# Published Minutes

## Ordinary Council Meeting

## Tuesday, 21 April 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Date: | Tuesday 21 April 2026 |
| Time: | 1:00pm |
| Location: | Clem Thompson Sports Pavilion, Stadium Road, Tom Price |
| Distribution Date: | Thursday 23 April 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
23 April 2026

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 21 April 2026.

Presiding Member _____

Date 19/5/2026

**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 attending the meeting.

# 3 Attendance

Shire President Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14C(2)(b) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I have approved Cr Kerry White to attend this meeting via electronic means, noting they are in instantaneous communication with the meeting.

Cr K White Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14CA(5) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996,* I declare that I can maintain confidentiality during the meeting or, if required, any closed part of the meeting.

### 3.1 Present

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elected Members: | SP A Smith | Shire President |
| | Cr A Sullivan | Paraburdoo Ward |
| | Cr K White | Onslow Ward (via electronic means) |
| | Cr T Fox | Pannawonica Ward |
| | Cr L Rumble JP | Paraburdoo Ward |
| | Cr K Day | Tom Price Ward |
| | Cr B Noone | Tom Price Ward |
| | Cr C Rogers | Tom Price Ward |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Employees: | K Woodward | Chief Executive Officer |
| | C McGurk | Director Community Development (via electronic means) |
| | D Kennedy | Director Corporate Services |
| | G Harris | Director Infrastructure Services |
| | A Johnston | Manager Media and Communications |
| | R Marlborough | Acting Manager Governance |
| | J Rouse | Governance Officer |
| | M Malinowska | Council Support Officer |
| | E Pirozek | Executive Assistant (CEO) |
| | J Watson | ICT Systems 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 R de Pledge Ashburton-Tablelands Ward From 21 April 2026 to 19 May 2026

# 4 Question Time

### 4.1 Response To Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice

Nil

### 4.2 Public Question Time

**Emily Bartholomew – Tom Price**

What update is there on our Tom Price Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) airstrip that was discussed back in 2023? When can we expect to see one in our town?

**Chief Executive Officer – Response**

Emergency aviation access for Tom Price has been a longstanding community concern due to reliance on Paraburdoo Airport for Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) operations. The Shire of Ashburton's involvement commenced in 2012 and has continued over more than a decade through investigation, feasibility assessment, negotiation, and sustained advocacy.

Council initially supported an RFDS airstrip in principle and authorised investigations into potential sites, construction costs, operating requirements, and funding options. Over time, the Shire undertook technical scoping, engaged independent aviation consultants, prepared and reviewed business cases, consulted with RFDS and health agencies, pursued funding opportunities, and negotiated land access with major stakeholders. Capital cost estimates increased as investigations progressed and regulatory requirements changed, rising to approximately $5.3 million by 2021 with significant ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Despite these efforts, the project encountered substantial external constraints, including land tenure and native title complexity, aviation safety and runway length requirements under CASA standards, terrain and obstacle limitations, escalating costs, and the absence of committed external funding. Following a detailed feasibility study in 2020–2021, Council resolved to pause progression of an RFDS airstrip and instead pursue advocacy for alternative emergency aviation solutions.

Advocacy has occurred at both organisational and elected member levels. Council resolutions have explicitly directed advocacy, and the Shire President has advocated directly with the Western Australian Premier, the Minister for Infrastructure, and Main Roads WA regarding emergency aviation access options for Tom Price. This advocacy is ongoing and reflects Council's continued commitment to seeking practicable solutions.

In 2024, Council again considered the matter in response to a community petition. After reviewing the full project history, Council reaffirmed support in principle and resolved to continue advocating to the State Government for alternatives, including a hospital helipad or a highway/roadway emergency landing strip.

Overall, the record demonstrates sustained and documented effort by the Shire, with the absence of delivery attributable to external technical, regulatory, and financial constraints rather than a lack of action. As at August 2024, Council's position remains limited to advocacy for alternative emergency aviation solutions.

# 5 Declaration By Members

## 5.1 Due Consideration By Elected Members To The Agenda

Elected Members present noted 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 Presiding Member requested the Chief Executive Officer to read aloud the following correspondence from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety and noted each Councillor had been provided a copy.

Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

Our ref A109070154
Enquiries Mehul Chudasama
Phone (08) 6552 1408
Email legislation@lgirs.wa.gov.au

Mr Keith Woodward
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Ashburton

Email: governance@ashburton.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Woodward

I refer to your correspondence dated 15 April 2026 and advise that, in accordance with the authority delegated by the Minister for Local Government, I have approved your application, under section 5.69(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

Approval is granted under section 5.69(3)(a) of the Act to allow disclosing members Cr Rogers, Cr Day, Cr Noone and Cr Fox to participate and vote on the following item at the Shire of Ashburton Ordinary Council Meeting on 21 April 2026, subject to the following conditions:

**Item 15.2 – 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festivals Sponsorship**

1. The approval is only valid for the 21 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting when agenda items 15.2 is considered;
2. The above-mentioned councillors must declare the nature and extent of their interests at the above-mentioned meeting when the matter is considered, together with the approval provided;
3. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is to provide a copy of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) letter of approval to the above mentioned councillors;
4. The CEO is to ensure that the declarations, including the approval given and any conditions imposed, are recorded in the minutes of the above-mentioned meeting, when the item is considered;
5. The CEO is to provide a copy of the confirmed minutes of the above-mentioned meeting to the LGIRS, to allow the LGIRS to verify compliance with the conditions of this approval; and
6. The approval granted is based solely on the interests disclosed by the above-mentioned councillors, made in accordance with the application. Should other interests be identified, these interests will not be included in this approval and the financial interest provisions of the Act will apply.

Should you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Mehul Chudasama, Senior Legislation Officer, via the details provided above.

Yours sincerely

**Laura Hunter**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT – MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION
21 April 2026

Gordon Stephenson House, 140 William Street Perth WA 6000
Locked Bag 14 Cloister Square Perth WA 6850
Telephone (08) 9492 9800
Email odg@lgirs.wa.gov.au
Web www.lgirs.wa.gov.au

The following declarations of interest are disclosed –

| 15.2 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship | |
|---|---|
| Name | SP A Smith |
| Nature of interest | Direct Financial |
| Interest description | I declare a direct financial interest in relation to Rio Tinto. This interest arises from my husband's employment with Rio Tinto, the ownership of Rio Tinto shares above the prescribed amount, and the receipt of subsidised housing and utilities provided by Rio Tinto. I am a Board Member with AWARE Group Inc., which has a partnership with Rio Tinto. |
| Name | Cr L Rumble JP |
| Nature of interest | Direct Financial |
| Interest description | I am a shareholder of Rio Tinto Limited of a value exceeding the prescribed amount. This is part of my retirement fund. |
| Name | Cr B Noone |
| Nature of interest | Indirect Financial |
| Interest description | My husband is an employee of RTIO and has shares in RTIO exceeding the nominated amount. We do not reside in company housing but do receive the Housing Support Payment. |
| Name | Cr T Fox |
| Nature of interest | Indirect Financial |
| Interest description | Rio Tinto employee, with Rio Tinto shares and live in Rio Tinto supplied housing. |
| Name | Cr C Rogers |
| Nature of interest | Direct Financial |
| Interest description | The Inspire Community Partnership consists of funds from Rio Tinto. Council are required to vote on approving Inspire funds for the 2026 Nameless Festival. Both my wife and I are Rio Tinto employees. We live in a Rio rented house. We both have Rio shares. |
| Name | Cr K Day |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | My husband is a Rio Tinto employee and I reside in Rio Tinto Company Housing. |
| Name | Cr A Sullivan |
| Nature of interest | Direct Financial |
| Interest description | My husband works for Rio Tinto. I and my husband live in subsidised accommodation provided by Rio Tinto. I and my husband own shares above the prescribed amount. |

| 11/CGC.1 - Community Support Grant Applications Round 2 - 2025/2026 | |
|---|---|
| Name | Cr K Day |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | All Tom Price committees/groups noted in the attachments have an executive member that is known to me on a personal or professional level. |
| Name | Cr T Fox |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | As President of the Pannawonica Amateur Swim Club, an applicant for the Shire of Ashburton Community Support Grant Round 2 – 2025-2026, I declare an impartial interest in this matter. |
| Name | Cr C Rogers |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | Fusion Fitness has applied for a Shire Grant. My wife is on the Committee of this Club. The Tom Price Shooters Association has applied for a Shire Grant. I am on the Committee of this Club. |
| Name | Cr L Rumble JP |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | Member of the Paraburdoo Men's Shed |
| Name | Cr B Noone |
| Nature of interest | Impartiality |
| Interest description | I am currently the Vice Chair of the Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce (PICCI). I have not been involved in applying for this grant. |

