this to the local Police for their action.*

*It should be noted that the CEO did not receive any calls from the Swimming Pool Manager on the day of the Swimming Carnival in relation to the above matter.*

**GENERAL COMMENT BY CEO**

From my reading of the events that took place, every effort was made to accommodate the Swimming Pool Manager e.g., the provision of a duress alarm and phone for emergency purposes.



Since my appointment as Acting CEO on Monday, 10 March 2025 the Swimming Pool Manager's first contact with me regarding any of her concerns was on Wednesday, 19 March, but due to a busy schedule of meetings on that day, I was only able to arrange a meeting with the Manager on Thursday, 20 March.

In matters such as these, there will be differences of opinion as to the actions of both parties and it is unfortunate that the relationship between the Pool Manager and the Shire has become strained. However, these issues can be resolved through opening up communication channels, and I hope that our initial contact and discussions from Thursday, 20 March can move forward to the point of reaching a satisfactory outcome for all parties.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **3.2 Public Question Time**

Nil

## **4 Apologies and Leave of Absence**

### **4.1 Apologies**

Nil

### **4.2 Previously Approved Leave of Absence**

Cr Ty Miller and Cr John Mearns requested a leave of absence for the Ordinary Council Meeting 16 April 2025 for personal reasons.

### **4.3 Requests for Leave of Absence**

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 –  
**Nil**

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

### **7.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Wednesday 19 March 2025**

#### **Officer Recommendation**

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2025, as included in Attachment 7.1.1, as a true and accurate record.*

#### **Council Decision**

**Resolution OCM-160425-01**

**Moved** Cr Corke

**Second** Cr Allan

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 March 2025, as included in Attachment 7.1.1, as a true and accurate record.*

**Carried** 5/0

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

**Against** Nil

## 8 Status Report

### Key

○ = in progress    ✓ = completed    ✕ =superseded

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
OCM-170424-10	Local Emergency Management Committee Review – Combined Shires Wickepin, Cuballing and Narrogin	<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>That Council may resolve to seek a variation to separate from the combined LEMC with the Shire of Cuballing, seeking to stand alone and conduct the LEMC with the Shire of Wickepin only.</p> <p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>That Council authorises the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to proceed to engage and seek the opportunities to apply for a Community Emergency Services Manager for the Shire of Wickepin and surrounding local governments that may have interest.</p>	○	A/CEO and DCEO met with Anika Keeling to discuss the preparation of Recovery and Evacuation plans.
OCM-150524-12	Adoption – Shire of Wickepin Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2024	<p>That with respect to the proposed Shire of Wickepin Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2024, that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Makes the local law as detailed in Attachment 14.7.3, pursuant to section 3.12 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995;</li> <li>2. Notes the submissions received during the public advertising period required by the Local Government Act 1995 and the responses taken to the proposed Local Law.</li> <li>3. Authorises the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to affix the common seal to the Shire of Wickepin Parking and Parking Facilities</li> </ol>	○	In progress. Staff have been progressing the resolution requirements of OCM of 15 May 2024. Shire President and A/CEO have signed and sealed the Local Law and advertising in GG and newspapers etc., has been undertaken. Staff currently preparing documentation for Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
		<p>Local Law 2024 as contained in Attachment 14.7.3.</p> <p>4. Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to:</p> <p>a) Publish the local law in the Government Gazette in accordance with section 3.12(5) of the Local Government Act 1995;</p> <p>b) Provide a copy of this local law to the Minister of Local Government once published in the Government Gazette;</p> <p>c) Give local public notice pursuant to section 1.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 following publication in the Government Gazette, stating the title and purpose and effect of this local law, and that the local law is published on the Shire website and that copies may be inspected at, or obtained from the Shire's administration officers; and</p> <p>d) Prepare and submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, a copy of this local law, an explanatory memorandum (jointly signed by the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer) along with the checklist and any other supporting information on the local law made.</p>		
OCM-210824-13	Shire of Wickepin – Draft Local Planning Strategy	<p>That with respect to the proposed Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy, Council:</p> <p>1. Pursuant to Regulation 12 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015, adopts the Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy, as detailed in Attachment 14.5.1, for the purposes of advertising.</p>	○	<p>A/CEO &amp; DCEO met with DPLH representative to discuss progress of LPS.</p> <p>Advice received that LPS is likely to be approved by June 2025.</p>

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
		<p>2. Forwards the Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy to the Western Australian Planning Commission for assessment and compliance with Regulation 12 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.</p> <p>3. Upon receiving certification from the Western Australian Planning Commission, advertise the Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015, including an extended public comment period of 90 days.</p> <p>4. After the expiry of the period within which submissions may be made, review the Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy, considering any submissions received.</p> <p>5. After the completion of the review of Shire of Wickepin Draft Local Planning Strategy, submit to the Western Australian Planning Commission:</p> <p>(a) a copy of the advertised Local Planning Strategy; and</p> <p>(b) a schedule of the submissions received; and</p> <p>(c) particulars of any modifications to the advertised local planning strategy proposed by the local government.</p>		

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
OCM-190325-06	Budget Review 2024/2025	That Council pursuant to Regulation 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopts the review of the 2024-2025 Annual Budget (as attached) and acknowledges the proposed revisions to revenue and expenditure estimates contained in the review.	✓	Budget review submitted to DLGSC.
OCM-190325-07	Annual Compliance Audit Return 2024	That Council adopt the Compliance Audit Return for the 2024 calendar year as shown in the attachment prior to it being submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.	✓	CAR report signed and submitted to DLGSC
OCM-190325-08	New Provisions for Local Governments to Pay Superannuation to Council Members	That Council, in accordance with section 54,62 and 63 of the local Government Amendment Act 2024 elect to not pay superannuation to all elected members.	✓	Complete

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
OCM-190325-09	Appointment of Independent Chair, Audit and Risk Committee	That Council, in accordance with section 87 of the local Government Amendment Act 2024: Seeks expression of interest in writing from persons interested in becoming the Independent chair and Deputy chair for the Shire of Wickepin's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.	○	To be advertised.
OCM-190325-10	Lease of Yarling Brook Estate Land for Cropping Purposes	<p>1. That Council leases the Yarling Brook Estate vacant land under an MOU Agreement for the purpose of cropping and grazing to the Wickepin District Sports Club (WDSC) and the Wickepin Football Club (WFC) on a joint venture basis for a term of three (3) years commencing 1 April 2025 with the following rental to be applied: -  Year 1 \$2,200 (GST Inclusive)  Year 2 \$4,400 (GST Inclusive)  Year 3 \$4,400 (GST Inclusive)</p> <p>NOTE: Year 1 reduction in rental fee is to accommodate works the Joint Venture will be undertaking to improve the land/infrastructure for the cropping operations.)</p> <p>Further, the following conditions/limitations be noted: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council reserves the right to utilise the land for rural/residential development should the need/demand arises.</li> </ul>	✓	Letter forwarded to WDSC and WFC advising of Council decision and providing a Draft MOU Agreement for consideration prior to signing by both parties.

Item	Subject	Council Decision	Status	Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The WDSC and WFC shall maintain boundary fences in a secure manner;</li><li>• The WDSC and WFC shall have regard for prevailing wind direction when undertaking spraying of crops with respect to adjacent residential areas;</li><li>• The WDSC and WFC shall maintain a fire break around land in accordance with the Fire Break Order of the Shire of Wickepin.</li></ul> <p>2. That the CEO be authorised to place the common seal of Council on the Lease - MOU agreement once signed by the Wickepin District Sports Club and the Wickepin Football Club.</p>		

Where a resolution is formal, procedural or lost it has not been recorded e.g. confirmation of minutes, meeting behind closed doors, lapsed, etc.



## 9 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given

Nil

## 10 Receipt of Committee Minutes or Reports and Consideration of Recommendations

### 10.1 Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025.

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025, as included in Attachment 10.1.1, as a true and accurate record and the recommendations contained therein be adopted by Council.*

#### Council Decision

**Resolution OCM-160425-02**

**Moved** Cr Thompson

**Second** Cr Corke

*That Council confirms the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025, as included in Attachment 10.1.1, as a true and accurate record and the recommendations contained therein be adopted by Council.*

**Carried** 5/0

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

**Against** Nil

## 11 Report by the President

President attended the following meetings and functions during March/April:

- 1/4/25 – Attended by Teams the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting discussing items in preparation for the upcoming Central Country Zone of WALGA meeting.
- 3/4/25 – Together with CEO and DCEO, took part in the Audit Entrance meeting with the Council-appointed Auditors AMD Chartered Accountants and OAG representatives to discuss the impending 2024/2025 Audit Process.
- 11/4/25 – Together with CEO and Cr Corke, attended the Central Country Zone of WALGA meeting in Wickepin, where I delivered a welcoming address which included a summary of Council's current directives and an update of the Shire's recent projects and events. Thank you to CEO and ESO for assisting in compiling the slideshow and hosting of this meeting.
- 11/4/25 – Attended the ANZAC Service held by the Wickepin Primary School students and staff.

Congratulations, and thank, to the Works Manager and Outside Crew staff members on the successful completion of the WSN Road Projects for our Shire.

Sincere Thanks to outgoing Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Trevor Leeson, for his 3 years in the lead role. Congratulations to Incoming Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Luke Lansdell and Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Toby Russell, who have been elected to their positions for the upcoming 2025/26 Bushfire Season.

An overall Thank You to all of the Shire of Wickepin's local Volunteer Fire Control Officers and Brigades and Volunteer Ambulance Officers for their dedication and work carried out over the past season. They are on hand at the drop of a hat to ensure that unforeseen events are dealt with, and safe outcomes eventuate.

As we are now in Open Burning Season, a reminder for everyone to remain diligent in "burning off", as fires can, and will, Get Away – Thank You to All Concerned.

A reminder of the Wickepin Shire ANZAC day service is to be held at 9.30 on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Wickepin War Memorial.

## 12 Report by the Chief Executive Officer

CEO attended the following Meetings during March/April

- 20/3/25 – Met with Swimming Pool Manager to discuss Pool closure process and incident at Pool.
- 24/3/25 – Together with DCEO met with representative from Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to discuss progress of Local Planning Strategy.
- 24/3/25 – Together with the Community Economic Development Officer, attended Yealering Progress Association meeting to discuss Kitchen upgrades at Yealering Hall and to discuss Lotteries Commission funding regarding these works.
- 27/3/25 – Met with Caravan Park Manager to discuss Park operations.
- 2/4/25 – Met with Anika Keeling to discuss preparation of Local Emergency Management Recovery and Evacuation Plans.
- 3/4/25 – Together with the Shire President and DCEO took part in Audit Entrance meeting with Council-appointed Auditors and OAG representative to discuss the impending 2024/2025 Audit process.
- 11/4/25 – Together with Shire President, attended Central Country Zone of WALGA meeting in Wickepin.

**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	Demolition Permit – 48 Dumbleyung Road  Building Approval – Lot 55 Williams-Kondinin Road, CBH	31/03/2025  13/03/2025	A/CEO  A/CEO
A4	Roadside Advertising	CEO			
A5	Application for Planning Consent	CEO			
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			
A12	Liquor Consumption on Shire Owned Property	CEO	Alcohol Consumption Permission – Wickepin Community Centre 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, Wickepin/Harrismith Cricket Club  Alcohol Consumption Permission – Wickepin Community Centre 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, Wickepin Netball Club	20/03/2025  17/03/2025	A/CEO  A/CEO
A13	Hire of Community Halls / Community Centre	CEO	Fee Waiver Approval - Wickepin Community Centre 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025, Ignite Wicky Festival Planning  Fee Waiver Approval - Wickepin Community Centre Wednesdays 16 <sup>th</sup> March – 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, Indoor Carpet Bowls	31/03/2025  20/03/2025	A/CEO  A/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			

## 13 Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting

Nil

## 14 Reports and Information

### 14.1 Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid – March 2025

<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>	9 December 2024
<b>Attachment</b>	<b>14.1.1</b> – Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid – March 2025

#### 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 March 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 14.1.1**.

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 15267-15328	\$ 387,294.84
Cheques	15986-15988, 15990-15991	\$56,652.08
Direct Deductions	March 2025	\$1,333.05
Superannuation	March 2025	\$ 17,400.15
Credit Card	March 2025	\$615.95
BPay Payments	March 2025	\$1,904.80
Payroll	March 2025	\$101,626.00
Licensing	March 2025	\$ 15,664.30
<b>Municipal Fund Total</b>		<b>\$582,491.17</b>
<b>Trust Fund</b>		
Electronic Funds Transfer		\$ 0.00
Cheques		\$ 0.00
<b>Trust Fund Total</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$582,491.17</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 \$582,491.17 for March 2025, as included in Attachment 14.1.1.*

**Council Decision****Resolution** OCM-160425-03**Moved** Cr Allan**Second** Cr Corke

*That Council, pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 acknowledges payments from the Municipal Fund of \$582,491.17 for March 2025, as included in Attachment 14.1.1.*

**Carried** 5/0**For** Cr J Russell, Cr W Astbury, Cr F Allan, Cr L Corke, Cr P Thompson**Against** Nil

## 14.2 Statement of Financial Activity – March 2025

<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>14.2.1</b> - Statement of Financial Activity – March 2025

### 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 March 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 14.2.1**.

### 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 March 2025, as included in **Attachment 14.2.1**.*

**Council Decision**

**Resolution** OCM-160425-04  
**Moved** Cr Astbury  
**Second** Cr Thompson

***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 March 2025, as included in Attachment 14.2.1.***

**Carried** 5/0

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

**Against** Nil



### 14.3 Shire of Wickepin Standing Orders – 5. Meetings - Order of Business

<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	N/A
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	GO.CME.1322
<b>Author</b>	Peter Clarke – Acting Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	Nil
<b>Report Written Date</b>	31 March 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil

#### Summary

To submit to Council a proposal to alter the Order of Business as listed in Item 5.1 of the Shire of Wickepin Standing Orders, which relates to the Order of Business. It is recommended that 5.1(f), Status Report, be deleted from the Order of Business

#### Background

The Shire of Wickepin's Standing Orders Relating to the Conduct of Council and Committee Meetings have been in effect since 1998 and it is understood that little or no change has occurred since Gazettal.

The Standing Orders state the following in respect to the Order of Business at Ordinary Meetings of Council:-

*The order of business at meetings of the Council, unless altered by Council resolution to that effect, shall be nearly as practicable as follows:-*

- (a) Public question time;*
- (b) Apologies and leave of absence;*
- (c) Petitions, memorials and deputations;*
- (d) Declarations of Councillors and officers interest.;*
- (e) Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting(s);*
- (f) Status report*
- (g) Motions of which notice has been given;*
- (h) Receipt of minutes or reports and consideration of recommendations;*
- (i) Presidents report*
- (j) A report by the Chief Executive Officer;*
- (k) Notice of motions for the following meeting.*
- (l) Reports and information;*
- (m) Urgent business;*
- (n) Closure*

#### Comments

Over the years, Council meetings have been streamlined, particularly in the area of Reports and Recommendations by Officers. The recent introduction of live recording of meetings has also been a major change to the conduct of the meetings.

Council conducts a Forum Session prior to the meeting where Officers and Councillors can discuss matters in a more informal manner, and it is considered that the Status Report should be presented to Council in the Forum Session as it is more of an internal document rather than an external one.

Presenting the Status Report to the Forum Session would allow more discussion on the progress of certain items, particularly those that have been outstanding for some time and which require clarification/explanation from both Councillors and staff. The Status Report would be presented at the Forum Session in the same manner as has been previously presented to Council.

### **Statutory Environment**

As per the *Shire of Wickepin Standing Orders 1998*, which state that the order of business can be altered by resolution.

### **Policy Implications**

Nil

### **Financial Implications**

Nil

### **Strategic Implications**

Nil

### **Voting Requirement**

Absolute Majority

### **Officer Recommendation**

*That Council alters its Standing Orders relating to the Order of Business at Ordinary Council Meetings by deleting 5.1(f) Status Report, with the Status Report to be presented in the same format to the Council Forum Session which will allow discussion from Councillors and staff on items that require additional clarification/explanation.*

### **Council Decision**

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>OCM-160425-05</b>
<b>Moved</b>	<b>Cr Thompson</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Cr Corke</b>

***That Council alters its Standing Orders relating to the Order of Business at Ordinary Council Meetings by deleting 5.1(f) Status Report, with the Status Report to be presented in the same format to the Council Forum Session which will allow discussion from Councillors and staff on items that require additional clarification/explanation.***

**Carried by Absolute Majority 5/0**

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

**Against** Nil

## 14.4 Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Proposed Terms of Reference

<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	N/A
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	ES.MEE.905
<b>Author</b>	Peter Clarke – Acting Chief Executive Officer
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	Nil
<b>Report Written Date</b>	3 April 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	<b>Attachment 14.4.1</b> - Shire of Wickepin LEMC Draft Terms of Reference

### Summary

To submit to Council a Draft of the Terms of Reference for the Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

### Background

Following Council's decision at its Ordinary meeting of 17 April 2024 to separate from the combined LEMC with the Shire of Cuballing, it is a requirement of Section 38(1) of the *Emergency Management Act* for the Shire of Wickepin to establish its own LEMC. As part of the LEMC's establishment, there is a need for Council to adopt a Terms of Reference relating to the duties and responsibilities of this Committee.

### Comments

Not only is a Terms of Reference required for the LEMC, Council also needs to prepare a new Recovery Plan, Evacuation Plan Local Emergency Management Arrangements and a local Contact and Resource Register.

Council was fortunate to receive funding from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) via its "*All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE Program 2024-2025)*" to engage the services of a consultant to assist the Shire in the preparation of the above Plans. The milestones for this grant were to commence 31 July 2024 and for all Plans and associated documentation completed by 30 August 2025. Within these milestones, 2 meetings of the newly formed LEMC were to have occurred by February 2025. Unfortunately, none of the milestones have been reached, and the A/CEO wrote to DFES seeking approval for an extension of time to complete all the requirements of the grant by December 2025, to which DFES approved of same.

Once Council has adopted this Draft Terms of Reference, the first meeting of the newly formed LEMC can proceed. At this meeting a quarterly meeting schedule can be agreed upon and protocols adopted by the Committee.

### Statutory Environment

As per the *Emergency Management Act* relating to establishment of LEMC's.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Financial Implications

Nil

### **Strategic Implications**

Nil

### **Voting Requirement**

Simple Majority

### **Officer Recommendation**

*That Council adopts the Draft Terms of Reference for the soon-to-be-formed Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee.*

### **Council Decision**

**Resolution** OCM-160425-06

**Moved** Cr Russell

**Second** Cr Corke

*That Council adopts the Draft Terms of Reference for the soon-to-be-formed Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee, subject to the following:-*

- 1. That Council extends an invitation to a representative from the Facey Group and Co-operative Bulk Handling for inclusion in the membership group of the LEMC; and*
- 2. That those organisations as highlighted yellow on the Draft LEMC Terms of Reference membership group be considered as members on a “as needs basis” rather than an expectation that they need to be attendees at the LEMC on a regular basis.*

**Carried** 5/0

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

**Against** Nil

## 14.5 Draft Local Planning Policy No. 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility: Submitted for Consent to Publicly Advertise

---

<b>Submission to</b>	Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>Location / Address</b>	Whole Shire
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	Shire of Wickepin
<b>File Reference</b>	Policy Manual
<b>Author</b>	Steve Thompson, Consultant Planner
<b>Interest Disclosures</b>	Edge Planning & Property receive payment for planning advice to the Shire and declare a Financial Interest (section 5.70 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ).
<b>Report Written Date</b>	31 March 2025
<b>Attachments</b>	<b>Attachment 14.5.1</b> - Draft Local Planning Policy No. 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility <b>Attachment 14.5.2</b> - Western Australian Planning Commission Position Statement: Renewable Energy Facilities <b>Attachment 14.5.3</b> - Extract from Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015

---

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to publicly advertise a draft planning policy relating to Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facilities.

### Background

The Shire does not have a local planning policy relating to wind farms and renewable energy facilities. It is expected the Shire will receive applications for wind farms and renewable energy facilities over the coming years.

The draft policy, set out in **Attachment 14.5.1**, sets out the local government's draft position on wind farms and renewable energy facilities (including solar farms). The draft policy seeks to complement the matters set out in the *Western Australian Planning Commission Position Statement: Renewable Energy Facilities* (see **Attachment 14.5.2**).

Some sections of the draft policy particularly relate to wind farms.

The objectives of the draft policy are to:

- Specify information required to support a Development Application and set out key matters to be addressed;
- Protect the health, safety, and amenity of the community;
- Minimise or avoid environmental impacts; and
- Protect agricultural activities and protect approved development.

The draft policy applies throughout the district.

The draft policy sets out that no development approval is required for a domestic scale wind turbine servicing a single residence or a farming operation where infrastructure is contained on one lot and where it meets Scheme setback requirements for the zone. This is subject to the works not impacting a heritage-protected place. Development approval is required for all other wind farm and renewable energy facility development.

The draft policy is overall supportive of wind farms and renewable energy facilities subject to the applicant suitably addressing relevant planning considerations. In particular, the draft policy seeks to encourage appropriate development and where relevant, control wind farms and renewable energy facilities through establishing minimum requirements.

The draft policy includes policy provisions relating to:

- Siting, Separation Distances and Noise Impacts;

- Other Environmental and Social Impacts;
- Visual and Landscape Impact;
- Traffic Impacts and Road Contributions;
- Community Benefit Fund – it is highlighted there is no current statutory backing for a Community Benefit Fund or similar. In the foreseeable future, this would be a negotiated arrangement with the proponent; and
- Decommissioning.

With a goal of diversifying and growing the local economy, it is expected that the Shire will receive development applications for wind farms and renewable energy facilities in the coming years.

**Attachment 14.5.3** provides an extract from the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*. The Regulations require draft local planning policies to be publicly advertised for at least 21 days.

### Comments

The draft policy, set out in **Attachment 14.5.1**, is considered appropriate to be publicly advertised for community and stakeholder comment. If Council agrees, submissions will be invited through various methods for a six (6) week period. In particular, through the Shire administration writing to and inviting comments from wide-ranging stakeholders and government agencies, placing public notices and details in a local paper, placing details on the Shire website, on the Shire's Facebook page and information being available at the Shire office.

The goal of the draft policy is to encourage community and stakeholder debate and to seek the receipt of submissions. Following the close of the consultation period, the Council and the Shire administration will consider the submissions and determine whether the draft policy is suitable for final adoption or whether it should be modified. The objective is to finalise a policy which will assist to increase certainty for everyone with an interest in this issue and which will provide increased guidance to Council and the Shire administration in assessing development applications.

### Statutory Environment

*Planning and Development Act 2005, Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015, Renewable Energy Facilities Position Statement, Shire of Wickepin Local Planning Scheme No. 4, Shire of Wickepin Local Planning Strategy*

### Policy Implications

These are addressed in this report and in the attached draft policy. Finalisation of the policy will increase certainty for everyone with an interest in the matter and should assist in more consistent decision making.

Local planning policies are non-statutory documents which provide guidance to assist the local government in its decision making. Accordingly, the local government is not bound by the policy but is required to have regard to the policy in determining development applications.

### Financial Implications

There are Shire costs associated with advertising the draft policy.

### Strategic Implications

The policy, if adopted, will assist:

- The decision-making of the Council and the Shire administration;
- To inform applicants/landowners of Council requirements; and
- To raise community and stakeholder awareness.

### GOAL – Economy

Objective: 6 New businesses are attracted and existing businesses grow

Strategy: 6.2 Plan in a Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme for a diverse

range of land, housing and development opportunities for facilitation of growth in residential and industrial land use – to meet current and future needs

### Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

*That Council:*

1. *Support the public release of draft Local Planning Policy 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility, outlined in **Attachment 14.5.1**, and require the draft policy to be publicly advertised in accordance with the requirements set out in the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 with an increased advertising period of six weeks.*
2. *Will reconsider draft Local Planning Policy 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility following the close of the public submission period and will determine whether or not to adopt the policy with or without modifications, or to not proceed with the policy.*

### Council Decision

**Resolution OCM-160425-07**

**Moved Cr Corke**

**Second Cr Astbury**

*That Council:*

1. ***Support the public release of draft Local Planning Policy 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility, outlined in Attachment 14.5.1, and require the draft policy to be publicly advertised in accordance with the requirements set out in the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 with an increased advertising period of six weeks.***
2. ***Will reconsider draft Local Planning Policy 10.3.7 – Wind Farm and Renewable Energy Facility following the close of the public submission period and will determine whether or not to adopt the policy with or without modifications, or to not proceed with the policy.***

**Carried 5/0**

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

**Against Nil**

## **15 Confidential Reports and Information**

Nil

## **16 Urgent Business**

Nil

## **17 Closure**

With no further business, the Presiding Member Cr Russell declared the meeting closed at 3.56pm.

These Minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025.

Presiding Member, Cr J Russell

Date





### **9.1.1 Minutes of the WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting held on Friday 11 April 2025**

# **Central Country Zone Minutes**

**Friday 11 April, 2025**

**Hosted by the Shire of Wickepin**

**Commenced at 9.30am**

## Table of Contents

<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Opening	5
1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair	5
1.3 Attendance	6
1.4 Apologies	8
<b>2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3 HOST COUNCIL PRESENTATION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4 ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5 GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 Speakers for the April Zone Meeting	9
5.1.1 University of Western Australia (UWA)	9
5.1.2 Cost Shift and Compliance Project Update	9
<b>6 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7 AGENCY REPORTS</b>	<b>10</b>
7.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	10
7.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission	10
7.3 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt	10
7.4 Main Roads Western Australia	10
7.5 CBH Group	10
<b>8 MINUTES</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held on 14 February 2025	11
8.2 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting held on 14 February 2025	11
8.2.1 (Item 9.1.4) Telstra Closure of 3G Services	11
8.2.2 (Item 13.1) Letter to the Minister for Regional Development	12
8.2.3 (Item 13.2) Round Table update	12
8.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025	13
8.4 Business Arising from the Minutes from the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025	13
8.4.1 (Item 7.6) Minutes on a Page	13
8.4.2 (Item 6.2.1) Ministerial Speakers	13
<b>9 ZONE BUSINESS</b>	<b>14</b>
9.1 Cost Shift and Compliance project update	14
9.2 Provision of GP Services	14
9.3 Advocacy for Statewide Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Framework & Renewable Energy Guidelines	16
9.4 Zone Priorities for Ministerial Briefings	17
9.5 Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025	18
9.6 audit fee 2025 - change in charging practice of office of auditor general	19
9.7 2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members	20
<b>10 ZONE REPORTS</b>	<b>21</b>
10.1 Chair Report	21
10.2 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	21
10.3 Wheatbelt Interagency Health and Wellbeing Plan Advisory Group	22
10.4 WALGA RoadWise	22

<b>11</b>	<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
11.1	State Councillor Report.....	22
11.2	WALGA Status Report.....	23
11.3	WALGA President's Report.....	26
<b>12</b>	<b>WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 7 May 2025 .....</b>	<b>26</b>
12.1	Regulations for CEO KPIs and Online Registers – WALGA Submission (State Council Agenda Item 8.1).....	27
12.2	Dog and Cat Management Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda Item 8.2) .....	30
12.3	Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Advocacy Position (State Council Agenda Item 8.3) .....	36
12.4	Submission on the State Recovery Arrangements (State Council Agenda Item 8.4) ..	42
12.5	Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation (State Council Agenda Item 8.5).....	48
12.6	Other State Council Agenda Items .....	50
<b>13</b>	<b>EMERGING ISSUES.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>50</b>

## 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 Presentation
2. Item 7.1 DLGSCI Report
3. Item 7.4 Mainroads Report
4. Item 9.1 Cost Shift and Compliance Report

The full 7 May 2025 State Council Agenda [can be found here](#) as well as attached.

## 1 OPENING, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 1.1 OPENING

---

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.30am.

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### 1.2 HOUSEKEEPING – ZONE CHAIR

---

**1. Welcome:**

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

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

Delegates were 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 Steve Gollan Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Corrigin</b>	President Cr Des Hickey (Chair) Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs Ms Natalie Manton Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Cuballing</b>	Cr Adrian Kowald Cr Scott Ballantyne
<b>Shire of Dumbleyung</b>	President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Kulin</b>	Cr Robbie Bowey
<b>Shire of Lake Grace</b>	Deputy President Stephen Hunt Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Narrogin</b>	President Leigh Ballard Cr Clive Bartron Mr Dale Stewart Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Pingelly</b>	President Cr Jackie McBurney Mr Andrew Dover Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Quairading</b>	President Cr Trevor Stacey Deputy President Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wagin</b>	President Cr Phillip Blight Dr Kenneth Parker, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
<b>Shire of Wandering</b>	President Cr Sheryl Little Deputy President Cr Alan Price Mr Ian Fitzgerald, A\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 Cr Lindsay Corke Mr Peter Clarke, A\Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

**Guests**

University of Western Australia (UWA)	Dr John Duncan Associate Professor Nik Callow
150SQUARE	Caroline Robinson, Consultant
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development Emma Everett, Regional Development Officer
Main Roads WA	Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin
Water Corporation	Michael Roberts, Regional Manager Goldfields & Agricultural Region
Regional Development Australia WA	Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development

**Members of Parliament**

Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

**WALGA**

Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services  
Connor Warn, Policy Officer Environment  
Naomh Donaghy, Governance and Organisational Services 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 Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute
	Cr Tamara de Lange
	Mr Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling
	Deputy President Cr Rob Harris
	Mr Chris Paget Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Dumbleyung	Deputy President Cr Grant Lukins
Shire of Kulin	President Cr Grant Robins
	Mr Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer, non-voting
Shire of Lake Grace	President Cr Len Armstrong
Shire of Pingelly	Deputy President Cr Peter Wood
Shire of Wagin	Deputy President Bryan Kilpatrick
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell
Shire of Wickepin	Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury
Shire of Williams	Cr Jarrad Logie
	Mr Peter Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting

### GUESTS

Department of Local Government, Sport, & Cultural Industries	Samantha Cornthwaite, Regional Manager Wheatbelt
CBH Group	Kellie Todman, Manager Government and Industry Relations
Main Roads	Mohammad Siddiqui, Director Wheatbelt Region
Wheatbelt Development Commission	Rob Cossart, Chief Executive Officer
	Renee Manning, Principal Regional Development Officer - Central East

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Lachlan Hunter MP, Member for the Central Wheatbelt  
Hon Sabina Winton MLA, Member for the Wheatbelt  
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Member for Agricultural Region  
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 Julie Russell, Shire of Wickepin, extended a welcome to delegates and guests and provided a presentation on projects and issues facing the Shire of Wickepin.

This presentation is attached to the Minutes (**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 SPEAKERS FOR THE APRIL ZONE MEETING

---

##### 5.1.1 University of Western Australia (UWA)

*Dr John Duncan and Associate Professor Nik Callow*

UWA are spearheading a project in relation to Water Smart Dams; looking at dam water supplies combining in-the-field monitoring and developing apps to model dam performance. UWA spoke about this project, as well as the work that has been done on regional and on-farm water security options and planning tools.

They also talked about/demonstrate the Water Evaluation Tool - an app that has been developed to support modelling dam performance to meet demand.

**NOTED**

##### 5.1.2 Cost Shift and Compliance Project Update

Caroline Robinson, Consultant, 150SQUARE

The Zone welcomed Caroline Robinson, Consultant from 150SQUARE to present the findings of the Cost Shift and Compliance Project carried out on behalf of the Zone, as initiated by the Zone in August 2024.

**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.*

Hon Steve Martin MLA, Member for the Agricultural Region

**NOTED**

## 7 AGENCY REPORTS

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

---

*Samanta Cornthwaite, Regional Director Wheatbelt*

The DLGSC was an apology for this meeting, The Report is now attached to the Minutes **(Attachment 2)**

**NOTED**

---

### 7.2 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

---

*Grant Arthur, Director Regional Development*

Grant Arthur provided an update to the Zone.

**NOTED**

---

### 7.3 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT

---

*Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development*

The RDA report was attached to the Agenda.

**NOTED**

---

### 7.4 MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

---

*Yogesh Shinde, Operations Manager Narrogin*

The MainRoads report was circulated in advance of the meeting, now attached to the Minutes **(Attachment 3)**

Yogesh Shinde presented to the Zone.

