



## Shire Bulletin November 2024



### SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Cr Roslyn Suckling on the recent passing of her husband, Alan. Over my time on Council, I have observed Roslyn care for Alan, during his treatment, including many, many medical trips to Geraldton and Perth. During some of the time, she was also assisting her father Dick in a similar way, during his deteriorating health, until his passing last year. Somehow, Ros has been able to continue her Council duties, rarely missing a meeting. Her attention to detail with Minutes and details of Council decisions is second to none.

The huge crowd at Sucko's funeral was testament to the husband, father, grandfather and great friend he was to many. The respect given to the Suckling family in the Ag industry and as community members in the region, was very evident. Cancer is a cruel illness, but in Alan's case, the outpouring of mateship and affection he received in the latter part of his life, including witnessing two weddings in his last weeks, must surely have given him great comfort. RIP Alan and thoughts are with you Roslyn, family and Alan's mates.

Shortly, you will have the opportunity to take part in the Shire of Northampton's Strategic Community Plan. Community engagement is the starting point for the integrated planning and reporting framework of Local Government. The needs and aspirations of the community will feed into the Shire of Northampton Strategic Community Plan 2025 – 2035, which sets a ten-year context for developing organisational and resource capacity, including for the detail of the Corporate Business Plan and the Annual Budget process.

You will be asked to complete an on-line survey, seeking your views about what you like about living and working in the Shire of Northampton, and what changes you would like to see, looking to the future. Keep your eye out, for a QR code advertised in local papers and on the Shire website. The survey will

commence on Nov 4th and run for four weeks. Following on from that, a series of Community workshops will take place in various locations in February 2025. Full community engagement is required to give accurate information from what is our best resource – the people of our district - so please start thinking about your specific views!

At the October meeting, Council received a presentation from Western Power, which was off the back of a community drop-in session last month. As part of an initiative, the 'Regional Connect Program', Western Power is committed to better understanding the challenges of power reliability in Northampton and what improvements the community would like to see, with the goal of improving performance. If you would like to be part of a working group with Western Power to identify solutions, look for mail from the Northampton Post Office coming soon, or contact me and I will forward your contact to Western Power.

Repair works to the Kalbarri foreshore are progressing well and contractors are mindful of completing the works as quickly as possible. Thank you to the community for the co-operation in avoiding the areas where works are taking place.

Recently Councillors and the CEO attended the WA Local Government Convention, which is an opportunity to hear from a range of speakers and politicians about topics designed to inform and inspire. The conference also provides an opportunity for local governments to network and collaborate with one another. Representatives from the Shire of Northampton attended with four other regional LGs, a meeting with Ministers Beazley and Michael to discuss implications for renewable projects in our areas. No less than 24 LGs from across regional WA, were involved in a workshop/meeting to the same end, the following day.

Many LGs are facing challenges associated with planning for renewable projects and change-of-land-use requests. A key issue is conflict between

renewable projects and agricultural land, which must be addressed to ensure a smooth transition to net zero by 2050, without jeopardising food security. Importantly, we seek a strategy to ensure that local communities benefit from any changes and that industry maintains its social licence to operate.

Our local government has worked hard to develop local planning policies for Renewable Energy Facilities and Social Impact Assessment to ensure we are well-placed to protect the community.

Finally, as the year is flying by, hopefully you have time for a deep breath and appreciation of the magnificent season we've experienced and of the natural landscape beauty we're blessed with, before the busy festive silly season is upon us. Good luck to the growers in our area for a successful harvest and please take care on the roads with the extra volume of local grain trucks.

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

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

October 2024 has been an exceptionally busy month with projects such as the TC Seroja Coastal Infrastructure Repair Project taking up a lot of time as the project accelerates to the 31 December 2024 deadline.

In addition to the TC Seroja Coastal Infrastructure Repair Project, the well over average rainfall across the Shire district has left our roads in various states of disrepair. We are doing whatever we can to bring the local roads back to a standard to support the 2024 grain harvest. To this end, Council has committed additional funding that will assist us over the next few weeks to utilise additional contractor resources. If there are specific grain haulage issues you want to urgently look at prior to harvest, please contact Neil Broadhurst on 0428341202.