# 6 Announcements By The Presiding Member And Councillors Without Discussion

Cr L Rumble

I would just like to share with everybody that myself, Cr Sullivan and Gavin Harris, Director Infrastructure Services, attended a Pilbara Regional Road Group Meeting in Port Hedland and would like to congratulate Cr Sullivan; she is the Deputy Chairperson of the Road Group; so congratulations Councillor.

I would also like to raise some issues with regard to the Road Group meeting. We had a bit of discussion around the table regarding how the nomination for funding for the different Shire's would get their grant funding divided up. We moved two Notices of Motion and both Notices were defeated so now they're going to leave it up to the Department to work out how the funding will be divided up over the 12 months.

The other thing is our bridges. They gave a report back to myself and Cr Sullivan about the inspection of bridges. Now I notice that we've got two bridges in our Shire and on their sheet, they say they haven't yet received any feedback from the Shire of Ashburton, and I was just wondering whether the Director Infrastructure Services can give some feedback here on this or not?

I would also like to acknowledge the Director Infrastructure Services and Mr Keith Woodward, the Chief Executive Officer, for helping with the issues around the Paraburdoo park-up bays for the trucks. There is a bit of a dilemma there, but it has made it safe now and I do appreciate it. Paraburdoo people do to, so thank you.

The Shire President advised that Cr Rumble's request for feedback on the bridges be addressed offline for a response to be provided by the Director Infrastructure Services at a later date.

Cr B Noone

Just a congratulations to two Tom Price residents who are finalists in The Jury Art Awards 2026. So, we've got Jodie Thompson and Jenna Pickering both finalists in the Awards held in Hedland, so very exciting.

# 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 the following items be adopted en bloc:**

**10.1.1 Minutes Of The Ordinary Council Meeting Held on 17 March 2026**

**10.2.1 Minutes of the Economic and Tourism Development Committee Held On 17 March 2025**

**Carried 8/0**

# 10 Confirmation Of Minutes

## 10.1 Confirmation Of Council Minutes

### 10.1.1 Minutes Of The Ordinary Council Meeting Held On 17 March 2026

**Council Decision** **044/2026**

**Moved** **Cr B Noone**

**Seconded** **Cr K Day**

**That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 March 2026 (Item 10.1.1 Attachment 1) be confirmed as a true and accurate record.**

**Carried 8/0**

**Resolved en bloc**

## 10.2 Receipt Of Committee And Other Minutes

### 10.2.1 Minutes Of The Economic And Tourism Development Committee Meeting Held On 17 March 2026

**Council Decision** **045/2026**

**Moved** **Cr B Noone**

**Seconded** **Cr K Day**

**That the Minutes of the Economic And Tourism Development Committee Meeting held 17 March 2026 (Item 10.2.1 Attachment 1) be received.**

**Carried 8/0**

**Resolved en bloc**

# 11 Recommendations From Committee

**Community Grants Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2026**

*Cr K Day disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr T Fox disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr C Rogers disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

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

*Cr L Rumble JP disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

## 11/CGC.1 Community Support Grant Applications Round 2 - 2025/2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | GS01 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | J Murphy, Strategic Partnership Officer |
| **Authorising Officer** | C McGurk, Director Community Development |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Nil |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Round 2 FY25_26 Grant Summary Review<br>2. Round 2 FY25_26 Grant Summary<br>3. Grants Round 2 FY25_26 Applications - Confidential |

**Report Purpose**

The Community Grants Committee (the Committee) is required to consider the Community Support Grant applications in accordance with Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding.

The purpose of this report is to provide the applications received for Community Support Grants (refer to Attachment 1) to the Committee for review. At the close of the application period, 13 applications were received.

Council is requested to support the Committee's recommended outcome for each application.