**NOTED**

---

### 7.5 CBH GROUP

---

*Kellie Todman, Manager - Government & Industry Relations*

Kellie Todman was an apology for this meeting.

**NOTED**

*The meeting took a break at 11.03am, resumed at 11.13am*

## 8 MINUTES

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### 8.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on 14 February 2025 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Leigh Ballard**

**Seconded: Deputy President Cr Karen Harrington**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Central Country Zone held on 14 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

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### 8.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

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#### 8.2.1 (Item 9.1.4) 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 the Agenda, there were **255** responses. A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

#### RESOLUTION

**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.**

**CARRIED**

## **8.2.2 (Item 13.1) Letter to the Minister for Regional Development**

*Shire of Dumbleyung*

### **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).*

This letter was sent as per Attachment 2 of the Agenda, we are awaiting a response.

### **NOTED**

## **8.2.3 (Item 13.2) Round Table update**

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the February meeting:

*The Shire of Wandering requested an update on the Band 4 Roundtable discussions which commenced late last year. A report will be provided at the April one meeting.*

*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services*

Following the Band 4 roundtable meeting hosted by the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley, on 3 September 2024, WALGA was pleased to host a further meeting of Band 4 Local Governments to continue the discussion.

The meeting was held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. All 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend. Overall, 72 representatives from 48 Local Governments attended the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 WA Local Governments, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister.

Caroline Robinson, Director of 150 Square facilitated the discussion.

### **COMMENT**

As the main outcome of the meeting, the group identified the top four strategic and operational issues facing Band 4 Local Governments (from most pressing to least pressing):

1. Housing;
2. Audit;
3. Provision of medical services; and
4. Financial Assistance Grants (timing).

WALGA has since undertaken considerable work on the above issues.

An update report on the work done to date was recently circulated to all Band 4 CEOs and Presidents and was provided as an attachment to this item.

### **NOTED**

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### 8.3 MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

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The Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 were provided as an attachment to the Agenda.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Leigh Ballard**

**That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025 be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

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### 8.4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FROM THE CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2025

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#### 8.4.1 (Item 7.6) Minutes on a Page

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The Great Eastern Country Zone have recently adopted an additional standard item in their meetings. After a Zone meeting, in addition to the official Minutes being distributed to all Delegates/meeting attendees, "Minutes on a Page" are distributed to Member Local Governments for all Elected Members to view. This is a condensed, '*need to know*' version of the Minutes, done in an effort to;

- keep the whole Council informed of Zone business
- inform non Delegates on what happens at Zone meetings
- encourage Elected Members to become Delegates in the future.

The Executive Committee were asked to discuss if "Minutes on a Page" would be beneficial to the Central Country Zone.

##### Executive Comment:

The Committee are in support of this addition to the Zone process.

#### **NOTED**

#### 8.4.2 (Item 6.2.1) Ministerial Speakers

##### **BACKGROUND:**

*At the February (Zone) meeting, the Executive Committee discussed Ministerial speakers for the 2025 Zone meetings.*

*Letters were issued to;*

- *Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beazley*
- *Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti*
- *Minister for Agriculture, Hon Jackie Jarvis*
- *Minister for Wheatbelt Region, Hon Sabine Winton*

*The Minister for Transport, the Hon Rita Saffioti MLC, has advised she is unavailable. We have requested a written update on the portfolio priorities.*

*Letters have been reissued to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Agriculture, following the election.*

*WALGA have written to all Ministers who have been allocated a region, to attend future Zone meetings. The Executive will write to Minister Winton, advising of the Central Country Zone meeting dates.*

#### Secretariat Comment

Following the April Executive Committee meeting, The Executive officer issued an invite to *Hon Sabine Winton MLA* to attend all Central Country Zone meetings, and to speak at an upcoming meeting.

We are awaiting a response.

**NOTED**

## **9 ZONE BUSINESS**

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### **9.1 COST SHIFT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT UPDATE**

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

At the August 2024 meeting of the Zone it was resolved;

*That the Executive Committee resolution be endorsed by the Central Country Zone.*

*"That the Zone engage an independent consultant to review the figures of the top four Cost Shift Items and top four Compliance Costs, following which the Item will be brought back to the Executive Committee for further action."*

*The Zone authorises the Executive Committee to engage an independent consultant within the constraints of the Central Country Zone budget.*

The Zone welcomes Darren Mollenoyux, Consultant from 150SQUARE to present the findings of this project.

A report was circulated prior to the meeting (**Attachment 4**).

#### Zone comment:

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

**NOTED**

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### **9.2 PROVISION OF GP SERVICES**

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#### *Shire of Lake Grace*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

As a follow on from the WALGA hosted meeting of Band 4 Local Governments held on 11 October at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where Chief Executive Officers and Presidents from all 60 Band 4 Local Governments in the State were invited to attend to discuss the top issues affecting local governments, the Shire of Lake Grace called a meeting of six local governments (band 3 and band 4) and key stakeholders on Friday 29 November 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the financial and in-kind contributions made by local governments to

secure medical service providers in their communities. It was also decided that submissions be made to both the state and federal governments for budget consideration.

Caroline Robinson from 150 Square was contracted to prepare the submission and subsequent actions.

A Position Paper was prepared on behalf of the Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kojonup, Narembreen, Lake Grace and Ravensthorpe and was submitted to the Federal Budget Pre-Submission process for consideration.

In addition, these members of the alliance agreed that a motion be prepared and submitted to the ALGA National Assembly of Local Government being held in Canberra from 24-27 June 2025.

The Shire of Lake Grace is putting the motion to ALGA on behalf of the group of local governments listed above collectively now the 'Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils'

The Motion reads;

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Financial Assistance Grants for regional and remote local governments (RM6 and RM7) to assist in funds associated with attracting and retaining general practitioners, therefore redirecting ratepayer funds to local government responsibilities.*

The full submission is included in the attachments of the Agenda.

It is planned at this stage to send up to 4 delegates to the Assembly which will also include meetings with the relevant government departments.

This action aligns with the Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey undertaken by Rural Health West and commissioned by WALGA in 2023 and endorsed by State Council in December 2024

Zone members are requested to note the motion submitted to the National Assembly of Local Government regarding financial assistance for the provision of medical services to regional and remote local governments. If successful in the campaign positive benefits may be seen across all local governments in like positions.

### **Secretariat Comment**

WALGA supports the Alliance of RM 6 and RM 7 Councils' (the Alliance) motion submitted to the ALGA NGA calling for increased Australian Government financial support for Local Governments supporting the provision of essential healthcare services for their communities. The provision of healthcare services in Australia is both an Australian and State responsibility, principally through the Medicare system at the Federal level. Raising this issue at the ALGA NGA provides an opportunity to elevate the issue to an ALGA priority at the National level and gain support from Local Governments experiencing similar cost imposts in other jurisdictions. It is pleasing to hear that the WALGA commissioned Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report (Survey Report) was useful in the development of the Alliances' Position Paper and ALGA motion.

Equitable access to primary healthcare is an important issue for many WALGA, including some that fall outside of the rural zone according to the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classification. Reflective of the financial impact on the sector and building on the Survey Report, WALGA has begun a strategic advocacy plan which includes targeted actions for the Australian and State Governments, leveraging the opportunities of elections, new Cabinet compositions and the renegotiation of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) between the Australian



Government and States and Territories. WALGA continues to offer its support to the Alliance on this important issue.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: Deputy President Stephen Hunt**

**Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey**

**That the Central Country Zone receives the report and notes the submission to the ALGA National Assembly.**

**CARRIED**

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## **9.3 ADVOCACY FOR STATEWIDE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS FUND (CEF) FRAMEWORK & RENEWABLE ENERGY GUIDELINES**

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*By Dale Stewart /Shire of Narrogin*

### **BACKGROUND**

The Shire of Narrogin has recently adopted its *Community Enhancements Fund Policy*, a clear, consistent, and equitable approach to ensuring communities benefit from the renewable energy transition. The Shire is currently processing five (5) large-scale wind, solar, and BESS proposals and has identified the need to ensure social licence and community return are enshrined in both local and State policy frameworks.

In November 2024, the Shire also published a *Renewable Industry Framework & Advocacy Statement*, calling for a five-pillar approach supported by all levels of government and the renewable energy sector.

Without a statewide framework, regional local governments risk being left to negotiate independently with major proponents, risking inconsistency, inequity, or missed opportunities.

### **Shire of Narrogin - TWA Policy**

[Renewable Energy in the Shire of Narrogin » Shire of Narrogin](#)

### **Shire Comment**

Adopting a WALGA-led advocacy position based on the Narrogin model would promote best practice across WA and address current policy gaps. The approach complements WALGA's advocacy on responsible renewable development and reflects growing sector and community expectations.

The Shire of Narrogin is requesting the support of the Central Country Zone to elevate this matter to WALGA State Council and the State Government.

### **Secretariat Comment**

WALGA recognises the work and leadership of the Shire of Narrogin in preparing their *Narrogin – Love the Life, Power the Future – Community Enhancements Fund (CEF) Policy*.

We continue to advocate to the State Government for the development of an Engagement and Community Benefit Framework, as well as a State Planning Policy for renewable energy.

WALGA have begun preparation of a best practice Community Benefits and Engagement Guide, designed to support Local Governments when engaging with proponents and the community. The Shire of Narrogin's Policy will be an important input into this Guide.

WALGA is also conducting research relating to Local Government rating and payment in lieu of rates in respect to renewable energy projects. This project will involve preparing an EOI for consultants to provide advice on current rating provisions available to Local Governments, including differential rating and reviewing other rating methods from other states including Victoria's Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR) Scheme.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Leigh Ballard**

**Seconded: Deputy President Karen Harrington**

**That the Central Country Zone of WALGA:**

- 1. 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;**
- 2. 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:**
  - **A minimum indexed contribution from renewable energy proponents based on installed capacity;**
  - **Local government management of restricted cash reserves for community benefit;**
  - **A dedicated component for Indigenous Nations Funds (recommended 10%);**
  - **Alignment with local government strategic planning;**
  - **Transparent governance, community engagement, and annual reporting.**
- 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:**
  - **Consistent planning standards for renewable energy development (e.g., setbacks, zoning);**
  - **A State-mandated community engagement framework;**
  - **Legacy workforce housing solutions in lieu of short-term TWAs;**
  - **A uniform Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILoR) model for wind, solar and BESS facilities;**
  - **Empowerment of local governments to manage benefit-sharing and rating mechanisms.**

**CARRIED**

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## 9.4 ZONE PRIORITIES FOR MINISTERIAL BRIEFINGS

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*By Dana Mason, External Affairs Manager, WALGA*

### BACKGROUND

Following the March election, the Cook Government has unveiled its new Cabinet, emphasizing regional representation by appointing a dedicated Minister for each region.

The new Cabinet structure shows that the Government intends to have a greater focus on regional WA during this term.

WALGA has written to all Ministers responsible for specific regions, inviting them to participate in upcoming meetings of their respective WALGA Zones.

WALGA will also provide each Minister with a written briefing on the key issues facing their region.

To ensure these briefings are comprehensive, WALGA is seeking input from the Zones to identify the top three to five priorities they would like highlighted.

The Central Country Zone identified its priority issues at the February 2024 Zone meeting and may like to use these as a basis for identifying their top priorities;

1. Challenges faced by Band 4 Local Governments relating to State/Federal Government services being provided by Local Governments together with Local Government compliance requirements.
2. Essential Services – power, telecommunication and water.
3. Housing - including Land Development in relation to Headworks costs

The Zones provide an important opportunity for the Government to have a direct line of communication and engagement with regional WA and ensure that local issues are considered in the broader policy agenda.

WALGA will report on engagements with Ministers responsible for specific regions through the President's report at future Zone meetings.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Jackie McBurney**

**Seconded: Cr Robbie Bowey**

**That the Central Country Zone provide the below top three items to WALGA as the Zone's priorities:**

- a) **Housing- including Land Development in relation to Headworks costs**
- b) **Essential Services – power, telecommunication and water.**
- c) **Lack of policy framework around renewables.**

**CARRIED**

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## **9.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS) REGULATIONS 2025**

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*By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

### **BACKGROUND**

The State Government's 2021 updates to the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* included measures to improve consistency and transparency for DAP applications, including clarifying the respective role of Elected Members and officers to remove Elected Members from what were deemed to be administrative DAP functions.

These changes were not included in amendments to the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, but were included as part of the 2024 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* through the insertion of a new section (s. 9.69 B) to allow for the creation of regulations that specify DAP functions that must be performed on behalf of the Local Government by the CEO or authorised officer.

On Tuesday 1 April, new *Local Government (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2025* (the Regulations) were gazetted. The Regulations come into full effect from 1 May, and will apply to all Development Assessment Panel (DAP) applications lodged from that date. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) sent an LG Alert to the sector on 2 April advising of the new regulations.

The Regulations:

- require Responsible Authority Reports (RARs) to be prepared and submitted by the CEO of a Local Government, or an employee authorised by the CEO
  - CEOs of Class 1 and 2 Local Governments must authorise at least one employee

- Local Governments will still be able to engage external consultants to assist in preparing RARs
- prohibit the Council from directing the CEO, an authorised employee or a consultant in preparing the RAR or directing the CEO to engage a particular consultant
- require the CEO and authorised employees to disclose conflicts of interests in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and not undertake any DAP functions in which they have a conflict of interest.

The Regulations are available on the [WA Legislation website](#).

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA [Advocacy Positions](#) 6.1 Planning Principles and Reform and 6.4 Development Assessment Panels.

## COMMENT

Local Governments have one month to consider and implement the appropriate authorisations, and any resulting changes to systems and processes. WALGA will produce template authorisations and will host an officer information session with the relevant departments to assist Local Governments.

While Councils will be prevented from directing staff in the preparation of RARs, the administration can continue to brief Council on the content and progress of any DAP applications. There are no changes to the composition of DAPs.

WALGA will continue to oppose changes that erode Local Government autonomy and influence in the WA planning system and will continue to advocate for reforms that recognise the benefits of local decision making in planning.

WALGA is commencing a review of its Development Assessment Panel advocacy position and will consult with the sector and zones as part of that process.

Questions regarding the Regulations can be directed to the local government reform team at [actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:actreview@dlqsc.wa.gov.au) or the DAP secretariat at [daps@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:daps@dplh.wa.gov.au).

## NOTED

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## 9.6 AUDIT FEE 2025 - CHANGE IN CHARGING PRACTICE OF OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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*Mr Gary Sherry, Shire of Brookton*

### BACKGROUND

The Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) indicative fee for the Shire of Brookton audit for the 2024-25 financial report is \$47,077 (GST Exclusive). The indicative fee represents an increase of 6.75% compared to the prior year invoiced audit fee (2023-24 - \$44,100).

Historically the OAG has issued the invoice at the conclusion of the audit and the issuing of the audit opinion. The OAG has decided to modify this practice to align with the approach adopted across the professional services industry where billing typically occurs on a progressive basis (e.g. upon completion of key milestones or agreed timeframes). The remainder of the indicative fee will be issued at the conclusion of the audit and once the audit report has been issued

The OAG has now introduced interim billing upon completion of the interim audit phase for an amount not exceeding 50% of the indicative fee, following our review of past invoice practice.

## COMMENT

The Shire of Brookton are amazed that the OAG, at 31 March 2025 and without any prior notice, now requires the Shire of Brookton to make an unbudgeted payment of up to 50% of the 2024/25 audit indicative fee by the end of May 2025.

The 2024/25 audit indicative fee of up to \$23,538 is an unbudgeted expense.

While not opposed to the practice of invoicing on a progressive basis, that the OAG could provide only one months notice of this change of invoicing practice is staggering.

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell**

**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**

**CARRIED**

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## **9.7 2025 DETERMINATION OF THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS**

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*By Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance*

### **BACKGROUND**

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) has issued its 2025 determination in relation to Local Government Chief Executive Officer remuneration and Elected Member fees and allowances.

WALGA made a submission to SAT on behalf of the sector late last year. The submission was considered by Zones and State Council in November/December last year. WALGA's submission recommended:

- 1. A 4% increase to Elected Member fees and allowances and CEO remuneration bands.**
- 2. An increase to the Regional/Isolation Allowance, and publication of clear guidance to the sector outlining how the Allowance is applied in terms of methodology, criteria and weightings.**
- 3. The creation of a new fee category for independent audit, risk and improvement committee members without bands, with the fee set at a level which recognizes the skills and knowledge required for such a role, and that the new category provide a fee for the independent chair position as well as independent member positions.**

### **Attachment**

- [2025 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Council Members](#)

### **Comment**

On 4 April, SAT released its latest Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination.

In summary, the 2025 Determination provides for the following:

- A 3.5% increase to CEO remuneration band ranges (plus the 0.5% additional Superannuation Guarantee).
- A 3.5% increase to the fee band ranges and some allowances for Elected Members (exclusive of superannuation where relevant).
- A reduction of the four band ranges for independent committee members to one band, with the range to be from \$0 to \$450.
- Provision for reimbursement of expenses for independent committee members has also been determined for the first time.
- A determination as to the rates for the independent chair of the audit, risk and improvement committee will be determined at a future date, to coincide with the commencement of the legislative changes.

The Tribunal have also committed to conducting a comprehensive survey of Local Governments in the latter half of 2025 to assess the:

- placement of CEOs within their band and the adequacy of the current remuneration ranges;
- placement of Elected Members within their band and the adequacy of the current fee ranges and suitability of allowances;
- effectiveness of the Regional/Isolation Allowance, Housing Allowance and motor vehicle provisions; and
- attraction and retention issues for CEOs and executives, particularly in the regions.

The Tribunal will then review the eligibility criteria to receive the Regional/Isolation Allowance, as well as the quantum and effectiveness of the Allowance.

The Determination comes into effect from 1 July 2025.

### **NOTED**

## **10 ZONE REPORTS**

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### **10.1 CHAIR REPORT**

*President Cr Des Hickey*

There was no Chair Report for this meeting.

### **Resolved**

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

*President Jackie McBurney*

President Jackie McBurney provided an update regarding the sharing of information from this committee. Any relevant information will be sent forward to WALGA for distribution to Zone Delegates.

### **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 provided an update.

**NOTED**

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### 10.4 WALGA ROADWISE

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*Rodney Thornton, Regional Road Safety Advisor*

Rodney Thornton provided a report to the Zone.

**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 February State Councillor report was attached to the Agenda.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Clive Barton**

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

**CARRIED**

## 11.2 WALGA STATUS REPORT

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

# COMPLETE ZONE STATUS REPORT April 2025

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	14 February 2025 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.3 Support for Public Ownership of WA Freight Rail Network	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	5 March 2025 State Council Agenda Item 8.1 Climate Change Advocacy Position	That State Council replace the 2018 Climate Change Policy Statement Advocacy Position 4.1 Climate Change with the following advocacy position:  WALGA calls on the Australian and Western Australian Governments to: 1. 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. 2. provides funding and resources and support to Local Government to enable local communities to respond to the effects of climate change	State Council ALTERNATE MOTION  That State Council refer this advocacy item back to the Environment Policy Team for further development.  RESOLUTION 003.1/2025 CARRIED	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	26 August 2023 Zone Agenda Item 9.2 Water	That the Central Country Zone: 1. Rejects Water Corporation attempts to classify regional sites as a 'Non-Standard Water Service'	WALGA is developing a Background Paper for whole of sector consultation and reviewing its Water Advocacy Position/s and has	April 2025	Nicole Matthews Executive Manager Policy nmatthews@walga.asn.au



	<b>Corporation – Non-Standard Water Services</b>	<p>(unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally writes to Water Corporation and the Minister for Water confirming this position;</li> <li>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</li> <li>Requests WALGA to engage with the Minister for Water to retain the current services, unless specific agreement is reached with a Local Government Authority.</li> </ol>	<p>included the need for equitable access to drinking water as a key pillar.</p> <p>In developing this paper, WALGA is undertaking significant targeted consultation with Local Government CEOs and officers across the State.</p>		<b>9213 2039</b>
<b>Central C</b>	<b>15 November 2024 Zone Agenda Item 9.1.4 PetsWA Centralized Pet Registry Scheme Revenue</b>	<p>That the Central Country Zone request WALGA;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>advocate to the Government of Western Australia that 100% of the revenue derived from pet registrations (both dogs and cats) continue to be returned directly to local governments to effectively administer the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011.</li> <li>recommend that the new centralized PetsWA Pet Registry Scheme, administered by the State Government, should not retain any commission or portion of the registration fees for its operations, as the current fee structure does not adequately cover the costs associated with pet management at the local government level.</li> </ol>	<p>This item has been referred to the Governance Policy Team.</p> <p>The Policy Team has recommended as follows:</p> <p>That WALGA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>replace Advocacy Position 2.12 <i>Puppy Farming</i> with a new <i>Puppy Farming</i> advocacy position, as follows:</li> </ol> <p><i>The WA Local Government sector:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Advocates that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with animal management legislation.</i></li> <li><i>Urges that any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011 be paid by the State Government.</i></li> <li><i>Requests that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.</i></li> <li><i>Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes.</i></li> <li><i>Supports a Centralised Registration Database that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government revenue.</i></li> <li><i>Requests that the Centralised Registration Database be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding animal related complaints and infringements) that integrates</i></li> </ol>	<b>April 2025</b>	<p><b>Tony Brown</b>  <b>Executive Director, Member Services</b>  <b>9213 2051</b>  <b>tbrown@walga.asn.au</b></p>

			<p><i>with Local Government's existing corporate systems.</i></p> <p>g) <i>Supports the legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.</i></p> <p>h) <i>Supports a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from professional registered breeders.</i></p> <p>This item is listed in the State Council Agenda.</p>		
<b>Central C</b>	19 November 2021 Zone Agenda Item <b>12.1 Sector ICT solution</b>	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>A project to scan and enhance the PSP panel has been initiated, with an Infopage distributed to Members in late 2024-</p> <p>It is intended consultancy resources will be utilised to support the preparation of scope of service documentation and related tools to support procurement processes through the PSP.</p> <p>This work is ongoing and being led by WALGA's Commercial Development Team. Any queries can be directed to Brian Ging.</p>	<b>April 2025</b>	<b>Tony Brown</b> <b>Executive Director, Member Services</b> <b>9213 2051</b> <b>tbrown@walga.asn.au</b>

### 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 Jackie McBurney**

**Seconded: Deputy President Cr Sharon Jacobs**

**That the Central Country Zone, WALGA Status Report for April 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: President Cr Jackie McBurney**

**Seconded: President Cr Julie Russell**

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

**CARRIED**

### 12 WALGA STATE COUNCIL AGENDA – 7 May 2025

Zone Delegates were invited to read and consider the WALGA State Council Agenda, which was provided as an attachment with the 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.

The full Agenda can also be viewed [HERE](#)

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## 12.1 REGULATIONS FOR CEO KPIS AND ONLINE REGISTERS – WALGA SUBMISSION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.1)

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*By Tony Brown, Executive Director Member Services and Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Consultation is open on the draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which give effect to reforms relating to the publication of online registers, publication of CEO performance criteria and performance reviews, and other CEO matters.
- The Local Government legislation reform platform from the State Government indicated that one of the reform outcomes was "Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity".
- The overwhelming sector feedback is that these reforms will not achieve this aim and will instead increase red tape without any clear public benefit.
- Sector feedback has been collated and identifies overarching concerns listed in this report.
- The attached submission, informed by this feedback, is recommended for endorsement.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers Draft WALGA submission](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's existing advocacy positions are based on the high-level reform proposals provided for public consultation in 2022.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are:

#### 2.2.4 CEO Recruitment Panel

*The Local Government sector supports the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries establishing a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels.*

#### 2.5.27 Online Registers

*The Local Government sector supports requiring Local Governments to report specific information in online registers on the Local Government's website, including registers for leases, community grants, interests disclosures, applicant contributions and contracts (excluding contracts of employment).*

#### 2.5.28 Publishing CEO Key Performance Indicators

1. *The Local Government sector conditionally supports the reporting of CEO Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are consistent with the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, subject to exemptions for publishing KPIs of a confidential nature.*
2. *The Local Government sector does not support results of CEO performance reviews being published.*

## BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (2023 Amendment Act) contained the Tranche 1 reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). This included the following changes which are yet to commence:

- Requirements for Local Government CEO's performance criteria and performance reviews to be published.
- Establishment of a panel of independent persons for CEO performance reviews.
- A requirement for Local Governments to publish and maintain registers on their website.

The draft Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Draft Regulations), which will give effect to these reforms, have been released for public consultation. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) have requested comment by 8 May. Information is available on the [DLGSC website](#), including a copy of the [Draft Regulations](#) and a [DLGSC Consultation Paper](#).

WALGA circulated a discussion paper and request for comment to all Local Governments on 30 January.

## COMMENT

Responses received from Local Governments indicate serious concerns with the detail of the Draft Regulations. Overarching concerns include:

- The creation of red tape and excessive administrative burden, in conflict with a stated aim of the reform, and without clear public benefit.
- Continued proliferation of compliance requirements for Local Governments, including overlapping but inconsistent reporting obligations.
- Unreasonable implementation timeframes given existing Local Government workload, cumulative burden of ongoing program of reform and upcoming elections.
- Confusion and lack of clarity (plain English drafting) in the Draft Regulations.

Specific concerns are discussed in relation to each proposal.

### **CEO matters: Publishing performance criteria and reports on performance review**

Of the submissions that provided comment on this aspect of the Draft Regulations, over half expressed strong opposition to publication of CEO KPIs and performance reviews. Opposition was based on factors including the inconsistency with public sector practice, risks to CEOs, mechanisms for reporting on organisational rather than individual performance and the erosion of Local Government autonomy. A small number of Local Governments broadly supported the regulations or their intent. In addressing the content of Draft Regulations 18AA and 18FAA, submissions raised concerns with the proposed reporting of target achievement and the mechanisms for exclusion of performance criteria from publication.

### **CEO matters: Independent persons panel (CEO recruitment)**

Key concerns included a lack of clarity about the selection criteria and processes to be followed by the Departmental CEO in establishing the panel, the capacity for Councils to appoint independent members from within their own districts, and the management of conflicts of interest.

### **CEO matters: Certification, recruitment and termination**

There were divided views on the requirement for separate certification, but support for the retention of a requirement to conduct a selection process before contract expiry, the option

to include additional information in a performance criterion and the proposed modification of the CEO Standards in relation to termination during probation.

### **Registers: General considerations**

Local Governments articulated a range of concerns that are applicable to all registers, including the administrative burden, unreasonable commencement and retrospectivity, lack of clarity and difficulty in applying the requirements, and the implications of the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (the PRIS Act).

### **Lease register**

Submissions raised considerable concerns with this proposed register. Issues include the breadth of the lease definition, safety and confidentiality for residents and community groups, commercial in confidence information and the ability of Local Governments to generate best value from assets, whether through commercial returns or community benefits.

### **Grants and sponsorships register**

Some Local Governments provided general support for the register, subject to the exclusion of retrospectivity. However, the majority of submissions identified concerns regarding the value threshold, privacy and confidentiality, and a lack of clarity in the calculation of value.

### **Development contributions register**

The majority of submissions expressed concerns regarding the administrative burden with limited improvements in transparency and oversight of Developer Contribution Plans (DCPs) than is currently provided for under the state planning framework. This burden is exacerbated by the retrospectivity and short implementation timeframe. Those Local Governments with a high number of DCPs advise that this is likely to lead to delays and increased costs in the administration of DCPs. Privacy considerations and practical issues with the calculation of interest for individual contributions, and the list of items and percentage of expenditure were also identified.

### **Contracts for goods and services register**

All submissions that commented on the contract register highlighted concerns including the administrative burden associated with the unreasonably low threshold value and duplication of existing reporting requirements. Members raised heightened fraud risks, and issues relating to commercial in confidence information. There is also a lack of clarity regarding the definition of contract and contract value.

This sector feedback and detailed analysis of the Draft Regulations has informed the preparation of the attached draft WALGA submission.

### **WALGA RECOMMENDATION**

That WALGA endorse the recommendations contained in the attached '*Regulations for CEO KPIs and public registers submission*'.

## RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Phil Blight

Seconded: President Leigh Ballard

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'

CARRIED

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## 12.2 DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.2)

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*By Felicity Morris, Manager Governance and Procurement and Marnie Herrington, Governance Specialist*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Motions from Zones regarding the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database provide an opportunity to review the existing *Puppy Farming* advocacy position and replace it with a new *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position.
- The purpose of the new position is to reflect the progression of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* and the emerging concerns of the Local Government sector regarding the PetsWA centralised registration system.
- The Governance Policy Team endorsed the new advocacy position at its meeting on 24 March.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Comparison table between current Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming, and proposed advocacy position Dog and Cat Management.](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a new *Dog and Cat Management* position.

The current Advocacy Position is as follows:

#### **2.12 Puppy Farming**

##### **1. The WA Local Government sector:**

- a) Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming.*
- b) Acknowledges the benefit of de-sexing of dogs not used for approved breeding purposes, and request further information on the complexities associated with de-sexing of dogs prior to considering supporting the proposal.*
- c) Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government.*
- d) Supports appropriate legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- e) Does not support the transition of pet shops to adoption centres.*
- f) Requests there be a Local Government-specific consultation process in relation to the proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act to*

*introduce Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Animals including dogs.*

- g) Supports a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from professional registered breeders.*
- h) Requests the State Government discontinue the use of the term 'Farming' due to the negative connotation that may be associated with other regulated industries, and consider re-naming the initiative 'Stop Puppy Mills'.*

*2. The Local Government sector advocates that:*

- a) any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and*
- b) the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*

The recommended new Advocacy Position is as follows:

***Dog and Cat Management***

*In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:*

- a) that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- b) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- c) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- 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.*
- e) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- f) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

A table comparing the current and proposed advocacy position can be seen in Attachment A.

**BACKGROUND**

**Stop Puppy Farming Legislation**

- At its September 2018 meeting, State Council adopted a detailed position in relation to the Stop Puppy Farming Initiative (*Resolution 103.6/2018*).
- At its March 2020 meeting, State Council resolved that "WALGA write to the Minister and request that he withdraw the Stop Puppy Farming Bill and more appropriately consult with the sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, or failing that, that he remove any reference to Local Government in the bill as the sector does not endorse it in its current form" (*Resolution 13.1/2020*).
- At its September 2021, State Council adopted additional points to the advocacy position, supporting WALGA continuing to advocate that:



- a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and
- b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.

*(Resolution 275.5/2021)*

- In December 2021, the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (the Act) was passed by Parliament. The Act amended both the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011* in several ways.
- The implementation of the legislation is occurring in phases, with existing pet shops needing to transition to adoption centres by obtaining a 'pet shop approval' through their Local Governments by 26 May.
- It is anticipated that dog breeding approval provisions and mandatory sterilisation of dogs (unless an exemption is in place) will take effect later in 2025. In August 2024, the State Government awarded a contract to Seisma Group to establish PetsWA (the new centralised registration system for dogs and cats), which is anticipated to be operational later in 2025.

### **Fees and cost recovery**

In a letter to WALGA dated 1 November 2021, Minister John Carey confirmed that “the State Government has committed to covering the costs associated with the establishment of the Centralised Registration System, to centrally record the registration of all domestic cats and dogs within Western Australia”. However, the State Government position relating to ongoing costs associated with the system and the particulars about revenue generated from registrations has not been made clear.

In early 2024, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) released a Consultation Paper prepared by consultants Marsden Jacob Associates on the new and existing fees and charges under the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011*. WALGA provided a submission in line with State Councils advocacy position as follows.

*That WALGA:*

1. *Welcomes a cost modelling review of the financial impact on Local Governments to ensure that Local Government is able to fully recover costs and not be disadvantaged in ensuring compliance of any new legislation to Stop Puppy Farming;*
2. *Supports a centralised dog registration system that is developed, operated and maintained by State Government;*
3. *Any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and*
4. *The Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed biennially and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*

### **Zone resolutions**

#### *Central Country Zone*

At the Central Country Zone Meeting of 15 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the administrative costs of the PetsWA central registration system would be withheld by the State Government from registration fees collected by Local Governments. As already noted, registration fees are already insufficient to cover the costs of Local Government cat and dog management responsibilities.

