



Published Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Date:	Tuesday 16 June 2026
Time:	1:00pm
Location:	Ashburton Hall, Ashburton Avenue, Paraboradoo
Distribution Date:	Thursday 18 June 2026



**Shire of Ashburton
Ordinary Council Meeting**

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Keith Woodward PSM
Chief Executive Officer
18 June 2026

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 June 2026.

Presiding Member

Date

21/7/26

Disclaimer

The Shire of Ashburton warns anyone who has an application lodged with Council must obtain, and should only rely on, written confirmation of the outcomes of the application following the Council meeting, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by Council in respect of the application. No responsibility whatsoever is implied, or accepted, by the Shire of Ashburton for any act, omission, statement, or intimation occurring during a Council meeting. Artificial intelligence tools may have been used in the preparation of these Minutes.

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1 Declaration Of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 1:00pm.

1.1 Acknowledgement Of Country

As representatives of the Shire of Ashburton Council, we respectfully acknowledge the local Indigenous people, the traditional custodians of this land where we are meeting upon today and pay our respects to them and all their elders past and present.

2 Announcement Of Visitors

There were no visitors in attendance.

3 Attendance

3.1 Present

Elected Members:	SP A Smith Cr A Sullivan Cr R de Pledge Cr K White Cr L Rumble JP Cr K Day Cr B Noone Cr C Rogers	Shire President Paraburdoo Ward Ashburton-Tablelands Ward Onslow Ward Paraburdoo Ward Tom Price Ward Tom Price Ward Tom Price Ward
Employees:	K Woodward C McGurk D Kennedy G Harris A Johnston S Allan S Fernandes R Marlborough J Rouse M Malinowska E Pirozek	Chief Executive Officer Director Community Development Director Corporate Services Director Infrastructure Services Manager Media and Communications Manager Business and Economic Development Manager Governance Senior Governance Officer Governance Officer Council Support Officer Executive Assistant (Chief Executive Officer)

Guests:	Nil
Members of Public:	There were no members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.
Members of media:	There were no members of the media in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

3.2 Apologies

Nil

3.3 Approved Leave Of Absence

Cr T Fox Pannawonica Ward From 10 June 2026 to 19 June 2026

4 Question Time

4.1 Response To Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice

Nil

4.2 Public Question Time

Question 1, Erin Wild - Pannawonica

Would the Shire of Ashburton support a government change for Pannawonica to nominate to celebrate the Kings Birthday on the Rodeo weekend (September) as per the City of Karratha (FeNaCle)

I currently manage the local childcare service in Pannawonica. As an approved childcare provider, any closure of our service requires careful consideration, as families can only continue to receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) payments when closures occur on recognised public holidays or approved circumstances.

As you would appreciate, the Robe River Rodeo is a pivotal event within our community. It brings together families, volunteers, local organisations and businesses, while celebrating the unique culture and identity of our region.

With this in mind, I would like to respectfully enquire whether consideration could be given to recognising the Rodeo as a local public holiday, similar to arrangements in other regional communities such as Karratha, which observes a local public holiday for the FeNaCl Festival.

The introduction of a local public holiday during the Rodeo would provide significant benefits to the community. It would allow educators and families to participate in this important community event while enabling childcare services to close without financially impacting families through the loss of CCS.

Additionally, Pannawonica School have historically supported staff attendance at the Rodeo by adjusting school arrangements, often requiring staff to trade personal time (such as weekends) to enable the Friday to be taken. While this reflects our commitment to the community event, it does involve a trade-off for staff. Establishing a recognised public holiday would create greater consistency across the community and allow teachers to participate without needing to sacrifice their own time, while also preserving staff development days for their intended educational purpose

The Robe River Rodeo is more than an event—it is a longstanding community tradition that strengthens social connection, supports local organisations, and contributes significantly to the identity and economy of our region.

Response – Keith Woodward, Chief Executive Officer

This question will be taken on notice to allow Shire officers the opportunity to investigate further and consult with the Pannawonica Ward Councillor who is currently on an approved leave of absence. A formal written response will be provided once finalised.

Question 2, Cam Smith, Paraburdoo

We have children in Paraburdoo with limited physical and mental abilities. By any chance would an all-abilities playground be a possibility in the future so these children can have a safe and fun environment that is inclusive to their physical development.

Response – Ketih Woodward, Chief Executive Officer

This question will be taken on notice to allow Shire officers the opportunity to consider the request and investigate possible options and budget considerations in order to provide a response. A formal written response will be provided once finalised.

5 Declaration By Members

5.1 Due Consideration By Elected Members To The Agenda

Elected Members were requested to note they have given due consideration to all matters contained in this agenda.

5.2 Declaration Of Interest

A member who has an Impartiality, Proximity or Financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice, given to the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the meeting, or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest are disclosed –

11/ETD.1 Shire of Ashburton - Small Business Grant Program 2026 2027	
Name	Cr B Noone
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Board Member of Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce Inc (PICCI). Currently sit on the board of PICCI and PICCI is heavily involved in the Small Business Grant Program as a partner.
Name	SP A Smith
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	I am a registered small business owner "Mari Maken" in the Shire. I confirm that I can maintain impartiality when considering this item as presented to the Committee.
11/ETD.3 The Karijini Experience 2026 Sponsorship	
Name	Cr B Noone
Nature of interest	Direct Financial
Interest description	My business was engaged to deliver services at this year's cancelled event.
18.1 Purchase of Property Onslow	
Name	SP A Smith
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	I and my husband sought advice on this property from the real estate agent, Ray White Exmouth, as a possible purchase. As a result of this decision, I confirm that I have no interest of a personal nature in this property, and that I can maintain impartiality when considering this item as presented to Council.

6 Announcements By The Presiding Member And Councillors Without Discussion

Shire President Smith

WALGA's 2026 Local Government Honour Awards

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and congratulate two of our Councillors on their recent recognition through WALGA.

Last Friday was a wonderful reminder of the people who work hard every day to make our communities better.

I am incredibly proud to congratulate Councillor Brie Noone on receiving the WALGA Merit Award. This recognition reflects her dedication, passion and genuine care for our community.

Congratulations also to Councillor Linton Rumble on receiving the WALGA Eminent Service Award. His many years of commitment and service to local government are inspiring.

Their awards are well deserved and a reflection of the positive difference they have made in our community.

A well-deserved recognition for two of the Shire of Ashburton Councillors and community leaders. On behalf of Council, I sincerely congratulate Cr Rumble and Cr Noone on these awards.

Councillor K Day

I would like to congratulate the Arts and Cultural Centre in Tom Price, the Community Garden Tom Price, and the Tom Price Men's Shed for their wonderful event with the Shire of Ashburton and all other contributors. Costa Georgiadis from Gardening Australia attended as did Blayde Day, who is the Tidy Towns Young Legend category winner. Blayde presented a speech. It was a great event for the community and I commend the volunteers that attended. It was a wonderful day so congratulations to those community groups.

Councillor L Rumble, JP

Paraburdoo Tidy Towns are hosting an event in Paraburdoo this Saturday near the skatepark. The Bushman will be attending, who has been a bit of a protégé around Paraburdoo for the last month, visiting the local primary school and educating students about cleaning up. One of his wonderful cape's will be up for sale, with the money raised to be donated to charity, Aware Group, and I believe members of the Aware Group will also be attending on the day. There will be a sausage sizzle and we anticipate attracting a large crowd. We will also be announcing the Tidy Towns Street of Paraburdoo winner and the event starts at 10:00am.

7 Petitions / Deputations / Presentations

7.1 Petitions

Nil

7.2 Deputations

Nil

7.3 Presentations

Nil

8 Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

9 En Bloc Council Resolutions

9.1 Agenda Items Adopted En Bloc

Moved Cr B Noone

Seconded Cr K Day

That Council receive the following Items En Bloc:

10.2.1 Minutes Of The Senior Leadership Team Meeting Held On 27 May 2026

10.2.2 Minutes Of The Inland Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 18 May 2026

10.2.3 Minutes Of The Pannawonica Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 14 May 2026

10.2.4 Minutes Of The Onslow Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 13 May 2026

Carried 8/0

10 Confirmation Of Minutes

10.1 Confirmation Of Council Minutes

10.1.1 Minutes Of The Ordinary Council Meeting Held On 19 May 2026

Council Decision **082/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr K Day**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 May 2026 (Item 10.1.1 Attachment 1) be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

10.2 Receipt Of Committee And Other Minutes

10.2.1 Minutes Of The Senior Leadership Team Meeting Held On 27 May 2026

Council Decision **083/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr K Day**

That the Minutes of the Senior Leadership Team Meeting held 27 May 2026 (Item 10.2.1 Attachment 1) be received.

Carried 8/0

Resolved en bloc

10.2.2 Minutes Of The Inland Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 18 May 2026

Council Decision **084/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr K Day**

That the Minutes of the Inland Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 18 May 2026 (Item 10.2.2 Attachment 1) be received.

Carried 8/0

Resolved en bloc

10.2.3 Minutes Of The Pannawonica Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 14 May 2026

Council Decision 085/2026

Moved Cr B Noone

Seconded Cr K Day

That the Minutes of the Pannawonica Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 14 May 2026 (Item 10.2.3 Attachment 1) be received.

Carried 8/0

Resolved en bloc

10.2.4 Minutes Of The Onslow Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held On 13 May 2026

Council Decision 086/2026

Moved Cr B Noone

Seconded Cr K Day

That the Minutes of the Onslow Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 13 May 2026 (Item 10.2.4 Attachment 1) be received.

Carried 8/0

Resolved en bloc

11 Recommendations From Committee

Economic And Tourism Development Committee Meeting held on 16 June 2026

Cr B Noone disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).

SP A Smith disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).

11/ETD.1 Shire of Ashburton - Small Business Grant Program 2026 2027

File Reference	ED01
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	S Allan, Manager Business & Economic Development
Authorising Officer	K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 12 December 2023 - Item Council Decision 218/2023 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 June 2025 – Council Decision 102/2025 Ordinary Council Meeting 18 November 2025 – Council Decision 207/2025
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Draft - Council Policy - Small Business Grants 2. Draft - Small Business Grants Guidelines 3. PICCI Feedback on 2025 Small Business Grant

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Economic Tourism and Development Committee (the Committee) an update of the progress of the Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grant program 2025/26 and to seek support for a 2026/27 Small Business Grant round.

Additionally, the Committee is requested to:

- consider and support a Small Business Grants Policy, detailed in Attachment 1; and the Small Business Grants Guidelines detailed in Attachment 2 that provide guidance for the proposed '2026/27 Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grant' program, and future supported programs.
- consider and support a budget allocation amount of \$80,000 in the 2026/2027 financial year to re-deliver the grant program in collaboration with the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PICCI) (the Chamber's).

Background

On 10 December 2023, Council supported and endorsed the Shire reinstating its position as a Small Business Friendly Local Government (SBFLG) with the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC).

Further to this commitment was Council's request (point 3) at the 10 December 2023 Council meeting (Council Decision 218/2023):

"to investigate a future small business grant program and report to the Economic and Tourism Development Committee".

Small Business Key Data

Key data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reports that approximately 60% of small businesses in Australia will fail within their first 3 years of operations, with 20% failing within the first year. According to the Australian Banking Association, the reasons for small business failure include:

- Insufficient leadership and management
- Inadequate market research
- Poor financial management
- Underestimating competitors
- Product and services issues

Shire of Ashburton commitment to Small Business:

The Shire's Economic and Tourism Development Strategy 2024-2028 was endorsed in March 2024 and was developed to compliment and assist with delivering outcomes aligned to the Strategic Community Plan with an objective to support small and medium sized business.

Vision 4 of the Shire's Economic and Tourism Development Strategy 2024-2028 highlights the Shire's commitment to provide *"A Great Place to Have a Small Business"*. Below are the 3 main areas of focus:

1. Small business can grow with access to affordable land, skilled local workforce, and local supply contracts.
2. Council attracts investment through proactive incentives and forward-planning.
3. Local entrepreneurship, innovation, and collaboration is encouraged/supported.

Focus on creating a supportive business environment is crucial to local investment attraction, economic development and growth, and in this transient environment, small enterprises are the backbone to economic stability, community vibrancy, diversity, and sustainability.

Actions from the Shire's Economic and Tourism Development Strategy 2024-2028 also outlines the Shire's commitment to support the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PICCI) initiatives and to also support start up home-based businesses.

At the June 17, 2025, Committee and Council supported the Shire of Ashburton 2025/26 Small Business Grant program to be delivered in collaboration with the OCCI and PICCI.

On 18 November 2025, the Committee recommended to Council (207/2025) to support additional grant funding of \$35,093 as a variation to the initial \$50,000 funding allocated. The variation was endorsed by Council on 17 June 2025 (102/2025). The total amount of

Small Business Grant funding for 2025/26 was \$85,093 with the Shire receiving a total of 21 submissions, with 12 successful applicants.

The 2025/26 Small Business Grant acquittal process is underway with acquittals due by 30 June 2026, with the Manager of Business and Economic Development to provide an update to the Committee at the November 2026 meeting.

Successful Small Business Grant Recipients 2025/26

LOCATION & BUSINESS	AMOUNT AWARDED	AMOUNT CLAIMED
ONSLow		
Dice Solutions	\$ 5,740.00	\$ 5,740.00
Onslow Electrical	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Pilbara Contracting	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total First Aid Solutions	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
SUB TOTAL	\$ 26,240.00	\$ 23,240.00
PARABURDOO		
Pure Print Co	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 4,690.00
Tahls Creations	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
The Collective 6754	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
SUB TOTAL	\$ 24,690.00	\$ 24,690.00
TOM PRICE		
Brighter Futures Occupational Therapy	\$ 3,618.00	\$ 3,618.00
Champions for Pilbara	\$ 9,145.00	\$ 9,145.00
Jimeliciouz	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
Mean Bean Coffee Shop	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Tom Price Physiotherapy	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
SUB TOTAL	\$ 34,163.00	\$ 32,763.00
TOTAL	\$ 85,093.00	\$ 80,693.00

A total of \$80,693.00, a variation of (\$4,400) from the approved \$85,093.00.

Based on the level of interest and need from the small business sector and approval of the increase by Council (from \$50,000 to \$85,093), funding for 2026/27 is requested at a maximum of \$80,000.

Comments

The Shire's commitment to the Small Business Friendly Local Government (SBFLG) initiative with the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) and an ongoing commitment to participation of the initiative involves committing to adherence to the overarching SBFLG Charter.

The updated Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grant Objectives, Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines are outlined in Attachment 1.

Ongoing Business Support for successful applicants

If approved, OCCI and PICCI have both committed to the following terms for the duration of the Small Business Grant initiative 2026/27.

- Assisting successful applicants in overcoming the barriers of business startup and business commencement/launch.
- Assisting businesses access professional skills, services, or knowledge to advance their business concept and/or launch.
- Provide business support where appropriate.
- Provide access to the Chamber's business hub and facilities as per the respective Chamber policies.