**Background**

The Shire provides Community Support Grants in accordance with Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding.

Grants are offered in two funding rounds each year, in July and February. There are two Tiers to this grant round as recently adopted by Council.

Tier 1 offers a value up to $2,500 and Tier 2 offers a value of up to $5,000. Applications are considered by the Community Grants Committee for subsequent recommendation to Council for determination.

Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding require, as a minimum, the following criteria must be met to be successful:

- Applicant is to reside or operate within the Shire or be able to show a direct and substantial benefit to residents within the Shire.
- Assistance is not available retrospectively.
- Funds are to be used only for the purpose for which they are given or via agreed variations.
- Successful applicants are required to complete an acquittal report and submit this to the Shire within three months of the agreed completion date.
- Applicants who do not submit an acquittal will not be considered for future funding and they may be requested to return unused funds.

**Comments**

Round 2 of the Community Support Grants was promoted directly to clubs and organisations via email, and notices were placed on the Shire's public noticeboards, website and social media platforms.

Given the recent introduction of both the Council policy and the Community grant guidelines, we made it a priority to reach out to every applicant from the past two years. Each individual was personally invited to participate in a one-on-one Teams meeting, providing an opportunity to discuss any potential projects and clarify the application process.

At the close of the Round 2, 13 total applications were received, as follows:

- Onslow – three (3) application,
- Pannawonica – two (2) applications,
- Tom Price – six (6) applications,
- Paraburdoo – two (2) applications.

Furthermore, each applicant at the close of the round was contacted individually to discuss their application and followed up with an email requesting any supporting information. There are a number or groups that are still following up information, and if an application is approved, they have been advised that funds cannot be released without the supporting information.

All applications have been assessed on the:

- criteria outlined in Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding,
- general conditions, and
- criteria and compliance information provided.

The table below provides a summary of the applications received (refer to Attachment 2 for further information).

**Tier 1**

| Town | Club / Group | Project Name | Request ($) | Officer Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Onslow | Onslow Sports Club | Onslow Sports Club Committee Compliance Training | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Onslow | NAIDOC Darts Association | NAIDOC Darts 2026 | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Pannawonica | Pannawonica Amateur Swim Club | Coaching Training and Accreditation | $ 2,498.00 | Approve |
| Paraburdoo | Paraburdoo Men's Shed | Car Wash Bay | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Paraburdoo | Paraburdoo Drive In | Sea Container for safe storage | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Paraburdoo | Paraburdoo Saints Football Club | New Clubroom Stools | $ 1,985.00 | Approve |
| Tom Price | Tom Price Netball Association | Tom Price Netball Association | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Tom Price | Tom Price Sporting Shooter Association | Equipment & lighting purchases | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Tom Price | Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry | PICCI Business Engagement & Feedback Sessions – Tom Price & Paraburdoo | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Tom Price | Tom Price BMX Club | Tom Price BMX Club - Thrive Development Coaching | $ 2,500.00 | Approve |
| Tom Price | Fusion Fitness | Fusion Fitness | $ 2,100.00 | Approve |
| Onslow | Onslow Occy Swimming Club | Pilbara Champs 2026 | $ 2,500.00 | Decline |
| Pannawonica | Pannawonica Primary School P&C Association Incorporated | ECE Outdoor play equipment upgrade | $ 2,500.00 | Decline |
| Tom Price | Football West | North West Championships | $ 2,500.00 | Decline |

The below table summarieses the distribution of the Community support grant allocation and the resulting availble funds subject to Council approval.

| | Initial | | | Applications | | | | Final |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town | No. of Applications | Round 1 Expenditure | Remaining Budget | No of approval recommendations | Applications for approval | No of decline recommendations | Application for decline | Remaining Budget (after approvals) |
| Tom Price | 6 | $ 6,500.00 | $ 8,500.00 | 5 | $ 12,100.00 | 1 | $ 2,500.00 | -$ 3,600.00 |
| Paraburdoo | 2 | $ 5,875.00 | $ 9,125.00 | 2 | $ 5,000.00 | 0 | $ - | $ 4,125.00 |
| Onslow | 3 | $ 1,600.00 | $ 13,400.00 | 2 | $ 5,000.00 | 1 | $ 2,500.00 | $ 8,400.00 |
| Pannawonica | 2 | $ 17,190.00 | -$ 2,190.00 | 1 | $ 2,498.00 | 1 | $ 2,500.00 | -$ 4,688.00 |
| | 13 | $ 31,165.00 | $ 28,835.00 | 10 | $ 24,598.00 | 3 | $ 7,500.00 | $ 4,237.00 |

