



# Ordinary Council Meeting 25 March 2026

## MINUTES

### Meeting Notice

To the Shire President and Councillors,

Please be advised that an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River will be held in 66 Allnut Terrace, Augusta on 25 March 2026, commencing at 5:30 pm.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Selvey', written in a cursive style.

**ANDREA SELVEY**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges we are on Wadandi and Pibelmen Boodja, whose ancestors and their descendants are the traditional owners of this country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelmen have been custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Shire is committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region's cultural, social, environmental and economic future.

### **Our Values**

- Respect
- Integrity
- Community
- Excellence

### **Community Vision**

One community, standing together with nature.

### **Focus Areas**

#### **Caring for our natural environment**

From preserving and restoring biodiversity to acting on climate change, we are committing to undertaking action and partnering with local groups to keep our environment healthy.

#### **Managing our built environment**

We're placing a strong focus on ensuring our built environment is functional, sustainable, accessible, safe and sympathetic to the surrounds, and promotes active lifestyles and community connection.

#### **Looking after our growing community**

To meet the needs of a growing population, we'll be working hard to support community wellbeing through advocating for better access to healthcare, childcare, aged care and education services, and partnering on community programs, events and cultural connection.

### **ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER**

Statements or decisions made at Council meetings or briefings should not be relied on (or acted upon) by an applicant or any other person or entity until subsequent written notification has been given by or received from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. Without derogating from the generality of the above, approval of planning applications and building permits and acceptance of tenders and quotations will only become effective once written notice to that effect has been given to relevant parties. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River expressly disclaims any liability for any loss arising from any person or body relying on any statement or decision made during a Council meeting or briefing.

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## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

*The Shire President Cr Jean-Rice declared the meeting open at 5.31pm.*

*The Shire President gave an Acknowledgement of Country:*

'Kaya Quabba Kidji Jinnung Noonda Gulyarra Yerunga Wadandi Boodja.

Hello good to see you altogether on Wadandi Boodja

Ngarlack Kaatij Wadandi Yunganjarli Wadandi Boodja.

I would like to acknowledge the Wadandi People, the Traditional Owners of Wadandi.'

'Councillors and members of the public, please note this meeting will be recorded.'

## 2. ATTENDANCE

Shire President : Cr Julia Jean-Rice

Councillors : Cr Lisa Bell  
Cr Greg Boland  
Cr Melissa D`Ath  
Cr Joe Forte  
Cr Kylie Kennaugh  
Cr Tracey Muir  
Cr Pamela Winter

Chief Executive Officer : Ms Andrea Selvey

Director Corporate and Customer Services : Ms Melanie Stevens

Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services : Mr Nick Logan

Manager Regulatory Services : Mr Matt Cuthbert

Manager of Legal and Governance Services : Mr Ian McLeod

Governance Officer : Ms Emma Dixon

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** : 17

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS** : AMR Times, Will Corbett

### 2.1 Apologies

Nil

### 2.2 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

### 3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

#### 3.1 Cr Bell – Impartiality Interest – Item 11.2.2 Cowaramup Precinct Plan

*Cr Bell disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 11.2.2 Cowaramup Precinct Plan, the nature of the interest being:*

Cr Bell has 'advocated for improvements to Cowaramup road safety for several years, during which time I have been active in Parkwater Community Group and Cowaramup Road Safety Group. Prior to becoming a Councillor, I participated in the community working group.'

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

#### 4.1. Response To Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice

##### 4.2.1 Response to Scott Baxter - LPP23

*At the 25 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, Scott Baxter asked the following questions in relation to LPP23. The Shire President took the questions on notice and the responses are printed below:*

**Q1: Will Council formally advocate to the State/WAPC for stronger minimum protections for residents and non-host landholders in renewable energy policy, particularly setbacks and enforceable noise limits, so rural communities aren't held to weaker amenity standards than urban or peri-urban areas?**

A1: The Shire will be making a submission on the State draft renewable energy code. The content of this submission hasn't been finalised but is likely to reflect the Shire's Local Planning Policy outcomes.

**Q2: Once LPP23 is adopted, what will the Shire actually do in practice when problems arise? Who will investigate complaints, what enforcement powers will the Shire use, and what happens if residents are clearly impacted (low-frequency noise, tonality, amplitude modulation) even though the proponent says the modelling shows 'compliance'? This is a common issue with large wind projects where approvals rely heavily on desktop modelling rather than real-world operational data.**

A2: If a large-scale renewable energy facility progresses it would require prior planning approval. The Shire is responsible for enforcement and compliance with conditions of planning approval. There is a series of separate legislation for which the Shire is not responsible for compliance but in general terms standards are set by any approval and enforced by the Shire. Compliance doesn't rely on desktop modelling, which is predictive, but measures actual impact following implementation.

##### 4.2.2 Response to Emma Pinnick – LPP23

*At the 25 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, Emma Pinnick asked the following questions in relation to LPP23. The Shire President took the question on notice and the response is printed below:*

**Q1: If a host or neighbouring landholder signs a private agreement with a proponent, will Council require that no part of that agreement can be relied on to justify impacts shifting onto other non-signing neighbours? In other words, what policy safeguard ensures one person's agreement doesn't reduce protections or increase impacts for the next neighbour along?**

A1: Neighbour agreements are private agreements formed between to independent parties. The agreements have some relevance to the current form of the proposed large scale renewable

policy, but doesn't reduce consideration or justify impacts on those surrounding landowners that aren't part to an agreement.

#### **4.2. Public Question Time**

##### **4.2.1 Amber Pasco – Item 11.2.1 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy**

*Amber Pasco asked the following questions in relation to the location of wind turbines.*

- Q1: The policy says large-scale wind turbines should not be located on the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge. Can the Council explain exactly where that exclusion area begins and ends?**
- Q2: If the Shire is serious about excluding turbines from that landscape, why does the policy not include a clear map showing the boundary of that no-go area?**

*The questions were taken on notice.*

##### **4.2.2 Scott Baxter – Item 11.2.1 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy**

*Scott Baxter asked the following questions in relation to the Renewable Energy Policy.*

- Q1: Why is the Shire adopting a Renewable Energy Policy that reads more like a planning roadmap for developers than a policy designed to protect local communities, sensitive landscapes and biodiversity?**
- Q2: Can the Council point to any part of this policy that would actually stop an inappropriate large-scale renewable project, rather than simply managing how one proceeds through the system?**

*The questions were taken on notice.*

##### **4.2.3 Emma Pinnick – Item 11.2.1 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy**

*Emma Pinnick asked the following questions in relation to setbacks and amenities.*

- Q1: Are all the individual Councillors willing to do a house swap with any of the residents in the Scott River area, if the turbine proposal goes ahead?**
- Q2: I would like to ask the individual Councillors if they are aware of the height restrictions at East Augusta? It's 6 meters so the buildings don't show above the tree line, this protects the view of the beautiful, pristine area for Augusta. Are the Councillors aware?**

*The Shire President provided the following response.*

- A1: On behalf of Council, I cannot answer that first question on behalf of everyone and we do not have time to ask each Councillor. Additionally, we are dealing with the policy tonight, so it is in the context of the policy and understanding the policy context and I would hope that all my Councillors very much understand and have read the policy before they make a decision tonight.**

##### **4.2.4 Susan Roberts – Beenup mine**

*Susan Roberts asked the following question in relation to the Beenup mine.*

- Q1: Are all Councillors who are voting on behalf of the community fully aware of the Beenup mine problems that we had and the ongoing problems of decades destruction out there and can I have a show of hands that you all have read it all?**

*The Shire President provided the following response.*

A1: It is very important for everyone to understand that we are not the decision makers and what tonight what we are considering is the local planning policy on the Renewable Energy projects, and that is all that we have input in to tonight. That is what we are deciding on tonight as a group.

*Responses to question taken on notice will be published in the 22 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.*

## **5. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

## **6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **6.1. Ordinary Council Meeting Held 25 February 2026**

#### **MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR MUIR, CR DATH OM2026/21**

That Council confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 February 2026 to be a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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## **7. DEPUTATIONS**

### **7.1 Item 11.1.3 Agricultural Policy Final Adoption – Mark Murray**

*Mark Murray addressed the meeting in relation to Item 11.1.3 Agricultural Policy Final Adoption.*

*A copy of this deputation was tabled.*

### **7.2 Item 11.1.3 Agricultural Policy Final Adoption – Erin Hutton**

*Erin Hutton addressed the meeting in relation to Item 11.1.3 Agricultural Policy Final Adoption.*

*A copy of this deputation was tabled.*

### **7.3 Item 11.2.1 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy – Brian Combley**

*Brian Combley addressed the meeting in relation to Item 11.2.1 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy.*

## **8. PETITIONS**

Nil

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER**

Nil

## **10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

## **11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICER REPORTS**

# 11.1

## Chief Executive Officer

### 11.1.1. 2026 BEACH BUS SERVICE OUTCOMES REPORT

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	CSV/106
<b>Report Author</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Information Purposes

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#### IN BRIEF

- At the Special Council Meeting held on 12 November 2025, Council resolved to allocate up to \$25,000 from municipal funds to support the provision of a beach bus service from Margaret River townsite to Gnarabup Beach in January 2026 and requested a report on the outcomes of the service (SM2025/3).
- The service was subsequently operated 1 - 31 January 2026.
- Usage data was collected by the service provider throughout the operating period.
- Community feedback was gathered via the Shire's 'Your Say' platform from 1 January to 15 February 2026.
- This report presents a summary of service delivery, usage outcomes and community feedback to inform Council and ongoing advocacy with the Public Transport Authority (PTA).

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 Beach Bus Usage [11.1.1.1 - 3 pages]
2. 2026 Beach Bus Survey Results [11.1.1.2 - 17 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the January 2026 Beach Bus Service Outcomes Report.
2. Notes that the results will be provided to the Public Transport Authority to support ongoing advocacy for public transport services within the Shire.

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Public transport continues to be identified as a priority for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River through multiple strategic documents, including the Strategic Community Plan 2025–2035 and the Climate Action Plan 2020–2030.

Following the Shire-funded beach bus service delivered in January 2025, the Shire provided the Public Transport Authority (PTA) with an overview of service outcomes and continued to advocate for the introduction of permanent public transport within the Shire. In September 2025, the PTA advised that it would not fund a beach bus service for January 2026; however, it confirmed that a feasibility study into a broader regional public transport service was underway.

In the absence of a PTA-funded service, Council resolved in November 2025 to again support the delivery of a beach bus service in January 2026. This decision was made in the context of simultaneous advocacy with the PTA for the establishment of a permanent public transport network within the Shire.

## **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

*Local Government Act 1995*

## **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinary Council Meeting 12 November 2025**

## **ALTERNATIVE MOTION/ COUNCIL DECISION**

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### **CR D'ATH, CR BOLAND SM2025/3**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the summary of the Shire's ongoing engagement with the Public Transport Authority.*
2. *Allocates funds of up to \$25,000 from municipal funds to support the provision of a bus service from Margaret River townsite to Gnarabup beach in January 2026, with the service to include one additional trip per day from Margaret River to Gnarabup return.*
3. *Requests the CEO to provide a report on the outcomes of the January 2026 Beach Bus service to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting in March 2026.*

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0**

**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**

**AGAINST: NIL**

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## **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2040**

### **Performance**

**Outcome PF.2:** Community and customer focus

**Strategy PF.2.1:** Provide, facilitate and fund a wide range of mandatory and community services that are responsive, agile, cost-effective, and that deliver a high-quality customer experience

## **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

Community feedback was collected via the Shire's 'Your Say' online engagement platform between 1 January and 15 February 2026. The survey questions were developed with advice from the PTA about data they would require to inform their decision making. The survey could be accessed via a QR code on all promotional materials and was also distributed through the Shire's website, social media channels, community noticeboards, and at key facilities. Responses received from the contributors, included comments on user experience.

## **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

Following a Request for Quote (RFQ) process a contract was awarded to South West Taxis to provide a bus from Margaret River to the beach from 1 January to 31 January 2026.

The service operated as a free service, providing scheduled daily trips between Margaret River town centre and Gnarabup Beach via Prevelly. The service was based on the operating model implemented in January 2025, with the inclusion of one additional daily return trip in accordance with Council's resolution of November 2025.

Departures from Margaret River town centre occurred at 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm and 1.00pm, with return services from Gnarabup Beach at 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm.

Throughout January the Shire promoted the service. These efforts were supplemented South West Taxis displaying posters on their buses, at the departure points and promoting the service via their online platform.

Usage data provided by the operator summarises community utilisation of the service across the operating period. Of the 1,389 trips recorded (up from 1,353 from the previous year), this represents a cost of \$ 12.12 per one-way trip. 698 were forward trips to the beach and 691 were return trips. Usage

patterns were consistent with previous years, with peak demand occurring during mid-morning departures from Margaret River and late morning to early afternoon return trips from the beach. 9am and 10am were the most popular times for passengers to depart from the Margaret River bus stop with 12.30pm and 1.30pm the most popular time for passengers to depart from the beach. The 2026 beach bus usage statistics are shown in Attachment 1.

A community survey was conducted in January and February 2026 to evaluate the service's effectiveness, understand usage patterns, and gather feedback for potential improvements. A summary of survey results is presented below with additional survey analytics, see Attachment 2 - *2026 Beach Bus Survey Results*.

#### Summary of beach bus survey results

Despite efforts to promote the survey and encourage survey responses, only 32 responses were received. Of the responses:

- 71.88% of respondents had ridden the free beach bus service during January 2026.
- 96.8% of passengers were Shire residents, an increase of 1% from the previous year.
- 64.5% were from Margaret River, an increase of 3.9% from the previous year.
- Passengers originating from Witchcliffe showed the strongest growth with 19.35%, an increase of 14.25% from the previous year.
- The two main age groups accessing the service were: 35-44 (31.25%), an increase of 3.25% from the previous year and Under 18 (28.13%) an increase of 5.99% from the previous year.

The survey respondents supported the beach bus service. Primary motivations for using the service included:

- Reducing parking and traffic stress (53.13%).
- Unable to drive (40.63%).
- Environmental concerns/reducing emissions (25%).
- Other reasons including 'access to additional walk trails outside of town' and 'something different for the kids to do' (18.75%).

(NB: the Survey allowed respondents to choose more than one answer; hence the percentage is greater than 100.)

71.88% of respondents indicated they would use a public transport service in Margaret River. 63.64% of respondents indicated they would use the service weekly and 18.18% indicated they would use the service daily, demonstrating potential for regular ridership.

The main barriers in accessing a bus service cited were proximity to stops (65%), times available (55%), cost (25%) and preference for personal transportation (5%). The final two respondents indicated accessibility to destinations and home and the fact the service was only available during January as personal barriers to accessing a bus service.

#### User Experience:

- There was a desire for additional stops:
  - 'More stops on along the way. Rivermouth, golf course, the Rec Centre would make it more accessible.'
  - 'Maybe a run through Rosa Brook / Rosa Glen, Witchy and Margaret River.'
  - 'Its too far to get on the bus. By the time we drive to town, we might as well drive to the beach.'
  - 'The service needs to be increased to service the full shire, including Augusta.'
  - 'The beach bus was excellent, stress free. I don't see a need for improvements, but I know some people would prefer more stops along the way.'
- One respondent felt that the service should not be provided as it was for a privileged few at the cost of all the ratepayers.

Themes regarding potential service improvements included:

#### Expanded Route Coverage

- Increase number of stops within Margaret River township.
- Extend service to outlying communities (Cowaramup, Augusta, Rosa Brook/Rosa Glen).
- Improve drop-off proximity to Rivermouth (patrolled beach).
- Consider loop-style or flexible route options.

#### Improved Accessibility

- Reduce walking distance to stops.
- Add neighbourhood-based pickup points.
- Improve pedestrian access to existing stops (e.g. walkways).

#### Extended Service Hours and Season

- Add afternoon and early evening return services.
- Extend service beyond school holidays (e.g. through February).
- Consider broader summer coverage.

#### Stronger Promotion and Signage

- Clear, prominent branding on bus (all sides).
- Display departure times and service dates at stops.
- Promote that the service is free.
- Clarify that the service is available to all ages.
- Install signage at key beach and town locations.

#### Capacity and Practical Enhancements

- Plan for increased passenger numbers as population grows.
- Permit beach equipment such as surfboards and fishing rods.
- Consider larger vehicle if demand increases.

The January 2026 beach bus service continued to demonstrate community demand for improved public transport options within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. While modest in scale, the service delivered social and environmental benefits and provided valuable evidence to support ongoing advocacy for a permanent public transport network.

Results from the survey were provided to the PTA to demonstrate support for a public transport service in the Shire. Officers also sought an update on the feasibility study on public transport options for the Shire.

The PTA confirmed that the feasibility study has been completed and that a full cabinet submission is required. They anticipate finalising the cabinet submission in the coming months.

The cabinet submission will be subject to Cabinet and Ministerial consideration. Advocacy on this matter will be listed for consideration by the Advocacy Committee.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

The January 2026 beach bus service was delivered within the budget allocation approved by Council.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

##### Environmental

- Reduced private vehicle usage
- Decreased parking pressure on sensitive coastal environments
- Support for the Shire's carbon reduction targets.

##### Social

- Improved beach access for those without private transport
- Enhanced recreational opportunities for youth and elderly

##### Economic

- Long-term reduction in parking infrastructure costs.

### **ADVOCACY**

The results of the January 2026 beach bus service, including usage data and community feedback, will be provided to the PTA. This information will contribute to ongoing advocacy efforts for a permanent public transport service within the Shire.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There is a risk of an expectation that the Shire will continue to fund a beach bus service in the absence of a PTA-funded public transport network. There is also a risk of negative public perception regarding the ongoing use of ratepayer funds to subsidise a free service. Conversely, discontinuation of the service prior to the establishment of a permanent public transport solution may result in community dissatisfaction.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives the January 2026 Beach Bus Service Outcomes Report.
2. Notes that the results will be provided to the Public Transport Authority to support ongoing advocacy for public transport services within the Shire.

*The officer's recommendation was not moved.*

*Cr D'Ath moved the following motion:*

#### **MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR DATH, CR MUIR OM2026/22**

That Council:

1. **Receives the January 2026 Beach Bus Service Outcomes Report.**
2. **Notes that the results will be provided to the Public Transport Authority to support ongoing advocacy for public transport services within the Shire.**
3. **Requests the CEO write to the Minister of Transport to progress the feasibility study for public transport in the Shire Augusta Margaret River.**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.1.2. MINUTES OF THE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING - 25 FEBRUARY 2026

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	COR/522 & PRL/28
<b>Report Author</b>	Hannah Waters, Executive Assistant
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- On the 25 February 2026 the Advocacy Committee (Committee) held its first meeting of the year.
- The Committee endorsed the updated Advocacy Committee Framework.
- The Committee received an update on the advocacy actions undertaken between the 25 July 2025 and 28 January 2026.
- The Committee endorsed the prioritised advocacy items that will be progressed by the Shire.
- The minutes and attachments from the Advocacy Committee Meeting are being presented to Council for their information and noting.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Advocacy Committee Minutes 25 February 2026 [11.1.2.1 - 15 pages]
2. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ATTACHMENTS 25 FEBRUARY 2026 [11.1.2.2 - 24 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Advocacy Committee meeting held 25 February 2026.
  2. Notes the summary of advocacy actions undertaken between 25 July 2025 and 28 January 2026.
  3. Notes the prioritised advocacy items that will be progressed by the Shire.
- 

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

The accordance with the Instrument of Appointment and Delegation, the Presiding Member of the Advocacy Committee convened a meeting on the 25 February 2026.

#### STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION

Section 5.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act)

#### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

Nil

#### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E1:** Natural landscapes are protected and managed to preserve and restore

their biodiversity and cultural values

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E2:** New development is concentrated within clearly defined areas to avoid impacts on remaining farmland and ecosystems

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E3:** Waste is minimised with a focus on keeping resources in circulation

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E4:** The Shire and community are committed to climate action, reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E5:** Industry, government, community and visitors understand, respect, and steward the environment

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E6:** Water resources are protected and well-managed to ensure ecosystems flourish in the region

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E7:** Strong community partnerships support environmental initiatives and projects

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B4:** A well-connected network of paths, cycle trails, roads and transport options allows safe movement through and between townsites

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B5:** Residents and seasonal workers have access to a diverse range of housing options that meet their needs and budgets

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B6:** Our built environment is functional, sustainable, accessible, safe, and sympathetic to the surrounds

**Focus Area:** Looking after our growing community

**Outcome Statement C1:** Our healthcare, childcare, aged care and education services are well-resourced and responsive to the needs of a growing and ageing population

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W3:** We actively listen, engage and collaborate with our whole community to better understand all perspectives to inform our decision-making

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W5:** We embrace a courageous mindset to meet the unique challenges of our times, pursuing bold and creative ideas for a sustainable future

## **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director Sustainable Economy and Communities
- Advocacy Committee

## **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

The Advocacy Committee endorsed the Advocacy Framework and reviewed advocacy actions from 25 July 2025 to 28 January 2026

An updated Advocacy Framework was developed to provide a clear and transparent process for prioritising and progressing advocacy matters, including identifying responsible officers and pathways

for action. The original framework, endorsed in February 2025, was reviewed following its implementation throughout 2025, with refinements workshopped with the Advocacy Committee in November 2025 and January 2026. The revised framework strengthens the Shire's approach by improving document structure and clarity, introducing guidance for assigning Fibonacci-based priority scores to advocacy items based on strategic alignment, risk, impact and likelihood of success, and establishing a formal escalation process for operational advocacy matters. This escalation pathway outlines steps for progressing unresolved issues from officer level through Directors and the CEO, and where necessary to Director General or Ministerial level in consultation with the Shire President. These updates aim to support more consistent prioritisation, stronger governance oversight and more effective advocacy outcomes for the community.