Ongoing support and promotion:

Promotion of the grant initiative will be done by the Shire's Corporate Communications and Media team with digital and physical promotional assets provided by the Shire to the Chamber's for further promotional dispersal. All promotional material will include the Shire, OCCl and PICCl logos and contact details.

Support and questions during the application process can be made to the respective Chamber's with applications uploaded via the Shire's website.

Feedback from 2025/26 Shire if Ashburton Small Business Grant recipients below:

Champions for Pilbara:

"Thank you again to the Shire of Ashburton, PICCl, and OCCl for the Small Business Grant support. The funding has made a real and tangible difference to our ability to set up a safe, professional facility for the Tom Price community, particularly for our youth programs" Cornelius Grobler.

Onslow Electrical Pty Ltd:

"Thank you very much for your assistance and support throughout the Shire of Ashburton's inaugural Small Business Grants Program 2025/26. I truly appreciate the opportunity and the confidence shown in my business through this funding approval" Aaron Peverell.

Pure Print Co:

"I cannot thank the Shire of Ashburton enough for this opportunity to expand my small business and look forward to showing what I can bring to the community soon" Hannah McCormack

Tahls Creations:

"I just wanted to say thank you and that I am so grateful for this opportunity and for the support through the Small Business Grant Program. This funding will allow me to grow my business, invest in new equipment, and bring additional creative services to other small business within Paraburdoo and the wider Shire of Ashburton. I appreciate the support from the Shire of Ashburton, the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impact this will have locally" Tahlia Stickland

Feedback from PICCl:

Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (refer Attachment 3).

Consultation

Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI)
Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PICCI)
Shire of Ashburton, Acting Manager of Governance
Shire of Ashburton, Manager Communities

The proposed Small Business Grants Policy and Guidelines have been included in the Strategic Briefing agenda of 8 June 2026 for reference. Internally the Chief Executive Officer was engaged in the development of these draft documents.

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	3. Prosperity - We will advocate and drive opportunities for the community to be economically desirable, resilient, and prosperous.
Strategic Outcome	3.1 Coordinated delivery of economic services and projects for the community
Strategy	1 Develop and maintain key economic services partnerships, both internally and externally, to support Council's vision.

Council Policy

Council Policy – Small Business Grant

The Shire is committed to fostering a welcoming, sustainable and socially active district that offers a diverse range of opportunities for the community.

To support this vision, this policy aims to encourage vibrant, sustainable and liveable towns by providing annual grants that aims to strengthen small business sustainability, growth, capability and to promote new infrastructure, services, commercial opportunities, investment, and diversification.

Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding

The Shire is committed to a vision of being a welcoming, sustainable, and socially active district, offering a variety of opportunities to community.

Council Policy – Fraud and Corruption

The prevention and detection of fraud and corruption is a collective responsibility of all persons engaged, or closely associated, with the Shire in any capacity.

This policy applies to all elected members, committee members, candidates, working group members, employees, agency staff, volunteers, third parties - such as consultants, contractors, suppliers and the community.

Council Policy – Tourism Support and Promotion

The Shire recognises that tourism will continue to be a major employer and contributor to the local economy, and that it needs to play an active role to facilitate the growth and development of tourism.

Financial - Support tourism initiatives which build the Pilbara tourism potential.

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Financial support for the Small Business Grant Program will require a budget allocation of \$80,000 (excluding GST) for the 2026/27 financial year.

Consideration to future financial year budgets will be dependent on the success and support for a Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grant Program.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/ community)	Council requested in December 2023 for a Small Business Grants program initiative to be investigated in collaboration with the respective Ashburton Chamber of Commerce's. Not supporting this initiative provides opportunity of risk within the local and business community as a view of non-support from Council for small business growth and diversification in the area.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Continuing to support a Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grant program and implementing a related Council Policy and supporting Grant Guidelines.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Recommendation

That Council endorses the Economic Tourism and Development Committee recommendation and

1. Supports the delivery of the Shire of Ashburton 2026/2027 Small Business Grants program.
2. Adopt the Small Business Grants Policy as detailed in Attachment 1, and the Small Business Grants Guidelines detailed in Attachment 2 with changes to include two elected members as part of the grant assessment process.
3. Supports a budget allocation of \$80,000 (excluding GST) in the 2026/2027 budget for the 2026/2027 Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grants program.

Amended Recommendation

That Council endorses the Economic Tourism and Development Committee recommendation and

1. Supports the delivery of the Shire of Ashburton 2026/2027 Small Business Grants program.
2. Adopt the Small Business Grants Policy as detailed in Attachment 1, and the Small Business Grants Guidelines detailed in Attachment 2 with changes to include two elected members as part of the grant assessment process and reduce the funding allocation to be no more than \$5,000 per application per financial year.
3. Supports a budget allocation of \$80,000 (excluding GST) in the 2026/2027 budget for the 2026/2027 Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grants program.

Reason for change - To enable a better spread of funds across small businesses across the Shire

Council Decision **087/2026**

Moved **Cr A Sullivan**

Seconded **Cr L Rumble JP**

That Council endorses the Economic Tourism and Development Committee recommendation and

- 1. Supports the delivery of the Shire of Ashburton 2026/2027 Small Business Grants program.**
- 2. Adopt the Small Business Grants Policy as detailed in Attachment 1, and the Small Business Grants Guidelines detailed in Attachment 2 with changes to include two elected members as part of the grant assessment process and reduce the funding allocation to be no more than \$5,000 per application per financial year.**
- 3. Supports a budget allocation of \$80,000 (excluding GST) in the 2026/2027 budget for the 2026/2027 Shire of Ashburton Small Business Grants program.**

For: **A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **A Smith and B Noone**

Carried 6/2

11/ETD.2 Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2026 Business Excellence Awards Sponsorship

File Reference	ED01
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	S Allan, Manager Business & Economic Development
Authorising Officer	K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Onslow Chamber of Commerce 2026 Business Excellence Awards Sponsorship proposal.

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a sponsorship request received from the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) for the 2026 Business Awards. (Refer Attachment 1).

The sponsorship request provides an opportunity for the Shire to make a financial contribution to become a formal sponsor of the 2026 awards.

The Committee is requested to consider the sponsorship proposal presented and make a recommendation to Council for the Shire to support the proposal of \$5,000 (excluding GST) as an Event Sponsor.

Background

The Shire of Ashburton (Shire) have been approached by OCCI to make a financial contribution to their 2026 Business Awards. The awards event is tentatively scheduled to be held on Saturday, 10 October 2026.

These awards are in their 12th year and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Onslow's business community. The awards process and function showcases local innovation, resilience, and success, and offers sponsors a unique opportunity to gain visibility, connect with industry leaders, and demonstrate their commitment to our region's economic growth.

In 2025, the Shire provided sponsorship towards the business awards as an Event Sponsor for the People's Choice Award category.

Comments

Supporting small and medium sized business

Supporting small and medium sized businesses in the Shire of Ashburton district is recognised in the Shire's strategies and plans. Prosperity is one of the four pillars included in the Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032, which states that we will advocate and drive opportunities for the community to be economically desirable, resilient, and prosperous.

Sustainable commerce and tourism opportunities is a key strategy adopted in the pursuit of this objective. The Shire's Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 was developed to compliment and assist with delivering outcomes aligned to the Strategic Community Plan.

Vision 4 of the Shire of Ashburton's Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 focuses on ensuring that the Ashburton region is a great place to have a small business with actions to support small business, including support for the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PICCI) initiatives.

Value of business awards

- The Western Australian Government (Small Business Development Corporation) highlights that there are many benefits to business awards for small and medium enterprises including:
- Prestige and recognition from your peers and within your industry.
- Opening up valuable public relations and media opportunities in the short and longer term.
- Credibility and social proof that gives your business an edge.
- A validation of your business idea or methodology.
- The award review process itself – you will receive feedback from experienced industry professionals on what you are doing well (and anything you could improve on).
- Confidence in the operation of your business – an endorsement that you are doing the right thing.

<https://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/blog/benefits-entering-business-awards>

Sponsorship categories

- Best Community Organisation
- Best Business Sole Trader
- Best Start Up Business
- Best Business with Employees (1-15), (6-20), (20+)
- Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality
- Employee of the Year
- Team of the Year
- People's Choice Award
- Training & Apprenticeship Award

By sponsoring an award category, the Shire get the exclusive naming rights to that award along with the other benefits outlined below.

- Acknowledgement as Event Sponsor by MC during programme and a 5-minute opportunity to address the finalists and attendees.
- Name and logo included on website, award certificates and other promotional material.
- Dedicated social media posts acknowledging the Shire as an Event Sponsor.

- The Shire represented and acknowledged on all media and marketing material.
- Four complimentary tickets for attend the event.
- Corporate signage displayed at the event.

At the 2025 OCCI Business Excellence Awards, under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer (Temporary), the Shire supported the People's Choice Award Category as an Event Sponsor for the amount of \$5,000 (excluding GST).

This same award category and sponsorship level is recommended by the Officer for 2026 given its popularity and community interest.

Consultation

Shire of Ashburton, Chief Executive Officer

Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	3. Prosperity - We will advocate and drive opportunities for the community to be economically desirable, resilient, and prosperous.
Strategic Outcome	3.1 Coordinated delivery of economic services and projects for the community
Strategy	1 Develop and maintain key economic services partnerships, both internally and externally, to support Council's vision.

Council Policy

Council Policy - Communications and Media

- Provide a positive public image of Council in line with corporate objectives.
- Maximise media opportunities for Council's achievements and programs.

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Each financial year Council allocates an estimated budget amount of \$232,000 to General Ledger ED24080 that supports Affiliations and Sponsorship; Event Sponsorships Annual Funding Agreements and Memberships.

The requested \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) for the 2026 Business Excellence Awards will be allocated to General Ledger ED24080 J3103 (Annual Funding Agreements).

Further Council consideration is also required for a financial commitment of the same amount for the annual Business Excellence Awards event, for a further 5 years, allocated to the same General Ledger code.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/ community)	If the sponsorship is not provided to support the business awards, Council could be perceived as not assisting the business community to invest, grow and develop.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Reputation is managed by following the Officer's recommendation and maintaining strong relationships.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Recommendation

That Council endorses the Economic and Tourism Development Committee recommendation and

1. Supports a financial contribution of \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) from General Ledger J3103 to the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the 2026 Business Excellence Awards as part of the 2026/2027 budget; and
2. Supports an annual sponsorship contribution of \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) for a further 5 financial years upon written request from the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Business Excellence Awards functions, with funds being sourced from General Ledger J3103.

Council Decision 088/2026

Moved Cr L Rumble JP

Seconded Cr K Day

That Council endorses the Economic and Tourism Development Committee recommendation and

- 1. Supports a financial contribution of \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) from General Ledger J3103 to the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the 2026 Business Excellence Awards as part of the 2026/2027 budget; and**
- 2. Supports an annual sponsorship contribution of \$5,000.00 (excluding GST) for a further 5 financial years upon written request from the Onslow Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Business Excellence Awards functions, with funds being sourced from General Ledger J3103.**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

Cr B Noone disclosed a direct financial interest in Item 6.3 (detailed in Item 5.2).

At 1:32 pm, Cr B Noone left the meeting.

11/ETD.3 The Karijini Experience 2026 Sponsorship

File Reference	REC52234
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	T Taylor, Manager Communities
Authorising Officer	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 21 December 2020 - Item 7.4 – 234/2020 Ordinary Council Meeting 9 May 2023 - Item 11.4 – 070/2023 Ordinary Council Meeting 12 December 2023 - Item 6.5 – 221/2023 Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2024 - Item 6.2 – 242/2024 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 June 2025 - Item 6.2 – 101/2025 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 February 2026 - Item 15.2 – 018/2026
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. 2026 Karijini Experience Sponsorship Packages 2. KE Cancellation Notification Letter

Report Purpose

To seek Councils position on the allocation of the approved sponsorship funding for the Karijini Experience 2026 given the event was cancelled, and a request has been received seeking reallocation of the sponsorship funds towards losses incurred by Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC).

Background

At the February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council approved sponsorship funding for the Karijini Experience 2026, an annual cultural and tourism event owned and delivered by BNTAC, as follows:

That, with respect to The Karijini Experience 2026 Sponsorship Proposal, Council:

- 1. Approve a contribution of \$50,000 (excluding GST) for the Shire's sponsorship of the Karijini Experience, and*
- 2. Authorise Shire officers to negotiate a customised sponsorship package with Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation that provides appropriate recognition and benefits commensurate with a \$50,000 contribution.*

The sponsorship approved was intended to support the delivery of the event and align with the Shire's objectives relating to cultural recognition, regional tourism, and economic development.

On 20 March 2026, the Shire's Manager Communities received information from the BNTAC advising of the cancellation of the 2026 Karijini Experience due to the current fuel supply crisis and associated risks. Following receipt of this advice, all elected members were informed of the cancellation.

Elected members were informed that a report would be prepared for the April 2026 Ordinary Council meeting to address the status of the 2026 sponsorship allocation once further information was provided by BNTAC regarding financial impacts and next steps following the informal cancellation advice received.

On 24 March 2026, the Shire received formal correspondence (Refer to Attachment 2) from BNTAC advising that the 2026 Karijini Experience had been cancelled. The cancellation was attributed to the ongoing fuel supply uncertainty across Australia and the associated risks of delivering a large-scale event in a remote location.

On 1 April 2026, the Shire received an additional email (Refer to Attachment 3) from BNTAC advising they had a large number of contractual commitments that resulted in significant non-refundable expenditure and continued sponsorship remains critical in assisting them to meet these obligations and reduce the substantial losses. This email also included an invitation to a Sponsor Evening being held on Friday, 10 April 2026 which was forwarded to the Shire President.

At the April 2026 Strategic Briefing, it was requested that the agenda item be moved from the Ordinary Council Meeting to the Economic and Tourism Development Committee Meeting for consideration.

Comments

The cancellation of the 2026 Karijini Experience has seen the BNTAC incur significant non-refundable costs that were incurred prior to the decision to cancel, resulting in substantial financial impacts to the organisation.

BNTAC has requested that sponsors consider maintaining their 2026 sponsorship commitments, either in full or in part, to assist in meeting these existing contractual obligations and mitigating losses.

Council is now requested to consider how it wishes to proceed with its approved 2026 sponsorship funding noting that:

- The primary event for which sponsorship was approved will not proceed in 2026.
- BNTAC has incurred significant non-recoverable costs in good faith prior to the cancellation.
- The cancellation decision was driven by the current fuel supply crisis, issues outside of the control of the event organiser, which was also led by an identified duty of care risk in relation to the potential inability of attendees, artist, and visitors to access fuel to safely travel to and from the region.

