

SHIRE OF
WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 20th February 2025

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 20th March 2025 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 20th February 2025.

.....
Cr RM Crees
Shire President

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



Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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



SHIRE OF WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY

SNAPSHOT

PLAN

2018-2028

CORE DRIVERS

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community.
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny.

OUR VALUES

Respect – We value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.

Inclusiveness – Be receptive, proactive, and responsive.

Fairness and Equity – Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.

Communication – Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.

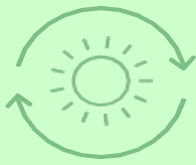
OUR VISION

A vibrant community lifestyle

MISSION

Provide leadership and direction for the community.

ECONOMIC



Support growth and progress, locally and regionally...

Efficient transport connectivity in and around our Shire.

- Continue to utilise our Road Management Plan, which incorporates a road hierarchy, minimum service levels and maintenance policy.
- RAV Ratings and Shire boundaries are consistent across local government boundaries.
- Lobby and build enduring partnerships with key Government Departments to improve Great Eastern Hwy.
- Actively participate in the Secondary Freight Network group.
- Develop and implement a Road Asset Plan highlighting key funder and strategic partnerships to support sustainability.
- Develop a Gravel Reserve Policy which identifies future gravel reserves and recognises cost to local government.
- Educate road users about road safety and driving on gravel roads.
- Optimal and safe use of our plants and equipment assets.
- Ensure that appropriate RAV vehicles traverse correct RAV routes.
- Maintain our airport with a view to improvements to meet commercial and recreational aviation needs.

Facilitate local business retention and growth.

- Council recognises the opportunity of partnering with Westonia Progress Association, works closely and supports them to help achieve their economic development projects and our strategic goals.
- Council continue to have a role in facilitating the presence of a Co-op in our community.
- Enhance local economic activity by supporting the growth of tourism in our Shire and region including applying for funding to improve tourist facilities.
- Improve our online tourism presence.
- We forward plan to improve the economic diversity in our community.
- In partnership with Council, the mine develops long term business plans for current mine assets.
- Investigate options for multipurpose accommodation if vacancies arise in mine accommodation.

SOCIAL



Provide community facilities and promote social interaction...

Plan for community growth and changing demographics.

- Develop the Town Planning Scheme.
- Plan and develop residential and industrial land.
- Community safety and ease of access around town is a priority.
- Our lifestyle, facilities and sense of community is promoted.
- The CEACA project continues to expand the number of universally designed dwellings in our town.
- We support our emergency services.
- We enable visiting health professionals to our community.
- The Community Resource Centre receives external funding to provide preventative health and community development initiatives to the community.
- We facilitate healthy and active ageing in place
- Our cemetery is well presented.

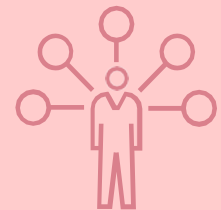
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- We collaborate and encourage active engagement in local clubs and community initiatives that support a healthy lifestyle.
- Investigate motor sport opportunities around the Shire.
- Preserve and celebrate our local history.
- Support our volunteers and clubs to remain strong, dynamic, and inclusive.
- Encourage lifelong learning.
- Children and youth have active and social opportunities.
- Continue to provide high standard and accessible shire facilities.
- Retain and expand Westonia's unique tourism experience.

Natural spaces are preserved and bring us value.

- Sustainably manage our reserves and open spaces.
- Participate in best practice waste management.
- Work collaboratively to meet legislative compliance with managing weeds and pests as well as our environmental health standards.
- Investigate renewable energy generation technologies.

GOVERNANCE



Continually enhance the Shire's organisational capacity to service the needs of a growing community...

Be progressive and capture opportunities.

- Be open to local productivity/ best practice and cost saving opportunities locally and regionally.
- Investigate joint resourcing and tendering
- Advocate and develop strong partnerships to benefit our community.
- Be prepared by forward planning our resources and focusing on continuous improvement.
- Identify risks and opportunities after the life of the mine.

The community receives services in a timely manner.

- Meet our legislative and compliance requirements.
- Work towards optimal management of our assets.
- Work to develop Councillor and staff skills and experience to provide career and succession opportunities within the Shire.
- Inside and outside staff are multi skilled to understand the business of local government and provide a seamless service to the community.
- Communicate and engage with our community regularly.