The Committee received an update on the Shire's advocacy activities and priorities following workshops held on 28 January and 11 February 2026. The update summarised actions undertaken between 25 July 2025 and 28 January 2026 and outlined progress on key advocacy matters led by the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer, including Financial Assistance Grants, Leeuwin–Naturaliste National Park, Mental Health, Housing, and Social Support and Services. Using the updated Advocacy Framework, the Committee also reviewed and re-prioritised advocacy items to guide the Shire's focus for 2026, identifying a number of high and extremely important priorities for progression, including housing and homelessness, social services, bushfire risk management, water security, education and youth, traffic management, regional waste management and FOGO, and the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. The Committee subsequently resolved to receive the advocacy actions update and endorse the prioritised advocacy items to guide the Shire's ongoing advocacy efforts.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Progression of the advocacy priorities will be supported by the CEO, Shire President and operational teams within the Natural Environment, Social, Built Environment & Economy portfolio areas.

Where the progression of advocacy priorities has financial implications beyond the current budget allocation, a specific request will be presented to Council for consideration.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

The aim of the Committee is to establish advocacy priorities that encompass a broad spectrum of issues, to deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits for the community.

#### **ADVOCACY**

The Shire is committed to advocating on behalf of the community on a wide range of issues. Formalising Shire's advocacy priorities has streamlined and provided focus for progressing the Shire's advocacy efforts.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

If the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's advocacy priorities are not collated and considered in terms of relative importance there is risk of fragmented, inconsistent and ineffective advocacy efforts, which may not align with the Shire's immediate strategic goals and objectives.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

##### **CR MUIR, CR D'ATH OM2026/23**

That Council:

1. **Receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Advocacy Committee meeting held 25 February 2026.**
2. **Notes the summary of advocacy actions undertaken between 25 July 2025 – 28 January 2026.**
3. **Notes the prioritised advocacy items that will be progressed by the Shire.**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.1.3. AGRICULTURAL POLICY FINAL ADOPTION

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	ECD/127
<b>Report Author</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Executive/Strategic

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#### IN BRIEF

- Motions at the 2024 and 2025 General Electors Meetings sought development of an Agricultural Policy to better recognise the contribution, value and needs of farming, and Council responded by resolving in February 2024 to initiate an Economic Development – Agricultural Policy.
- Policy development began in October 2024 and was shaped by Agricultural Roundtables held through 2024 and 2025, where representatives from key agricultural, government, education and community organisations provided feedback that informed a draft Agricultural Policy.
- Council formally endorsed advertising the draft Agricultural Policy for wider community feedback on the 24 September 2025 (OM2025/124).
- The draft Agricultural Policy was advertised for community consultation for three weeks from 14 October to 3 November 2025.
- Following the consultation period, a small focus group including officers from the Shire and representatives from peak agricultural bodies was convened to review community feedback and amend the policy accordingly.
- The results of the community consultation and notes from the focus group are attached to provide a summary of the engagement undertaken.
- It is recommended that Council resolves to adopt the Agricultural Policy as shown in Attachment 1.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Final Agricultural Policy March 2026 [11.1.3.1 - 4 pages]
2. Community Engagement Report Agricultural Policy March 2026 Final [11.1.3.2 - 33 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Agricultural Policy (Attachment 1).
2. Formally acknowledges and thanks the participants of the Agricultural Roundtables and Focus Group for their valuable input, advice, and support in this process.

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

In 2024 and 2025, motions were raised at the General Electors Meetings requesting the Shire of Augusta Margaret River develop an Agricultural Policy to guide future Council decision-making. These motions reflected concerns from the agricultural sector that existing planning and policy frameworks did not adequately recognise the value, contribution and unique needs of farming within the Shire. In response, Council resolved in February 2024 to initiate development of an Economic Development –

Agricultural Policy to inform future decisions, complement the Local Planning Strategy 2022 and support agriculture across the Shire.

Policy development commenced in October 2024 and was supported by a series of Agricultural Roundtables held throughout 2024 and 2025. These roundtables brought together representatives from peak agricultural groups, government agencies, education providers and local organisations to identify key challenges, priorities and opportunities for the sector. Feedback from these sessions informed the scope, objectives and policy responses included in the draft Agricultural Policy.

During the consultation period, Council also considered a further motion from the 2025 General Electors Meeting requesting development of an Agricultural Policy with stakeholder consultation. Council noted that consultation was already underway and resolved that formal recommendations would be brought forward following completion of the engagement process. Additional roundtables in March and August 2025 were used to refine the policy, prior to it being presented for Council consideration as a draft for broader community consultation.

Further details on the engagement and process undertaken in the development of the draft Agricultural Policy advertised for community consultation can be found in the 24 September 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 11.1.1 *Draft Agricultural Policy for Advertising*.

The Draft Agricultural Policy was advertised for community consultation for three weeks from 14 October to 3 November 2025.

#### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

Determining the local government's policies is one of six main roles for Council listed under section 2.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act):

- (1) *The council governs the local government's affairs and, as the local government's governing body, is responsible for the performance of the local government's functions.*
- (2) *The council's governing role includes the following —*
  - (a) *overseeing the allocation of the local government's finances and resources;*
  - (b) *determining the local government's policies;*
  - (c) *planning strategically for the future of the district;*
  - (d) *determining the services and facilities to be provided by the local government in the district;*
  - (e) *selecting the CEO and reviewing the CEO's performance;*
  - (f) *providing strategic direction to the CEO.*

#### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

GEM2025/3

*Requests the AMR Shire to form an Agricultural Policy in 2025 with stakeholder consultation.*

OM2025/17

*That Council notes consultation with the agricultural community is underway, and formal recommendations will be made at the culmination of this consultation that may support a broad range of responses including but not limited to, the development of an Agricultural Policy.*

OM2025/124

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the consultation undertaken in the development of the draft Agricultural Policy; and*
2. *Approves advertising of the draft Agricultural Policy (Attachment 1) for wider community feedback.*

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** Looking after our growing community

**Outcome Statement C4:** Farmers and local businesses feel valued and can thrive in a supportive economic and regulatory environment that acknowledges our responsibilities to future generations

## **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

### **External Consultation**

Consultation has included the following:

1. Four Agricultural Roundtables consisting of approximately 10 members of the agricultural community assisted in developing the draft Agricultural Policy.
2. The draft Agricultural Policy was advertised for broad community input via Your Say.
3. Input received from the Your Say survey was considered by a small focus group consisting of members who moved the motions at the General Electors Meetings and representatives from peak agricultural bodies. Details can be found in the attached Community Consultation Report as shown in Attachment 2.

## **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

The draft Agricultural Policy was advertised for community consultation for three weeks from 14 October to 3 November 2025. It was advertised in print media, on the Shire's website and also published on the Shire's Facebook page inviting feedback through the Shire's Your Say platform. Roundtable participants were asked to share the public notice with their networks and provide advice on how the Shire could best reach out to the agricultural community during the consultation period. The Facebook page attracted 9,926 views, 18 interactions and 151 link clicks. Feedback on the draft policy was sought through the Shire's Your Say platform.

### **Summary of Your Say Survey Results**

- The Agricultural Policy Your Say page attracted 475 visits
- 177 visitors downloaded a document
- There were 80 visitors to the survey tool, resulting in a total of 28 respondents
- Of the 28 respondents
  - 86.2% live within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River
  - 13.8% do not live within the Shire
  - 51.7% agreed with the general direction of the draft policy
  - 24.1% were unsure
  - 24.1% disagreed with the general direction of the policy

### **Responding to the feedback from the Draft Agricultural Policy**

A small focus group comprising representatives from peak agricultural bodies was convened to review feedback received during the community consultation period and make any relevant changes to the draft Agricultural Policy. The Group was supported by the Manager Regulatory Services, Executive Assistant, Director Sustainable Economy and Communities and the CEO. The Focus Group met twice and further participated in email discussions to consider community feedback and clarify the policy's intent, deliberate on issues raised by survey respondents, and to identify areas of agreement. The consultation approach was consensus-seeking. It was agreed that if a consensus could not be reached, officers would provide their recommendation to Council and would be transparent about any points of difference to ensure that Council has oversight of all views in determining their position on the policy.

The Focus Group meeting notes and the spreadsheet provide a detailed account of the various points of view, the negotiations and the final outcome of the negotiations. Consensus was reached on all points of the draft policy apart from the inclusion of the following Focus Area Statement from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Strategic Community Plan 2025 – 35.

**C5 –** *'We are welcoming and inclusive to all, regardless of background and ability, and our multicultural community is enriched by Wadandi Pibelman culture and knowledge.'*

### **Focus Group Views Supporting Retention of C5**

- Some participants felt there was no reason to remove C5.

- C5 is directly drawn from the Shire's adopted Strategic Community Plan 2025-2035 (SCP) and reflects Council's highest-level strategic commitments and its alignment to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* requirements (s3.1).
- Inclusion demonstrates the policy's alignment with the SCP.
- The statement was originally included in response to feedback from the agricultural community seeking recognition and inclusion within Shire policy.
- Concern was expressed by some participants that the removal of C5 may be interpreted by the community that the agricultural industry does not support the C5 strategy.
- Retaining C5 reduces reputational and public risk by avoiding perceptions that agricultural policy is inconsistent with broader community values of inclusivity and the Shire producing documents that are not in alignment with strategic documents.
- Officers noted the statement is contextual and declarative, not operational, and does not change how the Agricultural Policy would function.

#### **Focus Group Views Supporting Removal or Amendment of C5**

- Some participants felt C5 introduces ideological or social policy content that is not directly relevant to an Agricultural Policy.
- Concern was expressed that the reference to Wadandi Pibelman culture, while acknowledged as important elsewhere, feels out of context within an agriculture-focused document.
- The statement already exists in the SCP and the need to restate it in this policy was questioned.
- There was contention about singling out Wadandi Pibelman culture within the statement if the intent is that the whole community should feel included. It was suggested that retaining only the general inclusivity wording (ending at the second comma) would achieve alignment without creating contention.
- Concern was raised that inclusion could distract from the policy's primary purpose of supporting agriculture.

#### **Outcome**

- No consensus was reached.
- The group agreed:
  - Views are clearly divergent within the focus group.
  - This divergence should be transparently documented and provided to Council.
  - The Officer recommendation within the report will be to retain C5.
  - Participants agreed to "agree to disagree," acknowledging the value of respectful dialogue.

The attached memo from the Lower South West Growers Group articulates the LSWGG concerns regarding this aspect of the draft policy.

The Policy includes an action to form an Agricultural Reference Group. This Group will consider actions that progress the policy intent and develop an Agricultural Action Plan.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Budget allocations to progress the Agricultural Action Plan will be included for consideration as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

##### **Environmental**

The policy establishes a collaborative approach between the agricultural sector and Shire for working together on our sustainability approach.

**Social**

The policy aims to build a more considered and inclusive approach to engaging with the agricultural sector helping support positive social outcomes.

**Economic**

The policy outlines a number of economic development objectives and strategic actions to support the economic capacity and sustainability of local agriculture.

**ADVOCACY**

The Policy has an emphasis on advocacy. The specific focus of advocacy efforts will be developed through the proposed Agricultural Action Plan.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR D'ATH, CR MUIR OM2026/24**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Agricultural Policy (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Formally acknowledges and thanks the participants of the Agricultural Roundtables and Focus Group for their valuable input, advice, and support in this process.**

**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**CARRIED 8/0**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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**11.1.4. SHIRE REPRESENTATION WALGA SELECTION COMMITTEE VACANCY FOR THE STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	GOV/44
<b>Report Author</b>	Hannah Waters, CEO Executive Assistant
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Executive/Strategic

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*Shire President Jean-Rice declared a financial interest in Item 11.1.4 Shire Representation WALGA Selection Committee Vacancy for the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee and left chambers at 6.06pm.*

*Deputy Shire President Muir took position of Presiding Member.*

**IN BRIEF**

- On the 5 March 2026 WALGA called for nominations for the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC).
- Nominations close 5pm Thursday, 26 March 2026.
- Appointment to an external committee or group requires endorsement from Council.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorses a Member of Council from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to nominate for the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.
  2. Endorses Shire President Jean-Rice's request to submit a nomination to WALGA for consideration to be appointed to the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.
- 

**LOCATION PLAN**

Nil

**BACKGROUND**

Representation on external committees enables Councillors to convey community perspectives across a broad range of issues and to provide timely information and feedback to both Council and their constituents.

The SAC oversees, monitors, and endorses to the Minister for Transport, via the Managing Director of Main Roads WA (MRWA), the allocation of State funds for work on Local Government roads provided under the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28. SAC sets in place and is responsible for the overarching policy and procedures covering the administration and functioning of the Agreement. SAC also monitors the expenditure of the overall program and where appropriate, may redistribute funds to ensure the timely and best use of available resources.

Membership of the SAC consists of:

- Managing Director, Main Roads WA (Chair);
- Chief Executive Officer, WALGA;
- Four WALGA Representatives, including the WALGA President or their nominee; and
- Four Executive Directors, Main Roads WA.

Members are appointed for a period of two years.

The SAC meets three times per year.

On the 5 March 2026 WALGA called for nominations for the SAC noting there were three positions available.

Nominees are required to complete a nomination form and return it to WALGA prior to 5:00pm Thursday, 26 March 2026.

At the close of the nomination period the Selection Committee will meet and resolve on preferred candidates or make recommendations on preferred candidates to the WALGA State Council.

#### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

Council Committees, Reference Groups and External Committees Policy sets out the process and criteria for appointing delegates to external committees.

The decisions of the committees are not binding upon Council.

#### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

Nil

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W4:** We demonstrate ethical leadership at all levels in our organisation, making decisions in an open, transparent and accountable way

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W5:** We embrace a courageous mindset to meet the unique challenges of our times, pursuing bold and creative ideas for a sustainable future

#### **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

Chief Executive Officer

#### **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

Shire President, Julia Jean-Rice submitted a request to the CEO requesting permission to nominate for the SAC.

Under the Council Committees, Reference Groups and External Committees Policy, appointments to external committees or groups requires the endorsement of Council.

Policy extract:

#### **4. External Committees / Groups**

*Being a Council Delegate representing the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is an important role and carries with it a high level of responsibility. It is important to ensure that the most appropriate person is appointed for a delegate position and that clear guidance is given as to the obligations of the role.*

*Council will only consider the appointment of a delegate/s to an external committee or group in the following circumstances:*

- a) *Where the body/group/organisation represents state or regional interests that are likely to impact upon the Shire of Augusta Margaret River;*
- b) *Where the body/group/organisation represents local interests and the Council has a direct financial interest in the affairs of that group; or*
- c) *Where the body/group/organisation represents local interests and the group occupies Council property.*

## **5. Councillor Delegates**

### **5.1 Method for Appointing Councillors to Council Committees or External Committees / Groups**

*At a meeting of the Council where a Councillor is to be appointed to a Council Committee or external committee / group and there are more nominations than vacancies, the Chief Executive Officer is to conduct a secret ballot using the first past the post system to establish the preferred delegate or delegates to fill the position. In the event of a tied vote for a position, lots will be drawn by the Chief Executive Officer to determine the preferred delegate.*

*The Shire President or Presiding Member is then to call for a resolution of Council for the preferred delegate or delegates to be appointed to the vacant position and for the next preferred delegate to be appointed the deputy for the position to carry out the duties of the appointed Councillor in his or her absence when required.*

*Where a Councillor has indicated their desire to nominate for a delegate position and the time for acceptance of nominations closes prior to the next available Council meeting, the Chief Executive Officer is to forward the relevant nomination and subsequently advise Council of the nomination, so that it can be considered and ratified through the normal process. Where the number of nominations from Councillors exceed the number of vacant positions, the Chief Executive Officer will consult with the Shire President to determine an order of preference based on experience in the position of Councillor and interest and merit in the vacant position.*

This report seeks Council support for Shire President, Julia Jean-Rice to submit a nomination for the SAC.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Councillors attending meetings and events as a Council appointed delegate are entitled to travel reimbursements and other costs in accordance with Council policy.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

Participation on external groups and other bodies can assist in protecting the environment, strengthening the community and assist in fostering economic development.

## **ADVOCACY**

Nil

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION /COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR BELL, CR D'ATH OM2026/25**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses a Member of Council from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River to nominate for the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.**
- 2. Endorses Shire President Jean-Rice's request to submit a nomination to WALGA for consideration to be appointed to the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee.**

**CARRIED 7/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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*Shire President Jean-Rice returned to chambers at 6.08pm.*

*The Deputy Shire President returned to her allocated seating position.*

# 11.2

## Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

### 11.2.1. RENEWABLE ENERGY LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	ENV/71
<b>Report Author</b>	Tessa Ashworth, Planning Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Nick Logan, Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- Council granted approval to advertise the draft LPP 23 – Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities at the November 2025 Council meeting. Public consultation was carried out via YourSay in December 2025.
- Updates to the draft policy have been made in response to community comment, advice from state agencies and to align with the state's draft Renewable Energy Planning Code.
- The amended Local Planning Policy 23 – Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities is presented to Council for final adoption.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - 25 February OCM LP P 23 - Large- Scale Renewable Energy Facilities Policy [11.2.1.1 - 8 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - LP P 23 Renewable Energy Facilities Community Engagement Report [11.2.1.2 - 84 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Schedule of proposed amendments [11.2.1.3 - 23 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - Final LP P 23 Large-scale Renewable Energy Facilities - with mark up [11.2.1.4 - 8 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council pursuant to clause 4 Part 2, Division 2 of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt with amendments Local Planning Policy 23 – Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities (as shown at Attachment 1).

---

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Alongside the Australian Government's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 – and its interim target of a 62–70% emissions reduction by 2035 – the State Government has committed to phasing out state-owned coal-fired power generation by 2030. To support this transition, a plan is underway for the South-West Interconnected System (SWIS), focusing on strengthening grid reliability and increasing renewable energy integration.

Large-scale renewable energy is essential to the transition, providing the generation capacity needed to replace retiring coal, reduce reliance on gas, and meet rising electricity demand. These projects diversify the State's energy mix, improve long-term system resilience, and support emissions-reduction

targets. As a result, construction of large-scale solar, wind, and storage developments are accelerating throughout the State.

Consideration of a local planning policy was instigated by Council in mid-2025 in anticipation of the Shire receiving a development application from SynergyRED for a wind farm at Scott River, noting that there was an absence of State Government policy to guide the assessment of this application at that time.

An issues and options paper was advertised for community consultation in September 2025 along with a survey. The results showed strong support in developing a local planning policy and indicated the key issues of importance to the community. Subsequently, the Draft Local Planning Policy 23 - Large-scale Renewable Energy Facilities (Draft LPP23) was approved for advertising by Council at the November 2025 council meeting.

The consultation resulted in 63 submissions responding directly to the YourSay online survey and 8 email submissions, including one submission on behalf of 23 people. The results of the consultation are discussed below and can be found within Attachment 2 - Engagement report.

Recent policy development at state level has occurred in the intervening period. In December 2025, the Department Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released a draft Renewable Energy Planning Code (the draft Code) for public consultation. The consultation period finishes in April 2026. Correspondence with DPLH has indicated that the code is not expected to be finalised and implemented until the end of 2026.

The development application for the SynergyRED Scott River Wind Farm is currently under assessment. The date by which a recommendation must be provided to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) is likely to be end of March 2026 at the earliest.

Updates to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Regulations instead mean that regional DAP applications can no longer be put before council for consideration, recommendations on DAP applications are now delegated to Shire officers. A local planning policy provides some opportunity for Council to have input on the rules that will guide the recommendations on DAP applications.

## **PROPOSAL**

The aim of the policy is to create a contemporary framework against which applicable proposals can be assessed, which is consistent with the Shire's Strategic Community Plan, broader renewable energy planning policy, and is based on scientific evidence. The local planning policy provides scope to implement local level priorities but should be generally consistent with the (currently draft) state policy.

The Draft LPP has been amended in response to feedback from public consultation, advice from state agencies and the release of the State's draft Code. The final policy can be found at Attachment 1 – LPP23 – Large-scale Renewable Energy Facilities. Consistent with the draft LPP, guidance is provided on the following:

- Land Use
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Noise/amenity
- Environmental Impacts
- Emergency Management
- Construction and Decommissioning
- Community engagement and community benefit fund

Particular aspects which warrant changes from the policy as advertised relate to:

- Development envelopes – incorporating micro-siting requirements in response to the draft code and to address concerns raised by community members
- Separation distances – aligning the policy with the draft code and ensuring renewable energy facilities do not unreasonably constrain development potential on adjoining sites
- Landscape impacts – greater clarity provided on visual management considerations

- Noise
- Environment
- Decommissioning guarantees

### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

The local planning policy will sit alongside the below considerations in determining an application for large scale renewable energy facilities.

- Shire's Local Planning Scheme No.1 and No.2
- Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations (2015) - Deemed provisions
- DPLH Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code / WAPC Position Statement: Renewable Energy Facilities

Additional legislation that are required to comply with includes:

- EPBC Act 1999 (Federal)
- Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)
- Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)

The release of the State's Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code DPLH released its Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code (the draft Code) for consultation in December whilst the Shire had its draft LPP out for public comment. In brief, the draft Code sets out objectives and development provisions for energy infrastructure development (focused on wind farms) and identifies documentation required to accompany DAs.

