

MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2013

The Shire of Ashburton Councillors will be reinstated today following a six month suspension by the West Australian Government on 11 December 2012.

Local Government Minister John Castrilli appointed Commissioner Ronald Yuryevich and requested each member of the Council to undertake governance training in the responsibilities and functions of a Council, with focus on the statutory compliance duties of local government.

Acting CEO Frank Ludovico said that the Department of Local Government has assisted the Shire to move forward after what has been a challenging period for the organisation.

“The Department of Local Government have advised us of plans that have been put in place to ensure a smooth transition as our Councillors return to their duties,” said Mr Ludovico.

“A Mentoring Panel had been established for a period of six months to assist both Officers and Elected Members,” he said.

The Mentoring Panel consists of Cr Karen Chappel, Shire President of Morawa who will mentor Cr Kerry White, Shire President of Ashburton; Don Burnett, CEO City of Kalgoorlie Boulder will mentor the CEO; and the Jenni Law from the Department of Local Government will provide advice and support to the panel.

Following the last Council meeting on Wednesday 5 June, Councillors met with Commissioner Yuryevich, the Mentoring Panel and Acting CEO Frank Ludovico to be updated on the Shire developments since December 2012.

“It was an important meeting where we also discussed the Council meeting format, agenda distribution methodology and formalised plans on how we communicate with each other,” said Mr Ludovico. “These may seem basic but they are critical issues that will determine our capacity to succeed into the future,” he said.

“We are confident that we can move forward from here, and we are feeling optimistic about the future in Ashburton,” said Mr Ludovico. “This process has provided an opportunity to learn from previous issues and we will become a better organisation because of that.”

“It is also good to remember that our Councillors give their time and service on a voluntary basis to represent the interests of our communities, and this is a valuable contribution,” he said.

“Together our focus is to provide quality leadership and public service toward a sustainable future for the Ashburton region, and we are committed to this.”

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