



## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the start of June, I attended the Mid-West Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Forum at the QPT in Geraldton where, along with some other Local Government Presidents, I contributed to a brief panel discussion about a range of topics relevant to our region. These include potential developments in our local government areas, and the myriad of pros and cons that are involved. We want our communities to be robust and strong and to grow, but we also need to ensure that development in our regions actually has some direct benefit to the people who live here, and that the growth is sustainable.

Issues such as housing, workforce, training for future jobs and industries, planning for potential townsite growth and the capacity of local government to manage changing communities are challenges we must deal with. Thanks must go to CEO Joanne Fabling and her MWCCI team who advocate for our region and work tirelessly to continually present interesting topics, speakers and networking opportunities, in order to encourage economic development in our region.

At the June meeting, Council resolved to contribute to a not-for-profit health initiative for Kalbarri: 'Stay in Place'. The aim of the aged care program is to enable residents to remain living in their homes in Kalbarri, for longer than is currently possible. 'Stay in Place' will essentially provide a database to co-ordinate and connect clients (who are assessed on a needs basis) with a range of carers, who will be sourced from the community. It may take a little while to establish systems and co-ordinate the program, but it is hoped that this will be a mutually beneficial program for the care recipient, whilst also providing potential employment opportunities and increased community connection. Many of the services are basic and not dependent on nursing or allied health qualifications, such as delivery to medical appointments, assisting with home help and gardening services. Thanks to the Kalbarri Development Association who are the drivers of the program and who advocate for a vibrant, connected community.

The WA government funded electric vehicle charging station recently began operation in Kalbarri. I would like to thank CEO, Andrew Campbell for successfully liaising with Synergy to ensure the large transformer box, necessary for the installation, was positioned set back from the street frontage on Grey St, so that the charging station could be positioned in the long vehicle parking area adjacent to the Allen Centre.

The rains have finally come to our region and have been a life saver for many. I learned that a number of farmers and growers in the northern half of our shire received more rainfall in a 24-hour period

at the start of June, than they received for the entire year in 2023! I learned that Binnu farmer and Northampton Rams President, Damian Harris featured in my favourite weekly TV show, Landline!

The rain resulted in a number of roads being closed due to flooded waterways and there has been some damage to roads throughout the Shire. My sincere thanks to Neil and his team, many who were called out early on a Sunday morning, for monitoring conditions and assisting travellers. The Works and Technical Services team will continue to repair damage, noting that it's possible any subsequent rain may pose more issues, given the soil profile is no longer parched!

In my other life as a farmer, recently I've attended some events to support the sheep industry in regional Western Australia. Sheep numbers in the Shire of Northampton have reduced from approx. 300,000 in the early 2000s (and they were significantly higher prior to this when I was growing up), to a situation where there would no longer be 80,000 sheep in the area and it is anticipated that numbers will continue to decline. We are very fortunate in our local government area that we don't rely solely on Agriculture. Given our proximity to the coast, the fact that the No 1 Highway runs through the centre of our local government and our proximity to Geraldton, I believe our communities will always be vibrant. However, I do mourn the Northampton that was able to support at least four (and at times up to six) shearing teams and the transport industries associated with wool and livestock. I'm told by a former shearing contractor that in the 1970s, there were at least 45 shearers who lived in Northampton. To support those shearers there were shedhands, wool pressers and classers and extra farm hands, who all lived locally. Working in a shearing team was a fantastic way for a young person to learn hard work, to work as part of a team and have a sense of belonging and earn good money.

Working with my family, I'm a mixed enterprise farmer who operates in what nationally is considered a pretty dry environment, and where sheep for wool and meat play a pivotal role in my particular business. My heart really does go out to all my fellow friends in Agriculture, who live in the many country towns and rural communities away from the coast and off the main highways throughout Western Australia. The decisions being imposed by Eastern States politicians on regional Western Australian sheep producers, I believe will not be to the benefit of regional WA communities. In most regional areas in the Eastern and Southern states of Australia, the population in regional communities is growing – but this is not the case in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. Many are already struggling with smaller populations, smaller schools, reduced medical services and

therefore less liveability and opportunity. Next time you're enjoying a meal, please spare a thought for the farmer who has worked hard to feed you and all of the chain of businesses, which flow from that, who operate in the regions.

**Liz Sudlow**  
**Shire President**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE**

At the meeting held 20 June 2024, Council approved a new Community Grant Program policy. The principle behind the new program is to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of \$100,000 of funds to the Shire of Northampton community. In the first year there will be two rounds with the first larger round (\$60,000) scheduled to open in July 2024 with announcements being made in September 2024. The second smaller round will open in December 2024 with announcements being made in March 2025. If you are interested in applying, keep a look out for further information and application forms that will be advertised widely.

The Synergy Electric Vehicle Station has been commissioned and officially been opened in the Allen Centre car park in Kalbarri. This is a fantastic asset to have in Kalbarri, and along with the existing EV station in Northampton will attract additional visitation to the Shire district.