## Consultation

1. Clubs and groups – Each applicant was called or emailed to discuss the application in further detail.
2. Communities Team – Members from the community team were consulted with to discuss and potential conflicting events or programs with the applications, and to ensure alignment with the Community Strategic Plan.
3. Executive Leadership Team – Through review of the Council report.

## 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 | 4 Support and develop sustainable clubs and groups, providing opportunities for meaningful participation in arts, culture, sport, and recreation. |

## Council Policy

Council Policies » Shire of Ashburton

Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding provides the guidelines for applications and the criteria for assessment.

## Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

The 2025/26 Annual Budget allocates a total of $60,000 for the Community Support Grants Program across Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding rounds. In Round 1, Council endorsed $31,165 in approved applications, resulting in a remaining balance of $28,835 being available for Round 2.

If the Round 2 applications are approved as recommended, a total of $24,598 will be expended from General Ledger account CU24075.

Future Financial Year(s)

If the applications are approved as per the recommendation there will be $4,237 remaining on General Ledger CU24075 for the 2025/2026 financial year.

## 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) | Unsuccessful applicants publicly criticise the Shire. | Possible (3) | Insignificant (1) | Low (1-4) | Ensure appropriate policy and procedures are in place and followed.<br>Officers to collaborate with clubs to improve future applications. |

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 the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approves the following applications:
    (a) Onslow Sports Club for Onslow Sports Club Committee Compliance Training – for the amount of $2,500;
    (b) NAIDOC Darts Association for NAIDOC Darts 2026 for the amount of $2,500;
    (c) Pannawonica Amateur Swim Club for Coaching Training and Accreditation for the amount of $2,498;
    (d) Paraburdoo Men’s Shed for Car Wash Bay for the amount of $2,500;
    (e) Paraburdoo Drive in for Sea Container for Safe Storage for the amount of $2,500;
    (f) Paraburdoo Saints Football Club for New Clubroom Stools for the amount of $1,985
    (g) Tom Price Netball Association for Tom Price Netball Association for the amount of $2,500;
    (h) Tom Price Sporting Shooter Association for Equipment and Lighting Purchases for the amount of $2,500;
    (i) Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry for PICCI Business Engagement and Feedback Sessions – Tom Price and Paraburdoo for the amount of $2,500;

(j) Tom Price BMX Club for Thrive Development Coaching for the amount of $2,500; and

(k) Fusion Fitness for Cardio Equipment and Mother's Day Classic for the amount of $2,100.

2. Declines the following applications:

(a) Onslow Occy Swimming Club for Pilbara Championships 2026

(b) Pannawonica Primary School P&C Association Incorporated for ECE Outdoor Play Equipment Upgrade; and

(c) Football West for North West Championships.

3. Notes that funding will not be released until all required supporting documentation has been provided by the successful applicants.

**Committee Recommendation**

That the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approves the following applications:

(a) Onslow Sports Club for Onslow Sports Club Committee Compliance Training – for the amount of $2,500;

(b) NAIDOC Darts Association for NAIDOC Darts 2026 for the amount of $2,500;

(c) Pannawonica Amateur Swim Club for Coaching Training and Accreditation for the amount of $2,498;

(d) Paraburdoo Men's Shed for Car Wash Bay for the amount of $2,500;

(e) Paraburdoo Drive in for Sea Container for Safe Storage for the amount of $2,500;

(f) Paraburdoo Saints Football Club for New Clubroom Stools for the amount of $1,985

(g) Tom Price Netball Association for Tom Price Netball Association for the amount of $2,500;

(h) Tom Price Sporting Shooter Association for Equipment and Lighting Purchases for the amount of $2,500;

(i) Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry for PICCI Business Engagement and Feedback Sessions – Tom Price and Paraburdoo for the amount of $2,500;

(j) Tom Price BMX Club for Thrive Development Coaching for the amount of $2,500; and

(k) Fusion Fitness for Cardio Equipment and Mother's Day Classic for the amount of $2,500.

