



## Shire Bulletin

June 2024

### SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently attended the Mid West Development Commission State Government budget luncheon function, where, on behalf of the Kalbarri community, I was able to briefly acknowledge appreciation to the announcement of \$8.1 million to be spent on stage one of the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Project. This initiative will enable improved landscaping and beautification to the foreshore area from Gidamarra Springs around to Chinaman's Beach. I would also like to acknowledge the Board and staff of the MWDC and Tourism WA who have advocated for this project for two years. The Shire of Northampton will soon commence the planning for this, which will include the opportunity for community consultation into key components of the project.

On 11th May along with my husband Tony, I attended the Kalbarri Gala. Tony, fearing he mightn't know too many attendees, announced to me it was likely he might sneak off home early and leave me to it. What a fantastic night it was!! The weather was fabulous, the setting amazing, the food outstanding and the band spectacular. Congratulations must go to the small committee of organisers who did an amazing job of attending to every detail, welcoming guests and setting the tone for a classy night of community celebration and pure enjoyment. I am reminded of that tag-line used in the advertising: "together we are better!" Did I mention the cocktails were delicious, the company excellent and Tony was there to the very end?! We will definitely be back and if you haven't made it this year or last, put this event onto your bucket list for next year.

Another event on the calendar in Kalbarri is the Kalbarri Lights Up Festival to be held on the June long weekend. I know there are a number of exciting events planned over the weekend. Congratulations to the KDA committee for their work on this event.

By the time this has been printed, Northampton's contribution to Australia's Biggest Morning Tea will have taken place at Gum Gully Garden in Northampton, the home of Cathy and Stu Olman. I'd like to acknowledge the work of Jo Luxton, Kaye Simkin and their merry band of helpers, including of course Cathy and Stu, who generously making their delightful garden available.

On 5th June, the Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold an Economic Summit with the theme, "Investing today for tomorrow" at the Queen's Park Theatre, Geraldton. Register your attendance to learn more about current achievements in the region and future prospects for economic growth.

The ordinary meeting of Council for May, which was held in Kalbarri, saw many community members in the gallery and

numerous questions asked. I thank the community for their interest in the future of our region.

Finally, a farewell function for Shire of Northampton staff and councillors, was held at the end of May to honour Mr Grant Middleton, Executive Manager of Corporate Services. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Grant for his contribution to the organisation for almost eleven years. I would particularly like to acknowledge his work during the uncertainty of the initial Covid era and in the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja. Insurance implications and numerous building repairs required a considerable extra workload of financial management, to successfully navigate through the period. On behalf of the staff and broader community, I wish Grant and Liz all the best for their move to Perth.

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

With the recent departure of Grant Middleton from the organisation we have had opportunity to explore and refine our structure to facilitate improvements to the way we go about our business. The changes are designed to contemporise our structure to enable a much more coordinated approach to undertaking our responsibilities and delivery of improvements to the community. Whilst the majority of changes will occur within the corporate, finance and administration part of the business, we have a substantive change to the way we coordinate our parks and gardens activities which should become quite evident for the community over the next year or so.

With a Shire focus on development and regulation compliance in the community, the issues of land encroachment and undertaking activities on Shire controlled land without approval are becoming increasingly evident.

The Shire is particularly looking at land encroachment where private landowners and/or occupiers expand their property beyond their legal boundary onto Shire managed land. This often involves the placement of structures, infrastructure, gardens, vehicles, and equipment across legal boundaries, and in some cases entirely on Shire managed land. Without approval of the Shire, these sorts of activities are not permitted and if you have done this you must remove the encroachment immediately or the Shire will have no other option other than to take action against you when it is identified. The Shire monitors recent aerial imagery with a cadastral overlay to identify encroachment activity and if you have encroached into Shire managed land, expect that it will be identified by the Shire at some stage soon.

The other main issue that has escalated in recent weeks is that members of the community have been undertaking certain activity on Shire managed land without approval. Whilst this can come in many forms, recent examples include vegetation clearing, removal of materials, and alterations/work on Shire buildings all without the Shire's prior consent. To explain this very simply, you wouldn't expect that the Shire would enter onto your land and undertake activity without your knowledge or consent, so why would anyone think it is okay to do the same on Shire managed land? My message is quite clear in that if you want to undertake any activity that requires approval on Shire managed land you must seek prior approval. Asking for forgiveness after the event will not suffice and may result in prosecution.

Over the next two years the Shire is anticipating a substantial increase in workload with a number of new projects commencing soon or in various stages of development.

