



**MINUTES
OF THE
ORDINARY MEETING
OF COUNCIL**

HELD ON

21 May 2026

Council Chambers

Honour Avenue

Wyalkatchem

Commencement: 4:00pm

Closure: 4:32pm

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 26 May 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 Tracy Dickson	
Cr Rod Lawson Kerr	
Cr Stephen Gamble	

Tom Kettle	Chief Executive Officer
Claire Trenorden	Manager Corporate Services
Aldo Lamas	Manager Works

3.2. Visitors

Nil

3.3. Apologies

Cr Justin Begley

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:

Ian Blakiston

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

Cr Stratford and Cr Petchell declared an impartiality interest in item 10.3.2.

7. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

7.1. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1.1. Ordinary Council Meeting – 16 April 2026

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

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(43/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Gamble

*That the minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Ordinary Meeting of
Council of Thursday 16 April 2026 (Attachment 7.1.1) be confirmed as a
true and correct record.*

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

7.2. Receipt of Minutes

Nil

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Presiding Member thanked Councillors for their time and dedication in attending all of the recent meetings. She also read a thank you from the Wyalkatchem District High School in relation to the Shire's contribution to the secondary students upcoming visit to Canberra.

9. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

10. REPORTS

10.1. CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1.1. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – APRIL 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 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 – April 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 April 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	EFT5204	EFT5153
Reserves	EFT	EFT	No Payments
DD	DD	DD4282.9	DD4267.1

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 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:

(44/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Gamble

That Council endorse the total payments for the month of April 2026 being \$588,510.41 which comprised of:

- 1. Cheque payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$0.00;*
- 2. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$537,726.62; and*
- 3. Direct Debit (DD) payments in the Municipal Fund totalling \$50,783.79.*

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

10.1.2. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – CREDIT CARDS – MARCH 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Glenn Bradly, Finance Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	File Ref: 12.10.02
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.1.2.1 – Credit Card – March 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 2025/2026 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:

(45/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford Seconded: Cr Dickson
That Council endorse credit card payments for the period 28 February 2026 to
27 March 2026, totalling \$4,205.87(refer to attachment 10.1.2).

CARRIED 6/0
Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson

10.1.3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – APRIL 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Claire Trenorden, Manager Corporate Services
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	25.08
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.1.3.1 – Monthly Financial Report April 2026

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 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

April 2026

Total Cash Available as at 30 April 2026 is \$4,558,808;

- cash available is made up of unrestricted cash \$1,517,127 (20.45%) and
- restricted cash \$3,626,696 (79.55%).

Rates Debtors balance as at 30 April 2026 is \$147,913 and Rates Notices for 2025-26 were issued in August 2025. Rates collected as at end of March were \$1,397,285 - 87%.

April 2026: Operating Revenue – Operating revenue of \$3,198,004 is made up of Rates - 50%, Grants - 38%, Fees and Charges - 7%, Interest – 3% and other – 2%.

Operating Expenses – Operating expenses of \$4,969,634 is made of Employee Costs – 26%, Materials and Contracts – 20%, Depreciation – 46%, Insurance – 5% and Utility – 3%.

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:

*(46/2026) Moved: Cr Dickson Seconded: Cr Loton
That Council accepts the Statements of Financial Activity for the month ending
30 April 2026 (refer attachment 10.1.3).*

CARRIED 6/0
***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

10.1.4. FEES AND CHARGES AMENDMENT

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Claire Trenorden, Manager Corporate Services
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to declare
File Number:	12.5
Attachment Reference:	Nil

BACKGROUND

Currently, the Shire's Fees and Charges only includes a full day hire of the Recreation Centre. We have been approached by somebody looking to hold classes on a half day basis.

COMMENT

The Shire's current Fees and Charges (inclusive of GST) for 2025/26 for the Recreation Centre are:

Whole of Recreation Centre	Per day	\$163.80
Function Room	Per day	\$87.15
BBQ Area	Per day	\$51.45
Bar Room	Per day	\$87.15
Use of kitchen only	Per hour	\$33.60

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations, 33A. Review of budget

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no policy directly relevant to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is no risk implication to this 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 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

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(47/2026) Moved: Cr Dickson Seconded: Cr Loton

That Council:

- 1. Approve the inclusion of a half day hire charge (maximum 4 hours) for the Recreation Centre Function Room of \$44.00 inclusive of GST.*

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

10.2. WORKS AND SERVICES

10.2.1. WORKS OFFICER'S REPORT – MAY 2026

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Aldo Lamas, Manager Works
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 May 2026.

