

**SHIRE OF  
WESTONIA**  
A vibrant community lifestyle

# Minutes

## Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

.....

**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.

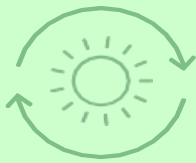
## OUR VISION

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.

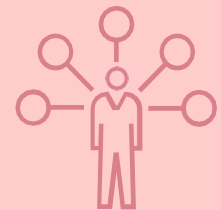
Our community has the opportunity to be active, socialised and connected.

- 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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## 6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

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### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be accepted.

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### RESOLUTION

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Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr Simmonds

02/07-24 That the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be accepted.

CARRIED 6/0

## 7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Cr Crees advised having attended the following meetings:

- Funeral-Mrs Maureen Hodge 16 July 2024
- Inpex – Wheatbelt Connect (Tree Farm) Meeting 9 July 2024
- Meeting Procedures Training 24 June 2024
- Draft Budget Forum 9 July 2024

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

- Funeral-Mrs Maureen Hodge 16 July 2024
- Inpex – Wheatbelt Connect (Tree Farm) Meeting 9 July 2024
- Meeting Procedures Training 24 June 2024
- Draft Budget Forum 9 July 2024

Councillor Geier advised having attended the following meetings:

- Inpex – Wheatbelt Connect (Tree Farm) Meeting 9 July 2024
- Draft Budget Forum 9 July 2024
- Funeral-Mr Kevin Lindley 1 July 2024

Councillor Simmonds advised having attended the following meetings:

- Meeting Procedures Training 24 June 2024
- Funeral-Mr Kevin Lindley 1 July 2024

Councillor Faithfull advised having attended the following meetings:

- Funeral-Mrs Maureen Hodge 16 July 2024
- Meeting Procedures Training 24 June 2024
- Hosted the Como Bowling Club Delegation Monday 15 July 2024

Councillor Huxtable advised having attended the following meetings:

- Funeral-Mrs Maureen Hodge 16 July 2024
- Funeral-Mr Kevin Lindley 1 July 2024
- Meeting Procedures Training 24 June 2024

## 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 **18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

<b>Name/Position</b>	Mr Bill Price - CEO
<b>Item No./Subject</b>	11.2 Chief Executive Officer Appraisal
<b>Nature of interest</b>	Financial Interest
<b>Extent of Interest</b>	CEO is the officer in question

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 **18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

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



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 **18<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

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

## 9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

### 9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

#### 9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JUNE 2024

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

#### 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 June be obtained.

#### Comment

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

#### MasterCard Transactions

**CEO June 2024 \$2,075.89** associated with the Starlink - CEO Internet1049451 Cloud Anti Spam Recurring1038203 Office 365 Exchange online Plan Monthly Recurring1047021 Microsoft 365 Business Basic Recurring Monthly Active8me internet service1038283 - Microsoft 365 Business Std Recurring EG Fuel Co Geraldton - OWT IGS Merredin - Seniors Activities Ampol Collie - OWT Fuel BWS - Council Refreshments Go Mad - Seniors Hardware 1049449 Managed Endpoint & Subscriptions Recurring Starlink - CEO Internet - July Bendigo card fee

**DCEO June 2024 \$2,404.82** associated with the purchase of Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre - Morning Melodies Unitix - Carabiner Lanyard Westonia Truck Sales - Advertising - Freightliner & Bus Dept Transport - WT0456 - alignment license Dept Transport - WESSYBUS Camera House - Photo Restoration Cockies Ag - Rodent Baits BWS - Refreshments Two Dogs - Kettle & Rodent Station & Baits Bunnings Kalgoorlie - Hose Reel Australia Post - Gift Cards - Greta Bendigo - Card Fee

#### Fuel Card Transactions

**CEO June 2024 \$0.00**

**DCEO June 2024 \$0.00**

**Construction Supervisor June 2024 \$0.00**

#### 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 2023/2024 Annual Budget.

#### **Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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That June2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers from DD4157 to DD4195 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT6944 to EFT7012 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$484,404.01 be passed for payment.

