General Meeting of Electors Minutes

6:30pm

Monday, 31 March 2025

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In Person
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)

www.sjshire.wa.gov.au

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Notice of Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale held on Wednesday, 31 March 2025 in the Council Chambers, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Civic Centre, 6 Paterson Street, Mundijong, commencing at 6:30pm.

Minutes

1. Attendances and apologies (including leave of absence):

Attendees:

President: R Coales……..Presiding Member

Councillors: N Bishop
T Duggin
R Jerrett
C Mazzini

Officers: Mr P Martin.....Chief Executive Officer
Mr B Oliver……..Director Community Engagement
Mr N Scidone…….....Acting Director Infrastructure Services
Mr F Sullivan.....Director Corporate Services
Mr A Trosic.....Director Development Services
Mr F Jamodien…….Executive Manager Operations
Ms C Mortimer.....Manager Corporate Performance
Ms H Ross……Manager Finance
Ms C Mortimer…….....Manager Corporate Performance
Ms D Merritt……Coordinator Governance
Ms E Hickey……Governance Officer
Ms J Bavaro……PA to Director Corporate Services (Minute Taker)

Leave of Absence:

Apologies: Cr Shaye Mack

Members of the Public: 19

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The Presiding Member, President Coales declared the meeting open at 6:30pm and welcomed members of the public, Councillors, and Staff to the 2023 / 2024 General Meeting of Electors.

The Presiding Member, President Coales advised members of the gallery that the meeting is being live streamed. If you are asking a public question, making a statement or putting forward a motion, this will also be live streamed. Members of the public are reminded that no other visual or audio recording of this meeting by any other means is allowed.

The procedures for the meeting are as specified in the Act and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*. The legislation states that the procedure to be followed at the meeting is to be determined by the person presiding at the meeting.

The Presiding Member, President Coales advised that the meeting will be conducted generally in a manner consistent with the Shire's Standing Orders.

Regulation 18 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* states that:

1. Each elector who is present at a general or special meeting of electors is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided at the meeting but does not have to vote.
2. All decisions at a general or special meeting of electors are to be made by a simple majority of votes.
3. Voting at a general or special meeting of electors is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret.

The structure of the meeting shall be:

- Public Questions of which prior notice has been given.
- Public Questions received from the floor.
- Public Statements of which prior notice has been given.
- Public Statements received from the floor.
- Motions of which prior notice has been given.
- Motions received from the floor.

Each elector wishing to ask a question may ask a maximum of three questions related to the purpose of the meeting.

Public statements must be not greater than three minutes in length.

Motions may be debated with speakers for and against the motion. No speaker may speak for greater than 5 minutes regarding a motion.

The provisions related to conduct that operate in the Standing Orders are to apply. This means that each person present is to extend due courtesy and respect to all in attendance.

Electors were provided with a voting card. When a motion is called for a vote electors are to raise the card to determine if the motion is carried or lost.

Decisions made at the electors' meeting will be considered at a future Council Meeting, in accordance with legislation.

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2. Annual Report, incorporating Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024:

2.1 President's Report:

Good evening residents and ratepayers.

I am pleased to present the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's 2023-24 Annual Report, reflecting significant achievements across community development, advocacy, and infrastructure planning. These accomplishments underscore our unwavering commitment to fostering a thriving, liveable, and connected community.

One of the year's most notable milestones was the adoption of the Council Plan 2023-2033. This comprehensive 10-year strategy outlines a clear vision and priorities for the Shire's growth, ensuring we meet the needs of our rapidly expanding population while planning for sustainable development.

During the latter half of the financial year, we intensified advocacy efforts to secure vital infrastructure and resources in the lead-up to the 2025 State and Federal elections. This included high-level discussions with key government leaders and strategic collaboration with the City of Rockingham on critical road repairs, such as Mundijong Road. These initiatives are pivotal to supporting the Shire's growth with robust and future-ready infrastructure.

As one of the fastest-growing local government areas in Australia, the Shire prioritised managing growth to enhance residents' lifestyles and opportunities. A standout achievement was our focus on youth engagement. The second annual Career and Enterprise Expo, held in partnership with Byford Secondary College, and the launch of the Youth Skill Up program, exemplify our dedication to equipping young people with valuable skills and connections to potential employers.

Our community events continued to foster unity and a sense of belonging. The SJ Christmas Street Festival and the Christmas Lights Competition brought joy and celebration to the Shire, showcasing the vibrant community spirit of our residents.

Advocating to the State Government Metronet Project, we achieved significant progress on the Byford Rail Extension, which will greatly enhance connectivity to Perth and set the foundation for the Byford Town Centre. The new train station is set to become a dynamic hub, supporting local businesses and creating a stronger sense of community. With an estimated 3,450 daily commuters, this transformative project will substantially improve residents' quality of life.

In alignment with our commitment to environmental sustainability, the Shire installed two new water drinking stations in local reserves to support and protect native wildlife, particularly the endangered black cockatoo. This initiative highlights our dedication to preserving the natural environment and fostering a thriving ecosystem.

The progress achieved in the 2023/24 financial year is a testament to the Shire's commitment to its residents. As we continue to strive toward our shared vision of a welcoming and inclusive community, we remain dedicated to building on these achievements and working collaboratively with all stakeholders.

This report reflects our collective efforts and demonstrates the Shire's focus on creating a welcoming community where everyone feels at home.

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2.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report:

The 2023-24 financial year has been a period of substantial growth and transformation for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, marked by significant achievements and enhanced community engagement.

The Shire successfully met three Key Performance Indicators outlined in its Corporate Business Plan. Notably, 83 per cent of strategic operating projects scheduled for completion were delivered on time. Additionally, 92 per cent of planned road projects were constructed within the year. This included vital upgrades to Gossage Road, Mundijong Road, Kingsbury Drive, and Jarrahdale Road, as well as rehabilitation works on Briggs and Nettleton Roads.

