



**MINUTES
OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING
OF COUNCIL
HELD ON**

20 August 2026

Council Chambers

Honour Avenue

Wyalkatchem

Commencement: 4:00pm

Closure: 4:24pm

Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approved these Minutes for distribution they are in essence “*Unconfirmed*” until the following Ordinary Meeting of Council, where the minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The “*Confirmed*” Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Member.

Unconfirmed Minutes

These unconfirmed minutes were approved for distribution on the 27 August 2026.



Tom Kettle
Chief Executive Officer

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wyalkatchem for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this meeting. It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of Council’s decisions, which will be provided within ten days of this meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors and staff are reminded of the requirements of section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, to disclose any interest or perceived interest in any matter to be discussed during a meeting, and also the requirement to disclose any item affecting impartiality.

Financial Interest:

Under section 5.60A of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a person is said to have a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonable to expect that the matter will, if dealt with by the Local Government in a particular way, result in a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment for the person.

Proximity Interest:

Under section 5.60B of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a person is said to have a proximity interest in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed development of land that adjoins the person's land.

Impartiality Interest:

As per the Shire of Wyalkatchem Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members, and Candidates for Election, and to maintain transparency, it is important to disclose all interests, including impartiality interests which include interests arising from kinship, friendship and membership of associations. If it is possible that your vote on a matter may be perceived as impartial, you should disclose your interest. Having disclosed the interest, you may declare your objectivity on the matter, and remain in the Chamber, and chair, or move/second, speak and vote on the matter.

Disclosing an Interest:

Disclosures must be made, in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting, or prior to consideration of the item in which an interest exists.

If you disclose a Financial or Proximity Interest, you must leave the room while the matter is discussed and voted on. Only after a decision has been reached may you return to the meeting, at which time the Presiding Person will inform you of Council's decision on the matter.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member, Cr Petchell declared the meeting open at 4:00pm.

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

2.1. Response to Public Questions Previously Taken on Notice

Nil

2.2. Declaration of Public Question Time opened

Public Question Time opened at 4:01pm.

There were no public questions.

2.3. Declaration of Public Question Time closed

Public Question Time closed at 4:01pm.

3. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1. Attendance

Cr Christy Petchell

President and Presiding Member

Cr Mischa Stratford

Deputy President

Cr Christopher Loton

Cr Justin Begley

Cr Rod Lawson Kerr

Tom Kettle

Chief Executive Officer

Claire Trenorden

Manager Corporate Services

Aldo Lamas

Manager Works

3.2. Visitors

Jennie Gorham

3.3. Apologies

Cr Stephen Gamble

Cr Tracy Dickson

3.4. Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

3.5. Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

4. OBITUARIES

The President advised the following former resident of Wyalkatchem had recently passed away:

Mrs Wendy Jones-Diver

5. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS

5.1. Petitions

Nil

5.2. Deputations

Nil

5.3. Presentations

Nil

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6.1. Financial and Proximity Interest

Nil

6.2. Impartiality Interests

Nil

7. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

7.1. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1.1. Ordinary Council Meeting – 16 July 2026

Minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday
16 July 2026. (Attachment 7.1.1)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(87/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford Seconded: Cr Lawson Kerr
That the minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Ordinary Meeting of
Council of Thursday 16 July 2026 (Attachment 7.1.1) be confirmed as a
true and correct record.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

7.1.2. Special Council Meeting – 24 July 2026

Minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Special Meeting held on Friday
24 July 2026. (Attachment 7.1.2)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(88/2026) Moved: Cr Begley Seconded: Cr Stratford
That the minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Special Meeting of
Council of Friday 24 July 2026 (Attachment 7.1.2) be confirmed as a
true and correct record.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

7.2. Receipt of Minutes

7.2.1. Wyalkatchem Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting – 30 July 2026

Minutes of the Wyalkatchem Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday 30 July 2026. (Attachment 7.2.1)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(89/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Begley

That the minutes of the Wyalkatchem Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting of Thursday 30 July 2026 (Attachment 7.2.1) be received by the Council.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Presiding Member extended her sincere congratulations to the Wyalkatchem Koorda District Hospital, particularly Rachelle and her dedicated staff, along with the members of the Local Hospital Advisory Group (LHAG), who have worked tirelessly to see Wallambin Lodge reopen.

