



Shire Bulletin May 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While we are yet to receive season-breaking rains to our area, I hope you are enjoying the cooler mornings and evenings. Autumn is my favourite time of year. I love the softer light and the bleached landscape against the pale blue sky, mixed with the anticipation that the soil will soon be transformed with the addition of rain, and paddocks will become green and brimming with growth. The rolling hills around Northampton are iconic – take a second look to appreciate them as you go about your days. Similarly, I am amazed at how the National Park surrounding Kalbarri has transformed from a year ago, when parts of it looked completely dead, to being brimming with growth and vigour. It's no wonder the tourists are out in full swing!

Rob Horstman has now been confirmed as having been elected to the Legislative Council of WA and a special farewell function was recently held to thank him for his service to the Shire and to the community. We wish him all the very best as he continues to work for our communities throughout Western Australia. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17th April, permission was sought not to hold an Extra-ordinary election, but rather wait until October of this year, when the election is due. Under Local Government reform, we are required to go from 8 to 7 Councillors in Oct 2025, and with Rob's retirement, we have reached that threshold.

Also at the April meeting, Cr Tim Hay, an experienced Councillor having been elected in 2017, was elected as Deputy President. Tim brings a wealth of knowledge including business operation, tourism experience, a wide range of technical and logistical skills, and has proved himself to have strong problem-solving and critical thinking capabilities. Congratulations Tim!

The Community Grants Committee recently met to select the success applications from the second round for the financial year. As funds were over-subscribed, this was a competitive process. A number of applications were not approved for this round for a range of minor reasons, but the groups advised to

reapply with further details. In order to maximise the spread of funds, many were not fully funded to the requested amount.

A newly formed committee, the Road Infrastructure and Plant Advisory Committee held its first meeting in late April. This is a committee which aims to establish and review the Shire's ten-year road infrastructure plan, including plant strategic planning.

If you haven't already got your ticket for the Kalbarri Gala on 24th May, get in quick. This is a fantastic celebratory event in an amazing location. This year the theme has a western vibe, so get your boots on! Also please support the KDA in the events planned for the June long weekend. This year, Council is thrilled to see the return of a GNFL football game to Kalbarri between the Rams and Railways on Sat 31st May.

I trust you were able to enjoy a break over Easter and whether of a Catholic faith or not, have taken some time to reflect on the valuable service life of Pope Francis whose leadership was always guided by the courage to question and a genuine humility and compassion. His words: "There can be no peace without freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and respect for the views of others." have on-going implications for us all.

I hope you also took the time on ANZAC Day to remember the servicemen and women who, through their duty to our country, have afforded Australians what is essentially, a free and safe life. We should not take this for granted.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate former Councillor Rob Horstman on his election to the Legislative Council. Rob's commitment to the Shire of Northampton over his 3.5 year term has been outstanding and he is to be commended for his effort. We wish Rob well in the hustle and bustle of State politics and I have no doubt he will continue to flourish in his role of representing community.

Also, I would like to congratulate Cr Tim Hay on becoming Deputy Shire President with the departure of Rob Horstman. Cr Hay has a wealth of experience and will be a great replacement for Rob.

Round 2 of our Community Grants for 2024/25 has wrapped up with Council now to make the final decision on the award of grants at the Council meeting to be held on 15 May 2025. This smaller grant round was heavily oversubscribed, and the Shire would like to thank everyone who made the effort to apply. All projects and events have merit and if you were unsuccessful this time, we strongly encourage you to reapply for Round 1 2025/26 as there are more funds available for distribution.

On 7 May 2025 the Western Australian Grants Commission will be holding a public hearing in Northampton as part of their regional consultation. Financial Assistance Grants form a significant part of Shire revenue and the public hearings are designed to provide information of how the State distributes Commonwealth funding to Local Governments in Western Australia. The public hearing will occur from 1pm to 3pm in the Council Chambers in Northampton and interested people are welcome. More information is available on the Shire website.