Given the rainfall and the large amount of damage to local roads, the Shire has provided a Preliminary Event Notification to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The purpose of this is to seek external funding assistance to repair the significant damage to our roads. Currently the Shire is utilising consultants GHD to undertake an evaluation of the road network in preparation for a full submission to DFES.

Looking forward with roads we recognise that we need to take a strategic approach to how we deal with our 328km of sealed and 928km of unsealed local road network under our responsibility. The Shire will be engaging consultants early in 2025 to assist us through this process and Council will also be establishing a specific advisory committee to facilitate a new approach.

Recently, along with other local government organisations, the Shire has been very active

advocating to the State Government to ensure negative social impacts are not created by large scale renewable energy/hydrogen projects. The Shire will continue to advocate in this space with further engagement with the State anticipated this month.

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

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Shire is about to undertake a major review of its Strategic Community Plan. Consultants "Steps and Co" will be facilitating this process whereby we will be seeking community input to identify and prioritise the current requirements and future aspirations of the community.

The first part of the public consultation to guide the process will commence in November 2024 with an online survey. This will then be followed up with community workshops in February 2025 as guidance for a finalised Strategic Community Plan at the end of April 2025.

## **KALBARRI FORESHORE MASTERPLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

After the announcement of \$8.1M in funding for the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Project (Masterplan), the Shire has been requested to deliver the project by the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC). The Masterplan was a collaboration between MWDC and Tourism WA following preliminary consultation with the Kalbarri community in October 2021, six months after TC Seroja. From that point the Masterplan was developed and certain elements of it were funded by the State Government.

In consideration of the request to deliver the project, the Shire has identified that whilst targeted consultation has occurred with some stakeholders, a thorough public consultation process has not occurred. As a result, the Shire will be undertaking public consultation with the community to guide project delivery. Consultation is scheduled to occur in November 2024 and the Masterplan and funded elements will be available for viewing online on the Shire website with hardcopies available at Shire administration offices.

## **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>

**Register for e-Rates**

### **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

With the success of Round 1 of the Shire of Northampton Community Grants Program, Round 2 will be soon upon us. Applications will open in December 2024 with grant announcements occurring in March 2025. With the appointment of a Community Development Officer soon, dedicated support will exist to guide the community through the process. We encourage everyone to start thinking about your next community project or event.

### **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Shire has recently undertaken recruitment for a Shire Ranger, Community Development Officer, Gardener, and part time administration support. Each position has now been filled and pending final

onboarding requirements, announcements as to the successful applicants will be made soon.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Did you know the Northampton Library has an excellent collection of festive based books, DVD's, CD-ROMs, Audio Books available on CD and MP3 to help take the pressure off you this Christmas, and it's FREE.

- You might be looking for menu inspiration – your local Library has what you are looking for, whether you are planning on cooking a turkey for the festive table and want to give it a bit of Christmas flair or your tired of the plain old sausages and chops on the BBQ and feel like spicing things up little or a lot. On our shelves there is camp cooking, international cuisine, quick cook to slow cook ideas and everything in between.
- On a budget and want ideas for CRAFTY Chrissy gifts – look no further than your local Library. No matter if you are looking for small and cute gifts or gifts on a grander scale depending on your DIY skills there are so many craft books on the shelves which are bursting with projects for you and the whole family to tackle.
- Entertainment for the whole family – your local Library has that covered too with a wonderful selection of Holiday themed books, DVD's and Audio Books.

If we don't have what you are looking for, we can submit a request to any of our sister libraries, statewide. Can't wait that long, try searching our eResources, links can be found on the Shire's website <https://www.northampton.wa.gov.au/shire-facilities-library.aspx>

Not a Library member, not a problem call into your local Library, bring some ID with proof of residential address or temporary address with in the Shire of Northampton and a contact number and we can set up your membership while you browse the Library and remember, membership is FREE

### **RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE DOG ACT IN WA**

The Dog Act 1976 is administered and enforced by local governments and addresses control and registration of dogs; the ownership and keeping of dogs; and the obligations and rights of dog owners and others.

In addition, it is important that dog owners respect other people in the community. This can be achieved by keeping dogs adequately confined on their properties, or on a leash in public places, preventing aggressive behaviour and controlling excessive barking.

As a dog owner you have a legal responsibility to keep it under control and to ensure that your dog is not creating a public nuisance.

For more information visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership page at [www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs)

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **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)