(l) Football West for North West Championships for the amount of $2,500.

2. Declines the following applications:

(a) Onslow Occy Swimming Club for Pilbara Championships 2026

(b) Pannawonica Primary School P&C Association Incorporated for ECE Outdoor Play Equipment Upgrade; and

3. Notes that funding will not be released until all required supporting documentation has been provided by the successful applicants.

**Council Decision** **046/2026**

**Moved** **Cr C Rogers**

**Seconded** **Cr T Fox**

**That the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council:**

1. **Approves the following applications:**
   - **(a) Onslow Sports Club for Onslow Sports Club Committee Compliance Training – for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(b) NAIDOC Darts Association for NAIDOC Darts 2026 for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(c) Pannawonica Amateur Swim Club for Coaching Training and Accreditation for the amount of $2,498;**
   - **(d) Paraburdoo Men's Shed for Car Wash Bay for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(e) Paraburdoo Drive in for Sea Container for Safe Storage for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(f) Paraburdoo Saints Football Club for New Clubroom Stools for the amount of $1,985**
   - **(g) Tom Price Netball Association for Tom Price Netball Association for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(h) Tom Price Sporting Shooter Association for Equipment and Lighting Purchases for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(i) Pilbara Inland Chamber of Commerce and Industry for PICCI Business Engagement and Feedback Sessions – Tom Price and Paraburdoo for the amount of $2,500;**
   - **(j) Tom Price BMX Club for Thrive Development Coaching for the amount of $2,500; and**
   - **(k) Fusion Fitness for Cardio Equipment and Mother's Day Classic for the amount of $2,500.**
   - **(l) Football West for North West Championships for the amount of $2,500.**
2. **Declines the following applications:**
   - **(a) Onslow Occy Swimming Club for Pilbara Championships 2026**
   - **(b) Pannawonica Primary School P&C Association Incorporated for ECE Outdoor Play Equipment Upgrade; and**
3. **Notes that funding will not be released until all required supporting documentation has been provided by the successful applicants.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

## 11/CGC.2 Community Previous Grants Review [FY 2025/2026]

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | GS01 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | J Murphy, Strategic Partnership Officer |
| **Authorising Officer** | C McGurk, Director Community Development |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Nil |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Grants Review 2025-2026 |

### Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of all applications received from Small Assistance Donations, Inspiring Youth Leader's Fund, and Community Support Grants.

The Committee is requested to endorse the review and recommends that Council accepts the grants review document, as provided at Attachment 1.

### Background

Over recent years, Council Policy – Community Donations, Grants and Funding has undergone several amendments. To ensure transparency, accountability and effective use of resources, a review has been conducted of all applications since the commencement of the 2022/2023 financial year from Small Assistance Donations, Community Support Grants, and the recently introduced Inspiring Youth Leader's Fund, to provide Council an overview of all outcomes across the Shire.

This review aims to provide a clear and detailed account of how grant funds are being utilised and highlight any gaps or inefficiencies in the application and allocation process to enhance future grants management.

### Comments

The table below provides an overview of financial contributions to each town across all funding categories, as detailed in Attachment 1. This summary reflects 2025–2026 financial year applications and funding outcomes to date. A full-year financial summary will be presented as part of the August Committee report.

| Category | Town | 21/22 Expenditure | 22/23 Expenditure | 23/24 Expenditure | 25/26 Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Small Assistance Donations | Onslow | $500.00 | $1,000.00 | $824.00 | $500.00 |
| | Pannawonica | $1,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| | Paraburdoo | $500.00 | $660.00 | $2,972.00 | $1,000.00 |
| | Tom Price | $6,000.00 | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 | $500.00 |
| Council Initiated | Education Donations | $6,953.00 | $6,992.00 | $6,920.70 | Upcoming |
| | Emergency Services | $5,000.00 | $4,000.00 | $4,000.00 | Upcoming |
| Youth Grants | Onslow | | | $1,500.00 | $750 |
| | Pannawonica | | | $0.00 | $750 |
| | Paraburdoo | | | $0.00 | $0 |
| | Tom Price | | | $750.00 | $2,250.00 |

**Consultation**

Nil

**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 | 4 Support and develop sustainable clubs and groups, providing opportunities for meaningful participation in arts, culture, sport, and recreation. |

**Council Policy**

Council Policies » Shire of Ashburton

Community Donations, Grants and Funding

**Financial Implications**

Current 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Compliance** | Grant applications do not align with Council's Strategic Community Plan. | Unlikely (2) | Minor (2) | Low (1-4) | Provide Council with a regular review of all applications approved under delegation. |

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 the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council accepts the Community Grants Review undertaken, as detailed in Attachment 1.