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#### **RESOLUTION**

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

**03/07-24** That June2024 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers from DD4157 to DD4195 and Electronic Fund Transfers EFT6944 to EFT7012 (inclusive of Department of Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$484,404.01 be passed for payment.

**CARRIED 6/0**

**9.1.2 MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY– JUNE 2024**

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

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**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 June 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 2023/2024 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

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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**RESOLUTION**

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Moved: Cr Geier



Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

04/07-24 That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending June 2024 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

CARRIED 6/0

**9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – JUNE 2024**

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

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**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 June 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

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the GST Reconciliation totalling \$24,782.00 for the period ending June 2024 adopted.





The Local Government Act 1995 provides for Councils to levy rates to fund the estimated annual budget deficiency for the forthcoming financial year.

The estimated budget deficit for the 2024/2025 financial year has not yet been finalised, as the detailed budget estimates covering various expense and revenue items are currently being prepared. At present, the amount required from rates to fund the outcomes of the draft budget is in excess of the rate increase proposed of 5%. Staff is revising the draft budget and service levels and are looking at all avenues to reduce the gap, including alternative revenue sources.

In the past Council has adopted rates that are more than twice the minimum differential rate and must therefore seek Ministerial approval, as required by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995. The Department of Local Government has been scrutinising Council's differential rating strategy each year and may request modifications to be made, if they are not satisfied that the rating strategy is fair and equitable.

*It must be understood the purpose of this Agenda Item is to set an estimated Differential Rate so a request can be sent to the Minister after advertising and seeking submissions from the electorate. Invariable the actual rate amount set may differ from the estimate once the valuations have been received from Landgate for the next financial year. However the legislations allows these rate in dollar amounts to be adjusted to reflect the actual valuations by making notation in the Shires Adopted Budget and on the Rate Notices sent out. Such notation is to explain the reason for the difference between the advertise Differential Rate and that impose being due to valuation adjustments from Landgate. The actual Rate Revenue raised will not differ significantly.*

The table below shows the rate categories for 2024/2024 and the rate in cents and minimum amounts; GRV Rate Category

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.3833	370.00
GRV Mining	23.538	370.00
UV Rural/Pastoral	1.2846	370.00
UV Mining	1.2847	200.00

### **Statutory Environment**

Under section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, Council is required to give local public notice of the intention of Council to impose differential rates, or a minimum payment under a differential rate category. Local public notice includes publishing in a newspaper circulating in the district, exhibiting on the notice board of the local government office, and exhibiting on the notice board of the library inviting submissions in respect of the following information, for a minimum of 21 days;

- Details of each rate or minimum payment the local government intends to impose,
- Invitation for submissions to be made in respect of the proposed rate or minimum payment and any related matters.

### **Policy Implications**

There are no policies relating to this matter.

### **Strategic Implications**

N/A

### **Financial Implications**

The Shire's principle source of income is through rates. It is an essential part of the budget process that the Council consider the level of rates that need to be raised in the context of funding the annual budget. It must also be noted that as other income, such as fees and charges are fixed by external legislation, there is very little scope for the Shire to increase this revenue source to keep up with the rising costs of service provision, therefore, these increasing costs must be borne by increases in rates.

The Shire has until 31 August each year to adopt the Annual Budget, as the Shire is a growing organisation and as such we are heavily reliant on receiving rates income to fund our operations, including salaries. With this in mind, setting the level of rates for advertising and allowing the adoption of the annual budget in June, after

the close of the advertising period, is a very high priority to enable rates notices to be issued. The Shire prepares its cash flow based on starting to receive rate payments in late August each year.



**Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council

1. Acknowledge the submissions received in regards to the proposed “Rate in the Dollar” for the 2024/2025 financial year.
2. Advise that the Council has reviewed the expenditure requirements and considered efficiency measures during budget deliberations (Long Term Financial Plan Review) and consider that the rates as advertised are required.
3. Request the CEO to seek Ministerial approval to raise rates under Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* no more than the “Rate in the Dollar” that was advertised except for the amended mining rate category.

Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
GRV General	8.3833	370.00
GRV Mining	23.538	370.00
UV Rural/Pastoral	1.2846	370.00
UV Mining	1.2847	200.00

**RESOLUTION**

Moved:

Cr Faithfull

Seconded:

Cr Simmonds

06/07-24

That Council

1. Acknowledge the submissions received in regards to the proposed “Rate in the Dollar” for the 2024/2025 financial year.
2. Advise that the Council has reviewed the expenditure requirements and considered efficiency measures during budget deliberations (Long Term Financial Plan Review) and consider that the rates as advertised are required.
3. Request the CEO to seek Ministerial approval to raise rates under Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* no more than the “Rate in the Dollar” that was advertised except for the amended mining rate category.



Category	Rate in the \$	Minimum Rate \$
<b>GRV General</b>	<b>8.3833</b>	<b>370.00</b>
<b>GRV Mining</b>	<b>23.538</b>	<b>370.00</b>
<b>UV Rural/Pastoral</b>	<b>1.2846</b>	<b>370.00</b>
<b>UV Mining</b>	<b>1.2847</b>	<b>200.00</b>

CARRIED 6/0



### 9.1.5 ADOPTION OF THE 2024/2025 BUDGET

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<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Jasmine Geier, DCEO
<b>File Reference:</b>	ES1.7.1
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Attachment 9.1.6 – 2024/2025 Budget</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Officer</b>  <b>CEO</b> 

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

To consider and adopt the Municipal Fund Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year together with supporting schedules, including imposition of rates and minimum payments, adoption of fees and charges, establishment of new reserve funds, setting of elected members fees for the year and other consequential matters arising from the budget papers.

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

#### **Background**

The draft 2024/2025 budget has been compiled based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan and Plan for the Future. The 2024/2025 draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the presentations made to councillors at the budget workshops held between May and June 2024

The proposed differential general rates were approved by the council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and advertised for public comment. No submissions were received by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 when the public comment period closed. Ministerial approval to impose differential rates/minimum payments was received XXXXX.

#### **Comment**

The budget has been prepared to include information required by the Local Government Act 1995, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and Australian Accounting Standards. The main features of the draft budget include:

- The budget has been prepared with a 5.0% rate increase in line with the forward financial plans contained in the Plan for the Future. This increase applies to all differential general rate categories.
- Fees and charges for the various services that the Shire provides are listed in pages 77 to 80 in the budget. Some Fees & Charges have had moderate changes although plant hire rates have been increased in consideration of rising fuel costs.
- A capital works program totalling \$5.7m for investment in infrastructure, land and buildings, plant and equipment and furniture and equipment is planned. Expenditure on road infrastructure is the major component of this (\$2.3m) in line with Council's strategy to increase the investment in road and associated assets. An amount of \$3.3m is provided for land and buildings of which \$1.4m is for the Kiosk/Ablution Redevelopment at the Swimming pool.
- An estimated surplus of \$2.8m is anticipated to be brought forward from 30 June 2024. However, this is unaudited and may change. Any change will be addressed as part of a future budget review.
- Principal additional grant funding for the year is estimated from:
  - LRCIP Funding - \$439,000.
  - MRWA Funding - \$590,000.
  - Roads to Recovery - \$571,000.
  - The draft 2024/2025 budget continues to deliver on other strategies adopted by the council and maintains a high level of service across all programs while ensuring an increased focus on road and associated infrastructure as well as on renewing all assets at sustainable levels.

### **Statutory Environment**

LGA S6.2 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt, (Absolute Majority required) in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Divisions 5 and 6 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1995 refer to the setting of budgets and raising of rates and charges. The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 details the form and content of the budget. The draft 2024/2025 budget as presented is considered to meet statutory requirements.

Section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 enables a local government to impose an annual charge in respect of premises provided with a waste service by the local government.

Section 5.98 of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to Council members.

Section 5.98A of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out fees etc payable to sets out allowances payable to deputy Presidents or deputy Mayors.

Section 78(2) of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 requires the Tribunal, at intervals of not more than 12 months, to inquire into and determine –

- the amount of fees to be paid to Council members;
- the amount of expenses to be reimbursed to Council members;
- the amount of allowances to be paid to Council members.

Regulations 30-34AD of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 set the limits, parameters and types of allowances that can be paid to elected members.

### **Policy Implications**

There are no known policy implications arising from this report.