The Zone resolved:

*That the Central Country Zone request WALGA to:*

- a) *advocate to the Government of Western Australia that 100% of the revenue derived from pet registrations (both dogs and cats) continue to be returned directly to Local Governments to effectively administer the Dog Act 1976 and Cat Act 2011.*
- b) *recommend that the new centralized PetsWA Pet Registry Scheme, administered by the State Government, should not retain any commission or portion of the registration fees for its operations, as the current fee structure does not adequately cover the costs associated with pet management at the Local Government level.*

#### *North Metropolitan Zone*

At the North Metropolitan Zone Meeting of 20 November 2024, the Zone considered an item which raised concerns that the community would be able to lodge complaints through the PetsWA centralised registration system and that infringements would be issued through the system. As no integration with Local Government systems has been advised, this would create a duplicate workload for officers.

The Zone resolved:

*That WALGA advocate to the State Government for the PetsWA Centralised Registration Database scope to be restricted to a centralised registration system (excluding complaints and infringements) that integrates with Local Government's existing corporate systems.*

#### **COMMENT**

As the Act has progressed, the existing advocacy position should be reviewed to reflect the current state.

A comparison between the current and proposed advocacy position is provided in Attachment A, with key themes addressed below.

#### **Cost Recovery**

Under the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021*, Local Governments will have increased responsibilities, including approvals to breed and pet shop approvals, as well as associated investigation and enforcement functions. WALGA has continued to advocate to the State Government for fees and charges to be set at a level that achieves full cost recovery and that any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government. The proposed advocacy position retains these key positions.

The fees from registrations and animal related infringements do not currently cover all costs associated with Local Government responsibilities. There is a risk that the State Government could administer the PetsWA system in a way which reduces Local Government income from registrations.

WALGA's existing advocacy position supports PetsWA to be managed by the State (Advocacy Position 2.12.b). The proposed *Dog and Cat Management* Advocacy Position expands on the existing position to make it absolutely clear that there should be no loss of registration fee revenue to the Local Governments in administering the database.

#### **Scope of PetsWA**

The Act provides for a centralised registration system, known as PetsWA, to be managed by the State Government. DLGSC has been tasked with the implementation of the system.

The contract to develop PetsWA was awarded on 2 August 2024 and is expected to launch in the second half of 2025. PetsWA is intended to replace the dog and cat registers managed by individual Local Governments with a single online system, used state-wide. PetsWA will allow dog and cat owners to register their pets and make payments online.

In addition to uncertainty about revenue from fees and charges under PetsWA, there is ambiguity about the scope of information recorded within PetsWA. DLGSC has noted that PetsWA could be used to manage public complaints, request ranger visits, manage dangerous dog notices, and issue infringements. This could increase administrative burden on Local Government staff by duplicating data entry with existing record management systems, as there is no clarity on the extent of the integration with Local Government's existing systems.

To avoid this, PetsWA should be integrated with Local Government's existing systems and the scope should be restricted to its original function as a centralised registration system.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 *Puppy Farming* with a revised *Dog and Cat Management* advocacy position, as follows:

*In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:*

- i) that fees reflect completed cost modelling to ensure that Local Governments achieve full cost recovery in ensuring compliance with the Dog Act 1976 or Cat Act 2011.*
- j) that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.*
- k) that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.*
- l) 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.*
- m) for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.*
- n) for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.*

## **RESOLUTION**

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Scott Ballantyne**

**That the Central Country Zone recommend:**

**That WALGA replace Advocacy Position 2.12 Puppy Farming with a revised Dog and Cat Management advocacy position, as follows;**

**In regard to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021 and the PetsWA Centralised Database, the WA Local Government sector advocates:**

- 1. 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**
- 2. that Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and, at minimum, adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index.**
- 3. that the PetsWA centralised registration database is developed, operated and maintained by State Government, with no loss to Local Government registration fee revenue.**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. for the continued legislative exemptions for livestock working dogs in recognition of their special breeding requirements.**
- 6. for a State Government-led education initiative whereby the community is encouraged to purchase puppies from approved breeders.**

**CARRIED**

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## 12.3 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING REGULATIONS ADVOCACY POSITION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.3)

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*By Nicole Matthews, Executive Manager Policy and Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The effectiveness, cost and complexity of the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing has been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to its impacts on the delivery of road and other infrastructure projects.
- WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.
- WALGA's current [advocacy positions](#) relating to the regulation of clearing of native vegetation were endorsed by State Council in 2004 (5.2.1) and 2006 (5.2.2).
- Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements have occurred since that time which has resulted in some improvement, however, problems persist.
- The updated Advocacy Position, seeks to respond to feedback and issues raised by the sector, calls the State Government to:
  - implement **legislative, policy and process changes**, including the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals; increasing the duration of clearing permits; providing a permanent exemption to enable clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors; and strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
  - allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
  - undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
  - **reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.
- At their joint meeting on 24 March, the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Teams recommended that State Council endorse the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations advocacy position.

### ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations Issues Paper](#)
- [Road Safety Briefing Note](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This item is to replace existing Advocacy Positions 5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act and 5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves with a new *Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations* position.

The current [Advocacy Positions](#) are as follows:

#### ***5.2.1 Environmental Protection Act***

*Impact on Road Reserves Position Statement. The Local Government sector supports continued advocacy to minimise the impact on road reserves and in regards to*

*Regulations, processing times, access to vegetation data and a Code of Practice on maintenance activities.*

### **5.2.2 Land Clearing in Road Reserves**

*The Local Government sector supports Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 as a permanent exemption for the maintenance of existing transport corridors and supports the continued advocacy for improvements to processing and timelines of the current clearing legislation.*

The proposed Advocacy Position is as follows:

#### **Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations**

*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:*

- 1. Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
  - a. introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications and appeals*
  - b. increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
  - c. provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*
  - d. strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
- 2. Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
  - 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*
  - b. establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
    - i. case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
    - ii. provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
    - iii. support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
  - c. enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*
  - d. increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
    - i. funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
    - ii. making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
- 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.*
- 4. Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

## BACKGROUND

Western Australia is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth and has significant regional endemism, meaning it has plants and animals that only live in a particular location (Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute). Eight of Australia's 15 declared biodiversity hotspots are in WA and the South West Ecoregion, (running from Shark Bay in the northwest to Esperance in south east with a narrow strip along the southeastern coast to the border between WA and SA) is one of only 34 internationally recognised Global Biodiversity Hotspots (and the only in Australia). A Global Biodiversity Hotspot is defined as a geographical region that has at least 1,500 vascular plant species and has lost at least 70 per cent of its original supporting habitat.

In Western Australia the clearing of native vegetation is primarily regulated under Part V Division 2 of the [Environmental Protection Act 1986](#) (EP Act) and [Environmental Protection \(Clearing of Native Vegetation\) Regulations 2004](#) (Regulations). Under section 51C of the EP Act clearing of native vegetation is an offence unless a permit has been granted, or an exemption applies.

The Regulations provide exemptions for routine land management practices, including for clearing done for maintenance in existing, previously legally cleared transport (road and rail) corridors, provided that the previous clearing occurred within the preceding 10 years (Regulation 5, Item 22). Schedule 2, cl. 2 of the Regulations specify the extent of maintenance clearing for an area or purpose:

Area or purpose	Extent of clearing
Crossover area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for the area.
Lateral clearance area	Complete clearing to the width and height previously cleared for that stretch of road or railway.
Maintenance and protection of transport corridor infrastructure	Clearing to the extent necessary to – a) Maintain the efficacy and safety of the infrastructure; b) Protect the infrastructure (for example from fire); and c) Provide access to the infrastructure to maintain it.
An area that is a public roadside facility	Clearing to the extent necessary to maintain (but not extend) the intended use of the area.
Sight line area	Clearing to the extent previously cleared for that area.

Schedule 2, cl. 1 of the Regulations provides the following definitions:

- *crossover area* means the area occupied by a crossover from a road to a property adjacent to the road and any associated sight line areas;
- *lateral clearance area*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, means the area (if any) parallel to and immediately adjacent to the stretch of road or railway that is ordinarily cleared;
- *public roadside facility* includes a camping area, rest area, information bay, road train assembly area or parking area or a footpath or cycle track in the road reserve;

- *transport corridor infrastructure*, in relation to a stretch of road or railway, includes barriers, signs, guideposts, drains, levies, embankments, gutters, bridges, overpasses and other similar structures or works.

While this exemption does not apply in an environmentally sensitive area, an area that would otherwise be an environmentally sensitive area is not an environmentally sensitive area to the extent it is in a maintenance area of transport corridor.

The Australian Government regulates clearing that is likely to impact a matter of National Environment Significance through the application of Parts 7 - 9 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*.

The effectiveness, cost, complexity and timeframes associated with the regulatory system for native vegetation clearing have been a longstanding concern for Local Governments, particularly in relation to impacts on the delivery of road projects, which make up approximately 60 per cent of Local Government clearing permit applications and 30 per cent of referrals (Dec 2021 – Oct 2024). WALGA has made numerous representations and submissions to the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has three [advocacy positions](#) related to native vegetation clearing regulation dating (2004, 2006, 2018). Numerous reviews and significant legislative and policy changes have occurred since that time, aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements, including the Western Australian Offset Policy (2011) and Guideline (2014), the Review of the Western Australian Offsets Framework (2019), the implementation of cost recovery for clearing permit applications (2019), the release of the [Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia](#) in 2022, the [Independent \(Vogel-McFerran\) Review of WA Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures](#) (2023) and amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in 2020 and 2024.

As a result of these changes, the exemption for clearing in previously cleared transport corridors increased from 5 to 10 years, a referral process was introduced for low impact clearing and minor scheme amendments no longer require referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.

While these changes have resulted in some improvements, problems persist. This was recognised by the Vogel-McFerran Review, which found that “approvals processes have become overly complex, time-consuming, and costly – holding back economic development without any benefit to the environment”.

In 2024, to inform the development of an updated advocacy position on native vegetation clearing regulation, WALGA undertook research and analysis of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Office of the Appeals Convenor data, previous submissions and Zone resolutions/feedback and held a sector webinar to inform the development of an [Issues Paper](#). The Paper was considered by the Environment Policy Team and included in the November 2024 Zone meeting Agendas for feedback.



The main themes from the consultations, Zones and issues paper feedback were:

- key challenges faced by the sector related to the complexity of the regulatory system, costs associated with the process and the time taken for assessment and appeals; and
- these challenges can delay critical road and infrastructure projects and impact Local Government's ability to attract and retain grant funding.

## COMMENT

A consolidated, updated advocacy position will enable WALGA to comprehensively advocate for members to address the challenges of operating in a complex and costly regulatory environment, whilst balancing the protection of the environment.

The updated Advocacy Position calls on the State Government to:

- Implement **legislative, policy and process changes** including:
  - the imposition of statutory timeframes for assessments and appeals;
  - a permanent exemption for clearing in previously legally cleared transport corridors;
  - increasing the duration of clearing permits; and
  - strengthening environmental data sharing requirements.
- Allocate **adequate resources** to implement an expedited process for road safety and state and federally funded or co-funded projects; a dedicated Local Government unit to process applications and support the sector; timely compliance and enforcement action; and implement a state-funded collection and provision of data.
- Undertake **bioregional planning** and implement **strategic solutions for environmental offsets** for Local Government.
- **Reduce duplication** between the State and Australian government regulatory systems.

## WALGA RECOMMENDATION

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:*

1. *Amending the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and associated regulations to remove unnecessary process, complexity and improve timeframes, including:*
  - a. *introducing statutory timeframes for the determination of referrals, permit applications, **and appeals investigations and prosecutions.***
  - b. *increasing the default duration of Area and Purpose Permits to 10 years*
  - c. *provide a permanent exemption for clearing of previously legally cleared transport corridors*

- d. *strengthening environmental data sharing requirements to ensure proponents cannot opt-out of sharing data collected for environmental assessment and monitoring purposes.*
- 2. *Ensuring the regulatory system is adequately resourced to:*
  - 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*
  - b. *establish a dedicated Local Government unit within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to:*
    - i. *case manage Local Government referrals and clearing permit applications*
    - ii. *provide guidance and training for Local Governments, particularly in relation to roadside vegetation management*
    - iii. *support partnerships with Local Governments in strategic environmental offsets*
  - ~~c. *enable timely investigation and enforcement action for illegal clearing*~~
  - d. *increase investment in the collection and provision of statewide biodiversity data, including:*
    - i. *funding and coordinating a state-wide biodiversity survey program to standardise habitat and vegetation mapping*
    - ii. *making biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable.*
- 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.*
- 4. *Working with the Australian Government to reduce duplication between the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

## RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Amy Knight**

**Seconded: Cr Scott Ballantyne**

**That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.3, with amendments to 1a, and the deletion of 2c as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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## 12.4 SUBMISSION ON THE STATE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.4)

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*By Rachel Armstrong, Policy Manager Emergency Management*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is consulting on revised State Recovery Arrangements via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#). Formal consultation closes Friday, 2 May.
- WALGA was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.
- The revised arrangements integrate lessons from past recoveries, current best practices, and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- There are no significant changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework.
- The Commonwealth - State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements - Western Australia (DRFA-WA) are not part of the State Emergency Management Framework and are outside the scope of the review.
- WALGA's draft submission was shared with Local Governments and the draft final version incorporates feedback.
- WALGA's submission is generally supportive of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, which provide improved clarity on roles and responsibilities in recovery, particularly for State Government, and clearer arrangements for transitioning from response to recovery and from recovery to business as usual.
- WALGA's submission highlights the need for State Government investment in streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms for recovery and resilience building, and the need to ensure adequate support to Local Governments.
- The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at its 18 March meeting.

### ATTACHMENT

- [Draft State Recovery Arrangements – WALGA submission](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission on the State Recovery Arrangements is aligned to the following [Advocacy Positions](#) :

#### ***8.1 Emergency Management Principles***

- 1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.*
- 2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.*
- 3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.*

## **8.2 State Emergency Management Framework**

*Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:*

- 1. Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;*
- 2. Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;*
- 3. Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;*
- 4. Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and*
- 5. Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.*

## **8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management**

*Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:*

- 1. Empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;*
- 2. Supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;*
- 3. Is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context; and*
- 4. Develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and*
- 5. Is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.*

## **8.11 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)**

- 1. The State Government should fund the implementation of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Improvement Plan endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).*
- 2. A reformed LEMA system should:*
  - a. Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments in emergency management;*
  - b. Simplify the reporting processes and reduce the administrative burden of maintaining compliance;*
  - c. Provide a suite of scalable tools and guidance materials that are accessible through an online knowledge hub;*
  - d. Build the emergency management capacity and capability of Local Governments through the provision of targeted training, exercising support, human resources and sustainable funding;*
  - e. Assist Local Governments to continue to deliver their core business activities and provide public information during an emergency event;*
  - f. Improve the connectivity of Local Governments' various risk management and hazard planning processes through an integrated approach; and*
  - g. Enable resource sharing and collaboration across the Local Government sector.*

### **5.4.3 Betterment (resilience)**

*The Local Government sector supports increased funding for the replacement or restoration of damaged assets to a more resilient standard following an event.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2020, Western Australia has faced complex recovery challenges from events like Cyclone Seroja, Wooroloo bushfires, and Kimberley floods, necessitating greater State involvement. The review of State Recovery Arrangements aims to integrate lessons from past recoveries, update best practices, and clarify roles.

There are no changes to Local Government's responsibility to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district as set out in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (s36b). There are no substantive changes to Local Government roles and responsibilities for recovery under the State Emergency Management Framework.

The proposed changes to the State Recovery Arrangements include:

- introducing four State Strategic Recovery Priorities which are informed by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery in the [Australian Disaster Recovery Framework](#).
- implementing a new four-tiered Model for State Involvement in Recovery where the State's involvement increases with the complexity of the recovery.
- clarifying roles and responsibilities for Local Government, Hazard Management Agencies, State agencies, and support organisations. The improved clarity in State roles in recovery should make it easier for Local Governments to access the support they need to coordinate community-led recovery.
- emphasising greater community engagement in recovery.
- reduced emphasis on an Impact Statement as a trigger for transitioning recovery coordination from the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) to Local or State Government and a new requirement for transition arrangements to be planned/agreed with Local Governments.
- clarifying the requirement for a planned transition from recovery arrangements to 'business-as-usual' service delivery for Local and State Government.

WALGA and Local Governments have been involved in preliminary consultations to support the development of the revised State Recovery Arrangements, including through the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), WALGA's Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group (LGEMAG) and Local Government Focus Groups.

#### **COMMENT**

WALGA requested and was granted an extension to enable the draft submission to be included as an Item for Decision in the 7 May State Council Agenda.

WALGA's draft submission incorporates feedback from preliminary consultation, WALGA's advocacy positions, and input from the sector via the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review and the 2023 Local Government Emergency Management Survey. This feedback has consistently demonstrated support within the sector for shared responsibility for recovery, with the level and type of support required varying with the size, scale and complexity of the event and Local Government capacity.

Overall, the amended State Recovery Arrangements provide much improved clarity on how responsibility for recovery is to be shared and therefore a better foundation for recovery coordination.

The submission recommends:

1. The State Government should develop streamlined, appropriate and effective funding mechanisms to invest in Local Government recovery and resilience building.
2. Investment in recovery should not be limited by the eligibility requirements of the DRFA-WA and should meet the recovery requirements of Local Governments and Communities.
3. The DRFA-WA must be urgently reviewed to streamline administration, approvals and evidentiary requirements, address the cash-flow impacts of the reimbursement model and enable resilient reconstruction / betterment following a disaster.
4. The State Government should invest in effective risk assessment and risk reduction, in addition to ensuring to providing effective and fit for purpose State Recovery Arrangements.

#### State Strategic Recovery Priorities

5. WALGA supports the proposed four State Strategic Recovery Priorities: 1. Assist people to meet their recovery needs; 2. Enable community-centred recovery; 3. Restore community function and wellbeing; 4. Foster community disaster resilience.

#### Model for State Involvement in Recovery

6. WALGA supports the proposed 4-tier Model for State involvement in Recovery.
7. WALGA supports the roles assigned to Local Government under each recovery level (R1-4). The roles and responsibilities are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
8. WALGA supports the roles assigned to State Government under each recovery level (R1-4), which provide improved clarity.

#### Roles and responsibilities

9. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Local Governments in the revised State Recovery arrangements, including section 6.3 of the revised State EM Policy, with minor amendments as outlined in Appendix 1. The roles and responsibilities in the revised arrangements are aligned to current roles and responsibilities.
10. WALGA recommends that the revised State Recovery Arrangements clearly reinforce the role of the State Recovery Coordinator to confirm individual Local Government's capacity to undertake their allocated roles and responsibilities during recovery and ensures additional support is provided as required.
11. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to Hazard Management Agencies and Controlling Agencies in section 6.6 of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
12. WALGA supports the roles and responsibilities allocated to State agencies in section 6.7 and Appendix F of the revised State EM Policy, which provide improved clarity.
13. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should formalise coordination protocols between Local Governments and State agencies to enable rapid mobilisation of essential workers in disaster impacted communities.
14. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should consider inclusion of roles, responsibilities and coordination protocols for essential services, as coordinated restoration of essential services is fundamental to early recovery.
15. The revised State Recovery Arrangements should reinforce compliance with data sharing arrangements under 6.1.72 of the EM Act to ensure that State Agencies are sharing information effectively in recovery and include this as a specific function of the State Recovery Coordinator / Controller.

#### Greater emphasis on engaging community

16. WALGA supports the greater emphasis on engaging communities in planning recovery, and the flexibility in approach so that this can be adapted to meet Local Government and community needs and capacities.

#### Phases of Recovery

17. WALGA supports amendments to the State EM Plan to introduce three phases of recovery: 1) Recovery Planning. 2) Response and Early Recovery. 3) Recovery Operations.
18. Considering Phase 3) Recovery Operations:
  - a. The requirements for Local Governments to review and evaluate the Local Operational Recovery Plan should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context and supported by simple and effective guidance.
  - b. All monitoring and evaluation requirements for DRFA-WA programs, if applicable, should be coordinated by the State Government.
19. Recovery Operations should be supported by pre-prepared State-level Urgent Recovery Programs and surge capacity for implementation.
20. Streamlined guidance should be provided for needs assessment, review and evaluation. The approach should be scalable to the Local Government's capacity, and the recovery level and context.

#### Public Information and Communication

21. WALGA supports nomination of DFES, instead of the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator to coordinate State-level recovery public information and communications. DFES should consult and coordinate with Local Governments on recovery communications.

#### Transition between response and recovery

22. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination by agreement between the Hazard Management Agency and Local Government for R1 and R2 recoveries.
23. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for a planned transition of recovery coordination between the Hazard Management Agency and State Government for R3 and R4 recoveries with a written transition plan.

#### Transition from recovery to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements

24. WALGA supports the proposed requirements for the State to plan the de-escalation of State recovery involvement and transition to 'business as usual' service arrangements. The requirements for a transition plan are clearly described and sufficient, however should be outlined in a written plan.

#### Requirement for an Impact Statement

25. WALGA supports the requirement that the HMA prepares an Impact Statement in all Level 2 and 3 incidents.

#### Local Operational Recovery Plans

26. WALGA supports the general requirement for a Local Operational Recovery Plan to be prepared for R2, R3 and R4 events.
27. The Local Recovery Guideline should be revised to provide better guidance to Local Governments on how to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan.

28. State Recovery support should be provided to prepare a Local Operational Recovery Plan, if requested by the Local Government.
29. WALGA Recommends renaming the Local Operational Recovery Plan to [Event] Recovery Action Plan.

#### Executive Government Forum

30. WALGA supports provisions to enable strategic oversight and direction for complex recovery issues via referral to an existing cross-government executive forum or a Director General/Chief Executive Officer-level forum.

The People and Place Policy Team noted the draft submission at their 18 March meeting.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That State Council endorse the submission to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on proposed revisions to the State Recovery Arrangements.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: President Cr Phil Blight**

**Seconded: Cr Clive Barton**

**That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.4 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**



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## 12.5 HEALTH (PUBLIC BUILDINGS) REGULATIONS CONSULTATION (STATE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 8.5)

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*By Coralie Claudio, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Health (DoH) is seeking feedback on the [Consultation Paper 2025 Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations 1992](#) (Consultation Paper), which examines whether the Regulations should be repealed without replacement.
- Repealing the Regulations is not supported by the sector, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to proactively manage and mitigate public health risks.
- Revised Regulations are supported to provide a contemporary, risk-based approach to public building management, eliminating unnecessary building construction requirements and incorporating modern compliance and enforcement tools.
- WALGA received an extension of time from DoH to allow the submission to be considered by State Council as part of the May Agenda.

### ATTACHMENT

- [WALGA's submission on the Health \(Public Buildings\) Regulations Consultation](#)

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

WALGA's submission is consistent with the following [WALGA Advocacy Position](#)

#### ***6.6 Building Act and Regulations***

*Assessments of the effectiveness of building control systems across Australia have recognised that there is diminishing public confidence in the building and construction industry, and that change is required to ensure buildings are safe and perform to expected standards. Now more than ever, the focus is on Local Government building departments to deliver good governance, local leadership and sustainable services that meet the needs of their communities whilst supporting local jobs and economic growth. The Association has the following endorsed positions:*

- 1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the Building Act 2011.*
- 2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings; however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections.*
- 3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives:*
  - a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient.*
  - b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings.*
  - c. Good decision making in all aspects of building.*
  - d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation.*
  - e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters.*
  - f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner.*
- 4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.*
- 5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying*

*profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.*

6. *WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.*

## **BACKGROUND**

The *Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992* (the Regulations) were established to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of people using public buildings in Western Australia. The current definition of a public building is broad, and captures most public areas where people gather for a pre-determined purpose, including for entertainment, sports and recreation, worship and educational purposes.

These Regulations set standards for the construction, maintenance, and operation of public buildings, covering aspects such as occupancy limits, emergency exits, evacuation plans, ventilation, lighting and sanitary facilities. Local Governments play a crucial role in enforcing the Regulations, specifically by conducting routine inspections to ensure ongoing compliance with health and safety standards.

In 2018, the DoH released a Discussion Paper *Managing public health risks in public buildings in Western Australia*, that sought feedback on two options: repealing the Regulations without replacement or providing new, updated Regulations under the *Public Health Act 2016*.

WALGA's submission at the time supported the latter option as Regulations would continue to allow for the assessment and maintenance of the operational safety of public buildings that would maintain patron safety and provide adequate control and enforcement tools for Local Government officers.

This was the position of DoH when the Consultation Summary Report was published in 2019. The report also noted that the Regulations shouldn't duplicate the construction requirements in building legislation and instead focus on the ongoing management of public health risks associated with the building. No updated Regulations were released.

In February, DoH released the Consultation Paper that re-examined if the Regulations should be repealed without replacement. The paper outlines relevant legislative and regulatory changes since 2019 and further examines the need for Regulations in addition to the WA building legislation and the National Construction Codes (NCC) that set safety standards and protocols for building construction.

## **COMMENT**

WALGA does not support the repealing of the Regulations, as it would impede Local Governments' ability to undertake routine inspections, proactively managing and mitigating public health risks related to public buildings.

WALGA's submission acknowledges that the Regulations are outdated, and they should be reviewed and updated to ensure they are contemporary, fit for purpose and focus on the ongoing management of public buildings, rather than building construction requirements.

Health provisions, specifically the ongoing management of public buildings, are not appropriately placed within building legislation, and the building sector is not adequately trained or resourced to effectively manage ongoing public health risks.

Additionally, the general public health duty under the updated *Public Health Act 2016*, along with other legislation and inspections undertaken by government agencies, does not provide effective management and compliance mechanisms to address public building safety.

#### WALGA RECOMMENDATION

That WALGA endorse the submission on Health (Public Buildings) Regulations Consultation to the Department of Health.

#### RESOLUTION

**Moved: Deputy President Cr Rob Harris**

**Seconded: President Cr Phil Blight**

**That the Zone support the WALGA recommendation for State Council Agenda item 8.5 as contained in the State Council Agenda and as provided above.**

**CARRIED**

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#### 12.6 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

**NIL**

#### 14 NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on 10 June 2025 commencing at 7.30am, via MTeams.

The next Central Country Zone meeting will be held on 20 June 2025 commencing at 9.30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Williams.

#### 15 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.41pm.



# Central Country Zone Meeting

Shire of Wickepin  
Wickepin Community Centre  
11 April 2025

# Welcome to the April 2025 Central Country Zone of WALGA Meeting in Wickepin

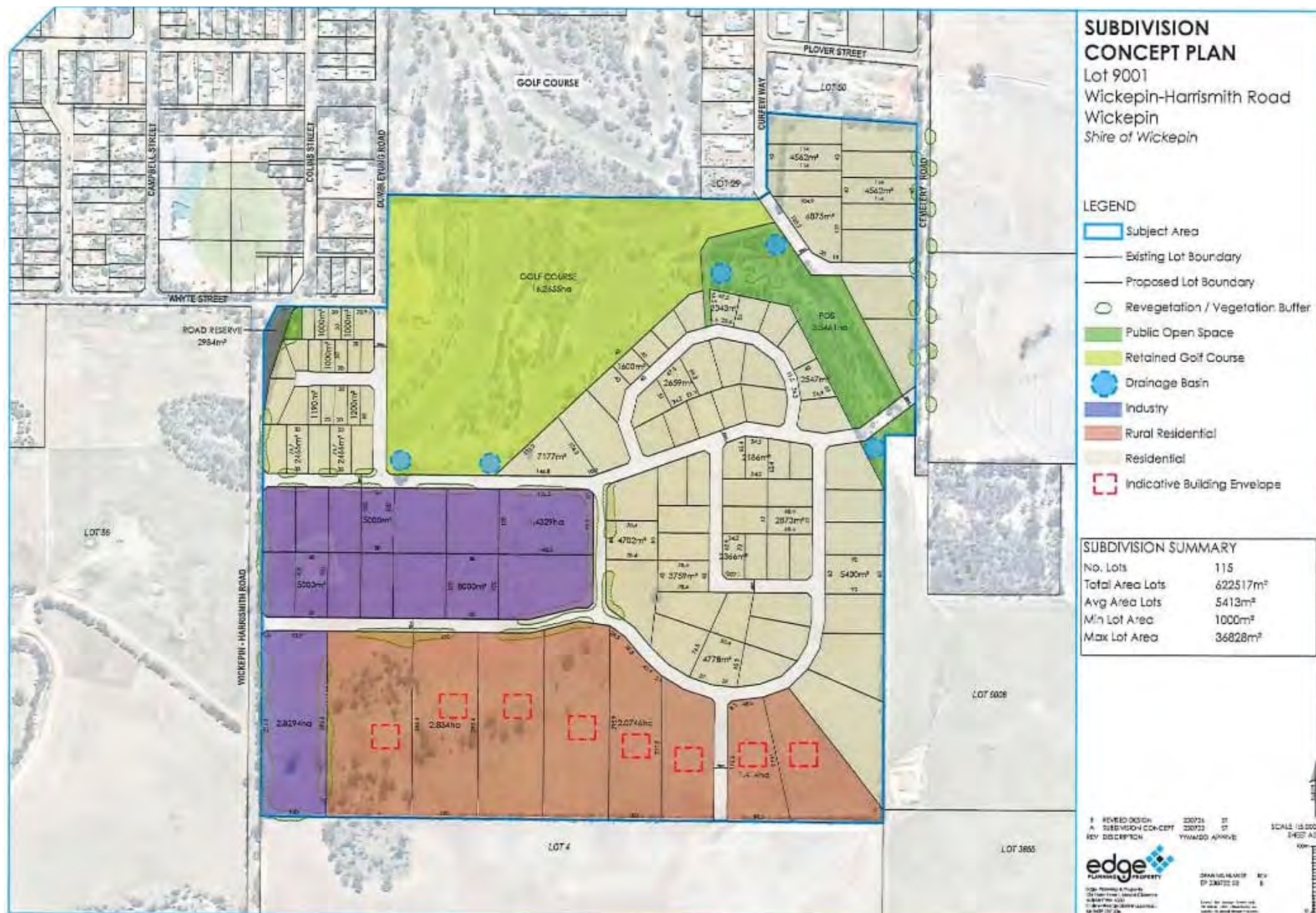
# Local Planning Strategy

- Council has been in the process of developing a Local Planning Strategy since 2023 and is now nearing completion of this document, which will form the basis for the preparation, implementation and review of the Shire of Wickepin Local Planning Scheme No.4
- Whilst this has been a long process, the benefits that it will bring to the Shire is for the orderly development of land and how it will occur in the future.

## Proposed Land Development

- Within the above LPS a major land development is proposed for Lot 9001 within the Wickepin townsite, which will accommodate residential, lifestyle and industrial blocks.
- The current lack of this land is a major impediment to the growth of Wickepin.
- next slide shows a potential plan for the development of Lot 9001





# Development of Growth Strategy

- To complement the development of the LPS and to support the Shires Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and annual Budgets, Council considered it was appropriate to develop a Growth Strategy for the Shire of Wickepin.
- Council has engaged the services of 150 Square to assist Council and the community in developing the Strategy.
- The major Growth Strategy objectives for the Shire were identified as:-
  - Develop and release serviced land
  - Enable population growth; and
  - Provide essential services to stop economic leakage
- The next stages in the process are :-
  - Community Consultation
  - Profiling a suite of critical projects and Council prioritisation



# Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) Development Plan

- CBH precinct expansion to increase Wickepin Receiving Site's holding capacity of grain from 140,000 tonnes to 224,000 tonnes.
- Local businesses do very well from the sales of lunches and fuel from not only the truckies, but from the CBH staff and management.
- CBH accommodation expansion.