At the meeting held 20 June 2024, Council endorsed the creation of the Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment Advisory Committee to advise on the \$8.1M Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment project. The Shire will be looking for nominations for two members of the community to be part of the committee in addition to a representative from each of the Kalbarri Visitor Centre, Kalbarri Development Association and Traditional Owners. If you are interested please nominate for the Committee when the Shire calls for nominations.

Outside of the Shire office in Northampton, you may notice the installation of new flagpoles in addition to the existing flagpole. The new flagpoles will be flying the Australian, Western Australian and Aboriginal flags in accordance with protocol. The existing flagpole will also remain and fly the Shire of Northampton flag which will continue to be lowered to half-mast upon the passing of community members.

On Friday 7 June 2024 the Shire President and I travelled to Kalbarri to execute the lease for 17 Richardson Street, Kalbarri with the Kalbarri Men's Shed. This is considered a fantastic opportunity for the community to become involved with the Kalbarri Men's Shed

as they are also creating a Community Garden on the site in collaboration with interested Kalbarri locals.

At the meeting held 20 June 2024, Council awarded tenders for the Kalbarri Coastal Infrastructure Repair and the Temporary Workers Caravan Accommodation Facility resulting from Tropical Cyclone Seroja. Whilst the award of the tenders are still subject to final Commonwealth and State approval, it is expected that the works will get underway soon and be completed by the end of the year. The Shire asks the community to be patient whilst work is ongoing and disruption will be minimised as much as possible.

Also at the meeting 20 June 2024, Council finalised commitments for the first house to be located at the Kalbarri Workers Accommodation site at 15 Woods Street, Kalbarri. The site will come under Shire ownership as freehold property at settlement on 5 July 2024 and the establishment of the first house on the site will remove the only encumbrance attached to the property sale from the State Government to the Shire of Northampton. In addition to this, Council also resolved to provide an additional house in Northampton for staff purposes.

**Andrew Campbell**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

### **HOW YOUR RATES ARE CALCULATED**

The amount of rates payable is determined by three factors – the method of valuing the land; the value of the land and improvements; and the rate in the dollar applied to the valuation by the Local Government.

The Minister for Local Government determines the appropriate method for the valuation of land according to the relevant legislation and the current rating policy, which determines whether the Unimproved Value (UV) or the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of the land applies. The purpose for which land is held or used determines the classification (ie. UV or GRV).

You will also find an 'Emergency Services Levy' included on the rate notice. Local Government collects this levy each year on behalf of the State Government and funds are then disbursed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This levy funds various operating costs, training and capital equipment purchases for the Bush Fire Brigade, Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the State Emergency Services.

#### Pension Rebates

The Pensioners and Seniors Rebate Scheme is a mechanism that provides a rebate or deferment of charges to eligible pensioners and seniors. Concessions apply to Local Government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charge. Pensioners or seniors who hold an eligible concession card and own and occupy residential property on or before 1 July may be entitled to a rebate. The Water Corporation accepts applications over the phone (1300 659 951) or via an online application facility via [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au). More information can be found online in the form of a Fact Sheet titled *Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme*.

### **REGISTER FOR eRATES**

Did you know you can receive your rate notices via email instead of post. You can now register for eRates via our website.

<https://www.northampton.wa.gov.au/shire-services/rates/register-for-erates.aspx>

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Shire will soon be launching a new Community Grants Program applicable for the 2024/25 financial year. Council is working through the finer detail however it is expected there will be two rounds across the financial year where community groups will be able to apply for projects in the areas of financial hardship, events, youth projects, and capacity and skills categories. Watch this space for notification of the release of the first application round likely in July 2024 with awarding of grants proposed around September 2024.

## STORMWATER DISCHARGE

There are several sets of provisions that specify requirements in relation to stormwater management. The Residential Design Codes of WA (R-Codes) include provisions that guide development standards in relation to the management of stormwater. The R-Codes state that *'all water draining from roofs, driveways, communal streets and other impermeable surfaces shall be directed to garden areas, sumps or rainwater tanks within the development site where climatic and soil conditions allow for the effective retention of stormwater onsite'*. The National Construction Code (NCC) requires that surface water be disposed of in a way that avoids the likelihood of damage or nuisance to any other property. The NCC also requires that a 1 in 100 year rainfall event does not enter a building. This is generally achieved by ensuring the dwelling is elevated above the surrounding ground and that landscaping, driveways, paving and the like are graded such that water does not floor or pond against a dwelling. Some measures to consider to manage stormwater are:

- The use of soak wells with 'bubble over' capabilities to relieve overloading in heavy rainfall events.
- The use of gutters and down pipes with capacity to handle a 1 in 100 year storm event. (It is important to remove leaves and debris from the gutter/down pipe system to avoid blockages.)
- The use of no guttering in certain areas to allow water to run off onto lawns and gardens. Run off from a roof area onto natural ground replenishes water supply to the ground/gardens.

Most importantly, stormwater needs to be kept away from foundations and footings, especially in reactive clay type soils as this can cause cracking to building structures due to the soil plasticity. In sandy soils, erosion can take place undermining the load bearing efficiency of the building and cause serious structural failure.