### **Strategic Implications**

The draft 2024/2025 budget has been developed having regard for the Shire Plan for the Future and Corporate Business Plan adopted by council.

### **Financial Implications**

Specific financial implications are as outlined in the body of this report and as itemised in the draft 2024/2025 budget attached for adoption.

### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

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## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **BUDGET FOR 2024 /2025**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopt the Budget as contained in Attachment 9.1.6 of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Westonia for the 2024/2025 financial year which includes the following:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type.
- Statement of Cash Flows.
- Rate Setting Statement.
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget.



- Second instalment to be made on or before 16 November 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
  - Option 3 (Four Instalments)
    - First instalment to be made on or before 16 September 2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
    - Second instalment to be made on or before 16 November 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
    - Third instalment to be made on or before 19 January 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
    - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 20 March 2025
- 54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
  5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
  6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

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**RESOLUTION**

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Moved:	Cr Faithfull	Seconded:	Cr Huxtable
08/07-24	<b>GENERAL RATES, MINIMUM PAYMENTS, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS AND INTEREST</b>		
	<b>1. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Recommendation 1 above, council pursuant to Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.34 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> impose the following differential general rates and minimum payments on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.</b>		
	GRV Residential/Commercial year.		\$735,008– increase of 0.74% from last year.
	GRV Mining -		\$1,305,800 – same as last year.
	UV Rural - last year; and		\$65,058,400 – increase of 13.07% from
	UV Mining - last year.		\$269,452 – – – increase of 19.77% from
	<b><i>Rating</i></b>		
	GRV Residential -		8.3833 cents in the \$.
	GRV Comm/Industrial/Other-		8.3833 cents in the \$.
	GRV Mining -		25.528 cents in the \$.
	UV Rural -		1.2846 cents in the \$; and
	UV Mining -		1.2847 cents in the \$.
	Minimum Rate	UV Mining	\$200.00

All Other \$370.00

2. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council nominates the following due dates for the payment in full by instalments:
  - Option 1 (Full Payment)
    - Full amount of rates and charges including arrears, to be paid on or before 16 September 2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is the later.
  - Option 2 (Two Instalments)
    - First instalment to be made on or before 16 September 2024 or 35 days after the date of Issue appearing on the rate notice whichever is later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
    - Second instalment to be made on or before 16 November 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later.
  - Option 3 (Four Instalments)
    - First instalment to be made on or before 16 September 2024 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is later, including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
    - Second instalment to be made on or before 16 November 2024, or 2 months after the due date of the first instalment, whichever is later;
    - Third instalment to be made on or before 19 January 2025, or 2 months after the due date of the second instalment, whichever is later; and
    - Fourth instalment to be made on or before 20 March 2025

54, or 2 months after the due date of the third instalment, whichever is later.
4. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$12 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
5. Pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
6. Pursuant to Section 6.51 (1) and subject to Section 6.51 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates (and service charges) and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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### OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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#### FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025

Pursuant to Section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995 and other relevant legislation, council adopts the Fees and Charges included at pages 77 to 80 inclusive of the draft 2024/2025 budget included as Attachment 9.1.6 of this agenda and minutes.



Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2024/2025**

In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/2025 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

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**RESOLUTION**

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**Moved:** Cr Della Bosca

**Seconded:** Cr Faithfull

**11/07-24 MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2024/2025**

**In accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/2025 for reporting material variances shall be 15% or \$10,000, whichever is the greater.**

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0**

## **9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATIONS**

**Nil**



### 9.3 WORKS AND SERVICES

#### 9.3.1 REGIONAL ROAD GROUP – 5 YEAR PROGRAM & 25/26 PROJECT MCA'S

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>File Reference:</b>	T.1.1.3
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment – 5 Year Program & Warralakin Rd MCA
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Officer</b> <b>CEO</b>



#### Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Regional Road Group 5-year program and the 25/26 project MCA for Warralakin Road.

#### Background

As part of the Regional Road Group Funding Arrangements, Council are required to review its 5-year road program and provide updated MCA's for the 25/26 financial year and beyond.

#### Comment

Council Roads currently eligible under the Regional Road Group program are.