OVERVIEW

SUMMARY - ROADS / TOWN/ BUILDINGS

ROAD & MAINTENANCE

- **Refuse Site**

Routine weekly maintenance continued throughout the month at the Refuse Site. New signage and a revised site layout were implemented using recycled materials already available at the tip, resulting in savings on disposal costs and use of current cell.

- **Maintenance Grading**

Maintenance grading is continuing throughout the Shire, including clearing drains and off-shoots and re-shaping the road formation in preparation for winter maintenance grading.

1. Cemetery Rd
2. Begley Rd
3. Westlake Rd
4. Fisher Rd
5. Ross Rd
6. Davies South Rd
7. Davies Rd
8. Fennick Rd
9. Tilbrook Rd
10. Jarvis Rd
11. Nembudding Bin Rd
12. Nembudding South Rd
13. Mcnee Rd
14. Turn Dr
15. Lackman Rd

16. Bookham Rd
17. Hennessey Rd
18. Hindmarsh/Benjaberring
19. Benjaberring/Hindmarsh
20. Borgward Rd
21. Byrne Rd
22. Bruse Rd
23. Rifle Range Rd
24. Hardwick Rd
25. Elashgin Rd
26. Hammond Rd
27. Elashgin East West Rd
28. Parsons Rd

- **Traffic Counters**

Installation of the traffic counters is still ongoing throughout the Shire, and they are being rotated every two weeks. This information will be uploaded into our mapping system to allow easy access and identification, which will assist in planning and carrying out maintenance activities. To date, we have recorded data from 53 locations since the program commenced.

- **Culvert Replacement Program**

The Shire has been carrying out inspections to collect data for the culvert replacement program. As part of this program, a damaged culvert has already been replaced on Davies South Road.

- **Concrete kerb and Apron Works**

Concrete kerb and apron works were carried out at Piesse Street to address flooding issues affecting four properties.

- **Speed Awareness Digital Signs**

Two digital speed display signs have been installed one on Honour Avenue and the other one at Wyalkatchem Koorda Rd to promote road safety and encourage motorists to adhere to speed limits within the area.

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Shire of Wyalkatchem Council Chambers
21 May 2026