It also proposes amendments to the Planning Regulations to allow the Code to be read into local planning schemes and to introduce development approval requirements for new noise-sensitive land uses (dwellings) near wind farms.

Additionally, it proposes amendments to the regulations that will make it mandatory for significant renewable energy projects (valued over \$20 million) to be decided under the State Significant Development pathway.

The draft Code makes clear the status of a local planning policy in relation to the Code:

- Where a local planning policy that was in effect prior to commencement of the Code is inconsistent with this Code, the provisions of the Code prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- Local governments must ensure local planning policies are: a. warranted due to a specific need relating to the locality or region; b. consistent with the Code and Element Objectives; and c. consistent with the LPS Regulations.

### **Weighting of the state draft planning code and the local planning policy in the DAP decision making**

Some key points:

- The DAP must give due regard to any local or state planning policy that is relevant at the time of determination, however there is no strict requirement for the DAP to adhere to them.
- State planning policies/instruments will take precedence over local planning policies where there is any inconsistency.
- Draft policies or planning instruments can still be given weight even though they are not operative. Case law provides that weight can be given to a draft-planning instrument once it becomes 'seriously entertained'. In Western Australia, this usually occurs after advertising is completed – the further towards approval the document is, the more 'seriously entertained' it is considered to be.
- How much weight a planning policy has can also depend on things like when it was adopted, whether it was foreshadowed at lodgement and procedural fairness (whether the applicant had an opportunity to respond to the new policy if it materially affects the assessment).

In our case, with the adoption of a final local planning policy it should, in theory, have considerable weight compared to that of the draft state planning code that is still out for consultation. However, it

would be pertinent for the Shire to still give some consideration to the State's draft code given the political environment which is weighted towards state level decision making. Despite efforts for feedback from the DAP, it is essentially unknown how much weight the DAP will give to the final local planning policy against the draft Code. The draft Code contains provisions that expressly set out the position that once adopted it will be the dominant consideration in large scale renewable policy.

### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

26 November 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting:

*OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION*

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*CR MUIR, CR D'ATH OM2025/155*

*That Council grants approval pursuant to clause 5 of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt draft Local Planning Policy 23 – Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities for the purposes of advertising.*

*CARRIED 7/0*

*FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, MUIR, WINTER*

*AGAINST: NIL*

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### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E1:** Natural landscapes are protected and managed to preserve and restore their biodiversity and cultural values

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E4:** The Shire and community are committed to climate action, reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W3:** We actively listen, engage and collaborate with our whole community to better understand all perspectives to inform our decision-making

### CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

Public consultation for the draft LPP was carried out via YourSay in December 2025 for 21 days. The community was asked whether they support the general direction of the policy and opportunity for further comments as to why/why not and any other comments or feedback. The Shire received 63 responses through this platform. In addition, 8 email submissions were received, including one on behalf of 36 people. Some in this group also made a submission through YourSay.

The sentiment to the draft LPP was somewhat negative, with many in the community feeling that it did not go far enough to protect against amenity and the environmental and landscape impacts of wind farms. 24% of responses agreed with the general direction of the policy, 68% did not, and 8% were unsure.

There was, however, recognition by the community of the need for a policy and therefore a rationale for continuing with a final policy.

Sentiment of the written responses.

Sentiment



Summary of comments received is as follows:

- Around 25% of respondents raised that impacts such as noise, shadow flicker and visual impact should be confined to within the boundaries of a host property.
- The importance of addressing environmental impacts, including risk of acid sulfate soils and protection of waterways were raised by a third of respondents. It was generally thought there should be greater controls on development for environmental protection.

- Noise was raised by 19% respondents, with concern that there is not enough protection from its impacts to neighbouring lots, as well as the need to consider infrasound.
- Importance of protecting agriculture was regularly raised by 16% of respondents.
- Other submissions included that small scale renewable energy should be prioritised over large scale corporate projects, the need to address bushfire risk, the landscape impacts of large-scale renewables and the need for a decommissioning guarantee.
- 49% of submitters were from the local area close to the proposed Scott River Wind Farm (being Augusta, Scott River, Courtney, Warner Glen, Nillup, East Augusta and Molloy Island areas).
- Understandably many of the comments were in response to the Scott River Wind Farm proposal. 24% of respondent directly referred to Synergy's Scott River proposal in their comments

Further details of community responses are incorporated into the discussion below under the relevant section. A list of verbatim responses can be found at **Attachment 2 – Engagement Report**.

In addition, advice was received from state agencies on the draft LPP. This included:

- DPLH planning code policy team
- DPLH visual impact and landscape team
- DWER noise branch

Details of this feedback are incorporated into the discussion below.

#### **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

This discussion deals with the key issues raised during the consultation and how they are responded to in the policy.

#### **Objectives**

There have been minor revisions to the objectives of LPP23 to reflect a modified position post-consultation with policy content also amended in a complimentary manner.

#### **Development Envelopes**

Consultation identified the need for definitive plans to be provided with an application for a renewable energy facility which identify the siting of each turbine. It is not uncommon for industry to provide only a concept plan at DA stage with a large potential development envelope providing for greater flexibility, with more detailed plans and studies provided following procurement of infrastructure post approval. However, a level of certainty is required to be able to suitably assess impacts of a proposal under the planning system, particularly landscape impacts.

The State's draft Code includes a provision for micro-siting of turbines within a development envelope where a flexibility of 100m can be accommodated. This is considered to be reflective of industry standards and commonly used in approvals in the eastern states and allows for some movement to respond to site specific constraints that may arise prior to construction.

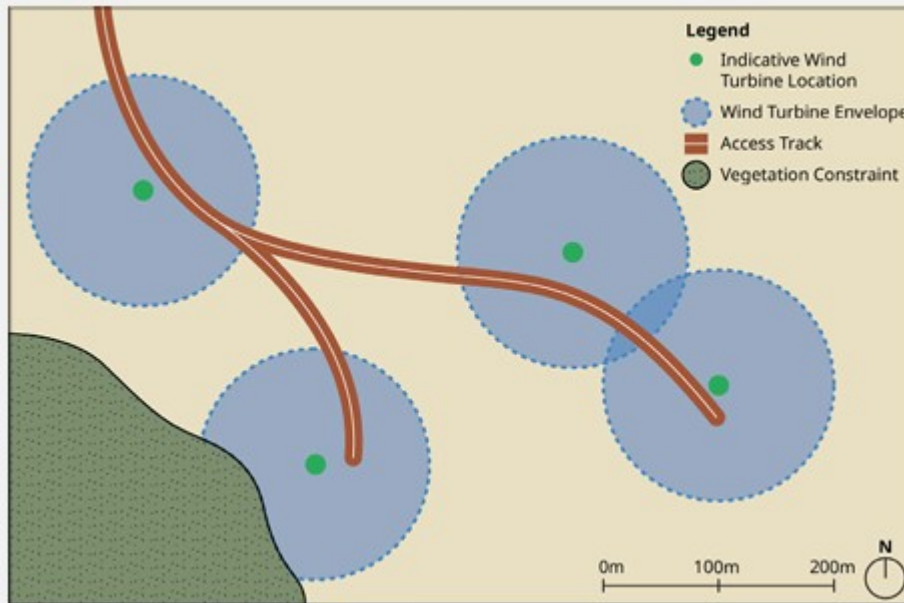


Figure 1: Wind turbine development envelopes and micro-siting

As this was not previously addressed in the draft LPP, in response to this issue raised, the following provision which is consistent with the draft Code has been added:

- Wind turbines shall be sited within development envelopes with a maximum 100m radius measured from the centre of the indicative turbine location, to accommodate for micro-siting.

### **Agriculture**

Concerns raised in regard to protection of agricultural land include the impact of hydrology change, risk of acid sulphate soils, water and food security and impacts on livestock health.

The protection of agricultural land addresses submitter concerns under provisions 1.2 and 1.3 of the amended LPP, and impacts to water through the environmental provisions. No updates to the LPP have been made regarding agriculture.

### **Setbacks/separation distances**

A consistent request by submitters was that all negative impacts should be confined within the host property boundary so that landowners in the area are not affected, calling for increased setbacks. Land holdings in the Shire were said by submitters to be too small to accommodate large-scale wind development. Impacts of concern were noise, shadow flicker, lighting, aviation impacts, construction traffic, visual impact, and constraints on development on neighbouring lots.

The LPP anticipates that some impacts will fall outside a property boundary as is the case for numerous development types across the Shire and is the approach within the State draft Code. The role of the LPP is seen to be one of managing and mitigating those impacts such that they are not an unreasonable imposition on the use of neighbouring properties and the community beyond. For example, noise standards anticipate that a development will create noise but set limits on how much and when noise might be heard by those in the surrounding area.

The State's draft Code is instructive in this regard. It requires that sufficient space be available for the development of a single house outside a wind farm's noise impact area. DPLH are proposing to change the planning regulations to trigger the need for planning approval of a single dwelling where it is in proximity to a wind farm. This mechanism is intended to enable locational oversight of dwellings on adjacent land.

The draft Code has a provision for a minimum setback of 1.1 times the height of a turbine to property boundaries and reserves (including roads) consistent with recommendation from the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner for the purpose of safety. The LPP has been amended to reflect this requirement.

The LPP has been updated with the following changes:

- Developments should be setback to ensure that they do not unreasonably constrain the development potential, including single houses, on non-host lots.
- Wind turbines shall be setback to property boundaries and reserves a minimum of 1.1 times the height of the turbine.

### **Landscape**

Landscape was raised by respondents as needing greater protection under the local planning policy, with reference frequently made to the Scott River Wind Farm proposal.

The State's draft Code defines a 'significant view' or 'significant landscape' where it is formally recognised in any state or federal policy. The draft Code requires that impacts on significant views or landscapes are to be minimised or avoided. Areas which are not defined as significant are not worthy of the same protection in the State's view.

In the case of the Shire, the only recognised area of significance is the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge as per SPP6.1. DPLH acknowledged that Shire's may have their own areas of significance which could be incorporated into a local planning policy. Therefore, a rewording of the definition of 'landscape significance' from the draft Code which broadens its application by reflecting the controls in the Shire's Planning Strategy has been added to the LPP as follows:

**Significant landscape** – means a landscape area or feature that holds special importance or value, may be formally recognised in international, national or state legislation or policy and which warrants consideration in planning and development decisions. It may include World Heritage areas, national and state parks and the coastal margin, together with Visual Management Area A and corridors identified in accordance with Appendix 2 of the Shire's Local Planning Strategy.

This definition is then referred to in a provision added to the policy as outlined below.

Regarding other changes to the draft LPP, feedback from DPLH was that the use of the NSW technical supplement (referenced in the Shire's draft Policy) for assessing landscape had limitations and was not supported by landscape architects or the state government. It was recommended that the landscape assessment should be within the requirements of the 'Visual Landscape Planning in Western Australia' manual. The specific principles relating to wind farms were advised as being outdated.

Draft LPP provisions relating to 'Social acceptance' and 'community perception' were considered vague and hard to define terms by some contributors. The requirement has been amended to reference 'social impacts' instead.

Consideration of dark sky principles have been added to the policy, and has addressed the issue that, in some circumstances, wind turbines may require aviation lighting.

The LPP has been updated with the following provisions:

- Where landscape impact is very high or high, and social impacts are identified as significant through submissions on a proposal, consideration will be given the strategic need for the facility in the context of projected demand and alternative energy potential in the SWIS.
- Wind turbines along the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge will not be supported.
- Impacts to significant views or significant landscapes are to be minimised or avoided.
- Dark sky principles shall be followed, lighting on wind turbines where it results in visual impact is generally not supported.

### **Noise**

The issue of noise was raised by 19% of respondents and included concerns around neighbours needing greater protections against noise impacts, infrasound, and the need for ongoing noise monitoring.

Noise is ordinarily regulated through State Noise Regulations, with decibel (dB(A)) limits in place depending on the time of day. Generally, this ranges from 45 (dB(A)) during daylight hours to 35 (dB(A)) overnight. Requirements are normally more generous during the day recognising higher levels of background noise and lower sensitivity.

The advertised version of the LPP included minimum noise limits for noise sensitive premises on and off site, with allowance for these limits to increase depending on the amount of background noise.

In addition to concerns surrounding noise raised by the community, specific feedback was also provided by the DWER Noise branch provided advice on the draft LPP, specifically that:

- They do not support the additional requirements in the draft LPP of “background by more than 5 dB(A)” as inconsistent with the Noise Regulations.
- The noise monitoring condition was considered overly onerous, noting that noise monitoring can be quite complex.
- The 40 dB(A) only applies to those dwellings that are included in the project development envelope. Private agreements cannot be used to “alter” prescribed standards.

The LPP has been amended to go above that prescribed in the Noise Regulations for 45dB(A) daytime level, to a consistent maximum of 35dB(A) at all times of day. This reflects the inherent 24 hours operational nature of wind farms but responds to the community concerns around noise.

In regard to noise monitoring, the State draft Code provides some recommendations as to how this should be addressed. Due to the high public interest in ensuring the monitoring is carried out in a transparent and easily accessible way, the amended policy incorporates this into the updated provision.

Infrasound is not addressed in the policy as there is currently no consistent evidence of adverse health effects associated with wind energy and low frequency noise. This includes findings by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as Australian Government’s primary health and medical research funding agency. Similarly, the draft Code does not contain provision in respect to infrasound.

The following provisions have been added to the policy:

- In addition to provision 3.1, wind farms shall not exceed a daytime level of 35dB(A) at approved sensitive land uses. A maximum 40dB(A) level applies to dwellings on host lots.
- It is to be demonstrated how noise monitoring is to be carried out during the operation of the development, with noise reports made publicly available in a transparent manner, easily accessible for community members.

### **Environment**

The community submissions demonstrate the very high value put on the environment with a third of submissions wanting the policy to ensure greater environmental protection. Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) has been raised as a consistent concern in the construction of large-scale wind proposals, as was biodiversity and consideration of cumulative impacts.

Environmental regulation generally falls under the state government agencies (*Environmental Protection Act and Biodiversity Conservation Act*), while the Shire can add some provisions to provide greater protection, it is expected that any proponent will still need to comply with the relevant legislation.

ASS is one of the greatest concerns of the community. Effort has been made to address this in greater detail whilst being consistent with state government guidance. The WAPC has published planning guidelines to manage risk from ASS. A provision has been added to the LPP that reflects the planning guidance in the WAPC document where the location and the design of the proposal shall prioritise avoidance of ASS.

A more specific provision has also been added to the policy to avoid impacts to environmental assets, noting the impacts that groundwater drawdown can have on sensitive ecosystems.

The provision relating to greenhouse gas emissions has been updated to be less onerous and will be valid for community information on the emissions in the construction of the project as well as what is generated over its lifetime. This can help inform community.

Cumulative environmental impacts are inherently addressed in provision 4.1 where proposals must demonstrate that environmental values are protected. Provision 4.9 from the draft LPP has been removed as was unclear in its intent.

The following provisions have been added to the policy:

- Proposals shall identify, manage and mitigate impacts on surface and groundwater with sufficient setback from areas of high ecological value including ESAs, ground water dependent ecosystems and waterways, to avoid impacts from drawdown or alteration to the hydrological regime.
- An acid sulphate soils investigation is required for soil disturbance or dewatering in areas where acid sulphate soils may be present. The results of the acid sulphate soils investigation should be taken into account in the design of the proposal, and disturbance of acid sulphate soils should be avoided wherever practicable.
- A greenhouse gas assessment showing embodied emissions in the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposal.

### **Bushfire**

Calls for the policy to more strongly address bushfire risk was raised by some respondents.

The current draft LPP requires a proponent to reference both the WA Bushfire Guidelines and the Victorian Country Fire Associations document - *Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities* (CFA guidelines) which is considered industry best practice nationally. Renewable energy infrastructure is not explicitly covered by the WA Bushfire Guidelines.

The model requirements of the CFA guidelines are fairly prescriptive and set several standards including the need for spacing between turbines for aerial firefighting and between the different infrastructure components.

With the reference to the CFA guidelines in the policy, it is not considered necessary to apply extra provisions that reiterate what is required within this document. The state's draft Code also reflects the requirements of these guidelines.

However, in line with community concerns around environmental protection, the final policy has been updated to ensure infrastructure is located to avoid any clearing of native vegetation for the APZ.

To confirm, provision 5.1 inherently includes an expectation that Bushfire Risk Assessment is included with any proposal in consultation with DFES and local bushfire brigades.

The policy has been updated with the following changes:

- Renewable energy facility infrastructure shall be sited as to achieve an asset protection zone of BAL-29 while avoiding clearing of native vegetation.

### **Decommissioning guarantee**

Many respondents called for greater certainty around a decommissioning guarantee.

The State's draft code provides guidance on decommissioning guarantees but has no specific provision as it generally does not fall within the remit of a planning policy. The guidance states that *proponents are expected to have appropriate financial arrangements (for example, bank guarantees or bonds) in place with host-lot owners to meet their decommissioning obligations and ensure that infrastructure is responsibly removed or managed at the end of its operational life.*

The existing provision in the policy generally reflects state level guidance on this topic. Essentially, the Shire would want to ensure:

- a. That there is a mechanism for funds to be set aside for decommissioning
- b. That there is a legal agreement in place with a host lot owner for removal of the infrastructure at the end of life.

The policy provision has been amended to clarify that both of the above should be demonstrated by a proponent. While there have been calls by some in the community for greater detail in the policy in regard to decommissioning, this can be applied as a condition of approval.

A couple of provisions have been combined for clarity as they were repetitive and the following new provisions have been added to the policy:

- Renewable energy facilities shall be decommissioned and the site rehabilitated within 18 months of ceasing operation.
- Applicants should outline how funds will be directed into future decommissioning or refurbishment costs and provide evidence of a perpetual legal mechanism to secure the decommissioning at end of life.
- Decommissioning will ensure that infrastructure will be removed at the end of the project life, and the site rehabilitated to its pre-development condition or an agreed alternative suitable under the relevant zoning.

#### **Inclusion of medium sized wind turbines in the policy**

There has been some consideration as to whether medium sized wind turbines could be incorporated into the policy due to projected advancements in this space. For example, where a single turbine is used to power agricultural operations.

The definition of large-scale renewable energy facility under the LPP means where electricity is primarily generated for export to the grid, and excludes where energy produced principally provides a domestic, rural, business or community premises, and any on-selling to the grid is secondary. Meaning the example mentioned above is not covered by the LPP.

While the benefit of this scale of renewable energy development is acknowledged, it will generally be of lower impact due to the singular nature of a turbine, and it is recommended that this be addressed under the current local planning scheme. The Shire's planning scheme prescribes that medium sized wind turbines will require development approval due to being over the maximum height limits and can be assessed against the deemed provisions (standard planning considerations).

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Nil

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

###### **Environmental**

Greater clarity on key environmental standards in line with state and federal legislation which will enhance the integrity of environmental assessment process.

###### **Social**

There are significant social impacts associated with large scale renewable proposals. The preparation of policy gives those that will potentially experience those impacts to participate in the decision-making process.

###### **Economic**

The policy is intended to set guidance to address the effects of large-scale renewable development, enabling the economic implications for the local community to be addressed in the process. This includes setting an expectation around localising broader benefit through the community benefit component expectations.

#### **ADVOCACY**

The principal advocacy opportunities related to the proposed LPP are in:

- Making a submission to the State's Draft renewable Energy Planning Code (closing 10 April 2026).
- Requesting further action on developing a broader level strategy to guide the transition of the energy sector in WA.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The principal risk in supporting the officer's recommendation is that the local planning policy may, in future, be overridden by state policy with the finalisation of the state's Renewable Energy Planning Code.

The principal risk in not supporting the officer's recommendation is that the Council and local community have limited ability to contribute to the evaluation of large-scale renewable proposals.

### **ADDENDUM**

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#### **1.0 RENEWABLE ENERGY LOCAL PLANNING POLICY**

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	ENV/71
<b>Report Author</b>	Tessa Ashworth, Planning Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Nick Logan, Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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The Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy (LPP) set to be considered at the 25 February OCM was deferred to the 25 March OCM to provide an opportunity to consider in detail the issues and additional information presented to Council by the public following the preparation of the Council agenda item. Council's resolution was as follows:

#### **PROCEDURAL MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

##### **CR KENNAUGH, CR BELL OM2026/13**

**That item 11.2.2 Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy be deferred to the 25 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting or earlier if available.**

**Reason: To provide an opportunity to consider in detail the issues and additional information presented to Council by the public following the preparation of the Council agenda item.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

The additional information provided to Councillors in the days leading up to the February OCM included a number of proposed amendments to the LPP. A table of the proposed amendments raised by community members, with officer comment, can be found at **Attachment 3**.

The amendments proposed by community members post publication of the February 2026 agenda are set out in various different ways but are broadly consistent in nature. The suggested additional amendments have been considered with regard to the scope of the LPP, the broader planning framework and the relevant bounds for the role of a planning policy. In general, some of the proposed

amendments have merit while others are considered unsuitable, mostly for one or more of the following reasons:

- The suggested language is too prescriptive and not written in the context of policy. A Local Planning Policy is an inherently flexible instrument, and relevant case law cautions against applying it (and hence wording it) in an inflexible manner. Accordingly, the draft WAPC Manual on Policy formulation requires that a policy use appropriate terminology. It recommends that policy should be written in a way that provides guidance on how the decision maker will exercise discretion, avoiding mandatory or controlling language such as 'shall', 'must' and 'not permitted'.
- Some of the proposed amendments request a level of detail that would be more appropriately addressed via a condition of a development approval. The proposed LPP doesn't restrict or control development, but guide how a future development is assessed.
- The State's (draft) Renewable Energy Code proposes amendments to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015. This includes a requirement that a local government must not proceed with or approve a local planning policy that is inconsistent with an approved Planning Code. Some suggestions are at odds with the draft Code.
- The relevant State and Federal agencies have the regulatory authority and expert personnel to ensure that their legislation is complied with. For example, DWER regulates pollution to waterways and clearing of native vegetation under the EP Act; DBCA any impacts to endangered species under the BC Act; and DCCEEW critically endangered species under the EPBC Act.
- Regulation and monitoring cannot be 'outsourced' to private enterprise. The Shire would remain responsible for oversight of any large-scale renewable facility. It remains available for the Shire to seek independent expertise where required.