Works at the Port Gregory foreshore are finally underway with new shelters, paving and kerbing to be delivered after the April school holidays.

The Shire is currently in the process of engaging a contractor to improve portion of the road to Little Bay from Horrocks. Funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, works must be completed by 30 June 2025. Whilst there is likely to be disruption, the Shire is negotiating with the contractor to ensure access to Little Bay is maintained at all times.

Whilst on the subject of the LRCI program, another project scheduled for completion by 30 June 2025 is the Whiting Pool Stairs at Horrocks. Materials have been purchased and the Shire is now awaiting the commencement of the contractor.

Works associated with the coastal infrastructure repair in Kalbarri from TC Seroja as part of disaster recovery are effectively complete with a small number of defects to be finalised, the fishing platform to be finished, and power to be provided to the Anchorage Lane Temporary Caravan Accommodation Facility. The Shire would like to thank consultants GHD and contractors NEO Civil and Aaro Group for their work on

the project. Whilst the Shire acknowledges there is more to be done to improve what has been reconstructed, the rules governing what can and can not be funded have been navigated to the fullest extent for repair.

Whilst on the topic of disaster recovery, the Shire is currently negotiating for funding to repair roads damaged during heavy rainfall events that occurred in June and July 2024. Again, the rules of funding are complex however it is expected that significant funding will be made available to address damage. Any works approved in this process need to be completed by external contractors and not the Shire, with procurement processes expected to occur as soon as there is agreement on qualifying funding.

The Shire has had its first meeting of the newly formed Road Infrastructure and Plant Advisory Committee. This Committee operates in an advisory capacity only for Council and is designed to provide strategic guidance to Council to assist in decision making particularly around budgeting. The Committee is now calling for two community representatives to join. Further information is provided below in this Shire Bulletin.

The Shire has been recently advised that NBN Co have been undertaking design around providing "Fibre to the Premises" in the Northampton town site. Once finalised, the project will take up to a year to complete but will result in a very significant increase in internet speed. The town site of Kalbarri is likely to follow at some time in the near future.

Over the Easter break Shire Rangers increased patrols around the Shire district. This resulted in 25 infringements being issued mainly for illegal camping and parking. Many more warnings were also issued during the period. Generally, most people were well behaved however the number of interactions by Shire Rangers is a reflection on how busy the communities in the Shire of Northampton have become during peak periods.

The Shire has recently experienced the theft of twelve new plants in Hampton Gardens in Northampton. We would like to ask the community to assist us with surveillance of public areas across the Shire district and would welcome any report of suspicious activity. Whilst on the topic of Hampton Gardens, you may have noticed dead patches and general stress of the lawn. This year we have had a significant infestation of black beetle which has attacked and weakened this lawn area. Our Parks and Gardens team have been working toward eradication of the black beetle and are putting more energy into bringing the lawn back to good health. When the weather cools off, the lawn will be top-dressed which should bring the lawn back to the desired standard.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer



**Road Infrastructure and Plant Advisory
Committee – Call for nomination of two
Community Representatives**

The Shire of Northampton is seeking nominations for the above Committee from members of the community to fill two positions of Community Representative.

The terms of Reference for the Committee are as follows:

1. To establish and review the Shire's ten year Road Infrastructure Plan;
2. To review the Shire's Road Infrastructure Plan budget consideration as part of the annual budget process;
3. To review any amendments to the Shire's Road Infrastructure Plan budget;
4. To raise and discuss Road Infrastructure Plan issues for feedback purposes;
5. To establish and review the ten year Plant Replacement Program including plant strategic planning, efficiencies (merits) and specifications; and
6. To meet on occasion to investigate and/or evaluate urgent road infrastructure or plant issues.

Nominations for the position are to include a brief statement as to why you would like to join the Committee and be addressed to the CEO by:

- Post to:
Shire of Northampton
Att: CEO
PO Box 61
Northampton WA 6535
- By email to
ceo@northampton.wa.gov.au
- In person at Shire Offices in Northampton or Kalbarri.