ROAD NAME	ROAD NUMBER	FINANCIAL YEAR	SEASON	AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC	CARS %	TRUCKS %	SLK
Cunderdin - Wyalkatchem Rd	4310131	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	71	72.20	27.80	1.50
Cunderdin - Wyalkatchem Rd	4310131	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	46	63.40	36.60	15.30
Tammin - Wyalkatchem Rd	4310132	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	67	57.00	43.00	26.01
Tammin - Wyalkatchem Rd	4310132	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	33	55.50	44.50	2.58
Benjaberring - Hindmarsh Rd	4310027	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	59.70	40.30	5.59
Benjaberring - Hindmarsh Rd	4310027	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	18	30.60	69.40	4.42
Davies South Rd	4310006	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	28.30	71.70	12.86
Benjaberring South Rd	4310133	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	19	66.30	33.70	0.41
Korrellocking North Rd	4310016	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	15	34.40	65.60	1.49
Davies Rd	4310011	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	25	37.90	62.10	1.50
Allan Rd	4310019	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	22	38.00	62.00	0.47
Depierres Rd	4310022	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	19	67.00	33.00	3.06
Cox Rd	4310022	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	9	20.30	79.70	8.07
Parsons Rd	4310007	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	26.50	73.50	12.49
Hobden Rd	4310082	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	18	55.60	44.40	1.53
Divers Rd	4310001	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	0	0.00	0.00	2.04
Yorakine West Rd	4310004	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	67.50	32.50	1.56
Hammond Rd	4310035	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	5	54.90	45.10	1.78
McNee Rd	4310009	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	59.40	40.60	1.23
Goldfields Rd	4310015	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	14	42.9	57.1	6.5
Bruse Rd	4310047	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	5	44.3	55.7	2.53
Tilbrook Rd	4310024	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	8	65.3	34.7	1.82
Hodgson Rd	4310032	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	1	33.3	66.7	0.75
Hardwick Rd	4310034	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	5	31.5	68.5	4.23
Maitland Rd	4310075	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	19	49.8	50.2	1.67
Elashgin East West	4310048	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	18	42	58	4.74
Elsegood Rd	4310003	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	32	54	46	1.61
Wyalkatchem North Rd	4310002	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	32	48	52	9.00
Wyalkatchem Koorda Rd	4310130	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	120	58.8	41.2	3.77
Mitchell St	4310128	2025-2026	(Jan - Feb)	368	82.8	17.2	0.1
Railway Tce	4310103	2025-2026	(Jan - Feb)	350	66.2	33.8	0.12
Railway Tce	4310103	2025-2026	(Jan - Feb)	250	82.1	17.9	0.57
Honour Ave	4310129	2025-2026	(Jan - Feb)	199	52.3	47.7	0.59
Gamble St	4310104	2025-2026	(Jan - Feb)	144	53.1	46.9	0.66
Wyalkatchem Koorda Rd	4310130	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	88	65.3	34.7	7.16
Cemetery Rd	4310029	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	52	62.4	37.6	1.21
Mitchell St	4310128	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	337	76	24	0.1
Nembudding South Road	4310008	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	10	59.3	40.7	0.27
Riches St	4310105	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	170	63.6	36.4	0.1
Shiells Rd	4310060	2025-2026	(Nov - Jan)	1	100	0	6.92
Rubbish Tip Entrance	4310129	2025-2026	(Feb-Apr)	21	54.1	45.9	2.2
Riches St	4310119	2026-2026	(Feb-Apr)	185	71.2	28.8	0.07
Cemetery Rd	4310029	2026-2026	(Feb-Mar)	8	33.8	66.2	5
Riches St	4310105	2026-2026	(Feb-Apr)	86	59.8	40.2	0.03
Piesse St	4310110	2026-2026	(Apr-Apr)	59	97.3	2.7	5
Wilson St	4310106	2026-2026	(Apr-Apr)	32	56.2	43.9	0.03
Thurstun St	4310113	2026-2026	(Apr-Apr)	64	97.1	2.9	0.09
Swan St	4310112	2026-2026	(Apr-Apr)	33	24.2	75.7	0.05
Grace St	4310109	2026-2026	(Apr-May)	54	25.7	74.3	0.17
Flint St	4310107	2026-2026	(Apr-May)	18	94.8	5.2	0.39
Slocum St	4310111	2026-2026	(Apr-May)	33	92.1	7.9	0.35
Johnston St	4310108	2026-2026	(Apr-May)	16	59.2	40.8	0.55
Scott St	4310115	2026-2026	(Apr-May)	13	73.6	26.4	0.09

[Refer to Photographs in Attachment A](#)

PARKS AND GARDENS

▪ **Tree Pruning Works within the Town Site**

Trees were pruned within the town site as part of regular maintenance works.

▪ **Verge Cleaning within the Town Site**

The Workcamp team assisted with verge cleaning works throughout the town site.

- **Swimming Pool**

Swimming pool renovation works in the change rooms are progressing well, with the installation of new epoxy flooring, tiling in the showers, and refurbishment of the entire area underway. More works are scheduled for the coming week.

- **Cemetery**

Stage two of the cemetery works has commenced, with groundworks underway including site levelling and the installation of concrete kerbing. The next stage will involve marking out the layout.

- **Recreation Centre**

Epoxy flooring resurfacing was recently carried out in the male and female toilet areas.

[Refer to Photographs in Attachment B](#)

STAFF & TRAINING

- **Central Regional TAFE Training**

As part of our ongoing staff development program, members of the garden and works crew attended training at Central Regional TAFE this month. This training supports the team in building skills and maintaining best practices across our operations.

- **ROC Works & Services Development Day**

As part of our ongoing staff development program, the Works Manager and team leaders attended the first Eastern Wheatbelt Joint ROC Works and Services Staff Development Day. The event provided valuable learning opportunities and supports the team in building skills and maintaining best practices across our operations.

[Refer to Photographs in Attachment C](#)

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:

(48/2026) Moved: Cr Dickson Seconded: Cr Loton
That Council receives the Works Manager's report.