That being said, there are six amendments listed below, that are recommended for approval which do address some of the concerns raised. These now form part of the revised LPP (**Attachment 4**) which replaces Attachment 1 of the substantive report. They are:

1. Add at 1.2: "An assessment of impacts of a renewable energy facility on the agricultural use of land should be provided including impacts it may have on production, land fragmentation and agricultural viability."
2. Amend at 1.5: "Subject to other setback requirements under this policy, wind turbines shall be setback to property boundaries and reserves a minimum of 1.1 times the height of the turbine."
3. Add at 1.6 "The impacts of a particular proposal should be assessed in conjunction with existing large-scale renewables, where applicable, to determine whether the cumulative landscape and environmental impacts are acceptable."
4. Amend at 2.8 "Dark Sky principles are to be followed. Development should demonstrate that nighttime visual impacts arising from aviation and operational lighting, are avoided or minimised."
5. Add at 2.9 "Shadow flicker shall not exceed a maximum of 30 hours per year and 30 minutes per day at any approved sensitive land use."
6. Amend 3.4 such that it reads "Developers must assess and mitigate to the greatest extent possible, electromagnetic interference of essential services, including communications, radar, weather monitoring, television and radio."

**ATTACHMENTS**

3. Attachment 3 - Schedule of proposed amendments
4. Attachment 4 - Final LPP23 Large-scale Renewable Energy Facilities – with mark up

**REVISED RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR KENNAUGH, CR WINTER OM2026/26**

**That Council pursuant to clause 4 Part 2, Division 2 of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1, adopts with amendments Local Planning Policy 23 – Large-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities (as shown at Attachment 4).**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.2.2. COWARAMUP PRECINCT PLAN

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Cowaramup
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Various
<b>File Reference</b>	LND/167
<b>Report Author</b>	Stephen Schreck, Strategic Projects Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Nick Logan, Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Advocacy Executive/Strategic Legislative

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*Cr Bell disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 11.2.2 Cowaramup Precinct Plan – at item 3.1.*

#### IN BRIEF

- Three separate but closely interrelated items require Council's consideration, all of which form part of the Shire's Place Planning activities related to the town of Cowaramup.
- The Cowaramup Precinct Plan provides guidance on future modifications to the pedestrian and transport network within the Cowaramup townsite.
- The development of Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Control will guide the consideration of commercial development on private land.
- Main Roads WA have requested that the Shire advise (after first consulting with the community) whether a Perimeter Road around Cowaramup is supported.
- It is recommended that Council support the commencement of public consultation for all three items.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Cowaramup Precinct Plan - Draft [11.2.2.1 - 157 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Cowaramup Precinct Plan for the purpose of community consultation, as shown in Attachment 1.
  2. Resolves in accordance with Clause 4(1) of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt draft Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls for the purpose of advertising.
  3. Authorises the initiation of community consultation regarding investigation into a Cowaramup Perimeter Road.
- 

#### LOCATION PLAN

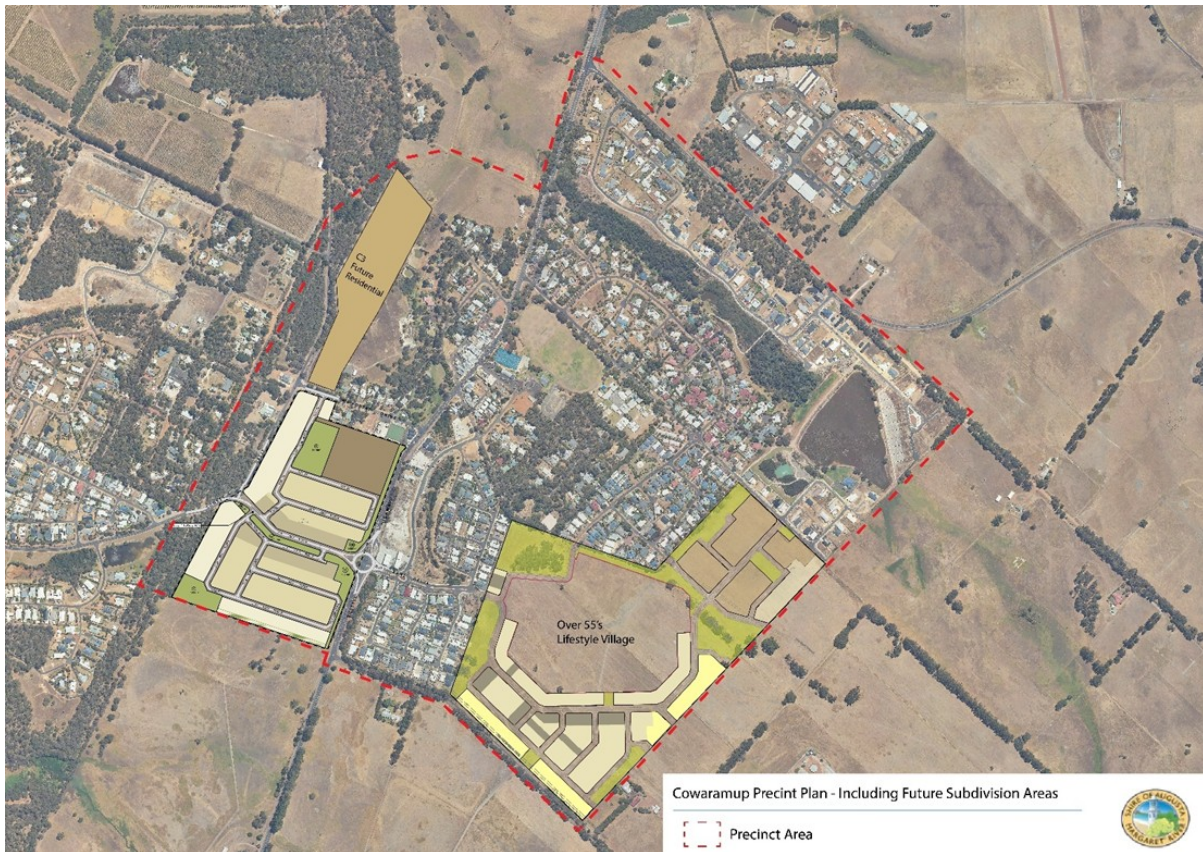


Figure 1 – Cowaramup Precinct Area

## THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for a townsite plan for Cowaramup that provides guidance on future modifications to the pedestrian and transport network and includes the development of Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Control to guide the consideration of commercial development on private land. The Precinct Plan, including draft LPP18 is included as Attachment 1 and identifies potential works in the following key areas:

- Intersections along Bussell Highway between Waverley Road and Roy Earl Drive.
- The relocation of the existing school crossing on Bussell Highway to the North of Hall Road.
- Provision of additional pedestrian crossing points on Bussell Highway at Waverley Road/ Peake Street, Bottrell/ O'Brien Streets and south of Memorial Drive.
- The formalisation of an existing gravel car park on Hasluck Street and the installation of a roundabout at the Bottrell Street, Hall Road and Hasluck Street intersection.

The proposal also requests that Council provide authorisation for community consultation to be undertaken on whether Council support a feasibility assessment being undertaken for a Cowaramup Perimeter Road.

The Precinct Plan sets out a suite of projects that represent significant capital expenditure. However, no decision of Council is sought at this time regarding funding commitments, which requires prioritisation through the budget process. As an alternative, prioritisation and potential funding sources have been identified. A number of the projects have established mechanisms for implementation, such as parking areas for which land area and cash in lieu has been collected previously.

## BACKGROUND

Over recent years background work has been completed by the Shire in the form of the Cowaramup Character Study (Character Study) and Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) which have been prepared to understand the spatial, experiential and interactive characteristics of the Townsite and future movement of people and vehicles within the Cowaramup townsite.

By way of community consultation, review and development of both the Character Study and ITS, the draft Precinct Plan for the Cowaramup townsite has emerged to spatially detail intended improvements to the transport network. The Character Study also recommended a review of the 2008 Cowaramup Design Guidelines as a mechanism to continue to maintain Cowaramup's distinctive rural character.

The ITS modelled current and future traffic and analysed the current pedestrian network. The ITS concluded that without modification to existing intersections along Bussell Highway, Cowaramup would experience significant traffic network issues into the future. The ITS recommended that in addition to intersection upgrades, a perimeter road aimed at removing heavy vehicles and passing traffic should be investigated to facilitate ongoing network efficiency. Several gaps were also identified in the pedestrian network. The ITS proposed an integrated package of 35 prioritised actions, which were grouped into two categories – 20 active transport actions and 15 private vehicle actions.

The Shire has approached MRWA to undertake feasibility analysis on the establishment of a Cowaramup Perimeter Road. MRWA require formal engagement with the community to engage the level of support to undertake what would be a significant planning exercise. Discussion with the Precinct Plan CSWG resulted in this consultation being aligned with wider discussion on the Precinct Plan outcomes.

### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

Large scale infrastructure planning is detailed within the Shire's Forward Capital Works Plan and funding considered via the Long-Term Financial Plan and annual budget process.

#### *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 – Deemed Provisions*

Local Planning Policies are required to be adopted and advertised in accordance with Clause 4 of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1. Local planning policy are required to be advertised for a minimum of 21 days after the day on which the notice is first published. Following advertising a summary of the submissions and local planning policy must be presented to Council for a resolution to proceed with the policy.

### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

26 February 2025 – 11.2.4 Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy

That Council:

1. Adopts the Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy as the basis for addressing transport issues for Cowaramup.
2. Requests the CEO:
  - a. Develops an action plan for staged implementation of the strategy based on priorities established from the community consultation process.
  - b. Seeks state government and grant funding for the implementation of these priority actions.
  - c. Reviews the pedestrian safety and network connectivity issues via the review of the 2016 townsite pathways plan for Cowaramup in 2024/25.
  - d. Progresses planning for upgrading of intersections along Bussell Hwy in the town centre as part of the preparation of the Cowaramup Precinct Plan, to be undertaken in 2024/25.
  - e. Notes the intended formation of a reference group to assist with implementation of the Cowaramup Integrated Strategy actions and the conceptual layout of the solutions through the Cowaramup Precinct Plan.

25 February 2026 – 11.3.1 Outcomes of the General Electors Meeting

That Council:

- a) Acknowledges the significance of the growing road safety and congestion issues in Cowaramup and evaluates solutions through the Cowaramup Precinct Plan process in accordance with best practice in urban design and transport planning;

b) Identify actions that progress road safety upgrades along Bussell Highway, such as the relocation of the children's crossing, for consideration as part of the 2026/2027 budget process and operational processes as they arise. To be included in the Precinct Plan Report to be presented to Council at the March Ordinary Council Meeting; and

c) Advocates for speed radar signs at the entrance to the Cowaramup town centre.

The development of the Precinct Plan has been of greater duration than originally envisaged due to factors such as contractor procurement and availability, more extensive community engagement than envisaged and competing demand on staff resources.

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** Caring for our natural environment

**Outcome Statement E2:** New development is concentrated within clearly defined areas to avoid impacts on remaining farmland and ecosystems

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B1:** Townsites develop in a manner that retains their unique identity and encourages community connection, safety and vibrancy

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B4:** A well-connected network of paths, cycle trails, roads and transport options allows safe movement through and between townsites

**Focus Area:** Managing our built environment

**Outcome Statement B6:** Our built environment is functional, sustainable, accessible, safe, and sympathetic to the surrounds

**Focus Area:** Looking after our growing community

**Outcome Statement C4:** Farmers and local businesses feel valued and can thrive in a supportive economic and regulatory environment that acknowledges our responsibilities to future generations

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W2:** Our communication reflects integrity, care, and a commitment to building enduring relationships with our community

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W3:** We actively listen, engage and collaborate with our whole community to better understand all perspectives to inform our decision-making

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W4:** We demonstrate ethical leadership at all levels in our organisation, making decisions in an open, transparent and accountable way

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W6:** We manage our finances responsibly, investing in services and assets that deliver sustainable, long-term value for now and the future

#### **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

##### **Cowaramup Streetscape Working Group**

Following the adoption of the Cowaramup ITS, a community reference group was formed to assist with the implementation of the ITS actions and the conceptual layout of the recommended solutions. The Cowaramup Streetscape Working Group (CSWG) was formed and included representatives from Cowaramup Lions, Cowaramup Retailers Association, Cowaramup Road Safety Group, Parkwater Community Group, Cowaramup Halls, Reserves and Residents Association and a representative from Main Roads WA. The CSWG has provided community input into the preparation of the Cowaramup Precinct Plan across a series of workshops throughout 2025. The CSWG provided comment on local issues and suggested solutions, particularly relating to traffic movement, pedestrian and bicycle movement and car parking.

### **Main Roads WA**

Bussell Highway is under the care and control of Main Roads WA. Works proposed on Bussell Highway and any intersection within 20 metres of Bussell Highway requires review and approval from Main Roads WA. Main Roads WA are involved in the CSWG discussions and have provided initial feedback on the proposed concept plans, although prior to any works occurring formal approval will be required.

Main Roads WA role and function is primarily to ensure the efficient movement of vehicles, including trucks, on Bussell Highway. Despite the importance of this role, it often places the agency at odds with proposals to implement pedestrian focussed road upgrades. Ongoing consultation will be required through the implementation of the Precinct Plan to achieve the best possible balance between essential vehicle movement and the movement of pedestrians/ cyclists.

### **Broad Community Consultation**

The Cowaramup Precinct Plan, Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls, and the potential Cowaramup Perimeter Road feasibility will be subject to concurrent community consultation following a resolution of Council. Community consultation will consist of advertising through the Shire's Your Say webpage, social media posts, in person information sessions and e-news articles. Local planning policies are required to be advertised for a minimum of 21 days and as such it would be reasonable to maintain a consistent advertising period for the Precinct Plan and Perimeter Road consultation. Community consultation is expected to run avoiding school holiday periods.

In addition, the CSWG will be assisting in the community consultation process by sharing and facilitating feedback with their respective groups. A meeting between the Shire and the CSWG will be convened during the community consultation period to discuss feedback from the representatives' groups and incorporate relevant feedback into the Cowaramup Precinct Plan. The CSWG have previously indicated support for the Cowaramup Perimeter Road.

## **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

### **Cowaramup Precinct Plan**

The Cowaramup Precinct Plan (Precinct Plan) utilises previous studies including the Cowaramup Character Study and Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy to define the future of Cowaramup's townsite and surrounds from now through to 2036.

The Precinct Plan provides concept plans for improvements to the road network along Bussell Highway and on surrounding streets connecting to Bussell Highway. The Precinct Plan also provides guidance on future development of commercial lots through the Cowaramup Design Guidelines.

The Precinct Plan is intended to provide the Cowaramup community with a clear expectation on the future of the townsite and provide a basis for ongoing liaison with and advocacy to Main Roads WA.

The Precinct Plan sets expectations of project delivery through project priority assessment and ranking. Project priority will inform the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan and Forward Capital Works Program. Specific aspects of the plan are discussed as follows:

### **Bussell Highway Crossings**

Significant traffic movement through the townsite introduces difficulties and risk for pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross Bussell Highway. The role and function of Bussell Highway also presents significant challenges to implementing large scale changes to pedestrian crossings along the highway. The Precinct Plan seeks to provide meaningful alterations and additions to the road network for pedestrian and cyclist movement, while ensuring the recommendations are implementable under the current context of Bussell Highway's role. Crossing points along Bussell Highway are individually discussed in more detail below.

#### School Crossing

Currently there is one formalised crossing point within the townsite, located in the centre of the town to the south of the Hall Road intersection.



*Figure 2 – Cowaramup School Crossing Location*

This crossing point is utilised by foot traffic visiting the townsite and is a primary connection for school children accessing the Cowaramup Primary School. The crossing point is attended by a traffic warden during AM and PM school travel hours (7:30AM to 9:00AM, and 2:30PM to 4:00PM), however is unattended for the remainder of the weekday hours and on weekends. Despite the crossing being utilised as a school crossing it also serves a significant role as the only demarcated crossing point and is used by locals and visitors at all hours.

Recent safety improvements have been made to Bussell Highway by Main Roads WA through the townsite, including the reduction in traffic lane width and painted central median. These improvements have aided in vehicle speed reduction along Bussell Highway, while also creating an informal area for pedestrians to seek refuge in the centre of Bussell Highway for the significant number of pedestrians that cross at locations other than the designated crossing point. Main Roads WA had previously expressed the possibility of creating a formal central median, with raised sections and kerbing, providing additional protection for pedestrians. In addition, Main Roads WA recently supported the Shire's application for grant funding to relocate the crossing to north of Hall Road and install a signalised push button pedestrian crossing, essentially becoming the first traffic lights within the Shire. The Shire applied for two separate federal government grant funding streams for the estimated \$2M crossing relocation and was unsuccessful on both occasions.

The school crossing has been a key engagement point with Main Roads WA and the CSWG. During engagement with the CSWG, previous support for the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing has changed, with the group no longer supporting this form of crossing on account of the impact on traffic flow and the increase of congestion through the townsite, which are consistent with officers views on signalisation at the crossing. The CSWG and Main Roads WA remain supportive of the proposed

relocation to north of Hall Road. Both the removal of the proposed signalised crossing point and the relocation of the crossing are supported.

The Precinct Plan includes a proposed concept plan for the school crossing which can be seen in **Attachment 1** as 'North Crossing'. The proposed concept plan relocates the crossing to the north of Hall Road, removes the proposed signalised crossing point, includes a formal kerbed central median and incorporates seating into the existing landscaping and reclaimed car parking bays at the crossing point. Relocation of the crossing point to the north of Hall Road is intended reduce the need for school children, locals and visitors to cross Hall Road intersection immediately after crossing Bussell Highway. The proposed relocation will deliver significant safety improvements, particularly when coupled with the proposed 'in' only movement at Hall Road (detailed in the 'Hall Road' concept plan). Further safety improvement comes through the proposed installation of the kerbed central median area, allowing a pedestrian to cross one lane of traffic, refuge in the centre before crossing the other lane of traffic.

#### Additional Crossing Points

The Precinct Plan has identified three additional crossing locations between Waverley Road and south of Memorial Drive. The additional crossing points proposed provide greater opportunity to cross Bussell Highway at favourable positions. It should also be noted that a proposed roundabout at Roy Earl Drive will likely provide additional pedestrian crossing locations, however the final design of the roundabout is still in progress and as such the full details of pedestrian crossing at that location are not discussed in this report.

#### *Peake/ Waverley*

The proposed concept plan for the Peake and Waverley Street intersections includes an additional crossing point to the north of the townsite. The crossing point provides access between current and future residential areas in the northwest of the townsite and Cowaramup Oval and Cowaramup Primary School. The proposed location also provides for an Australian Standard compliant, 2 metre pedestrian refuge point, enabling a cyclist sufficient space to safely stop in the central median of Bussell Highway. A compliant pedestrian refuge is not possible within other locations along Bussell Highway due to the limited space, for example the inclusion of a 2-metre-wide refuge at the school crossing would require significant loss of on-street car parking bays.

The Peake/ Waverley Street concept plan proposes works which require a contribution from a land developer to the east. As such, the proposed crossing point may be possible to implement in the short term concurrently with these other works associated with current stages of subdivision.

#### *Bottrell/ O'Brien Street*

The Bottrell/ O'Brien Street intersection is a key activity node within the townsite, facilitating access to popular businesses along Bottrell Street, Cowaramup Post Office and Pioneer Park. The 2023 Cowaramup Character Study identified significant pedestrian movement across Bussell Highway at this intersection, as shown in Figure 3 below.

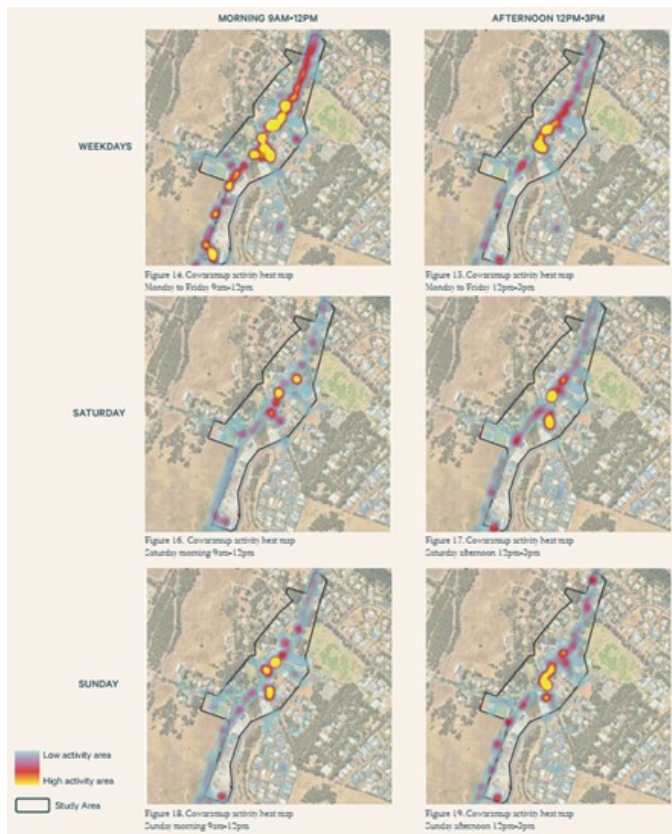


Figure 3 - Pedestrian movement activity map.