# CBH Accommodation Construction



# Recent Local Events

- Lake Yealering Regatta | 7/10/2023
- Ignite Wicky Wickepin Festival | 24/02/2024
- Astrotourism Night Show | 5/10/2024
- Yealering Blooms Garden Day | 12/10/2024
- Opening of Woodland Court Independent Living Units | 16/10/2024
- Australia Day Breakfast | 26/01/2025



# Lake Yealering Regatta



# Ignite Wicky Wickepin Festival





# Astrotourism Night Show



# Opening of Woodland Court Independent Living Units





# Australia Day Breakfast





# Construction in Wickepin

- Wogolin Road Playground & Skate Park
  - The Shire of Wickepin opened the Skate Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Wickepin Pool Toilet Facilities
- Yealering Ablution Block Upgrade
- Yealering Living Lakes Foreshore Precinct Upgrades
- Harrismith Ablution Block Upgrade for truck drivers
- Harrismith Playground Upgrade

# Wogolin Road Playground & Skate Park

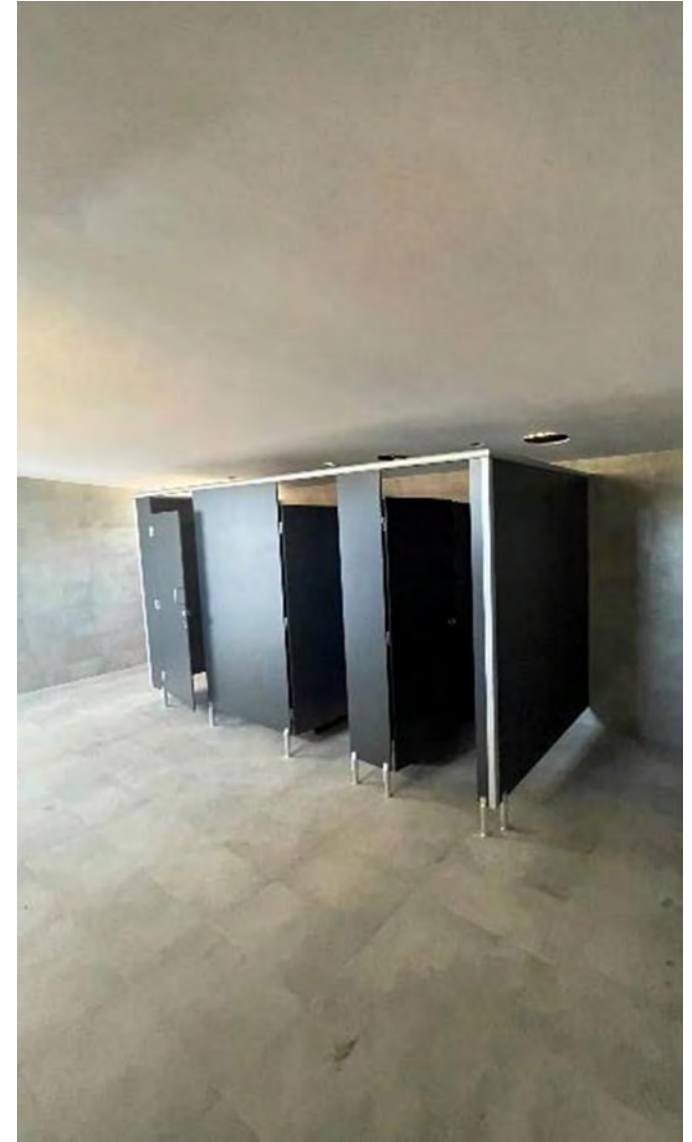




# Wickepin Pool Toilet Facilities



# Yealering Ablution Block





# Harrismith Community Centre Playground



# Other Issues

- Wickepin Hotel - The closure of the Hotel in 2023 has left the town without a very important social hub, and I'm pleased to advise that a Community Committee has now commenced internal refurbishment works with the aim of re-opening the Hotel in late 2025.
- Staffing - The Shire of Wickepin has incurred several senior staff, (CEO and Manager Works) movements since 2022. I am pleased to advise that a Manager of Works was appointed in late 2024 and a new CEO was appointed in February 2025, who will be taking up this position on 16 June. Council believes that the appointments will now provide much-needed stability to the organisation as we move forward.



# Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

## Local Government Division Report

April 2025

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### Local Government Act Reform

#### Tranche 1

- Consultation is now open on proposed regulations for the implementation of reforms to CEO KPI's, CEO employment standards and public registers and closes on **8 May 2025**.

#### Tranche 2

- The *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* (2024 Amendment Act) passed Parliament and received royal assent on 6 December 2024.
- Tranche two reforms include:
  - the new Local Government Inspector
  - introduction of monitors for early intervention
  - council member superannuation
  - increasing penalties
  - enabling resource sharing
  - streamlining processes for model local laws
  - greater role clarity for council members and CEOs
  - introduction of a rates and revenue policy for local governments
  - changes to audit committees
  - providing greater flexibility for regional subsidiaries
  - building upgrade finance.
- Many provisions of the 2024 Amendment Act have now taken effect with information available on the DLGSC website regarding these changes, including the new roles and responsibilities.
- Further amendments commenced on 1 February 2025 to enable council members to be paid superannuation more easily.
- DLGSC provides regular updates to the local government sector on the progress of reforms via DLGSC's Reform webinar series, revisions to the DLGSC website and LG alerts.
- Further progress of the reforms in the 2024 Amendment Act is advancing with announcements expected throughout the year as amendments are implemented.



## Model Financial Statements (MFS)

- Updates to the Model Financial Statements for the 2024-25 annual financial statements will be published in the second quarter of 2025.
- The new asset valuation requirements apply from the 2023-24 financial year onwards.
- Non-financial asset valuation guidelines are currently being prepared. A draft was presented to a sector body workshop held on 22 March 2024, plus inter-jurisdictional consultation has been undertaken, and feedback is being addressed with a view to finalise and publish in the second quarter of 2025.

## Differential rates and Budget/Audit Extensions

- DLGSC is preparing for the 2025/26 budget season.
- Local governments who require ministerial approval for their differential rates should ensure that they submit their applications promptly and well in advance of the council meeting in which they intend to set their budget.
- Applications for ministerial approval should be sent to [legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).
- To avoid delays during the application process, please ensure the data is complete and sufficient evidence is provided. If you require further information, please contact the Legislation email address above.

## Local Government Grants Commission

- Vacancies still exist on the Commission and processes will be initiated now that the State Government election caretaker period has ended.
- The processes will address vacancies for:
  - The Metropolitan member and its Deputy
  - The Country Urban member
  - The Deputy to the Deputy Chair.
- In February and March 2025, the Commission conducted public hearings with four metropolitan local governments and seven local governments in the Near Eastern Wheatbelt Region, respectively.
- The Commission will be visiting the Midwest region in May 2025.

## Financial Assistance Grants funding

- Local governments will receive the final payment of their 2024-25 Financial Assistance (FA) Grants in May 2025.
- On 25 March 2025, the Australian Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, delivered the 2025-26 Federal Budget.
- \$423.6 million was allocated to Western Australian local governments through the FA Grant program. This will consist of:
  - \$261.3 million to general purpose grant funding; and
  - \$162.3 million to local road funding.
- Due to the early delivery of the 2025-26 Federal Budget prior to the announcement of the 2025 Federal election, the current FA Grant estimates are from the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal



Outlook and use population data from June 2024. As a result, the difference between the Budget figure and final figure advised to WA in July 2025 is likely to have a larger difference (either increase or decrease) than normal.

- At the time of preparing this report, DLGSC has not been advised if there will be an advance payment of funds.

## Stop Puppy Farming

- The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021* (SPF Act) requires the design and development of a centralised registration system (called PetsWA) for dogs and cats.
- Regulations were made on 28 November 2024 to affect the pet shop and dog supply approval reforms.
- As a result, from 26 May 2025, only pet shops that hold a pet shop approval can sell dogs and puppies that are sourced from holders of a dog supply approval.
- Only refuge operations and dog management facilities may apply for dog supply approval.
- Applications for pet shop approval are to be made to local governments, and applications for dog supply approvals to DLGSC.
- An interim centralised registration system was created to affect this regulatory change.
- Please contact [stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au) if you have any questions or if you wish to request access to the interim centralised registration system.
- Further regulation changes are proposed in 2025 to introduce approval to breed and mandatory sterilisation.

## Centralised Registration System (PetsWA)

- Migrating the data from current dog and cat registries is critical to the success of the project, to achieve one single repository of dog and cat registry information.
- There will be three data collections required across the project.
- Data collection 1 (DC1) closed on 31 January 2025.
- As of 25 March 2025, 88% of local governments have provided their data.
- Data collection 2 (DC2) commenced on 24 February 2025 and will be broken up into five sub collection groups. Subgroup 1 has been completed, and subgroup 2 commenced on 4 April 2025.

## Off Road Vehicles

- The Off-Road Vehicle Bill (ORV Bill) seeks to update existing legislation to simplify the process for riders to register their off-road vehicles (ORV) and increase penalties for offences, such as riding in prohibited areas or riding an unregistered ORV.
- On 7 November 2024, the ORV Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly and was subsequently introduced into the Legislative Council.
- On 17 December 2024, Parliament was prorogued, which meant the ORV Bill lapsed.
- The ORV Bill was re-introduced into the Legislative Council in April 2025.
- The ORV committee (ORVC) continues to meet regularly.
- Grants program key dates as published in the ORV Grants Program Guidelines:

- Assessment and recommendations: November 2024 to May 2025
- Funding agreement execution: by 30 June 2025
- Project delivery: July 2025 to June 2027.

## Local Government Placemaking training initiative

- Placemaking helps build community connections by bringing together planners, community members, architects, local government, business and other groups, working collaboratively to activate local spaces.
- Over 500 local government staff or elected members from councils across WA accessed the DLGSC-funded training in its first year.
- Due to strong interest from the sector, DLGSC extended the placemaking training partnership with Town Team Movement until July 2025.
- To register for the free online training, please visit <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/placemaking-training>

## DLGSC Contacts

LG Support and Engagement	<a href="mailto:lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">lghotline@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
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CRS – Stop Puppy Farming	<a href="mailto:stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">stoppuppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:Petswa@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">Petswa@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants	<a href="mailto:Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">Grants.commission@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
LG accounting or financial enquiries	<a href="mailto:LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au">LG.accounting@dlgsc.wa.gov.au</a>
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*Keeping  
WA Moving*

# Wheatbelt Region

WALGA Zone Meetings – April 2025



## Completed Works to date 2024-25

### Regional Road Safety Program - Widen Shoulder and Seal (approx. 166km)

- Great Northern Hwy (239.90 – 253 SLK) **Dalwallinu to Wubin 13km**
- Narrogin Kondinin Rd (139.47 – 162.56 SLK) **West of Kondinin 23km**
- York Merredin Rd (87.2 – 106.68 SLK) **Quairading to Bruce Rock 19.5km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (217.30 - 232.14 SLK) **South of Wagin 15km**
- York Merredin Rd (19.50 – 29 SLK) **York to Quairading 9.5km**
- Northam Pithara Rd, (94 – 129.16 SLK) **Wongan Hills to Ballidu 35km**
- Collie Lake King Rd, (224 - 274 SLK) **East of Dumbleyung to Lake Grace 50km**

### Other Capital projects

- **Bridge 541 replacement – (Collie Lake King Rd - SLK 171.14 - South of Wagin)**
- **Great Eastern Hwy - Demolition of the Walgoolan Bridge 629**



Bridge 629 on Great Eastern Highway



## WBR RRSP Update

Status/Tranche Length (km)

Completed 1290.48

0 395.9

1 323.04

2 104.22

3 38.4

4 106.72

5 157.03

6 90.83

7 14.84

6a 59.5

FY 25/26 104.86

8 104.86

In Progress 181.19

6 26.25

7 46.8

6a 108.14

Grand Total 1576.53

### Legend

WBR\_Road\_Network

Rehab within Tranches

PRR\_MLF

Tranche

Tranche 0 - 5

Completed

Tranche 6 & 7 - State and c'wealth funded

Tranche 6a - State Funded

Tranche 8 - FY 25/26



- Completed shoulder sealing to date – 1290.48km
- Current Tranche funding T6, T6a & T7 is in progress – 181.19kms
- Tranche 8 (FY 25/26) Project development activity under way – 104.86kms
  - Chidlow York Road – 28.5 km
  - Collie Lake King Road – 39.94 km
  - Midlands Road – 14.78 km
  - York Merredin Road – 21.64

## Under Construction / In progress 2024-25

### Regional Road Safety Program - Widen Shoulder and Seal (approx. 156KM)

- Collie lake King (277.4 – 300 SLK) **Lake Grace to Newdegate 22.6km**
- Midlands Rd (24.79 - 61.30 SLK) **Moora to Watheroo 36.5km**
- Northam Pithara Rd (46 - 92.80 SLK) **Goomalling to Wongan Hills 47km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (45.30 – 65.39 SLK) **York to Beverley 20.km**
- Northam Cranbrook Rd (67.59 - 97.44 SLK) **Beverley to Brookton 30km**

### Other Capital Projects

- Christmas Rd / GEH Intersection upgrade (In-house delivery)
- Northam Road Train Assembly Area (In-house delivery)
- GEH Walgoolan to Southern Cross - Packages 3, 6 & 8A (302.20 – 306.50, 335.20 – 339.80 and 340.90 – 343.27 SLK) over 24/25 and 25/26 – **Carrabin to Morine Rock**
- Bridge 3197- **York Williams Rd, Beverley**
- Bridge repair works - 3143 on Yeo Rd (SLK 2.35), 0442 on Lake King Road (SLK 117.28), and 4551 on Tarwonga Road ( SLK 22.78)



## Confirmed Projects for 2025/26 - Currently Under Development

- GEH Walgoolan to Southern Cross – P8B total 21.42km ( **Morine Rock to Southern Cross**)
- Great Eastern Hwy – Coates Gully Stage 2 (SLK 56.65 - 67.45) 10.8km – **El Cabello to West of Baker's Hill**
- Collie Lake King Rd SLK 94 – **Climbing Lane, West of Darkan**
- Regional Road Safety Program Tranches (8) \$25.64m - totalling 104.86 km
  - Chidlow to York – approx. 28.5 km
  - Collie Lake King Rd – approx. 40 km
  - Midlands Rd – approx. 14.78 km – Watheroo to Mid-West border
  - York Merredin Rd approx. 21.64 km
- Bridge 661- Weld Street, Gingin – Delivery postponed to 2025/2026



## **Support for LG Bridges Design and Construction Management**



## Delivery Options

- Local Governments to arrange and manage design and construction
- Main Roads to arrange design and Local Government to arrange and manage construction
- Main Roads to arrange and manage design and construction

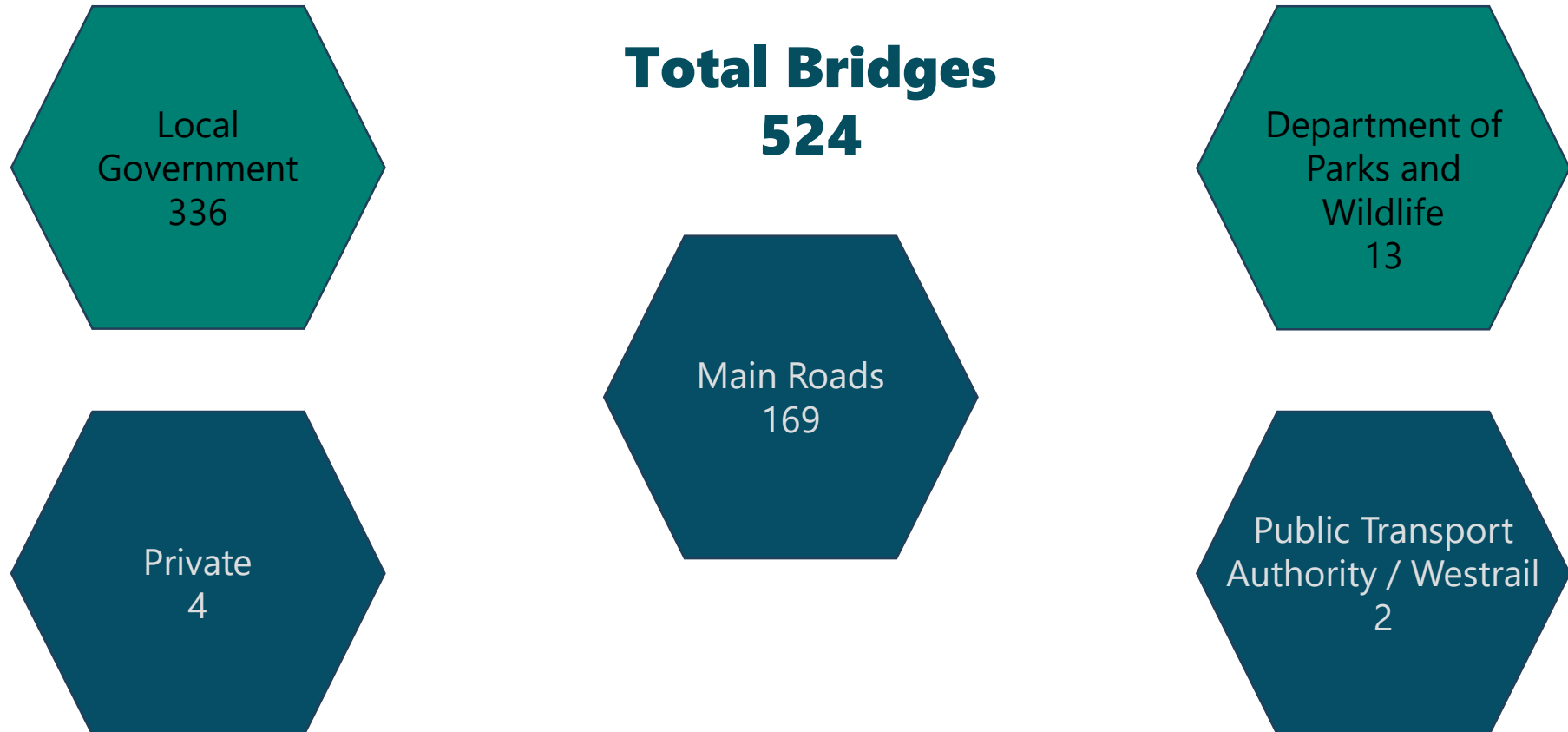
## **Demarcation of responsibilities between Main Roads and respective shires undertaking work**

### *Local Governments:*

- Obtaining Environmental and Heritage Approval – Ensuring Compliance with Environmental and Heritage Acts

### *Main Roads:*

- Main Roads Undertakes Reviews of Bridge Design
- Reviews, Inspections and Maintenance of Structures



# WALGA Central Country Zone Cost Shifting Report

*April 2025 - FINAL DRAFT*



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Date	April 2025

## Contents

Executive Summary .....	4
Introduction .....	5
1. Definition .....	6
What is Cost Shifting? .....	6
2. Context .....	6
Local Government Sustainability Inquiry .....	6
Costing and Pricing Government Services Guidelines - WA Government (2020) .....	6
3. Background .....	7
Central Country Zone .....	7
4. Methodology .....	8
CEO Meetings .....	8
Survey .....	8
Case Studies .....	8
Local Government Groupings .....	8
Exclusions .....	9
Assumptions .....	9
5. Findings .....	10
6. Major Cost Shifting Components .....	27
7. Recommendations .....	29
8. Appendix: Case Studies .....	31

## Executive Summary

Cost shifting is a significant challenge for the Local Government sector in Western Australia, particularly for the 15 Local Governments in the WALGA Central Country Zone. This report investigates the financial impact of cost shifting and compliance costs on these Local Governments.

An initial survey in mid-2024 identified major cost shifting and compliance costs, highlighting the financial burden on Local Governments, to perform both statutory and compliance but also to supply essential services to their communities such as the provision of doctors and childcare.

Local Governments are often required to allocate resources to implement Federal and State legislation and regulations, but the true costs of these functions are frequently under-recognised and inadequately funded. This study reveals significant variations in circumstances, structures, and systems amongst Local Governments in the Zone, which influence cost shifting.

What can be observed is that the Local Governments in the Zone must divert substantial portions of their rates from core services like roads and community facilities to mandated services without adequate revenue-raising capabilities or administrative funding. Additionally, the need to provide non-core services such as medical, aged care, and childcare due to market failures in rural areas exacerbates the financial strain.

This report is the first step for the Zone in working towards an advocacy position that underscores the need for greater recognition and support for Local Governments in managing the financial impacts of cost shifting, statutory and compliance requirements.

## Introduction

Cost shifting is a significant challenge facing the Western Australian Local Government sector. In early 2024, the issue of cost shifting and compliance became a major topic of concern for the 15 Wheatbelt Local Governments comprising the WALGA Central Country Zone.

An initial survey was conducted by WALGA on behalf of the Zone in mid-2024, to identify examples and associated costs of services that are being provided by Local Governments that should sit with other levels of Government, compliance requirements and statutory fees that are set below cost recovery rates. The survey identified the major cost shifting and compliance costs across the 15 Local Governments and provided estimates of the cost to Local Governments and the percentage of rates being spent on these items. The survey data was limited by a lack of a set definition and method of calculating costs and as such the Zone determined to engage a consultant to further investigate and provide a more detailed/accurate picture of the true cost imposition on Shires.

150Square was engaged by the Zone in late 2024, to review the figures of the;

1. Top four cost shift items;
2. Top four compliance costs; and
3. Under recovery of statutory fees for the local governments in the Central Country Zone.

There were a large number of additional statutory, compliance and cost shifting activities occurring within all Zone members that have not been investigated in this report. The determination of what was included in this Report was decided by a majority decision of the Zone. This report is not an exclusive list of statutory, compliance and cost shifting occurring in and to the sector.

A large number of Acts impose requirements on Local Governments to devote resources to implement Federal and State Government legislation and regulations. Often the resourcing costs are under-recognised, meaning that the true cost of performing these functions is not always adequately provided for and Local Governments are also unable to set appropriate fees and charges to recoup these costs - limited either by legislation, economics or community expectations.

Despite Local Governments being a third tier of Government and there should be an expected level of uniformity, what this initial report has highlighted is the different circumstances, structures and systems within the Local Governments, even across like for like that influence cost shifting.

It is clear too that the amount of rates that Local Governments are having to divert away from services and infrastructure considered core business (roads, sport and recreation facilities, waste management, community facilities etc) and into services and functions that are imposed on them from the State or Federal Government is mounting. Much of these services and functions imposed on them do not carry the ability to revenue raise nor come with administrative funding from the higher tier of Government.

The foray into non-core business such as medical services, aged care and child care due to market failure in rural communities, also exasperates the situation.



# 1. Definition

## What is Cost Shifting?

For the purposes of this report the following definition of cost shifting applies:

*Cost shifting occurs when the responsibility for, or merely the cost of, providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function is shifted from one sphere of government to another, without corresponding funding or revenue raising ability required to deliver that new responsibility.*

***Cost shifting forces local governments to divert ratepayers' funds away from much-needed local infrastructure projects, to meet additional demands placed on them by state and federal governments.***

## 2. Context

### Local Government Sustainability Inquiry

In March 2024, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport adopted an inquiry into local government sustainability.

The interim report from this inquiry, which was released in February 2025 highlighted that increased service obligations and cost shifting, restrictions associated with revenue raising and inequitable distribution of grants funding, are placing increasing demands on financial sustainability for Local Governments.

The report notes that the role of Local Governments has evolved and expanded significantly over time, with Local Government increasingly being relied upon to provide services and manage complex infrastructure assets, some of which were formally the responsibility of the Commonwealth, State, and Northern Territory governments. The inquiry found that Councils responsibilities can now include:

- Health, aged care, childcare, and mental health services;
- Housing supply planning and development and provision of enabling infrastructure;
- Progressively complex infrastructure and asset management, including maintaining depreciating assets;
- Environmental regulatory compliance and management obligations; and
- Climate adaptation and emergency management.

### Costing and Pricing Government Services Guidelines - WA Government (2020)

The Guidelines are intended to assist government agencies to better understand their costs and the factors that have the greatest influence on those costs (i.e. the cost drivers).

Determining the full cost of services enhances:

- Resource allocation within agencies;
- Decision making by Ministers concerning policy options;
- The ability of Government to allocate resources through the budget process;
- Setting appropriate prices for agencies where Government has decided to recover costs; and
- Benchmarking (where appropriate) with the private sector or with agencies in other

The WA Treasurer's instruction 810 'Review of Fees and Charges' requires agencies, in respect of the services for which they provide, to conduct regular reviews of fees and charges. In some instances, this requirement is also specified in subsidiary legislation. The Zone should be aware of these Guidelines in determining the next steps after this initial report.

### 3. Background

#### Central Country Zone

The Central Country Zone commissioned a member survey in mid-2024 to establish:

- a) What services were being provided by Local Governments that should sit with State or Federal Government and the cost of providing these services;
- b) Examples of compliance requirements, associated costs and views on whether the compliance was required or not; and
- c) Statutory fees set below cost recovery rates.

The survey revealed that cost shifting i.e. the percentage of rates being spent on areas considered the responsibility of either the Federal or State Government, varied between 2.33% and 25.67% of a Local Government's total rate income, with the exception of the Shire of Williams which recorded 49.3%. The most significant examples of cost shifting were the provision of medical services, provision of childcare services, provision of aged care services and State Government Agreement Acts and other exemptions to enterprises which reduce rates.

The survey also found that on average 6.77% of rates across the 15 Local Governments was being spent on compliance costs. The major compliance costs identified were audit fees, asset valuations, Records Management Act requirements and public health plan requirements.

Finally, the survey revealed that the major areas where Local Governments were being constrained in seeking full cost recovery for delivering regulatory functions imposed by State Legislation were dog permits, development approvals, building permits and animal control costs.

While the survey was useful in demonstrating the impost of cost shifting and compliance in some areas, the data was limited by the lack of a set definition and method of calculating these costs. It was resolved by the Zone that a consultant would be engaged to review the figures and progress the work.

Following the first round of meetings with members, 150Square recommended a refinement to the investigations and the Zone agreed:

#### Statutory Duties

- Development Applications
- Building Permits
- Emergency Services Levy
- Ranger services (It was agreed that animal control costs associated with dog and cat registrations would not be included due to the introduction of PetsWA, an online platform, which at the time was still being developed and hence it would be difficult to determine its impact).

#### Compliance Costs

- Audits (annual, Reg 17, Reg 5, LCI);
- Asset Valuations;
- Integrated Planning and Reporting; and
- Public Health Plans.

#### Cost Shifting - Case Studies

Case studies were developed on childcare, aged care, medical services and the freight task that local governments have 'stepped into' due to market failure and to meet community and business needs.

## 4. Methodology

### CEO Meetings

150Square met online with 14 of the 15 Local Government CEOs to discuss the project, individual circumstances and survey construction.

### Survey

A survey was prepared in collaboration with AccuWest. It was provided in an online format to Local Government CEOs in January 2025 along with an information sheet detailing what information would be collected, how cost calculations should be made and how the data would be analysed and presented back to the Zone.

Local Governments were asked to complete information on statutory duties and compliance costs on the:

1. Internal role that leads the process;
2. The number of hours to prepare and complete the tasks associated with one application / duty;
3. How many occasions each year, on average, occurs for each compliance / statutory duty; and
4. Equipment costs specifically required for the activity.

11 responses were received.

### Case Studies

In order to gain a better understanding of the financial and operational impacts of Local Governments providing services as a result of market failure or insufficient service provision by another level of government, case studies were developed with the assistance of a small number of Local Governments in the following areas:

- Provision of medical services
- Provision of aged care services
- Provision of child care services

State agreements and other enterprise exemptions that result in lost or reduced rate revenue were also explored to gain a better understanding of how these arrangements impact on Local Government.

### Local Government Groupings

To enable like for like comparisons, the 15 Local Governments were categorized based on the following criteria:

Group 1: Over \$2m rate base, with more than 30 employees.

Group 2: Under \$2m rate base, with less than 30 employees (blue)

Local Government	Number of ratepayers	Revenue	2022/23 Rates	Number of Employees	Group
1. Shire of Beverley	1370		3,082,199	33	1
2. Shire of Brookton	668		2,571,698	35	1
3. Shire of Corrigin	825		2,882,324	37	1
4. Shire of Dumbleyung	459		1,932,341	26	2
5. Shire of Kulin	556		2,174,104	50	1
6. Shire of Lake Grace	908		4,993,932	44	1
7. Shire of Narrogin	3424		5,446,704	128	1
8. Shire of Pingelly	858		2,330,171	25	1

9. Shire of Quairading	741		2,492,164	37	1
10. Shire of Wagin	1324		2,511,175	52	1
11. Shire of Wandering	356		1,338,041	21	2
12. Shire of West Arthur	612		1,887,578	26	2
13. Shire of Wickepin	551		1,471,690	28	2
14. Shire of Williams	660		2,137,090	32	1
15. Shire of Woodanilling	320		888,849	14	2

## Exclusions

Excluded in the cost calculations was:

- The opportunity cost for the Local Government;
- Concessions;
- Depreciation; and
- Non-compliance and enforcement costs.

## Assumptions

There are a number of assumptions made across the findings. These are outlined in each section.

The accuracy of data provided by Local Governments varies as does the internal processes. For this reason we are not confident in providing statements on the impact to ratepayers at individual Local Governments nor as a collective across some of the findings.

## 5. Findings



KEY: Dark blue Group 1 | Light blue Group 2

*NB: Shire of Kulin distorted by 22/23 FAG's payment being received in 23/24.*

## Statutory Fees

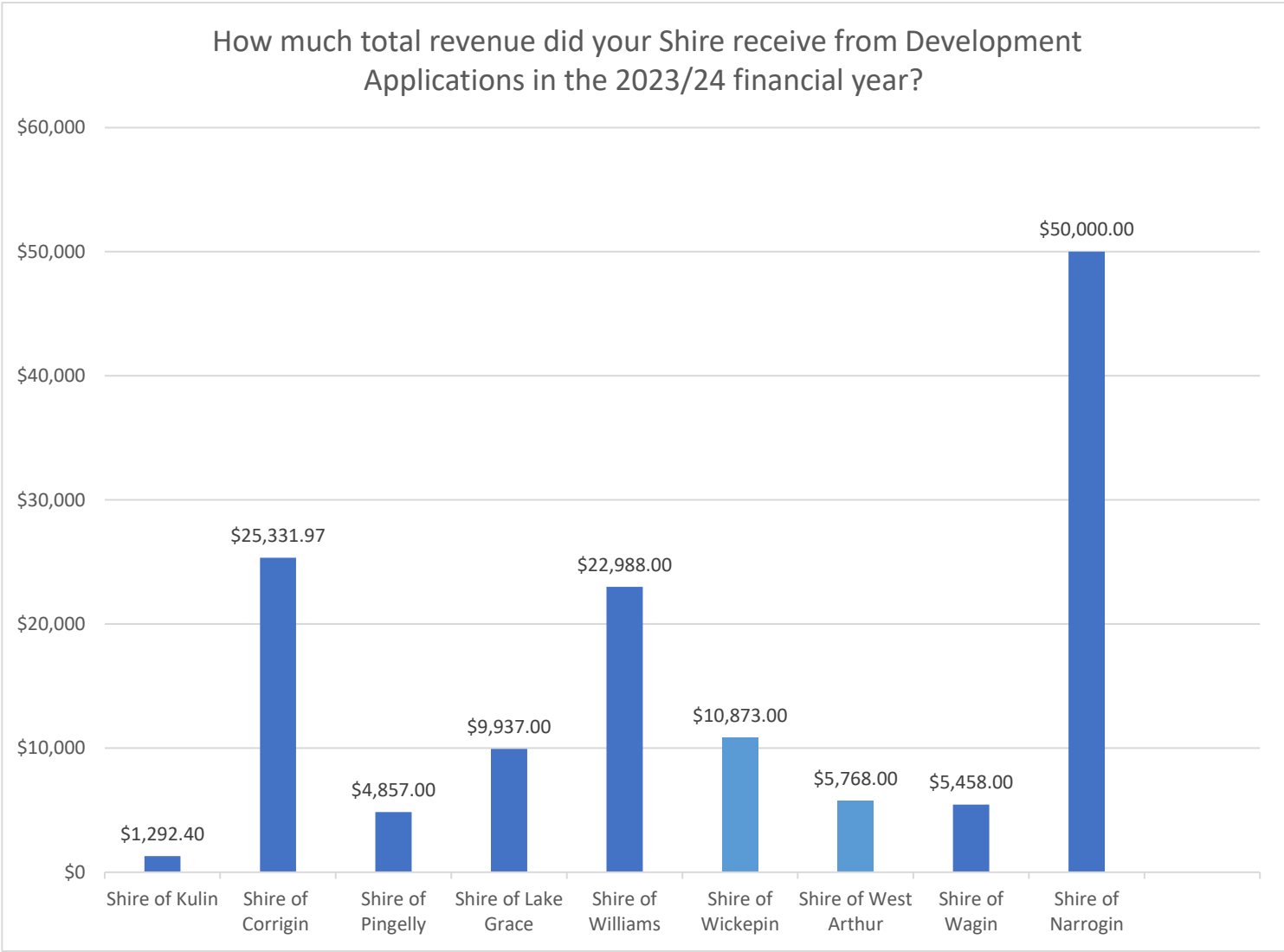
The first section of the survey asked Local Governments to provide information designed to allow for a standardised calculation of the cost to administer regulatory functions imposed by State Legislation that cannot be recovered through fees and charges.