For the third consecutive year, the Shire maintained a Financial Health Indicator above 70, achieving a score of 73 in 2023-24. This performance was acknowledged by the Office of the Auditor General in its Local Government 2022-23 Financial Audit Results report, which recognised the Shire as a best-practice entity for the timeliness and quality of its financial reporting and controls.

The implementation of OneComm, a powerful information-sharing and operational efficiency platform, has progressed significantly. Operational crews have already adopted the system, resulting in faster response times for maintenance and repairs, including urgent issues such as fallen trees. These efficiencies are expected to grow as OneComm becomes fully integrated into daily operations.

The Shire's Volunteer Bushfire Brigades have also embraced OneComm to streamline the management of resources, time, and equipment. This integration allows for greater focus on training and lifesaving services, enhancing overall efficiency and responsiveness.

Following the closure of the Watkins Road Waste Transfer Station due to asbestos contamination, the Shire implemented a range of measures to mitigate the impact on residents. These included scheduled green waste collection services, a bookable hard waste verge collection service, and the provision of tip passes to the Armadale Landfill and Recycling Facility, ensuring residents could easily dispose of bulky waste.

Mundijong remains a key planning priority, with three new residential estates under development. Over the next 30 years, these projects are expected to deliver nearly 20,000 new homes, addressing critical housing needs in Western Australia. The Shire continues to collaborate with developers and the State Government to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support this growth.

The Shire launched a new Customer Contact Centre this year, utilising a cloud-based system to improve resident engagement, address service gaps, and enhance communication efficiency.

Significant upgrades were also made to Shire offices, including new toilet and shower facilities, a modern kitchen, and a revamped lounge area. Improvements to the depot included a workshop extension, a shade canopy, a paved patio, and enhanced access to amenities. These enhancements aim to create a safer, more collaborative, and productive workplace.

To further enhance service delivery, the Shire introduced the position of Executive Manager Operations. This role oversees parks and gardens, facility maintenance,

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waste, and fleet services, while strengthening the capacity of the Infrastructure Directorate to deliver major capital works programs.

The achievements of 2023-24 reflect the dedication of the Council, staff, and the community. These collective efforts have allowed the Shire to achieve significant milestones and lay a strong foundation for continued progress.

Together, we are shaping a future for the Shire that is thriving, liveable, and connected

2.3 Auditor's Report:

Mr Frazer Sullivan, Director Corporate Services read the Opinion from the 2023-2024 Independent Auditor's Report.

Independent Auditors Report 2024 to the Council of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report.

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (Shire) which comprises:

- the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Financial Activity for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial report is:

- based on proper accounts and records
- presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of the operations of the Shire for the year ended 30 June 2024 and its financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section below.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Restatement of Comparative balances

I draw attention to Note 34 of the financial report which states that the amounts reported in the previously issued 30 June 2023 financial report have been restated and disclosed as comparatives in this financial report. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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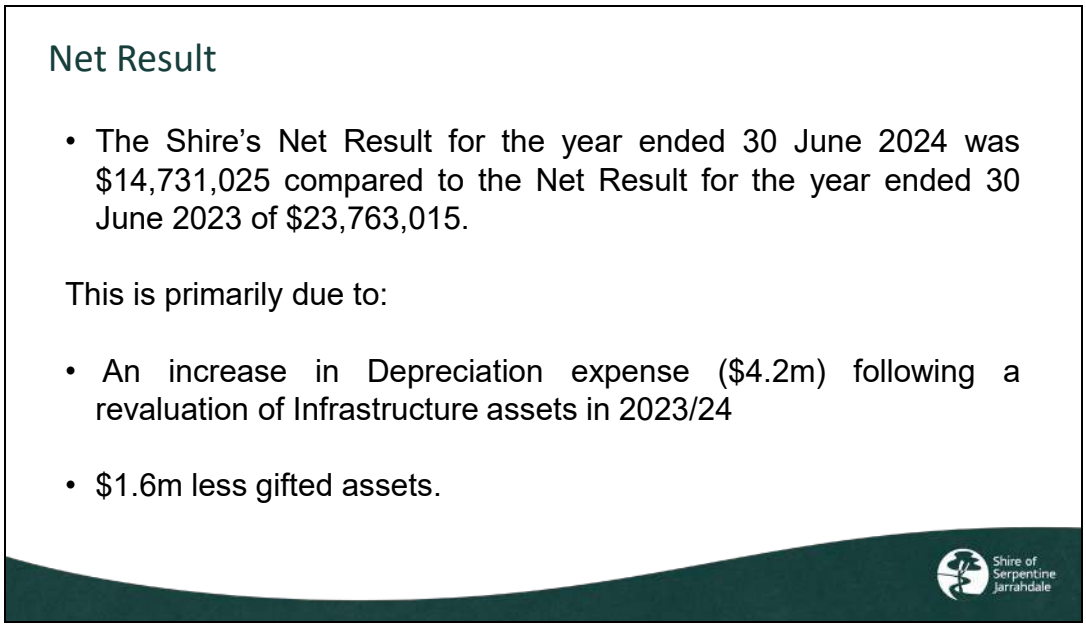
Director Corporate Services Presentation:

The Director Corporate Services explained the Annual Report – Summary of Results:



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Financial Health Indicators

- The Financial Health Indicator is a measurement of a Local Government's overall financial health and is calculated based on allocating a score for each ratio against which all local governments are measured.
- The Shire's Financial Health Indicator Score for the year end 30 June 2024 is 72 which is higher than the benchmark of 70.

Financial Health Indicators

The FHI Score of 72 is greater than the FHI benchmark.