The concept plan prepared for the Bottrell/ O'Brien Street intersection includes an additional crossing point on Bussell Highway to the north of the intersection. The location was chosen to align with the pedestrian movement activity shown above and utilise an existing area absent of parking, reducing the need to take away car parking bays along Bussell Highway. The proposed crossing will extend the footpath to the edge of the road carriageway, removing the area of 'no parking' and two car parking bays (on the west side of the highway) and install pram ramps. The crossing will also be aided by a central median area to facilitate crossing one lane of traffic at a time. The concept plan also includes additional pram ramps and path connections on Bottrell Street providing additional safety for the highly utilised pedestrian area.

#### South of Memorial Drive

Memorial Drive currently experiences significant levels of vehicle traffic, particularly during AM and PM peak times. Despite there being no formal pedestrian crossing and limited path connections at the Memorial Drive intersection, an informal crossing point and path is being utilised by residents from the west of the townsite. Anecdotally, crossing of Bussell Highway occurs between the Memorial Drive intersection and Shire reserve (R53470). The informal crossing and path is used by residents west of the townsite accessing the bus stop on Hasluck Street and businesses located on Hasluck Street (mainly the service station). The informal path is shown in Figure 4 below.



Figure 4 – Informal path connection to Hasluck Street.

The current crossing arrangement is unsafe and likely sees pedestrians and cyclists crossing from Pioneer Park, across three lanes of traffic. The proposed concept plan for the Memorial Drive intersection includes an additional crossing point to the south of the intersection and proposes connecting the crossing to the informal path through the Shire reserve. While the proposed crossing location may not provide the most direct route across Bussell Highway and onto the informal path, it does alleviate current safety issues. The proposed crossing location will remove the need to cross three lanes of traffic, includes a two metre wide central pedestrian refuge and will enable crossing from future footpaths provided on the west side of Bussell Highway through the subdivision at Lot 102 Bussell Highway (known as Intown Cowaramup).

### Traffic Network Improvements

Further to the crossing points discussed above the Precinct Plan also includes recommendations for other traffic network improvements for several intersections throughout the townsite. The full suite of recommendations can be seen in **Attachment 1**, however a brief summary of the key components are discussed below.

- Installation of a left and right turn lane at Waverley Road/ Bussell Highway intersection accommodating additional vehicle movement from an increase in residential population through recent subdivisions to the east. The proposed Concept Plan can be delivered through the progression of the subdivision process.
- Modification of the Hall Road/ Bussell Highway intersection to an 'In' only movement and one way car park movement. The proposed 'In' only will alleviate current conflict felt between pedestrians crossing Hall Road and vehicles turning left or right onto Bussell Highway.
- Installation of a roundabout within the existing four-way intersection of Bottrell Street, Hall Road and Hasluck Street. The roundabout is proposed to facilitate U-turn movements for vehicles utilising the Hall Road car park one way area. The roundabout will also assist with traffic movement to the growing commercial area along Hasluck street and users of the Hall Road car park.

- Formalisation of the current gravel overflow car park at the corner of Bottrell and Hasluck Streets. The car park is to be funded through cash in lieu contributions.
- Installation of a left turn lane at Memorial Drive/ Bussell Highway intersection. The left turn lane provides separation of left and right turning vehicles that will reduce queuing length, wait time and build needed capacity into the intersection. In response to community feedback, modifications to the Memorial Drive/ Bussell Highway intersection, modifications to the car park in Pioneer Park and upgrades to the Pioneer Park footpath are being progressed in the detail design phase in the 25/26 financial year. Developer contributions will be available through residential subdivision to the south, enabling intervention in the short term.
- Formalisation of a pedestrian crossing point at Miamup Road/ Memorial Drive intersection. Further investigation is required to establish turning movements for large vehicles to determine the final location of the crossing, which can be examined through detailed design prior to construction.
- Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Bussell Highway, Roy Ear Drive and a new east-west connector road. The proposed roundabout is required as part of a condition of structure plan approval on Lot 102 Bussell Highway. The design is still under-development with developers of two residential subdivisions, Main Roads WA and the Shire. The Shire recently applied for state government funding through the Regional Housing Support Fund to facilitate the delivery of the roundabout.
- The proposed concept plans deliver an additional 6 car parking bays. Works proposed along Bussell Highway will equate to nil loss of parking, with parking lost through relocating the school crossing and additional crossing points being made up elsewhere on the street. The additional car parking bays are facilitated through the proposed Hall Road Concept Plan, with the one way modification to the car park enabling the addition of six (6) parallel parking bays. Areas currently used as informal parking on O'Brien Street and Hasluck Street are unable to be calculated in relation to a net gain or loss of parking, however formalisation of the Hasluck Street car park will provide significant improvement to overall parking accessibility within the townsite. The formalisation of the Hasluck Street car park is funded through previously collected Cash in Lieu of Car Parking and implementable in the short term. The Hasluck Street car park is currently in the detail design phase for the 25/26 financial year.

### **Project Priority**

For the purpose of long-term planning, the Precinct Plan has allocated a short, medium or long term priority for each component. A priority assessment matrix was developed to assist in affording priority to projects, with a score between 1 and 5 being assigned for criteria and the total score tallied for each project. The total score for each concept plan was used to inform the project priority and timeframe proposed. The Precinct Plan sets short (1-3 years), medium (4-7 years) and long (7-10 years) term priorities.

Specific timeframes have not been detailed in the Precinct Plan. This is primarily due to the complexity, scale and availability of funding for the projects. The priority timeframes will be factored into the preparation of the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan and Forward Capital Works Plan, which are responsible for allocating project funding and timing when considered against required infrastructure delivery and renewal across the Shire. In this way, Council will be able to input into the exact timing of future projects by weighing them against other projects required throughout the Shire.

### **Footpath Network**

In addition to the concept plans prepared, the Precinct Plan includes a holistic footpath network plan inclusive of current footpaths, new footpaths proposed within subdivision areas, new footpaths proposed through the concept plans and 'missing links'. The footpath network plan provides a wholistic picture of the Cowaramup Precinct Area and details current and future pathway connections.

The footpath network plan demonstrates that through the implementation of future subdivisions and the concept plans, Cowaramup will be well serviced and connected. Key links identified by the community, particularly additional footpaths from the west of the townsite will be provided through the development of the residential subdivision at Lot 102 Bussell Highway. In addition to the priorities afforded to the concept plans, missing links in the footpath network will be assessed and given priority through the Shire wide path plan currently under development. The Shire wide path plan is responsible for assessing and prioritising new footpaths and footpath renewal across the Shire and is best placed to guide future footpath improvements.

Footpath design standards and specifications are guided through Austroads, with the relevant standards being applied based on site-specific conditions through detailed design. A range of factors dictate footpath location, including service locations, road hierarchy, vehicle speed and car parking locations. Despite footpath location often being dependent on site-specific features, the benefit of prioritising footpaths located away from the back of the kerb in many instances is acknowledged. The Precinct Plan seeks to prioritise footpaths designed away from the back of the kerb where appropriate.

### **Cowaramup Perimeter Road**

The Shire's 2024 ITS identified traffic concerns for the future of Cowaramup, that would require modification to the transport network for ongoing efficiency. Modifications can be made to the transport network through the townsite that will improve capacity and efficiency, however given the role and function of Bussell Highway the level of intervention that is possible is limited. As a longer term option, the ITS identified the benefit of investigating the feasibility of a perimeter road around Cowaramup allowing vehicles to bypass the main street commercial environment. The implementation of a perimeter road would reduce traffic heading further south and heavy vehicles from the centre of the Cowaramup townsite. The reduction of traffic and heavy vehicles from the centre of the townsite will enable more significant improvement to the pedestrian and streetscape environment.

Eventual implementation of a perimeter road would be comparable to the perimeter road project in Margaret River and may facilitate a similar level of intervention to Bussell Highway as in the Margaret River townsite. It should also be noted that the implementation of a perimeter road would likely increase development expectation on the periphery of Cowaramup, as evidenced by Margaret River whereby the perimeter road forms the logical eastern extent of the residential zone. Further expansion of the Cowaramup townsite will be a relevant factor in the future review of the Local Planning Strategy.

The perimeter road has been discussed with the CSWG who have indicated support for a feasibility study. The CSWG have indicated a desire for the feasibility to occur as soon as possible, noting the long timeframe associated with implementation of infrastructure of this significance. Consultation at this time will be absent of any potential alignment, width or connecting intersection details. Main Roads simply request that the Shire investigate whether there is community support for a perimeter road 'in principle'. It is expected that Main Roads would conduct further consultation once the results of any feasibility study are completed, inclusive of additional detail. This is likely to be a significant exercise.

Despite the benefits of a perimeter road, there is significant complexity to its eventual construction, including alignment and capital funding. Delivery of the perimeter road will be the responsibility of Main Roads WA and is subject to budgetary and resource allocation.

### **Cowaramup Design Guidelines**

Cowaramup is known for its distinctive rural character, with traditional narrow shopfronts and fine grain engaging street presence. Cowaramup's character has been guided by the application of the 2008 Cowaramup Design Guidelines (2008 Guidelines), which have resulted in a consistent development pattern through the northern section of the townsite.

The section of commercial land fronting Hasluck Street is guided by a local development plan (LDP) that was prepared in 2016. The LDP provides design guidance that is sympathetic to the northern section of the townsite, however this section of the townsite has developed a separate character through larger scale built form, evocative of rural outbuildings.

The Cowaramup Character Study prepared in 2023 identified the two distinctive development patterns and recommended reviewing the 2008 Guidelines. It was recommended that the townsite maintain a consistent rural theme, while acknowledging the built form differences between the north and south sections of the townsite.

A new local planning policy is proposed to be introduced that consolidates the 2008 Guidelines and LDP, ensures proper manner and form in accordance with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage guidance and is formalised into the suite of the Shire's local planning policies. Local Planning Policy 18 - Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls (LPP 18) guides building design, materials, vehicle access and parking, landscaping and signage. LPP 18 formalises the recommended precinct areas into north and south sections of the townsite, providing development guidance that applies to all precincts and specific additional guidance for each of the north and south precincts.

Preparation of a local planning policy is informed by the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* and requires a Council resolution for consent to advertise. A local planning policy must be advertised for a minimum of 21 days, after which a further Council resolution is required to proceed with the policy. Should Council resolve to advertise LPP 18, consultation will be undertaken concurrently with the Precinct Plan and Perimeter Road consultation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

High level costings associated with the Cowaramup Precinct Plan have indicated significant capital investment required for implementation. Indicative costings are reflective of the current market, however high degrees of variance may occur in coming years. Cost inflation is estimated at 3.7% per annum resulting in expected cost escalation.

The Shire has recently applied for two federal government grant funding streams, for the relocation of the school crossing, however have been unsuccessful on both occasions. The Shire has recently applied for the state governments Regional Housing Support Fund, to assist with the implementation of the proposed roundabout at Roy Earl Drive. The outcome of the grant application is still unknown. Should the Shire be successful in securing grant funding it is common for a shire contribution to be required, resulting in budgeting implications.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

The Precinct Plan seeks to alter travel behaviour, prioritising walking and cycling through the Cowaramup townsite. Walking and cycling reduces the dependence on private vehicles and contributes to a reduction in carbon emissions, aligning with the Shire's effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Precinct Plan provides project prioritisation across multiple years, with a focus on providing achievable and sustainable capital expenditure.

### **ADVOCACY**

The Cowaramup Precinct Plan provides long range strategic infrastructure guidance on Bussell Highway. Main Roads WA have care and control over Bussell Highway requiring ongoing advocacy to achieve the proposed concept plans and further improvements to the traffic network in and around Cowaramup.

The proposed concept plans require significant capital expenditure which is necessary to manage ongoing population growth and visitation into the future. In this context it would be unreasonable for the full cost of the infrastructure to be borne by ratepayers and thus grant funding from the State Government will be integral to the plan's success. The Shire will apply for grant funding where applicable and continue to advocate to the State Government for traffic network upgrades via Council's advocacy committee.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

A lack of planning for future infrastructure delivery can lead to ad-hoc provision. Having a clear direction allows for the whole of life costs of assets and community facilities to be considered through the long-term financial planning process.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**CR BELL, CR MUIR**

That Council:

1. Endorses the Cowaramup Precinct Plan for the purpose of community consultation, as shown in Attachment 1.
  2. Resolves in accordance with Clause 4(1) of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt draft Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls for the purpose of advertising.
  3. Authorises the progression of community consultation for investigation into a Cowaramup Perimeter Road.
- 

*Cr Bell moved the following amendment:*

**AMENDMENT / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR BELL, CR D'ATH OM2026/27**

That the following wording as shown in underline be added to point 1:

1. Endorses the Cowaramup Precinct Plan for the purpose of community consultation, as shown in Attachment 1, with the following amendments to Attachment 1:

Subject to the following modifications:

- a. Including the following additions and amendments to the 'footpath network plan':
  - i. Include a missing link path on the east side of Bussell Highway between Roy Earl Drive and Bottrill Street and an additional crossing near the public access way of Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
  - ii. Include a planned path on northern side of east/west neighbourhood connector on Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
  - iii. Include a planned path on northern side of Roy Earl Drive between Villers St and Lot 500 Wurring Road.
  - iv. Convert the 'missing link' from Sunset Drive to the new neighbourhood connector in Lot 102 Bussell Highway to 'planned path'.
- b. Amend the following provisions in relation to the pedestrian crossing and improvements to the Miamup Rd/Memorial Drive intersection:
  - i. Update text to reflect safety issues associated with children crossing Miamup Road.
  - ii. The prioritisation of pedestrian improvements at Miamup Road to be converted to a short-term action.

CARRIED 6/2

FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, JEAN-RICE, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: CR FORTE AND CR KENNAUGH

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*This then formed part of the primary motion.*

*Cr Bell moved then moved a further amendment:*

*During debate of the amendment, Cr Muir foreshadowed an alternative to Cr Bell's amendment\*:*

*Debate then continued on Cr Bell's amendment, before being put to vote.*

**AMENDMENT / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR BELL, CR BOLAND OM2026/28**

That the following wording as shown in underline be added as an additional point 2 and subsequent points renumbered accordingly:

2. The implementation table included in the Cowaramup Precinct Plan included as Attachment 1 is modified so that actions are to be listed individually in geographical order, and include:
- a. All actions contained in the Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy and the additional path on the northern frontage of Sunset Drive through Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
  - b. The allocation of timeframes for each action (short, medium and long term).
  - c. Identification of a potential funding source for each action.
  - d. Indication of the Shire's role in the implementation of each action.

LOST 2/6  
FOR: BELL AND BOLAND

AGAINST: CRS D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER

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*As the amendment put by Cr Bell lost, Cr Muir moved the amendment:*

**\*FORESHADOWED ALTERNATIVE / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR MUIR, CR FORTE OM2026/29**

That the following wording as shown in underline be added as an additional point 2 and subsequent points renumbered accordingly:

2. The implementation table included in the Cowaramup Precinct Plan included as Attachment 1 is modified so that actions are to be listed individually in geographical order, and include:
- a. All actions contained in the Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy and the additional path on the northern frontage of Sunset Drive through Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
  - b. The allocation of timeframes for each action (short, medium and long term).

CARRIED 8/0  
FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: NIL

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*This then formed part of the primary motion.*

*Cr Bell then moved a further amendment:*

**AMENDMENT / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR BELL, CR MUIR OM2026/30**

That the following wording as shown in underline be added to point 2 in the Officer's Recommendation and renumbered as point 3:

3. Resolves in accordance with Clause 4(1) of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt draft Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls for the purpose of advertising subject to the removal of clause 2.18.

CARRIED 7/1  
FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: CR KENNAUGH

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*This then formed part of the primary motion.*

*Cr Bell then moved a further amendment:*

**AMENDMENT / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR BELL, CR BOLAND OM2026/31**

That the following wording as shown in underline be added as point 4:

4. Requests that following the release of the precinct plan for consultation, the CEO further reviews the safety of pedestrian and cyclist crossings in accordance with recently proposed updates to relevant Austroads standards.

**CARRIED 7/1**

**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: CR KENNAUGH**

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*This then formed part of the primary motion.*

*Members of Council then considered the primary motion.*

**PRIMARY MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR BELL, CR MUIR OM2026/32**

That Council:

1. Endorses the Cowaramup Precinct Plan for the purpose of community consultation, as shown in Attachment 1, with the following amendments to Attachment 1:

Subject to the following modifications:

- a. Including the following additions and amendments to the 'footpath network plan':
    - i. Include a missing link path on the east side of Bussell Highway between Roy Earl Drive and Bottrill Street and an additional crossing near the public access way of Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
    - ii. Include a planned path on northern side of east/west neighbourhood connector on Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
    - iii. Include a planned path on northern side of Roy Earl Drive between Villers St and Lot 500 Wurring Road.
    - iv. Convert the 'missing link' from Sunset Drive to the new neighbourhood connector in Lot 102 Bussell Highway to 'planned path'.
  - b. Amend the following provisions in relation to the pedestrian crossing and improvements to the Miamup Rd/Memorial Drive intersection:
    - i. Update text to reflect safety issues associated with children crossing Miamup Road.
    - ii. The prioritisation of pedestrian improvements at Miamup Road to be converted to a short-term action.
2. The implementation table included in the Cowaramup Precinct Plan included as Attachment 1 is modified so that actions are to be listed individually in geographical order, and include:
    - a. All actions contained in the Cowaramup Integrated Transport Strategy and the additional path on the northern frontage of Sunset Drive through Lot 102 Bussell Highway.
    - b. The allocation of timeframes for each action (short, medium and long term).
  3. Resolves in accordance with Clause 4(1) of the Deemed Provisions of Local Planning Scheme No.1 to adopt draft Local Planning Policy 18 – Cowaramup Neighbourhood Centre Character Controls for the purpose of advertising subject to the removal of clause 2.18.
  4. Requests that following the release of the precinct plan for consultation, the CEO further reviews the safety of pedestrian and cyclist crossings in accordance with recently proposed updates to relevant Austroads standards.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: NIL**

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*At 7.04pm, the Shire President adjourned the meeting.*

*At 7.09pm, the Shire President re-commenced the meeting.*

# 11.3

## Corporate and Customer Services

### 11.3.1. REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	GOV/40
<b>Report Author</b>	Claire Schiller, Senior Governance and Risk Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- It is a requirement of section 5.46 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act) that delegations made by Council to the Chief Executive Officer are reviewed at least once every financial year.
- A list of delegations of powers and duties made by Council is recommended for adoption by Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Delegation Register 2026 review [11.3.1.1 – 107 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council in accordance with s 5.42 *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the delegations as detailed in Part 1 and Part 3 of Attachment 1.

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#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

##### Delegations by Council

Section 5.42 of the LG Act provides the power for Council to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the exercise of any of its powers or the discharge of any of its duties under the LG Act, except those listed in section 5.43 (see below). Delegations must be in writing and can be general or have conditions attached.

##### Limitations to delegating to the CEO under s5.43 of the LG Act

*A local government cannot delegate to a CEO any of the following powers or duties —*

- any power or duty that requires a decision of an absolute majority or a 75% majority of the local government;*
- accepting a tender which exceeds an amount determined by the local government for the purpose of this paragraph;*
- appointing an auditor;*
- acquiring or disposing of any property valued at an amount exceeding an amount determined by the local government for the purpose of this paragraph;*
- any of the local government's powers under section 5.98, 5.98A, 5.99, 5.99A or 5.100 (fees and allowances for Councillors);*
- borrowing money on behalf of the local government;*
- hearing or determining an objection of a kind referred to in section 9.5;*
- the power under section 9.49A(4) to authorize a person to sign documents on behalf of the local government;*

- (h) any power or duty that requires the approval of the Minister or the Governor;
- (i) such other powers or duties as may be prescribed.

#### Delegations by the Chief Executive Officer

Section 5.44(3) provides the power for the CEO to delegate to an employee the exercise of powers or discharge of duties that have been delegated by Council to the CEO under s5.42 LG Act (known as a sub-delegation). The exercise of powers or duties sub-delegated by the CEO is subject to any conditions imposed by Council on its delegation to the CEO.

The CEO is also able to delegate their express and inherent powers such as those under s5.41 LG Act. These are not 'sub-delegations' and Council cannot place any conditions or restrictions on these direct delegations to employees.

Delegations by the CEO must be in writing and can be general or have conditions attached.

#### Register of Delegations

A register of delegations made under the LG Act is to be kept by the CEO [s 5.46(1)]. The delegation register is presented as an attachment to this report, and consists of:

Part I:

- Delegations by Council to the CEO under the LG Act (reviewed by Council);
- Sub-delegations by the CEO to employees under the LG Act (cannot be reviewed by Council);
- Delegations by Council to the CEO and employees under other Acts (reviewed by Council);

Part II:

- Delegations by the CEO of express CEO powers to employees under the LG Act and other Acts (cannot be reviewed by Council);
- and

Part III:

- Delegations by Council to Committees under the LG Act (reviewed by Council).

#### Review of Delegations

There is a requirement under the LG Act that all delegations made must be reviewed annually by the delegator [s 5.46(2)]. Therefore, delegations by Council are reviewed by Council, and the CEO is responsible for reviewing the delegations by the CEO.

