



## Shire Bulletin March 2025

### SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this on the evening after the first Ordinary Council meeting of the year. There is no January meeting, so the February Agenda is always extensive. The meeting was in Kalbarri, and I'd say an attendance record for people in the gallery may have been achieved, with 78 registered attendees and 115 people, plus Council, squeezed into the Allen Centre! Many questions were asked, primarily about Item 9.4.3: A request to comment on a proposal from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, for Murchison Green Hydrogen to lease Murchison House Station. To this end a Motion unanimously passed by Council was:

#### That Council:

1. **Advise the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage that the Shire of Northampton objects to Crown leases as proposed on the following grounds:**
  - I. **The proposed land uses currently have no status, given that required Amendments to the Local Planning Scheme are yet to be completed and no application for Development Approval has been sought. The granting of a lease for these specific purposes is therefore premature; and**
  - II. **No provision has been made to ensure ongoing public free and unfettered access to the coast or Murchison River foreshore reserves, which has potential to result in members of the public being denied the opportunity to participate in the wide range of recreational activities that they currently enjoy; and**
2. **Request the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer be requested to liaise with the relevant Ministers over this matter and the reasoning behind the Council's recommendation.**

Thank you to those who attended for your interest in the future of our community. To everyone, please be assured that your Councillors, who are members elected by the community, DO take their role as representatives for the community seriously. We are all committed to doing the best for all localities across the Shire.

The four Community Workshops held around the Shire last month to help formulate the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) were very well attended, with numbers between 20 and 30 present at each event, and further emailed or paper notes submitted. This is on top of approximately 100 survey responses received before Christmas. If you contributed to this process, I thank you.

The SCP is the overarching document that informs the Corporate Business Plan and the Annual Budgets, and it is imperative to have community input at the start of the process. Local government works best when communication and respect occurs in a three-way approach between the ratepayers and community, the Council and the organisation, such that we are all moving together in an upward trajectory. Obviously, there is never enough money in the kitty to provide every service and facility that every person wants. The job of Council is to make some careful, strategic decisions on how the money is spent.

The facilitator, Becky Clark did an excellent job of actively listening to the collective messages from Horrocks, Port Gregory, Kalbarri and Northampton. Thanks to Councillors and staff who encouraged residents to attend.

We received over 200 submissions to our survey about the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation project. This is an outstanding response! A full report will be presented at the March Ordinary Council Meeting, but generally there was a desire to maintain the open spaces, lawn areas and parking along the foreshore. The vast majority had some concerns about a sculpture at Chinaman's Point and an extended

lookout on the approach onto Grey St. In preference to the expensive shade shelters, most responses indicated a desire for a more modest style, but with wind break inclusion. I would like to thank Brian Robinson for the extra workload that was required to carefully consider the unexpectedly large number of responses that were received.

Our Community Development Officers, Andrea and Kresta are to be sincerely congratulated on the impact they have had in their roles in such a short time. Using their already established deep connection to the community, they have encouraged residents to get involved and have their say.

I would like to congratulate Wayne and Jenny on the recent sale of the Kalbarri IGA, their retirement and the opportunity to do some travel. Wayne has been a business owner, having previously owned the Kalbarri Hotel, and is a proud stalwart of the Kalbarri community.

I'd like to also congratulate and welcome the Meers family to town. Braden and Sandy, together with their sons Keegan, Lachie and Declan and partners, own and operate a number of IGA stores in regional WA and it's exciting that they are keen to invest their energy in Kalbarri.

It's a good reminder to everyone to support the fantastic local businesses we have throughout the Shire. There are some outstanding examples in all the towns across the Shire, with owners and managers who go above and beyond to offer excellent services and offer numerous sponsorship contributions.

Finally, last Monday, at the invitation of Mayor Clune from the City of Greater Geraldton, and along with other Local Government Presidents, I attended a function to welcome to Geraldton, the Governor General of Australia, Her Excellency Sam Mostyn. Coming from a service family, Her Excellency was quite overwhelmed by the spectacular memorial precinct in Geraldton which honours the 645 sailors lost on the HMAS Sydney during WWII. She congratulated recent Australia Day award recipients and thanked the people in attendance for the service they carry out, to make our country a better place. She was genuinely interested in the people she interacted with and was clearly enjoying the opportunity to learn about our part of the world. She also spoke of the privilege it is to be an Australian and her desire during her five-year term, to always act with care, kindness and respect. She spoke of the analogy of extending care to others, being a muscle that needs to be exercised and developed. It was a powerful message.

And until next month, I will leave you with that exercise challenge!

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

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

Now being well into the 2024/25 financial year, Shire staff are fully focussed on delivering budgeted Shire projects before the end of the financial year. These projects are underway, or soon to be underway, across the Shire district and could result in minor community disruption. We ask that everyone is patient whilst the Shire and its contractors complete works.