- Warralakin Road
- Koorda Bullfinch Road (M040)
- Leach Road
- Rabbit Proof Fence Road (sealed section only)
- Westonia/Carrabin Road
- Stoneman Road

A submission has been prepared to include Boodarockin Road on the list and we are awaiting confirmation of its listing.

Annually Council is required to review its 5-year program to ensure that it is relevant with its current priorities and reflects the current and proposed status of the road projects.

Attached is the draft 5 Year Road Program 25/26 to 29/30 financial years for Councillors discussion and perusal.

The proposed MCA's application for funding in the 25/26 financial year incorporates the following project.

1. Warralakin Road – reconstruct 3.0km including 2 coat seal \$ 636,008.

Attached is the summary cover sheet for the project for Councillor information.

#### Statutory Environment

Nil

#### Policy Implications

Nil

#### Strategic Implications

Nil

**Financial Implications**

\$ 424,005 anticipated Regional Road Group Funding for the 25/26 financial year.

**Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council review and endorse the following for submission to the Regional Road Group: -

- 5 Year Road Program 25/26 to 29/30 financial years; and
- 25/26 MCA submission for Warralakin Road as presented.

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**RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded: Cr DellaBosca

12/07-24

**That Council review and endorse the following for submission to the Regional Road Group:-**

- **5 Year Road Program 25/26 to 29/30 financial years; and**
- **25/26 MCA submission for Warralakin Road as presented.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

**9.3.2 PURCHASE JCB TELEHANDLER**

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<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>File Reference:</b>	F1.9.1
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	JCB Specification Sheet

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**Signature:** Officer CEO



**Purpose of the Report**



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

The purpose of this report is for Council to resolve to purchase a new JCB 532-70 Agri Series III Telehandler from Wheatbelt Equipment for the changeover price of \$ 116,000.

**Background**

Council has made allowance in its 20 year Plant Replacement Program and subsequently its 2024/25 financial year Budget for the replacement of the existing 2016 JCB Telehandler.

Quotations were obtained for the budgetary process, and it has since been advised that there will be a price increase across all JCB machinery effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

As Council has owned a JCB Telehandler since 2016, we now have more than 5 quick fix attachments that are relevant to that particular machine, so it has been determined that to change brands would not be financially justifiable.

**Comment**

A quotation has been received from local business Wheatbelt Equipment for the supply of an equivalent 3T machine being

JCB 532-70 Agri Series III	\$ 176,000
Less Trade	\$ 60,000
Changeover	\$ 116,000

An alternative price was also offered for the 4T machine JCB 542-70 with a changeover price of \$ 171,000, which I believe is not warranted.

The machine is currently available for immediate delivery.

**Statutory Environment**

Local Government Act 1995, section 3.57 – Tenders for providing goods or services.

**Policy Implications**

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter

**Strategic Implications**

Nil

**Financial Implications**

A \$ 120,000 changeover figure has been included in the 2024/25 financial budget.



**Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council agree to purchase a new JCB 532-70 Agri Series III Telehandler from Wheatbelt Equipment for the changeover price of \$ 116,000.

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**RESOLUTION**

Moved:

Cr Della Bosca

Seconded:

Cr Huxtable


13/07-24

That Council agree to purchase a new JCB 532-70 Agri Series III Telehandler from Wheatbelt Equipment for the changeover price of \$ 116,000.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

### 9.4.1 SURRENDER MANAGEMENT RESERVE 2168 – WARRACHUPPIN TANK

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Bill Price, CEO
<b>File Reference:</b>	ES1.5.7.2 Warrachuppin Water Tank
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Native Title Act 1993 – sect 24KA
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Officer</b> <span style="float: right;">CEO</span> 

#### Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

This report seeks Council's resolution to indemnify the State of Western Australia in relation to the proposed management order of Reserve 2168 Warrachuppin Water Catchment & Tank.

#### Background

Council would be aware of their earlier resolution in December 2023 to accept the management control of Reserve 2168 Warrachuppin Water Catchment & Tank from the Water Corporation on an as is basis

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has been reviewing a request relating to the proposed grant of a Management Order in favour of the Shire of Westonia over Reserve 2168, being Lot 345 on Deposited Plan 203241. Water Corporation will be removed as the Responsible Agency and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will be appointed.