Accordingly, a review of delegations by Council under the LG Act is presented to Council for adoption within this report. The opportunity has also been taken to review delegations by Council under various other Acts such as the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the *Building Act 2011*, and the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

The principal statutory provisions relating to delegations are ss5.42 and 5.43 LG Act which are set out in the background to this report. There are a number of other Acts that also allow for delegation, these include:

- *Building Act 2011*
- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Cat Act 2011*
- *Dog Act 1976*
- *Food Act 2008*
- *Public Health Act 2016*
- *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*
- *Local Planning Scheme No.1*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*

### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

A review report is brought annually to Council. The most recent resolution on a delegation review was 28 May 2025:

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*OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION*  
*CR EARL, CR BINKS OM2025/54*

*That Council in accordance with s 5.42 Local Government Act 1995, adopts the delegations as detailed in Part 1 and Part 3 of Attachment 1.*

*CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 7/0  
FOR: CRS BINKS, BOLAND, D'ATH, EARL, KENNAUGH, MELDRUM, MUIR  
AGAINST: NIL*

## STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2040

### Performance

**Outcome PF.1:** Responsible planning and ownership of outcomes

**Strategy PF.1.2:** Regulate and provide support to ensure Councillors and employees deliver integrity and transparency in their behaviour, decision making and in compliance with codes of conduct

**Strategy PF.1.4:** Regulate and provide information and community communication in accordance with statutory requirements and to best support decision making

### CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

WALGA has available a template delegation register to assist local governments in reviewing their delegation register. The document has been used in this review.

### DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS

A reviewed Delegation Register with tracked changes is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

One amendment is proposed to the following delegation:

Delegation 1.25 Building Act 2011 Delegation, as set out below:

Proposed change	Reason
Express power of duty: Deletion of reference to building regulation 5A from <i>Building Regulations 2012</i>	To reflect legislative changes.
Addition of division 2, 3, 4, 5 of part 8 of <i>Building Act 2011</i>	

<b>Express Power or Duty Delegated:</b>	<i>Division 2 of Part 2 Building Act 2011 Divisions 1,2 and 3 of Part 4 Building Act 2011 <del>Reg 5A Building Regulations 2012 – Authorised Persons</del> <u>Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Part 8 Building Act 2011</u> Reg 70 Building Regulations 2012 – Infringement Notices</i>
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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations

Effective delegations lead to effective use of staff time, which ultimately saves money and allows officers' time to be spent on achieving higher strategic targets.

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

#### Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets

Delegation of powers from Council to employees enables decisions to be made in a shorter timeframe. There is a saving of officer time in terms of report writing when delegations are used in preference to Council decision-making.

Delegations can improve efficiency in the operations of a Local Government. There can be some loss of transparency when decisions are made under delegation, but it is considered that the current conditions on delegations require decisions on matters of high importance and public interest to be made by Council. Statutory record keeping requirements ensure that the CEO and employees are accountable for any decisions made under delegation.

### ADVOCACY

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

The main implication of rejecting or limiting delegations would be that those undelegated functions could only be exercised by a Council resolution. This can add up to six weeks in delay and staff resources in the preparation of reports.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

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**CR BELL, CR KENNAUGH**

That Council:

1. In accordance with s 5.42 *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the delegations as detailed in Part 1 and Part 3 of Attachment 1.
- 

*Cr Bell moved the following amendment:*

**AMENDMENT / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR BELL, CR MUIR OM2026/33**

That the following wording be added as point 2:

2. Requests the CEO to facilitate a workshop of the Delegation register within the next two months.

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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*This then formed part of the primary motion.*

**PRIMARY MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR BELL, CR KENNAUGH OM2026/34**

That Council:

1. In accordance with s 5.42 *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the delegations as detailed in Part 1 and Part 3 of Attachment 1.
2. Requests the CEO to facilitate a workshop of the Delegation register within the next two months.

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.3.2. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	GOV/41
<b>Report Author</b>	Claire Schiller, Senior Governance and Risk Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- Part 6 of the *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* introduced amendments to the *Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* (Model Code Regulations), effective 1 January 2026.
- As per s.5.104 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act), local governments are required to adopt a code of conduct incorporating Model Code Regulation amendments within three months of them being in operation, being 1 April 2026.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT 2026 Reviewed Code of Conduct for Councillors [**11.3.2.1** - 15 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates presented in Attachment 1, in accordance with s5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

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#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

- On 3 February 2021, the Model Code Regulations introduced a mandatory Model Code of Conduct for council members, committee members and candidates. Council adopted the Code on 28 April 2021 in accordance with section 5.104 of the LG Act (OM2021/53).
- As part of broader governance reforms arising from the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024*, a new Inspector, oversight and complaints framework commenced on 1 January 2026. This framework is supported by the *Local Government (Local Government Inspector) Regulations 2025* and implemented through the *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025*, which amended the Model Code Regulations to align with the new complaints handling system.
- The amended Regulations took effect on 1 January 2026. Pursuant to section 5.104(3) of the LG Act, local governments are required to adopt the amended Model Code within three months of commencement, being no later than 1 April 2026.
- Accordingly, Council is required to adopt a revised Code of Conduct to ensure compliance with the updated legislative framework.

#### STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION

Section 5.104 (3) 'Adoption of model code of conduct' of the LG Act requires local governments to adopt amendments within three months of them being in operation, being 1 April 2026.

### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

28 April 2021 OCM:

*RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION*

*CR KENNAUGH, CR DANIEL OM2021/53*

*That Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates presented in Attachment 1, in accordance with s5.104 of the Local Government Act 1995.*

*CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 7/0*

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### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W4:** We demonstrate ethical leadership at all levels in our organisation, making decisions in an open, transparent and accountable way

### CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

DLGIRS

### DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS

While the amended Regulations do not change the behavioural and conduct requirements of the Model Code, they do introduce substantive changes to the management and oversight of behavioural breach complaints. As a result, Council's adopted Code must be updated to ensure it accurately reflects the revised statutory framework and complaint handling requirements.

The key amendments impacting the Code are:

- **Mandatory referral to the Inspector:** A new provision requires that a behavioural breach complaint be referred to the Inspector where the subject council member has incurred two prior behavioural breaches (from 1 January 2026).
- **Clarified complaint handling process:** The Regulations now expressly require that behavioural breach complaints be managed strictly in accordance with clauses 12–15 of the Model Code.
- **Inspector monitoring powers:** The Inspector is empowered to appoint a monitor to assist in dealing with a complaint and may direct a local government to defer dealing with a complaint until the monitor has reported on their monitoring assignment.
- **Delegation of complaint functions:** Council may, by absolute majority, delegate its functions under clauses 12 and 13 of the Model Code to either:
  - a council-only committee; or
  - an external qualified and impartial person.

The intent of these amendments is to strengthen external oversight, formalise escalation pathways for repeat behavioural breaches, and provide greater flexibility in how Councils administer the behavioural complaint process.

The revised Code of Conduct has been updated accordingly, with specific amendments detailed in the table below:

Clause	Reason	Amendment - summary
11 - Complaint about alleged breach	To reflect Model Code new sub-clauses 11 (4-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints must be referred to the Inspector in prescribed circumstances.</li> </ul>	Inserted new 11 (4 - 6) as per Model Code.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local government cannot continue dealing with a complaint unless the Inspector refers it back.</li> </ul>	
NEW SECTION clause – 14A Appointment of a Monitor	<p>To reflect Model Code new clause 14A.</p> <p>The Inspector may appoint a monitor</p>	New clause 14A added.
NEW SECTION clause 14B Performance of local government’s functions under clause 12 and 13	<p>To reflect Model Code new clause 14B</p> <p>Covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance of functions</li> <li>Authorisation of a committee</li> <li>Authorisation of an independent person</li> <li>Resolution requirements</li> </ul>	New clause 14B added
15 - Other provisions about complaints	<p>Model Code – Schedule 1, clause 15 - additional sub-clause 3</p> <p>To include transitional provisions / provisions do not apply to complaints made before 1 Jan 2026.</p>	New sub-clause 15(3) added
Division 4 – Rules of conduct - notes for division	‘minor breach’ now a ‘conduct breach’	Updated breach terminology and reference to LG Act
21 - Disclosure of information – definition of ‘closed meeting’	LG Act s5.23 amended	Replaced the existing definition of <i>closed meeting</i> with the amended wording.

As a consequence of the amended Regulations, there are other governance documents that also require review and amendment:

- the Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaints Policy;
- the Behaviour Complaints Committee (BCC) Terms of Reference; and
- the Council delegation to the BCC.

To maintain clarity in this report, and in light of competing governance priorities and resourcing requirements for March, the Code of Conduct Behaviour Complaints Policy, the Behaviour Complaints Committee Terms of Reference, and the Council’s delegation to the Behaviour Complaints Committee will be presented to Council for consideration in a separate report in April 2026.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Nil

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to ‘Net Zero’ Targets**

Nil

**ADVOCACY**

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates presented in Attachment 1, in accordance with s5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

*The officers' recommendation was not moved.*

*Cr Boland moved the following motion:*

*During debate Cr Jean-Rice foreshadowed an alternative motion\*:*

*Debate then continued on Cr Boland's motion, before being put to vote.*

**MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR BOLAND, CR BELL OM2026/35**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopt the Model Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates in accordance with S5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.**
- 2. Review promptly the adopted Model Code of Conduct to consider whether any further additions to the Code of Conduct are required.**

**REASON:** The conflict between the Shire's Code of Conduct and the code of conduct that applies to Council Members on the Development Assessment Panel.

**LOST 2/6**  
**FOR: CR BELL AND CR BOLAND**  
**AGAINST: CRS D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**

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*As the motion put by Cr Boland lost, Cr Jean-Rice then moved the foreshadowed motion:*

**\*FORESHADOWED ALTERNATIVE MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR JEAN-RICE, CR MUIR OM2026/36**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates presented in Attachment 1, in accordance with s5.104 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.**
- 2. That the CEO facilitates a Councillor workshop further review the Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates within the next two months.**

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.3.3. NEW REGULATIONS - AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	COR/57
<b>Report Author</b>	Claire Schiller, Senior Governance and Risk Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- The *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* introduce new requirements for local governments to transition from an audit committee to an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).
- The Shire's existing audit committee satisfies the transitional provisions and will therefore automatically transition to an ARIC.
- The Terms of Reference (TOR) have been reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with the amended ARIC regulations and are presented to Council for adoption.
- To reflect the amendments to the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations* with respect to ARICs, the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) issued a determination variation to increase the maximum meeting fee for an ARIC independent member from \$305 to \$1,215.
- It is recommended that Council adopt independent ARIC member meeting fees to reflect value for money in reference to the State Government's Audit and Financial Advisory Services Common Use Agreement.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT REVISED ARIC Terms of Reference [11.3.3.1 - 6 pages]
2. local govt variation no.\_01 of 2025 [11.3.3.2 - 2 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Audit, Risk and Improvement revised Terms of Reference (Attachment 1); and
  2. Adopts \$500 as the meeting attendance fee for Independent Committee Members as set out in the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* and resolves that this fee represents value for money.
- 

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* form part of the State Government's local government reform program and introduce amendments to the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. The amendments require all local governments to establish an ARIC, replacing audit committees, and broaden committee functions to strengthen oversight of audit, risk management, legislative compliance and continuous improvement.

The amended regulations commence on 1 January 2026, with transitional provisions allowing existing compliant audit committees to automatically transition to an ARIC.

#### **Meeting fees for ARIC Independent Members**

On 3 November 2023, the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) made a variation to the *Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination*, providing that independent committee members are entitled to be paid meeting fees set by the local government within the prescribed range.

On 1 January 2024, section 80 of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2023* came into effect, allowing local governments to make payments to independent committee members for attendance at meetings in accordance with the SAT's determination.

On 25 September 2024 Council adopted the maximum attendance fee for Band 2 Independent Committee Members as set out on the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*, being \$305.

On 19 December 2025, the SAT issued a further variation in response to the amended *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, increasing the maximum meeting fee payable to independent ARIC members to \$1,215.

#### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Part 5 Division 2 Sub-division 2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) deals with committees and their meetings

*Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025*

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*

*Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*

*Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*

Regulation 16 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* states that

*An audit, risk and improvement committee has the following functions —*

*(a) to receive and review reports on, and recommend to the council actions to be taken in relation to —*

*(i) audits under Part 7 of the Act; and*

*(ii) compliance audits; and*

*(iii) reviews under regulation 17;*

*(b) to otherwise receive and review reports on the appropriateness and effectiveness of, and recommend to the council improvements to, the local government's systems and procedures in relation to —*

*(i) financial management; and*

*(ii) legislative compliance; and*

*(iii) risk management;*

*(c) to receive and review reports on, and recommend to the council improvements to, the implementation of any actions that the local government —*

*(i) is required to take under section 7.12A(3); and*

*(ii) has stated it has taken or intends to take in a report prepared under section 7.12A(4)(a); and*

*(iii) has otherwise decided to take in response to a report or recommendation referred to in paragraph (a) or (b); and*

*(iv) has stated it has done or proposes to do in written advice prepared under section 8.6(1)(a) or 8.23(4)(a);*

*(d) any other function conferred on the audit, risk and improvement committee under these regulations or another written law.*

#### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

25 September 2024 OCM:

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*OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION*

*CR MUIR, CR EARL OM2024/145*

*That Council:*

- 1. Receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 28 August 2024;*
- 2. Adopts the revised Instrument of Appointment and Delegation to include an independent external member;*
- 3. Adopts the maximum attendance fee for Band 2 Independent Committee Members as set out on the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975;*
- 4. Requests the CEO undertake an expression of interest for a suitably qualified and experienced independent member and recommend an appointment to Council;*
- 5. Notes the findings of the 2023-24 interim financial audit;*
- 6. Notes the Office of the Auditor General's Reports 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 25 for 2023-2.*

*CARRIED 7/0*

*FOR: CRS BINKS, BOLAND, D'ATH, EARL, KENNAUGH, MELDRUM, MUIR*

*AGAINST: NIL*

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## **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W4:** We demonstrate ethical leadership at all levels in our organisation, making decisions in an open, transparent and accountable way

### **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

Executive Leadership Team

ARIC Members

#### **ARIC workshop held 25 February 2026**

A workshop was held with ARIC members on 25 February 2026 to review the revised TOR. Members were generally supportive of the revisions and the direction of the new regulatory framework.

Key Themes raised by the independent members at the workshop are as follows:

#### **Ability to Fulfil Review Role**

- Concern that current meeting structure is highly procedural and limits meaningful discussion.
- Independent members queried whether they receive sufficient background information, particularly in relation to risk.
- Noted the TOR does not clearly reference an "improvement" function, despite this being central to ARIC's purpose.

#### **Strategic Risk Oversight**

- Strong interest in understanding the risk framework and methodology underpinning the strategic and operational risk registers.
- Concern about recommending risk reports to Council without clearer visibility of the underlying process.

#### **Pre-Meeting Workshops**

- Clear support from independent members for structured pre-meeting workshops/briefings to allow open discussion and better-informed recommendations.

#### **Policies with Risk Implications**

- Question raised whether policies with significant risk exposure should come to ARIC prior to Council.
- Acknowledged this would require clear parameters to avoid scope creep or implementation delays.

#### **Forward Planning**

- Request for a forward calendar of ARIC agenda items.
- Desire for longer lead times for complex reports.

To address these matters, pre-meeting briefings for complex or strategic topics will be scheduled (commencing with a risk workshop prior to the May 2026 meeting), and a forward annual workplan has been provided to ARIC members.

### DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS

The *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* introduce significant reforms to the operation and role of audit committees, transitioning them to ARICs. Key changes include:

- A mandatory requirement for an independent presiding member and deputy to the presiding member to strengthen oversight with skilled, independent experts.
- An expanded and more strategic set of functions, incorporating risk management, legislative compliance and continuous improvement.
- The ability for local governments to establish shared ARICs, providing flexibility in committee arrangements.

The reforms expand the role of the committee beyond audit oversight to include enhanced responsibilities for risk management, legislative compliance and continuous improvement, strengthening assurance and governance arrangements across the sector. Transitional provisions apply to allow existing audit committees that meet prescribed requirements to automatically transition to an ARIC.

The table below summaries the key regulatory changes and their implications for the Shire's ARIC:

Area	Previous Requirement	Amended Requirement / Change	Implication for ARIC
<b>Compliance Audit Return (CAR)</b> <i>R14 - Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996</i>	CAR submitted to Minister; oversight and timing under older regulations	CAR now submitted to Inspector of Local Government; reviewed by ARIC, then Council; deadline 31 March (Sept 2026 transitional for 2025 CAR)	ARIC reviews CAR and recommends actions to Council in line with new statutory process
<b>Functions of ARIC</b> <i>R16 - Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996</i>	Operational, CEO-centric, audit assistance model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Guide/assist</u> CEO in audits and reviews</li> <li>• <u>Monitor CEO</u> during internal control / financial management system reviews</li> <li>• <u>Support auditor</u></li> <li>• <u>Oversee</u> implementation of audit recommendations</li> </ul>	Strategic, Council-facing, assurance and improvement model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Receive and review</u> reports on audits, compliance audits, and Reg 17 reviews</li> <li>• <u>Receive and review</u> reports on effectiveness of systems and procedures for financial management, legislative compliance, and risk management</li> <li>• <u>Recommend improvements</u> and actions to Council</li> <li>• <u>Oversee implementation</u> of actions required under s7.12A, or actions decided in response to reports, audits, compliance audits, or</li> </ul>	ARIC's role broadens from monitoring CEO to strategic oversight and recommending improvements to Council

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		CEO advice	
<b>Systems Reviews</b> <i>R17 - Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996</i>	CEO must review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk management</li> <li>• Internal control</li> <li>• Legislative compliance</li> </ul> Every 3 years	'Internal control' renamed 'financial management', review cycle extended to 4 years	ARIC receives and reviews broader financial management system, reports less frequently (every 4 years)
<b>Financial Management Regulation 5(2)(c)</b> <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>	Standalone review of financial management systems and procedures; CEO monitoring; ARIC oversight of implementation	FM Reg 5(2)(c) deleted; oversight now embedded in broader ARIC functions under R16, <i>Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996</i>	ARIC continues to oversee financial management system reviews and implementation, but as part of general assurance and improvement framework rather than a specific statutory review

**Terms of Reference Alignment**

The Shire's existing ARIC satisfies the transitional requirements under regulation 19, enabling automatic transition to an ARIC. However, the TOR has been updated to:

- Reflect amended legislative terminology, including clarification of the role of Deputy to the Presiding Member;
- Align functions with the revised regulation 16 framework; and
- Ensure ongoing compliance with the amended regulations.

The updated Terms of Reference are provided at Attachment 1.

**Independent Member Meeting Fees – SAT Determination**

The reforms are supported by a variation to the SAT Determination, which formally recognises ARICs and establishes a new fee framework for independent ARIC members, effective from 1 January 2026.

The SAT determination provides a per-meeting fee range of \$105 to \$1,215 for independent ARIC members across Bands 1–4, with local governments required to resolve that fees represent value for money. The determination also notes that the State Government's Audit and Financial Advisory Services Common Use Agreement (CUA) may be used as a guide when setting fees.

Based on the CUA, an appropriate meeting fee has been determined to be \$500 per meeting. In reaching this determination, the following considerations were applied:

- Benchmarking against the State CUA indicates that equivalent partner / director advisory services would reasonably equate to 1–1.5 hours of work, including meeting attendance and pre-reading.
- ARIC meetings typically run for approximately 30 minutes, with an estimated 0.5–1 hour of preparation, aligning with this workload assumption.
- A \$500 fee is consistent with the upper range of fees paid to independent members of other committees, while remaining well below the SAT maximum.
- The proposed fee represents a reasonable balance between attracting suitably qualified independent members and ensuring value for money.

This approach is compliant with the SAT determination and supports the effective functioning of the ARIC.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

The LG Act allows for payment of an attendance fee to committee members. For a Band 2 local government the permitted attendance fee range is from \$105 to \$1,215. Reimbursement of reasonable expenses is also permissible in accordance with *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and the applicable Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Determination.

With reference to the skills and expertise required, value for money considerations, and the State Government's Audit and Financial Advisory Services CUA, it's recommended that the meeting attendance fee be set at \$500.

Given there are two independent members and four ARIC meetings per year, the total annual cost to the Shire will be \$4,000 exclusive of any reimbursable expenses.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

The management of risk is essential to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Shire and to minimise or eliminate threats to the environment.

#### **ADVOCACY**

Nil

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Failure to amend the ARIC TOR to align with the *Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* would result in non-compliance with statutory requirements.

#### **RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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##### **CR MUIR, CR KENNAUGH OM2026/37**

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee revised Terms of Reference (Attachment 1); and**
2. **Adopts \$500 as the meeting attendance fee for Independent Committee Members as set out in the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* and resolves that this fee represents value for money.**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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#### 11.3.4. COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO WALGA - PROPOSED ELECTORAL REFORM

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	GOV/4
<b>Report Author</b>	Claire Schiller, Senior Governance and Risk Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- The West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is undertaking sector engagement regarding Local Government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the State Government, specifically:
  - full spill elections every 4 years; and
  - compulsory voting at Local Government elections.
- The WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper (Attachment 2) was workshopped with Council on 25 February 2026.
- A submission is now presented for Council's consideration (Attachment 1).
- The submission must be received by WALGA by 27 March 2026.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. AMR Shire Electoral Reform submission to WALGA [11.3.4.1 - 2 pages]
2. WALGA Discussion paper - Electoral Reform [11.3.4.2 - 11 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the submission (Attachment 1) on electoral reforms for lodgment with the West Australian Local Government Association by 27 March 2026.