Shire Officers have sought additional information from BNTAC on the financial impact from the 2026 event cancellation, specifically;

- Expenditure to date;
- Cancellation costs and any non-recoverable expenses;

- Funding and sponsorship received, and what portion was able to be recouped or redirected; and
- How Shire funds would be allocated.

As of close of business 10 June 2026, Officers have not received a response.

The following options are presented for Council to consider:

Option 1

Council withdraw the 2026 sponsorship in full and carry forward the funds to support the 2027 Karijini Experience.

Option 2

Council proceed with the approved 2026 sponsorship in full, acknowledging the exceptional circumstances and supporting BNTAC to offset costs incurred, with the understanding that a 2027 Sponsorship Package will be presented to Council at a later date.

Option 3

That Council approves 50% payment of the already approved budget allocation in the 2025/2026 budget for 2026 Karijini Experience sponsorship to BNTAC, in recognition of the cancellation of the event due to exceptional circumstances, with the remaining funds to be carried forward for consideration for the 2027 event and included in the 2026/2027 budget.

In making its decision, Council is asked to take into consideration the Shire's Economic and Tourism Development Strategy 2024– 2028 which identifies tourism as a key economic driver with a vision to elevate Karijini National Park to international prominence.

The Karijini Experience directly contributes to this vision by attracting local, intrastate, and interstate visitors, increasing regional length of stay.

Council is also asked to consider the financial impacts of the cancellation on travelling visitors and local vendors, many of whom may have been unable to recover costs already incurred in relation to the 2026 Karijini Experience.

Consultation

Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC)
Manager Communities
Director Corporate Services
Director Community Development

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	3. Prosperity - We will advocate and drive opportunities for the community to be economically desirable, resilient, and prosperous.
Strategic Outcome	3.4 Sustainable commerce and tourism opportunities
Strategy	3 Work collaboratively with tourism sector providers, Australia's North-West Tourism and Tourism WA to increase visitor spend, and length of stay, in the Shire.

Council Policy[Council Policies » Shire of Ashburton](#)

Council Policy – Tourism Support and Promotion

Financial ImplicationsCurrent Financial Year

Nil – as 2026 Sponsorship has already been endorsed

Future Financial Year(s)

Would be considered as part of the normal budget process.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/ community)	If Council support the allocated funding for the cancelled Karijini Experience 2026 there could be negative community feedback as other vendors were also affected by the cancellation with no option to recoup losses.	Possible (3)	Minor (2)	Moderate (5-9)	Supporting the Officer recommendation limits negative broad community feedback, notwithstanding the applicant would be disappointed.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Recommendation

That Council endorses the Economic and Tourism Development Committee recommendation to withdraw sponsorship of the cancelled 2026 Karijini Experience event.

Council Decision **089/2026**

Moved **Cr C Rogers**

Seconded **Cr R de Pledge**

That Council endorses the Economic and Tourism Development Committee recommendation to withdraw sponsorship of the cancelled 2026 Karijini Experience event.

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 7/0

At 1:34 pm, Cr B Noone returned to the meeting.

12 Office of the Chief Executive Officer Reports

Nil

13 Corporate Services Reports

13.1 Annual Statutory Review of Delegations - 2025/2026

File Reference	GV20
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	R Marlborough, Acting Manager Governance
Authorising Officer	D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 13 June 2023 – Item 13.4 – 102/2023 Ordinary Council Meeting 18 June 2024 – Item 13.4 – 118/2024 Ordinary Council Meeting 20 May 2025 – Item 13.1 – 076/2025
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Proposed Amendments - Delegations and Authorisations 2. 01.01.31 - Commence Periodic Statutory Local Law Reviews

Report Purpose

Council is required to review delegations to the Chief Executive Officer, employees and others (where relevant) at least once each financial year, under various legislation.

The purpose of this report is to present the annual review of delegations that has been completed.

Council is requested to consider the review outcomes presented and determine a position, by absolute majority, as recommended.

Background

Section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) prescribes that Council may delegate its powers or duties to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Section 5.43 of the Act outlines the limitations on such delegations. The power to delegate to the CEO and employees directly, in certain specific instances is also prescribed within other legislation administered.

Section 5.46(2) of the Act requires delegations made under the Act, to be reviewed each financial year. Similar provisions for periodic reviews are also provided in the *Dog Act 1976* and *Cat Act 2011*. Annual review of delegations under some other legislation is not statutorily required however, it is considered good governance to review all delegations and authorisations on an annual basis, as this ensures operational effectiveness.

The last comprehensive annual review of delegations from Council to the CEO, or from Council to employees or others (where legislatively permitted) was presented to Council for consideration on 20 May 2025.

Safeguards are incorporated into delegations, by way of limitations or conditions, as determined necessary.

The current Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations is published on the Shire's website. This document is part of the governance framework and the broader suite of prescribed publicly accessible documents as required by the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Comments

Delegations form an important part of the Shire's effective decision-making approach to support the community. The use of delegated authority means that the large volume of routine work can be effectively managed and acted on promptly, which in turn facilitates efficient service delivery to the community.

The CEO may sub-delegate to authorise employees, the authority to perform functions and duties that are exercisable by the CEO under the Act and other legislation, or that have been delegated to the CEO by Council (with the exception of the power to delegate).

Following a full review of the current Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations, the following table provides a summary outlining the proposed amendments to delegations and authorisations.

Delegation No.	Title	Proposed Amendment Details - Comment
01.01.14	Tenders for Good and Services	In the Function section - combine the text of points 7 and 8 to clearly establish that the acceptance or rejection of a tender by delegated authority (within the value prescribed) is based on a recommendation of a tender evaluation panel established. Combining these points improves overall clarity.
01.01.27	Appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer	In the Function section - delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's position as this role is not part of the current organisational structure.
06.01.01	Prohibition Orders	In the Delegates section - add the new position of Director Development & Regulatory Services as this position directly oversees Development/ Regulatory functions. Delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's and the Executive Manager Land, Property and Regulatory Services as these positions are not part of the current organisational structure. In the Conditions section add the Manager Regulatory Services being required to consult before issuing a prohibition order.
06.01.02	Food Business Registrations	In the Delegates section - add the new position of Director Development & Regulatory Services as this position directly oversees Development/ Regulatory functions. Delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's and the Executive Manager Land, Property and Regulatory Services as these positions are not part of the current organisational structure.

AA.04.01	Local Government Act 1995 - Execution of Documents	In the Delegates section - delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's position as this role is not part of the current organisational structure. Add new position of Director Development & Regulatory Services as a delegate. In the Record keeping section - Point 1 removed as recording in the record of exercise is not statutory required for this matter.
AA.04.02	Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 - Powers of Local Government Appointment of Authorised Persons	In the Delegates section - add the new position of Director Development & Regulatory Services as this position directly oversees Development/ Regulatory functions. Delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's and the Executive Manager Land, Property and Regulatory Services as these positions are not part of the current organisational structure. In the Record keeping section - Point 1 removed as recording in the record of exercise is not statutory required for this matter.
AA.04.04	Litter Act 1979 - Appointment of Authorised Officers to Withdraw Infringement Notices	
AA.04.05	Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act 1978 - Appointment of Authorised Persons to Withdraw Infringement Notices	In the Delegates section - add the new position of Director Development & Regulatory Services (DDRS) as this position directly oversees Development/Regulatory functions. Delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's and the Executive Manager Land, Property and Regulatory Services as these positions are not part of the current organisational structure. Conditions updated to require the Manager Regulatory Services to notify the DDRS when an infringement is withdrawn. In the Record keeping section - Point 1 removed as recording in the record of exercise is not statutory required for this matter.
AA.04.06	Local Government Act 1995 - Power to Remove and Impound	In the Delegates section - delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's position as this position is not part of the current organisational structure.

AA.04.07	Authorising Persons - Liquor Control Act 1988	In the Delegates section - delete reference to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer's and the Executive Manager Land, Property and Regulatory Services as these positions are not part of the current organisational structure. In the Record keeping section - Point 1 removed as recording in the record of exercise is not statutory required for this matter.
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The proposed delegation/authorisation amendments for Council's consideration are provided in track change format for ease of reference. The current Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations is available for review on the Shire's website at [Register](#).

Sub-delegations from the CEO to employees, or CEO authorisations to employees, where permissible in law are dealt by a separate internal annual review process and these matters are not a subject of this statutory review.

The review completed supports legislative compliance and ensures effective processes are in place to manage decision making. This underpins good governance, and it is recommended that Council adopts annual statutory review, and the amendments proposed to the Shire of Ashburton of Register of Delegations and Authorisations, as presented.

In addition to the statutory review, the following new delegation to the Chief Executive Officer as provide in Attachment 2 is presented for consideration.

Delegation No #	Title	Summary
01.01.31	Commence Periodic Statutory Local Law Reviews	This delegation enables commencing the local public notice advertising of a periodic local law review in accordance the prescribed requirements. Following a submission period closing on a local law review, Council are provided a report on the review outcomes for consideration.

Consultation

Engagement on the annual statutory review and the development of the proposed new delegation was undertaken with relevant business units and responsible officers.

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	4. Performance - We will lead the organisation, and create the culture, to deliver demonstrated performance excellence to the community.
Strategic Outcome	4.6 Visionary community leadership with sound, diligent and accountable governance
Strategy	3 Deliver best practice governance and risk management.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial ImplicationsCurrent Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications*Local Government Act 1995*

Section 5.42 Delegation of some powers and duties to CEO

A local government may delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of certain powers or the discharge of certain duties under various pieces of legislation.

Section 5.46 Register of, and records relevant to, delegations to CEO and employees

The Chief Executive Officer is to keep a register of the delegations made by Council to the Chief Executive Officer, and to any employees, and to –

- Review these at least once every financial year, and
- Have records kept of each instance a power or duty is exercised or discharged.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Regulation 19 Delegates to keep certain records (Act s. 5.46(3))

Where a power or duty has been delegated under the Act to the CEO or to any other local government employee, the person to whom the power or duty has been delegated is to keep a written record of —

- (a) how the person exercised the power or discharged the duty; and
- (b) when the person exercised the power or discharged the duty; and
- (c) the persons or classes of persons, other than council or committee members or employees of the local government, directly affected by the exercise of the power or the discharge of the duty.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Compliance	Not completing the statutory financial year review will result in non-compliance with the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and other legislation.	Unlikely (2)	Minor (2)	Low (1-4)	Completing and endorsing the annual review will meet the statutory requirements.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the annual statutory review of the Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations, as summarised within the body of this report in accordance with section 5.46 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
2. Adopts the amendments to the Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations as provided and detailed in Attachment 1 pursuant to section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and all other applicable legislation.
3. Adopts the following proposed new delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer 01.01.31 - Commence Periodic Statutory Local Law Reviews, as provided and detailed in Attachment 2.

Council Decision 090/2026

Moved Cr L Rumble JP

Seconded Cr C Rogers

That Council:

1. **Receives the annual statutory review of the Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations, as summarised within the body of this report in accordance with section 5.46 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;**
2. **Adopts the amendments to the Shire of Ashburton Register of Delegations and Authorisations as provided and detailed in Attachment 1 pursuant to section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and all other applicable legislation.**
3. **Adopts the following proposed new delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer 01.01.31 - Commence Periodic Statutory Local Law Reviews, as provided and detailed in Attachment 2.**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0

13.2 Differential Rates 2026-27 - Consideration of Submissions

File Reference	RV07
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	R McDermott, Chief Financial Officer
Authorising Officer	D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 9 May 2023 - Item 12.7 – 077/2023
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Differential Rates Submission - AMEC

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is twofold. Firstly, it presents to Council the one submission received during the public consultation period for the proposed 2026-27 Differential Rates, and secondly recommends that Council seek Ministerial approval for the Gross Rental Value (GRV) Transient Worker Accommodation differential category for 2026-27 being greater than two times the lowest GRV rate in the dollar.

Background

The 2025/26 general revaluation provided disparate valuation across residential, commercial/industrial and transient worker accommodation properties.

This necessitated seeking Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation, being more than two times the lowest GRV differential rate in the dollar, to maintain the relativities in rate distribution.

Comments

Differential Rates Submission

Council gave local public notice under section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) of the intention to apply differential rates in 2026-27 as per the below table.

Rate Category	Rate in \$ 2025/26	Rate in \$ 2026/27	Multiplier	Minimum Payment	Percentage of Rates
GRV Residential and Community	0.06771	0.06771	Base	\$1,390	7%
GRV Commercial/Industrial	0.08661	0.08921	x1.32	\$1,390	2%
GRV Transient Worker Accommodation #	0.19365	0.19946	x2.95	\$1,390	13%
UV Pastoral	0.19250	0.19250	Base	\$1,390	2%
UV Non-Pastoral	0.37950	0.37725	x1.96	\$1,390	76%

The public submission period commenced on the 1 May 2026 and concluded on 22 May 2026. One submission was received from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) in relation to the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation and UV Non-Pastoral differential category. (Attachment 1)

A summary of the key issues raised within the submission received and a response from Council Officers is contained within the following table:

SUBMISSION GRV Transient Worker Accommodation UV Non-Pastoral	
Key Issues	Officer's Response
UV Non-Pastoral for the upcoming financial year...is at least five times the lowest rate.	Differential rate valuations for GRV and UV, and within each category, have a differing valuation methodology applied by Landgate valuers, and are not directly comparable. Within UV the multiplier is x1.96 against the lowest UV being UV Pastoral.
...proposed rates suggest land categories are disproportionately rated, and a large reliance on mining for the Shire's revenue,	Resource interests cover a significant proportion of the ~100,000 square km of the Shire.
but there has been no change to the level of minimum service that mining and mineral exploration companies receive.	Rates are a form of property taxation, it is not possible for the Shire to recognise the consumption of services by individual properties.
The Shire has adopted a "one-size fits all" rating structure for mining and exploration	'Consistency' & 'Transparency and administrative efficiency' are key value/s required by the Minister for differential rating. The Shire achieves these values by maintaining two clear and understandable UV differential categories.
When the State increases tenement rents, which it does annually, the Shire automatically receive that same percentage increase in valuation, which in turn raises the amount payable in Shire rates.	The predominant increase in mining valuations was 2.2% - 2.4%, the advertised UV Non-Pastoral differential rate is 1.0% lower than 2025/26, meaning a predominant 1.2% - 1.4% increase for the vast majority of non-minimum UV Non-Pastoral properties.
The Shire ...should apply different rating categories and a different rate (with a much lower rate for exploration companies and comparable with rating for pastoral companies)	Circa 40 percent of exploration licenses within the district are minimum rated. The minimum rate applied is the same that applies to the UV Pastoral category being \$1,390, with a Nil increase in the minimum rate proposed comparative to 2025/26.
The Shire should...ensure they are not subject to disproportionate rating compared to other categories.	The Shire has maintained consistency in the distribution of the rating burden in the proposed Differential rates for 2026/27 as comparative to prior financial years.