CARRIED 6/0

**Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson**

Attachment A



Photo: Refuse Site Entrance



Photo: Refuse Site, New signage & layout

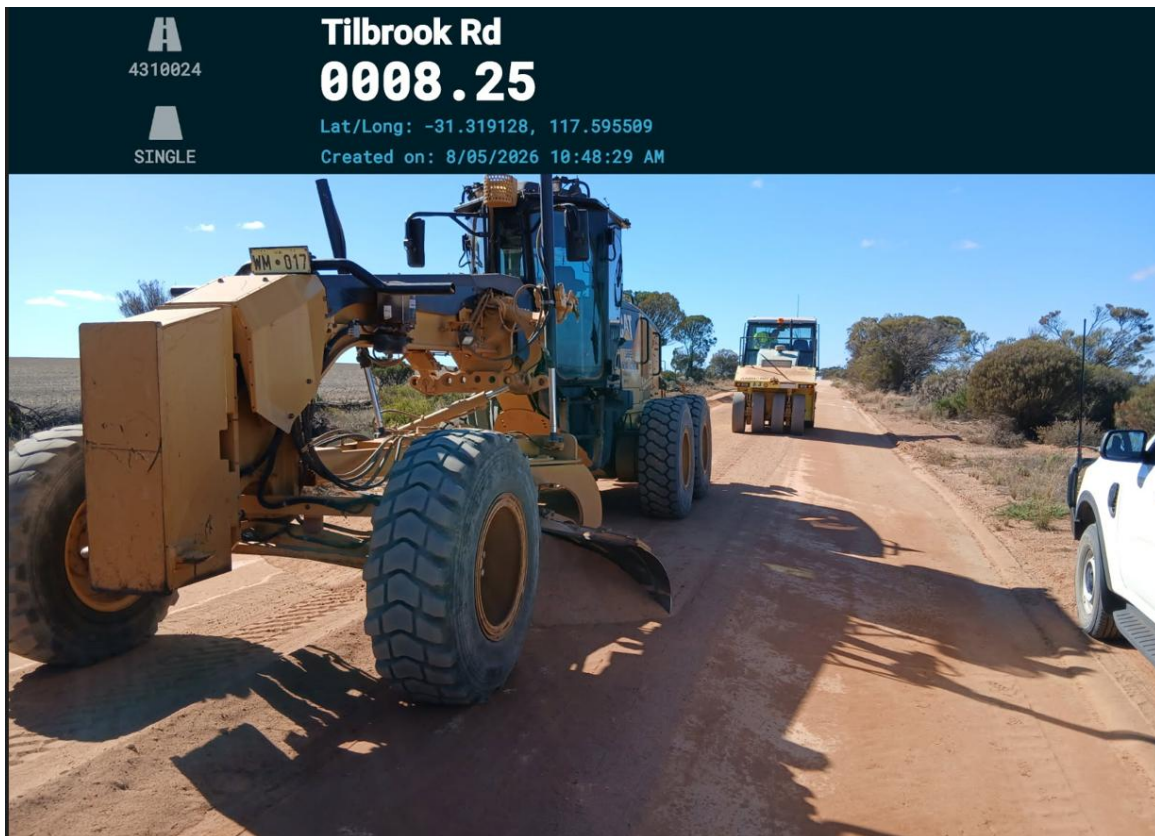


Photo: Maintenance Grading

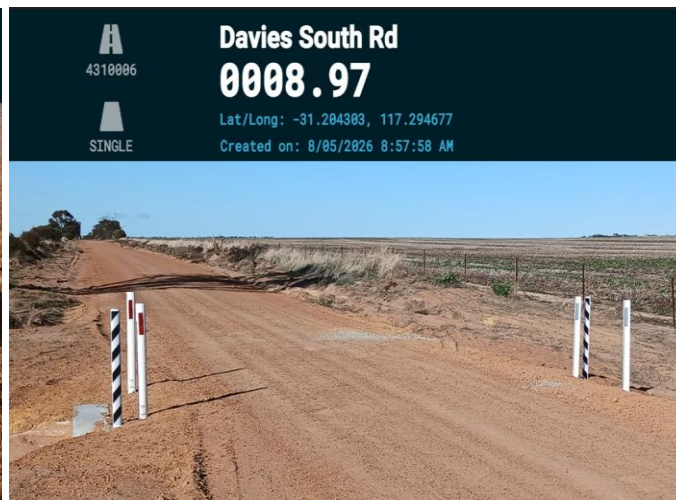


Photo: Culvert Works



Attachment B



Photo: Tree Pruning Works within the Town site.



Photo: Verge Cleaning Works within the Town site.