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#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Since 2017, the State Government has progressed staged reforms to improve local government performance, reduce red tape and enhance transparency.

Council has previously considered and endorsed submissions in response to these reforms, including:

- **OM2019/44 (13 March 2019)** – submission to the Department of Local Government, Industry, Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) and WALGA on Phase 2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (LG Act) review, including electoral reforms;
- **OM2022/13 (9 February 2022)** – submission following the Minister's announcement of a further package of major reforms; and
- **OM2024/152 (23 October 2024)** – submission to WALGA in response to its review of five ordinary election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government elections.

All Shire submissions have supported:

- compulsory voting; and
- four-year terms with a two-year spill.

Since 2008, WALGA has surveyed the sector on five occasions and at all times, including their most recent advocacy position, have supported:

- voluntary voting; and
- four-year terms with a two-year spill.

Local Governments are now being asked to provide a Council decision on WALGAs advocacy positions as they relate to Local Government Elections, to see if the positions are still current.

### STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION

Feedback to WALGA will inform the WALGA State Council Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions.

### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

23 October 2024 OCM:

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION

CR KENNAUGH, CR MUIR OM2024/152

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the previously endorsed Council decisions relating to Local Government Reforms shown in Attachments 2 and 3.*
2. *Recommends that WALGA adopt the following Local Government Election Advocacy Positions:*

1. <i>Participation</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (b) – The sector supports compulsory voting at Local Government elections.</i>
2. <i>Terms of Office</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (a) – The sector continues to support four-year terms with a two-year split.</i>
3. <i>Voting Methods</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (b) – The sector supports Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) as the preferred voting method for general elections.</i>
4. <i>Internal Elections</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (a) – The sector supports First Past the Post (FPTP) as the preferred voting method for all internal elections.</i>
5. <i>Voting Accessibility</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (b) – Postal voting.</i>
6. <i>Method of Election of Shire President</i>	<i>Council support advocacy position (b) - Return to previous legislated provisions – all classes of local governments can decide, by absolute majority, the method for electing their Mayor or President.</i>

3. *Forwards the endorsed Local Government Election Advocacy positions and accompanying minutes to WALGA prior to 28 October 2024.*

**CARRIED 6/0**

**FOR: CRS BINKS, BOLAND, D'ATH, KENNAUGH, MELDRUM, MUIR**

**AGAINST: NIL**

### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2040

#### Performance

**Outcome PF.1:** Responsible planning and ownership of outcomes

**Strategy PF.1.4:** Regulate and provide information and community communication in accordance with statutory requirements and to best support decision making

**CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

WALGA Electoral Reform Discussion Paper (Attachment 2)

Officers held a workshop with Members of Council on 25 February 2025.

**DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

WALGA have requested the following advocacy positions be considered by Councils. Responses have been compiled based on previous Council decisions and workshop outcomes.

**Election Frequency**

<b>WALGA Question</b>	<b>Shire Response</b>
1. Does your Local Government support half spill elections every two years or full spill elections every four years?	The Shire supports half spill elections every two years.
2. What are the key considerations informing this view?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity, knowledge retention and mentorship for new Members of Council.</li> <li>• Provides a practical and cost-effective mechanism where a Councillor elected for a four-year term is unable to serve the full term. Resignation prior to the mid-point enables the vacancy to be filled at the next ordinary election, avoiding the need for a separate extraordinary election and the associated cost to the community.</li> </ul>
3. If full spill elections every four years were introduced, what transitional arrangements and consequential amendments may be required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative amendments to ensure staged transition arrangements (e.g. extension or reduction of current terms).</li> <li>• Clear communication strategy to the community and elected members regarding term changes.</li> <li>• Review of Council induction and training frameworks to accommodate a full new Council cohort.</li> <li>• Consideration of workforce planning and administrative impacts during full spill transition years.</li> </ul>
4. Any other comments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half spill elections better support governance stability, strategic continuity and corporate knowledge retention, particularly in regional local governments.</li> <li>• Full spill elections may increase governance risk in the first 12–18 months due to potential loss of corporate knowledge and committee experience.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to the impact on Committee continuity and for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, external member relationships.</li> </ul>

**Compulsory or Voluntary Voting**

<b>WALGA Question</b>	<b>Shire Response</b>
1. Does your Local Government support compulsory voting or voluntary voting in Local Government elections?	The Shire supports compulsory voting in Local Government Elections, whether every two years, or four years.

2. If the frequency of Local Government elections were changed to every 4 years, would your Local Government support compulsory or voluntary voting?	As above
3. What are the key considerations informing this view?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved voter participation rates and broader community representation.</li> <li>• Improves civic responsibility and awareness, enhancing an overall community understanding of Council's role.</li> <li>• Reduces the risk of unrepresentative outcomes.</li> <li>• Alignment with State election voting expectations to reduce community confusion.</li> </ul>
4. Any other comments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any move to compulsory voting should be supported by adequate community education and resourcing to ensure compliance processes are proportionate and administratively manageable.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to enforcement costs and administrative burden on regional local governments.</li> <li>• Clarification would be required on whether individuals on the Owner/Occupier roll would be obligated to vote under a compulsory voting system.</li> </ul>

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

As noted by WALGA, cost implications are a relevant consideration in assessing proposed electoral reform, however, due to a lack of detail in the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) costing methodology, it's not possible to confidently forecast the financial impact.

WALGA has advised that without detailed cost-modelling from the WAEC, the overall impact on local governments cannot be definitively determined. It is also acknowledged that any change in election frequency may have variable cost implications across local governments, depending on size and context.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

Nil

### **ADVOCACY**

This submission provides Council the opportunity to advise WALGA on the Shire's position for the purpose of informing the WALGA State Council Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Not submitting a response would forfeit Council's opportunity to contribute to sector-wide advocacy on matters affecting the function and operations of local government in WA.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorses the submission (Attachment 1) on electoral reforms for lodgment with the West Australian Local Government Association by 27 March 2026.

*The officers' recommendation was not moved.*

*Cr Boland moved the following motion:*

*During debate Cr Jean-Rice foreshadowed an alternative motion\*:*

*Debate then continued on Cr Boland's motion, before being put to vote.*

**MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR BOLAND, CR BELL OM2026/38**

That Council endorses the submission (Attachment 1) on electoral reforms for lodgement with the West Australian Local Government Association by 27 March 2026, with the following wording added to Table 1, Shire response to question 3:

- a) The Shire prefers a full spill election in 2029 to honour the full four-year terms of those elected in 2025, with any vacancies in 2027 to be for two-year terms.
- b) In the event of a full spill in 2027, the legislative amendments incorporate the principles that:
  - Those elected members whose terms have been reduced by the State Government by two years will not just be losing their elected office but will also be losing a considerable amount of income and should be compensated accordingly.
  - The liability to make such payments be borne by the State Government which has opted for this outcome.
  - The liability for such payments not be borne by the ratepayers of local governments.

LOST 2/6  
FOR: CR BELL AND CR BOLAND  
AGAINST: CRS D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER

**REASON:** The submission now does not deal with the situation of when a full spill would take place and does not deal with any issues of compensation of Councillors having their term ceased.

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*As the motion put by Cr Boland lost, Cr Jean-Rice then moved the foreshadowed motion:*

**\*FORESHADOWED MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR JEAN-RICE, CR MUIR OM2026/39**

That Council:

1. Endorses the submission (Attachment 1) on electoral reforms for lodgement with the West Australian Local Government Association by 27 March 2026, with the following wording added to Table 1, Shire response to question 3:

- a) Should a full spill occur, that it would occur in 2029.

CARRIED 8/0  
FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: NIL

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### 11.3.5. LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	FIN/42
<b>Report Author</b>	Emma O'Brien, Finance Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

It is a requirement of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* that payments made under delegated authority by the CEO are reported to Council on a monthly basis showing details of each account paid since the last such list was prepared.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. List of Payments for February 2026 [11.3.5.1 - 18 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the February 2026 List of Payments for \$4,591,966.90 as certified correct by the Chief Executive Officer.

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#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Where Council has delegated authority to the CEO to make payments from the Shire's bank accounts then under regulation 13(1) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* a list of such payments is to be prepared each month for noting by Council. The list of payments for February 2026 was prepared on 4 March 2026.

#### STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION

*Local Government Act 1995*, s 6.10

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* r.13

#### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

Nil

#### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W6:** We manage our finances responsibly, investing in services and assets that deliver sustainable, long-term value for now and the future

#### CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

Nil

**DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

Table 1 below provides a summary of the payments made and Table 2 makes comparison between payments for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

The List of Payments attachment provides further details as required under Regulation 13(1). These details are as follows:

- (a) The payee's name;
- (b) The amount of the payment;
- (c) The date of the payment; and
- (d) Sufficient information to identify the transaction.

In order to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs, the Shire's Finance team continually liaise with creditors paid by cheque to encourage them to switch to EFT.

**TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS MADE IN THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2026**

<b>MODE OF PAYMENT</b>	<b>CHEQUE / EFT NUMBES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Cheques</b>		<b>nil</b>
<b>EFT</b>	<b>108378 - 108805</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,222.68</b>
<b>Direct Debits</b>		<b>\$ 1,683,744.22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 4,591,966.90</b>

SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA 25 MARCH 2026

**TABLE 2 – COMPARISON WITH PRIOR YEAR OF PAYMENTS**

MONTH	2024-25				2025-26			
	CHEQUES	EFT/DD	TOTAL PAYMENTS	CUMULATIVE PAYMENTS	CHEQUES	EFT/DD	TOTAL PAYMENTS	CUMULATIVE PAYMENTS
July	Nil	\$ 5,524,178.15	\$ 5,524,178.15	\$ 5,524,178.15	Nil	\$ 4,105,745.15	\$ 4,105,745.15	\$ 4,105,745.15
August	Nil	\$ 2,154,102.51	\$ 2,154,102.51	\$ 7,678,280.66	Nil	\$ 5,335,877.15	\$ 5,335,877.15	\$ 9,441,622.30
September	Nil	\$ 3,861,331.53	\$ 3,861,331.53	\$ 11,539,612.19	Nil	\$ 4,971,770.96	\$ 4,971,770.96	\$14,413,393.26
October	Nil	\$ 17,330,030.90	\$ 17,330,030.90	\$ 28,869,643.09	Nil	\$ 9,964,965.62	\$ 9,964,965.62	\$ 24,378,358.88
November	\$ 486.00	\$ 4,298,085.40	\$ 4,298,571.40	\$ 33,168,214.49	Nil	\$ 6,765,385.33	\$ 6,765,385.33	\$ 31,143,744.21
December	Nil	\$ 4,552,994.70	\$ 4,552,994.70	\$ 37,721,209.19	\$ 383.90	\$ 18,122,531.70	\$18,122,915.60	\$ 49,266,659.81
January	Nil	\$ 4,171,551.29	\$ 4,171,551.29	\$ 41,892,760.48		\$ 4,927,392.02	\$ 4,927,392.02	\$ 54,194,051.83
February	Nil	\$ 3,963,331.09	\$ 3,963,331.09	\$ 45,856,091.57		\$ 4,591,966.90	\$ 4,591,966.90	\$ 58,786,018.73
March	\$ 452.95	\$ 7,195,496.78	\$ 7,195,949.73	\$ 53,052,041.30			\$ -	\$ -
April	Nil	\$ 4,874,918.51	\$ 4,874,918.51	\$ 57,926,959.81			\$ -	\$ -
May	Nil	\$ 5,142,580.45	\$ 5,142,580.45	\$ 63,069,540.26			\$ -	\$ -
June	\$ 165.75	\$ 5,550,921.07	\$ 5,551,086.82	\$ 68,620,627.08			\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 1,104.70	\$ 68,619,522.38	\$ 68,620,627.08		\$383.90	\$58,785,634.83	\$58,785,634.83	

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Nil

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

Nil

**ADVOCACY**

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR MUIR, CR KENNAUGH OM2026/40**

**That Council notes the February 2026 List of Payments for \$4,591,966.90 as certified correct by the Chief Executive Officer.**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.3.6. FINANCIAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT FOR JANUARY 2026

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
<b>File Reference</b>	FIN/14
<b>Report Author</b>	Angela Hickman, Finance Coordinator
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Melanie Stevens, Director Corporate and Customer Services
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Legislative

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#### IN BRIEF

- The monthly financial activity statement report is a standard financial reporting item prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* (FM Regs).
- Council is to consider the financial results for the period ending 31 January 2026.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. January 2026 - Capital Works Budget [**11.3.6.1** - 4 pages]
2. January 2026 - Monthly Financial Report [**11.3.6.2** - 24 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Monthly Financial Report for January 2026 in accordance with section 6.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations 34 and 35 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

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#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

The Shire is required to prepare a monthly Statement of Financial Activity, reporting on the sources and applications of funds as set out in the annual budget for that month with the following details:

1. annual budget estimates;
2. budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates;
3. actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates;
4. material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in (b) and (c); and
5. net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.

In addition, the Shire is required to prepare a monthly Statement of Financial Position, showing the financial position as at:

1. The last day of the previous month; and
2. The last day of the previous financial year.

Under Regulation 34(5) of the FM Regs Council are to adopt a material variance threshold every year. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 July 2025 (OM2025/90) Council adopted a monthly variance for reporting of material variances, where financial activity is greater than 10% and \$10,000.

#### **STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION**

Regulation 34 of the FM Regs requires a local government to prepare each month a Statement of Financial Activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget under Regulation 22(1) (d) of the FM Regs.

Regulation 35 of the FM Regulations was introduced from 1 July 2023, requiring the monthly financial report to include a Statement of Financial Position showing the financial position of the local government as at the last day of the previous month, and of the previous financial year.

#### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

Nil

#### **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W6:** We manage our finances responsibly, investing in services and assets that deliver sustainable, long-term value for now and the future.

#### **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

Business unit managers were provided the draft monthly financial reports for their business units and have provided their comments on variances greater than 10% and \$10,000.

#### **DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

The commentary contained in the body of this report is in line with *Financial Management Regulations* r34(2)(b) that requires commentary on material variances to the Statement of Financial Activity at the nature/type level.

The Statement of Financial Activity included in the monthly financial report shows an opening position on 1 July 2025 of \$3.126 million, being the true opening position as confirmed by the Office of the Auditor General, who have finalised their audit of the Shire's 2024-25 Annual Financial Report.

Operating revenue for the year to date is \$44.772 million, which is \$0.320 million above budget. An underbudget position exists in relation to Grants, Subsidies and Contributions due to timing of receipt of RAC Safer Speeds Trail funding (100% offset by an underspend in Materials and Contracts). Fees and Charges are over the budgeted position due to a combination of factors, including seasonal fluctuation in revenue from the holiday parks and increased waste disposal.

Operating expenditure for the year to date is \$31.804 million, which is \$2.612 million (7.59 %) below the budgeted spend for this period. Part of the underspend is due to employee costs, and also due to changes in the scoping of the ERP project and timing of other activities.

Actual employee expenses for the year to date were \$12,976 million, being \$0.944 million (6.78%) under budget. This underspent position has been reviewed as part of the mid-year budget review, although adjustments to leave provisions are still required.

The table below provides a breakdown of employee expenses at 31 January 2026.

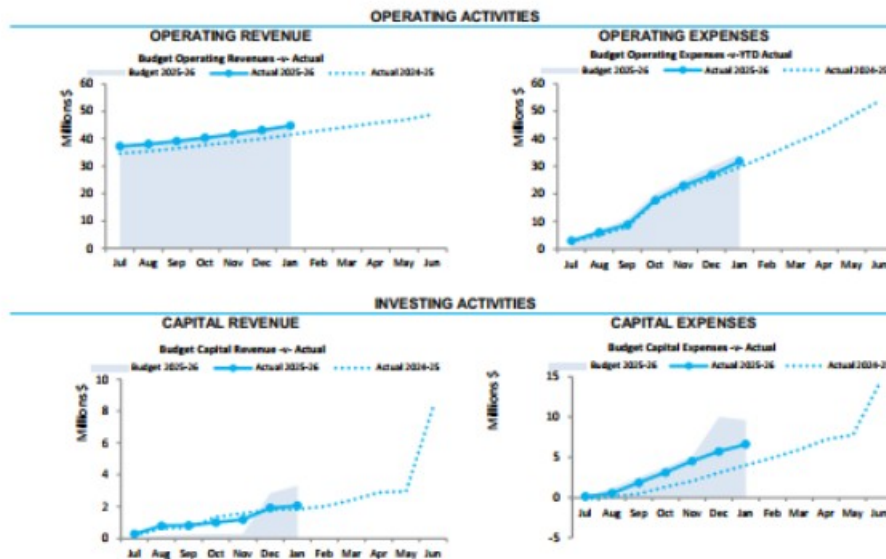
SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 25 MARCH 2026

Category	Amended Budget (\$ millions)	YTD Budget (\$ millions)	YTD Actual (\$ millions)	YTD Variance (\$ millions)
Salaries & Wages	\$ 18.673	\$ 7.886	\$ 7.177	\$ 0.709
Employee provisions	\$ 1.910	\$ 0.808	\$ 0.740	\$ 0.068
Superannuation	\$ 2.716	\$ 1.146	\$ 1.095	\$ 0.051
Workers compensation	\$ 0.234	\$ 0.234	\$ 0.118	\$ 0.117
Fringe benefits tax	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.024	\$ 0.018	\$ 0.006
Professional memberships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.002	\$ (0.002)
Recruitment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.029	\$ (0.029)
Training, education & conferences	\$ 0.477	\$ 0.204	\$ 0.126	\$ 0.078
Uniforms & protective clothing	\$ 0.090	\$ 0.040	\$ 0.041	\$ (0.000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24.147</b>	<b>\$ 10.343</b>	<b>\$ 9.346</b>	<b>\$ 0.996</b>

Capital grants, subsidies, and contributions recognised to 31 January 2026 total \$2.083 million, which is \$1.268 million below the forecasted year-to-date position. This variance is due to budget phasing, with the budget assuming the receipt of fire vehicles from DFES totalling \$2.500 million in value which have not yet arrived.

\$6.611 million of capital expenditure has been incurred year to date, which is \$2.999 million lower than budget. This includes a total of \$2.500 million that was budgeted for new fire vehicles not yet received that is mentioned above. A number of capital jobs are in progress, and amendments to the capital works program have been considered as part of the mid-year budget review.

Financial performance against budget is shown in the following charts:



Following is the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31 January 2026:

SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 25 MARCH 2026

**AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER SHIRE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026**

	Supplementary Information	Budget Estimates (a) \$	YTD Budget Estimates (b) \$	YTD Actual (c) \$	Variance* \$ (c) - (b)	Variance* % ((c) - (b))/(b)	Var.
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>							
<b>Revenue from operating activities</b>							
General rates		31,160,675	30,973,175	<b>30,800,101</b>	(173,074)	(0.56%)	▼
Grants, subsidies and contributions	13	2,285,179	1,422,777	<b>987,405</b>	(435,372)	(30.60%)	▼
Fees and charges		14,757,958	10,800,713	<b>11,545,386</b>	744,673	6.89%	▲
Interest revenue		1,932,066	1,232,100	<b>1,376,866</b>	144,766	11.75%	▲
Other revenue		93,783	22,765	<b>20,357</b>	(2,408)	(10.58%)	▼
Profit on asset disposals	6	86,502	0	<b>41,708</b>	41,708	0.00%	▲
		<b>50,316,163</b>	<b>44,451,530</b>	<b>44,771,823</b>	320,293	0.72%	
<b>Expenditure from operating activities</b>							
Employee costs		(24,012,209)	(13,919,478)	<b>(12,975,918)</b>	943,560	6.78%	▲
Materials and contracts		(14,092,390)	(8,325,260)	<b>(6,951,688)</b>	1,373,572	16.50%	▲
Utility charges		(1,492,364)	(773,026)	<b>(660,825)</b>	112,201	14.51%	▲
Depreciation		(15,455,195)	(9,103,745)	<b>(9,153,938)</b>	(50,193)	(0.55%)	▼
Finance costs		(508,036)	(264,994)	<b>(222,841)</b>	42,153	15.91%	▲
Insurance		(995,749)	(995,749)	<b>(969,633)</b>	26,116	2.62%	▲
Other expenditure		(1,629,324)	(1,033,636)	<b>(829,916)</b>	203,720	19.71%	▲
Loss on asset disposals	6	(181,085)	0	<b>(38,847)</b>	(38,847)	0.00%	▼
		<b>(58,366,352)</b>	<b>(34,415,888)</b>	<b>(31,803,606)</b>	2,612,282	7.59%	
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities	Note 2(b)	15,549,778	9,103,745	<b>9,151,077</b>	47,332	0.52%	▲
<b>Amount attributable to operating activities</b>		<b>7,499,589</b>	<b>19,139,387</b>	<b>22,119,294</b>	2,979,907	15.57%	
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>							
<b>Inflows from investing activities</b>							
Proceeds from capital grants, subsidies and contributions	14	8,771,611	3,327,354	<b>2,058,356</b>	(1,268,998)	(38.14%)	▼
Proceeds from disposal of assets	6	490,127	0	<b>200,753</b>	200,753	0.00%	▲
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans		11,500	11,500	<b>6,500</b>	(5,000)	(43.48%)	▼
		<b>9,273,238</b>	<b>3,338,854</b>	<b>2,265,609</b>	(1,073,245)	(32.14%)	
<b>Outflows from investing activities</b>							
Payments for financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans		(20,000)	0	<b>0</b>	0	0.00%	
Payments for property, plant and equipment	5	(7,096,721)	(3,912,205)	<b>(1,044,130)</b>	2,868,075	73.31%	▲
Payments for construction of infrastructure	5	(15,145,395)	(5,698,255)	<b>(5,567,085)</b>	131,170	2.30%	▲
		<b>(22,262,116)</b>	<b>(9,610,460)</b>	<b>(6,611,215)</b>	2,999,245	31.21%	
<b>Amount attributable to investing activities</b>		<b>(12,988,878)</b>	<b>(6,271,606)</b>	<b>(4,345,606)</b>	1,926,000	30.71%	
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>							
<b>Inflows from financing activities</b>							
Transfer from reserves	4	10,629,863	996,865	<b>996,865</b>	0	0.00%	
		<b>10,629,863</b>	<b>996,865</b>	<b>996,865</b>	0	0.00%	
<b>Outflows from financing activities</b>							
Repayment of borrowings	10	(1,084,015)	(583,615)	<b>(584,209)</b>	(594)	(0.10%)	
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities	11	(73,097)	(44,950)	<b>(58,279)</b>	(13,329)	(29.65%)	▼
Transfer to reserves	4	(7,109,832)	(633,458)	<b>(700,779)</b>	(67,321)	(10.63%)	▼
		<b>(8,266,944)</b>	<b>(1,262,023)</b>	<b>(1,343,267)</b>	(81,244)	(6.44%)	
<b>Amount attributable to financing activities</b>		<b>2,362,919</b>	<b>(265,158)</b>	<b>(346,402)</b>	(81,244)	(30.64%)	
<b>MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT</b>							
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year		3,126,371	3,126,371	<b>3,126,371</b>	0	0.00%	
Amount attributable to operating activities		7,499,589	19,139,387	<b>22,119,294</b>	2,979,907	15.57%	▲
Amount attributable to investing activities		(12,988,878)	(6,271,606)	<b>(4,345,606)</b>	1,926,000	30.71%	▲
Amount attributable to financing activities		2,362,919	(265,158)	<b>(346,402)</b>	(81,244)	(30.64%)	▼
<b>Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>15,728,993</b>	<b>20,553,657</b>	4,824,663	30.67%	▲

**KEY INFORMATION**

▲ ▼ Indicates a variance between Year to Date (YTD) Budget and YTD Actual data as per the adopted materiality threshold.