Financial resources meet the ongoing needs of the community.

- Seek external funding for significant capital improvements that deliver upon our strategic objectives.
- Investigate ways to reduce reliance on operational grants given the current State and Federal Government priorities.

Shire of Westonia: -
A vibrant community lifestyle.



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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

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

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr RM Crees	<i>Shire President</i>
Cr RA Della Bosca	<i>Deputy Shire President</i>
Cr DL Geier	
Cr WJ Huxtable	
Cr A Faithfull	
Cr DL Simmonds	

Staff:

Mr. AW Price	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Mrs JL Geier	<i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i>

Members of the Public:

Apologies: Nil

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.35PM – 3.50PM)

NIL

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NIL

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19th December 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr DellaBosca	Seconded:	Cr Faithfull
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01/02-25	That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 th December 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
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CARRIED 6/0

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the WEROC Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 be accepted.

That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 12th February 2025 be accepted.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Simmonds	Seconded:	Cr Huxtable
02/02-25	That the minutes of the WEROC Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 th February 2025 be accepted.		
	That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held on Thursday 12 th February 2025 be accepted.		

CARRIED 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

Deputy President, Cr Della Bosca advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:

Australia Bowls 26

Councillor Huxtable advised having attended the following meetings:

Nil

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Financial** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **20th February 2025**.

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

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Closely Association Person and Impartiality** interest were made at the Council meeting held on **20th February 2025**.

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



In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of **Proximity. interest** were made at the Council meeting held on **20th February 2025**.

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

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – DECEMBER 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits may be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of December 2024. The credit card/ Fuel Card statements currently show: -

MasterCard Transactions

CEO December 2024 \$1775.14 associated with the purchase of 1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring, 1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring, 1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly, Active8me internet service, 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring, 1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring, Starlink - CEO Internet, Refreshments Seniors Sundowner, Nextra Newsagency - CEO Diary, Bunnings Consumables, Refreshments Council Christmas Cheer Sundowner, Windows Up Car Wash, Cash Advance Fee & Interest and Bendigo - Card Fee

DCEO December 2024 \$ 1928.40 associated with the purchase of Spud Shed Seniors Sundowner, Coles Shed Seniors Sundowner, Red Dot Seniors Sundowner, Optus Stadium KABC Awards Morning Tea, Dr Olga Ward Xmas Gift, Sussex White top Pegs, Bunnings Shower Heads, Reissue of Plate & Plate Change, Surgical House - Medical Supplies, Eastways Food Supplies, Yes Medical Supplies, Interest Bendigo - Card Fee

Fuel Card Transactions Totalling \$180.24

CEO	Nil
DCEO	Nil
Construction Supervisor	\$ 180.24

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.

Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That December 2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4356 to DD4405 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7283 to EFT7359 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$1,063,734.31 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION


Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

03/02-25 That December 2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4356 to DD4405 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7283 to EFT7359 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$1,063,734.31 be passed for payment.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– DECEMBER 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending December 2024 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Statement of Financial Activity
2. Statement of Financial Position
3. Note 1 Basis of Preparation
4. Note 2 Statement of Financial Activity Information
5. Note 3 Explanation of Material Variances
6. Supplementary information

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2024/2025 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.

Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS



That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 2024 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Huxtable	Seconded:	Cr Faithfull
04/02-25	That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 2024 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.		

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – DECEMBER 2024

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at December 2024 provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councillor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in regard to Goods and Services Tax.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the GST Reconciliation totalling (\$21,081.00) for the period ending December 2024 adopted.



RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds **Seconded:** Cr Della Bosca

05/02-25 That the GST Reconciliation totalling **(\$21,081.00)** for the period ending December 2024 adopted

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.4 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JANUARY 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits July be obtained.

Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of January 2025 The credit card/ Fuel Card statements currently show: -

MasterCard Transactions

CEO January 2025 \$1871.64 associated with the purchase of 1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring, 1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring, 1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly, Active8me internet service, 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring, 1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring, Starlink - CEO Internet – August, Cadds - CEO Uniform, Ampol -Nedlands – Diesel and Bendigo - Card Fee

DCEO January 2025 \$2010.50 associated with the purchase of Jurien Bay Service Stn - Diesel Purchased, Merredin Rural – Dishwasher, St John Ambulance Aust - First Aid Kits, Racing Gaming & Liquor - Liquor & raffle license and Bendigo - Card Fee

Fuel Card Transactions Totalling \$302.58

CEO	\$ 139.61
DCEO	Nil
Construction Supervisor	\$162.97

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.

Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.



Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2024/2025 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That January 2025 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4407 to DD4470 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7360 to EFT7425 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$302,218.05 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Della Bosca

Seconded:


Cr Faithfull

06/02-25

That January 2025 accounts submitted to today’s meeting on Municipal D/Debits from DD4407 to DD4470 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT7360 to EFT7425 (Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Credit Card Payments) totalling \$302,218.05 be passed for payment.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.5 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– JANUARY 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending January 2025 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

1. Statement of Financial Activity
2. Statement of Financial Position
3. Note 1 Basis of Preparation
4. Note 2 Statement of Financial Activity Information
5. Note 3 Explanation of Material Variances
6. Supplementary information

Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council
Council 2024/2025 Budget
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996
Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4

Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.

Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council’s activities and financial performance during the reporting period.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS



That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending January 2025 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION

Moved:	Cr Simmonds	Seconded:	Cr Huxtable
07/02-25	That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending January 2025 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.		

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.6 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – JANUARY 2025

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
File Reference:	F1.4.4 Audit Report
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report
Signature:	Officer  CEO 

Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.

Background

The Reconciled Balance of the GST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at January 2025 provided to Council on a monthly basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.

Comment

The GST Reconciliation Report is attached for Councillor consideration.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in regard to Goods and Services Tax.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The GST reconciliation is presented to Council as a means of indicating Council’s current GST liability, which has an impact on Council’s cash-flow.

Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$27,245.00 for the period ending January 2025 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfull

Seconded: Cr DellaBosca

08/02-25 That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$27,245.00 for the period ending January 2025 adopted.

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.7 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE TERM OF REFERENCE

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	A2.8.5
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Term of Reference

Signature:

Officer



CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Summary

In accordance with Section 7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), an Audit Committee is to be established to offer guidance and assistance to the local government, operating with accountability to the Council. The purpose of this report is for the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) to endorse the Terms of Reference (TOR) and recommend that Council adopt the same.

Background

An audit committee plays a key role in assisting a local government to fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems, legislative compliance, ethical accountability, and the internal and external audit functions.

The primary objective of the audit committee is to accept responsibility for the annual external audit and liaise with the local government's auditor so that Council can be satisfied with the performance of the local government in managing its financial affairs.

Comment

Under statutory requirements, Council must appoint an Audit & Risk Committee to oversee financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems, legislative compliance, ethical accountability, and the internal and external audit functions. The committee make recommendations and report to Council on these matters.

As per of the Audit & Risk Committee terms of reference, the committee is required to review its performance and terms of reference once a year, and report to Council.

Officers have made minor amendments to the Terms of Reference – Audit and Risk Committee (Attachment).

Committee members are asked to discuss any other amendments they deem necessary or appropriate.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995
Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996
Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Provide accountable and transparent leadership

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this item. Moreover, it is important to emphasise that the ARC Committee does not hold any financial delegation.



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee, being that Council adopt the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Huxtable

Seconded:

Cr Della Bosca

09/02-25

That Council accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee, being that Council adopt the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.8 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	A2.8.5
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Confidential Attachments:	Expressions of Interests Received
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of an independent member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee

Background

In accordance with the Audit and Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference, the appointment of an independent member to the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) is made following a public notice period calling for applicants/expressions of interest.

A public notice was placed in the Westonian on the 2nd January 2025 and on the Shires Facebook Page 3rd January 2025. The notice was also placed on the Shires website and noticeboard, located at the Administration Building for the duration of the notice period, from 20th December 2025 until 11 February 2025.

The expression of interest closed on 11 February 2025 at 0900 hours with three (3) expression of interest received at close.

Comment

Appointing an independent external member will significantly benefit the ARMC's effectiveness and objectivity, leading to improved risk management, audit procedures, and overall governance.