Differential rates endeavour to apply the rating impost as fairly and equitability as possible. Officers do not believe that there is a requirement to amend the Objects and Reasons. It should be noted that AMEC are not a ratepayer of the Shire of Ashburton, but rather an association that represents member mining and exploration companies throughout WA.

GRV Transient Worker Accommodation (Ministerial Approval)

The Shire was granted ministerial approval for the 2025/26 financial year for the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation differential category.

Application for Ministerial approval is made to the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (DLGIRS). The turnaround time for approval is 3 weeks from receipt of application.

Conclusion

Options for Council consideration are as follows:

Option 1

- (a) Having considered the submission received AFFIRM the advertised differential rates: and
- (b) Seek Ministerial approval for GRV Transient Worker Accommodation category as the proposed rate in the dollar of 0.19946 is more than twice the GRV Residential category.

This is the recommended approach as it meets all the legislative requirements of the Act and maintains 'Consistency' and 'Transparency and Administrative Efficiency' in distributing the rate burden.

Option 2

- (a) Having considered the submission received, consider further reducing the UV Non-Pastoral rate in the dollar and/or lowering the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation rate in the dollar; and
- (b) Seek Ministerial approval for GRV Transient Worker Accommodation category as the proposed rate in the dollar of 0.19946, or amended rate in the dollar of _____, is more than twice the GRV Residential category.

Consultation

Community – Proposed differential rates advertised between 1 May 2026 and 22 May 2026.

Councillors and Shire's Executive Leadership Team have attended a series of budget workshops to consider projected changes in operating expenditure and income along with the proposed capital works program.

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	4. Performance - We will lead the organisation, and create the culture, to deliver demonstrated performance excellence to the community.
Strategic Outcome	4.2 Appropriate, sustainable, and transparent management of community funds
Strategy	3 Plan effectively for financial sustainability.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Following discussions with Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2026, the differential rates for 2026-27 were advertised with an increase to overall rate yield anticipated of 4.06% to \$77,457,980 which is in-line with forecast rates of inflation and comparative to the adopted Long Term Financial Plan of \$77,264,026.

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.33 Differential general rates

Council is to observe the provisions regarding imposing differential rates, including the ability to apply separate rates in the dollar for different rate categories and different rating classifications based on zoning, land use, and whether the assessments are based upon improved or unimproved valuations.

Ministerial approval is required if differential rate is more than twice the lowest differential rate imposed.

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.36 Local government to give notice of certain rates

If differential rating is to be applied, Council is required to advertise the differentials it intends to apply with local public notice for a minimum of 21 days and invite submissions to be made by an elector or a ratepayer in relation to the proposed differentials.

A document is required to be made available for inspection by electors and ratepayers describing the objects of, and reasons for, each proposed rate and minimum payment.

Council is then required to consider any submissions received and may make a final resolution in relation to the setting of the rates in the dollar and the adoption of the Annual Budget.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Compliance	DLGIRS challenge the lawfulness of the use of concessions	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Officer recommendation mitigates the risk identified.
Reputation (social/ community)	Rate in the dollar and minimum payments perceived as excessive relative to other local governments	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Council has maintained moderate rate increases for the last 5 years. Comparison of differential rates to other local governments confirms rates to be comparable.

Financial impact	DLGIRS disallow the differential rates proposed	Possible (3)	Major (4)	High (10-16)	Officer recommendation mitigates the risk identified.
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Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered as medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That with respect to Differential Rates 2026-27 – Consideration of Submissions, Council,

1. Acknowledge and notes the submission received as per Attachment 1;
2. Advise the submitter that no change is proposed to be made to the advertised GRV Transient Worker Accommodation and the UV – Non-Pastoral differential rates for 2026-27;
3. Having considered the submission received, affirm the advertised Differential Rates 2026-27:

Rate Category	2026-27 Rate in \$	Minimum Payment
GRV Residential and Community	0.06771	\$1,390
GRV Commercial and Industrial	0.08921	\$1,390
GRV Transient Worker Accommodation	0.19946	\$1,390
UV Pastoral	0.19250	\$1,390
UV Non-Pastoral	0.37725	\$1,390

4. Request the Chief Executive Officer seek Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation Differential Rate category in accordance with Section 6.33(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* prior to adopting the 2026-27 Budget.

Council Decision 091/2026

Moved Cr L Rumble JP

Seconded Cr B Noone

That with respect to Differential Rates 2026-27 – Consideration of Submissions, Council,

- 1. Acknowledge and notes the submission received as per Attachment 1;**
- 2. Advise the submitter that no change is proposed to be made to the advertised GRV Transient Worker Accommodation and the UV – Non-Pastoral differential rates for 2026-27;**
- 3. Having considered the submission received, affirm the advertised Differential Rates 2026-27:**

Rate Category	2026-27 Rate in \$	Minimum Payment
GRV Residential and Community	0.06771	\$1,390
GRV Commercial and Industrial	0.08921	\$1,390
GRV Transient Worker Accommodation	0.19946	\$1,390
UV Pastoral	0.19250	\$1,390
UV Non-Pastoral	0.37725	\$1,390

- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer seek Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Worker Accommodation Differential Rate category in accordance with Section 6.33(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* prior to adopting the 2026-27 Budget.**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

13.3 Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid - May 2026

File Reference	FM03
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	T Dayman, Manager Finance
Authorising Officer	D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Schedule of Accounts Paid - May 2026

Report Purpose

Shire officers are required to prepare a Schedule of Accounts Paid each month containing relevant information, as legislated.

The purpose of this report is to present the:

- Schedule of Creditor Accounts Paid for May 2026; and
- Corporate Credit Card and Payment Card Reconciliations for May 2026.

Council is requested to confirm the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid, as presented in Attachment 1.

Background

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* require Shire officers, monthly and within a prescribed timeframe, to prepare a schedule of payments made from the Municipal Fund and the Trust Fund and present this to Council for confirmation.

A new regulation has been added to the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* to increase transparency and accountability in local government, through greater oversight of incidental spending. From 1 September 2023, local governments are required to disclose information about each transaction made on a credit cards, debit cards or other purchasing cards.

Comments

Shire officers have prepared the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid, in accordance with legislative requirements, and this is attached.

For the month under review the following summarised details are presented:

Description	Amount \$
<u>Municipal Fund</u>	
Electronic Funds Transfers	8,589,668.23
Credit Cards	520,800.48
Payroll	1,255,731.15
Bank Fees and Charges	1,788.03
<u>Municipal Fund Total</u>	10,367,987.89
<u>Trust Fund</u>	
Electronic Funds Transfers	0.00
<u>Trust Fund Total</u>	0.00
<u>Payment Cards</u>	
Credit Cards	75,960.80
Fuel Cards – Ampol *	11,479.55
Fuel Cards – Viva / Shell*	21,495.39
Taxi Cards – Cabcharge*	235.03
<u>Payment Cards Total</u>	109,551.05

The below table provides a summary of payment totals during 2025-2026.

Month	EFT Payment	Direct Debits	Credit Cards	Payroll	Bank Fees	Total Payment
July 25	11,877,167	464,990	84,140	1,609,770	2,351	14,039,011
August 25	13,059,809	153,819	84,816	1,059,073	2,337	14,359,856
September	12,329,479	4,714	62,308	1,1125,90	2,709	13,524,800
October 25	20,344,341	749,066	79,176	1,143,187	2,540	22,318,311
November 25	13,085,271	387,119	67,783	1,202,171	3,002	14,745,346
December 25	8,493,936	368,574	58,728	1,736,787	1,437	10,659,462
January 26	8,707,051	472,208	46,136	1,194,558	1,706	7,421,659
February 26	5,914,511	328,894	70,253	1,149,209	1,286	7,464,153
March 26	4,472,339	326,981	72,936	1,203,312	1,818	6,077,388
April 26	8,363,857	313,448	92,701	1,190,854	1,470	9,962,333
May 26	8,589,668	444,839	75,961	1,255,731	1,788	10,367,988
Total YTD	112,238,026	3,941,407	800,405	13,870,243,	22,444	130,872,524
Total 25/26	83,319,933	3,931,059	579,458	13,971,918	30,854	101,833,224

* Fuel Card & Taxi cards included in Direct Debit total

Consultation

Executive Leadership Team
Finance Team

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	4. Performance - We will lead the organisation, and create the culture, to deliver demonstrated performance excellence to the community.
Strategic Outcome	4.2 Appropriate, sustainable, and transparent management of community funds
Strategy	4 Ensure financial transactions are accurate and timely.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Payments included on the Schedule of Accounts Paid have been undertaken in accordance with appropriate processes and the Annual Budget.

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Regulation 13 (Payments from municipal fund or trust fund by Chief Executive Officer, Chief Executive Officer's duties as to etc.)

Where the Chief Executive Officer has been delegated the exercise of power to make payments from the Municipal Fund or the Trust Fund, a list of accounts authorised for payment by the Chief Executive Officer is to be presented each month to Council.

Regulation 13A Payments by employees via purchasing cards

If a local government has authorised an employee to use a credit, debtor or other purchasing card, a list of payments made using the card must be prepared each month is to be presented to Council.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Property (plant, equipment, buildings)	Council does not accept the officer recommendation.	Unlikely (2)	Minor (2)	Low (1-4)	Provide Council with adequate information to make an informed decision.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council, in accordance with regulation 13 and 13A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, confirms the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid for May 2026, inclusive of purchasing cards payments for May 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

Council Decision **092/2026**

Moved **Cr K White**

Seconded **Cr A Sullivan**

That Council, in accordance with regulation 13 and 13A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, confirms the Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid for May 2026, inclusive of purchasing cards payments for May 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

13.4 Monthly Financial Statements - May 2026

File Reference	FM03
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	T Dayman, Manager Finance
Authorising Officer	D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Monthly Financial Report May 2026

Report Purpose

Shire officers are required to prepare a Statement of Financial Activity each month containing relevant information, as legislated.

The purpose of this report is to present the Statement of Financial Activity for the month ended 31 May 2026.

Council is requested to accept the Statement of Financial Activity, as provided at Attachment 1.

Background

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* require Shire officers, monthly and within a prescribed timeframe, to prepare financial reports covering prescribed information and present these to Council.

Comments

Shire officers have prepared the Statement of Financial Activity, and supporting documentation, in accordance with legislative requirements (as attached).

Consultation

Executive Leadership Team
Management Group
Finance Team

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	4. Performance - We will lead the organisation, and create the culture, to deliver demonstrated performance excellence to the community.
Strategic Outcome	4.2 Appropriate, sustainable, and transparent management of community funds
Strategy	4 Ensure financial transactions are accurate and timely.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Commentary on the current financial position is outlined within the body of the attached reports.

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.4 (Financial report)

Local governments are required to prepare and present financial reports, on an annual basis and at any other time, and in any other format, as prescribed.

Regulation 34 (Financial activity statement required each month (Act s.6.4))

Shire officers are to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure as set out in the annual budget. Each statement of financial activity is to be accompanied by information explaining the composition of net assets less committed and restricted assets, any material variances and any other supporting information considered relevant.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Compliance	Material misstatement or significant error in the financial statements.	Unlikely (2)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Review of financial position information to be undertaken regularly and by multiple Shire officers.
Compliance	Council does not accept the officer recommendation.	Unlikely (2)	Minor (2)	Low (1-4)	Provide Council with sufficient information for decision making.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council, in accordance with regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, accepts the Statement of Financial Activity, and associated documentation for May 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

Council Decision **093/2026**

Moved **Cr R de Pledge**

Seconded **Cr A Sullivan**

That Council, in accordance with regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, accepts the Statement of Financial Activity, and associated documentation for May 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

14 Infrastructure Services Reports

14.1 Proposed Local Planning Polices for Local Planning Scheme zones

File Reference	LP10.8.0
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	R Wallin, Coordinator Planning and Lands
Authorising Officer	G Harris, Director Infrastructure Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. LPP 2.1 - General Industry Zone 2. LPP 2.2 - Service Commercial Zone 3. LPP 2.3 - Tourism Zone 4. LPP 2.4 - Centre

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider four draft Local Planning Policies (LPP) for commencing community consultation. These draft LPPs are:

- LPP 2.1 – General Industry Zone (Attachment 1);
- LPP 2.2 – Service Commercial Zone (Attachment 2);
- LPP 2.3 – Tourism Zone (Attachment 3); and
- LPP 2.4 – Centre Zone (Attachment 4);

Council is requested to

1. In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2, Clause 4 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015, resolve to advertise the draft Local Planning Policies LPP 2.1 – General Industry Zone, LPP 2.2 – Service Commercial Zone, LPP 2.3 – Tourism Zone and LPP 2.4 – Centre Zone as set out in Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public comment, for a period of not less than twenty-one (21) days; and
2. Following completion of the public comment period, receive a further report detailing the outcomes of the advertising, including any submissions received, for consideration.

Background

These draft LPPs have been prepared to establish a clear and consistent position in relation to the assessment of development and land use applications within the General Industry, Service Commercial, Centre and Tourism zones of proposed Shire of Ashburton Local Planning Scheme 8 (LPS8).

LPS8 was considered at Council's 19 May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting and was recommended for final approval. These draft LPPs are intended to be progressed so that they are ready for finalisation when LPS8 is given final approval by the Minister.

LPS8 has been prepared in a format consistent with the model provisions contained within the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (Regulations) and includes limited guidance for the assessment of land use development. This approach reflects specific instructions from the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and officers at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPLH).

LPS8 provides a list of objectives for each zone but does not include any specific guidance beyond the land use table that identifies land use types that can be considered within the zones (Table 4) and a limited list of additional requirements in Table 7 which addresses:

- (i) Residential density limits in the Tourism and Centre zone;
- (ii) Car parking design; and
- (iii) General locational criteria for workforce accommodation in relation to townsites.

These draft LPPs are intended to provide specific guidance on requirements for development and land use outcomes to ensure the zone objectives stated in draft LPS8 are satisfied in a consistent and clearly described way.

The draft LPPs have been formatted and numbered to reflect the draft WA Planning Manual – Local Planning Policies prepared by the WAPC.

In terms of a planning instrument, LPPs guide the exercise of discretion in decision making and are afforded “due regard” in the decision-making process. “Due regard” in a planning context means that the relevant matters are given:

- Active and positive consideration; or
- Proper, genuine and realistic consideration.

Comments

A LPP provides additional criteria for development assessment not otherwise contained in proposed LPS8 (refer Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4). The following provides background on each of the policies.

LPP 2.1 – General Industry Zone

LPS8 identifies several “General Industry” zones, mainly located just outside the Onslow, Paraburdoo and Tom Price townsites. These locations acknowledge that industrial activities have potential to impact local amenity through generating odour, noise and vibration while also needing to be close to urban centres for staff and servicing needs.

LPS8 includes the following objectives of the General Industry Zone.