Description	What it Represents	Benchmark	2024
Current Ratio	The Shire's ability to meet its short-term financial obligations using unrestricted assets	1.00	1.41
Asset Consumption Ratio	This ratio measures the extent to which depreciable assets have been consumed by comparing their written down value to their replacement cost.	0.50	0.63
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	This ratio measures the Shire's ability to fund its projected asset renewals and replacements in the future	0.75	1.27
Asset Sustainability Ratio	This ratio indicates whether the Shire is replacing or renewing its existing non-financial assets at a pace consistent with the rate at which its overall asset stock is depreciating.	0.90	0.90
Debt Service Cover Ratio	A measure of the Shire's ability to repay its debt based on how much cash it can access compared to the total of its debt obligations	2.00	10.52
Operating Surplus Ratio	A measure of the Shires ability to cover its operational costs and have money left for capital projects and other purposes.	0.01	(0.15)
Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio	A measure of a Shire's ability to cover its operating costs through revenue it generates itself.	0.40	0.80
Financial Health Indicator Score		**70**	**72**

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Financial Health Indicators

The FHI Score of 72 is greater than the FHI benchmark.

Description	Benchmark	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Current Ratio	1.00	1.41	1.55	1.80	2.72	1.45
Asset Consumption Ratio	0.50	0.63	0.82	0.75	0.75	0.73
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	0.75	1.27	1.04	0.71	1.02	0.93
Asset Sustainability Ratio	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.95	0.55	0.85
Debt Service Cover Ratio	2.00	10.52	6.04	6.21	5.92	10.61
Operating Surplus Ratio	0.01	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.05)
Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio	0.40	0.80	0.82	0.80	0.82	0.85
Financial Health Indicator Score	70	72	74	73	69	72

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Assets

The Shire received 1 Significant Management Letter Finding

The Shire found and recognised previously contributed developer assets. Given the growth corridor the Shire finds itself in, this is a risk the Shire needs to appropriately manage going forward to ensure completeness and accuracy of assets reported in the financial report."

This was the result of the Shire's journey of continuous improvement in managing its Asset Data.

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Fixed Assets

The Shire's growth rate and creation and ownership of new asset (both built and gifted) is significant. The below table illustrates this growth over the past four financial years:

Item		FY22-23 ($)	FY21-22 ($)	FY20-21 ($)	% Change
Fixed Assets (Depreciable Assets at Replacement Cost)	743,312,076	715,884,533*	596,882,803	573,740,979	29.6%

This combined with asset revaluations has resulted in a 59.84% increase in depreciation over the same period.

* Includes revaluation of Roads, footpath, drainage and parks in 2022/23.

Fixed Assets - Roads

LGA Name	Access Road	Local Distributor	Regional Distributor	Distributor A	Distributor B	Total Roads	24/25 Rate Revenue
City of Canning	367.28	113.81		76.18	31.84	589.11	$ 87,901,966
City of Gosnells	568.92	105.9	4.37	94.05	38.13	811.37	$ 82,395,144
City of Armadale	609.68	96.79	26.76	49.18	48.08	830.49	$ 88,958,584
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	569.06	83.18	122.49	2.78	21.33	798.84	$ 32,404,762

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Fixed Assets - Roads

Number of Inspected Sites	Condition 1 Very Good	Condition 2 Good	Condition 3 Fair	Condition 4 Poor	Condition 5 Very Poor
2805	224	645	813	617	505
%	**8%**	**23%**	**29%**	**22%**	**18%**

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Fixed Assets - Roads

	Condition 5 Poor	Condition 4 Poor	NOTE
Number of Roads	110	215	**Roads that are not considered within this Plan are:** - Abernethy Rd: Studamy St to Kargotich Rd - Kargotich Rd: Mundijong Rd to Thomas Rd - Orton Rd: King Rd to Warrington Rd - Thomas Rd: under MRWA authority
Length /KM	105	173	
Number of Projects	132	275	
Renewal Cost ($000)	114,000	201,000	**Due to the uncompleted design for the projects, the Renewal Cost does not include costing for:** - Required drainage work - Clearing vegetation and possible offset cost

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Fixed Assets - Roads

Under the Local Government Road Funding Program, the Australian Government is making funding available through:

- Road Safety Program (Black Spot Program),
- Road Rehabilitation and Road Improvement Program (MRRG Program), and
- Commodity Routes Fund Program to deliver road safety upgrades and improvements.

Funding Sources Opportunity	Max Project Cost / Annual Allocation ($000)	NOTES
MRRG State Black Spot	3,000	Project need to be nominated and approved by MRWA
MRRG Federal Black Spot	2,000	
MRRG Road Improvement	12,000 - 4,000/year	
MRRG Road Rehabilitation	900/year	
MRRG Direct Grant	400/year	Allocation must be fully expended on roads
Roads to Recovery - RTR	1,200/year	Allocation to remain constant beyond 2028/29
Shire's Long Term Financial Plan	2,455/year	Allocation to remain constant beyond 2039

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

Future Financial Challenges

- **Asset Management**
  - Growing Asset base requiring ongoing maintenance
  - Aging infrastructure requiring renewal and upgrades
- **Matching Shire Funds for Grants are limited**
  - The Shire often needs to contribute a matching contribution to grants such as State Black Spot and Main Roads grants.
  - The Shire has limited funds to do so and most of the Shire's funds are utilised to match grants rather than projects that cannot be grant funded.
- **Ongoing Cost escalations**
  - The Shire continues to experience of going cost escalations for both our general operating and Capital projects.
  - This continues to be a challenge in improving the Operating Surplus Ratio.

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2.4 Receiving of Annual Report, incorporating Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024

Copies of the Annual Report containing the Financial Report were available at the meeting and have been available for inspection on the Shire's website, and at the Administration Centre and the Byford Library.