Inclusion of an independent member to the ARMC is consistent with:

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Guideline No 9 'Audit in Local Government' which recommends *'that one or more persons, with requisite knowledge and skills, other than elected members be appointed to the audit committee.'*
- The WA Public Sector Audit Committees – Better Practice Guide which states that for local governments which recommends *'having at least 1 appropriately skilled audit committee member who is completely independent of the board or council can bring fresh insight or bridge gaps in the experience needed by the audit committee to perform their duties.'*

Local Government Amendment Bill 2024

On 15 August 2024 the DLGSC introduced tranche 2 reforms into parliament. Some of the proposed changes relate to audit, risk and improvement committees, namely that the ARMC must have an independent member as a chairperson, and if there is a deputy chairperson, this must also be an independent person.

Transitional provisions require new committee presiding members to be appointed by 30 June 2025.

The Shire received two applications before submission closure, one application after closure which has not been included for consideration for the independent member on the Audit and Risk Management Committee, as outlined in Confidential Attachment

The Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer reviewed both applications in accordance with the Selection Criteria, and concluded that Karin Day's skills, qualifications and experience was most closely aligned to the requirements of the position and is the preferred applicant.

It is recommended that Karin Day be appointed as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Statutory Environment

Section 5.10 LG Act deals with appointment of committee members

Section 7.1A LG Act deals with Audit Committee

Policy Implications

Council does not have a specific policy regarding the election of these roles.

Strategic Implications

Provide accountable and transparent leadership

Financial Implications

Reimbursement of reasonable expenses is also permissible in accordance with *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and the applicable Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination.

In accordance with the Audit and Risk Management Committee terms of reference, the external member will be entitled to receive reimbursement of reasonable expenses to a maximum of \$130 per meeting.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee, being

In accordance with the provisions of section 5.10 and 7.1A of the Local Government Act 1995, Council ADOPTS BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY the appointment of Mrs Karin Day the following external independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee for the term 1 March 2025 until 1 March 2027 a period of 2 years.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Huxtable

Seconded:

Cr Simmonds

10/02-25



That Council accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee, being

In accordance with the provisions of section 5.10 and 7.1A of the Local Government Act 1995, Council ADOPTS BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY the appointment of Mrs Karin Day the following external independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee for the term 1 March 2025 until 1 March 2027 a period of 2 years.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

9.1.9 POLICY MANUAL REVIEW

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	A2.8.5
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Policy Manual

Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Summary

To complete an annual review of Council's Policy Manual.

Background

Council undertakes an annual review of its policies and determines new or updated policies to guide its day to day operations and responsibilities in regards to its adopted structure and legislative requirements.

Comment

Shire of Westonia Policy Manual – Review various policies and update document. The Council is always considerate of its operational and legislative functions and for endorsement towards serving the function and role of the Council, seeks to state defined parameters of its policy review and adoption of any new policies and/or of its existing policies.

Policy making is an important function of local government. Policies guide decision making and therefore affect all those who may be impacted by a decision.

Council's staff continually review its Policy Manual to ensure its current with the operations of the day.

The Policy Manual has been updated to include the Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 2.7(2)(b) Role of Council.

A key role of Council is to determine the local government's policies.

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.42 Delegation of some powers and duties to CEO.

In order for the CEO to carry out the duties and tasks contained within the policy, appropriate delegations need to be in place.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Regulations 5 and 11.

Policy Implications

Review of Council Policies

Strategic Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in relation to this item.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council Adopts the Policy Manual as presented; Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to ensure all staff are aware of the Policy Manual updates and provide copies if requested

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Faithfull

Seconded:

Cr Simmonds

11/02-25

That Council Adopts the Policy Manual as presented; Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to ensure all staff are aware of the Policy Manual updates and provide copies if requested

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.10 DFES DISASTER READY FUND (DRF) FUNDING AGREEMENT

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	A2.8.5
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Funding Agreement

Signature:

Officer

CEO



Purpose of the Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into and signing a Funding Agreement with DFES Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Funding Agreement for funding assistance for Supporting community connectivity in time of disaster.

Background

As Council are aware DCEO Jasmine Geier Applied for DFES Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round Two, To protect and support the community during a natural disaster event by installing a backup generator power supply, and NBN satellite-connection devices to our evacuation centre.