- To provide for a broad range of industrial, service and storage activities which, by the nature of their operations, should be isolated from residential and other sensitive land uses.
- To accommodate industry that would not otherwise comply with the performance standards of light industry.
- Seek to manage impacts such as noise, dust and odour within the zone.

The draft LPP seeks to provide guidance on:

- (i) Development standards (setbacks);
- (ii) Use of setback areas;
- (iii) Location of refuse and storage areas;
- (iv) Access and car parking;
- (v) Ancillary/transportable structures;

- (vi) Landscaping;
- (vii) Fencing; and
- (viii) Building design and materials.

The draft LPP seeks to focus on core elements of design in terms of practical features, noting the:

- (i) role of the industrial zone which places priority on functionality of business operations over high streetscape aesthetics; and
- (ii) constraints of being in a remote regional area that limits sites available and access to materials and services.

The draft LPP also includes a level of flexibility through limited exemptions and scope for variations if a proposal meets the overall objectives of the zone.

LPP 2.2 – Service Commercial Zone

LPS8 identifies several “Service Commercial” zones, located on the edge of townsites of Onslow, Paraburdoo and Tom Price.

LPS8 includes the following objectives of the Service Commercial Zone:

- To accommodate commercial activities which, because of the nature of the business, require good vehicular access and/or large sites; and
- To provide for a range of wholesale sales, showrooms, trade and services which, by reason of their scale, character, operational or land requirements, are not generally appropriate in, or cannot conveniently or economically be accommodated in, the central area, shops and offices or industrial zones.

The draft LPP seeks to provide guidance on:

- (i) Development standards (setbacks);
- (ii) Landscaping;
- (iii) Servicing areas;
- (iv) Outbuildings and other structures;
- (v) Storage;
- (vi) Carparking; and
- (vii) Building facades and materials.

The draft LPP seeks to focus on core elements of design in terms of practical features while acknowledging the remote context, the function of a service commercial area and the needs of business operators. The provisions of this draft LPP require a higher standard of design than that of the “General Industrial” zone. This is to acknowledge the proximity to residential areas and that many of the uses will involve a greater level of public interaction.

The draft LPP also includes a level of flexibility through limited exemptions and scope for variations if a proposal meets the overall objectives of the zone.

LPP 2.3 – Tourism Zone

LPS8 identifies “Tourism” zones in various locations in and near the townsites of Onslow, Paraburdoo and Tom Price.

LPS8 includes the following objectives of the Tourism Zone:

- To promote and provide for tourism opportunities;
- To provide for a variety of holiday accommodation styles and associated uses, including retail and service facilities where those facilities are provided in support of the tourist accommodation and are of an appropriate scale where they will not impact detrimentally on the surrounding or wider area;
- To allow limited residential uses where appropriate; and
- To encourage the location of tourist facilities so that they may benefit from existing road services, physical service infrastructure, other tourist attractions, natural features and urban facilities.

The draft LPP seeks to provide guidance on:

- (i) Local development plans to guide orderly development;
- (ii) Lot sizes, setbacks and building heights;
- (iii) Site coverage;
- (iv) Landscaping and fencing;
- (v) Servicing areas;
- (vi) Outbuildings and other structures;
- (vii) Storage;
- (viii) Carparking;
- (ix) Residential occupation;
- (x) Building facades; and
- (xi) Communal gathering areas.

The draft LPP provides more details than the previous mentioned LPPs as these sites require higher levels of development standards to acknowledge:

- their proximity to residential areas, often directly abutting; and
- their location in highly prominent and visible positions within townsites.

The draft LPP also includes a level of flexibility through limited exemptions and scope for variations if a proposal meets the overall objectives of the zone.

LPP 2.4 – Centre Zone

LPS8 identifies “Centre” zones around the main “commercial” streets in townsites.

LPS8 includes the following objective for the Centre Zone:

- To designate land for future development as a town centre or activity centre.

The draft LPP seeks to provide guidance on:

- (i) Staging and or interim development;
- (ii) Lot sizes, setbacks, building height and site coverage;
- (iii) Landscaping and pedestrian environments;
- (iv) Fencing;
- (v) Corner site design;
- (vi) Pedestrian access and building entrances;
- (vii) Visual privacy;
- (viii) Amenity considerations;
- (ix) Servicing areas;

- (x) Outbuildings and other structures;
- (xi) Storage;
- (xii) Carparking; and
- (xiii) Building facades and materials.

The draft LPP provides more details than the previous mentioned LPPs as these sites are central to the heart of townsites and require controls that reflect this function.

The draft LPP also includes a level of flexibility through limited exemptions and scope for variations if a proposal meets the overall objectives of the zone.

Consultation

A briefing on these items was provided at Council's Ordinary Council Meeting 19 May 2026 and copies of the document made available for inspection.

Should the Council resolve to adopt the draft LPPs for the purposes of public advertising, an advertising of at least twenty-one (21) days is required in accordance with clauses 4(1) and 4(2) of the Regulations.

A further report will be referred to Council with recommendations incorporating any comments received during the public advertising period. This report will provide Council with a further opportunity to review the draft LPPs and to consider them for final approval.

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	2. Place - We will provide sustainable, purposeful, and valued built and natural environment opportunities for the community.
Strategic Outcome	2.6 Land use opportunities to benefit current and future communities
Strategy	2 Incorporate appropriate planning controls for land use planning and development.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications

An LPP does not form part of a Local Planning Scheme and cannot bind the decision maker in respect of an application or planning matter. However, the decision maker is required to have due regard to the provisions and objectives of the policy in its decision making.

The Shire can adopt LPPs relating to matters of local development under Part 2, Division 2 of the Regulations. These draft LPPs have been made pursuant to this legislation.

Further, provisions of Schedule 2, Clause 4 of the Regulations require advertising to occur, and a period for making submissions to be no less than a period of twenty-one days after the day on which a notice is first published.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Compliance	Failure to adopt draft Local Planning Policies will potentially lead to limited control of development and inconsistent assessment of proposals.	Possible (3)	Minor (2)	Moderate (5-9)	Approving the LPPs will provide a clear and consistent approach for the assessment of development applications within the respective zones.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

Council is requested to:

1. In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2, Clause 4 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, resolves to advertise the following draft Local Planning Policies:
 - a) LPP 2.1 - General Industry Zone;
 - b) LPP 2.2 – Service Commercial Zone;
 - c) LPP 2.3 – Tourism Zone; and
 - d) LPP 2.4 – Centre Zone,
 as detailed in Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public comment for a period of not less than twenty-one (21) days; and
2. Following completion of the public comment period, receive a further report detailing the outcomes of the advertising, including any submissions received, for consideration.

Council Decision 094/2026

Moved Cr K Day

Seconded Cr L Rumble JP

That Council:

Council is requested to:

- 1. In accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2, Clause 4 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, resolves to advertise the following draft Local Planning Policies:**
 - a) LPP 2.1 - General Industry Zone;**
 - b) LPP 2.2 – Service Commercial Zone;**
 - c) LPP 2.3 – Tourism Zone; and**
 - d) LPP 2.4 – Centre Zone,****as detailed in Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public comment for a period of not less than twenty-one (21) days; and**
- 2. Following completion of the public comment period, receive a further report detailing the outcomes of the advertising, including any submissions received, for consideration.**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

14.2 Early Procurement of Peedamulla Road and Ashburton Downs Floodways

File Reference	IS01
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	G Harris, Director Infrastructure Services
Authorising Officer	K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	Nil

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to undertake an early procurement process for Onslow Peedamulla Road Floodway and Ashburton Downs Road Floodway.

Council is requested to affirm support for the listing for consideration an allocation of \$6,000,000 in the 2026/2027 Shire of Ashburton Budget.

Background

The Shire's annual budget contains capital projects that require procurement which doesn't normally commence until the budget has been adopted by Council. By the time tenders are called, received, assessed and awarded, a minimum of 3 months is required for the procurement process. This then means that projects are ready to commence, at the earliest, in November 2026, right before the wet season starts and Christmas break. Therefore, most projects are held over and works commence in April of the following year.

Comments

The Shire has two significant floodways that have been identified as either failed (Onslow Peedamulla Road) or close to failure (Ashburton Downs Road). Both roads are identified in Roads 2040 Pilbara Region and are eligible for funding through the Pilbara Regional Road Group. Ashburton Downs Road Floodway has \$1,000,000 allocated through this funding for 2026/2027 financial year.

Failure to renew these assets will result in significant disruption to traffic movements for members of the public, including tourists and pastoral lease owners.

The definition of a floodway is a low-level crossing designed to allow water to flow over the road during flood events and generally located along a creek line or river channel. They are commonly used where bridges are uneconomical or unnecessary and are designed to be overtopped during a flood event.

Onslow Peedamulla Road Floodway

Roads 2040 Pilbara Region identifies Onslow Peedamulla Road as an "Access Road from Onslow Road northeast to Northwest Coastal Highway providing a key tourist route, community access and commercial traffic route."

Should the floodway fail there is alternative access to and from Onslow via the sealed Onslow Road and Northwest Coastal Highway

The Cane River crossing is located at SLK32.67 along Onslow Peedamulla Road and has a catchment area of approximately 2,360m² and is considered significant for a rural floodway. The catchment is approximately 125km long and extends back past the Northwest Coastal Highway and the Nanutarra Munjina Road.

The existing concrete floodway is a single-lane crossing that is approximately 30m in length and has a width of 2.5m (single lane). The current condition represents a failed asset and a high risk to members of the public that use this road when the Cane River is flowing over the failed floodway.



Consultation and approvals have been obtained from Department of Water and Environment Regulation and Department of Planning Lands and Heritage as there are significant sites adjacent to this location that has impacted the design of the floodway.

The design is proposed to be concrete, 35m in length and up to 8m wide allowing two way traffic and lifted 700mm higher with the addition of concrete culverts under part of the floodway.

There are several limitations as the current cleared footprint of the road and embankment cannot be increase due to adjacent significant sites.

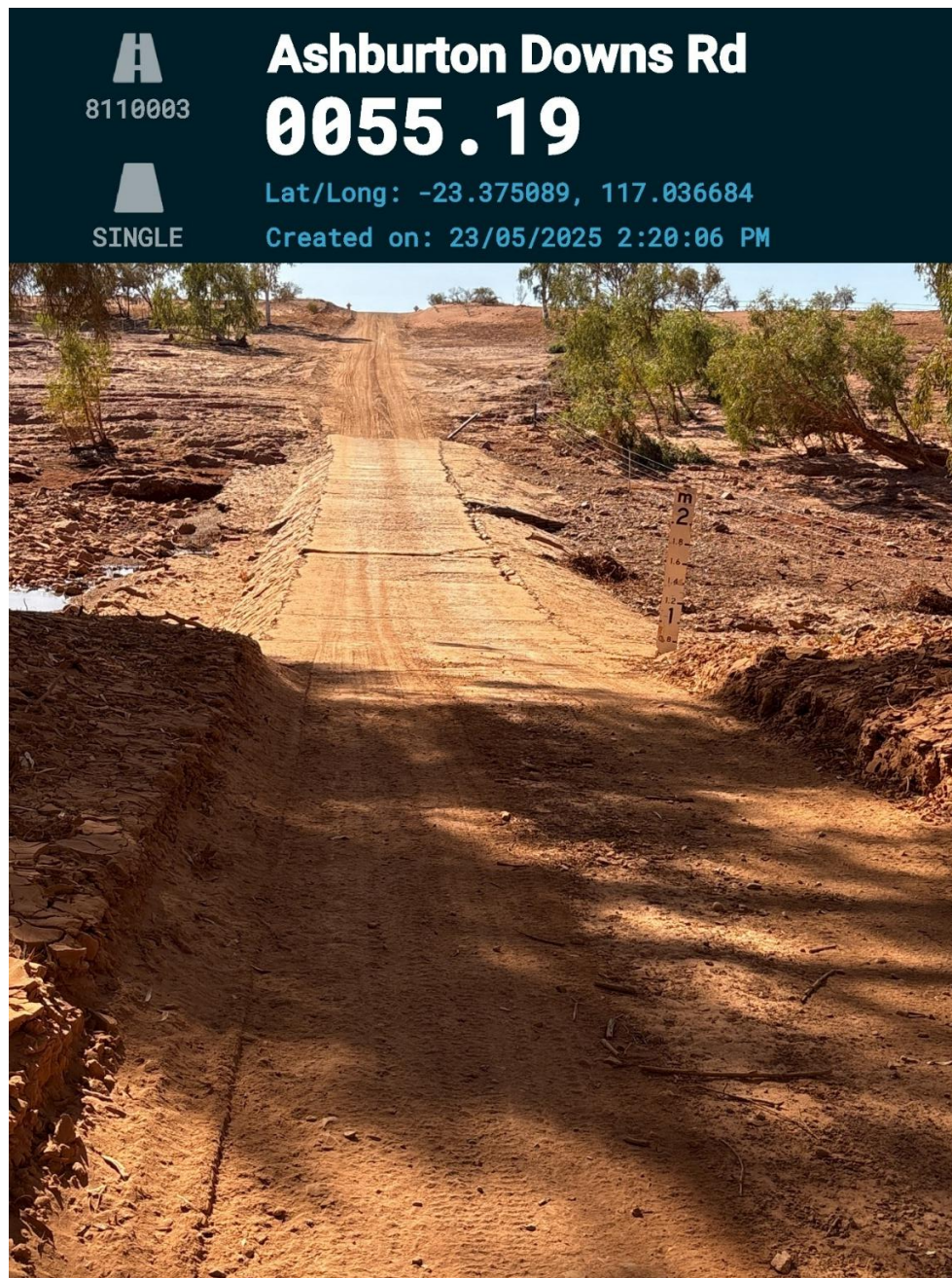
Ashburton Downs Road Floodway

Roads 2040 Pilbara Region identifies Ashburton Downs Road along with Ashburton Downs Meekatharra Road as “the primary link between Mt Augustus and other outback areas of the Gascoyne and the central south Pilbara and receives a lot of tourist traffic during the dry season.” It also provides access to a number of Pastoral Stations located south of this crossing.

Should the floodway fail, the alternative detour would involve 100’s of kilometres via Meekatharra or Carnarvon.

The Ashburton River crossing is located at SLK55 along Ashburton Downs Road and has a catchment area of approximately 41,500m² and is considered enormous for a rural floodway. The catchment is approximately 270km long and extends back past the Great Northern Highway south of Newman.

The existing concrete floodway is a single-lane crossing that is approximately 45m in length and has a width of 3.3 - 3.5 (single lane) and has an existing single barrel box culvert under the floodway. The current condition would be a 4 (out of 5), representing imminent failure of the structure, depending on water flow, and represents a high risk to members of the public that use this road when the Ashburton River is flowing over the floodway.



Consultation and approvals have been obtained from Department of Water and Environment Regulation and Department of Planning Lands and Heritage.

The design is proposed to be concrete, 67m in length and 8m wide allowing two-way traffic and lifted 700mm higher with the addition of 2 sets of 3 concrete culverts under part of the floodway.