Wallambin Lodge is a wonderful asset to our community, and it is fantastic to see the facility once again being utilised to support the needs of our residents. Thank you to everyone whose commitment, collaboration and perseverance made this possible.

Congratulations also to the Wyalkatchem Golf Club on hosting its Centenary Celebration. It was wonderful to see the event so well supported, bringing together past and present members, visitors and the wider community to celebrate such a significant milestone. Community events like these are a great reminder of the strong connections that make Wyalkatchem such a special place to live, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud of a successful and memorable weekend.

On behalf of the Shire of Wyalkatchem, we would also like to warmly welcome our new doctor, Dr Yiyang (Christine) Tang, to our community. We are delighted to have you here and we hope you enjoy your time in Wyalkatchem.

It was disappointing to learn that the Shire of Wyalkatchem, in conjunction with NEWROC, was unsuccessful in the recent grant funding announcement for key worker housing. Access to suitable housing continues to be an important issue for our community, particularly when it comes to attracting and retaining essential workers.

While this was not the outcome we had hoped for, it certainly hasn't deterred us. Council and staff will continue to work hard to strengthen our position and ensure we are even better prepared when future funding opportunities arise. We remain committed to exploring every opportunity available to support housing and the long-term growth and sustainability of our community.

Whilst, speaking of housing, Sunday lunchtime it was officially announced that CEACA was successful for grant funding for 54, two-bedroom social homes that will be built across 17 central and eastern wheatbelt towns. The Shire of Wyalkatchem is set to benefit from this major housing project with four homes being built in Wyalkatchem. This project allows seniors, people living with disabilities and low-income residents remain connected to our local community. The Shire of Wyalkatchem would like to thank; CEACA, the Federal Government's Housing Australia Future Fund Facility and the Western Australian Government for supporting stronger Wheatbelt communities. At a community level, this project has been ongoing for many years with many past CEO's, Shire Presidents and Council's helping play a part in the success of this project, so thank you for all your hard work and advocacy around this project.

After the tragic truck accident on the Wyalkatchem–Goomalling Road this week, we would like to extend my sincere condolences to all those affected, particularly the family and loved ones of those involved. This incident reinforces the importance of continuing to advocate for improvements to this road to ensure it is as safe as possible for everyone who travels this route.

Congratulations to Wyalkatchem District High School on a very successful Quiz Night in support of their Canberra fundraising efforts. It was wonderful to see the community getting behind the students and supporting their fundraising journey.

9. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

10. REPORTS

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JULY 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Claire Trenorden, Manager Corporate Services
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	12.10.02
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.1.1 – Accounts for payment – July 2026

SUMMARY

To provide the Council with a list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with delegated authority and for the Council to endorse the payments made for the prior month.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, s13(1)*, requires that if a local government has delegated to the CEO its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month showing all payments since the last such list was prepared.

The council has delegated to the CEO (delegation number 1.2.25) the power to make payments from the municipal fund or trust fund.

COMMENT

The payment listing for July 2026 is presented to the Council for their endorsement.

Bank Account	Payment Type	Last Number	First Number in the report
Municipal	Cheque	0	0
Municipal and Trust	EFT	EFT5491	EFT5405
Reserves	EFT	EFT	No Payments
DD	DD	DD4387.1	DD4351.1

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations, s.13.1

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure in accordance with the 2026/27 Annual Budget.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The matter before the Council generally accords with the Shire's desired outcome, as expressed in the revised Shire of Wyalkatchem Strategic Community Plan.

Pillar 4 Civic Leadership	Statement of Strategic Outcome: We lead with accountability, connection and openness through best-practice systems, policies and financial controls
Goal No.	GOAL 11. High standard of governance
11.3	Ongoing long term financial planning and transparent financial management

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(90/2026) Moved: Cr Begley Seconded: Cr Lawson Kerr
That Council endorse the total payments for the month of July 2026 being \$512,472.50 which comprised of:

- 1. Cheque payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$0.00;***
- 2. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$473,156.11 and***
- 3. Direct Debit (DD) payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$39,316.39.***

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

10.1.2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – CREDIT CARDS – JUNE 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Glenn Bradly, Finance Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	File Ref: 12.10.02
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.1.2 – Credit Card – June 2026

BACKGROUND

Council governance procedures require the endorsement of credit card payments at each OMC. The attached credit card payment report has been reviewed by the Manager of Corporate Services and the CEO.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995, Part 6 – Financial Management s.6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, R34

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy Number 2.1 – Purchasing Policy.