The Disaster Resilience Grants Team and Minister announcement the successful projects under the DRF Round Two on 28 August 2024

Comment

DFES have provided a grant agreement for signature and I recommend that Council accept the grant offer and conditions of \$ 35,257 including GST towards the Supporting community connectivity in time of disaster project.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter

Strategic Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

An allocation has been allowed for in the 24/25 budget for this project

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council agrees to enter into and duly sign a Funding Agreement with the DFES Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for funding assistance for Supporting community connectivity in time of disaster Grant to the Value of \$35,247.00

RESOLUTION



Moved: Cr Simmonds **Seconded:** Cr Faithfull

12/02-25 That Council agrees to enter into and duly sign a Funding Agreement with the DFES Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for funding assistance for Supporting community connectivity in time of disaster Grant to the Value of \$35,247.00

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.11 DELEGATIONS MANUAL REVIEW

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
File Reference:	A2.8.5
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	9.1.8 Delegation Manual

Signature:	Officer	CEO
		

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Summary

To complete the yearly review of the Delegations Manual.

Background

The review of delegations to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) made under the Local Government Act 1995 and other Acts, plus delegations made to other officers by Council pursuant to various Acts.

The existing Delegations Register has been attached for your perusal.

The Chief Executive Officer has conducted an extensive review of the current Delegation with the format being adjusted and grouped into relevant sections to make it easier to follow.

The Delegations in place all being direct delegations to the CEO, who in turn delegates a number to other officers.

Comment

As part of the review, all delegations have been thoroughly examined to ensure they are still relevant and the wording of each is appropriate. In considering the review each delegation has been viewed in the context of whether it is a power or a duty of the local government, hence a delegation can occur, or it is an administration function that is part of the CEO or other officer's responsibility and therefore a delegation is not required.

The Delegation Manual received a thorough review the previous year and after reviewing this year the Chief Executive Officer has indicated that there are no significant changes required to the content.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.18 – provides that a local government is to keep a register of delegations and review the delegations once every financial year (to committees).

Section 5.46(2) – provides that at least once in every financial year delegations are to be reviewed by the delegator (Council).

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960

Sections 374, 374A, 374C, 401A, 403, 408 & 409 all deal with various aspects relating to buildings.

Bush Fires Act 1954

Section 17(10) – provides that a local government may delegate to the President and its Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, jointly its powers and duties under 17 (7-8) – variation of prohibited burning times.

Section 18 (5C) – provides that a local government may delegate to the President and its Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, jointly the power to vary the restricted burning times.

Clause 11.3 – enables Council to delegate powers and duties to the CEO.

Section 5.42 of the Local Government Act 1995 states that a number of the local government's powers and duties can be delegated to the CEO. Section 5.43 of the Act details the limitations on those delegations. The review has been conducted within those legislative requirements.

Building Act 2011

Section 127 (6A) provides – The CEO of a Local Government may delegate to any other local government employee a power or duty of the local government that has been delegated to the CEO under this section but in the case of such a power or duty –

- (a) The CEO's power under this subsection to delegate the exercise of that power or the discharge of that duty; and
- (b) The exercise of that power or the discharge of that duty by the CEO's delegate, are subject to any conditions, qualifications, limitations or exceptions imposed by the local government on its delegation to the CEO.

An absolute majority of Council is required to adopt the Delegations Register.

Policy Implications

There are no direct implications on any current policies however a number of delegations are linked to Council policies.

Strategic Implications

5.42. Delegation of some powers and duties to CEO

(1) A local government may delegate* to the CEO the exercise of any of its powers or the discharge of any of its duties under –

- (a) this Act other than those referred to in section 5.43; or
- (b) the Planning and Development Act 2005 section 214(2), (3) or (5).

* Absolute majority required.

(2) A delegation under this section is to be in writing and may be general or as otherwise provided in the instrument of delegation.

5.46. Register of, and records relevant to, delegations to CEO and employees

(1) The CEO is to keep a register of the delegations made under this Division to the CEO and to employees.

(2) At least once every financial year, delegations made under this Division are to be reviewed by the delegator.

(3) A person to whom a power or duty is delegated under this Act is to keep records in accordance with regulations in relation to the exercise of the power or the discharge of the duty.

9.10. Appointment of authorised persons

(1) In this section –

law means any of the following –

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995;
- (c) the Cat Act 2011;
- (d) the Cemeteries Act 1986;
- (e) the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978;
- (f) the Dog Act 1976;
- (g) subsidiary legislation made under an Act referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (f);
- (h) a written law prescribed for the purposes of this section; specified means specified in the instrument of appointment.

(2) The CEO may, in writing, appoint persons or classes of persons to be authorised persons for the purposes of 1 or more specified laws or specified provisions of 1 or more specified laws.