Nominations close on Friday 9 May 2025 at 3pm.

Andrew Campbell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING

Community Grant Funding applications under the second round of funding for 2024/25 closed on 28 March 2025 with funding being sought by many valuable community groups within the Shire.

For those applicants that are unsuccessful, it is recommended that you work with the Shire's Community Development Officers to resubmit your applications for the first round of grant funding in the 2025/26 financial year, which opens in July 2025.

**Community Development Officer -
Andrea Teakle 0476 532 000**

**Community Development Officer -
Cresta Viellaris 0400 476 952**

PARKING LOCAL LAWS ON THE WAY

At its meeting held on 20 March 2025, Council adopted for the purposes of advertising the draft 2025 Parking Local Laws. The purpose and effect of the Local Laws being:

Purpose – to provide for the management and regulation of parking throughout the Shire of Northampton.

Effect – to require a person parking a vehicle within the district is to comply with the provisions of this local law and any restrictions within areas specifically signed or marked.

Once finalised the Local Laws will provide the Shire Rangers with the ability to enforce all normal parking requirements that would be expected in an urban community.

Whilst a primary approach of driver education will be used, the Local Laws will ensure the Shire Officers have the necessary tools to address inappropriately parked vehicles, including an ability to tow and impound vehicles where necessary.

DIVIDING FENCES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A standard dividing fence will not attract Planning or a Building Application, however, a variation needs to be assessed to satisfy street amenity and the structural integrity of the proposed variation.

A standard fence stands no more than 1.8m in high and recedes down to 1.2m maximum at the front boundary. The fence can be manufactured out of color bond, cellulose fibre, timber or masonry as standard products, other variations will require Planning/Building approval.

Unapproved variations may come under scrutiny by insurance companies during a wind event and become void due to being non-conforming with the manufacturer's specifications. Please also note that the Shire of Northampton is currently in a Wind Region B2 (with additional changes coming soon) and certain construction requirements need to be adhered to.

DOWNLOAD THE EMERGENCY WA APP

The Emergency WA app is now available for download from the App Store and Google Play. The app is a powerful tool that offers the fastest, most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia.

Users can set custom watch zones, tailor notifications, upload critical documents and listen to emergency broadcasts – empowering communities to stay informed and safe.

Don't forget, emergencies can happen suddenly and cause disruptions to power, internet and telecommunications systems. It's important you know how to access a range of official information sources.

Get information by:

- Visiting Emergency WA, downloading the app and setting up your watch zones
- Calling 13 DFES (13 3337)
- Listening to ABC local radio and tuning into 6PR in the metropolitan area
- Following Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA on Facebook
- Staying in touch with neighbours, family and friends
- Being alert and aware of your surroundings

For more information about the Emergency WA app, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/>

SEEKING FORGIVENESS -VS- PRIOR APPROVAL

Historically landowners and contractors have from time to time undertaken work on private property without first obtaining the required approvals from the Local Authority. Required approvals can include, but are not limited to:

- Development (Planning) Approval;
- A Building or Demolition Permit; and
- Effluent Disposal and other Environmental Health Approvals.

Examples of works requiring prior approval include site works, new development or land uses.

By adopting the approach of seeking forgiveness rather than obtaining the required prior approvals, both the landowner and their contractor have the potential for modified penalties to be issued by the Shire or legal action to be taken against them.

This recent months a landowner placed a modular building on their property with no approvals. In this case, a modified penalty was issued under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and legal action is being taken under the Building Act 2000. It is likely that the court will impose a substantial penalty for proceeding without the prior Building Permit.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact Shire Officers in Planning, Building and Environmental Health to confirm if prior approvals are in fact required prior to completing works on their property.

REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

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 Tim Hay, Deputy President –0488 212 566

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 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

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au