Policy Number 2.3 – Credit Card Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil. Reported expenditure is assessed by management as being consistent with the 2025/26 Annual Budget.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The matter before the Council generally accords with the Shire's desired outcome, as expressed in the revised Shire of Wyalkatchem Strategic Community Plan.

Pillar 4 Civic Leadership	Statement of Strategic Outcome: We lead with accountability, connection and openness through best-practice systems, policies and financial controls
Goal No.	GOAL 11. High standard of governance
11.3	Ongoing long term financial planning and transparent financial management

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(91/2026) Moved: Cr Begley

Seconded: Cr Lawson Kerr

That Council endorse credit card payments for the period 29 May 2026 to 29 June 2026, totalling \$6,425.15 (refer to attachment 10.1.2).

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

10.1.3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – JULY 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Claire Trenorden, Manager Corporate Services
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	25.08
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.1.3 – Monthly Financial Report July 2026

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34* requires a local government to prepare a monthly financial statement that reports on actual revenue and expenditure against the annual budget prepared under regulation 22(1) (d).

Council has adopted a material variance on 10% or \$10,000 whichever is the greater.

COMMENT

The attached reports include:

- Statement of Financial Activity by Program (p.3)
- Statement of Financial Activity by Nature and Type (p.4)

The statements provide details of the Shire's operations on an actual year to date basis.

These statements and Notes 1 (p.5) and 2 (p.6) are statutory requirements and must be presented to Council.

The remaining notes all relate to the Statements of Financial Activity.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995, Part 6 – Financial Management S6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations, R34

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

July 2026

Total Cash Available as at 31 July 2026 is \$5,942,161;

- cash available is made up of unrestricted cash \$2,187,790 (36.82%) and
- restricted cash \$3,754,371 (63.18%).

Rates Debtors balance as at 31 July 2026 is \$1,974,974 and Rates Notices for 2026-27 were issued in July 2026.

July 2026:

Operating Revenue – Operating revenue of \$2,040,793 is made up of Rates - 83%, Grants - 9%, and Fees and Charges - 8%.

Operating Expenses – Operating expenses of \$537,896 is made of Employee Costs – 36%, Materials and Contracts – 40%, Insurance – 23%, and Utility – 1%.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The matter before the Council generally accords with the Shire's desired outcome, as expressed in the revised Shire of Wyalkatchem Strategic Community Plan.

Pillar 4 Civic Leadership	Statement of Strategic Outcome: We lead with accountability, connection and openness through best-practice systems, policies and financial controls
Goal No.	GOAL 11. High standard of governance
11.3	Ongoing long term financial planning and transparent financial management

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(92/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Begley

That Council accepts the Statements of Financial Activity for the month ending 31 July 2026 (refer attachment 10.1.3).

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

10.1.4. FEES AND CHARGES – WAIVER OF FEES WYALKATCHEM SENIOR LEISURE GROUP

Applicant:	Senior Leisure Group
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Tom Kettle, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	12.05.06
Attachment Reference:	Attachment A – Letter from Wyalkatchem Senior Leisure Group Attachment B – Policy 9.7 Community Bus Hire

BACKGROUND

The Council approved a fee waiver for the Senior Leisure Group at the 15 May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting that included bus hire and refill of the diesel fuel tank (on return) for a maximum of 6 hires in the regional and metropolitan area of Perth for a period of 12 months (54/2025).

The agreement was then extended by the A/CEO from May to June 2026.

The Shire has received a letter from the Senior Leisure Group requesting the Council consider an extension of the arrangement for a further 12 months (attachment 1).

COMMENT

The Wyalkatchem Senior Leisure Group is a casual group of Seniors who meet on a regular basis at the Community Resource Centre. There is no membership fee and a token \$2 is paid per outing.

Typically, the outings are to nearby Shires or Perth and include mystery tours e.g. Toodyay visiting the Emu Farm, meals at cafés, pubs and wineries. Recent participation numbers are between 14 and 22.

The fellowship provided by the group coupled with the outings has a positive affective on the mental health of the members. There is also an economic benefit to the neighbouring Shire businesses that the group attends.