(3) An appointment under subsection (2) is subject to any specified conditions or limitations.

(4) The CEO must give to each person appointed under subsection (2) an identity card that –

- (a) on the front of the card, sets out –
 - (i) the name and official insignia of the local government; and
 - (ii) the name of the person; and
 - (iii) a recent photograph of the person; and
- (b) on the back of the card, specifies each law to which the person's appointment relates.

(5) A person appointed under subsection (2) (the authorised person) must –

- (a) carry their identity card at all times when performing functions under a specified law; and
 - (b) produce their identity card for inspection when required to do so by a person in respect of whom the authorised person has performed or is about to perform a function under a specified law.
- (6) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to return their identity card to the CEO within 14 days after their appointment ceases to have effect commits an offence.

[Section 9.10 inserted: No. 16 of 2019 s. 64.]

From a local government perspective, the concept of “delegation” is: to entrust or commit (authority etc.) to another as an agent or deputy.

Consequently, the decision-making power of the delegator (Council) to the delegate (CEO, other officer or committee), is bestowed by a formal Council resolution. The effect of delegating is to streamline the decision-making process as the subject matter does not have to wait for a Council meeting for a decision. The outcome is that the Shire of Westonia is perceived more favorably for making timely decisions.

Financial Implications

The delegations allow for staff to authorise expenditure, raise income, write-off monies, provide staff benefits and also hasten processing times across various areas of operations.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council review and adopts the Delegation Manual as presented.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Faithfull

13/02-25 That Council review and adopts the Delegation Manual as presented.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

9.1.12 CEO MATTERS AND ONLINE REGISTERS – COUNCIL SUBMISSION

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	ES1.7.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Discussion Paper CEO Matters and Online Registers
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for the Council to provide comment on some of the proposed Regulatory changes to the Local Government Act in relation to CEO Matters and Online Registers.

Background

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* (Tranche 1) was assented to in May 2023. A number of the Tranche 1 provisions are yet to commence.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries recently commenced a consultation process on the introduction of Tranche 1 amendments relating to CEO Matters and Online Registers. In addition to the Consultation document, the Department released the [Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024](#) that will give effect to the amendments.

The Department's Consultation process includes commentary on CEO Matters and Online Registers, which are summarised below.

CEO Matters include:

- CEO Selection Panel
- CEO Recruitment, Termination and Certification
- CEO KPIs

Online Registers include:

- Leasing Register
- Grants and Sponsorship Register
- Development / Applicant Contributions Register
- Goods and Services Contracts Register

WALGA seeks feedback from Local Governments to assist in the composition of a sector-wide response to the Department's Consultation. Attached to this Infopage is a brief Discussion Paper summarising the proposed regulatory amendments, together with commentary for your Local Government's consideration.

Comment

To inform an item for the May 2025 meeting of State Council, Council decisions are requested by **19 March 2025**. Local Governments will also be able to provide feedback through the April round of Zone meetings.

Individual Council's will be making a submission with a combined WEROC submission also being presented.

I will present to Council on Thursday my comments for consideration to be included with any additional comments requested by Council.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council to provide comment on some of the proposed Regulatory changes to the Local Government Act in relation to CEO Matters and Online Registers.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Faithfull

14/02-25


That the Council to provide comment on some of the proposed Regulatory changes to the Local Government Act in relation to CEO Matters and Online Registers.

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS

9.2.1 EXTENSION OF PROHIBITED BURING PERIOD

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for the Council to endorse the actions of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and CEO to extend the 2025 Prohibited Burning Period from 15th February to 1st March 2025 as per Section 17 (7) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

Background

Section 17 (7) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* enables Local Government to vary the Prohibited Burning Period due to seasonal conditions. This summer has been particularly hot and dry and with the added fuel load from a good harvest the CBFCO has recommended that the prohibited burning period be extended for an additional 14 days.

In accordance with these provisions, notice is hereby given that the **PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD** for the entire Shire of Westonia has been extended from the 15th February 2025 to the 1st March 2025.

Comment

The Shire of Yilgarn has also extended their prohibited burning season for the same period.