The intent of early procurement is to deliver the Floodway Renewal works prior to the commencement of the 2026/2027 wet season and ensure the safety of road users on Onslow Peedamulla Road and Ashburton Meekatharra Road.

Consultation

Department of Water and Environment Regulation
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	2. Place - We will provide sustainable, purposeful, and valued built and natural environment opportunities for the community.
Strategic Outcome	2.8 Safe and interconnected transport networks for the community
Strategy	1 Improve road safety and connectivity to provide a safe and efficient road network.

Council Policy

[Council Policy - Purchasing and Procurement](#)

All Shire procurement activities are managed in line with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* in respect to tenders, in conjunction with this Policy and any applicable delegation limitations and contract management practices.

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

The works were originally considered for 2025/2026 but were delayed by the Director Infrastructure Services due to approvals not being in place. Design works and tender documentation was completed utilising consultancy funding in preparation for delivery 2026/2027

Future Financial Year(s)

The draft 2026/2027 Budget currently has \$3 million allocated for each project with Ashburton Downs receiving \$1 million in funding through the State Government Regional Roads grant funding.

While the procurement process will commence in the current financial year, no contracts will be awarded until such time as the 2026/2027 budget has been adopted by Council. Projects are identified in the draft budget and there is no commitment for Council to award a contract once it has been called.

There is currently \$3.17 million of unallocated funds in the draft roads budget. As discussed with Council, this will be held pending prices obtained during the procurement process to ensure adequate funds are available and that we are receiving value for money especially due to current circumstances, such as the volatile nature oil and oil derived products.

Legislative Implications

Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996 Part 4 – Provision of Goods and Services Division 2 – Tenders for Providing Goods and Services (s3.57).

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
People	Should the projects not be funded and the floodways fail there is significant risk for members of the public using these crossing during a flooding event.	Likely (4)	Catastrophic (5)	Extreme (17-25)	Replace the existing floodways with new floodway crossing there by avoiding failure of the asset.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council approve for the following projects to commence to procurement, as per Council Policy – Purchasing and Procurement:

1. Ashburton Downs Road – Floodway Renewal
2. Onslow Peedamulla Road – Floodway Renewal

Council Decision **095/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr R de Pledge**

That Council approve for the following projects to commence to procurement, as per Council Policy – Purchasing and Procurement:

1. Ashburton Downs Road – Floodway Renewal
2. Onslow Peedamulla Road – Floodway Renewal

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

14.3 Onslow Drainage Projects - 2026/2027 Implementation Plan

File Reference	GH
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	A Sheridan, Project Manager
Authorising Officer	G Harris, Director Infrastructure Services
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2024 - Item 14.1 – 257/2024
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	Nil

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council regarding the proposed Onslow Drainage Project for 2026/2027, including the lodgement of a significant project for Grant Funding under the Federal Government's "Disaster Ready Fund".

Council is requested to approve:

- Commencement of the procurement process for the 2026/2027 Onslow Stormwater Drainage Project which is allocated an amount of \$3m in the Draft 2026/2027 Budget.
- The lodgement of a funding application under the Federal Government Disaster Ready Fund (Round 4) for future stormwater drainage projects in Onslow.

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 10 December 2024, Council was requested to support the implementation of a proposed program of stormwater infrastructure upgrades in Onslow. That report followed on from 18 months of detailed flood modelling and options assessment work undertaken by specialist consultants in consultation with experienced staff.

As a result of that report, Council provided in principle support for the implementation of the proposed stormwater upgrade program (and the individual projects which form part of that program) and requested the Chief Executive Officer to include an annual allocation of \$3m in the Long Term Financial Plan for each year from 2025/2026 through to 2029/2030.

The sketch drawing below shows the key projects presented in that report (sketch is an extract from that report):



With reference to the above sketch:

- The **Option 4** Stormwater Scheme was constructed as part of the Stage 1 Onslow Streetscape Project.
- The **Option 2** Stormwater Scheme is currently under construction as part of the Stage 2 Onslow Streetscape Project (completion in November 2026).
- The **Option 6** Stormwater Scheme comprises a number of elements, including a pumped stormwater discharge system and upgrades to the detention basins and associated infrastructure. In summary, Option 6 involves the following:
 - Part A (cost estimate - \$3m):
 - Reconstruction of the existing Stormwater line in the lower part of Third Avenue where it crosses over the Cameron Avenue intersection – before entering Detention Basin #1.
 - Installation of a new stormwater line running down the lower part of Third Avenue from the intersection with Cameron Avenue to Detention Basin #2.
 - Reconstruction of the box culvert on McGrath Avenue which links Detention Basins #1 and #2.
 - Regrading of Detention Basins #2 and #3.

- Part B (cost estimate - \$6m to \$9m):
 - Installation of stormwater pump station, wet well, pump well and back-up power (adjacent to the existing sewer pump station (Detention Basin #2))
 - Installation of rising (pumping) main through to ocean outfall
 - Construction of ocean outfall / energy dissipation structure
 - Reconstruction of the ocean outfall channel at Basin #3

Comments

Option 6 Part A Works

Design of the Option 6 Part A works is complete. Tender documentation is in the process of being finalised. In order to expedite the works ahead of the next cyclone season, Council is requested to authorise the calling of tenders for the Option 6 Part A works, with the award of a tender to occur following adoption of the 2026/2027 budget.

Option 6 Part B Works

Design of the Option 6 Part B Works is well advanced. The project is an ideal candidate for the Federal Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). Grant Funding for Round 4 of the DRF opened on 29 May and closes on 1 July 2026. Work on Option 6 Part B is sufficiently advanced to allow for the lodgement of a strong application. In summary:

- Supporting studies all 100% complete
- Negotiation of easement with Water Corp (in order to collocate next to the existing sewer pump station) is well advanced
- Survey and services surveys are complete
- Design of the pump system and rising main are at 50% (more than adequate for the funding application)
- Design of the discharge structure and ocean outfall channel is underway
- A consultant will be commissioned next week to prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis
- Environmental assessment and formal report complete

While the funding guidelines allow up to 90% of the funding to be grant funding for remote Shire's (applies to the Shire of Ashburton), the funding authority has advised that a significant co-contribution is looked upon favourably when considering the relative priority of competing projects.

It is therefore proposed to that the Shire would make a 1/3 co-contribution towards the total project cost. That is, if the project was finally costed at \$9m, the grant funding component would be \$6,000,000 with the Shire funded component being \$3,000,000.

Note that Shire funding would not be required until FY 2027/2028 (refer timeline as below) and that annual funding of \$3m is already earmarked within the Long Term Financial Plan for ongoing implementation of stormwater drainage projects in Onslow.

The timeline for the DRF (Round 4) submission and funding process is summarised as follows:

- Drafting and submission of application – 29 May to 1 Jul 2026
- WA State Review Period (DFES) – 2 July to 25 Aug 2026

- Federal Government Review Period – 1 Sep to 30 Oct 2026
- Announcement of successful projects – Nov 2026
- Commencement of works – mid 2027
- Max Project Duration – 3 years

Consultation

Director Community Development
Director Infrastructure Services

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	2. Place - We will provide sustainable, purposeful, and valued built and natural environment opportunities for the community.
Strategic Outcome	2.1 Coordinated delivery of natural and built environment services and projects for the community
Strategy	1 Develop and maintain key natural and built environment services partnerships, both internally and externally, to support Council's vision.

Council Policy

Council Policy – Purchasing and Procurement

All Shire procurement activities are managed in line with Council's Policy and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* in respect to tenders, in conjunction with any applicable delegation limitations and contract management practices.

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

While the procurement process associated with the Option 6 Part A works will commence in the current financial year, no contracts will be awarded until such time as the 2026/27 budget has been adopted by Council.

The Draft 2026/2027 Budget identified \$3m for Onslow Drainage Project as per the Long Term Financial Plan.

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Financial impact	Projects go over budget or delivery is delayed adding to cost and risk associated with the upcoming cyclone season.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Project management by skilled and experienced staff will effectively mitigate this risk.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorise the calling of Tenders for the Onslow Option 6 Part A Stormwater Scheme as outlined in this report.
2. Authorise the submission of a funding application for the Onslow Option 6 Part B Stormwater Scheme as outlined in this report, under the Federal Government Disaster Ready Fund (Round 4).

Council Decision 096/2026

Moved Cr A Sullivan

Seconded Cr K White

That Council:

1. **Authorise the calling of Tenders for the Onslow Option 6 Part A Stormwater Scheme as outlined in this report.**
2. **Authorise the submission of a funding application for the Onslow Option 6 Part B Stormwater Scheme as outlined in this report, under the Federal Government Disaster Ready Fund (Round 4).**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

15 Community Development Reports

15.1 Endorsement of the Shire of Ashburton Programs and Events Schedule 2026-2027

File Reference	CS16
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	T Taylor, Manager Communities
Authorising Officer	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Financial
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Events and Programs Plan_26.27

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Shire of Ashburton Programs and Events Schedule for the 2026-2027 financial year (refer to Attachment 1). The Programs and Events Schedule reflects a coordinated approach to event selection, support, and implementation across the Shire.

Background

Each year Council is presented a Programs and Events Schedule for the following financial year. The schedule is developed to guide the strategic planning and delivery of community programs and events in collaboration with local clubs, groups, organisation and our partners.

The schedule aligns with the Shire's broader strategic direction and supports informed decision making and community engagement. It reflects a coordinated approach to event selection, support, and implementation across the Shire.

Importantly, the Programs and Events Schedule is underpinned by the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032, and the informing My Pilbara Home Community Development Strategy 2024-2027, collectively aiming to foster a sense of belonging, connection, and inclusiveness across the Shire's towns, and ensure that programs and events are delivered in a way that is responsive to local needs, culturally respectful, and strategically aligned and underpinned by an asset based community development model.

Comments

Events and activities continue to play a vital role in strengthening the Shire's social fabric. They foster community pride, celebrate our unique heritage and environment, and provide opportunities for social connection, skill development, and volunteer engagement. These initiatives also enhance the Shire's profile as a vibrant and inclusive place to live, work, and visit.

To support a strategic approach to community development, one that builds social capital, strengthens community capability, and addresses social isolation, the annual Programs and Events Schedule provides Council with a clear framework for resourcing and service delivery. This ensures alignment with the Shire's objective of fostering connected, caring, and engaged communities.

A strategic and transparent approach to events and programs will assist Council to:

- Maximise opportunities for local community organisations and businesses,
- Attract regional tours and performances, positioning the Shire on the WA touring map,
- Balance investment in funded events to support the Shire-led and community-driven initiatives,
- Optimise the use of community facilities and activate open public spaces,
- Leverage additional support from community, government, and business partners, and
- Build the capacity and sustainability of local clubs and groups.

The proposed Programs and Events Schedule outlines the key focus areas for delivery by the Communities Team over the next 12 months. It reflects the strategic intent of the My Pilbara Home Strategy and incorporates actions from the Shire's informing strategies.

This schedule also supports improved coordination with community stakeholders to ensure that Shire-led initiatives complement, rather than compete with, other key programs across the four towns. The overarching goal is to foster a strong sense of belonging, inclusivity, and connection through community development practices.

It is noted that the proposed Schedule reflects planned service delivery and may be subject to change due to community considerations. The associated budget will be presented to Council through the formal budget adoption process; therefore, no financial details are included in the attachment.

It is also important to note that this plan does not limit the programs and activities delivered by the Shire. Through ongoing community development practices and active community engagement, the Shire continues to support and deliver additional activities that may not be explicitly defined within this schedule, for example: Fridays at the Pool, Pride Month, Mental Health Initiatives, Garage Sale Trails etc.

Consultation

Executive Leadership Team

Communities Team

Rio Tinto Iron Ore Communities Team – endorsed by SLT - May 2026

Chevron Communities Team – endorsed by WTO Working Group – November 2025

Pilbara Ports Team as per partnership

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	1. People - We will support opportunities for the community to be safe, socially active, and connected.
Strategic Outcome	1.2 Communities connected with opportunities
Strategy	3 Provide, promote, and deliver social and cultural community celebrations, events, and activities.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

The associated budget will be presented to Council through the formal budget adoption process; therefore, no financial details are included in the attachment.

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.7 – Municipal fund

Money held in the municipal fund may be applied towards the performance of functions and the exercise of the powers conferred on the local government by the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/ community)	There is a risk that the Program and Events schedule is interpreted as fixed or exhausted list of activities, leading to dissatisfaction if programs change, or additional activities are delivered outside of schedule.	Rare (1)	Minor (2)	Low (1-4)	Maintaining ongoing community engagement to inform responsive programming and manage expectations. Communicate and documented through partnership meetings.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives the Shire of Ashburton's Program and Events Schedule for 2026-2027, as detailed in Attachment 1.

Council Decision 097/2026

Moved Cr A Sullivan

Seconded Cr C Rogers

That Council receives the Shire of Ashburton's Program and Events Schedule for 2026-2027, as detailed in Attachment 1.

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

15.2 Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027

File Reference	CS01
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	T Taylor, Manager Communities
Authorising Officer	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 10 December 2014 - Item 12.1 - 11889 Ordinary Council Meeting 23 April 2018 - Item 13.1 – 353/2018 Ordinary Council Meeting 4 April 2023 - Item 14.2 – 054/2023 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 March 2026 - Item 15.1 – 042/2026 Ordinary Council Meeting 17 March 2026 – Item 15.1 – 042/2026
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 2. Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 -Implementation Plan 3. Youth Strategy 2023-2025 Strategy Register Spreadsheet

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 (Youth Strategy) to Council (Attachment 1) together with additional information and clarification requested by Elected Members following previous consideration by Council and a consultant facilitated workshop and briefing.

The report seeks Council endorsement of the Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027.

Background

Following Council's resolution in March 2026 to release the draft Strategy for public consultation, feedback was presented to Elected Members by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Strategic Briefing held on 13 April 2026. Subsequent discussion requested further detail and assurance regarding the development of approach, stakeholder engagement, and implementation framework.

A consultant facilitated workshop was held with Elected Members on 30 May 2026, to provide independent input and support further consideration of the Strategy, with a follow up briefing provided to Elected Members by the consultant on 19 May 2026. This report responds directly to matters raised though that process and seeks Council Endorsement of the Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027.

Comments

The Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 was developed to provide a coordinated framework for youth development across the Shire of Ashburton, aligning with community priorities and existing service delivery.

The strategy was intentionally developed in house, leveraging;

- Existing engagement processes;
- Established relationships with young people, community organisations, and service providers; and
- Ongoing program delivery and consultation undertaken by Community Development Teams across all towns.

Public feedback on the draft strategy was conducted as per the March 2026 recommendation between 23 March 2026 and 6 April 2026, with feedback subsequently presented to Elected Members by the CEO on 13 April 2026.