## BUILDING AND PLANNING

Unauthorised work is considered unauthorised if:

1. You have NOT received appropriate planning approval from Council for the building work (if applicable).
2. You haven't received a building permit for the work.
3. Your building or planning permit has expired (they expire after two years, extensions are available).

Feedback in the past has indicated that some people did not know how to make a report, so the partnership between DWER and Crime Stoppers WA means that members of the community don't need to remember which organisation to call if they observe demolition or asbestos waste being dumped or come across it. They can simply [contact Crime Stoppers WA online](#) or by phoning 1800 333 000.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/weve-teamed-crime-stoppers-wa-battle-illegal-dumping>



## PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF PARKING LOCAL LAWS

Within WA, local government may regulate the parking of vehicles through the introduction of Parking Local Laws. Such laws typically allow for:

- The application of typical restrictions relating to car parking (eg. the establishment of loading zones and no parking areas);
- The formal introduction of time parking, restricting the time that vehicles may park at specific identified locations;
- The identification of appropriate penalties for various parking offences; and
- Enforcement of parking requirements by Shire Officers, including the ability to require vehicles to be moved and to impose fines where deemed necessary.

The introduction of the Local Law will permit Council to introduce formal time limits on parking within identified areas and enable Shire Rangers to enforce timed parking signage where appropriate. It is considered that the regulation of parking within the Shire will ensure the parking of vehicles does not detrimentally impact on the amenity or safety of the community.

Council at their 20 June 2024 meeting, resolved to publicly advertise the Draft Shire of Northampton Parking Local Law for a period of six weeks and invites feedback on the proposed law. Copies of the Draft Law are available on the Shire's website or alternatively you can request a copy by emailing [council@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@northampton.wa.gov.au).



## FLAG POLE INSTALLATION

The Shire is preparing to install an additional three flagpoles to the front of our Administration offices, with the first installation planned for the Northampton office.

The existing flagpole will remain and be used to display the Shire of Northampton flag. This flag will be used to acknowledge the passing of a local identity/resident should the immediate family formally grant permission to do so.



## RECENT RAINFALL EVENT

The significant rainfall event between 7 – 13 June 2024 resulted in road closures for vehicles over 4.5 tonnes for all unsealed roads for a period of 7 days.

The closure of the Horrocks Road was for a period of 3 days. Given the diverse nature of roads within the region, some roads are able to be used with specified conditions during a road closure period via an exemption process. To apply or request an exemption, contact should be made to the Shire of Northampton. It should also be noted that the closure of any road is done to temporarily halt vehicle movements and always to ensure the safe use of the road and to minimise damage to the road network.



## REQUESTS FOR PROPERTY PLANS AND/OR INFORMATION

Any requests for property information or house plans need to be authorised by the current owner(s) of the property and attracts a fee of \$30 per request. A copy of the "Request for Plans and Information" can be obtained through the Northampton and Kalbarri offices.

## 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

(now held the third Thursday of the month commencing at 2pm)

- 18 July – Council Chambers Northampton
- 15 August – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 19 September – Council Chambers Northampton
- 17 October – Council Chambers Northampton
- 21 November – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 19 December – Council Chambers Northampton



### ACROD PARKING BAYS IN KALBARRI

In Kalbarri there are two areas providing ACROD parking spaces. One is at the side of the IGA Supermarket on Coles Street and the other is at the Post Office on Hackney Street. These parking bays are provided to assist people with recognised mobility issues.

To park in these bays an ACROD permit is required and must be displayed on the dash of your car. Permits can be obtained from <https://acrod.org.au/how-to-apply-individual>.

Fines of up to \$5000 apply for people who are not eligible and who disregard these rules.

### COUNCILLORS

- Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025
- Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368
- Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143
- Cr Trevor Gibb – 0417 920 125
- Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814
- Cr Richard Burges – 0417 912 901
- Cr Tim Hay – 0488 212 566
- Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274

(please note that as of 21 October 2023 the Shire of Northampton has no Wards)

### SHIRE ADDRESS

#### Northampton Office

Hampton Road, Northampton

PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535

Phone: 9934 1202 Opening Hours: Mon - Fri  
8.00am - 4.30pm (DOT closes at 4.00pm)

#### Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri

Phone: 9937 1097

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm  
(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

### EMAIL

[council@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@northampton.wa.gov.au)

### WEBSITE

[www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au)



### SHIPPING CONTAINERS

The Shire of Northampton has a Local Planning Policy *Shipping Containers* which has been in operation since 2005. The policy establishes guidelines for placement of shipping containers or other similar re-locatable storage units on land within the municipality. Copy of the policy can be found on the Shire's website.

It is considered that unmodified shipping containers can have an adverse effect on the visual amenity of an area and therefore there is a need to ensure appropriate standards are implemented to safeguard the visual impact of them on the streetscape. The placement of a container requires approval of the Shire of Northampton. In general, approval to a maximum of twelve (12) months will only be granted where the structure is being used for the temporary storage of plant, machinery and/or building equipment on a building site, a building permit has been issued and remains current, and construction of a dwelling has commenced.

The permanent use and placement of shipping containers in Residential zoned land is not supported unless application is made to the local government and strict provisions are addressed in accordance with the policy.