Ms Belinda Dunkley

Question 1

My question relates to the Shire's omission of Library services from the annual report. Going back the last seven years there is mention of Library Services. Now considering this facility is currently the premier facility in this Shire, I would like to know why this has been omitted from the annual report?

Response (Director Community Engagement)

I will draw Ms Dunkley's attention to page nine of the annual report where we celebrate some of our key achievements over the past 12 months and one of those is the inaugural community history awards that was developed and delivered by the Serpentine Jarrahdale Library Services team. While specific service areas may not be mentioned explicitly within the annual report it is no reflection on how the Shire or Council values the services, programs or activities that service team may have delivered throughout the financial year.

Question 2

Why is there not a library report showing library statistics in the annual report?

Response (Director Community Engagement)

The Shire reports on the performance of all service teams quarterly through our corporate business plan reporting and those reports are presented to Council and available on the Shire's website. That is one mechanism as to how the Shire reports on performance and celebrates its successes through the quarterly corporate business planning report.

Question 3

Why, if you look back through at least the last seven years of annual reports, there is an actual Library report, yet in this year's report there is nothing?

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

As the Director said, we've tried to create an annual report that focuses on some high level achievements across all the areas and it's a move away from a detailed report into every service team. For example, there may be other teams in the list there that are not picked up. It's good feedback to get and we're happy to take the feedback on board for next year. We can certainly include some statistics in next year's report about the library. We see this probably more as a trend of where annual reports are going to be high level summaries and statistics rather than long detailed reports but maybe there's a balance to achieve there and we're happy to take that feedback on board.

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GME001/03/25

MOTION / Recommendation to Electors

Moved Cr Duggin, seconded President Coales

That the Annual Report for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for the year 2023 / 2024 incorporating the 2023 / 2024 Annual Financial Statements and the 2023 / 2024 Auditor's Report be RECEIVED.

MOTION LOST 5/7

GME002/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Kelly Berry

1. **That the Annual Report for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for the year 2023 / 2024 incorporating the 2023 / 2024 Annual Financial Statements and the 2023 / 2024 Auditor's Report be RECEIVED.**
2. **Notes that there are community members who are unhappy with the omission of Library services in the Annual Report as presented at the Annual Electors Meeting held on Monday, 31 March 2025.**

MOTION CARRIED

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3. Business:

3.1 Public Questions of which prior notice has been given:

Ms Kelly Berry

Question 1

What was the Corporate Communications Budget 22-2023, 23-2024 and 24-2025 financial years?

Response (Director Community Engagement)

Below is a table showing the Corporate Communications Budgets for the respective years.

Year	***Budget***
2024/25	*$901,688*
2023/24	*$699,139*
2022/23	*$538,862*

Question 2

What is the comparison between the Corporate Communications Budget and the commitments received for the 2017, 2021 and 2025 State Elections.

Response (Director Community Engagement)

Year	***Corporate Communications Budget***	***Successful State Election commitments***
2016/17	*$346,041*	*Shire officers are unaware of Council having endorsed election priorities for the 2017 State election.*
2020/21	*$461,405*	*Successful commitments aligned to the Council's endorsed election advocacy priorities were:* • *$30.6m for Health Hub for Byford* • *$18m for Hypergrowth road upgrades.* • *$11.5m for Stage 4 of Byford Secondary College* • *$1.3 million for Nature Play and Water Splash Park, which was subsequently re-*

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		allocated to the Byford Bike Pump track project *The Byford Secondary College and Byford Health Hub projects are being delivered by the State Government.*
2024/25	*$901,688*	*Successful commitments aligned to the Shire's endorsed election advocacy priorities were:* • *$17 million for Hypergrowth road upgrades* • *$10 million towards the Briggs Park precinct* • *$5 million towards the Jarrahdale Trails Centre*

Question 3

What is the comparison between the Corporate Communications Budget and the commitments received for the 2019, 2022 and 2025 Federal Elections.

Response (Director Community Engagement)

Year	***Corporate Communications Budget***	***Successful Federal Election commitments***
2018/19	*$605,722*	*No election commitments were made aligned to the Council's endorsed election priorities.*
2021/22	*$445,881*	*$8 million Peel Regional Trails funding, which the Shire secured $750,000 for the Gooralong Brook Car park project and $1.3 million for the new Jarrahdale Horse Trail.* *The Jarrahdale Horse Trail project is being delivered by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.*
2024/25	*$901,688*	*The Federal election is being held on 3 May 2025, at which time the Shire will know the outcome of its election advocacy.*

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Mrs Michelle Rich, Serpentine, 6125

Question 1

Could the CEO please provide a listing of all internal and external committees that have Councillor representation, the frequency of meetings and a attendance register for each committee?

Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Question 2

Did Shire Officers seek and provide legal advice to councillors prior to the March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting regarding item 9.3 - Notice of Motion - Request Main Roads WA Remove Speed Limits (SJ4563)?

Response (Director Infrastructure Services)

No. Following discussions with Main Roads the request to remove the speed limit signage was to bring the Shire into line with Main Roads speed zoning in the State for substandard roads. Main Roads will be the ultimate decision maker and they have details on the condition of the roads in question.

Question 3

Have Councillors been provided with a copy and walked through the speed audit report for the Shire in 2024?

Response (Director Infrastructure Services)

The audit reports have been provided to Councillors.

3.2 Public Questions received from the floor:

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any public questions from the floor.

Mr Bill Denholm, Karrakup, 6122

Question 1

If we have any drones, how many and how old are they?

Response (Director Development Services)

We have one drone, and our community safety team do utilise that drone. It was purchased approximately four years ago and used for tracking down escaped farm animals or helping with search and rescue in the forest area. They have been two of the most recent uses of the drone.

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Question 2

How much does the Shire spend approximately on traffic management outsourcing in the past financial year?

Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Question 3

What was the content of the Shire Facebook post that was removed during the Caretaker mode of the recent State Election, which involved the Liberal Candidate for Darling Range, and where the Labour Candidate was not invited.

Response (Director Community Engagement)

The Shire's approach to election commitments was to share the candidate's posts. The Shire shared the WA Liberal Party Facebook post regarding the SJ community recreation centre announcement, adding in our own content to the shared post. With regards to the 'This content isn't available at the moment', it is likely the owner of the content (i.e. WA Liberal Party) deleted it, or unlinked it from the Facebook post.

Officers assume the WA Labor party wasn't invited as it was an announcement event organised by the WA Liberal Party.

Ms Belinda Dunkley

Question 1

Is the Shire and Council aware of responsibilities and requirements surrounding Government caretaker mode?

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

The caretaker provisions typically only apply to the State Government, and in fact during the election process we tried to receive clarification on whether the State Government caretaker conventions apply to local government, and we couldn't get a definitive answer on that. So yes, we are aware of the caretaker provision the State Government has and we exercised an element of caution in regards to how we managed the process during the election but there is no definitive statement on whether the State Government caretaker provisions apply to local government that we could find.

Question 2

Will the Shire continue to show a Liberal bias during this current Federal election that is showed during the State election.

Response (Presiding Member)

I will answer that question. As the president of the Shire, I and the Shire did not play favourites to any political party during the 2025 State election. We had one candidate who was a councillor at the time and he was afforded no extra privileges or favouritism. The gentleman from the Liberal party was not showing any favouritism or bias.

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Since you raised it Ms Dunkley, I'm happy to say to the public that the leader of the opposition Libby Mettam, through Paul Mansfield, asked me as Shire President to attend a park within Byford to support them in an announcement for shade sails. My response back to the Liberal party was no because I wasn't playing favourites, but more importantly, it wasn't one of the approved advocacy projects that Council endorsed and you'll find during the whole process I'm really, really proud of what the Shire did with our advocacy for the 2025 State election.

There was a process in place. There was these six advocacy projects that were adopted by Council. There was a plan in place that any party whether it was Nationals, Liberals or Labor came out and made an announcement, I would be advised and I was only part of that if it was one of those projects as agreed to by Council within the 2025 election advocacy paperwork.

Further I have been accused by members of the public for showing too much bias towards Hugh Jones. I actually find it quite funny that a member of the public would sit here and ask me on behalf of the Shire, why we paid so much favouritism to the Liberal Party. Objectively, if you go through the Shire's Facebook posts, probably because Hugh Jones made more commitments than the Liberal Party, you'll find that there's probably more announcements, more Facebook pages, more shares, more likes by the Shire, more likes for me and my personal Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale President's page supporting Hugh Jones and the Labor party.

I actually find it quite offensive that anyone would turn around and say that this Shire showed bias to any particular candidate or party during the 2025 state election. The final thing I will say to that before I turn my attention to the Federal election, is on the day of the election being 8 March, so there would be no perceived conflict, I removed myself from the Shire and I went to Dwellingup to go camping because I did not want to be targeted or I did not want to be associated with doing one party over the other.

I actually find that quite disrespectful that I, or the Shire, has been tarnished or been accused of showing favouritism. Now I will turn my attention to the Federal election. I made a comment before about Andrew Hastie the Federal member for Canning, and he has been for a significant period of time. I would like to say I'm friends with Andrew, that is immaterial because I'm sitting here as the Shire President. I made that comment before about Mr Hastie and the $2.4 million because that announcement was made some two or three weeks ago. We have members in the public in the second row that would vouch for that announcement. That announcement also was shared on the Shire's Facebook page as per the process for any advocacy that we do, any commitment by either State, Federal, Liberal, Labor, Nationals, One Nation or whatever the party may be.

Paul Martin and I have also met with the Labor candidate for the seat of Canning. We spent time with him. He has also met with the Mundijong Netball Association as soon as that person was endorsed. Through the executive assistant to Mr Martin and myself, we reached out and met with that gentleman. He was very, very supportive and I look forward to working with him. The other thing we have now, fortunately in 2025 and on 3 May is we now have got two Federal seats, we've got the seat of Burt and the seat of Canning so let me now talk to the seat of Burt.

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The seat of Burt is a Federal member being Matt Keogh. Matt Keogh and I are also friends, I will put that on the record. I'm friends now with Matt Keogh simply because Matt Keogh is a Minister of something that is very, very close to my heart Defence, Veterans and Personnel.

I'm very, very proud of the work Minister Keogh has done and I'm exceptionally proud of the fact that Minister Keogh's Federal electorate is now a part of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. We have met with Minister Keogh, we met with him twice when we were in Canberra, we've met with him again. He made the effort to come to the citizenship ceremony on 26 January being Australia Day and he also made the effort to come to the citizenship ceremony a couple of weeks ago on 19 March. The relationship the Shire has with Minister Keogh extends beyond my personal relationship and is a relationship that is very, very productive. One thing we are talking to Minister Keogh about is the Recreation Centre in Byford because that is now in the seat of Burt. So, I will put on record now at the Annual Electors Meeting that Rob Coales and the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale treats all candidates respectfully. We treat them all the same and at the end of the day it's not about personal opinions of councils or presidents it's about the people of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Question 3

Did you attend the Labor Party launch as you attended the Liberal Party launch?

Response (Presiding Member)

No.

Mr Garry Tomlinson

Question 1

Was tonight's meeting advertised on the Shire's website?

Response (Director Community Engagement)

The Annual Meeting of Electors was advertised as required including the website, public notice and shared via the Shires weekly e-newsletter SJ Matters.

Question 2

With the current disarray in the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) on the State election and the previous failure with the last Shire election in regard to the stolen postal votes, which Councillors in their right mind would vote for a total postal vote for the next Council election?