A total of 52 responses were received during the feedback period. This represents a strong level of community engagement, particularly when compared with the 214 responses received across the My Pilbara Home suite of five strategies and plans consulted on in 2024.

Following this, Council requested additional information and clarity in several key areas, in which a consultant was engaged to provide independent input and support further considerations from Elected Members of the strategy.

The consultant facilitated workshop to Elected Members provided:

- Independent validation of the Strategy approach;
- Clear understanding to Elected Members on the difference between a Strategy and a Program Plan;
- Clear understanding to an Asset Based Community Development approach;
- Clear understanding of the difference between actions outlined in a Strategy versus Business-as-usual activities; and
- An opportunity for Elected Members to seek additional information as part of the Agenda Report and additional Supporting Documents

In response to feedback raised by Elected Members, additional details are provided below:

1. Strategic Purpose and Scope

The Draft Youth Strategy is intended to:

- Provide a high-level framework to guide planning, decision making, and resource allocation;
- Support positive youth development outcomes across the Shire; and
- Complement existing operational programs and services delivered by the Shire or other organisations within each of the Shire's towns.

It is important to note:

- Activities are delivered within approved budgets through the normal budget adoption processes;
- The strategy should not include what would be considered business as usual activities; and

- Programming remains adaptable through the operational quarterly planning processes where youth are part of the co-design and delivery of programs and events that directly respond to their local needs.

2. Development Approach

The strategy was developed internally to maximise, efficiency, and alignment with ongoing operational delivery.

This approach enabled:

- Direct integration of real-time community engagement;
- Responsiveness to local issues and emerging trends;
- Strong local stakeholder relationships and established Youth Activation Networks across towns, supported by feedback gathered throughout the life of the previous strategies from young people and stakeholders who work directly with youth; and
- Cost effectiveness, noting that a full review of all My Pilbara Home strategies is scheduled for 2027. This approach does not preclude future external engagement.

3. Length of Draft Youth Strategy

The timeframe of the Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 aligns with the expiry of the My Pilbara Home suite of strategies. This enables a coordinated approach to future community consultation across all My Pilbara Home community development strategies.

This process will be through a formal procurement process to engage experienced consultants as part of the broader review of informing plans and documents to support the Shire of Ashburton Council Plan.

4. Legislative and Governance Context

While not legislatively mandated, the development of a Youth Strategy or Plan represents best practice in local government and supports:

- Informed decision making;
- Alignment with community priorities; and
- Transparent and accountable service delivery.

The strategy also provides a clear basis for monitoring outcomes, guiding program and event delivery, guiding the budget process and shows a commitment to youth development across the Shire.

5. Targeted Engagement and Inclusion

• Marginalised, vulnerable and disengaged young people

Engagement occurs regularly through targeted youth programs, outreach activities delivered in partnership with local stakeholders, and partnerships with local service providers.

• Aboriginal communities and organisations

Ongoing collaboration with Aboriginal communities and organisations continues to be strengthened through relationship building and culturally appropriate engagement. Shire officers rely on established relationships with local Aboriginal organisations to gather feedback that informs service delivery, collaborate on programs and initiatives, and seek guidance to ensure engagement is respectful, relevant, and responsive to local context.

- **Young people with disability and home-schooled families**

Inclusive programming, consistent with the Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2027, aims to support accessibility and participation across diverse groups, however there is large room for improvement in this space.

Young people from home-schooled families participate in a range of youth programs and events across the Shire. However, the introduction of Australia's social media ban for under 16s has made it more difficult to connect with this cohort.

The actions identified in the Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 respond directly to these challenges.

- **Stakeholder relationships**

Engagement with local organisations and community groups is central to the planning and delivery undertaken by the Community Development team. This work is guided by the overarching My Pilbara Home Strategy and an Asset Based Community Development approach.

Over the life of the Youth Strategy 2023-2025, stakeholder engagement has increased significantly through the establishment of Youth Activation Networks. These networks include local organisations that work directly with young people, schools, and other relevant youth stakeholders.

Youth voices remain central to this work, with a strong focus on co-design and delivery undertaken with and by young people, rather than to and for them.

It is also important to clarify that a number of actions identified in the Youth Strategy 2023-2025 were framed around support and advocacy, which are core and ongoing functions of local government. Activities such as working with stakeholders, advocating for improved services, and supporting community initiatives are not time bound actions, but rather form part of local government business as usual functions.

Accordingly, within the Draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027, these functions have not been presented as standalone "actions" to be completed or acquitted. Instead, they are embedded in operational continuous service delivery principles that underpin all aspects of youth programming and engagement. This approach recognises that effective advocacy, partnership development and community support are ongoing activities that evolve over time and cannot be meaningfully measured as one-off deliverables.

The Shire will continue to actively support and advocate for young people across all towns through its existing networks, partnerships and governance processes. This includes ongoing engagement with service providers, ACCO's schools, community organisations and industries to strengthen opportunities, improve access to services and respond to emerging community needs. In this context, support and advocacy are not considered tasks to be "completed", but rather fundamental and continuous roles of the Shire in delivering positive outcomes for the community.

6. Service Delivery and Planning

Service delivery and planning is guided by a co-design and co-delivery approach, working in collaboration with young people and local youth organisations and networks. This approach is informed by an Asset Based Community Development model, which focuses on leveraging existing community strengths, relationships, and capabilities to deliver meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

Through this model, the Shire works in partnership with a broad range of youth stakeholders to both value-add to existing programs and enhance collective impact across the towns. This collaborative approach ensures that limited resources are utilised effectively and that programming is locally relevant, inclusive and responsive to community needs.

Key stakeholders include:

- Youth Centres
- Aboriginal Organisations and community Groups
- Schools
- Funded foundations and service providers
- Sporting clubs and community groups
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Youth Activation Networks
- Industry Partners
- Youth people living within the Shire of Ashburton

Please note: all members of the Youth Activation Networks are committed to ensuring young people are included in the quarterly meetings, this includes but is not limited to seeking feedback from young people to bring to the networks and inviting young people to attend the quarterly meetings so their voices are heard firsthand.

This partnership driven approach enables:

- Shared planning and delivery of youth initiatives;
- Extension and strengthening of existing programs;
- Improved reach and engagement with diverse youth cohorts; and
- Efficient use of resources.

Importantly, this approach also enables the Shire's Community Development teams to effectively coordinate and deliver youth programs and events alongside the broader My Pilbara Home suite of strategies and plans, ensuring a cohesive and integrated approach to community development across all towns. By leveraging partnerships and shared delivery models, the Shire can operate a level of service that without duplication, while continuing to meet current service level expectations.

The co-design model also plays a critical role in empowering young people, ensuring their voices are central to the planning, development and delivery of programs and initiatives. This strengthens engagement, increases relevance, and supports more meaningful and sustainable youth outcomes.

By working collaboratively with stakeholder and placing young people at the centre of decision making, the Shire is able to deliver a coordinated and sustainable approach to youth development, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to emerging needs through its ongoing planning cycles.

7. Implementation and Delivery Framework

To support the effective delivery of the Youth Strategy 2026-2027, an implementation plan has been developed as per Attachment 2.

The Implementation Plan:

- Outlines key actions and priorities aligned to the strategy;
- Identifies responsible officers and business units;
- Supports ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

Reporting to Council will be as per the normal quarterly reporting process.

8. Budget Requirements to deliver the Strategy

All actions will be delivered within operational plans and approved budgets.

Implementation is embedded within:

- Community Development operational plans and processes;
- Program budgets; and
- Partnership agreements.

This ensures that delivery is sustainable and aligned with current service levels.

The previous Youth Strategy 2023-2025 provided a framework for the coordinated planning and delivery of youth programs, services and advocacy across the Shire. Over the life of the strategy, the Shire has worked in partnership with young people, community organisations, schools, service providers and other stakeholders to improve access to activities, strengthen wellbeing support and promote pathways for learning, employment and leadership. Outcomes were reported quarterly to Council.

In preparation for the next planning period, the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 has been developed to build on this work and respond to emerging needs, changing service environments and feedback received through ongoing engagement with young people and stakeholders.

The draft strategy aligns with the Shire's broader strategic framework including the Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032, Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027, and the My Pilbara Home suite of strategies, which emphasise community connection, inclusion and place-based planning.

Regular embedded engagement has provided strong evidence-based information to inform the development of the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027.

The draft strategy articulates the Shire's commitment to listening to and engaging with young people, creating inclusive opportunities for participation, supporting wellbeing and safety, enabling leadership and skill development, and working in partnership with young people, schools, community groups and service providers. It positions the Shire primarily as a facilitator, connector and advocate, supporting community-led initiatives and strengthening existing networks rather than duplicating services where others are best placed to lead.

Engagement with young people through previous strategy work and ongoing consultation has reinforced many of the themes identified in the last Youth Strategy. Young people continue to value connection, inclusion and opportunities to participate meaningfully in their communities.

What has changed is the strength and consistency of feedback around the types of opportunities young people want access to and how they want to engage.

Key learnings include:

- **A strong desire for diverse local pathways** – young people are increasingly seeking education, training, creative and employment opportunities outside of the resource sector that allow them to build a future while remaining in their towns
- **The importance of age-specific opportunities** – young people want activities, programs and spaces designed specifically for their age group, rather than being grouped with younger children or adults
- **Connection with peers matters** – opportunities to socialise, collaborate and build friendships with others of a similar age are a high priority
- **Place-based delivery remains critical** – young people value activities that reflect the identity, size and character of their town
- **Consistency and visibility** – regular, well-communicated opportunities help build trust, participation and a sense of belonging over time

These learnings have informed the actions and direction of the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027, ensuring it responds to both long-standing needs and emerging priorities for young people across the Shire of Ashburton and aligns with the My Pilbara Home suite of strategies under the themes of:

- **Capacity Building** - We will build the capacity of young people, staff and the broader community to support meaningful youth development and leadership.
- **Participation** - We will enable young people to actively participate in community life through inclusive, accessible and age-appropriate opportunities.
- **Recruitment and Recognition** - We will support young people to see a future for themselves in the Shire through clear pathways, meaningful employment exposure and recognition of their contributions.
- **Coordination and Collaboration** - We will strengthen coordination and collaboration to improve youth outcomes and reduce duplication across services.

Consultation

Director Community Development
Manager Communities
Coordinator Communities East
Coordinator Communities East
Elected Members
External Consultant

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	1. People - We will support opportunities for the community to be safe, socially active, and connected.
Strategic Outcome	1.2 Communities connected with opportunities
Strategy	2 Drive community engagement to provide input to enhance opportunities aligned with community needs.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial ImplicationsCurrent Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/ community)	Not endorsing the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027 reduces confidence from young people and stakeholders in Council on their willingness to listen to young people's voices	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Low (1-4)	Endorsing the draft Youth Strategy 2026-2027.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the additional information provided in response to Elected Member Feedback and the outcomes of the consultant facilitated workshop; and
2. Endorse the Youth Strategy 2026-2027, as per Attachment 1, for implementation.

Amended Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the additional information provided in response to Elected Member Feedback and the outcomes of the consultant facilitated workshop;
2. Endorse the Youth Strategy 2026-2027, as per Attachment 1, for implementation; and
3. Engages with a broader range of stakeholders not already a part of regular youth meetings to further enhance Asset Based Community Development frameworks already in place, including (but not limited to);
 - Businesses who provide services to youth;
 - Indigenous Organisations;
 - Young Entrepreneurs.

Reason for change - to ensure that the new strategy is well informed and to acknowledge identified gaps in our stakeholder engagement.

Council Decision **098/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr K Day**

That Council:

1. **Notes the additional information provided in response to Elected Member Feedback and the outcomes of the consultant facilitated workshop; and**
2. **Endorse the Youth Strategy 2026-2027, as per Attachment 1, for implementation.**
3. **Engages with a broader range of stakeholders, not already a part of regular youth meetings, to further enhance Asset Based Community Development frameworks already in place, including (but not limited to);**
 - **Businesses who provide services to youth;**
 - **Indigenous Organisations;**
 - **Young Entrepreneurs.**

For: **A Smith, R de Pledge, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **A Sullivan and K White**

Carried 6/2

15.3 Staff Accommodation - Grouped Housing Proposal - Lot 501 Poinsettia Street, Tom Price

File Reference	501.PON
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Authorising Officer	K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Concept Design Staff Housing Tom Price 2. QS Cost Estimate

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to proceed to Request for Tender for grouped housing in Tom Price intended for staff accommodation, aligning with the Shire's Staff Accommodation Strategy (SAS).

Background

The shortage of housing in Tom Price has created significant challenges for staff attraction and retention, particularly for critical frontline roles.

The Staff Accommodation Strategy 2020–2030 (SAS) was presented to and adopted by Council at the Special Council Meeting held on 17 August 2021.

The adopted SAS identified the following key findings and recommendations for Tom Price and the Shire of Ashburton more broadly:

- Additional housing will be required to meet immediate recruitment needs and projected staff growth over the next 10 years.
- Construction or purchase of additional dwellings should be considered to support staff attraction and retention.

Over the past five years, the Shire has purchased several older properties in Tom Price, many of which have required substantial refurbishment investment.

The Shire has also recently completed the construction of five new staff houses in Onslow, comprising two 4x2 dwellings and three 3x2 dwellings.

Shire officers have recently completed an audit of the Shire's housing portfolio, including condition assessments of existing properties.

The following properties have been identified for future redevelopment based on the asset condition assessments:

61 Pine Street, Tom Price



159 Cassia Street, Tom Price



516 Lockyer Avenue, Paraburdoo



These properties have reached the end of their useful life; however, they are situated on relatively large lots that may support the redevelopment of approximately two new dwellings per site. Before these redevelopment projects can proceed, the Shire will need to increase overall housing stock to enable staff relocations and maintain operational continuity during construction.

Comments

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 July 2024, Council endorsed the subdivision of Lot 9001 (19 South Road), Tom Price, for the purpose of establishing an Essential Services Precinct.