### Committee Recommendation

That the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council accepts the Community Grants Review undertaken, as detailed in Attachment 1.

**Council Decision** **047/2026**

**Moved** **Cr K Day**

**Seconded** **Cr B Noone**

**That the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council accepts the Community Grants Review undertaken, as detailed in Attachment 1.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

# 12 Office of the Chief Executive Officer Reports

Nil

# 13 Corporate Services Reports

## 13.1 Monthly Financial Statements - March 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. Statement of Financial Activity - March 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 March 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
Middle 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 March 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Council Decision** | **048/2026** |
| **Moved** | **Cr L Rumble JP** |
| **Seconded** | **Cr C Rogers** |

**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 March 2026, as included at Attachment 1.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **For:** | **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers** |
| **Against:** | **Nil** |

**Carried 8/0**

## 13.2 Monthly Schedule of Accounts Paid - March 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 Schedule of Accounts Paid - March 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 March 2026
- Trust Fund Payments for March 2026; and
- Corporate Credit Card and Payment Card Reconciliations for March 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 $ |
|---|---|
| **Municipal Fund** | |
| Electronic Funds Transfers | 4,472,339.16 |
| BPay/Credit Cards | 399,918.52 |
| Cheques | 0 |
| Payroll | 1,203,312.04 |
| Bank Fees and Charges | 1,818.31 |
| **Municipal Fund Total** | **6,077,388.03** |
| | |
| **Trust Fund** | |
| Electronic Funds Transfers | 0.00 |
| **Trust Fund Total** | **0.00** |
| | |
| **Payment Cards** | |
| Credit Cards | 72,936.73 |
| Fuel Cards – Ampol | 203.50 |
| Fuel Cards – Viva / Shell | 4,819.53 |
| Fuel Cards – Wex Motorpass | 0 |
| Taxi Cards – Cabcharge | 1,548.30 |
| **Payment Cards Total** | **79,508.06** |

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 25 | 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 |
| **Total YTD** | **95,284,499** | **3,183,118** | **631,742** | **11,423,657** | **19,185** | **110,542,203** |
| **Total 25/26** | **83,319,933** | **3,931,059** | **579,458** | **13,971,918** | **30,854** | **101,833,224** |

**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 March 2026, inclusive of purchasing cards payments for March 2026, as included at Attachment 1.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Council Decision** | **049/2026** |
| **Moved** | **Cr A Sullivan** |
| **Seconded** | **Cr C Rogers** |

**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 March 2026, inclusive of purchasing cards payments for March 2026, as included at Attachment 1.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **For:** | **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers** |
| **Against:** | **Nil** |

**Carried 8/0**

## 13.3 Council Policy Development and Periodic Review - April 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | GV20 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | R Marlborough, Senior Governance Officer |
| **Authorising Officer** | D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Nil |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Council Policy - Asset Management<br>2. Council Policy - Debt Recovery<br>3. Council Policy - Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property<br>4. Council Policy - Corporate Transaction Cards<br>5. Council Policy - Risk Management<br>6. Proposed Council Policy - Privacy and Information Handling<br>7. Council Policy - Asset Management - Current |

### Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for consideration the outcome of a periodic review of the following existing Council policies:

- Asset Management;
- Debt Recovery;
- Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property;
- Corporate Transaction Cards;
- Risk Management; and
- to consider the adoption of a new Policy – Privacy and Information Handling Privacy and Information Handling.

Council is requested to consider and endorse the review of the policies detailed in Attachments 1 to 5, respectively and endorse the proposed new Council Policy – Privacy and Information Handling, provided at Attachment 6.