The CEO originally advised the Senior Leisure Group that this request would be considered as part of the Community Assist Grant Scheme Policy in the 2026/27 Annual Budget. However, upon review it was clear that the Senior Leisure Group would not meet some of the requirements of the Policy (eg. Incorporated body and operated under an ABN). The CEO has liaised closely with the Senior Leisure Group to facilitate the request as a fee waiver, which is provided for under the Policy.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

The distance from Perth to Wyalkatchem is approximately 205 kilometres, allowing an average of an extra 10 kilometres per trip for consequential travel a return trip would be approximately 420 kilometres per trip at \$0.97 per kilometres which equals \$407.40 per outing.

Should the Wyalkatchem Senior Leisure Group travel to Perth for each of their six hires the fees waived would be \$2,444.40 in fees and charges. There would be additional costs for refuelling of approximately \$147.00 per outing for six hires which equals \$882.00. The total estimated financial impact is approximately \$3,326.40.

The Wyalkatchem Senior Leisure Group have advised that it is unlikely that there will be six outings to Perth as they regularly visit neighbouring wheatbelt Shires.

The CEO's current Delegation 1.2.32 Reduction or Waiver of Fees is authorised up until a limit of \$500.00. This is insufficient for the request received and therefore presented to the Council for consideration.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 S6.12 – Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts;

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Regulation 26 – Discount, incentive, concession.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy 9.7 – Community Bus Hire.

Council Policy 9.8 – Community Assistance Grant Scheme

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total estimated financial impact is \$3,326.40.

Additional costs of any damage or repairs to the Community Bus that are not able to be claimed via the Shire's insurance.

COMMUNITY & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This report promotes the Strategic Community Plan objectives which underpin Pillar 2 - Community and Pillar 4 – Civic Leadership. The activities accord with the Shire's desired outcomes in the Shire of Wyalkatchem Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034.

Pillar 2 Community	Statement of Strategic Outcome: Our community is inclusive, it is a place where people feel valued and have access to opportunities to build their own capacity, lead healthy lifestyles and stay connected.
Goal 5	A safe and healthy community for all ages.
Pillar 4 Civic Leadership	Statement of Strategic Outcome: We lead with accountability, connection and openness through best-practice systems, policies and financial controls.
Goal 11	High standard of governance

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(93/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Lawson Kerr

That Council waive the hire fee for the Wyalkatchem Senior Leisure Group including the refill of the diesel fuel tank (on return) for the Community Bus for a maximum of 6 hires in the regional and metropolitan area of Perth for a period of 12 months.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

10.2. WORKS AND SERVICES

10.2.1. WORKS OFFICER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Aldo Lamas – Works Manager
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	13.05
Attachment Reference:	Nil

BACKGROUND

To inform Council of the activities of the Works and Services team for the month ending 10 August 2026.

OVERVIEW

SUMMARY - ROADS / TOWN/ BUILDINGS

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

The Capital Works Program is progressing well, with all Requests for Quotation (RFQs) prepared and released to the market.

The road infrastructure projects at Benjaberring South Road and Wyalkatchem North Road have been awarded and are progressing to the delivery phase. The drainage infrastructure project at the intersection of Railway Terrace and Thurstun Street has also been awarded.

In addition, the procurement process for the purchase of the new mulcher has been completed, supporting the Shire's ongoing vegetation management and maintenance activities.

ROAD & MAINTENANCE

- **Refuse Site**

Routine weekly maintenance continued throughout the month at the Refuse Site.

- **Maintenance Grading**

Maintenance grading is continuing throughout the Shire to improve and maintain road conditions.

The first grading round has now been completed, and the second round has commenced. Works are currently starting on Local Road Distributor 1 roads in accordance with the Shire's road hierarchy and maintenance program.

1. Old Nalkain Rd
2. Mitchell Rd
3. Minnivale North East Rd
4. Richter Rd
5. Sutherland Rd
6. Amery-Benjaberring Rd
7. Benjaberring-Hindmarsh Rd
8. Cottrell Rd
9. Carter Rd
10. Cemetery Rd
11. McKay Rd
12. White Dam Rd
13. Garn Rd
14. Wyalkatchem North Rd
15. Brooke Rd
16. Brennan Rd
17. Remnant Rd
18. Pulford Rd
19. McPherson Rd
20. Derdibin Rd
21. Flowery Patch Rd
22. Blakistans Rd
23. Boyle Rd
24. Rifle Range Rd
25. Theil Rd
26. McNee Rd
27. Wallambin Rd
28. Gamble Rd
29. Chilman Rd
30. Elsegood Rd

PARKS AND GARDENS

- **Railway Terrace Garden**

Native plants have been planted along Railway Terrace as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the streetscape and promote local biodiversity. The plants were sourced from Wheatbelt Native Gardens in Kellerberrin, supporting the use of species well suited to the local environment and conditions.