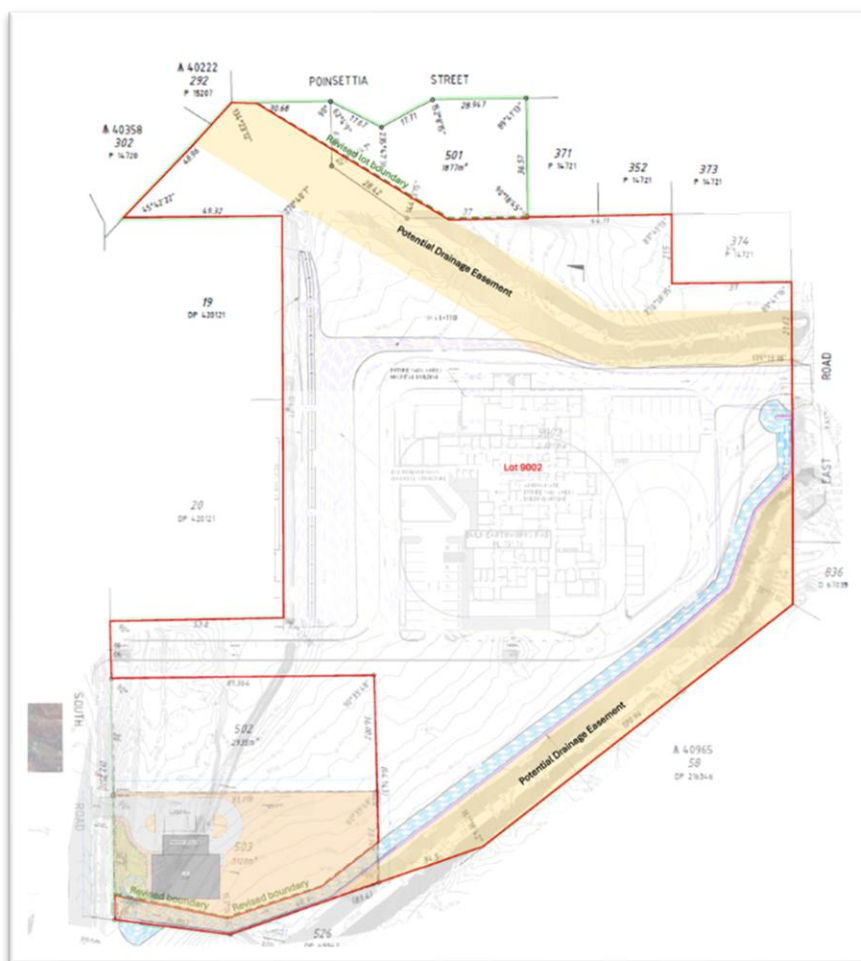
The subdivision plan was developed in accordance with the Shire's Community Infrastructure and Lifestyle Plan (CLIP) and originally proposed a four-lot subdivision comprising:

Lot 503 – Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance – Dialysis Service

Lot 502 – St John Ambulance

Lot 501 – Residential lot (Shire freehold)

Lot 9002 – Hospital



Following multiple design changes to the Tom Price Hospital by the Department of Health, the Department has now assumed responsibility for managing the subdivision process at its cost.

Lot 501 – Shire Housing Development

Concept plans have been prepared for the development of four dwellings on Lot 501 Poinsettia Street, Tom Price, which has an area of 1,877 square metres. Each dwelling is proposed as a two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bathroom unit. Refer to Attachment 1.

A cost estimate prepared by BSM Quantity Surveyors in March 2026 assessed the project cost at \$5,021,543. Refer to Attachment 2. Given current market conditions and construction cost pressures, it is recommended that Council consider allocating \$5.5 million from the Housing Reserve to deliver the project.

Should Council approve the development to proceed, the tender documentation is ready for release. It is proposed that the Request for Tender close on 21 July 2026, with submissions anticipated to be presented to Council for consideration at the August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting following assessment by staff.

Consultation

Executive Leadership Team
BSM Consulting Quantity Surveyors
Department of Health
Departments of Lands, Planning and Heritage

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	2. Place - We will provide sustainable, purposeful, and valued built and natural environment opportunities for the community.
Strategic Outcome	2.2 Appropriate, inviting, and diverse employee accommodation and land management opportunities
Strategy	2 Provide diversity for residential employee accommodation.

Council Policy

[Council Policies » Shire of Ashburton](#)

Purchasing and Procurement Policy
Staff Accommodation Strategy 2021-2031

Financial ImplicationsCurrent Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

This project will not commence until 2026/27 financial year, budget allocation is available in housing reserve.

Legislative Implications

Local Government Act 1995
Local Government (Functions and General Regulations 1996
Planning and Development Act 2005
Building Act 2011

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
People	Not enough accommodation for staff, contractors and essential services, staff dissatisfaction, staff vacancies	Likely (4)	Moderate (3)	High (10-16)	Adopt Shire Officer recommendation

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be medium.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council supports the Staff Accommodation - Grouped Housing Proposal - Lot 501 Poinsettia Street, Tom Price, and:

1. Approve the concepts plans for Lot 501 Poinsettia St, Tom Price as shown in Attachment 1
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or Shire Delegated Officer to request a tender for the construction of four new dwellings at Lot 501 Poinsettia St Tom Price in accordance with Attachment 1
3. Lists for consideration \$5.5million in the 2026/27 Annual budget from the housing reserve.
4. Notes the outcome from the Request for Tender for Lot 501 Poinsettia St Tom Price will be presented to council for consideration.

Council Decision 099/2026

Moved Cr K Day

Seconded Cr K White

That Council supports the Staff Accommodation - Grouped Housing Proposal - Lot 501 Poinsettia Street, Tom Price, and:

- 1. Approve the concepts plans for Lot 501 Poinsettia St, Tom Price as shown in Attachment 1**
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or Shire Delegated Officer to request a tender for the construction of four new dwellings at Lot 501 Poinsettia St Tom Price in accordance with Attachment 1**
- 3. Lists for consideration \$5.5million in the 2026/27 Annual budget from the housing reserve.**
- 4. Notes the outcome from the Request for Tender for Lot 501 Poinsettia St Tom Price will be presented to council for consideration.**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

15.4 Roundabout Treatment adjacent to Anzac Memorial Park - Stage 2 Onslow Streetscape

File Reference	RFT 29.25
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	A Sheridan, Project Manager
Authorising Officer	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	Nil

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to propose an alternative concept for the Anzac Memorial Park Roundabout, as part of the Stage 2 Onslow Streetscape Project.

Council is requested to approve the alternative concept and to note that funding for the proposed alternative is available from within the existing Stage 2 Streetscape Budget.

Background

The Onslow Streetscape Project is being delivered with a number of artworks which have relevance to the town and the local area. Specifically:

- Third Street Roundabout – Mull Mulla Sculpture
- Simpson Street Roundabout – Mackerel Sculpture
- First Street Roundabout – Birdie Flower/Finch Sculpture

Refer to the comments section below for pictures / Images.

By contract, the roundabout adjacent to Anzac Memorial Park includes a tree planting and garden beds which have no specific relevance to the local area or the town. Moreover, the proposed tree, when mature, will obscure the view from the lookout to the Anzac Memorial.

It would be much better to enhance that view and have something of relevance to the area (ie. to the adjacent Anzac Park and Anzac Memorial).

Comments

The following photographs detail the sculptures that have already been installed or that are approved to be installed during Stages 1 and 2 of the Onslow Streetscape projects.

1. Roundabout at Third Street (Mulla Mulla Sculpture)



2. Roundabout at Simpson Street (Mackerel Sculpture)



3. Roundabout at First Street (Star Finch and Green Flower Sculpture)



4. Proposed Concept Sketches - Roundabout Adjacent to Anzac Park

The alternative concept presented for consideration includes the following elements:

- Bronze Soldier Sculptures (x2) – Approx 3m tall. Soldiers are orientated to face existing ANZAC Memorial Sun so that rising sun hits on soldier and setting sun hits the other soldier.
- Steel inlays to ground plane to reinforce sun angles – opportunity for text inscriptions if desirable.
- 12m high flagpole. Flag to be permanently lit so that it remains at full mast night and day (only lowered for ceremonial reasons).
- Rubble spiral walls to landscape area with planting and gravel mulch between.

Concept sketches / renderings of the proposed roundabout are included below. The only change to the current concept is to raise up the soldier sculptures on a plinth so that they are “floating above” the garden bed rather than being partially submerged in it.

The proposed concept:

- Reinforces the significance of the area
- Is a fitting tribute and memorial to fallen soldiers
- Celebrates Australia as a nation, irrespective of background or origin
- Enhances the view from the lookout to the Anzac Memorial.





Preliminary Costing

In terms of cost, the major components of the work include the Bronze Sculptures and the Limestone block walls. The estimate is as follows:

Item	Unit	Quantity	Rate (ex GST)	Amount (ex GST)
Siteworks & Setout	Item	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Supply of 3m High Bronze ANZAC Soldier Sculptures	ea	2	\$110,000	\$220,000
Installation of 3m High Bronze ANZAC Soldier Sculptures	ea	2	\$15,000	\$30,000
0.5m High Exposed Aggregate Concrete Plinths for Sculptures	ea	2	\$12,000	\$24,000
0.5m High Stacked Limestone Walls	Lin m	25	\$4,800	\$120,000
Soil Conditioner (Garden)	m2	40	\$3	\$120
Imported Mulch (Garden)	m2	40	\$45	\$1,800
140mm Shrubs (4No per m2)	ea	160	\$45	\$7,200
Irrigation (Sprays)	m2	40	\$65	\$2,600
Feature Flag Pole	ea	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
Feature Uplighting	Item	1	\$15,000	\$15,000
SUB-TOTAL				\$455,720
GST (10%)				\$45,572

Stage 2 of the Streetscape Project is well ahead of schedule and is expected to be delivered under budget. In addition, design changes to the stormwater systems have avoided significant changes to Horizon Power infrastructure, saving at least \$500,000 in direct project costs and delay costs.

Funds are therefore available within the Stage 2 Onslow Streetscape Budget to accommodate this as a Project Variation.

Consultation

Director Community Development

Strategic Community Plan

Shire of Ashburton Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032

Strategic Objective	2. Place - We will provide sustainable, purposeful, and valued built and natural environment opportunities for the community.
Strategic Outcome	2.7 Quality, well-maintained, and purposeful community facilities
Strategy	3 Look beyond the facility itself ensuring spaces link with other land uses, both on-site and surrounding areas.

Council Policy

Nil

Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

Funding is available within the Stage 2 Onslow Streetscape Project (Job Number X3589). Current balance is \$3.0m with Council endorsing the inclusion of an additional \$14.8m in the 2026/2027 Annual Budget.

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

Legislative Implications

Nil

Risk Management

Risk has been assessed against the Shire of Ashburton Risk Management Framework.

Theme	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Inherent Risk Rating	Risk Treatment
Reputation (social/community)	Impact on community trust / moderate media profile.	Possible (3)	Moderate (3)	Moderate (5-9)	Planning and implementation by experienced project staff and contractors.

Based on the inherent risk rating and risk treatments, the residual risk to the Shire is considered to be low.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the proposed concept for the Anzac Memorial Park Roundabout, as detailed in the body of this report.
2. Note that funding is available from within the existing Project Budget and from savings associated with the redesign of stormwater infrastructure to avoid underground power service relocations.

Council Decision **100/2026**

Moved **Cr B Noone**

Seconded **Cr K White**

That Council:

1. **Endorses the proposed concept for the Anzac Memorial Park Roundabout, as detailed in the body of this report.**
2. **Note that funding is available from within the existing Project Budget and from savings associated with the redesign of stormwater infrastructure to avoid underground power service relocations.**

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

16 Councillor Agenda Items / Notices of Motion

Nil

17 New Business Of An Urgent Nature Introduced By Council Decision

Council Decision **101/2026**

Moved **Cr L Rumble JP**

Seconded **Cr B Noone**

That Council, at 2:06pm, pursuant to Clause 5.4 of the *Shire of Ashburton Standing Orders Local Law 2012*, introduced the following item as new business of an urgent nature,

18.2 Appointment of Director Development and Regulatory Services

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

18 Confidential Matters

Council Decision **102/2026**

Moved **Cr L Rumble JP**

Seconded **Cr K Day**

That Council move behind closed doors at 2:07pm, pursuant to clause 6.2 of the *Shire of Ashburton Standing Orders Local Law 2012* to consider the following confidential items.

18.1 Purchase of Property Onslow

18.2 Appointment of Director Development and Regulatory Services

Pursuant to sub section 5.23(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* which provides:

- (a) the price, or potential price, for the sale or purchase of property by the local government and any information relating to the price or potential price**
- (b) a matter relating to the recruitment or employment of the CEO or a senior employee, including the following — (i) the termination of employment; (ii) a review of performance under section 5.38**

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

SP A Smith disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 18.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).

18.1 Purchase of Property Onslow

File Reference	SEC.0350
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	K Downes, Lease and Accommodation Officer
Authorising Officer	C McGurk, Director Community Development
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	Nil

Reason for Confidentiality

Section under the Act	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to r.4A(a) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
Sub-clause and Reason:	<i>“r.4A(a) the price, or potential price, for the sale or purchase of property by the local government and any information relating to the price or potential price.”</i>

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of an opportunity which has arisen for the purchase of a property for staff housing purposes in Onslow.

Council is requested to consider purchasing the property and progression to an offer to purchase.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision **103/2026**

Moved **Cr L Rumble JP**

Seconded **Cr A Sullivan**

That Council, with respect to the residential property purchase in Onslow for employee accommodation purposes:

- 1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and submit a formal Offer and Acceptance contract to purchase 25 Second Avenue, Onslow in fee simple for an amount not exceeding the amount provided within the body of this report.**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, upon acceptance of the offer for 25 Second Avenue, Onslow and subject to satisfactory completion of all required due diligence, to engage a suitably qualified property conveyancer to finalise the purchase on behalf of the Shire of Ashburton.**
- 3. Approves the expenditure to purchase the property, as outlined in points 1 and 2 and detailed within the body of this report, from the housing reserve.**
- 4. Authorises execution of documentation, such that any transfer of land documents arising are endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer under section 9.49 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, or where required, authorises the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal to all documents associated with the purchase.**

For: **A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

Against: **Nil**

Carried 8/0

18.2 Appointment of Director Development and Regulatory Services

File Reference	DDRS.001
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer	
Previous Meeting Reference	Nil
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Nil
	Authorising Officer – Nil
Attachments	1. Position Description 2. Position Advertisement 3. Selection Report - Summary - Confidential

Reason for Confidentiality

Section under the Act	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to s.5.23(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
Sub-clause and Reason:	<i>“s.5.23(2)(b) a matter relating to the recruitment or employment of the CEO or a senior employee, including the following — (i) the termination of employment; (ii) a review of performance under section 5.38.”</i>

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consult with Council and present information to support the appointment of an identified preferred candidate for the Senior designated position of Director Development and Regulatory Services for a contract term of five (5) years.

Council is requested to accept the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) recommendation for the appointment of a Director Development and Regulatory Services.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision 104/2026

Moved Cr R de Pledge

Seconded Cr C Rogers

That Council notes the information provided by the Chief Executive Officer to appoint the preferred candidate (as outlined in the body of the report) for the position of Director Development and Regulatory Services, for a contract term of five (5) years, as a Senior Designated Employee.

For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

Council Decision 105/2026

Moved Cr B Noone

Seconded Cr R de Pledge

That Council re-open the meeting to the public at 2:15pm.

**For: A Smith, A Sullivan, R de Pledge, K White, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone
and C Rogers**

Against: Nil

Carried 8/0

19 Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 21 July 2026 at Clem Thompson Sports Pavilion, Stadium Road, Tom Price.

20 Closure Of Meeting

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:16pm.