Photo: Swimming Change Rooms Restoration



Photo: Cemetery Works



Photo: Recreation Centre Toilets



Photo: Works Depot Training

Attachment C

Wyalkatchem - Koorda Rd
4318130
0000.19
Lat/Long: -31.173599, 117.387422
Created on: 15/04/2026 11:31:58 AM
SINGLE



Honour Av
4318129
0000.59
Lat/Long: -31.176272, 117.385332
Created on: 15/04/2026 12:51:19 PM
SINGLE



10.3. GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

10.3.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – MAY 2026

Applicant:	Not Applicable
Location:	Whole of District
Date:	14 May 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 16 April 2026 to 21 May 2026

COMMENT

Operations during the reporting period were characterised by a continued focus on governance, financial and strategic planning, regional collaboration, emergency management, and community engagement.

A significant component of activity related to governance and compliance, including the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting and entrance meeting with external auditors held on 16 April. These engagements support Council's commitment to strong financial oversight, accountability, and continuous improvement. This commitment was reinforced by the Shire being recognised as a 2025 'Best Practice Entity,' for financial reporting and controls by the Office of the Auditor General. Congratulations to the Corporate Services Team, the ARC and the temporary CEO during that period.

Council and executive engagement remained a priority throughout the period, with regular meetings held with the Shire President, Deputy Shire President, and Councillors. These discussions support effective decision-making, alignment on strategic priorities, and responsive leadership across the organisation.

Strategic and financial planning continued to progress, with a dedicated Budget Workshop held on 7 May to support development of the 2026/27 Annual Budget. This work was complemented by the Council Plan Workshop held on 14 May, which marked an important step in progressing the Shire's integrated planning framework, including the Public Health Plan. Community engagement is scheduled for 3 and 4 June to seek the community's input on our four-year priorities and I would encourage you all to attend and help shape our future.

Regional collaboration remained an important focus, demonstrated through participation in the WALGA Zone Meeting, WALGA information session, and NEWROC Council Meeting. In addition, attendance at the CEACA Management Committee Meeting continues to advance regional housing initiatives and cooperative service delivery opportunities.

Emergency management and preparedness were further strengthened through participation in the District Emergency Management Committee Meeting and direct

engagement with DFES. These forums ensure the Shire remains well positioned to respond to emerging risks and support community resilience.

Further external advocacy and sector engagement were supported through attendance at the WA State Government Budget Breakfast in York and participation in the Grants Commission Hearing. These engagements provide valuable insights into funding settings and broader policy directions impacting local government.

Community engagement remained a consistent focus, including meetings with community members and informal interactions through CRC activities. These engagements provide important opportunities to listen, respond to local issues, and strengthen community connections.

Overall, the period reflects a continued emphasis on sound governance, proactive planning, regional collaboration, and community engagement, with steady progress being made across key organisational priorities while developing our future plans.

Key Meetings 16 April 2026 to 21 May 2026

- 16 April Audit and Risk Committee Meeting and Entrance Meeting with external auditors
- 16 April Ordinary Council Meeting
- 20 April Meeting with Councillor
- 21 April Meeting with Shire President
- 23 April WALGA Zone Meeting
- 28 April Meeting with Shire President and Deputy Shire President
- 29 April Meeting with community member
- 29 April Morning tea at CRC
- 1 May Meeting at CRC
- 1 May WALGA information session
- 4 May CEACA Management Committee Meeting
- 5 May NEWROC Council Meeting
- 6 May District Emergency Management Committee Meeting
- 7 May Budget workshop
- 7 May Grants Commission Hearing
- 8 May WA State Government Budget Breakfast in York
- 8 May Meeting with DFES
- 12 May Meeting with community member
- 14 May Council Plan Workshop with Council

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:

(49/2026) Moved: Cr Dickson Seconded: Cr Lawson-Kerr
That Council accept the Chief Executive Officer's report as presented.

CARRIED 6/0

**Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson**

Cr Stratford and Cr Petchell declared an impartiality interest in item 10.3.2.

10.3.2. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Tom Kettle, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	12.10.02
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.3.2.1 – Revised Terms of Reference Attachment 10.3.2.2 – Independent Presiding Member Applicant
Shortlist (confidential)	Attachment 10.3.2.3 – Candidate Applications (confidential)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider the adoption of the Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) Committee updated Terms of Reference (ToR), establish the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) as outlined in the update ToR and consider the appointment of Councillors and an Independent Presiding Member to the ARIC.

These updates reflect recent legislative reforms introduced under the Local Government Amendment Act 2024.

COMMENT

The ARC Committee is a formally constituted committee of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Council, established under Section 7.1A and 5.8 of the Local Government Act 1995. The Committee provides independent oversight of the Shire's financial management systems, audit processes, risk governance, and compliance initiatives.