### 1. Development Applications

Development Approval is a legal document that provides permission for specified use or development to occur on a particular piece of land. It is obtained by submitting a development application by following the below process:

1. Design phase (applicant undertakes depending on the size and scale of the project, applicants may be required to liaise with architects, artists, town planners or other service providers prior to lodging a development application).
2. Development application
3. Working Drawings/Condition Clearance
4. Building Permit (at the local government)

Number of Development Applications received by the Local Government annually (regardless of the process)			
	Under \$50K	Between \$51K and \$1m	Over \$1m
GROUP 1			
1-5	3	4	6
6-10	2	4	
10-15	2		
16-20	1		
GROUP 2			
1-5	3	3	3





## Summary

- Three Local Governments undertake Development Applications internally (Pingelly, Dumbleyung, Narrogin). There is a large variance in the net costs for internal administration and costs incurred by these Local Governments.
- All respondents charged statutory fees for Development Applications under \$50,000. For applications of more than \$50,000 Local Governments charged 0.32% of the estimated cost of development.
- For the respondents that outsourced their Development Applications they get charged between \$55-\$165 per hour (plus GST).
- We asked respondents to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of processing Development Applications that cannot be recovered through Development Application fees or any other related income. One Shire indicated they were unable to ascertain the amount as it was heavily dependent on the type of Development Application received, as an example in 23/24 the Shire invoiced \$18,912 in charges and income was only \$10,873 (CBH application) incurring a loss of \$8,039. Another Shire indicated that they provide advice to the applicant which cannot be recouped in Development Application fees.
- When we applied our assumptions to one Local Government's data (*outsourced* DA's), the following results were determined:

No Applications p.a.	Internal hours worked per application	Hourly rate	Total internal costs p.a.	Total cost p.a.	Revenue	Net cost p.a.	Avg cost per DA
19	4.5	43.44	3,714.12	38,072.45	25,331.97	12,740.48	2,003.81

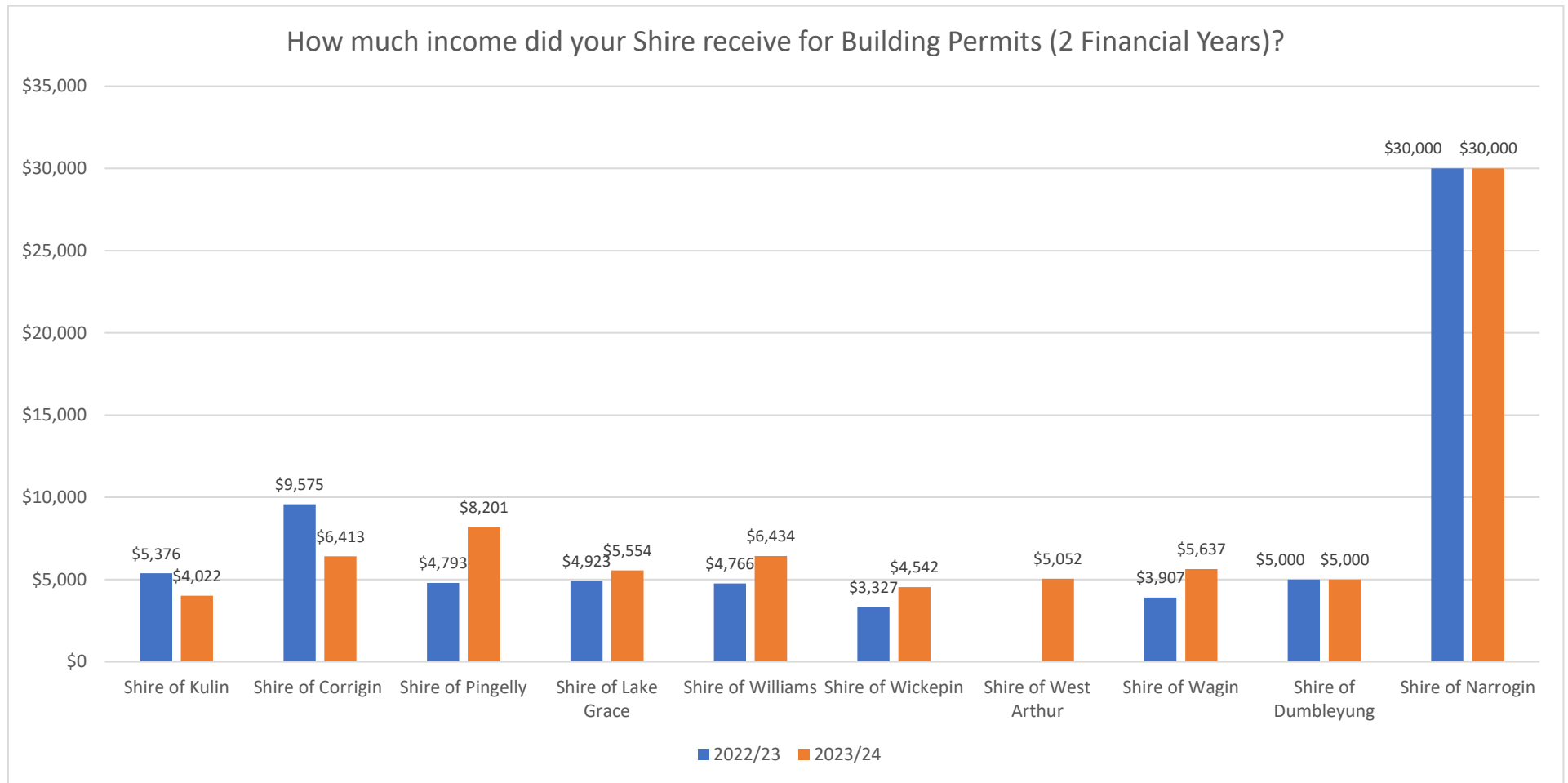
## Comment

- There is a large variance in the number of internal hours it takes to complete a Development Application. The complexity of the application is a significant influence on the process and influences the choice of process if outsourced.

## Assumptions:

- For the Local Governments that undertake Development Applications internally we have estimated it costs \$43.44/hr (excluding overhead costs). We have used the Local Government Award and determined the appropriate Officer, using information provided.
- For Local Governments that outsource Development Applications we averaged the hours from the Local Governments data provided.

## 2. Building Permits



The number of Building Permit applications received by Local Governments annually (regardless of whether the process is internal or outsourced):

GROUP 1	
1-5	1
6-10	1
10-15	3
16-20	1
More than 20	2
GROUP 2	
6-10	3

When we applied our assumptions to one Local Government's data (*outsourced Building Permits*), the following results were determined, demonstrating the costs associated with assessing an application, then outsourcing the remaining process. Internal processing is still required, costing the Local Government, which cannot be recouped:

No Applications p.a.	Outsourced cost per hour	Hours to assess per application	Total outsourced cost per assessment	Total outsourced cost p.a.	Internal hours worked per application	Hourly rate	Total internal costs p.a.	Total cost p.a.	Revenue	Net cost p.a.	Ave cost per BP
13	150.00	5	750.00	9,750.00	2	43.44	1,129.44	10,879.44	6,413.00	4,466.44	836.88

#### Summary

- Majority of respondents indicated they charge the statutory fees for Building Permits.
- 7 members in Group 1 undertake the administration duties of Building Permits, one outsources.
- 2 members in Group 2 outsource all processes with Building Permits and one undertakes administration only.
- For those that undertake Building Permit administration only, the Customer Service Officer undertakes the role supported by an EHO or Senior Finance Officer.
- There is a mixture of providers for outsourcing with the Shire of Kalamunda (\$82/hr), Shire of Narrogin (\$70-\$130/hr) and external consultants (\$530 for BA2, less for BA1) undertaking the role.

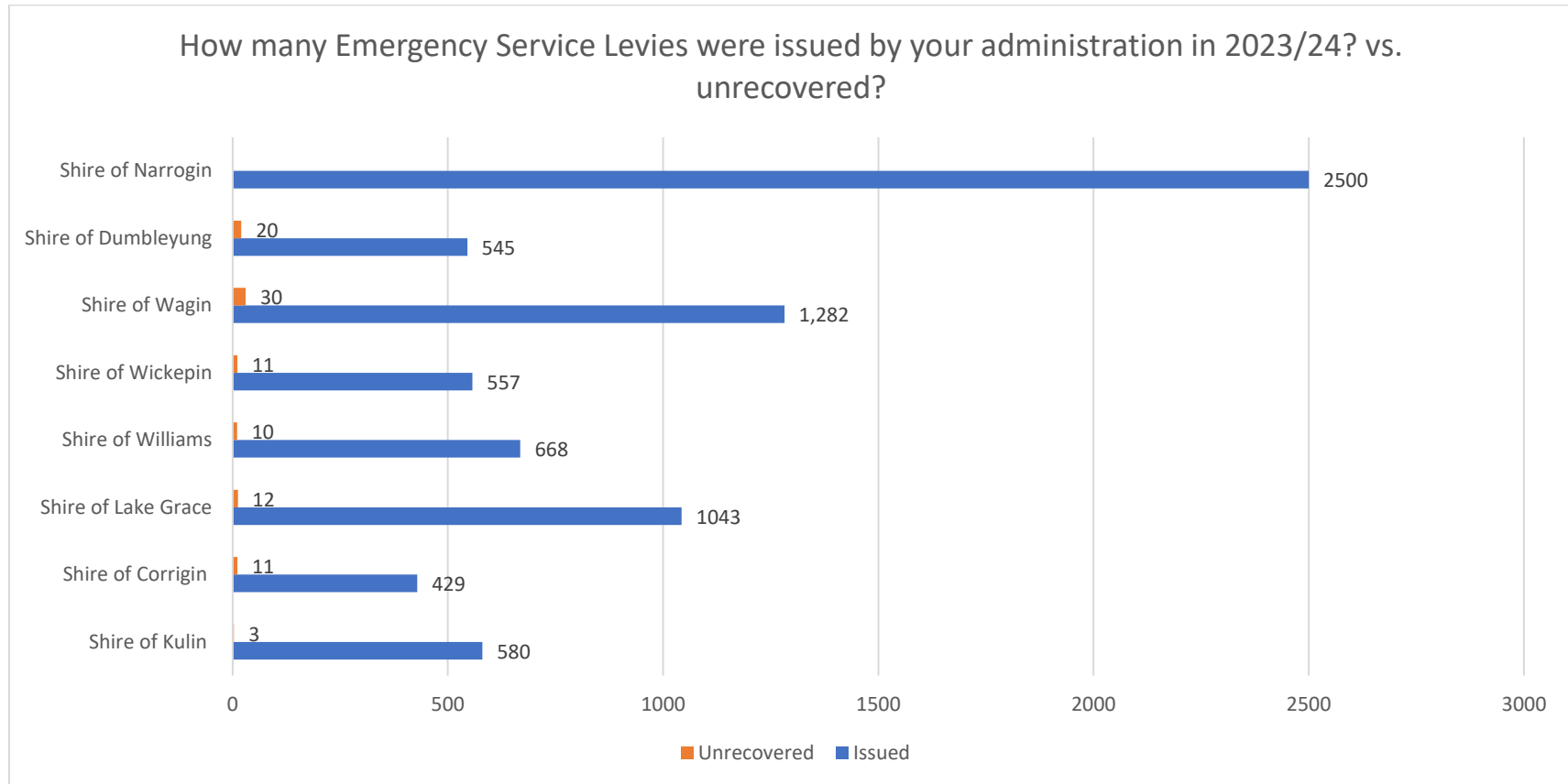
- Every respondent receives the processing fees for Building Permits.
- We asked respondents to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of processing Building Permits that cannot be recovered through Building Permit fees or any other related income, as an example one Local Government indicated \$100,000, another indicated \$83,232. Respondents indicated that Project Manager time cannot be recovered in Building Permit fees.
- When we undertook an averaging of hours and costs to outsource the entire Building Permit process, we estimated the net cost to the Local Government was still \$836 per application.
- When using these estimates, one Local Government in Group 1 had a net cost of \$13,262 per annum for all Building Permits in the financial year, and one Local Government in Group 2 had a net cost of \$3,923 per annum. These results are heavily influenced by the number of Building Permits received each year.

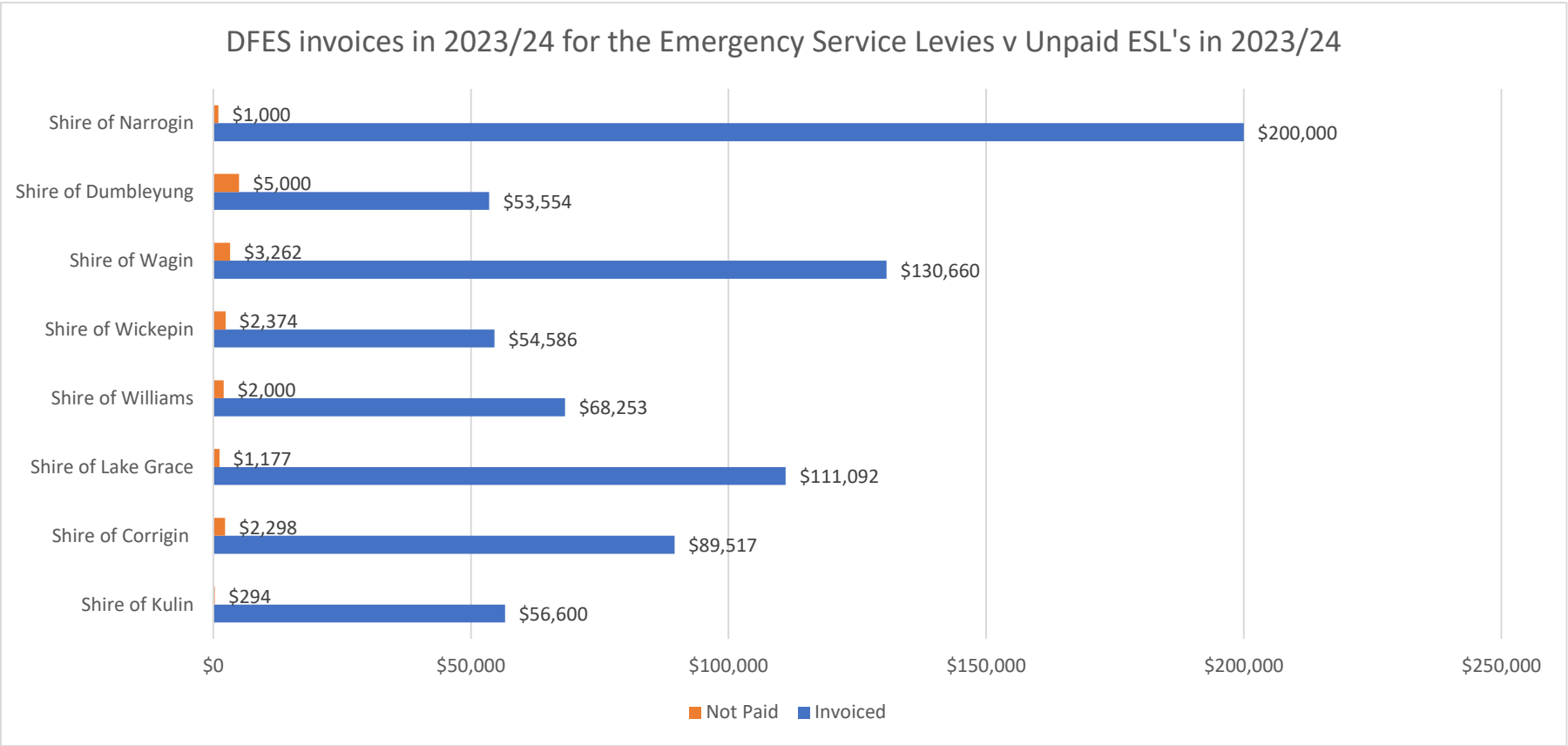
#### Comment

- A critical influence in the results for the Building Permits assessment is the majority of Local Governments have not been invoiced by the metropolitan Local Government (outsourced process) for the costs associated with processing Building Permits, so this has significantly influenced the cost vs. income generation results.

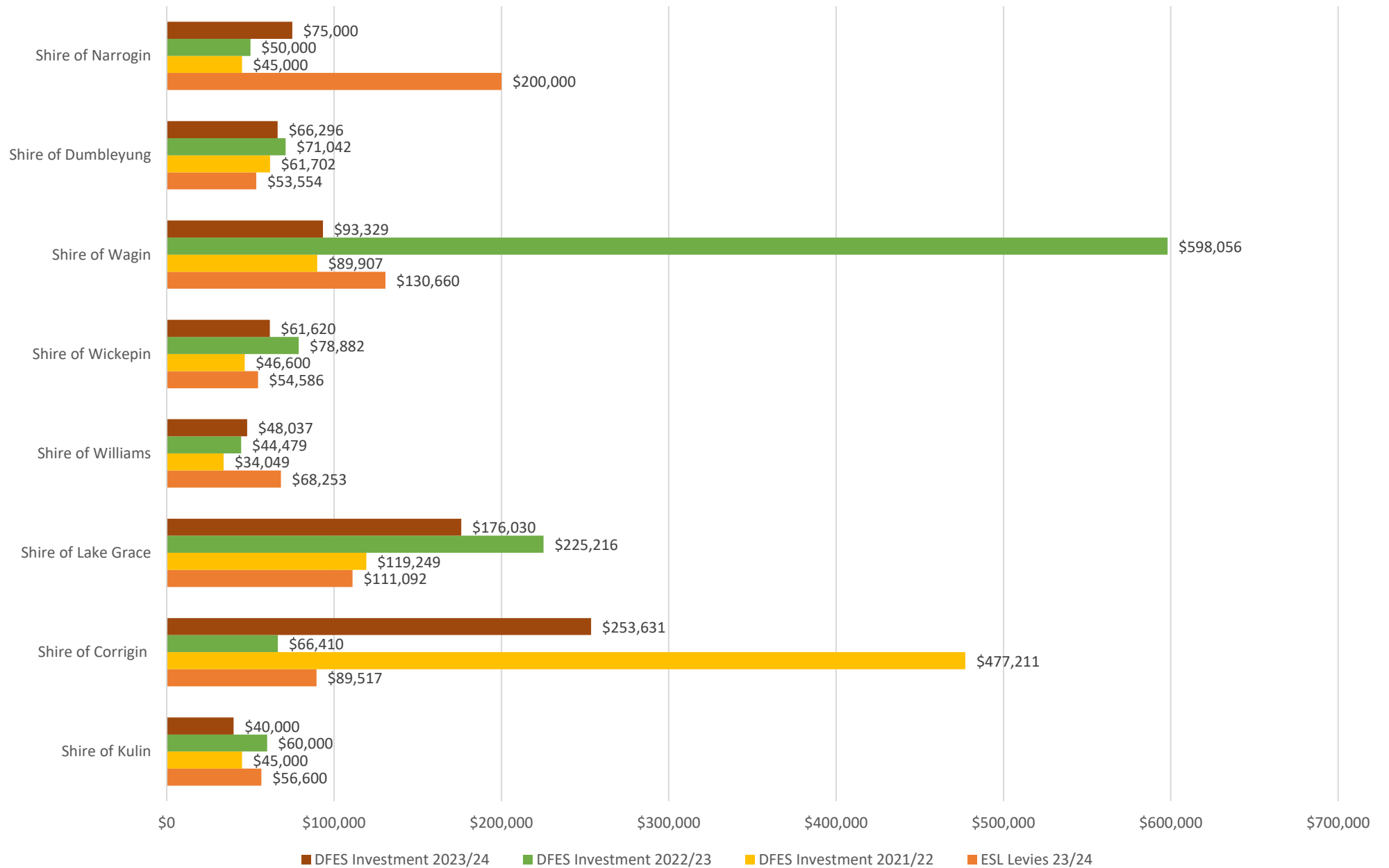
### 3. Emergency Services Levy

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is a State Government charge applicable to all properties in WA, which is invoiced and collected by Local Governments on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The Rates team members undertake this responsibility and it is part of the rates process.





# ESL Levies 23/24 vs DFES Investment over past three financial years



## Summary

- Of the 7,604 ESL levies issued across 8 Local Governments, 97 could not be recovered.
- The inability to recover the levies resulted in \$17,405 loss across the 8 Local Governments.
- Levies across the Zone in 23/24 totalled \$764,262.
- DFES funding received across the Zone over the past three financial years totalled \$918,639.

## Comment

- Recouping the costs associated with undertaking the ESL rates process is less significant to Local Governments. Ensuring ESL levies and emergency service funding is re-invested into communities and volunteer operations is a high priority.



## Other Statutory Costs

### 1. Ranger Services

GROUP 1	
Outsource / alternative arrangement	6
Employ	2
GROUP 2	
Outsource / alternative arrangement	3
Employ	0
Total Responses	11

### Summary

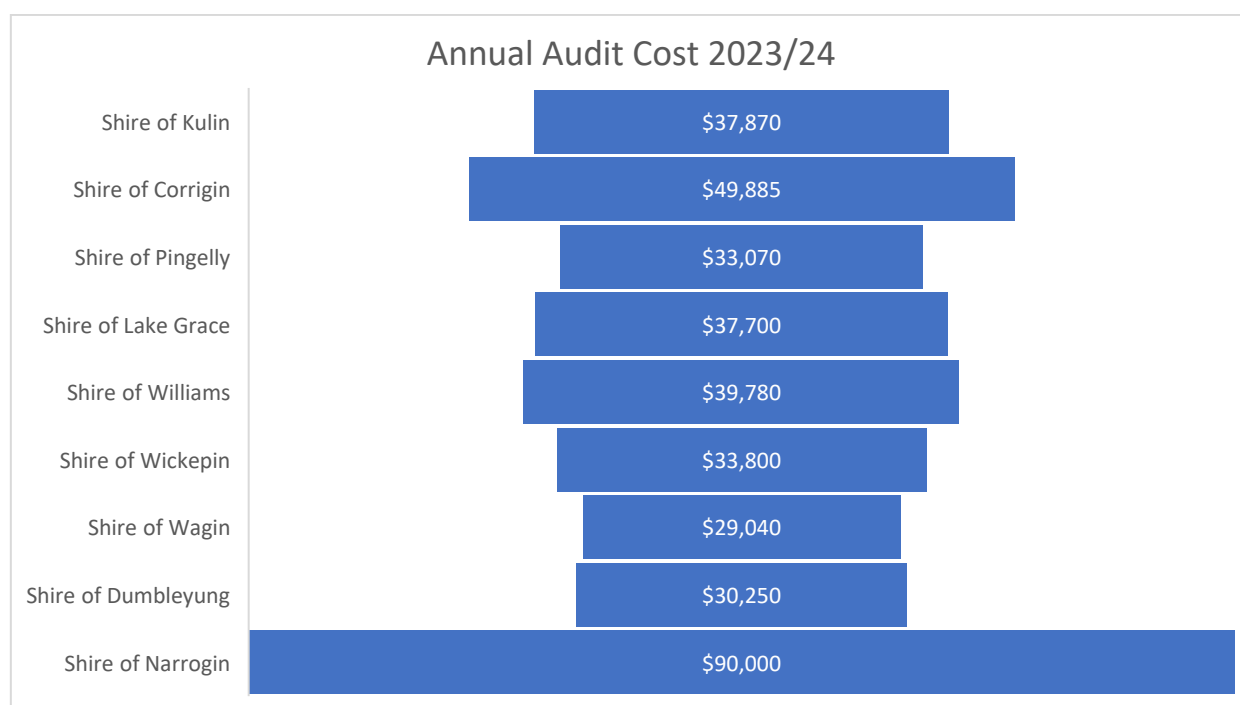
- For the Local Governments that outsource or have alternative arrangements, they average 2-5 days a month for ranger services in their Local Government.
- 4 local governments use a contractor on an as needs basis, rather than a set number of days.
- Outsourcing ranges from \$291 to \$370 a day for Ranger services, with one Shire paying approximately \$650 a day (potentially an abnormality).
- One Shire that employs a Ranger outsources to other Shires (both within and outside of the Zone) and can recoup some costs, otherwise there is minimal income generating opportunities for Ranger services.
- Direct costs to 10 Local Governments to deliver Ranger Services cost \$344,260 in the 23/24 financial year, with revenue being \$59,577.
- Net annual costs range from \$2,925 to \$32,100 for Local Governments that outsource this service.

### Comment

- Local Governments do not have the ability to influence fees and charges for Ranger services and therefore have limited revenue raising ability in this area.

## 2. Compliance Costs

### ANNUAL AUDIT



### Summary

- 10 out of the 11 Local Governments had AMD as Auditors, one had the Office of Auditor General.
- 6 Local Governments engaged with auditors 100% online and 5 had auditors visit in person for the 23/24 annual audit.
- All CEOs lead the Annual Audit, with the majority of work being completed by either the DCEO or Finance Manager. For the staff that lead the interim and annual audit, only one Local Government indicated it was 17-24hrs of preparation work, with the majority of Local Governments indicating it took more than 41hrs of preparatory work.
- The roles responding and meeting with the auditor indicated this also took more than 41hrs, with only four Shires indicating it was less than 24hrs of meeting and responding time.
- A key concern raised by Local Governments was some auditors requested documents be loaded onto an online portal which required time by Local Government staff, but then auditors did not access them at all or requested them again in person when they visited the Local Government.
- Two Group 1 Local Governments engaged external support for the preparation and undertaking of the interim and annual audit, one was charged \$9,134 and another was charged \$30,000.
- There is a variance in the figures provided by some Local Governments versus what is reported in their Annual Financial Statements. We have used figures provided in the survey for the above results.

## REG 17 and REG 5 AUDIT

### Summary

- CEOs were responsible for leading Reg 17 and Reg 5 audits, with support from the DCEO and Finance Managers.
- Six Local Governments had a Governance Officer (or equivalent) that was also required to support the process.
- On average the process for Local Governments to undertake Reg 17 and Reg 5:
  - One Local Government in Group 1 took 16-25hrs to prepare both audits;
  - Some Local Governments in Group 1 took 9-16hrs to respond and meet with the auditor, whilst others indicated it was more than 25hrs; and
  - For Group 2, the time spent preparing, meeting and responding for Reg 17 and 5 was less than Group 1.
- Five Local Governments in Group 1 sought external expertise for Reg 17 and 5, accounting an additional cost to ratepayers.
- Two Local Governments in Group 2 sought external expertise for Reg 17 and 5, accounting an additional cost to ratepayers.
- In the 23/24 financial year, 11 Local Governments incurred an additional \$57,114 for audits.

### Comment

- It should be noted that the additional compliance on Local Governments has necessitated the appointment of Governance Officers and engagement of external contractors to prepare and assist Local Governments through the audit process.

### TOTAL AUDIT COSTS

Using total audit costs provided in the Local Government's 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements;

Local Government	Fin Stats Audit	Grants & Other Audits	Total	% of rates
Kulin	35,500	4,080	39,580	1.72
Corrigin	42,200	5,850	48,050	1.59
Pingelly	29,770	3,000	32,770	1.34
Lake Grace	37,700	4,550	42,250	0.82
Williams	22,090	-	22,090	0.98
Wickepin	26,500	7,300	33,800	2.16
Quairading	31,590	3,450	35,040	1.32
West Arthur	28,790	4,600	33,390	1.6
Wagin	23,340	5,700	29,040	1.1
Dumbleyung	38,500	5,434	43,934	2.1
Narrogin	79,680	13,150	92,830	1.6
	395,660	57,114	452,774	

- In the 23/24 financial year across 11 Local Governments, total fees for the annual audit was \$395,660.
- The movement of annual audit costs for the Local Governments from 2017/18 to 2023/24 ranges between 96% to a 276% increase.
- Audit fees cannot be recouped by Local Governments.

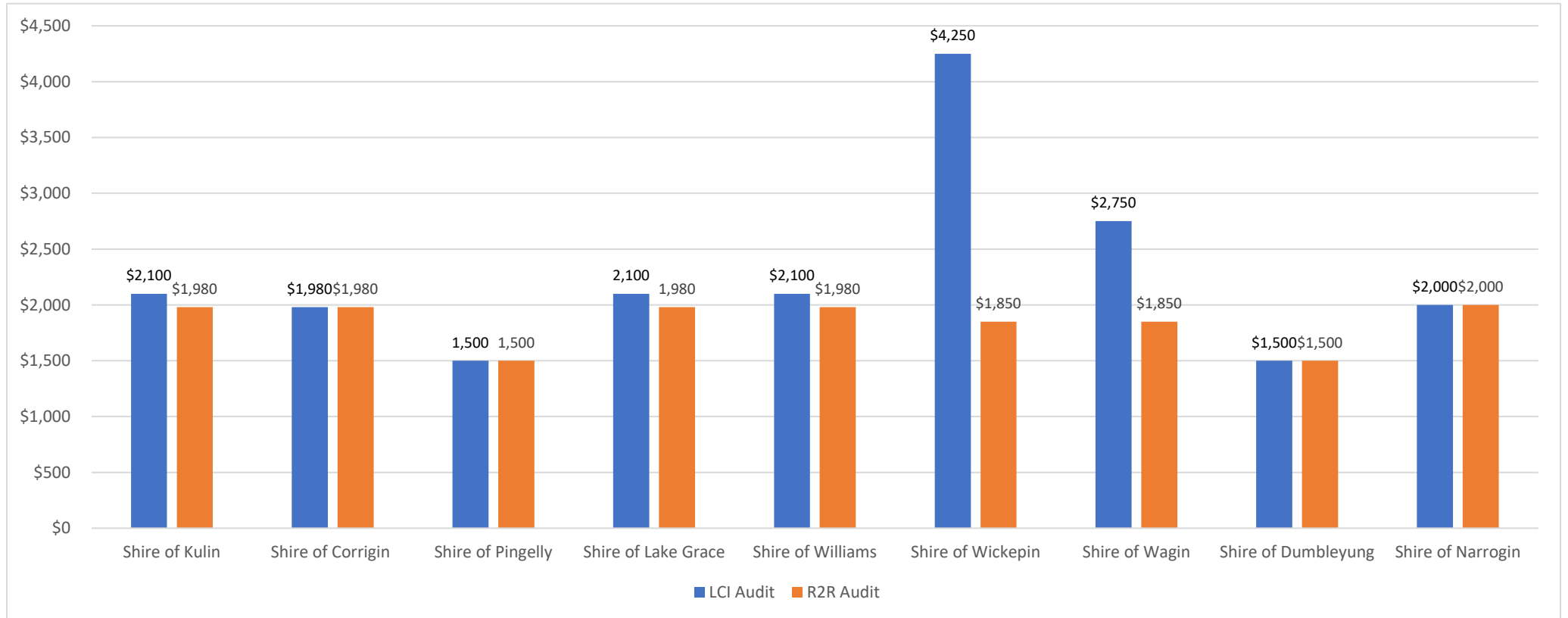
## ASSET VALUATIONS

Lead by the Deputy CEO or Works Manager, Local Governments on average spent between 16 - 32hrs preparing and responding for asset valuations. In the 2023/24 financial year members paid various amounts for asset valuations (depending on whether they were in the asset valuation cycle):

- Shire of Pingelly \$8,285
- Shire of Wagin \$14,425
- Shire of Corrigin \$20,873
- Shire of Williams \$20,665
- Shire of Wickepin \$43,066
- Shire of Narrogin \$60,000

### ADDITIONAL AUDITS

Lead by the Deputy CEO or Finance Manager, the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Commonwealth) and Roads to Recovery (Commonwealth) grants required additional audits outside of the annual audit of the Local Government. The costs for undertaking these audits is outlined below.