Statutory Environment

Section 17 (7) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorse the actions of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and CEO to extend the 2025 Prohibited Burning Period from 15th February to 1st March 2025 as per Section 17 (7) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

15/02-25 That Council endorse the actions of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and CEO to extend the 2025 Prohibited Burning Period from 15th February to 1st March 2025 as per Section 17 (7) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

CARRIED 6/0

9.2.2 LOTTERYWEST GRANT MUSEUM AND SOCIAL HUB

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to accept a grant of \$ 363,248 from Lotterywest towards the establishment of a new Museum and Lifestyle Village Community Hub and endorse the signing of the funding agreement.

Background

Council would be aware of its application to Lotterywest for funding assistance to go towards the establishment of a new Museum and the development of a community lifestyle hub at the Old Primary School, which will include facilities such as Warm Water Pool, Men's Shed, Community Garden, Recreation Room and indoor toddlers' playground.

Lotterywest have confirmed a funding commitment of \$ 363,248 towards the projects and have provided a funding agreement.

Other funding from various agencies have been secured to contribute to these projects.

Comment

I would like to acknowledge and thank Ann Marie Jensen for her excellent efforts in the grant writing process.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Building better facilities to improve lifestyle for the local community.

Financial Implications

Council has made allocation for these projects within its 2024/25 budget.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accept a grant of \$ 363,248 from Lotterywest towards the establishment of a new Museum and Lifestyle Village Community Hub and endorse the signing of the funding agreement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds **Seconded:** Cr Faithfull

16/02-25 That Council accept a grant of \$ 363,248 from Lotterywest towards the establishment of a new Museum and Lifestyle Village Community Hub and endorse the signing of the funding agreement.

CARRIED 6/0


9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES

Nil

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

9.4.1 AGROFORESTRY TREE FARMS CONDITIONS

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

Council is to consider whether to adopt a Draft Agroforestry Tree Farm Conditions.

Background

The Shire of Westonia s Council has expressed concern over recent development applications that have proposed to plant whole lots with plantations, and the potential for a cumulative loss of productive agricultural land for more traditional farming activities involving food production.

The development of Local specific Agroforestry Tree Farm Conditions is aimed at supporting continuing traditional agricultural activities such as cropping, grazing and food production as the predominant use in the Rural zone, consistent with the planning framework's underlying theme to protect productive agricultural land.

A number of local governments have adopted similar localised Agroforestry Tree Farm Conditions

Comment

Council does not have a Town Planning Scheme that can regulate this type of development within its boundaries. State Government Planning policies strongly support this type of activity and tend to override local planning principles.

Council's Local Planning Strategy states that *'Rural use of land should be protected to support agricultural activity while facilitating a wide variety of complimentary land uses'*.

Statutory Environment

Local Planning Strategy

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications relevant to this item.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council adopt the standard Agroforestry Tree Farm Conditions

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier


Seconded: Cr Faithfull

17/02-25 That Council adopt the standard Agroforestry Tree Farm Conditions

CARRIED 6/0

9.4.2 AGROFORESTRY GEERANING FARMS

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO	
Author:	Bill Price, CEO	
File Reference:	ES1.7.1	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Proposal Document	
Signature:	Officer	CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for the Council to receive the Development Application for the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project.

Background

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA), as Operator of the Wheatbelt Connect project (Wheatbelt Connect), proposes to undertake an environmental planting project to extend native vegetation on the Geeraning property at Elachbutting WA in the Shire of Westonia.

Geeraning is a farming property owned and managed by Elachbutting Pty Ltd (Sprigg Family). The property is predominantly utilised for cropping and sheep grazing. Wheatbelt Connect aims to achieve sustainable land use through the integration of strategic revegetation into broadacre farming systems in the Western Australian Wheatbelt.

- The key objectives of this proposed planting project are to:
1. Establish a native vegetation carbon project across approximately 272 ha inclusive of firebreaks (approximately 1% of the 30,000 ha] property).
 2. Register the project under the Federal government's Emissions Reduction Fund to allow the planting to deliver carbon abatement in the form of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) over a minimum 25-year period.
 3. Ensure the plantings are maintained for at least the permanence period of the registered project and achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover and 2m height at maturity.
 4. Contribute towards achieving local and regional biodiversity objectives.
 5. Protect and provide for the continuation of agricultural production on the remaining land through the provision of supplemental income from carbon farming.
 6. Slow down/reduce the further salinisation of soils.
 7. Allow for the reintroduction of livestock grazing to the planted areas, once the seedlings have reached sufficient maturity (approximately 3-4 years) if desired by the landowner.