Response (Presiding Member)

It was a resolution of Council that the next local government election in October 2025 will be conducted by postal vote. Members of the public are allowed to move a motion tonight to change that, but it is a resolution of Council.

Ms Vanessa Reynolds, Oakford, 6121

Question 1

As per the March Ordinary Council Meeting, President Coales put forward a motion for the Shire to cover the additional costs of Keirnan Park Stage 1, being $15 million from memory. I am wondering where this money will come from?

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Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Question 2

In relation to the above, Councillor Mack didn't actually support that motion and stated that he didn't feel that we had that funding available. Therefore, I am wondering if all of our Councillors have access to exactly the same information?

Response (Presiding Member)

Yes, they do.

Ms Danelle Kennedy, Darling Downs, 6122

Question 1

What plans are in place to increase the number of Shire reserves given the large number of areas mainly due to development and roads that will be lost?

Response (Director Development Services)

Road projects do unfortunately have an impact on roadside vegetation, which we are seeing currently along Kargotich Road and Orton Road. The Shire's Urban and Rural Forestry Strategy does identify that risk for the Shire, given my colleague earlier did talk about the number of category four and five roads which principally have a lot of trees in the area we usually consider as a clear way where there shouldn't be trees. We have all driven along the likes of Kargotich Road, Mundijong Road and Abernethy Road where you typically don't put trees so close to the road pavement, so our Urban and Rural Forestry Strategy does take a really strong focus on planting more trees as quickly as we can, recognising we will unfortunately see some loss over the immediate 3-5 year period as these road projects roll out.

In terms of acquiring land to offset the loss of urban tree canopy, we haven't specifically identified that as a short, medium or long term pursuit, acquiring privately owned land which is fully vegetated. I guess we would also consider there are controls in place which try to protect properties which are forested from being able to be cleared, so the government policy at both State and local levels has evolved to try and limit the amount of tree clearing. Our current approach is to be physically planting more trees, particularly in the areas which are low on the urban and rural tree canopy measure. Around Byford is a particular focus and as areas of Mundijong now open up for new development, there is a strong focus on placing public open spaces where they coincide with shelter belts or tree outcrops on these former farming properties, as well as making developers plant trees in the new streets they are creating.

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

One of the things we are doing this year is getting better at how we manage and plan for our offsets so when we do any projects like when we cleared the five trees to do the skate park extension and we're clearing trees for the roads. As the Director said, we've actually put a person on board to start looking at how we plan for improving the reserves that we have by better coordinating the offset planting there

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so the government would say you can clear those trees for that project but you need to plant a number of offsets.

We managed that as well as we could have in the past and now, we've got a person on board to develop an offset plan for us going forward so that we can actually improve those reserves and make them better environmentally.

Question 2

Could the Shire consider planning to acquire more Shire reserves in the future?

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

That is certainly something we can take on board. To be honest, we're trying to get to the point of even managing the reserves we have currently, but certainly we can take that on board as we go forward about how those offsets are managed and maybe there's capacity to buy some land in some of those projects.

Ms Karina Baker, Cardup, 6122

Question 1

On 14 February I rang the Shire and spoke to someone in planning about the Wormall signage on their actual operations building. Have they received retrospective approval to be able to have that amount of signage?

Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Mrs Lee Bond, 6122

Question 1

What is the reason for islands being constructed down Nicholson Road and Peters Way Oakford? What is the cost for this work and who ordered the work to be done? Was the stockfeed business in Peters Way consulted before proceeding with this?

Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Question 2

Why was the electors meeting not advertised by the Shire? Who makes the decision about what you will and will not make public regarding important matters within the Shire? Do you consider the electors meeting of menial or no value?

Response (Director Community Engagement)

Since the last question regarding the advertisement of the annual meeting of electors I can confirm that it was published on the Shire's Facebook page and has also been published on the Shire's website and has been promoted in the lead up to tonight's meeting via the Shire's weekly e-newsletter. It was published on the Shire's website on 6 March and on the it was promoted on the Shire's Facebook page in January.

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Question 3

The creditors payments leave little or no explanation of monies handed out for all sorts of groups / activities / individuals / workshops etc. Who makes the decisions on the spending of ratepayers money for items which are not related to Shire rates, Shire rubbish and Shire roads?

Response (Director Corporate Services)

The Shire has an extensive delegation list for authorising payments and all payments are made in accordance with the appropriate regulation.

Ms Vanessa Reynolds, Oakford, 6121

Question 1

I remember probably five or six months ago, Councillor Mazzini mentioned that trees when they're planted cost around about $11,000 per annum in care and watering. If we're removing old growth trees and replanting them with new ones that are going to take 50 or 60 years before they're actually appropriate for our fauna to nest in, where do the funds come from in the meantime at $1,000 a year to maintain them and make sure they live? I've seen so many of them die even though they are being watered and appear to be looked after.

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

There will be a report coming to this month's Council meeting about the arrangement that we've been able to secure with the Public Transport Authority, which is a good example of the work that Andrew and Faried have done. The Public Transport Authority are offering to pay the Shire an amount of money to improve the vegetation in Brickwood Reserve. $2.1 million I think the amount is for 20 years and we've developed a program for that work about what the planning includes. It includes maintenance, rubbish collection and a whole range of things, so that's sort of the comment I was trying to make before; we're trying to get better at how we are doing the offsets and then maintaining those. I wouldn't say that we're entirely there yet but we're certainly trying to get better at that.

Response (Director Development Services)

Trees in our Shire I'm particularly familiar with are in the urban front, where filling the land occurs with about 2m of yellow sand. So a lot of the older trees in Byford grew due to their planting in Farmland as shelter belts, where they were close to the water table and thus grew very well. This compares to urbanisation, where we essentially create quite a free draining soil median, so we do find that there's at least the need for two summers of watering and then once we're past that, the tree is usually capable to survive. So it's not a cost that is incurred indefinitely, but certainly establishment costs for our approaches that we have to do, do require watering for at least two summer periods.