## *INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING*

Local Governments were asked the costs for their last major Strategic Community Plan review as per the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, for those that engaged external consultants:

### Group 1

- \$8,030 to \$36,000

### Group 2

- \$7,505 - \$50,000

The Local Governments were asked to estimate the ANNUAL NET costs of preparing, undertaking and reporting against the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan that cannot be recovered through fees or any other related income. Costs included staff time for community consultation, advertising, postage and reporting and ranged from \$7,000 to \$25,000.

## *PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS*

Of the 11 Local Governments, six have completed their Public Health Plans. Some of the six completed the plans internally and accounted for approx. 17hrs - 33hrs of their time. Some Local Governments had external expertise and this cost between \$6,800 and \$15,000.

The Public Health Plans are essentially primary health plans and whilst community socio and economic health is an outcome in the provision of Local Government services and facilities, they are not responsible for primary health services and facilities which is included in the plans.

When questioned about appointing additional staff to implement, monitor, and report on the Public Health Plan, local governments stated that these tasks would be incorporated into existing roles. They expressed that the value of the Public Health Plan is relatively low, as it is being prepared to meet legislative compliance rather than addressing community needs. The state government's revisions to public health legislation aim to broaden the responsibilities of local governments to include regulation of public health and preventive medicine. However, these revisions do not take into account the capacity of local government or their communities.

## 6. Major Cost Shifting Components

### Provision Of Childcare Services

According to the initial survey conducted by WALGA in mid-2024, eight Local Governments within the Central Country Zone provided financial support for the provision of childcare services costing them from \$5,000 to \$150,000 per annum.

#### *RUN INTERNALLY*

The Shire of Williams operate both a centre based long-day care facility and Family Daycare service, which supports educators across multiple regional locations in WA to provide education and care to children in their registered home or venue.

The Shire of Williams provides full administration of the Willi Wag Tails Childcare Centre and directly employ 11 staff under varying employment contract arrangements (full-time, part-time, casual) equating to 3.9 FTE. The Shire are also responsible for the provision and maintenance of the premises.

The budgeted cost to provide these services in the 2024-25 financial year was \$362,179.

The primary costs associated with providing these services is wages and on-costs, building maintenance, administration and insurances. This does not include additional costs associated with governance and oversight of the service by the CEO and Council.

The budgeted revenue from the combined services is \$678,437 for the 2024-25 financial year, with the primary income sources being childcare centre fees and the administration levy charged to family day care educators.

#### *ENGAGING AN EXTERNAL PROVIDER*

REED, a not for profit, currently operates in the following communities of the Zone;

- Darkan
- Narrogin
- Pingelly
- Wickepin
- Brookton
- Quairading

For some of the Local Governments they provide a building (asset and ongoing maintenance) for REED to operate within. This is at a cost to the Local Government which cannot be recouped.

### Provision Of Medical Services

The initial report provisioned by WALGA on behalf of the Zone indicated that nine of the 15 Local Governments supported the provision of medical services, with costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$439,273 per annum. This represents a significant portion of rate income being spent on primary health.

The members of the Zone contribute cash each year to attract and retain resident GP services, plus housing, vehicles, and surgeries. These financial contributions are sourced through rates and is unsustainable. They are essential for community health but place a significant financial strain on Local Government resources, diverting funds from other vital services that are well within the remit of Local Government.

The Local Governments are using a substantial portion of their ratepayer funds to attract and retain GPs. The financial incentives to attract a GP are currently heavily influenced by the Local Government tender process where providers have the ability to set and negotiate the market rate.

Local Governments are required to step into the space of primary health care because the per capita expenditure by the Commonwealth and States on health is lower in the regions, the viability of practices is challenged due to remote geography, increased business costs and less patients.

Not only is this a significant opportunity cost for Local Governments and their communities but it diverts their limited funds towards a service that should be funded by State and/or Commonwealth Government. It means core Local Government services and infrastructure are underfunded, not pursued or not maintained to an adequate level (impacting Councils ability to adequately manage their asset maintenance and preservation programs).

The current Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor within the Financial Assistance Grants paid to Local Governments is insufficient. Higher income incentives are currently required by Local Governments and practice operators to attract GPs to remote areas, and existing programs do not meet these needs.

### Provision Of Aged Care Services

The Zone report from July 2024 indicated that seven Local Governments in the Zone support the provision of aged care services at a cost of between \$4,000 and \$250,000. This support includes:

- Provision of aged care packages;
- Aged care services such as transport options; and/or
- Provision of independent living units / retirement units (asset and ongoing maintenance).

### State Agreements and Enterprise Exemptions that Limit Rates

Many Government and private property owners in a Local Government area are exempt from paying rates. Currently, under the Local Government Act 1995, exemptions from rates apply to:

- Land used or held exclusively for churches (religious bodies)
- Land used or held exclusively for schools
- Land used exclusively for charitable purposes
- Land vested in trustees for agriculture or horticultural show purposes
- Land owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH)
- Land exempted by the Minister for Local Government
- Land used or held by a local government or a regional local government (other than for purposes of a trading undertaking)
- Land used or held by the Crown (State Government) for a public purpose.

While the organisations conducting activity on these land types are exempt from paying rates all expect and receive services and infrastructure from Councils, the cost of which is funded by ratepayers.

CBH rate exemptions were an area specifically raised with 150Square as a concern. A case study prepared with the support of the Shire of Williams indicates that CBH in lieu of rates pays an ex-gratia payment to the Shire on a per tonne basis. Over the last five years this has averaged \$38,205 per annum. Modelling has not been completed to identify the rate income that could be generated from CBH owned land if the exemption was lifted. Considering that 659,000 tonnes of grain was delivered to the Narrakine site in the Shire of Williams in the 2023/24 season, at a conservatively estimated value of \$200 million+, ~\$38,000 toward the upkeep and renewal of the Shire's local road and bridge network, seems very inadequate.



## 7. Recommendations

### Recommendation One

The role of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation in WA is to scrutinise, on behalf of the Western Australian Parliament, instruments made under statutory delegation by:

- The Governor in Executive Council;
- Ministers;
- Statutory Bodies; and
- Local Governments.

We recommend the Zone identify from this report:

1. One statutory cost, in one Local Government in Group 1;
2. One statutory cost in one Local Government in Group 2; and
3. One compliance cost in all Local Governments in the Zone,

that has a significant negative financial impact on all Zone members and ultimately reduces funding available to deliver core Local Government facilities and services, and that has limited revenue raising ability.

Following this, we recommend:

- A second and concise survey be issued to these members to gain further confidence in the data provided;
- Survey respondents articulate a flow chart of the processes involved;
- And compare the data to rates received to demonstrate the tangible impact on ratepayers and the delivery of Local Government facilities and services.

We recommend that this information is then submitted to the Joint Standing Committee for their review.

We recommend this information and the Zone's advocacy position is also submitted to WA Treasury and aligned to instruction 810 'Review of Fees and Charges'.

### Recommendation Two

We recommend that the Zone also provides this information (from recommendation one) to WALGA to support their policy positions from the State Election, specifically in the Local Government Reform area:

*Remove fees and charges from legislation and regulation and allow Local Governments to set fees for their services.*

*Undertake an independent review of all rate exemptions to ensure equity and fairness among ratepayers in the community*

### Recommendation Three

The Local Government Primary Healthcare Services Survey Report by Rural Health West in 2024 identified a number of recommendations, one being the WA State Government establish a Local Government Primary Healthcare funding program. Based on the survey findings an initial annual fund of \$5 million per annum was recommended across the State.

This amount will likely be inadequate. Potentially such a fund should only be applied to RM4 - RM7 local governments (under the Modified Monash Model) of which the Zone members are included under.

We recommend a motion to the Zone and State Council regarding an increase to the Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor be submitted.

#### Recommendation Four

Submit an executive summary of this report, case studies and findings from recommendation one, to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's Local Government Sustainability Inquiry.

#### Recommendation Five

Make a Pre-Budget Federal Government submission requesting an increase in Financial Assistance Grants to rural Local Governments using information from recommendation one and the case studies.

## 8. Appendix: Case Studies



### CASE STUDY STATE AGREEMENT ACT & OTHER ENTERPRISE EXEMPTIONS THAT REDUCE RATES

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS

#### AT A GLANCE

A State Agreement is a legal agreement between the WA Government and a proponent of a major project. There has only been one State Agreement created in the past decade and no new agreements since 2017.

State agreements establish project delivery and royalty requirements but often lack detail on social and community benefit obligations for proponents.

Section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995 details land which is exempt from rates such as charitable organisations, religious bodies, schools, Co-Operative Bulk Handling (CBH) and land exempted by the Minister for Local Government. Each year millions in rates are foregone by local governments in Western Australia as a result of these exemptions.



"The CBH business in Williams has doubled in the last decade, and it may increase further as cropping expands and less emphasis is based on livestock.... the cost to the Shire to maintain the road network is not easy to quantify because grain movements to CBH are not the only transport using roads. But clearly it is time of year when trucking is at its most intense.

**Peter Stubbs, CEO Shire of Williams**



#### CBH

Under the Local Government Act 1995, land owned by CBH that is used solely for the storage of grain and where there is a written agreement to make a contribution to the local government, is not rateable land.

In the Shire of Williams the Narrakine CBH site, which has a total storage capacity of 573,810 tonnes and consists of 15 permanent open bulk heads, two silos and one permanent open bulkhead, has seen an 8.5% increase in the tonnes of grain received over the last five seasons (up from 607,660 in 2019/20 to 659,000 in 2023/24). Applying a conservative price per tonne, it is estimated that this single site processed well in excess of \$200 million worth of grain during the 2023/24 period alone.

Grain movements to the CBH receival site within the Shire impact on the local and state road and bridge network. It is estimated that there are upwards of 10,000 truck movements to get grain to the Narrakine site each harvest. That grain is then moved out of the site via truck to ports or other markets.

The Shire of Williams are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the local road network and bridges that connect growers to the CBH site. There is significant cost associated with this upkeep including expenditure on plant and equipment, staff and related overheads and capital improvements. The cost to the Shire that is specifically or primarily resulting from grain movements, is difficult to quantify because the local road/bridge network is not used exclusively for this purpose.

CBH, in lieu of rates, make an ex-gratia payment to the Shire of Williams. These payments are made at an agreed rate per tonne. Over the past five seasons the ex-gratia payment made by CBH to the Shire of Williams has ranged from \$34,328 - \$43,354 and averaged \$38,205 per annum. The variance between these payments and the potential rate revenue that could be generated from CBH owned property cannot be accurately quantified because it has not been assigned a rating category, and a differential rating would likely apply.



## CASE STUDY PROVISION OF CHILDCARE

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS



### AT A GLANCE

Willi Wag Tails is a centre based long day care service operated by the Shire of Williams.

The centre opened in August 2012 and operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am – 5.30pm, offering full day care as well as before and after school care for up to 20 children.

The Shire of Williams is also a registered provider of Family Day Care across 17-19 regional communities. The Willi Wag Tails Family Day Care Service supports educators to provide quality education and care to children from birth to 12 years of age in the educators registered home or venue.



The Shire of Williams approach to Childcare and especially Family Day Care may not be easily replicated by other Local Governments. It requires the skills sets and motivation of staff, and we are fortunate to have that.

**Peter Stubbs**

CEO, Shire of Williams

### RATIONALE

The Shire's entry into childcare service provision stemmed from growing community demand. Low profits and enrolment numbers and corresponding challenges in servicing overhead costs and building/facility upkeep were a known deterrent to private providers entering into the local market and Family Day Care wouldn't provide enough stability or the necessary volume of childcare places to meet demand. With no suitable alternative and a recognition that the absence of childcare services negatively impacts on liveability and the ability to attract and retain workers and residents, the Shire deemed it in the best interests of the community to provide the service.

### OPERATING MODEL

The Shire of Williams provides full administration of the centre based and family day care services. The Shire is also responsible for the provision and maintenance of the Willi Wag Tails Childcare Centre premises.

There is a very specific skills set, and ratio of staff to children required to operate the service. The Shire employs 11 staff with varying employment arrangements (full-time, part-time, casual) equating to 3.9FTE.

### COSTS

The budgeted cost to the Shire to operate the centre based and family day care services in the 2024-25 financial year is \$362,179. The major costs include childcare centre staff wages and on costs, building maintenance, administration and insurances.

The budgeted revenue from the family day care service in the 2024-25 financial year is \$176,937. This income is generated primarily through an administration levy charged to the educators. The centre based childcare service is expected to generate \$501,500 in revenue. The principal source of income is childcare centre fees.

The Shire maintain a reserve account for capital improvements.



## CASE STUDY PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

SHIRE OF PINGELLY



### AT A GLANCE

The Pingelly General Practice, located within the Pingelly Health Centre, operates Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday from 8.00am to 12.00pm.

The Pingelly General Practice began operating in 2012. The practice was established to provide consistent and accessible healthcare services to the local community.



The Shire of Pingelly have been contributing toward the costs of the GP service for more than 10 years. Before that, there was no GP in town. Our community needed a full-time GP so there wasn't really a suitable alternative option.

**Andrew Dover**

Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Pingelly

### BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Health Review by the WA State Government found that health service delivery in rural and remote areas presents considerable challenges including that it is generally more costly to deliver 'small scale' services in the country than in the metropolitan area. This coupled with lifestyle and other factors, make it difficult to attract and retain GPs in rural areas, without considerable incentives.

In the absence of a local GP and the evident need for this service in the community, the Shire of Pingelly with support from the community facilitated the establishment of the Pingelly General Practice in 2012. In order to do so, the Shire of Pingelly offered an incentive package inclusive of a house and access to a surgery.

In June 2018 the Pingelly Health Centre was opened. The new centre incorporated a general practitioner suite inclusive of consulting rooms and a shared procedure room. The Pingelly General Practice began operating from the Centre shortly after its opening.

In 2021/22 WA Country Health Services commissioned an independent review of the Pingelly Health Centre. Amongst the findings of the review was an evident increase in demand for GP Services since the health centre opened. This affirmed for the Shire, the continued need to support a local General Practice.

### OPERATING MODEL

The Pingelly General Practice is administered by the GP at their own cost. The consulting rooms are located within the Pingelly Health Care Centre, which is operated by WA Country Health Services.

### COSTS

The cost per annum to the Shire of Pingelly to retain the GP service is \$150,000 in addition to the provision of a four bedroom, two bathroom home for the General Practitioners use. The GP retains all billings, so no costs are recouped by the Shire.

## CASE STUDY PROVISION OF CHILDCARE

SHIRE OF KULIN



### AT A GLANCE

The Kulin Childcare Centre, operated by the Shire of Kulin, is a centre-based long day care service offering full-day care, occasional care, and after-school care. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and is licensed to care for up to 19 children.

Currently, the Centre serves 31 families with a total of 48 children enrolled. Most families utilise the service to support workforce participation.

The Shire of Kulin has been operating the service since 2005.



"Over the years the financial investment from the Shire of Kulin to keep the doors open to support our community has been very significant.... Our Centre is reliant on Sustainability Funding. Without this funding we would be running the service at a \$230,000 loss"

#### Taryn Scadding

Executive Manager Community Services, Shire of Kulin

### RATIONALE

Before 2005, a privately operated family daycare service in Kulin provided care for up to six children three days a week. When the provider announced their intent to cease operations at the end of 2004, and recognizing the growing need for childcare in the community, the Shire of Kulin commissioned a survey to assess the market potential for a centre-based childcare service. The survey, conducted in April 2004, indicated a demand for approximately 37 regular childcare places. This data, along with an understanding of the critical role childcare plays in facilitating workforce participation and providing social networks and support for rural parents, motivated the Shire to establish the Kulin Childcare Centre.

### OPERATING MODEL

The Shire of Kulin oversees the administration, financial management, and governance of the Kulin Childcare Centre. The Shire is the approved provider, and all staff are employed directly by the Shire of Kulin.

Currently, eight staff members are employed in various roles, including educators, cleaners, and administrative support, under different contract arrangements (full-time, part-time, and casual). These staff members are managed by the Executive Manager of Community Services.

The Shire leases the building from the State Government on a peppercorn lease.

### COSTS

The total budgeted cost to operate the service in 2024/25 is \$512,000. The major expenses are staff wages and Shire overheads to provide financial administration of the Centre. Minor costs include maintenance, insurance, equipment, and consumables. The projected revenue over this period is \$427,000, which is primarily generated from childcare fees and sustainability funding, resulting in an expected loss of \$86,000. While operational costs are covered by fees and funding, the Shire absorbs administrative costs to keep fees affordable, which results in the service operating at a loss.





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



### **13.1.1 List of Accounts April 2025**



		<b><u>List of Accounts Due &amp; Submitted to Council</u></b>		
		<b><u>April 2025</u></b>		
<b>Chq/EFT</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Muni</b>
EFT15367	10/04/2025	BUILDING AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF MINES, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY	\$ 2,106.02	
EFT15368	10/04/2025	SHIRE OF WICKEPIN	\$ 5.00	
EFT15387	28/04/2025	LUKE ANDREW LANSDELL	\$ 120.00	
		<b>TOTALS TRUST</b>	<b>\$ 2,231.02</b>	
EFT15329	01/04/2025	WCP CIVIL PTY LTD		\$ 383,182.80
EFT15330	10/04/2025	AUSTRALIA POST		\$ 55.13
EFT15331	10/04/2025	AIR LIQUIDE WA PTY LTD		\$ 60.86
EFT15332	10/04/2025	AQUATIC SERVICES WA		\$ 491.26
EFT15333	10/04/2025	ALLANS AUTO ELECTRICS AND AIR CONDITIONING		\$ 503.25
EFT15334	10/04/2025	GOODYEAR AUTOCARE NARROGIN		\$ 9,706.75
EFT15335	10/04/2025	BURGESS RAWSON (WA) PTY LTD		\$ 1,283.46
EFT15336	10/04/2025	CONPLANT		\$ 7,610.63
EFT15337	10/04/2025	LANDGATE		\$ 31.60
EFT15338	10/04/2025	DUFFY ELECTRICS		\$ 653.40
EFT15339	10/04/2025	EWEN RURAL SUPPLIES		\$ 1,882.53
EFT15340	10/04/2025	FARMERS CENTRE		\$ 147.05
EFT15341	10/04/2025	FRONTLINE FIRE & RESCUE		\$ 38.50
EFT15342	10/04/2025	GREAT SOUTHERN FUEL SUPPLIES		\$ 23,451.75
EFT15343	10/04/2025	WM & CL GARDNER		\$ 12,089.00
EFT15344	10/04/2025	ELIZABETH HEFFERNAN		\$ 60.00
EFT15345	10/04/2025	HERSEY'S SAFETY PTY LTD		\$ 1,201.45
EFT15346	10/04/2025	BERYLE HOLM		\$ 965.48
EFT15347	10/04/2025	INN RANGE REPAIRS		\$ 527.45
EFT15348	10/04/2025	METAL ARTWORK CREATIONS		\$ 26.84
EFT15349	10/04/2025	MICROWAVE SAFETY SYSTEMS		\$ 204.60
EFT15350	10/04/2025	MILLER RURAL SERVICES		\$ 330.00
EFT15351	10/04/2025	GREAT SOUTHERN WASTE DISPOSAL		\$ 8,462.45
EFT15352	10/04/2025	NARROGIN HARDWARE MAKIT		\$ 257.50
EFT15353	10/04/2025	NARROGIN BETTA HOME LIVING		\$ 899.00
EFT15354	10/04/2025	NARROGIN & DISTRICTS PLUMBING SERVICE		\$ 610.50
EFT15355	10/04/2025	OFFICEWORKS SUPERSTORES PTY LTD		\$ 239.53
EFT15356	10/04/2025	PERFECT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS - PCS		\$ 85.00
EFT15357	10/04/2025	PERTH ARBOR SERVICES		\$ 14,850.00
EFT15358	10/04/2025	REPCO		\$ 38.78
EFT15359	10/04/2025	CFR MOBILE MECHANICAL		\$ 143.00
EFT15360	10/04/2025	RPM HIRE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD		\$ 1,918.13
EFT15361	10/04/2025	RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES		\$ 26,367.04
EFT15362	10/04/2025	TANYA MARY SANDS		\$ 265.23
EFT15363	10/04/2025	SHANE NEL		\$ 630.00
EFT15364	10/04/2025	THE YEALERING PANTRY		\$ 85.50
EFT15365	10/04/2025	WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS		\$ 304.95
EFT15366	10/04/2025	AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE		\$ 12,176.00

EFT15369	24/04/2025	AIR RESPONSE		\$ 295.76
EFT15370	24/04/2025	AUTOMOTIVE WORKSHOP SERVICES		\$ 1,974.50
EFT15371	24/04/2025	BURGESS RAWSON (WA) PTY LTD		\$ 4,371.03
EFT15372	24/04/2025	BUNNINGS		\$ 61.32
EFT15373	24/04/2025	COUNTRY PAINT SUPPLIES		\$ 324.85
EFT15374	24/04/2025	DUFFY ELECTRICS		\$ 487.88
EFT15375	24/04/2025	EDGE PLANNING AND PROPERTY		\$ 3,135.00
EFT15376	24/04/2025	FULFORD EARTHMOVING & CIVIL		\$ 10,604.00
EFT15377	24/04/2025	FARMERS CENTRE		\$ 134.22
EFT15378	24/04/2025	GRANT CROSS		\$ 39.45
EFT15379	24/04/2025	NARROGIN GLASS		\$ 144.00
EFT15380	24/04/2025	NARROGIN LIQUOR BARONS		\$ 176.55
EFT15381	24/04/2025	PERFECT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS - PCS		\$ 8,954.35
EFT15382	24/04/2025	PORSHA WHIBLEY		\$ 1,320.00
EFT15383	24/04/2025	CFR MOBILE MECHANICAL		\$ 2,188.14
EFT15384	24/04/2025	WICKEPIN NEWSAGENCY		\$ 1,875.80
EFT15385	24/04/2025	WCP CIVIL PTY LTD		\$ 58,560.47
EFT15386	24/04/2025	ZONE 50 ENGINEERING SURVEYS		\$ 2,802.80
		<b>TOTALS EFT</b>		<b>\$ 609,286.52</b>
15992	10/04/2025	SYNERGY		\$ 1,847.97
15993	24/04/2025	WATER CORPORATION		\$ 2,146.86
15994	24/04/2025	SYNERGY		\$ 5,197.09
15995	24/04/2025	DMIRS - BOND ADMINISTRATOR		\$ 510.00
		<b>TOTALS CHEQUE</b>		<b>\$ 9,701.92</b>
DD15675.1	01/04/2025	CRISP WIRELESS PTY LTD		\$ 238.00
		<b>TOTALS DIRECT DEBIT</b>		<b>\$ 238.00</b>
DD15748.1	23/04/2025	ANZ BANK		\$ 559.45
		<b>TOTALS CREDIT CARD</b>		<b>\$ 559.45</b>
DD15671.1	02/04/2025	AWARE SUPER		\$ 6,251.17
DD15671.2	02/04/2025	MLC SUPER FUND - PLUM SUPER		\$ 508.39
DD15671.3	02/04/2025	ANZ SUPER		\$ 168.98
DD15671.4	02/04/2025	PRIME SUPER		\$ 573.97
DD15671.5	02/04/2025	FIRSTCHOICE WHOLESALE PERSONALSUPERANNUATION		\$ 615.85
DD15671.6	02/04/2025	NETWEALTH INVESTMENTS		\$ 298.87
DD15671.7	02/04/2025	ESSENTIAL SUPER		\$ 120.96
DD15671.8	02/04/2025	AMP SIGNATURE SUPER		\$ 268.02
DD15671.9	02/04/2025	AUSTRALIAN SUPER		\$ 516.91
DD15703.1	16/04/2025	AWARE SUPER		\$ 5,026.40
DD15703.2	16/04/2025	MLC SUPER FUND - PLUM SUPER		\$ 508.39
DD15703.3	16/04/2025	ANZ SUPER		\$ 249.01
DD15703.4	16/04/2025	PRIME SUPER		\$ 573.97
DD15703.5	16/04/2025	FIRSTCHOICE WHOLESALE PERSONALSUPERANNUATION		\$ 343.02
DD15703.6	16/04/2025	NETWEALTH INVESTMENTS		\$ 298.87
DD15703.7	16/04/2025	ESSENTIAL SUPER		\$ 120.96
DD15703.8	16/04/2025	AMP SIGNATURE SUPER		\$ 268.02
DD15703.9	16/04/2025	AUSTRALIAN SUPER		\$ 516.91
DD15738.1	30/04/2025	AWARE SUPER		\$ 5,126.18

DD15738.2	30/04/2025	MLC SUPER FUND - PLUM SUPER		\$	508.39
DD15738.3	30/04/2025	ANZ SUPER		\$	53.36
DD15738.4	30/04/2025	PRIME SUPER		\$	568.69
DD15738.5	30/04/2025	NETWEALTH INVESTMENTS		\$	298.87
DD15738.6	30/04/2025	ESSENTIAL SUPER		\$	120.96
DD15738.7	30/04/2025	FIRSTCHOICE WHOLESALE PERSONALSUPERANNUATION		\$	276.89
DD15738.8	30/04/2025	AMP SIGNATURE SUPER		\$	268.02
DD15738.9	30/04/2025	AUSTRALIAN SUPER		\$	516.91
DD15671.10	02/04/2025	REST INDUSTRY SUPER		\$	274.26
DD15703.10	16/04/2025	REST INDUSTRY SUPER		\$	276.06
DD15738.10	30/04/2025	REST INDUSTRY SUPER		\$	272.52
		<b>TOTALS SUPERANNUATION</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>25,789.78</b>
98010425	01/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	814.40
98020425	02/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	185.60
98030425	03/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	4,824.45
98040425	04/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	444.35
98070425	07/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	1,412.15
98100425	10/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	2,137.20
98110425	11/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	1,111.20
98140425	14/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	8,371.35
98160425	16/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	1,671.50
98170425	17/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	980.70
98220425	22/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	209.75
98230425	23/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	743.95
98240425	24/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	130.65
98290425	29/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	144.25
98300425	30/04/2025	DEPT OF TRANSPORT		\$	1,241.80
		<b>TOTALS LICENSING</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>24,423.30</b>
2/04/2025	02/04/2025	PAYROLL		\$	71,846.00
16/04/2025	16/04/2025	PAYROLL		\$	50,227.00
30/04/2025	30/04/2025	PAYROLL		\$	49,729.00
		<b>TOTALS PAYROLL</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>171,802.00</b>
		<b>ACCOUNT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,231.02</b>	<b>\$ 841,800.97</b>
		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR APRIL 2025</b>			<b>\$ 844,031.99</b>

		Credit Card Payment Summary		
		24th March- 23rd April		
		CARD ENDING XXXX224175		
	DATE	COMPANY	AMOUNT	
	31/03/2025	BOOKING.COM SYDNEY	\$ 291.55	
	31/03/2025	TICKETS*2025 REGIO BELROSE	\$ 220.00	
	4/04/2025	SHIRE OF WICKEPIN	\$ 47.90	
			\$ 559.45	
		CARD ENDING XXXX885645		
	DATE	COMPANY	AMOUNT	
			\$ -	
			\$ 559.45	
		FUEL CARD MARCH 2025		
	<b>Job</b>	<b>Job Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
	P475	CAT 444F2 BACKHOE LOADER	\$ 419.17	
	P248	HINO 700 SERIES - FS 2848	\$ 631.24	
	P342	HINO 700 SERIES FS2848	\$ 259.42	
	P1955A	FUSO CANTER 7.5T CREW CAB	\$ 12,239.58	
	P1915	HINO 500 SERIES 1628 MEDIUM NINE TRUCK	\$ 319.92	
	P698	FUSO CANTER 815 7.5T TRUCK - GARDENERS	\$ 304.01	
	P2433	HINO FG 1628 TRUCK	\$ 499.19	
	P664	JOHN DEERE Z997 RIDE ON MOWER - GREEN	\$ 77.03	
	P454	2012 TORO GROUNDMASTER MOWER	\$ 24.30	
	PCEO	ISUZU MU-X 4X4 LSU 3.0L AUTO MINERAL WHITE -CEO	\$ 1,213.72	
	P2473	HINO 300 SERIES 921 AUTO TRADE ACE	\$ 855.20	
	P468	HOLDEN COLORADO 4X4 SINGLE CAB - GARDENER'S UTE	\$ 251.45	
	P706	HOLDEN COLORADO 4X4 SINGLE CAB CHASSIS 2.8L TURBO DIESEL UTE - MEHCANIC UTE	\$ 341.15	
	P632	ISUZZ D-MAX 4X4 SINGLE CAB CHASSIS SX AUTO	\$ 465.84	
	PCEO	ISUZU MU-X 4X4 LSU 3.0L AUTO MINERAL WHITE -CEO	\$ 759.08	
	P2567	ISUZU DMAX - WHITE CREW CAB CHASSIS SX 3.0L AUTO	\$ 672.01	
	PMWS	ISUZU D MAX 4X4 MINERAL WHITE CREW CAB AUTO XT 3.0L	\$ 1,025.69	
	P813	CAT 12H GRADER 2017	\$ 3,055.75	
	P2495	TORO REELMASTER 5510	\$ 38.00	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,451.75</b>	



## **13.2.1 Monthly Monthly Financial Report April 2025**



## SHIRE OF WICKEPIN

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Period Ended 30 April 2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Compilation Report	2
Monthly Summary Information	3
Statement of Financial Activity by Program	6
Statement of Financial Activity By Nature or Type	7
Statement of Capital Acquisitions and Capital Funding	8
Note 1      Significant Accounting Policies	9
Note 2      Explanation of Material Variances	16
Note 3      Net Current Funding Position	17
Note 4      Cash and Investments	18
Note 5      Budget Amendments	19
Note 6      Receivables	20
Note 7      Cash Backed Reserves	21
Note 8      Capital Disposals	22
Note 9      Rating Information	23
Note 10     Information on Borrowings	24
Note 11     Grants and Contributions	25
Note 12     Trust	26
Note 13     Details of Capital Acquisitions	27

## **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 April 2025 of \$1,460,219.

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: 5-May-25  
Reviewed by: Peter Clarke ACEO

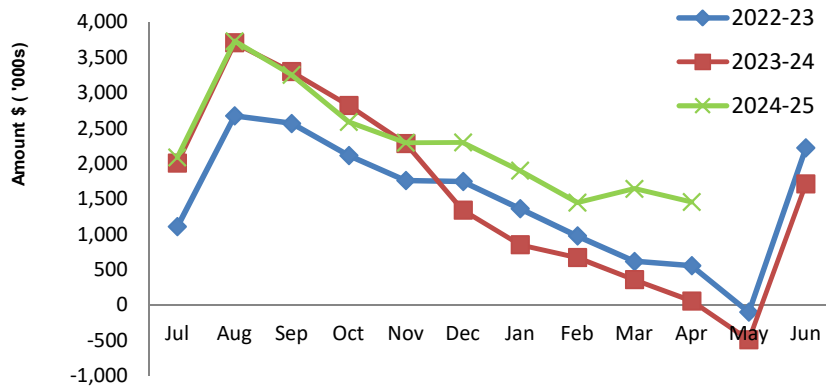


# Shire of Wickepin

## Monthly Summary Information

For the Period Ended 30 April 2025

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



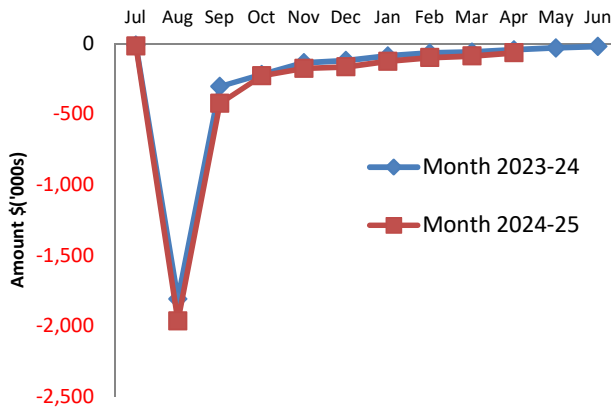
### Cash and Cash Equivalents as at period end

Unrestricted	\$ 1,778,713
Restricted	\$ 3,239,614
	<u>\$ 5,018,327</u>

### Receivables

Rates	\$ 65,527
Other	\$ 9,724
	<u>\$ 75,251</u>

**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>

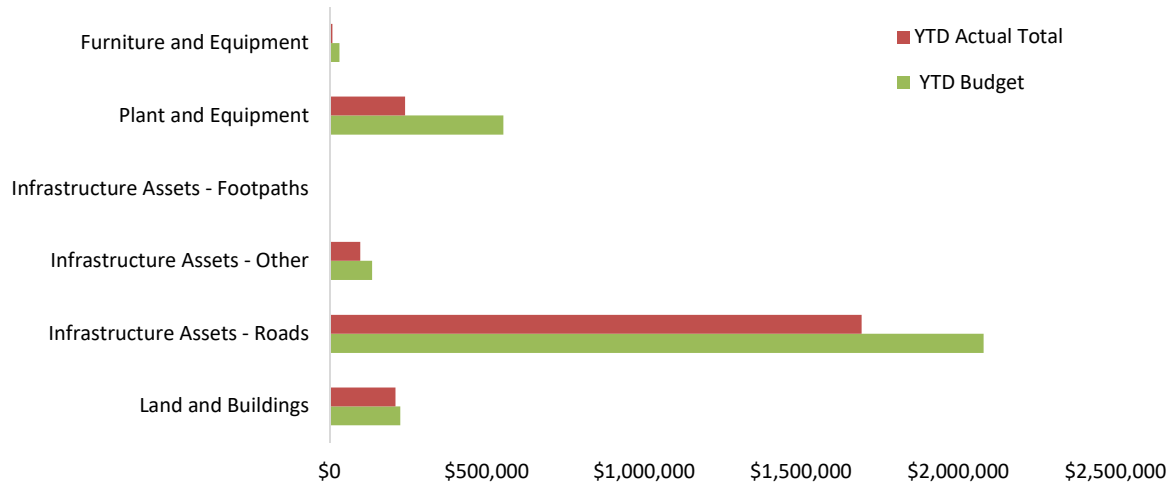
This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

# Shire of Wickepin

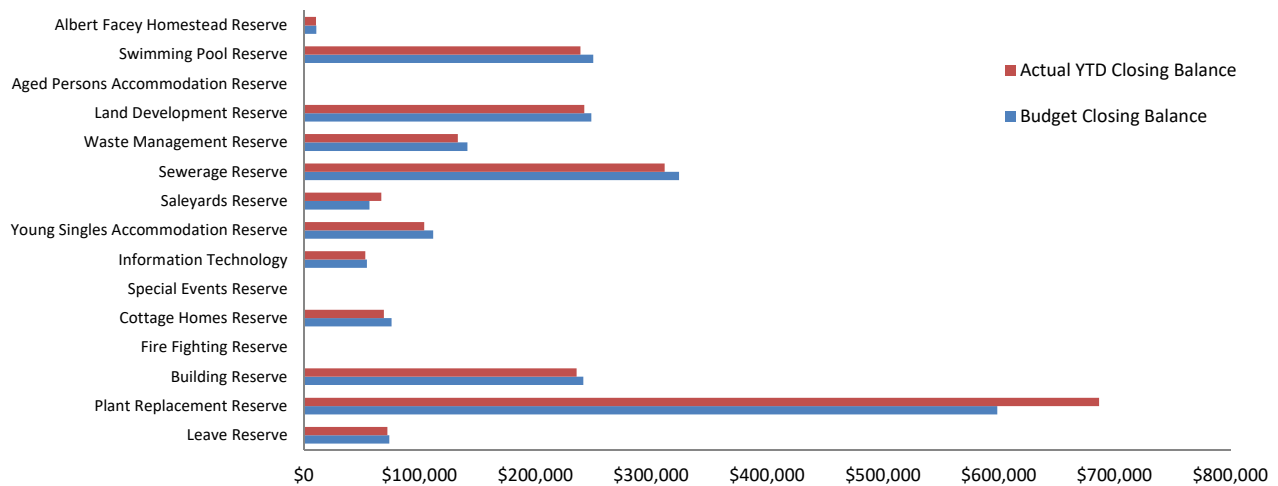
## Monthly Summary Information

For the Period Ended 30 April 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.