- **Admin Park**

The existing fence at Administration Park has been removed and replaced as part of ongoing asset maintenance and improvement works. The new fence enhances the

appearance, safety, and functionality of the area while ensuring the asset remains fit for purpose.

- **Admin Office**

The existing concrete ramp at the Administration Building entrance has been refurbished and re-levelled to improve accessibility and safety. An epoxy flake flooring system has also been applied, providing a durable, slip-resistant surface while enhancing the overall appearance and functionality of the entrance area. The upgrade ensures the asset remains safe, attractive, and fit for purpose.

- **Airport**

A new windsock has been installed to replace the existing one, which had become damaged and deteriorated over time. The replacement ensures the continued safe and effective operation of the airstrip by providing clear and reliable wind direction information for aircraft movements.

[Refer to Photographs in Attachment A](#)

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no statutory environment implications in relation to this item.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are some financial implications in relation to this item and they are reflected in the report.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The matter before the Council generally accords with the Shire's desired outcome, as expressed in the revised Shire of Wyalkatchem Strategic Community Plan.

Pillar 1 Economy	Statement of Strategic Outcome: Local industry is sustained and can expand with critical and enabling infrastructure. The visitor economy diversifies our local economy and we enhance our community profile.
Goal No.	GOAL 1. Our transport network responds to the accessibility and connectivity needs of all
1.2	Deliver the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Program
1.3	Participate in the Regional Road Group
Pillar 2 Community	Statement of Strategic Outcome: Our community is inclusive, it is a place where people feel valued and have access to opportunities to build their own capacity, lead healthy lifestyles and stay connected.
Goal No.	GOAL 5. A safe and healthy community for all ages
5.9	Upgrade facilities and equipment at the Wyalkatchem Swimming Pool

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(94/2026) Moved: Cr Begley Seconded: Cr Lawson Kerr
That Council receives the Works Manager's report.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

Attachment A



Photo: Railway Terrace Garden



Photo: Admin Park



Photo: Admin Office Building

10.3. GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

10.3.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2026

Applicant:	Not Applicable
Location:	Whole of District
Date:	13 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Tom Kettle, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to declare
File Number:	13.05.01
Attachment Reference:	NIL

BACKGROUND

This report is prepared by the CEO to inform Council and the community about CEO activities and responsibilities, including progress against published plans and agreed performance criteria from 11 July to 14 August 2026.

COMMENT

The reporting period has continued to focus on governance, strategic planning, community development, emergency management, housing initiatives and regional advocacy. Engagement activities have included representation of the Shire through regional local government forums, collaboration with key stakeholders and continued implementation of Council's strategic priorities.

A highlight of the reporting period was Council's support for the Wyalkatchem Golf Club's centenary celebrations. Following stakeholder engagement and a Special Council Meeting on 24 July, Council was pleased to assist with the Club's 100-year anniversary event. The celebrations were well attended and reflected the important role the Golf Club has played in the community over many years. Congratulations are extended to the Club, its volunteers and organisers for delivering a successful event and recognising this significant milestone.

Another significant achievement during the reporting period was the reopening of Wallambin Lodge. This positive outcome reflects the commitment of Council, residents, WACHS and stakeholders to maintaining local aged care services, and recognised the collective effort that has supported the facility's return to operation and its ongoing contribution to community wellbeing.

Housing and land development initiatives remain a key priority for the Shire. Following Council's July Ordinary Council Meeting, progress has continued on the CEACA housing project. Council approved the Development Application for the project and endorsed the transfer of land required to facilitate the development. Project updates are expected to be provided soon and highlight the important progress towards increasing housing availability within the Shire.

Emergency management and community resilience activities were progressed through the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting and subsequent desktop exercise, which brought together emergency services, local government officers and community stakeholders to review local emergency management arrangements and strengthen preparedness and response capabilities.