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Mr Shannon Summers, Cardup, 6122

Question 1

Are there upgrades planned for water drainage for the areas affected (particularly Cardup) from the existing housing developments in Byford built over the last 10 years?

Response (Presiding Member)

The Presiding Member advised the question will be taken on notice. In accordance with Council Policy 1.1.3 - Public Question and Public Statement Time and Deputations, a written response will be provided.

Question 2

Specifically, what is in place for drainage upgrades for areas that will be affected by the new subdivision on the corner of Cardup Siding Road and Hopkinson Road?

Response (Director Development Services)

The development of Byford we're principally seeing the water shed off the scarp and move westward, so we're essentially creating four or five quite significant multi-use corridors which are more or less aligned with the Brooks and the Oakland main drains and Cardup Brook. It will be unclear why these would be causing flooding in Cardup, directly associated with the urbanisation of Byford, so we would like to know a little bit more about that specifically.

In terms of your second question, that estate is about 110 hectares and is a new master planned community, some 1,200 or 1,300 allotments. Certainly taking that pasture land and converting it into roads and houses and public open space is going to create a lot more impervious area. They do have a local water management strategy which requires that they hold and infiltrate at source the water that ultimately is generated through runoff and storm events, so to do that, you probably have seen the large amounts of yellow sand that they're now carting into the estate. That's to give that sort of free draining opportunity so that they can use a mix of soak wells, rain gardens, swales and detention areas to be able to ensure that water is not flooding Cardup to the South or putting further risk on developed areas of Byford on the north side of Cardup Siding Road. That's the approach typically taken to the urbanisation and management of drainage and flood risk.

Ms Karina Baker, Cardup. 6122

Question 1

Further to the drainage in Cardup because of the big development there. With the reserve next to that development, is there a plan or strategy to not kill the Cardup Reserve? The height that that's going to be in comparison to the actual vegetation of that Reserve, I think it's going to do a lot of damage to it and what sort of mitigation have they got to make sure that it's not going to impact that beautiful Reserve?

Response (Director Development Services)

The risk of directing storm water into a natural system that is not used to water flows would absolutely create risk for that system, so that is definitely strictly prohibited. One of the key things is about ensuring that the Cardup Nature Reserve is not impacted by that development.

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At their East and West common boundary there will be a sort of road edge along the whole Reserve which will provide opportunities to set a natural barrier to make sure flooding or water is heading to the west and not heading to a cross section back to the east. It's definitely an important issue that the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) are also raising with the developer.

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any further public questions from the floor. No further public questions were asked.

3.3 Public Statements of which prior notice has been given:

Nil.

3.4 Public Statements received from the floor:

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any public statements from the floor.

Mrs Karen McEwan, Cardup, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Protecting water supply
- Illegal dumping

Mrs Lee Bond, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Safety issues with the island on Nicholson Road and Peters Way Oakford
- Spending of Shire funds on islands on each side of the roundabout on Karnup Road and Richardson Street Serpentine
- Transparency

Mr Garry Tomlinson, Jarrahdale, 6124

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Corruption within the Shire
- Postal voting at the next election

Ms Karina Baker, Cardup, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Water issues in Cardup
- Bores at the corner of Soldiers Road and Cardup Siding Road

Ms Vanessa Reynolds, Oakford, 6121

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Waste Transfer Station
- Traffic issues near Court Grammar School

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Ms Danelle Kennedy, Darling Downs, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Proposed Extension of Development Approval and Extraction Timeframe for 'Industry Extractive' - Lot 6 Banksia Road and Lots 300 and 301 Boomerang Road, Oldbury

Mr Shannon Summers

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Flooding in Cardup

Mr Bill Denholm, Karrakup, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Mundijong netball courts
- Roads
- Waste Transfer Station
- Illegal dumping
- Participation at Shire events

Mr John McEwan, Cardup, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Water issues and flooding in Cardup
- Parmacast
- Permapole

Ms Karina Baker, Cardup, 6122

Made a statement regarding the following matters:

- Attendance from Shire representatives at Barry Urbans memorial

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any further public statements from the floor. No further public statements were made.

3.5 Motions of which prior notice has been given:

Pia Steele, Jarrahdale, 6124

GME003/03/25

MOTION

Moved Pia Steele, seconded Michelle Rich

That the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale writes to the relevant state and federal health authority to suspend the mRNA vaccines until they are proven to be 100% safe to ensure the safety and well being of our community.

MOTION CARRIED 8/4

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3.6 Motions received from the floor:

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any motions from the floor.

GME004/03/25

MOTION

Moved Justin Warren, seconded Lee Bond

That this General Meeting of Electors expresses, for noting by the Council, its deep dissatisfaction with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's ongoing mismanagement of the Oakford Fire Station project. This includes the failure to provide proper project oversight, the alteration of approved designs without consultation, prolonged delays in contract execution, and the continued failure to deliver critical emergency infrastructure for the Oakford Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and the community it serves

MOTION CARRIED

GME005/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Vanessa Reynolds

That Council publish detailed information when awarding contracts, including prices bid, and explain how and why the successful bidder was chosen as the cities of Cockburn, Gosnells and Joondalup currently publish by no later than the 30 June 2025.

MOTION CARRIED 9/3

GME006/03/25

MOTION

Moved Karina Baker, seconded Bill Denholm

That Council request the CEO to write to the Minister for Water and DWER and requests that the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale is notified in writing of all water bore licences registrations etc issued below 100,000 kilolitres within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale district, to enable Shire Officers to support residents when they experience water loss or disruptions due to any form of development or construction.