Recent reforms to the Local Government Act 1995, effective from December 2024, have introduced significant changes to the governance and operation of council audit and risk committees. These include:

- Reclassification of audit committees as Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARICs) to reflect a broader scope of responsibilities.
- Mandatory appointment of an independent presiding member, who must not be a council member or employee of the local government.
- Clarification of committee structure, including the roles of presiding members, deputy presiding members, and committee members.
- Provisions for shared ARICs among smaller local governments to reduce resource burdens.

The Shire's ARC reviewed the ToR at its' meeting on 16 April 2026 and endorsed the ARIC Tor provided in attachment 1.

The key changes include the following:

- Legislative (title) – Audit Risk and Management Committee amended to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

- Legislative (membership) – amendment for the inclusion of at least one independent member who must be the presiding member. Should the Council resolve to appoint a deputy presiding member, this person must also be independent.
- Legislative (chair) – amendment to the appointment of presiding member and deputy presiding member by absolute majority decision of the Council.
- Clarity and structure amendment – the implementation of a work plan to guide undertaking of tasks and responsibilities for the calendar year.
- Clarity amendment – update of the definition of the oversight responsibilities including improvement, risk management, internal control, external audit, financial reporting and compliance.

The delegated authority and role of the committee remains as provided for in the Shire's delegation register and aligned to relevant legislation.

The ToR have been drafted to provide the Council with the flexibility to appoint a minimum of three and a maximum of seven Councillors to the newly constituted ARIC. It is recommended that four Councillors are appointed to the ARIC with the independent presiding member as this creates an uneven number for voting purposes. The ARIC also reports to the Council, so it is standard practice not to include all Councillors however this is a decision for the Council to make.

The ARC decision noted the CEO would advertise for a suitably qualified and experienced independent presiding member. An EOI was advertised from 24 April 2026 to 8 May 2026 with 7 valid applications received. The standard of applicants was high, however Candidate A is recommended to be appointed as the Independent Presiding Member.

An independent ARIC member is entitled to a sitting fee under section 5.100(2)(b) the Local Government Act 1995 and fee may be set within the range outlined at 6.5 of the Local Government CEO and Elected Council Members Determination (SAT Determination). The SAT Determination 2026 was recently released with a range from \$110 to \$1,215. It is recommended that the sitting fee set at \$450.00 as this reflects the fee paid to previous independent members appointed by the Shire (Eg. CEO Recruitment Committee). The fee will be included for consideration of elected member fees in the 2026/27 Annual Budget Process and reviewed annually as part of the budget process.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 7.1A, section 5.8 and 5.10
Local Government Amendment Act 2024
Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An independent member sitting fee of \$450.00.

Independent members may be reimbursed for travel and associated meeting attendance costs demonstrated to the satisfaction of the local government per Council Policies.

COMMUNITY & 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 2024-2034.

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

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(50/2026) Moved: Cr Dickson Seconded: Cr Gamble

That Council:

- 1. Establish the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) under section 5.8 Local Government Act 1995,*
- 2. Appoint Councillor Begley, Councillor Loton, Councillor Lawson-Kerr and Councillor Stratford as members of the ARIC,*
- 3. Appoint Candidate A in confidential attachment 2 as the Independent Presiding Member of the ARIC Committee, and*
- 4. Approve the payment of a sitting fee of \$450 per meeting to the Independent Member under section 5.100(2)(b) Local Government Act 1995 and part 6.4 Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for Local Government Elected Members 2025 pursuant to Section 7B of the Salaries and Allowances Act 1975.*

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

10.3.3. PIONEERS PATHWAYS FUTURE OPTIONS

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Tom Kettle, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	13.05.01
Attachment Reference:	Attachment 10.3.3 – Pioneers’ Pathway Future Options Analysis

BACKGROUND

The Pioneers’ Pathway Advisory Group (PPAG) was established in the late 1990s to provide a coordinated governance and delivery framework for the development, promotion and stewardship of the Pioneers’ Pathway Self Drive Trail, from the administration a regional heritage tourism route connecting communities from Toodyay to Merredin. The partnership was formalised through successive Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), with the current draft 2024 - 2027 MOU committing Member Councils to collectively invest \$72,000 over the three (3) year term, alongside substantial in-kind contributions including staff time, infrastructure maintenance, marketing support and tourism development activities.