Strategic planning work has also continued during the reporting period, including engagement activities associated with the development of Council's Public Health Plan and Council Plan. Community engagement has provided valuable feedback to inform Council's future priorities, initiatives and service delivery outcomes. The engagement results and a draft Council Plan will be provided to the community for feedback in September.

The CEO's six-month probation period is nearing completion, and work has continued to support the CEO performance review process, including the appointment of an independent consultant. The CEO Performance Review Committee is expected to meet shortly to finalise the review and make a recommendation to Council regarding the completion of the probationary period.

The Shire has continued to maintain a strong regional presence through participation in the NEWROC and the WALGA Great Eastern Country Zone. These forums enable advocacy for local priorities, contribution to regional initiatives and collaboration with neighbouring local governments on matters including infrastructure investment, housing, workforce attraction, economic development and legislative reform. Continued participation in these regional bodies ensures the interests of the Wyalkatchem community are represented at both regional and State levels.

Key Meetings 13 July to 14 August 2026

- 13 July Staff Interviews
- 13 July Stakeholder Meeting Council Plan
- 16 July Ordinary Council Meeting
- 21 July Stakeholder meeting at Golf Club
- 22 July Stakeholder meeting with WALGA
- 24 July Special Council Meeting
- 27 July Wallambin Lodge Reopening
- 28 July Public Health Plan Engagement Session
- 28 July Council Plan Workshop
- 30 July LEMC Meeting
- 31 July Communication Plan Stakeholder Meeting
- 4 August NEWROC Executive Meeting
- 6 August Stakeholder Meeting
- 7 August CEO Forum
- 13 August WALGA Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting
- 14 August Wheatbelt North East Sub Regional Road Group Meeting

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 5.41 Role of the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 5.56 Planning for the future.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no policy directly relevant to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial implication to this report. The CEO seeks to add value to Council Decisions and maximise community benefit of operations and project outcomes.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct risk implication to this report.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

All areas of the Strategic Community Plan are relevant to this report. The CEO is actively examining opportunities for progress against the Plan.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(95/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Begley

That Council accept the Chief Executive Officer's report as presented.

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

10.3.2. WALGA CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ATTENDEES

Applicant:	Not Applicable
Location:	Not applicable
Date:	20 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	Tom Kettle, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	14.09.08
Attachment Reference:	Nil

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Wyalkatchem is a member of WALGA and as such is entitled to vote on matters before the AGM. As a member of WALGA there is an opportunity for elected members and the CEO if so decided to attend the conference.

COMMENT

The Shire of Wyalkatchem is a member of WALGA and is entitled to vote on matters before the Annual General Meeting. The Shire may appoint up to two voting delegates to represent the local government on constitutional matters and substantive issues affecting the local government sector.

As a WALGA member, elected members and senior officers are also eligible to attend the annual convention. As the premier professional development event for the Western Australian local government sector, the convention offers valuable opportunities to enhance knowledge, develop professional networks and build skills relevant to local government leadership and governance.

The 2026 convention will be held from 16 to 18 September under the theme "Tomorrow's World", reflecting the rapidly changing environment facing local governments. Emerging technologies, evolving community expectations, economic pressures and increasing complexity continue to shape the challenges and opportunities confronting the sector. The convention enables delegates to explore emerging issues, share ideas with peers and learn from successful initiatives being implemented across Western Australia. These insights can help inform local decision-making and support positive outcomes for the Wyalkatchem community.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Section 2.7 Role of Council

- (2) The council's governing role includes the following —
 - (c) planning strategically for the future of the district;

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no policy directly relevant to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Attendance of the conference is subject to subscription and costs of accommodation (where required). Professional development is budgeted within the Approved Budget 2026 / 27.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct risk implication to this report.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Attendance of elected members at local government professional development assists councillors in their role. This is relevant to all areas of the Strategic Community Plan.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(96/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford Seconded: Cr Begley
That Council:

- 1. Nominate the following two delegates to represent the Shire of Wyalkatchem at the 2026 West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) AGM:***

***Cr Petchell, and
Cr Lawson Kerr.***

- 2. Invite the following councillors to attend the 2026 WALGA Conference:***

***Cr Stratford
Cr Dickson
Cr Loton***

- 3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to attend the 2026 WALGA Conference***

CARRIED 5/0

Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Begley

11. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Nil

14. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

15. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 4:24pm.