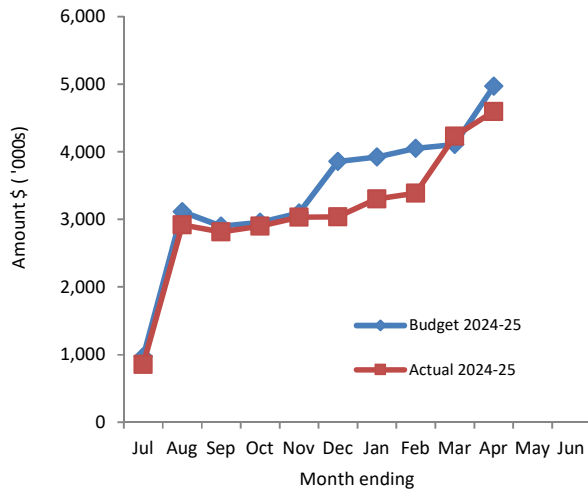
# Shire of Wickpin

## Monthly Summary Information

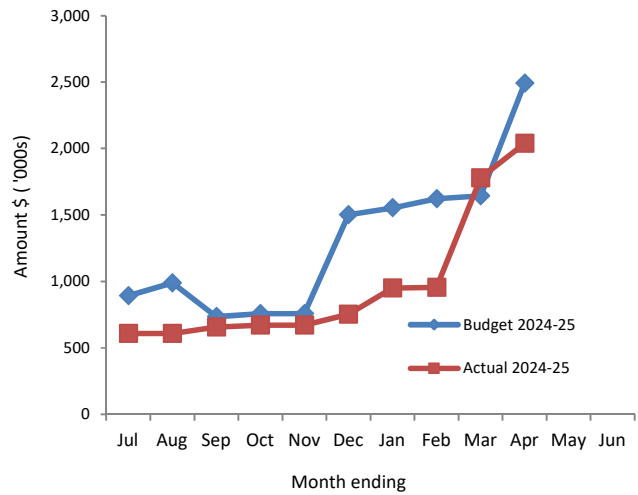
For the Period Ended 30 April 2025

### Revenues

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

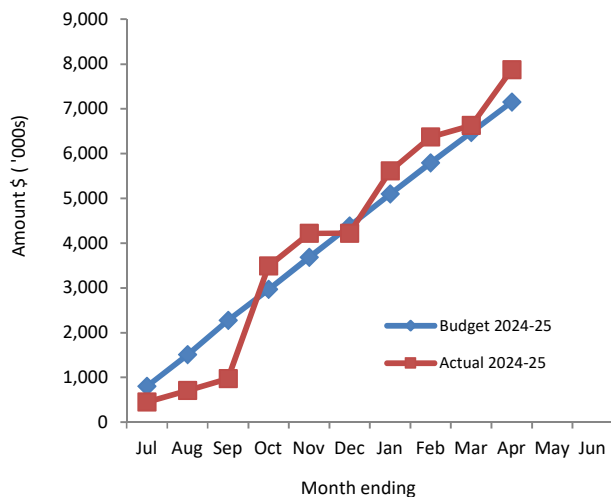


Budget Capital Revenue -v- Actual (Refer Note 2)

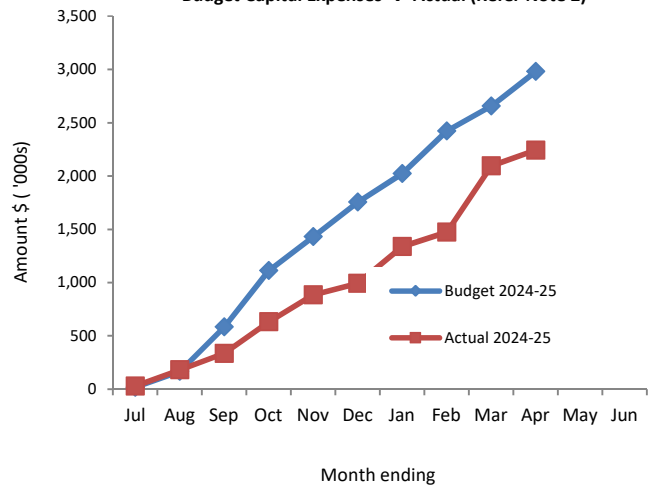


### Expenditure

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 April 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	\$ 1,660	\$ 9,634	\$ 7,974	% 480.37%	
General Purpose Funding - Rates	9	1,640,841	1,640,761	1,632,193	(8,568)	(0.52%)	
General Purpose Funding - Other		382,300	239,254	198,491	(40,763)	(17.04%)	▼
Law, Order and Public Safety		154,996	139,994	190,720	50,726	36.23%	▲
Health		220	180	1,182	1,002	556.67%	
Education and Welfare		300	240	564	324	134.85%	
Housing		110,850	92,350	81,625	(10,725)	(11.61%)	▼
Community Amenities		253,714	180,464	211,636	31,172	17.27%	▲
Recreation and Culture		622,944	198,799	157,615	(41,184)	(20.72%)	▼
Transport		2,366,950	2,365,280	1,979,550	(385,730)	(16.31%)	▼
Economic Services		100,525	84,410	94,724	10,314	12.22%	▲
Other Property and Services		30,000	24,990	39,200	14,210	56.86%	▲
Total Operating Revenue		5,665,645	4,968,382	4,597,133	(371,249)		
<b>Operating Expense</b>							
Governance		(694,484)	(590,031)	(474,380)	115,651	19.60%	▼
General Purpose Funding		(110,227)	(91,800)	(79,049)	12,751	13.89%	▼
Law, Order and Public Safety		(337,806)	(287,242)	(232,204)	55,038	19.16%	▼
Health		(31,675)	(26,410)	(16,749)	9,661	36.58%	
Education and Welfare		(33,792)	(28,110)	(23,364)	4,746	16.88%	▼
Housing		(214,849)	(178,581)	(205,104)	(26,523)	(14.85%)	▲
Community Amenities		(574,858)	(478,452)	(416,932)	61,520	12.86%	▼
Recreation and Culture		(1,207,243)	(1,013,273)	(1,223,101)	(209,828)	(20.71%)	▲
Transport		(4,564,858)	(3,803,740)	(4,746,400)	(942,660)	(24.78%)	▲
Economic Services		(362,710)	(302,030)	(228,868)	73,162	24.22%	▼
Other Property and Services		(417,974)	(349,960)	(225,046)	124,914	35.69%	▼
Total Operating Expenditure		(8,550,476)	(7,149,628)	(7,871,196)	(721,568)		
<b>Funding Balance Adjustments</b>							
Add back Depreciation		4,780,500	3,983,690	5,087,744	1,104,054	27.71%	▲
Adjust (Profit)/Loss on Asset Disposal	8	(76,574)	(76,743)	(12,921)	63,822	(83.16%)	
Adjust Provisions and Accruals		0	0	0	0		
Adjust Rounding		0	0	0	0		
Net Cash from Operations		1,819,095	1,725,701	1,800,760	75,059		
<b>Capital Revenues</b>							
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	8	280,549	233,791	172,264	(61,527)	(26.32%)	▼
Total Capital Revenues		280,549	233,791	172,264	(61,527)		
<b>Capital Expenses</b>							
Land and Buildings	13	(317,017)	(223,253)	(208,425)	14,828	6.64%	
Infrastructure - Roads	13	(2,492,909)	(2,080,011)	(1,691,372)	388,639	18.68%	▼
Infrastructure - Footpaths	13	(45,000)	0	0	0		
Infrastructure -Other	13	(159,504)	(134,504)	(105,447)	29,057	21.60%	▼
Plant and Equipment	13	(783,477)	(551,697)	(230,395)	321,302	58.24%	▼
Furniture and Equipment	13	(36,000)	(30,000)	(7,250)	22,750	75.83%	▼
Total Capital Expenditure		(3,833,907)	(3,019,465)	(2,242,890)	776,575		
Net Cash from Capital Activities		(3,553,358)	(2,785,674)	(2,070,626)	715,048		
<b>Financing</b>							
Transfer from Reserves	7	117,000	0	0	0		
Repayment of Debentures	10	(40,407)	(20,156)	(20,156)	(0)	(0.00%)	
Transfer to Reserves	7	(126,918)	0	0	0		
Net Cash from Financing Activities		(50,325)	(20,156)	(20,156)	(0)		
Net Operations, Capital and Financing		(1,784,588)	(1,080,129)	(290,023)	790,106		
Opening Funding Surplus(Deficit)	3	1,784,588	1,784,588	1,750,242	(34,346)	(1.92%)	
Closing Funding Surplus(Deficit)	3	0	704,459	1,460,219	755,760		

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 April 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	1,625,499.44	1,616,931	(8,569)	(0.53%)	
Rates excluding General Rates	9	15,262	15,262	15,262	0	0.00%	
Operating Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	11	530,478	474,846	493,715	18,869	3.97%	
Fees and Charges		541,918	479,038	510,356	31,318	6.54%	
Interest Earnings		128,500	39,264	56,732	17,468	44.49%	▲
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>		2,919,270	2,711,442	2,730,080	18,638		
<b>Operating Expense</b>							
Employee Costs		(1,582,760)	(1,319,048)	1,347,460	(28,413)	(2.15%)	
Materials and Contracts		(1,638,451)	(1,362,593)	958,164	404,430	29.68%	▲
Utility Charges		(267,455)	(222,700)	194,313	28,387	12.75%	▲
Depreciation on Non-Current Assets		(4,780,500)	(3,983,690)	5,087,744	(1,104,054)	(27.71%)	▼
Interest Expenses		(2,706)	(1,443)	2,180	(737)	(51.07%)	▼
Insurance Expenses		(253,645)	(238,034)	259,002	(20,968)	(8.81%)	
Other Expenditure		(24,000)	(21,330)	20,286	1,044	4.89%	
Loss on Disposal of Assets	8	(959)	(790)	2,047	(1,257)	(159.17%)	
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		(8,550,476)	(7,149,628)	7,871,196	(721,568)		
<b>Funding Balance Adjustments</b>							
Add back Depreciation		4,780,500	3,983,690	5,087,744	1,104,054	27.71%	▲
Adjust (Profit)/Loss on Asset Disposal	8	(76,574)	(76,743)	12,921	63,822	(83.16%)	
Adjust Provisions and Accruals		0	0	0	0		
Adjust Rounding		0	0	0	0		
<b>Net Cash from Operations</b>		(927,280)	(531,239)	66,293	464,946		
<b>Capital Revenues</b>							
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	11	2,746,375	2,256,940	1,867,053	(389,887)	(17.28%)	▼
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	8	280,549	233,791	172,264	(61,527)	(26.32%)	▼
Proceeds from Sale of Assets		0	0	0	0		
<b>Total Capital Revenues</b>		3,026,924	2,490,731	2,039,317	(451,414)		
<b>Capital Expenses</b>							
Land and Buildings	13	(317,017)	(223,253)	(208,425)	14,828	6.64%	
Infrastructure - Roads	13	(2,492,909)	(2,080,011)	(1,691,372)	388,639	18.68%	▲
Infrastructure - Footpaths	13	(45,000)	0	0	0		
Infrastructure - Drainage	13	(159,504)	(134,504)	(105,447)	29,057	21.60%	▲
Plant and Equipment	13	(783,477)	(551,697)	(230,395)	321,302	58.24%	▲
Furniture and Equipment	13	(36,000)	(30,000)	(7,250)	22,750	75.83%	▲
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>		(3,833,907)	(3,019,465)	(2,242,890)	776,575		
<b>Net Cash from Capital Activities</b>		(806,983)	(528,734)	203,573	325,161		
<b>Financing</b>							
Transfer from Reserves	7	117,000	0	0	0		
Repayment of Debentures	10	(40,407)	(20,156)	20,156	(0)	(0.00%)	
Transfer to Reserves	7	(126,918)	0	0	0		
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>		(50,325)	(20,156)	20,156	(0)		
<b>Net Operations, Capital and Financing</b>		(1,784,588)	(1,080,129)	290,023	790,106		
<b>Opening Funding Surplus(Deficit)</b>	3	1,784,588	1,784,588	1,750,242	(34,346)	(1.92%)	
<b>Closing Funding Surplus(Deficit)</b>	3	0	704,459	1,460,219	755,760		

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.

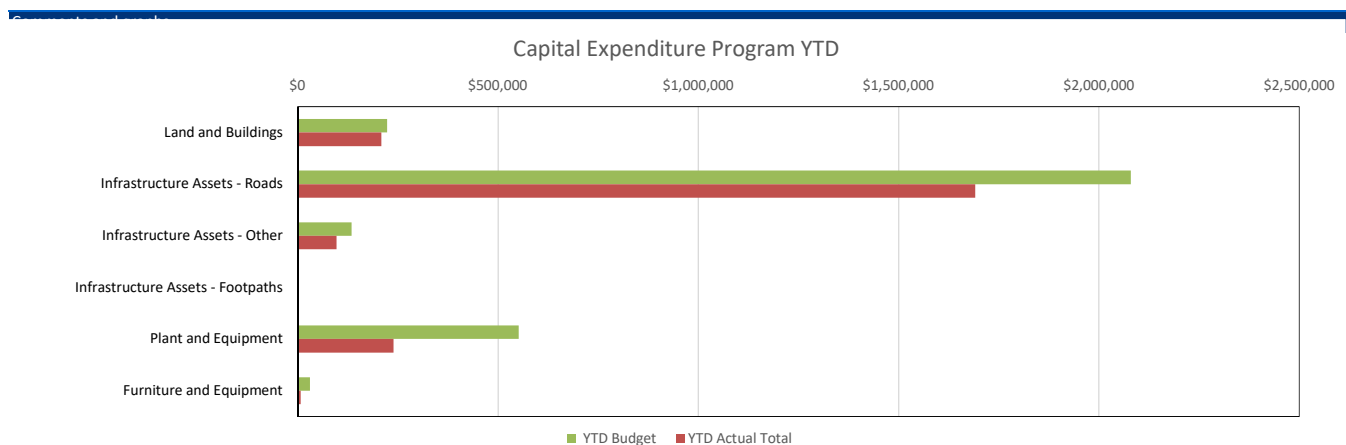
This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

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

		YTD 30 04 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	208,425	0	208,425	223,253	317,017	(14,828)
Infrastructure Assets - Roads	13		1,691,372	1,691,372	2,080,011	2,492,909	(388,639)
Infrastructure Assets - Other	13	96,507	0	96,507	134,504	159,504	(37,997)
Infrastructure Assets - Footpaths	13	0	0	0	0	45,000	0
Plant and Equipment	13	239,335	0	239,335	551,697	783,477	(312,362)
Furniture and Equipment	13	7,250	0	7,250	30,000	36,000	(22,750)
<b>Capital Expenditure Totals</b>		<b>551,518</b>	<b>1,691,372</b>	<b>2,242,890</b>	<b>3,019,465</b>	<b>3,833,907</b>	<b>(776,575)</b>

**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	233,791	(76,574)	61,527
Own Source Funding - Cash Backed Reserves		0	117,000	0
Total Own Source Funding - Cash Backed Reserves	0	0	0	0
Own Source Funding - Operations		39,299	1,047,106	39,299
<b>Capital Funding Total</b>	<b>172,264</b>	<b>3,019,465</b>	<b>3,833,907</b>	<b>(2,847,202)</b>



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

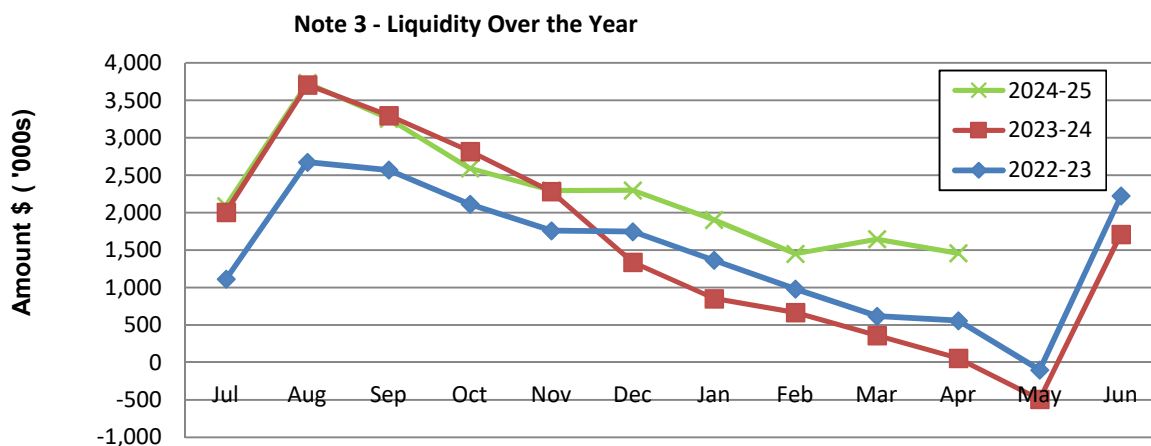
**Note 2: EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL VARIANCES**

Reporting Program	Var. \$	Var. %	Var.	Timing/ Permanent	Explanation of Variance
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$	%			
Governance	7,974	480%			
General Purpose Funding - Other	(40,763)	(17.04%)	▼	Permanent	Interest to be received, Reduction in General Purpose grant on budget estimates
Law, Order and Public Safety	50,726	36.23%	▲	Permanent	ESL Supplement Grant 23/24
Health	1,002	556.67%			
Education and Welfare	324	134.85%			
Housing	(10,725)	(11.61%)	▼	Timing	Rental income reduced
Community Amenities	31,172	17.27%	▲	Permanent	Sale of Recycled materials, increase in bus hire fees, cemetery fees and Town Planning Fees
Recreation and Culture	(41,184)	(20.72%)	▼	Timing	LRCI Grant Funding to be received,
Transport	(385,730)	(16.31%)	▼	Timing	Road Funding received for WSN
Economic Services	10,314	12.22%	▲	Timing	Increase in Building License Fees, WK Caravan Park fees Increase
Other Property and Services	14,210	56.86%	▲	Permanent	Workers Comp Reimbursement - 23/24
<b>Operating Expense</b>					
Governance	115,651	19.60%	▼	Timing	Legal, Advertsing, Office Equipment, Consultancy fees not yet spent
General Purpose Funding	12,751	13.89%	▼	Timing	No Costs for Rate Expenses, Title searches,
Law, Order and Public Safety	55,038	19.16%	▼	Timing	Bushfire Mitagation, Fire insurance costs down, Animal Control costs down
Health	9,661	36.58%			
Education and Welfare	4,746	16.88%	▼	Timing	Donations, CDO projects not yet spen
Housing	(26,523)	(14.85%)	▲	Timing	Building Maintenance - increase, Depreciation cost increase
Community Amenities	61,520	12.86%	▼	Timing	TPS & TP scheme still to be finalised
Recreation and Culture	(209,828)	(20.71%)	▲	Permanent	Higher insurance cost for 24.25 for buildings
Transport	(942,660)	(24.78%)	▲	Permanent	Signage required for roads, Depreciation cost increase due to revaluations
Economic Services	73,162	24.22%	▼	Timing	Harrismith CP Costs down, Water costs down
Other Property and Services	124,914	35.69%	▼	Timing	Staff training still to be completed, Fuel & Oil Cost down, Depot Consumables costs down
<b>Capital Revenues</b>					
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	(389,887)	(17.28%)	▼	Timing	LRCI Funding still to be received
Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	(61,527)	(26.32%)	▼	Timing	Assets not yet disposed of
<b>Capital Expenses</b>					
Land and Buildings	14,828	6.64%			
Infrastructure - Roads	388,639	18.68%	▼	Timing	Road Projects still in progress.LRCI Funded Laybys
Infrastructure - Other	29,057	21.60%	▼	Timing	Niche Wall still to be done
Infrastructure - Footpaths	0				
Plant and Equipment	321,302	58.24%	▼	Timing	Truck and bus still to be purchased
Furniture and Equipment	22,750	75.83%	▼	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 April 2025

**Note 3: NET CURRENT FUNDING POSITION**

		Positive=Surplus (Negative=Deficit)		
		YTD 30 Apr 2025	30 June 2023	YTD 29 Apr 2024
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash Unrestricted	4	1,778,713	2,053,762	3,054,752
Cash Restricted	4	3,239,614	3,252,949	2,824,404
Receivables - Rates	6	65,527	20,237	157,827
Receivables -Other	6	9,724	24,809	5,929
Interest / ATO Receivable/Trust		18,043	17,586	25,304
		5,111,622	5,369,344	6,068,216
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	104,671	(58,836)	(210,020)
Contract Liabilities	-	92,638	(92,638)	(853,441)
Provisions	-	214,479	(214,679)	(227,654)
		411,788	(366,153)	(1,291,116)
Less: Cash Reserves	7	3,239,614	(3,252,949)	(2,824,404)
<b>Net Current Funding Position</b>		<b>1,460,219</b>	<b>1,750,242</b>	<b>1,952,696</b>



**Comments - Net Current Funding Position**

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 April 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%	860,269			860,269	ANZ	At Call
Reserve Bank Account	0.00%		614		614	ANZ	At Call
Trust Bank Account	0.00%			80,361	80,361	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%		3,000,000		3,000,000		03-Jun-25
Municipal	4.80%	917,252			917,252	WA Treasury	At Call
Reserve	4.53%		239,000		239,000		03-Jun-25
Trust	0.40%				0		
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,778,221</b>	<b>3,239,614</b>	<b>80,361</b>	<b>5,098,196</b>		

**Comments/Notes - Investments**





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

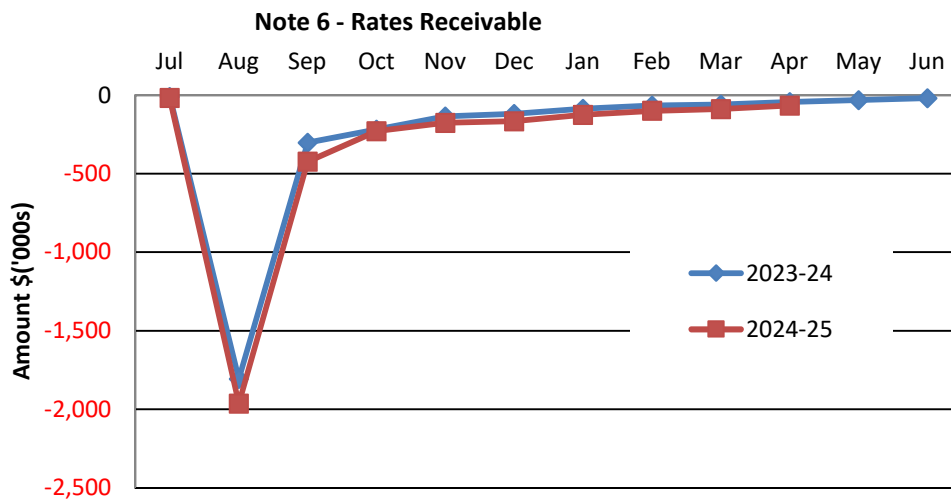
**Note 6: RECEIVABLES**

**Receivables - Rates Receivable**

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

**Net Rates Collectable**  
 % Collected

YTD 30 Apr 2025	30 June 2024
\$ 20,238	\$ 16,420
1,833,887	1,753,996
(1,788,598)	(1,750,178)
<b>65,527</b>	<b>20,238</b>
<b>65,527</b>	<b>20,238</b>
96.47%	98.86%



**Comments/Notes - Receivables Rates**

**Receivables - General**

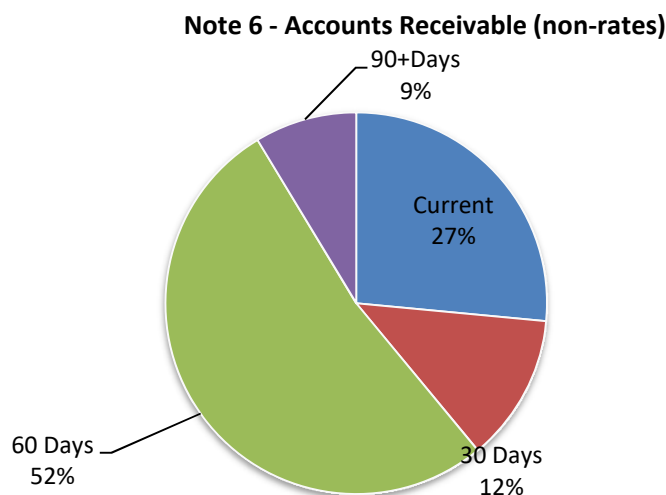
Receivables - General

Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+Days
\$ 2,578	\$ 1,215	\$ 5,091	\$ 841

**Total Receivables General Outstanding**

**9,724.29**

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)



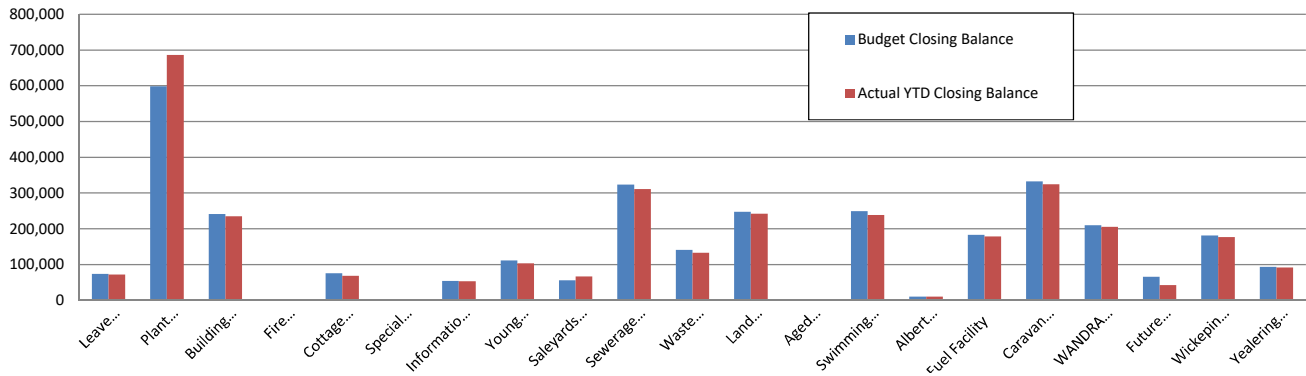
**Comments/Notes - Receivables General**

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 April 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
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
Leave Reserve	71,838	1,778							73,616	71,838
Plant Replacement Reserve	686,601	16,997				105,000			598,598	686,601
Building Reserve	235,343	5,968							241,311	235,343
Fire Fighting Reserve	0									0
Cottage Homes Reserve	68,851	1,704		5,000					75,555	68,851
Special Events Reserve	0									0
Information Technology	52,995	1,312							54,307	52,995
Young Singles Accommodation Reserve	103,812	2,570		5,000					111,382	103,812
Saleyards Reserve	66,719	1,651				12,000			56,370	66,719
Sewerage Reserve	311,278	7,705		5,000					323,983	311,278
Waste Management Reserve	132,786	3,287		5,000					141,073	132,786
Land Development Reserve	241,979	5,982							247,961	241,979
Aged Persons Accommodation Reserve	0								0	0
Swimming Pool Reserve	238,740	5,910		5,000					249,650	238,740
Albert Facey Homestead Reserve	10,254	254							10,508	10,254
Fuel Facility	178,263	4,369							182,632	178,263
Caravan Park & Accommodation Reserve	324,230	8,058							332,288	324,230
WANDRA events & Emergency Repairs Reserve	205,029	5,086							210,115	205,029
Future Projects Reserve	42,424	3,076		20,000					65,500	42,424
Wickepin Bowling Greens - Replacement	176,888	4,182							181,070	176,888
Yealering Bowling Green - Replacement	91,583	2,029							93,612	91,583
	<b>3,239,614</b>	<b>81,918</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3,249,532</b>	<b>3,239,614</b>