The PPAG was intended to provide strategic leadership, oversee delivery of marketing and product development initiatives, source external funding and maximise the economic return from regional tourism. However, changes in membership and resourcing have altered the operating environment, with the Shire of Trayning withdrawing from the partnership in 2021 and the Shire of Toodyay withdrawing in 2024, reducing both financial contributions and regional representation.

Current annual operational funding of approximately \$17,500 from remaining Member Councils is largely absorbed by essential coordination and marketing costs, including approximately \$12,000 per annum for Executive Officer marketing support, leaving limited capacity for new project delivery or strategic development. With no MOU currently executed and with the recent withdrawal of the Shire of Toodyay it is a timely opportunity to review the effectiveness, structure and future role of the Advisory Group to ensure the Pioneers’ Pathway remains a sustainable, relevant and strategically managed regional tourism asset.

COMMENT

PPAG current challenges identified:

- Lack of clearly defined purpose and measurable outcomes.
- Limited funding and resourcing to implement meaningful projects.
- Inconsistent attendance and engagement from member Councils.
- Limited dedicated project coordination or delivery capacity.
- Unclear alignment between marketing, asset development and tourism strategy.

In its current form, the Advisory Group is not considered sustainable and cannot continue operating as it has. Over the past 12 months, activity has been largely limited to marketing, with little capacity to progress strategic or infrastructure-based projects due to not securing external grant funding.

It is acknowledged there remains a clear opportunity in heritage tourism, with the Pioneer Pathway offering a valuable framework to tell local stories and connect communities. Significant investment has already been made in signage and interpretation across the trail, and it is important this is not lost.

The Administration consider that all options present some level of merit; however, each is subject to varying degrees of risk, resourcing requirements and long-term sustainability.

Options involving a strengthened or expanded model (Options 1 and 2) may provide improved outcomes but are likely to require increased financial commitment and consistent participation from all member Councils, which is proven difficult to achieve.

Option 3 presents a lower-cost approach that would allow the trail to continue to be marketed. The Shire is a member of NEWTRAVEL, which could potentially undertake this role. It is important to note some member Local Government are not part of NEWTRAVEL, but are involved in similar member groups (eg. Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre). Further discussion is required with PPAG to develop a framework for implementing this option. It is also a risk that competing priorities may impact the level of focus and resourcing dedicated to the Pioneers' Pathway initially.

Option 4 is not considered viable, as independent management is unlikely to result in a coordinated or equitable regional approach.

PPAG LG positions have been established at recent ordinary council meetings and are summarised below for reference:

- Shire of Merredin Option 3
- Shire of Nungarin Option 3
- Shire of Dowerin Option 3
- Shire of Goomalling

That Council:

Support the continuation of the Pioneers' Pathway under the current structure and recommendation that the Executive Officer role be discontinued; and

Shire of Goomalling continues to administer the trail with the added responsibility of coordinating the marketing activities in line with the agreed marketing strategy.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial implication to this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risks have been broadly addressed in the body of this report.

There is also a low reputational risk associated with this Item. The risk rating is considered to be Low (3), which is determined by a likelihood of low (1) and a consequence of Moderate (3). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Pillar 1: Economy

Goal 4. The length of stay for visitors and tourist in Wyalkatchem is extended

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(51/2026) Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Dickson

That Council:

- 1. Supports option 3 outlined in attachment 1 Pioneer Pathways Advisory Group future options.*
- 2. Requests the CEO provide written notice to Pioneer Pathways Advisory Group of this Council Decision.*

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

11. PLANNING AND BUILDING

11.1.1. TOWN PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT

Applicant:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Location:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Date:	14 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Paul Bashall, Contract Town Planner
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
File Number:	07.10
Attachment Reference:	11.1.1 Amendment to Local Planning Scheme

MINISTER FOR PLANNING

PROPOSAL TO AMEND A SCHEME

1.	LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Shire of Wyalkatchem
2.	DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME:	Shire of Wyalkatchem Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (the Scheme)
3.	TYPE OF SCHEME:	District Zoning Scheme
4.	SERIAL NUMBER OF AMENDMENT:	Amendment No. 2
5.	PROPOSAL	To reclassify Portion Lot 438 Gamble St, Wyalkatchem , from a local scheme reserve for 'Public Purposes – Police' to 'Residential' zone with an 'R10/30' R-Code density.