Reserve 2168 is within the Marlinyu Ghoorlie native title claim area. Native title continues to exist but be made subject to the Management Order by operation of the non-extinguishment principle pursuant to subsection 24KA(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993*. A memorial will be placed on the Crown land title stating that native title has been suppressed. Any future change to the use or any request to add power to lease will require an ILUA.

The current purpose of Reserve 2168 is 'Watering Place' however 24KA of the NTA lists specific uses for the land in order for 24KA to apply. In order to ensure compliance 'Well' may be a more appropriate purpose for the Reserve. The letter from Water Corporation refers to a pioneer well that is located near the tank.

#### Comment

It was resolved at the last meeting to lay this item on the table pending further clarification from the Department for an alternative purpose description (other than Well) that is more appropriate for its actual use as a Rock Water Tank Catchment.

24Ka of the NTA has various other listings with 2(h) being deemed more appropriate

- A pipeline or other water supply or reticulation facility.

Prior to issuing the management order the Department also requires the Council resolve to indemnify the Department against compensation liability. Suggested wording for the indemnity is as follows:

*The Shire of Westonia agrees that it will indemnify and keep indemnified the State of Western Australia, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Lands and hold them harmless from and against all liabilities, obligations, costs, expenses or disbursements of any kind including, without limitation, compensation payable to any party under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) which may be imposed on, or incurred by the Indemnified Parties relating to or arising by directly or indirectly from the grant of a management order over Reserve 2168 for the purpose of 'Well'.*



**Statutory Environment**

S24KA(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.



**Policy Implications**

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter.



**Strategic Implications**

Strategic water source in Warrachuppin for land user and Council use.



**Financial Implications**

Future maintenance costs of the Warrachuppin Water Tank in future budgets.



**Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council agrees that it will indemnify and keep indemnified the State of Western Australia, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Lands and hold them harmless from and against all liabilities, obligations, costs, expenses or disbursements of any kind including, without limitation, compensation payable to any party under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) which may be imposed on, or incurred by the Indemnified Parties relating to or arising by directly or indirectly from the grant of a management order over Reserve 2168 for the purpose of 'a pipeline or other water supply or reticulation facility'.

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**RESOLUTION**

Moved:

Cr Geier

Seconded:

Cr Faithfull

14/07-24

**That Council agrees that it will indemnify and keep indemnified the State of Western Australia, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Minister for Lands and hold them harmless from and against all liabilities, obligations, costs, expenses or disbursements of any kind including, without limitation, compensation payable to any party under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) which may be imposed on, or incurred by the Indemnified Parties relating to or arising by directly or indirectly from the grant of a management order over Reserve 2168 for the purpose of 'a pipeline or other water supply or reticulation facility'.**

CARRIED 6/0





**Statutory Environment**

Nil



**Policy Implications**

There are no policies relating to this matter.



**Strategic Implications**

N/A



**Financial Implications**

N/A



**Voting Requirements**



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council authorise Wildflower Society of WA to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below.

- All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.
- Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing July 2024.
- Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.
- All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.
- All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and
- There be a requirement to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire

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**RESOLUTION**

Moved:

Cr Della Bosca

Seconded:

Cr Faithfull

16/07-24

**That Council authorise Wildflower Society of WA to collect native seed from reserves under management order to the Shire of Westonia in accordance with the conditions set out below.**

- **All persons collecting native seed are licenced according to the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and will abide by the conditions of this licence.**
- **Permission is for a twelve-month period, commencing July 2024.**
- **Appropriate hygiene measures will be followed at all times to prevent the spread of plant disease and weeds.**
- **All care will be taken to avoid the disturbance of fauna habitat.**
- **All care will be taken to avoid any disturbance that may lead to soil degradation; and**
- **There be a requirement to donate to the Shire of Westonia, 10% of all seed from each species collected within the shire. This will go towards rehabilitation projects in the shire**

**CARRIED 6/0**



**12            DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday schedule 15 August 2024 commencing at 3.30pm.

**13.           MEETING CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Mark Crees declared the meeting closed at 4.33pm