▲ Indicates a variance with a positive impact on the financial position.

▼ Indicates a variance with a negative impact on the financial position.

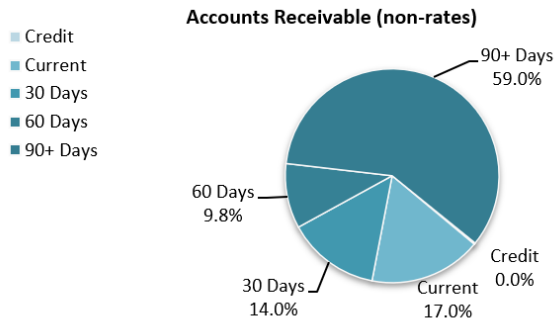
Refer to Note 3 for an explanation of the reasons for the variance.

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

**Outstanding Debtors**

The following charts compare the outstanding balance of rates and services and the outstanding balance of rates and services in arrears for the current and previous years.

<b>Rates &amp; Services Receivable</b>	<b>30 June 2025</b>	<b>31 Jan 2026</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Opening arrears previous years	1,133,789	2,227,185
Levied this year	34,566,402	36,310,536
Less - collections to date	(33,473,005)	(30,273,574)
<b>Gross rates collectable</b>	<b>2,227,185</b>	<b>8,264,147</b>
Allowance for impairment of rates receivable	(82,422)	(82,422)
<b>Net rates collectable</b>	<b>2,144,764</b>	<b>8,181,725</b>
<b>% Collected</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>78.6%</b>



The largest portion of the debt outstanding for more than 90 days relates to a fine billed but not yet paid in full.

**Investments**

At 31 January the Shire’s cash on hand, deposits and investments totaled \$49.785 million including term deposits of \$40.000 million.

Of the \$0.96 million investment interest received in December 2025, \$0.107 million was attributed to interest on reserves and \$0.011million was reversed from municipal investments.

**Term Deposits – Cash Management**

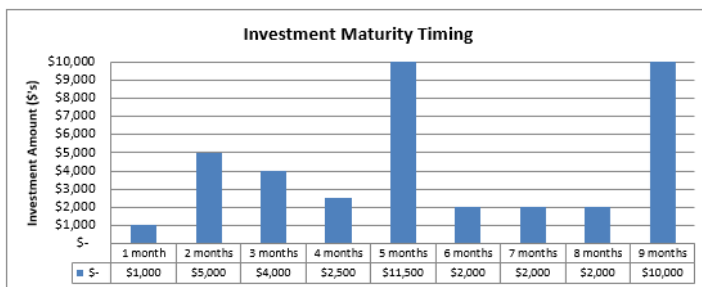
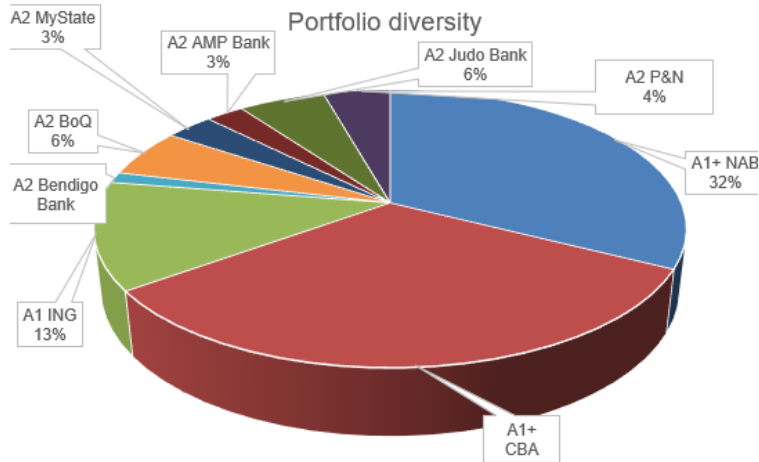
At 31 January 2026, the Shire had the following short-term facilities (term deposits).

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Maturity Date	Term (days)	Institution (ADI)	Credit Rating	Investment Principal (\$ millions)	Interest Rate	Interest Due (\$ millions)
23/02/2026	182	BOQ	A-2	\$ 1.000	4.05%	\$ 0.020
2/03/2026	181	Bendigo Bank	A-2	\$ 0.500	3.95%	\$ 0.010
2/03/2026	181	Judo Bank	A-2	\$ 0.500	4.00%	\$ 0.010
10/03/2026	120	CBA	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.18%	\$ 0.027
16/03/2026	91	NAB	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.05%	\$ 0.020
1/04/2026	120	CBA	A-1+	\$ 0.500	4.22%	\$ 0.007
7/04/2026	182	AMP	A-2	\$ 1.000	4.00%	\$ 0.020
9/04/2026	150	CBA	A-1+	\$ 2.500	4.20%	\$ 0.043
4/05/2026	182	P&N	A-2	\$ 0.500	4.32%	\$ 0.011
11/05/2026	181	CBA	A-1+	\$ 1.000	4.21%	\$ 0.021
19/05/2026	183	NAB	A-1+	\$ 1.000	4.10%	\$ 0.021
1/06/2026	180	Judo Bank	A2	\$ 0.500	4.45%	\$ 0.011
15/06/2026	182	NAB	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.25%	\$ 0.042
15/06/2026	182	CBA	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.32%	\$ 0.043
16/06/2026	182	Judo Bank	A-2	\$ 1.250	4.55%	\$ 0.028
16/06/2026	182	BOQ	A-2	\$ 1.250	4.50%	\$ 0.028
16/06/2026	182	P&N	A-2	\$ 1.250	4.62%	\$ 0.029
16/06/2026	182	MyState	A-2	\$ 1.250	4.62%	\$ 0.029
23/06/2026	182	NAB	A-1+	\$ 1.000	4.25%	\$ 0.021
30/06/2026	210	CBA	A-1+	\$ 1.000	4.30%	\$ 0.025
15/07/2026	212	CBA	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.36%	\$ 0.051
15/08/2026	243	CBA	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.39%	\$ 0.058
11/09/2026	270	NAB	A-1+	\$ 2.000	4.35%	\$ 0.064
14/10/2026	365	ING	A1	\$ 5.000	4.14%	\$ 0.207
23/10/2026	365	NAB	A-1+	\$ 3.500	4.10%	\$ 0.144
28/10/2026	330	NAB	A-1+	\$ 1.500	4.30%	\$ 0.058
				\$ 40.000		\$ 1.048

During January 2026 no term deposits matured.

The weighted average interest rate on all investments held on 31 January 2026 was 4.25%



**In-Kind Support**

During January 2026 the following fees & charges have been waived:

- Nil

During January 2026 the following donations were approved:

- \$5,000 to the Southwest Academy of Sport (OM2026/9)

**Reserves**

Monthly interest on reserve balances was processed for January 2026

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Monthly financial performance will influence the Long-Term Financial Plan by providing actual revenue and expenditure parameters to compare against forecast results.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

Nil

**ADVOCACY**

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

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**CR KENNAUGH, CR FORTE OM2026/41**

**That Council receives the Monthly Financial Report for January 2026 in accordance with section 6.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations 34 and 35 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.**

**CARRIED 8/0**  
**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER**  
**AGAINST: NIL**

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### 11.3.7. COUNCIL DECISION ACTION LIST - JULY 2025 - DECEMBER 2025

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<b>Location/Address</b>	Shire Augusta Margaret River
<b>Applicant/Landowner</b>	N/A
<b>File Reference</b>	GOV/61
<b>Report Author</b>	Emma Dixon, Governance Officer
<b>Authorising Officer</b>	Ian McLeod, Manager Legal and Governance
<b>Authority/Discretion</b>	Information Purposes

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#### IN BRIEF

- This report is provided to Council to show the action status of Council resolutions for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 December 2025 and to provide a comparison in reporting statistics from the previous six months.
- Attachment 1 lists the decisions which have been made since July 2025 and allows Members of Council to track the progress of resolutions of Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. OCM Decision Log [11.3.7.1 - 7 pages]

#### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the 77 resolutions of Ordinary and Special Meetings for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 December 2025 contained in Attachment 1, of which 69 have been completed or require no further action; and
  2. Notes the status of the eight items that are in progress.
- 

#### LOCATION PLAN

Nil

#### BACKGROUND

The Council is charged with the duty to responsibly govern the local government's affairs (s 2.7 *Local Government Act 1995*) and does so by making well informed and duly considered decisions at its monthly Ordinary Meetings and any other Special Meetings that are called.

On a monthly basis, or as actions occur, updates on the progress status of Council decisions are made within the Council Meeting Decisions Action List. Of the 77 decisions that were determined by Council during Ordinary and Special Council Meetings between 1 July 2025 to 30 December 2025, 69 have been completed or require no further action. Those items marked 'In Progress' have been rolled over for continued reporting, updating and completion.

#### STATUTORY AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO DECISION

Under section 5.41 of the *Local Government Act 1995* one of the listed functions of the CEO is to "(c) *cause council decisions to be implemented*". A Council Decisions Action List is used by the CEO and staff to regularly update the action status of all Council resolutions so that timely implementation of

decisions can be tracked, and so that relevant and accurate information can be passed on to Councillors and the community.

**PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

Nil

**STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2025-2035**

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W4:** We demonstrate ethical leadership at all levels in our organisation, making decisions in an open, transparent and accountable way

**Focus Area:** How we work

**Outcome Statement W7:** We provide a supportive, empowering and safe environment that encourages Council and staff to deliver to their best potential

**CONSULTATION AND ADVICE**

- Directors
- Managers
- Reporting Officers

**DISCUSSION / OFFICER COMMENTS**

The following information provides a breakdown of how many items have been raised by Directorates, Members of Council, and Special Meetings in the six months between 1 July 2025 to 30 December 2025.

	Number of items	Action Status
Chief Executive's Office (CEO)	2	All actions complete / no further action required.
Sustainable Development and Infrastructure (SDI)	19	15 actions complete / no further action required, 4 actions in progress.
Sustainable Economy and Communities (SEC)	4	3 actions complete / no further action required, 1 action in progress.
Corporate and Community Services (CCS)	45	43 actions complete / no further action required, 2 actions in progress.
Members of Council (MOC)	3	All actions complete / no further action required.
Special Meetings of Council	4	3 actions complete / no further action required, 1 action in progress.
<b>Total number of decisions made</b>	<b>77</b>	8 actions in progress 69 actions completed/no further action required

The following table lists the decisions that are still being actioned for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 December 2025:

Council Decisions – Actions in Progress			
Date	Item	Decision Number	Progress Status

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23.07.25	11.3.5 LAND OPTIMISATION POLICY AND LAND FRAMEWORK	OM2025/91	Council report scheduled for 29 April 2026 OCM.
27.08.25	11.2.1 FINAL DRAFT BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (BRMP)	OM2025/107	A briefing on a proposed supplementary resilience-based approach to further strengthen community resilience yet to be given.
27.08.25	11.2.5 CSRFF 2025/26 FORWARD PLANNING GRANTS ROUND	OM2025/111	Recommendation point 4: The endorsed applications cannot be submitted as the funding rounds have not been opened.  Recommendation point 5: The absence has been referred to the “Advocacy Committee”, and preliminary discussions have been had with Regional Manager Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport.
27.08.25	11.4.2 REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY STRATEGY	OM2025/120	Phase 1 (data collection) is nearing completion, and phase 2 engagement of contractor to support strategy development is commencing.
24.09.25	11.2.4 REPORT ON PETITION - FLOODING ON MANN, TUNBRIDGE AND FARRELLY STREETS	OM2025/128	To be evaluated as a candidate for the 2026/27 budget process.
12.11.25	6.1 BEACH BUS BUDGET AMENDMENT	SM2025/3	Council report scheduled for 25 March 2026 OCM.
17.12.25	11.2.2 COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE - RIFLEBUTTS TO GAS BAY CONCEPT PLAN	OM2025/167	Council report scheduled for 29 April 2026 OCM.
17.12.25	11.3.3 PROPOSAL FOR POLOCROSSE FIELDS ON RESERVE 18838	OM2025/171	The Shire has entered into lease negotiations. The Polocrosse are currently working on their Planning application.

The following table lists the decisions that are still being actioned for the period 1 January 2025 – 30 June 2025:

<b>Council Decisions – Actions in Progress</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision Number</b>	<b>Progress Status</b>
22.01.25	15.1 WALGA RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY AGREEMENT	OM2025/8	Discussions are underway with multiple stakeholders to investigate other sites and streetlighting to meeting Net Zero 2030 targets.
26.02.25	11.2.4 COWARAMUP INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY	OM2025/16	Cowaramup Precinct Plan report to be presented to Council at the March OCM.

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28.05.25	11.2.1 REPORT ON PETITION – REQUEST TO MODIFY THE WITCHCLIFFE TENNIS COURT PLAN TO PRESERVE PARKING BAYS	OM2025/53	The project to be considered in next year's design budget as part of the Forward Capital Works Program.
28.05.25	11.3.2 RATING REVIEW AND PROPOSED 2025-26 DIFFERENTIAL RATES FOR PUBLIC ADVERTISING	OM2025/55	CEO to provide an update on progress against the Rating Review Proposed Way Forward report and next steps by June 2026.
25.06.25	11.3.5 CARETAKERS HOUSE – OLD SETTLEMENT, RESERVE 39081	OM2025/74	Maintenance works are yet to begin.

The following table lists the decisions that are still being actioned for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024:

<b>Council Decisions – Actions in Progress</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision Number</b>	<b>Progress Status</b>
25.09.24	11.2.1 AUGUSTA STREETSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN - FINAL ADOPTION	OM2024/138	In the process of forming a community reference group, with discussions expected to commence prior to the end of the year.
25.09.24	11.2.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC) MEETING - 13 AUGUST 2024	OM2024/143	The potential alternative to provide emergency access to the beach was included in the draft Coastal Infrastructure Plan presented to Council on 28 January 2026. Council subsequently requested further analysis of the costs of maintaining the boat ramp to a higher level of service. A report is to be reported back to Council in April 2026.

The following table lists the decisions that are still being actioned for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024:

<b>Council Decisions – Actions in Progress</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision Number</b>	<b>Progress Status</b>
28.02.24	11.3.1 OUTCOMES OF GENERAL ELECTORS MEETING	OM2024/25, OM20224/26	The Agricultural Policy Final Adoption will be put to Council in March 2026.
28.02.24	11.2.1 REVIEW OF CAPES REGION BOATING STRATEGY	OM2024/28	Item was deferred. Awaiting confirmation of when item will come back to Council.
28.02.24	12.1 SIGNAGE AT GNARABUP BAY AND FLINDERS BAY- ECOLOGICAL AND	OM2024/33	Meeting with designers in the coming month. It is proposed that this artwork will be ready for install by the end of the 25/26

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	CULTURAL VALUES- CR MUIR		financial year. This has been expanded to Gracetown.
13.03.24	11.2.1 REVIEW OF SHORT STAY ACCOMMODATION POLICY	OM2024/41	Workshop to Council in March and report to follow.
13.03.24	11.2.2 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES	OM2024/42	Shire officers have contacted a local electrical contractor to investigate the feasibility of installing backup generator power to the Augusta Shire Offices and/or Augusta Radio Station, with a third possible option of backup generator power being installed at the Augusta Evacuation Centre (Recreation Centre). An officer's report outlining the feasibility and financial implications of the installation will be submitted to a future Ordinary Council Meeting. An update on any submissions received will be provided at the next LEMC meeting in November.

The following table lists all other outstanding actions:

Council Decisions – Actions in Progress			
Date	Item	Decision Number	Progress Status
13.12.23	11.2.3 GRACETOWN SHARED PATH-FEASIBILITY STUDY	OM2023/220	A feasibility study of the western segment and is currently preparing a feasibility study for the eastern segment. A consultant has been engaged for this work and should be completed by the end of financial year.
27.04.22, 14.10.20	15.1 LOT 2 STIRLING STREET, AUGUSTA	OM2022/70, OM2020/201	Officers are undertaking preliminary legal, title and estate enquiries prior to commencing the statutory process under s 6.74 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to seek re-vestment of the land in the Crown.

The following table lists decisions that were outstanding for the last reporting period, which have since been completed:

Council Decisions – Actioned			
Date	Item	Decision Number	Progress Status
26.03.25	11.2.4 CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN – TOWARDS RESILIENCE	OM2025/32	Complete
26.03.25	11.2.2 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY	OM2025/31	Complete

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28.05.25	11.3.3 PROPOSED LEASE TO SCENIC HELICOPTERS, MARGARET RIVER AIRSTRIP	OM2025/56	Complete
11.12.24	11.4.3 ILLEGAL CAMPING	OM2024/190	Complete
24.04.24	12.1 ILLEGAL CAMPING	OM2024/69	Complete
13.03.19	12.2 PROVISION OF TOILETS AT GAS BAY	OM2019/53	Complete
10.10.18	11.3.1 LEEUWIN NATURALISTE 2050 CYCLING STRATEGY - FOR ADOPTION	OM2015/247	Complete

All decisions prior to January 2018 are complete.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations**

Nil

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

**Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets**

Where applicable, environmental implications are considered by Members of Council when making decisions, as Council has made a commitment to ensure an integrated approach to protecting the natural environment for current and future generations.

Decisions of Council are made in the best interests of the community, so timely and effective implementation of these resolutions by the CEO leads to a better resourced and better serviced community.

Efficient and well-planned implementation of Council decisions by CEO direction and high-quality staff leads to fewer staff hours spent on projects and better risk mitigation, which can lead to cost savings into the future.

**ADVOCACY**

Nil

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nil

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR KENNAUGH, CR MUIR OM2026/42**

That Council:

1. Notes the 77 resolutions of Ordinary and Special Meetings for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 December 2025 contained in Attachment 1, of which 69 have been completed or require no further action; and
2. Notes the status of the eight items that are in progress.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**FOR: CRS BELL, BOLAND, D'ATH, FORTE, JEAN-RICE, KENNAUGH, MUIR, WINTER  
AGAINST: NIL**

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# 11.4

## Sustainable Economy and Communities

Nil

## **12. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

*The agenda stated that Cr D'Ath's Notice of Motion pertaining to 'Safety on Intersection of Redgate Road/Caves Road' was to be published as a late report, however, the item was withdrawn by the CEO during the meeting, and as such no report was published.*

## **13. MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING**

### **13.1 Safety on Intersection of Redgate Road/Caves Road – Cr D'Ath**

*Cr D'Ath gave notice of the following motion regarding Safety on Intersection of Redgate Road/Caves Road to be considered at the 22 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

#### **MOTION**

That Council requests the CEO to investigate and implement safety improvements at the Redgate Road/Caves Road intersection, in consultation with Main Roads WA including:

- a) Implementation of short-term improvements to signage, pruning for sightlines and warning of the approaching intersection under current operational budgets and with Main Roads WA's contribution.
- b) The implementation of rumble strips on the Redgate Road eastern and western approaches to the intersection and amending the 2025/26 budget to include an allocation of \$17,000 for this purpose.
- c) Undertaking longer term planning for a more significant modification to the intersection to address road safety issues.

## **14. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

### **14.1. Members**

Nil

### **14.2. Chief Executive Officer**

Nil

## **15. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

## **16. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

*The Shire President thanked all in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.*