The response to the Strategic Community Plan Community Workshops was fantastic with a total of 93 people attending the four workshops. The quality of the feedback provided was excellent and will be used to establish the final Strategic Community Plan. Once the Strategic Community Plan is finalised, the Shire will develop the Corporate Business Plan which will showcase priority Shire driven projects for the district for a four year period.

In recent months the Shire has been making significant progress toward compliance enforcement in a number of areas including illegal camping, residing in non-habitable structures, operating developments such as short-stay accommodation without approval, dog control and building dilapidation/safety. Generally, the Shire will take an educative approach to matters in the first instance, however continued non-compliance has resulted in recent infringements being issued. If you are unsure about anything that the Shire may view as a compliance issue, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss, and by doing that we can work together to rectify issues of non-compliance.

Since my commencement in May 2023, staff have been engaged in a continuous improvement program designed to contemporise and strengthen compliance and governance processes of the administration. This has included substantial work in:

- Financial control and procurement;
- Record keeping;
- Statutory registers;
- Legal documents such as leases and agreements;
- Council policies;
- Statutory reporting; and
- Meeting procedure.

It is expected that as the organisation continues to evolve, it will become increasingly compliant, transparent and accountable.

On 24 February 2024 the Shire hosted the Northern Country Zone of the Western Australian Local Government Association in Kalbarri. This involved ten Mid-west Local Governments and a number of other State Government and other representatives. For something a little bit different the Shire invited attendees to come to Kalbarri the day before and tour the town to view current and future project opportunities. A dinner and bus tour was coordinated for participants taking up the early offer.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## **KALBARRI FORESHORE MASTERPLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Thank you to all that took the time to fill out the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Works Survey.

We had a fantastic response with over 200 submissions!! This huge response shows that our residents are passionate about our community's future and share different opinions and ideas. Well, done to all that participated, Council will consider the consultation as part of the 20 March 2025 Council meeting.

## **COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING**

Don't forget that there is still time to submit your applications for the Shire of Northampton Community Grant Funding Round 2.

If you have an amazing idea or event in mind, we invite you to apply for one of our Community Grants. Your project could be the incentive for transformation in our community.

The Shire of Northampton Community Grants Program is offering funding for community projects, events, or youth initiatives.

### **Submit your applications by March 28, 2025!**

Join us at our pop-up grant days to discuss your vision and explore grant options:

### **Northampton @ RSL Hall**

10:30 AM - 1 PM

March Wednesday 12

### **Kalbarri @ Allen Centre**

10:30 AM - 1 PM

March Thursday 13

If you are feeling inspired but need support, do not hesitate to reach out to your Community Development Officer—they are here to help you through the application process.

**Northampton - Andrea Teakle  
0476 532 000**

**Kalbarri - Cresta Viellaris 0400  
476 952**

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGENCIES**



Did you know that Small Business Development Corporation has an agency in Geraldton and can help with any business concerns? SBDC are experienced small business advisers who live and work in the region, so they understand the unique challenges and opportunities local small business owners face.

If you are a commercial not-for-profit, small business owner or run a social enterprise SBDC Regional advisers offer expert guidance on small business topics including:

- Assessing new business ideas
- Steps to starting a business
- Business licenses and permits
- Business planning
- Market research
- Financial management
- Marketing

They can also refer local businesses to specialist services available via the SBDC. SBDC can travel to Northampton or Kalbarri.



### **See more from consumerwa**

Consumer Protection will be visiting Northampton and Kalbarri in the coming months. They can assist with.

- Handling Customer Complaints
- Scams awareness
- Buying a vehicle
- Retirement villages
- Funeral insurance

If you would like to know more about Consumer Protection or Small Business Development Commission, please don't hesitate to contact your local Community Development Officer.

## WHY HAVE I RECEIVED AN INTERIM RATES NOTICE?

Rates are charged on the Gross Rental Values for Residential Properties. When an improvement is completed to a residence such as a swimming pool, shed or the building of a house, Landgate will reassess the Gross Rental Value to include the new improvements.

You will receive an Interim Rate Notice if you have completed improvements during the year containing adjusted rates levied from the time of completion to the end of the financial year.

Residential and business refuse service fees also appear on rate notices. The Residential Refuse fee entitles you to one wheelie bin to be emptied each week. If you require a second bin service, you need to contact the Shire Office to arrange. You will receive an Interim Rate Notice for the additional bin. Within the Shire of Northampton, it is the ratepayer's responsibility to provide and maintain a 240 litre wheelie bin. They are available for sale at the Northampton and Kalbarri Shire Offices.

## LOW NUMBER DISTRICT PLATES

Low number District Plates are available at the Shire Office through the Department of Transport now. Numbers are random and guaranteed to be under NR1000. They are available on a first come first served basis with priority given to residing families.