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



## Note 8 CAPITAL DISPOSALS

### Comments - Capital Disposal/Replacements

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 April 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	(56)	0	128,965	129,021			129,021
UV	0.499300	268	312,228,490	1,555,809	(437)		1,555,372	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	(493)	0	1,687,485	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							1,769,710				1,769,629
Discount							15,262				15,262
Rates Writeoffs							(153,227)				(144,000)
							(30)				(50)
<b>Amount from General Rates</b>							<b>1,631,715</b>				<b>1,640,841</b>
Specified Area Rates											
<b>Totals</b>							<b>1,631,715</b>				<b>1,640,841</b>

**Comments - Rating Information**

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

**10. INFORMATION ON BORROWINGS**

(a) Debenture Repayments

Particulars	Principal 1-Jul-23	New Loans	Principal Repayments		Principal Outstanding		Interest Repayments		Loan Completion Date
			Actual \$	Budget \$	Actual \$	Budget \$	Actual \$	Budget \$	
Loan 103 -Staff House	269,509		20156	40,407	249,353	269,509	1060	2,426	2/12/2030
	269,509	0	20,156	40,407	249,353	269,509	1,060	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 April 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	73,972	76,428
Grants Commission - Roads	WALGGC	Y	84,600	0	84,600	0	46,977	37,623
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>								
Australia Day Grant	Aust Day Council	Y	0	10,000	10,000		8,000	2,000
<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	25,954	155,989
LRCI Phase 4	LRCI Stage 4	Y	229,513			229,513	83,212	146,301
LRCI Phase 4	LRCI Stage 4- CONTRACT	Y	145,127			145,127		145,127
	EV Charger	Y	25,052			25,052		25,052
Community Night Lights Program	CNLP Grant	Y	14,309			14,309		14,309
Community Night Lights Program	CNLP Grant- WDSC	Y	8,000		8,000		21,402	(13,402)
Library	SLWA	N	0		5,000		10,000	(5,000)
<b>ECONOMIC SERVICES</b>								
EiD Readers	DPIRD	Y	10,000		10,000		9,091	(9,091)
<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	1,056,764	(29,762)
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>2,360,768</b>	<b>1,037,285</b>

**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
**For the Period Ended 30 April 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-Apr-25
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Housing Bonds	0	5,847	-4,967	880
Master Key Deposits	492	8,442	-7,560	1,374
Building and BCITF	185	3,670	-3,311	544
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	-840	2,569
Yealering Bowling Club Greens	0	0	0	0
Licensing		223,947	-223,947	0
	<b>80,029</b>	<b>242,865</b>	<b>-240,624</b>	<b>82,270</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 April 2025

Note 13: CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS

30/04/2025						
		Annual Budget	Amended YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance (Under)/Over	Strategic Reference / Comment
<b>Infrastructure Assets</b>						
<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>						
<b>Education &amp; Welfare</b>						
Wickepin 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	116,670	122,751	17,249	C/fwd
Wickepin Community Centre - Change Rooms- LRCI Phase 4	XCC1	25,913	25,913	26,504	(591)	C/fwd
Wickepin Swimming Pool- Disable Toilet- LRCI Phase 4	XSP6	30,000	30,000	15,229	14,771	C/fwd
Solar Panels	XSP1	50,104	0	0	50,104	
Yealering Hall	CLPH2	20,000	16,670	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>198,253</b>	<b>178,992</b>	<b>101,932</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	0	0	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>17,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,260</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Land and Buildings Total</b>		<b>317,017</b>	<b>223,253</b>	<b>208,425</b>	<b>103,959</b>	
<b>Footpaths</b>						
<b>Transport</b>						
Footpaths	LFP1	45,000	0	0	0	
<b>Transport Total</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Footpaths Total</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Furniture &amp; Equipment</b>						
<b>Governance</b>						
Various Locations - New CCTV System	XCTV	36,000	30,000	7,250	22,750	
<b>Governance Total</b>		<b>36,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>22,750</b>	
<b>Furniture &amp; Office Equip. Total</b>		<b>36,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>22,750</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)	XSY1	10,780		9,800	9,800	ordered
<b>Economic Services Total</b>		<b>10,780</b>	<b>431,697</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>553,450</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	
<b>Recreation and Culture Total</b>		<b>147,504</b>	<b>122,504</b>	<b>96,507</b>	<b>50,997</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>50,997</b>	
<b>Infrastructure Other Total</b>		<b>159,504</b>	<b>134,504</b>	<b>105,447</b>	<b>101,993</b>	
<b>Roads</b>						
<b>Transport Regional Road Group</b>						
Wickepin Pingelly Road	RG003	469,840	469,840	393,514	76,326	
Stock Route Road	RRG163	245,645	245,645	348,348	(102,703)	
Rabbit Proof Fence Road - WSNF)	WSB150	1,027,795	1,027,795	847,605	180,190	
<b>Regional Road Group Total</b>		<b>1,743,280</b>	<b>1,743,280</b>	<b>1,589,467</b>	<b>153,814</b>	
<b>Transport Roads to Recovery</b>						
Yilliminning Road	R2R004	575,629	286,731	101,906	184,825	
<b>Roads to Recovery Total</b>		<b>575,629</b>	<b>286,731</b>	<b>101,906</b>	<b>184,825</b>	
<b>Council Resources Construction</b>						
Harrismith Layby - LRCI Phase 4	XH15	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	
Toolibin Layby (LRCI - Phase 4)	XH16	124,000	124,000	0	124,000	
<b>Council Resources Construction Total</b>		<b>174,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,000</b>	
<b>Roads Total</b>		<b>2,492,909</b>	<b>2,080,011</b>	<b>1,691,372</b>	<b>388,638.94</b>	
<b>Capital Expenditure Total</b>		<b>3,833,907</b>	<b>3,019,465</b>	<b>2,242,890</b>	<b>1,169,443</b>	



### **13.4.1 Wickepin Sheep Saleyards Agents' Agreement**



**AGENT'S AGREEMENT**

**WICKEPIN SHEEP SALEYARDS**

**XXXXXXX**

# CONTENTS

<b>AGENTS AGREEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RECITALS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OPERATIVE PROVISIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. INTERPRETATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Definitions .....	4
1.2 Interpretation.....	5
<b>2. LICENCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. PAYMENTS BY THE AGENT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Payment of fees .....	6
3.2 Saleyard Fees per head .....	7
<b>4. AGENT'S OBLIGATIONS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Hours of delivery and collections.....	7
4.2 Animal welfare .....	7
4.3 Sale Rosters .....	7
4.4 Safety.....	7
4.5 Agent's Representative .....	8
4.6 Statutory Requirements.....	8
4.7 Award Rates and Wages .....	8
4.8 General Conditions of Sub-Contracting .....	9
4.9 Sub-Contracting and Assignment.....	9
4.10 Agent To Provide Information.....	9
4.11 Agent Remains Liable .....	9
4.12 Employees .....	9
4.13 Prohibited Behaviour.....	9
4.14 Conduct of Employees.....	9
4.15 Directions of Supervisor .....	10
4.17 Appearance of Employees.....	10
4.18 Damage to Property .....	10
4.19 Public Risk Insurance .....	10
4.20 Workers' Compensation Insurance .....	10
4.21 Inspection of Insurance Policies.....	11
4.22 Indemnity .....	11
<b>5. TERMINATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1 Default by Agent.....	11
5.2 Determination of Agreement by the Owners.....	11
5.3 Payment for Losses and Expenses.....	11
<b>6. MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>112</b>
6.1 Agreement Interpretation.....	12
6.2 Amendments .....	12
6.3 Severability .....	12
6.4 Whole Understanding .....	12
65 Governing Law.....	12
6.6 Counting of Days .....	13
6.7 No Partnership .....	13

6.8	Several and Joint Liability .....	13
6.9	Agency.....	13
6.10	No Fettering of Owners' Powers .....	13
6.11	Agent to Examine Information .....	13
6.12	No Waiver.....	13
6.13	Method of Giving Notices .....	14
6.14	Time of Receipt .....	14
6.15	Addresses of Parties.....	14
<b>7.</b>	<b>DISPUTE RESOLUTION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1	Notice of Dispute.....	14
7.2	Alternative Dispute Resolution .....	15
7.3	Referral to Arbitration.....	15
7.4	No Obligation to Refer .....	15
7.5	Commercial Arbitration Act .....	15
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## AGENT'S AGREEMENT

This Agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_ 2025

Between

SHIRE OF WICKEPIN of Wogolin Road Wickepin WA ("the Owner")

and

The person or body corporate described as THE AGENT in the Schedule ("the Agent")

## RECITALS

- A. The Owners propose to, develop and operate the Wickepin Sheep Saleyards on the Saleyards Land.
- B. The Agent has requested the Owners to permit the Agent to conduct Livestock Sales at the Saleyards.
- C. The Owners and the Agent have agreed to enter into this Agreement to record the terms and conditions on which the Owners have given their permission to the Agent.

## OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

### 1. INTERPRETATION

#### 1.1 Definitions

In this Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise:

"**Agent's Representative**" has the meaning given to it in clause 4.5;

"**Annual Entry Fee**" means the annual entry fee described as such in the Schedule;

"**Commencement Date**" means the date described as the Commencement Date in the Schedule;

"**Livestock Sales**" means all activity carried out by the Agent, its employees, agents or sub-contractors to sell livestock for which it is an agent by arranging delivery, penning, sale and subsequent collection of all livestock at the Saleyards;

"**Party's Representative**" means the Supervisor in respect of the Owners and the Agent's Representative in respect of the Agent;

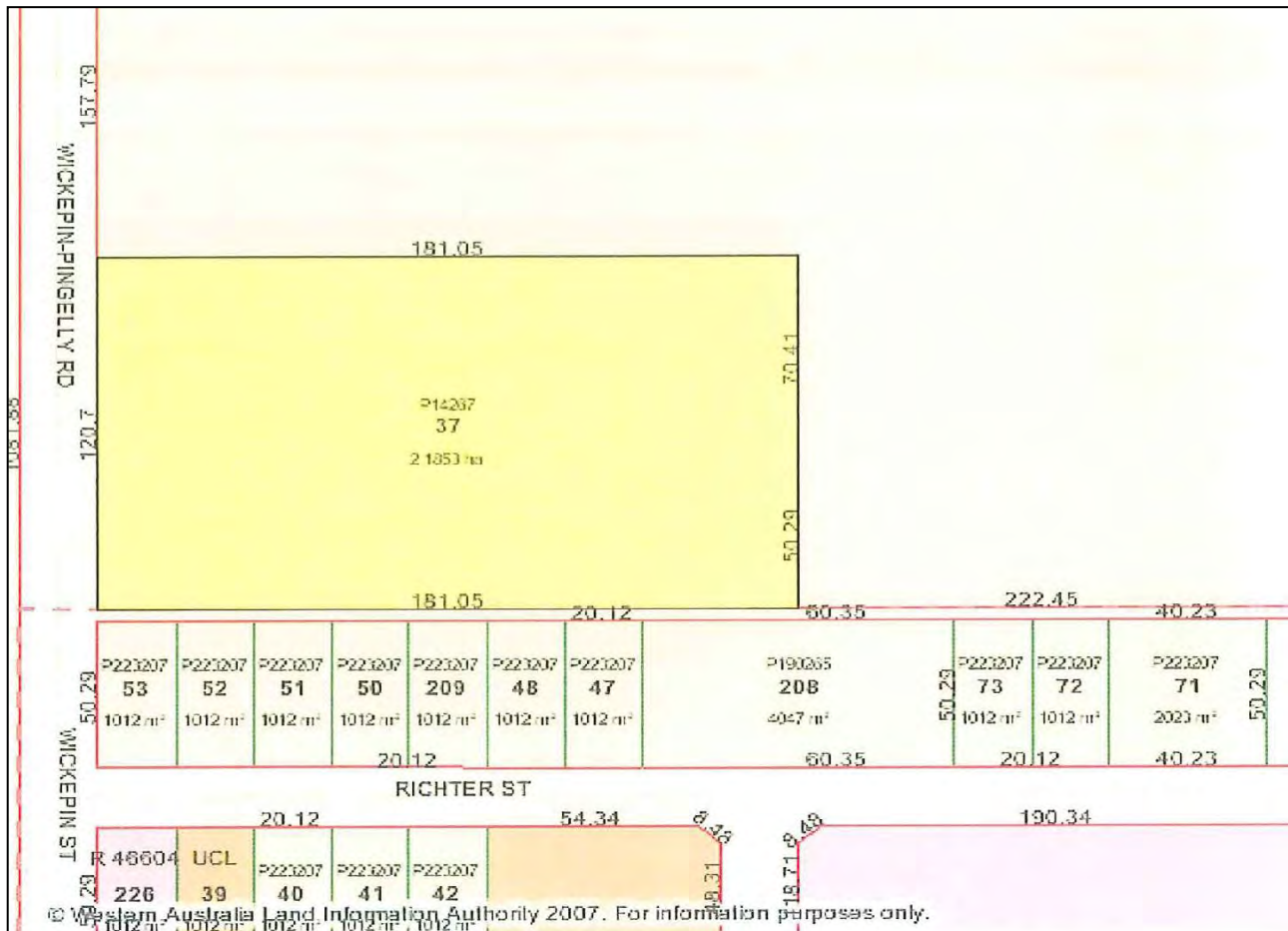
"**Sale Days**" means the days approved in writing by the Owners for the conduct of Livestock Sales;

"**Saleyards**" means the Wickepin Sheep Saleyards situated on the Saleyards Land;

"**Saleyards Fees**" means the fees levied by the Owners for provision and use of the Saleyards to be paid by all vendors of livestock and collected by agents and other approved persons;

"**Saleyards Land**" means:

- Lot 37 Wickepin-Pingelly Road Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 2112 Folio 366
- Lot 47 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 430
- Lot 48 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 431
- Lot 209 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1925 Folio 371
- Lot 50 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 432
- Lot 51 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 433
- Lot 52 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 434
- Lot 53 Richter Street Comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1198 Folio 435



**"Supervisor"** means:

- (a) The person, if any, stated in the Schedule; or
- (b) Any other person nominated by the Owners from time to time in writing,

And includes any person delegated powers or functions by a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of whose authority the Agent has been notified and in respect of whom no notice of the revocation of his or her authority has been given to the Agent.

**"Term"** means the period described as the Term in the Schedule commencing on the Commencement Date.

## 1.2 Interpretation

In the Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise:

### (a) Headings

Headings and underlining's are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;

### (b) Number

Words expressed in the singular include the plural and vice versa;

### (c) Gender



A reference to a gender includes a reference to each other gender;

**(d) Grammatical forms**

Where a term is assigned a particular meaning, other grammatical forms of that term have a corresponding meaning;

**(e) Body Corporate**

A reference to a person includes a reference to a firm, corporation or other corporate body and vice versa;

**(f) Reference to any statute**

A reference to any Act, regulation, planning scheme, local law or by-law includes all Acts, regulations, planning schemes, local laws or by-laws amending, consolidating or replacing same and a reference to an Act includes all regulations, planning schemes, local laws and by-laws made under that Act;

**(g) Successors and permitted assigns**

A reference to a party in a document includes that party, its legal representatives, successors and permitted assigns; and

**(h) Reference to documents**

A reference to any document includes a reference to that document as amended, rectified or replaced from time to time and to any document so amending, rectifying or replacing the document.

## **2. LICENCE**

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Owners grant to the Agent a non exclusive licence during the Term on Sale Days, to:

- (a) Have access to the Saleyards for the purpose of conducting Livestock Sales;
- (b) have access to an individual room within the office premises constructed on the Saleyards Land as, the Owners may from time to time permit, for the purpose of conducting transactions associated with the Livestock Sales; and
- (c) have access to all public areas including public toilets and canteen.

## **3. PAYMENTS BY THE AGENT**

### **3.1 Payment of Fees**

In consideration of the licence granted under clause 2, the Agent shall pay to the Owners the fees set out in this clause 3.

### **3.2 Saleyard Fees Per Head**

- (1) The Agent shall pay a fee as set in Council's annual fees and charges per head of livestock which enter or are present at the Saleyards on a Sale Day, and for which the Agent is agent.
- (2) The fee is payable within 7 working days after the end of each calendar month.
- (3) The Agent's obligation to pay the fee referred to in subclause (1) shall cease when the Owners have received payments from the Agent under this clause.
- (4) The Owners will ensure where any agent is permitted to conduct Livestock Sales at the Saleyards, that agent is required to pay to the Owners a fee per head of livestock which is not less than the fee referred to in sub clause (1).

## **4. AGENT'S OBLIGATIONS**

### **4.1 Hours of Delivery and Collections**

The Agent shall not without the prior approval of the Supervisor being granted and given in writing, arrange for the delivery of Livestock intended for sale earlier than 24 hours prior to a Sale Day.

### **4.2 Animal Welfare**

Any animals brought upon the Saleyards by or under the control of the Agent on arriving at the Saleyards,

- must conform to applicable laws and codes of practice about animal welfare;
- must be unloaded safely from their transport and under the Agent's supervision;
- are at the Agent's risk while upon the Saleyards; and
- Is the Agent's responsibility while upon the Saleyards.

### **4.3 Sale Rosters**

The Agent shall notify the Owners of all proposed sheep sales and will not arrange for any Livestock Sales at the Saleyards other than on Sale Days.

### **4.4 Safety**

The Agent shall ensure that its employees, agents and sub-contractors comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984, and shall ensure that only persons authorised by the Agent are permitted on the walkways or in sheep enclosures at the Saleyards.

The Agent shall not, except pursuant to clause 4.9, sub-contract or assign the whole or any portion of its rights and obligations under this Agreement, and no sub-contractors or assignees shall have any rights under this Agreement against the Owners.

## **4.5 Agent's Representative**

### **(1) Appointment of Representative**

The Agent shall appoint a competent person to be responsible for the day to day performance of the Livestock Sales and the supervision of all persons employed or engaged in carrying out or in connection with the Livestock Sales ("the Agent's Representative"). The Agent shall notify the Supervisor of the name of the Agent's Representative prior to the Commencement Date and shall notify the Supervisor immediately if a new Agent's Representative is appointed.

### **(2) Availability of Representative**

The Agent's Representative shall be available and able to be contacted by the Supervisor at all times on Sale Days.

### **(3) Address and telephone numbers**

The Agent shall, prior to the Commencement Date, provide the Supervisor with the address and telephone number of the Agent's Representative during normal working hours and a telephone number on which the Agent's Representative may generally be contacted after normal working hours. The Agent shall notify the Supervisor immediately of any change of address or telephone numbers of the Agent's Representative.

### **(4) Directions to Representative**

Any direction, instructions, notice, determination, approval or other communication made or given to the Agent's Representative shall be deemed to have been made or given to the Agent.

### **(5) Knowledge of Representative**

Any matter within the knowledge of the Agent's Representative is deemed to be within the knowledge of the Agent.

## **4.6 Statutory Requirements**

The Agent shall obey and ensure that its employees, sub-contractors and agents obey any Acts, planning schemes, regulations, local laws and by-laws in any way applicable to the Livestock Sales, the Saleyards or the Agent's obligations under this Agreement.

## **4.7 Award Rates and Wages**

Without limiting its obligations under clause 4.6, the Agent shall comply with the terms of any relevant Federal and State awards in respect of its employees and any subsequent amending awards including enterprise agreements and shall ensure that any agents and sub-contractors of the Agent also so comply.

#### **4.8 General Conditions of Sub-Contracting**

The Agent shall not, except pursuant to clause 4.9, sub-contract or assign the whole or any portion of its rights and obligations under this Agreement, and no sub-contractors or assignees shall have any rights under this Agreement against the Owners.

#### **4.9 Sub-Contracting and Assignment**

The Agent shall not be entitled to assign or sub-contract the whole or part of its rights and obligations under this Agreement except with the prior written consent of the Owners, which may reasonably withheld or may be given subject to such conditions as the Owners consider appropriate.

#### **4.10 Agent to Provide Information**

With any application for the consent of the Owners to any assignment or sub-contracting, the Agent shall provide all such other information as may be required by the Owners, including, without limitation, evidence that the proposed assignee or sub-contractors will be capable of performing any obligations of the Agent under this Agreement that it is to be sub-contracted to perform or assigned by being in possession of adequate motor vehicles and equipment and employing a sufficient number of employees with all necessary skills and training.

#### **4.11 Agent Remains Liable**

Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Owners, no assignment or sub-contracting of any rights or obligations of the Agent under this Agreement shall relieve the Agent from any liability under this Agreement or at law in respect of the performance or purported performance of this Agreement and the Agent shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of any sub-contractor or assignee or any sub-contractor's or assignee's employees and agents as if they were the acts or omissions of the Agent.

#### **4.12 Employees**

The Agent shall engage sufficient employees with adequate skills and training to carry out the Livestock Sales in an efficient manner.

#### **4.13 Prohibited Behaviour**

The Agent shall ensure that no employee, agent or sub-contractor of the Agent:

- (a) consumes any alcoholic beverage;
- (b) is intoxicated; or
- (c) is under the influence of any drug which could impede his or her ability to safely or efficiently perform the Agent's obligations under this Agreement, while at the Saleyards.

#### **4.14 Conduct of Employees**

The Agent shall ensure that all employees, agents and sub-contractors of the Agent:

- (a) conduct themselves towards the Councillors of the Owners, the Owners' employees and all members of the public in a civil and inoffensive manner; and
- (b) carry out their functions at all times with as little inconvenience and disturbance to others as possible and without causing any nuisance.

#### **4.15 Directions of Supervisor**

The Supervisor may by notice to the Agent require that any employee, agent or sub-contractor of the Agent whose attire, conduct or behaviour is contrary to clause 4.14, 4.15 or 4.17, not be permitted to enter or remain on the Saleyards and the Agent shall promptly comply with the notice.

#### **4.17 Appearance of Employees**

The Agent shall ensure that its employees, agents and subcontractors:

- (a) are respectably attired;
- (b) comply with any directions of the Supervisor in respect of their personal appearance or attire concerned with matters of neatness, health or safety; and
- (c) if required by the Supervisor, carry an identity card provided by the Owners and present such card for inspection on demand by any employee of the Owners.

#### **4.18 Damage to Property**

The Agent shall immediately remedy any malicious, intentional or negligent damage done by its employees, agents or sub-contractors to any property of the Owners or any other person. If the Agent fails to do so, the Owners may affect the necessary repairs or pay compensation to the owner of the property. The cost of affecting any necessary repairs or the amount of any compensation shall be paid on demand by the Agent to the Shire.

#### **4.19 Public Risk Insurance**

The Agent and the Owners shall each effect and keep in force throughout the Term a public risk policy of insurance for their respective liabilities in an amount of not less than \$10,000,000.00 and the Agent shall produce to the Supervisor on demand a certificate of the currency of the Agent's policy.

#### **4.20 Workers' Compensation Insurance**

The Agent shall effect and keep in force throughout the Term a policy of insurance against claims for workers' compensation and damages by any person employed by the Agent in connection with this Agreement.

#### **4.21 Inspection of Insurance Policies**

The Supervisor may, at any time, request to be shown evidence that all the insurance policies referred to in this Agreement are currently in effect and within 24 hours of the request the Agent shall provide the policies of insurance and any receipts for inspection.

#### **4.22 Indemnity**

The Agent shall indemnify the Owners and keep the Owners indemnified from and against all claims, demands, writs, summonses, actions, suits, proceedings, judgments, orders, decrees, damages, costs, losses and expenses of any nature whatsoever which the Owners may suffer or incur in connection with loss of life, personal injury or damage to property arising from or out of any occurrence in connection with the performance by the Agent of the Agent's powers or obligations under this Agreement.

### **5. TERMINATION**

#### **5.1 Default by Agent**

- (1) If the Agent defaults in the performance or observance of any obligation it has under this Agreement, or refuses or neglects to carry out or give effect to any order, instruction, direction or determination which the Owners or the Supervisor is empowered to give or make under this Agreement and which is given or made in writing to the Agent, then the Supervisor may give notice to the Agent to show cause why the powers contained in this clause should not be exercised.
- (2) The notice:
  - (a) shall state that it is a default notice under this Agreement; and
  - (b) shall specify the default, refusal or neglect on the part of the Agent upon which is based.
- (3) If, within 21 days after receipt of the notice, the Agent fails to show cause which in the opinion of the Owners offers reasonable assurance that the default will be rectified or the Owners' or Supervisor's order, instruction, direction or determination will be carried out or given effect to and this Agreement satisfactorily completed, the Owners, without prejudice to any other rights that they may have under this Agreement or at common law against the Agent, may determine this Agreement.

#### **5.2 Determination of Agreement by the Owners**

If the Owners decide to determine this Agreement pursuant to clause 6.1, they shall do so by giving notice to the Agent. Except as provided in this Agreement, the determination shall be without prejudice to any right that may have accrued to the Owners or to the Agent under this Agreement or at common law.

#### **5.3 Payment for Losses and Expenses**

In the event of a determination under clause 5.1, the Agent shall pay to the Owners the amount of the loss and expenses incurred by it by reason of or arising from the determination.

#### **5.4 Bankruptcy or Winding Up**

If the Agent:

- (a) being a person, becomes bankrupt or files or is served with a petition in bankruptcy, or is served with a bankruptcy notice, or makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or becomes bound as a debtor by any scheme of arrangement, or executes as a debtor any deed of assignment or deed of arrangement, or a mortgagee or other creditor takes possession of any of its assets; or
- (b) being a company, takes or has taken or instituted against it any action or proceeding, whether voluntary or compulsory, having for its object the winding-up of the company, or enters into a composition or other arrangement with its creditors, other than a voluntary winding up by members for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation, or a mortgagee or other creditor takes possession of any of its assets, then the Owners may determine this Agreement immediately and clause 5.2 shall operate, to the extent that it is applicable, as if the determination had been made by the Owners under clause 5.1.

### **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **6.1 Agreement Interpretation**

No rule of Agreement interpretation shall be applied in the interpretation of this Agreement to the disadvantage of one party on the basis that it prepared or put forward any document comprising part of this Agreement.

#### **6.2 Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended or modified only on a written instrument duly executed by the parties.

#### **6.3 Severability**

If a court, arbitrator, tribunal or other competent authority determines that a word, phrase, sentence, paragraph or clause of this Agreement is unenforceable, illegal or void, then it shall be severed and the other provisions of this Agreement shall remain operative.

#### **6.4 Whole Understanding**

This Agreement constitutes the whole understanding between the parties and embodies all terms and conditions of the transaction.

#### **65 Governing Law**

The law of Western Australia governs this Agreement and any legal proceedings or arbitration under this Agreement.

#### **6.6 Counting of Days**

Where under any provision of this Agreement any notice is to be given, any payment made or anything else must be done in a stated period of days, the stated number of days shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays applying in the districts of the Owners. The days comprising any period of days computed in accordance with this clause shall be deemed consecutive if interrupted only by days which are not to be taken into account under this clause.

#### **6.7 No Partnership**

Nothing in this Agreement shall operate or be deemed to create a partnership between any of the parties to this Agreement.

#### **6.8 Several and Joint Liability**

If the Agent consists of two or more parties, this Agreement shall bind each of them severally and jointly.

#### **6.9 Agency**

The Agent shall not:

- (a) hold itself as being an agent of the Owners or being in any other way entitled to make any Agreement on behalf of the Owners or to bind the Owners to the performance, variation, release or discharge of any obligation; or
- (b) hold out its employees or agents or allow its employees or agents to hold themselves out as being employees or agents of the Owners.

#### **6.10 No Fettering of Owners' Powers**

It is acknowledged and agreed that this Agreement does not fetter or restrict the powers or discretions of the Owners in relation to any powers or obligations it has under any written law that may apply to the Owners, the Agent or the subject matter of this Agreement.

#### **6.11 Agent to Examine Information**

The Agent is deemed to have examined all information and to have made all enquiries relevant to its obligations under this Agreement and to be aware of all risks, contingencies, costs, difficulties and other circumstances in any way connected with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

#### **6.12 No Waiver**



Any time or other indulgence granted by the Owners to the Agent or any variation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement or any judgment or order obtained by the Owners against the Agent will in any way amount to a waiver of any of the rights or remedies of the Owners in relation to the terms of this Agreement.

### **6.13 Method of Giving Notices**

A notice required or permitted to be given by one party to another under this Agreement shall be in writing, addressed to the other party and:

- (a) handed to that Party's Representative;
- (b) delivered to that party's address;
- (c) sent by pre-paid mail to that party's address; or
- (d) transmitted by facsimile to that party's facsimile number.

### **6.14 Time of Receipt**

A notice given to a party in accordance with clause 6.13 shall be treated as having been duly given and received:

- (a) if handed to the Party's Representative, immediately;
- (b) if delivered to a party's address, on the day of delivery;
- (c) if sent by pre-paid mail, on the third day after posting; or
- (d) if transmitted by facsimile to a party's facsimile number and a correct and complete transmission report is received, on the day of transmission.

### **6.15 Addresses of Parties**

For the purposes of clauses 6.13 and 6.14, the address or facsimile number of a party is the address or facsimile number stated in the Schedule unless notice of another address or facsimile number has been given to the other party.

## **7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **7.1 Notice of Dispute**

- (1) If any dispute or difference arises between the Owners and the Agent, either during the Term of this Agreement or after the determination, abandonment or breach of this Agreement, as to any matter or thing connected with this Agreement or arising under this Agreement, then the Owners or the Agent may give to the other party notice of the dispute or difference.
- (2) The notice:
  - (a) shall not be unreasonably given;

(b) shall state that it is a notice under this clause; and

(c) shall give sufficient details of the dispute or difference as to enable the party receiving the notice to ascertain the nature of the dispute or difference alleged.

## **7.2 Alternative Dispute Resolution**

(1) Within 7 days of the receipt of any notice of dispute under clause 8.1 by either party, a representative of each party shall meet to discuss ways of resolving the dispute or difference.

(2) The representatives may resolve the dispute or difference themselves or refer the dispute or difference to any form of alternative dispute resolution procedure on which they agree.

(3) The representatives shall be authorised by the parties to resolve the dispute or difference on their behalf should this prove to be practicable.

## **7.3 Referral to Arbitration**

Unless a dispute or difference of which notice has been given under clause 7.1 is previously settled, either party may, not less than 7 days after the notice of dispute or difference was given, give notice referring the dispute or difference to arbitration.

The arbitrator shall be agreed between the parties within 14 days from the date of the receipt of the notice referring the dispute to arbitration by the Agent or the Owners as the case may be, or, failing agreement, shall be nominated by the President of the Law Society of Western Australia.

## **7.4 No Obligation to Refer**

This clause shall not in any way require the Owners or the Agent to refer to arbitration any dispute or difference or in any way act as a bar to the bringing of legal proceedings by the Owners or the Agent, except that no dispute or difference shall be the subject of legal proceedings from the time it is referred to arbitration under clause 7.3 to the end of any subsequent arbitration.

## **7.5 Commercial Arbitration Act**

Except where inconsistent with this Agreement, any arbitration under this clause shall be conducted in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Act 1985.

## **SCHEDULE**

**1. Agent:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email Address:**

**2. Term:** Five Years

**3. Commencement Date:** 1 July 2025

**4. Supervisor:** Chief Executive Officer - Shire of Wickepin

**Name:** David Burton

**Address:** 77 Wogolin Road  
Wickepin WA 6370

**Phone** 9888 1005  
0429 207 855

**Email Address** ceo@wickepin.wa.gov.au

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF SHIRE OF WICKEPIN

The Common Seal of the Recipient was hereunto affixed by authority of the Council in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF XXXXXXXXXX

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name

IN THE PRESENCE OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name