INPEX New Energy Business Australia Pty Ltd (INEBA) has executed a lease with Elachbutting Pty Ltd and will manage the plantation on behalf of the Wheatbelt Connect Joint Venture.

Comment

Council does not have a Town Planning Scheme that can regulate this type of development within its boundaries. State Government Planning policies strongly support this type of activity and tend to override local planning principles.

Council's Local Planning Strategy states that *'Rural use of land should be protected to support agricultural activity while facilitating a wide variety of complimentary land uses'*.

Statutory Environment

Local Planning Strategy

 **Policy Implications**

Nil

 **Strategic Implications**

Nil

 **Financial Implications**

Nil

 **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council receive the Development Application for the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Faithfall

Seconded: Cr DellaBosca

18/02-25


That Council receive the Development Application for the Geeraning Farm Carbon Project, and implement previous Conditions.

CARRIED 4/2

Simmonds & Crees

9.4.3 APPLICATION TO CLEAR VEGETATION LOTS 139 & 722 BURRACOPPIN

Responsible Officer:	Bill Price, CEO
Author:	Bill Price, CEO
File Reference:	ES1.7.1
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Map of Location
Signature:	Officer CEO



Purpose of the Report

- Executive Decision Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to make comment on the proposed Clearing Application submitted by D Brown to clear 5.83Ha of Native Vegetation on Lots 139 & 722 for cropping and grazing.

Background

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) has received an application under section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the EP Act) from Mr David Brown that proposes to clear 5.83 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 122 on Deposited Plan 150250, Lot 139 on Deposited Plan 150706 and Lot 722 on Deposited Plan 161339, Burracoppin, for the purpose of cropping and grazing.

In accordance with section 51E(4A) of the EP Act, the department considers that you may have a direct interest in the subject matter of the application, and invites your comment. In particular, the department would welcome your comments in relation to:

- whether the proposed clearing is consistent with your: local Town Planning Scheme
- local and regional planning strategies and/or policies
- local biodiversity guidelines and/or plans and/or environmental impact assessment decisions;
- and
- whether any planning approvals have been granted and/or are required. If planning approvals are required, please advise whether an application has been received.

The CEO will, after having taken into account any comments received and subject to sections 51O and 51P of the EP Act, either grant a clearing permit (including any specified conditions) or refuse to grant a clearing permit, in accordance with section 51E(5) of the EP Act.

Comment

A locality map is attached illustrating the proposed clearing for Council consideration.

Statutory Environment

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil



Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

Council direction is sought.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Huxtable

19/02-25 That Council Makes no objection to the Clearing Application

CARRIED 6/0

10. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

20/02-25 That Council introduces the following item of an urgent nature to the meeting for discussion

CARRIED 6/0

11.1 ST JOHNS AMBULANCE SERVICE

Responsible Officer: Bill Price, CEO

Author: Bill Price, CEO

File Reference: ES1.7.1

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Nil

Signature: Officer

CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is presented to Council to alert Councillors to the current situation and to provide and opportunity for discussion on the St John Ambulance Westonia

Background

St John Ambulance Westonia is a volunteer service which operates as a branch of the Southern Cross SubCentre. With No volunteers to operate it has left no choice for Southern Cross SubCentre other than to remove the Van from Westonia

Comment

The presence of an Ambulance in Westonia has always been important because of the community's remote location and its distance to medical assistance.

The Shire of Westonia has always supported the Westonia Ambulance but is not in a position to provide personnel to operate the ambulance. Responsibility for managing and operating the local ambulance service has always been and practically must continue to be with local volunteers.

Statutory Environment

Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this item

Strategic Implications

Loss of local Ambulance Service.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. Call and Expression of Interest for a practising and/or retired health professional who may be interested in relocating to Westonia to manage the St John Ambulance Service for Westonia.
2. Obtain community interest to assist with the funding of this personalised service

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Simmonds

Seconded: Cr Faithfull

21/02-25 That Council

1. Call and Expression of Interest for a practising and/or retired health professional who may be interested in relocating to Westonia to manage the St John Ambulance Service for Westonia.
2. Obtain community interest to assist with the funding of this personalised service

CARRIED 6/0

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 20th March 2025 commencing at 3.30pm.

13. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Mark Crees declared the meeting closed at 4.20pm