- The State Government has recently announced \$8.1M of funding for revitalisation works on the Kalbarri Foreshore for the Shire and please watch this space for opportunities and consultation processes where you can become involved in shaping the concepts into detailed design and delivery.
- The TC Seroja coastal infrastructure repair Tender would have closed at the time of this publication and expect rapid movement from contractors soon. The date for practical completion is scheduled for 8 November 2024 and the delivery of this multimillion-dollar project is expected to cause significant disruption at Chinaman's, Blue Holes, Jacques Point and to a lesser extent Red Bluff.
- The Dongara – Geraldton – Northampton (DGN) bypass continues in the planning phase. The priority part of this Main Roads WA project is the Northampton town site bypass and the Shire continues to strongly advocate for its delivery. The Shire President raised this with the Hon Rita Saffioti at a budget function in Geraldton in May and in very promising signs, the Minister was fully aware of the project detail and reinforced its importance.
- The Kalbarri Workers Accommodation project is in full swing after the Shire to over the ownership the Woods Street site from the State Government. Since that time \$130k has been sourced from Tourism WA via the Mid West Development Commission to do business planning, site works, servicing and preliminary design. Council has also recently approved the purchase of two new modular dwellings with one being for this site. This will satisfy the only condition placed on the Shire by the State Government therefore making the site unconditional and available exclusively for the Shire to develop as it sees fit.
- The Kalbarri Multipurpose and Evacuation Centre is still awaiting grant determination and the Shire will advise the outcome when known.
- Formalisation of the Little Bay Road Reserve and gravel surfacing remains a priority of the Shire as we continue to navigate through the multi-layered State approval processes. It is expected that construction of the gravel surfacing extending for part of the road will commence early in the new financial year.
- The Port Gregory carpark works are another project that has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstance. This is also now deemed a priority project and will commence early in the new financial year.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Shire will be soon 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, financial hardship, events, youth projects, and capacity and skills categories. Watch this space for notification on the release of the first application round likely in July 2024 for awarding in September 2024.

## EV CHARGING STATION, KALBARRI

The Synergy EV Charging Station project in Kalbarri (Allen Centre car park) has progressed with critical infrastructure now installed and awaiting Western Power to complete their connection infrastructure and energise the infrastructure. The project is scheduled for commissioning on 7 June 2024.

## 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).

If you are considering building a structure, contact Shire Officers to see what is required. The following items are often overlooked:

- Rural lots will require building approval.
- Patios and sheds above 10m<sup>2</sup> will require approval.
- Sea containers require planning approval and are only allowed onsite for a temporary period of time.
- Signs require planning approval.
- Retaining walls higher than 0.5m may require planning and building approval.

Unauthorised works can attract significant fines and retrospective applications have higher fees. Don't hesitate to contact Shire Officers to discuss your proposal to help understand what approvals may be required.

## NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

### Climate Smart Agriculture Program Small Grants Round 1

This grant opportunity is being provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Small Grants will support farmers and landholders to adopt sustainable agriculture best practices as well as facilitate and implement practice change. The grants will improve management of our natural resources and increase sustainable on-farm productivity and resilience to climate change.

Applications are now open and close 9-00pm AEST on 4 June 2024.

Find out more on GrantConnect <https://www.grants.gov.au>

## REPORTING ILLEGAL DUMPING OF DEMOLITION MATERIAL INCLUDING ASBESTOS

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Crime Stoppers WA have joined forces to combat the unlawful dumping of demolition waste and asbestos. The unlawful dumping of demolition material is an ongoing problem in some parts of Western Australia so the aim is to step up efforts to catch offenders, including demolition companies that occasionally do the wrong thing.

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>

## REQUESTS FOR PROPERTY PLANS AND 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.

## TRANSPORT AND LICENSING

The Shire of Northampton is a Department of Transport registration and licensing agency and can process the following transactions:

- Vehicle registrations and renewals
- Vehicle transfers
- Drivers licence renewal- including photographic and additional classes
- Drivers licence applications and tests - CTT (Bike, Car, Heavy), HPT (Hazard Perception test) and PDA (practical driving assessment)
- Boat renewals and transfers
- Payment of Infringements
- Change of number plates
- Ordering personalised number plates
- Change of addresses
- Farm vehicle and farm haulage concessions

Please note that [Primary Identification](#) is required for ALL transport transactions. Payment in person can be made by cash, EFTPOS or cheque payable to the Shire of Northampton. Licensing functions are performed Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm excluding public holidays. (Be mindful there is a cutoff time for processing so you should arrive by 3.30pm or earlier to meet the processing deadline.)

## 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>

## SIGNAGE

If you are proposing to erect any form of advertising or signage (including feather/flutter flags) relating to your business or community group, you will need to refer to the relevant policies and guidelines that manage advertising. This includes Main Roads WA *Guide to the Management of Roadside Advertising* and the Shire's own signage policy. The purpose of the Shire of Northampton's Local Planning Policy (LPP) *Signage* is to provide guidance on design and placement of many forms of advertising within the Shire. This helps ensure the visual character and quality of locations is maintained, it minimises clutter and a proliferation of signage and maintains a degree of control appropriate to the locality. The LPP has guided decisions made in relation to advertising signs within the Shire since 2006. If you are thinking about a form of advertising for your business or community group, don't hesitate to contact the Shire's Planning Officer, Michelle Allen, by email to [planning@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:planning@northampton.wa.gov.au) or by phone to (08) 99341202.

## 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES (now held the third Thursday of the month commencing at 2pm)

- 20 June – Council Chambers Northampton
- 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

## 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)