If you are the proud owner of a District Plate did you know that if you had one of your plates missing or stolen you lose that number and new plates need to be reissued?

The Department of Transport has brought in a new system named Optional Plates. For a fee you will secure that special number to yourself and gives you flexible options where it can be sold, transferred, changed to trailer issue and can be reissued to you if one or both of your plates go missing.

Did you know you can have your number plates remade? If you have state or district plates you can have your plates remade and also have the option of three colours. Blue WA, black on white background or black on yellow background. Please see one of our friendly staff members for further enquiries.

Department of Transport services are available Tuesday to Friday 8:00am – 3:30pm.

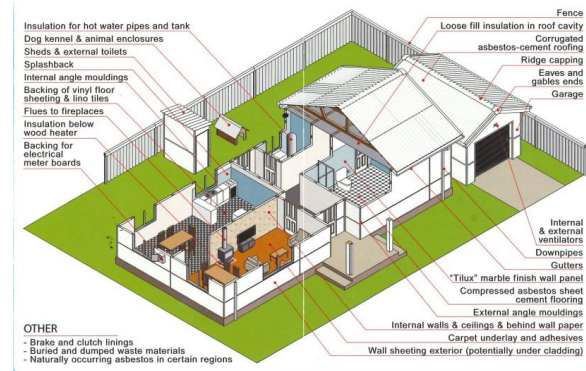
## MANAGING ASBESTOS SAFELY

Homes and buildings built before 1987 could have asbestos in them somewhere, areas such as the back of electrical boxes, carpet underlay and floor tiles are just some of the places that can contain asbestos

products. Buildings post 1987 may still contain asbestos products as it was not totally phased out until 1997 with some imports being allowed into Australia.

Asbestos is generally safe unless it is disturbed during renovations and or demolition of a building where fibres can be released into the air and breathed in by people within the general area. If asbestos is suspected during a renovation, a licensed asbestos removalist should be contact to confirm the presence of asbestos and contract to remove as per the requirements of the Regulations. Activities such as grinding, drilling, breaking of the product and sanding can release fibres of the right micron diameter to be inhaled into the lungs and start the disease process.

Asbestos disposal is heavily regulated and appointments at licenced waste facilities must be made so that safe disposal of asbestos products can be managed safely.



## EVENT APPROVALS

Events are defined as regular or one-off events where people assemble for civic, social, educational, entertainment, sporting, religious, business, or other purposes. Examples include concerts, shows, festivals, exhibitions, and similar events.

To hold a public event in the Shire you need to apply for approval. This process involves providing a range of documentation with your application including site plans, evidence of public liability insurance, comprehensive risk, and emergency management plans. You may also need to consider and provide documentation and plans for traffic management, first aid and emergency service access etc.

As there are a number of laws to comply with, the application that you need to submit will depend on the type of event you are planning. As a starting point, you should consider contacting the Shire's Community Development Officers.

## **SLOW DOWN, KEEP THEM SAFE: Protecting Roadside Workers**

When driving past workers on the side of the road, slowing down isn't just courteous—it's crucial for their safety. Just like a school crossing, reducing your speed can make a significant difference in preventing accidents and injuries.

### Why Slowing Down Matters

- **Visibility & Awareness** – Roadside workers, including council crews, construction teams, and emergency responders, rely on drivers to be alert and cautious. Reducing speed gives you more time to react.
- **Speed & Debris Risks** – When vehicles speed past, they can kick up loose gravel, dust, and other road debris, which can cause serious injuries to workers. Slowing down minimises this risk.
- **Legal & Safety Requirements** – Many areas have specific speed limits when passing roadside workers. Familiarising yourself with these regulations ensures compliance and avoids hefty fines.
- **Respect for Those Keeping Roads Safe** – These workers maintain roads, clear hazards, and respond to emergencies. A small speed adjustment shows appreciation for their work and keeps everyone safe.

### Did You Know?

- A car travelling at 60 km/h takes about 45 meters to stop, while a car at 40 km/h stops in just 27 meters—almost half the distance!
- Roadwork zones often have lower speed limits for a reason—even a small reduction in speed can significantly decrease the severity of an accident.
- In many regions, failing to slow down near roadside workers can result in fines and demerit points.

Next time you see workers on the side of the road, remember: Slow down, stay alert, and help keep them safe.



## **COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025**

**20 March 2025 – Northampton**  
**17 April 2025 – Northampton**  
**15 May 2025 – Kalbarri**  
**19 June 2025 – Northampton**  
**17 July 2025 – Northampton**  
**21 August 2025 – Kalbarri**  
**18 September 2025 - Northampton**  
**16 October 2025 – Northampton**  
**20 November 2025 – Kalbarri**  
**18 December 2025 - 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**

## **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 3.30pm)**

### **Kalbarri Office**

**70 Grey St, Kalbarri**  
**Phone: 9937 1097**  
**Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm**  
**(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)