MOTION CARRIED

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GME007/03/25

MOTION

Moved Garry Tomlinson, seconded Vicki May

That the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Council take a look at the postal voting system and have a think about the corruption happening at the last Shire election so it doesn't happen again and take another vote at the next Ordinary Council Meeting to give them time to think about it.

MOTION CARRIED

GME008/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Bill Denholm

That as part of the 2025/2026 budget process, Council funds the design and construction extending the current footpath by approximately 53 metres on the South side of Jarrahdale Road opposite the Nettleton Road intersection to provide safe pedestrian access to visitors and residents of Jarrahdale.

MOTION CARRIED

GME009/03/25

MOTION

Moved Vanessa Reynolds, seconded Bill Denholm

That Council requests a detailed investigation be conducted which will provide a report to be presented at the next available Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the options of Watkins Road Waste Transfer Station, using accurate, actual costs of the alternative motion put forward by Councillor Mack, at the February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, followed by an additional public consultation providing them with the accurate data and detailed information.

MOTION CARRIED

GME010/03/25

MOTION

Moved Bill Denholm, seconded Kelly Berry

That Council purchase two multipurpose drones and trains staff to operate the drones to their full potential and in line with regulations.

MOTION CARRIED

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GME011/03/25

MOTION

Moved Belinda Dunkley, seconded Kelly Berry

That the Shire amend the electronic version of the 2023/2024 annual report to include information regarding library services to ensure the transparency across all services within the Shire and that library services be reinstated in the organisational chart in the electronic version of the annual report.

MOTION CARRIED

GME012/03/25

MOTION

Moved Vanessa Reynolds, seconded Bill Denholm

That Council request a detailed investigation and provide available options for rectification of the ongoing traffic issues and illegal traffic movements outside of Court Grammar School, at the intersection of Soldiers and Bishop Roads, taking into consideration that Court Grammar School is constructing additional classrooms at the school and increasing number of students annually without any additional parking or road infrastructure to support this growth.

MOTION CARRIED

GME013/03/25

MOTION

Moved Bill Denholm, seconded Vanessa Reynolds

That Council receives a report investigating the provision of traffic management services in house for all Shire and community activities, including a cost benefit analysis.

MOTION CARRIED

GME014/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Kelly Berry

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process, that Council funds all needed verge tree pruning on the following roads:

- **Lightbody Road**
- **Shanley Road**
- **Coogly Road**
- **Feast Road**
- **Summerfield Road**
- **Gull Road**

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- **Scrivener Road**
- **Selkirk Road**
- **Jarrah Road**
- **Yangedi Road South**
- **Punrak Road**
- **Utley Road**
- **Westcott Road**
- **Henderson Road**
- **Elliott Road**
- **Rapids Road**
- **Hall Road**

MOTION CARRIED 6/3

GME015/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Belinda Dunkley

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process that Council funds the engagement of external consultants to undertake community consultation, investigation, concept design and costings for implementation of appropriate traffic calming treatments along Jarrahdale Road between Nettleton Road and Kingsbury Drive within the Jarrahdale town site to better manage the anticipated increase in traffic and pedestrian movements in preparation for trails town status and Tonkin Hwy extension.

MOTION CARRIED

GME016/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Bill Denholm

That the meeting adjourns for a period of 5 minutes at 9.36pm.

MOTION CARRIED

The Presiding Member, President Coales, resumed the meeting at 9.41pm

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GME017/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Bill Denholm

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process that Council is provided with the costs to carry out all shoulder reconstruction and remedial works for the following roads:

- **Lightbody Road**
- **Shanley Road**
- **Coogly Road**
- **Feast Road**
- **Summerfield Road**
- **Gull Road**
- **Scrivener Road**
- **Selkirk Road**
- **Jarrah Road**
- **Yangedi Road South**
- **Punrak Road**
- **Utley Road**
- **Westcott Road**
- **Henderson Road**
- **Elliott Road**
- **Rapids Road**
- **Hall Road**

With the three roads to be completed in each of the following financial years 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29, 2029/30 and 2030/31.

MOTION CARRIED

GME018/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Vanessa Reynolds

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process that Council funds the design and construction of a replacement fence around the stormwater retention basin between 14 and 18 Mardja Loop in Mardella.

MOTION CARRIED

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GME019/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Bill Denholm

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process that Council funds the engagement of external consultants to undertake detailed design, land acquisition and costings for the implementation of appropriate traffic roundabout at the intersection of Hopeland Road and Karnup Road, Hopeland.

MOTION CARRIED

GME020/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Kelly Berry

That Council requests to Chief Executive Officer to amend Council Policy 1.1.14 - Forums of Council Policy Concept Forums, Question Answer Agenda Forums, and Workshops and Council Policy 3.3.11 - Recording of in person Council and Committee Meetings to:

a. to open Question and Answer Sessions to the public

b. to open Policy Concept Forums to the public

c. to open all workshops and forums of Council including but not limited to budget workshops to the public

d. to record and publish the recordings of

1. all Question and Answer Sessions

2. Policy Concept Forums and

3. all other forums and workshops open to the public

By the 30th of April 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

GME021/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Kelly Berry

That Council request the Chief Executive Officer present a draft Policy to Council before September 2025 to increase the retention by 50% of trees during all subdivision processes.

MOTION CARRIED 5/1

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GME022/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Vanessa Reynolds

That Council prioritise tree retention in road upgrade design, maintenance and construction to maintain the current level of canopy coverage within all Shire managed road reserves as of the 1 April 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

GME023/03/25

MOTION

Moved Michelle Rich, seconded Bill Denholm

As part of the 2025/2026 budget process that Council funds the design and construction of the remaining substandard 3.7 kilometres of Elliott Road, east of Hopeland Road intersection.

MOTION CARRIED

Presiding Member, President Coales asked if there were any further motions from the floor. No further motions were put forward.

4. Closure:

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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