REPORT BY: Shire of Wyalkatchem

1 INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Wyalkatchem seeks the WA Planning Commission's support and the Hon. Minister's approval to reclassify Portion Lot 438 Gamble St, **Wyalkatchem**, from a local scheme reserve for 'Public Purposes – Police' to 'Residential' zone with an 'R10/30' R-Code density.

2 BACKGROUND

The Wyalkatchem Police station precinct occupies Lot 438 Gamble Street in Wyalkatchem. The site is about 6,400m² in area and has frontages to Gamble, Flint and Wilson Streets - although only Gamble Street is used by the station.

Figure 1 provides an aerial photograph of the site showing the extent of the existing police station footprint as of April 2023. The used area measures less than 1,800m² with advice indicating that, the site that will remain a police reserve after the amendment, will be adequate for the foreseeable future.

The whole of the land forms a 'C' class Crown Reserve 16483. This Reserve has the current purpose as 'Police' with the Responsible Authority as the 'Western Australia Police'.

The management orders are vested in the Commissioner of Police. The Council has approached the Commissioner with a view to reducing the area of the Reserve required by the police to enable the Council to provide for more housing in the town. The land is well serviced and within close proximity to existing facilities and amenities.

FIGURE 1 – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF POLICE STATION SITE



Source: ESRI, Landgate, Planwest

The Council has been in contact with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) with the view to purchase portion of the Reserve. The Minister for Lands acting under section 86 of the Land Administration Act 1997 (LAA) has agreed to the sale of portion of Lot 438 on Deposited Plan 40690 to the Shire.

The community of Wyalkatchem needs affordable housing for the ageing, disadvantaged, and for its future workforce.

CEACA (Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc) was formed in 2012 by eleven central and eastern wheatbelt shires that recognised a common issue of a lack of appropriate and affordable housing for the ageing population. The goal is to provide quality and affordable housing that allows for residents to remain in their communities well into their retirement. Wyalkatchem was one of those 11 founding members and the alliance that was formed has remained a major part of our strategic plan over the past 12 years.

Other founding members were; Merredin, Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock, Koorda, Trayning, Nungarin, Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Yilgarn & Westonia.

To be successful in gaining the required funding the CEACA committee commissioned several Verso reports, including a report on Infrastructure and Service solutions for Aged People in CEACA shires. These reports were commissioned over a 4-year period and were collated to form a major part of the application processes for the required grant funding.

Ultimately CEACA were successful in gaining the required funding and the first units were tenanted in 2019.

Wyalkatchem's contribution to the construction of the first stage of 4 units was successful with these units having 100% occupancy for the past 2 years with interest regularly being shown from community members wanting to join a waitlist. CEACA continues to manage the running and maintenance of these units with the help of Elders Real Estate.

At the recent strategic planning forums held by the Shire of Wyalkatchem it was a regularly commented that there is a lack of housing for the ageing and for workers. The community expressed a genuine desire for the Shire to commit to easing the housing deficiency in the township.

CEACA currently has submissions in for both Federal and State funding to support the construction of 54 additional units to be built across 11 shires. Wyalkatchem has indicated to CEACA that we would be requesting an additional 4 units to be built in Wyalkatchem. Upon receiving these indications from all member shires, CEACA requested that councils investigate and secure the appropriate land required.

3 COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Local Planning Strategy

The Wyalkatchem Local Planning Strategy (the Strategy) was endorsed by the WA Planning Commission on 3 December 2014. This Amendment has no implications on the Strategy.

Strategic Community Plan

The proposed acquisition of land, rezoning and subdivision generally accords with the Council's Strategic Community Plan. The Plan has several desired outcomes as follows; has several

Goal 2 - Essential services and infrastructure enable local economic growth.
Facilitate and partner with State Government on land for industry and housing development initiatives.

Maintain, improve and expand Shire housing stock.

Goal 5 - A safe and healthy community for all ages.

Implement and progress achievement towards the Aged Friendly Plan

Work with partners to expand the number of independent living units for the aged.

Goal 10 - Consult and engage with our community and strategic partners.

Develop strategic partnerships with regional organisations, State and Federal governments.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

(52/2026) Moved: Cr Lawson-Kerr

Seconded: Cr Gamble

That Council adopts the Scheme Amendment No 2 and forwards the documents to the EPA and WAPC for approval to advertise.

CARRIED 6/0

***Voted for: Cr Petchell, Cr Stratford, Cr Lawson Kerr, Cr Loton, Cr Gamble,
Cr Dickson***

12. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

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

Nil

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

Nil

15. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

16. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 4:32pm.