### Background

Council policies, not considered high risk or elected member related, are reviewed at least once every four years to ensure fit for purpose. Reviews can occur outside this timeframe where legislation changes, or where amendment is required to support the direction of Council or where improved guidance is required to support function and operability.

Effective policies clearly establish Council's position on various matters, they complement and support associated legislation, provide good governance and clear administrative guidance, and present the community with concise and topical information.

**Comments**

A full review of the following existing Council policies has been undertaken by the relevant Shire officers. The table below summarises proposed amendments to these policies. Attachments 1 to 5 provide the policy documents in full for consideration, with proposed amendments, if any, marked using track changes.

| Policy Title | Comment |
|---|---|
| Asset Management<br>(Attachment 1) | The review focused on producing a high-level framework for the management of Council's assets by:<br>• Simplifying the content<br>• Removing duplication and operational detail, while retaining core principles, objectives and legislative alignment<br>• Clarifying Council's and the organisation's responsibilities at a strategic level, consistent with contemporary governance practice<br>• Strengthening alignment to the Shire's high-level plans and strategies without embedding technical requirements<br>The policy, as presented, supports clarity, flexibility and ease of future updates. This reviewed policy, if adopted replaces the current Council Policy – Asset Management, as provided for reference at Attachment 7. |
| Debt Recovery<br>(Attachment 2) | The review completed provides improved support and streamlines some processes for the recovery of outstanding debts and ensures alignment with current financial practices.<br>• Special payment arrangements are provided for rates and service charges. It is proposed to provide a similar arrangement for sundry debtors to apply for special arrangements, using the same existing principles.<br>• Within the sundry debtors' accounts area, the timeframe for payment from the final invoice due date is increased to 35 days to align with current financial practices.<br>• Content has been added to the legal proceeding clause that recognises that non-compliance with any approved special payment arrangement conditions may also result in recovery proceeding being initiated. |
| Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property<br>(Attachment 3) | The current policy framework is operating effectively.<br>The only minor amendments are to update the responsible directorate. |
| Corporate Transaction Cards<br>(Attachment 4) | The current operating framework is effective and functional.<br>Only minor amendments suggested to this policy, as follows:<br>• In the clause "allowable transactions" text was added to the last dot point to clarify where transaction records are to be stored.<br>• In the relevant policy's documents section, the title of Council policy was corrected. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Risk Management<br>(Attachment 5) | This policy's intent is to broadly guide risk management to help the Shire meet its strategic and operational objectives, protect people and assets, and maintain financial sustainability. The following minor amendments are proposed:<br>• In clause 1, the word 'community" added to support inclusiveness.<br>• In clause 18, content added to align the review of Council's risk appetite "biennially rather than annually". This aligns risk reviews to existing internal procedures.<br>• In clause 19, the title of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) has been added, minor amendments to functions align with the ARIC responsibilities for presenting recommendations to Council on risk matters.<br>• Definitions updated to remove obsolete documents. |

This table presents a summary of the proposed new policy:

| Policy Title | Comments |
|---|---|
| Privacy and Information Handling<br>Attachment 6 | This new policy has been developed to support how the Shire manages the collection, storage and use of personal information to ensure privacy risks are appropriately managed to support our community.<br>The policy as drafted supports both the principles and the legislative requirements of the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024*.<br>The policy framework will ensure appropriate and robust mechanisms are embedded in the organisation for:<br>• the collection of private information.<br>• the correction of personal information held.<br>• the disclosure of information to third parties.<br>• responding to privacy interference or information breaches.<br>• defined roles and responsibilities. |

If the policy reviews and the new policy presented are supported, the Shire's website will be updated, and information will be circulated internally.

**Consultation**

Responsible officers and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) were consulted regarding the development and review of the policies presented. The proposed policy amendments and the proposed new policy were presented to Council at the briefing session on 17 March 2026. On 19 March 2026 elected members were invited to provide further feedback or comments by 3 April 2026. No feedback was received.

**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 | 2 Provide, and lead in the development of, meaningful policies and processes to ensure sound and compliant delivery of services to the community. |

**Council Policy**

The review considers the following current Council policies:

- Asset Management;
- Debt Recovery;
- Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property;
- Corporate Transaction Cards; and
- Risk Management.

**Financial Implications**

Current Financial Year

Nil

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

**Legislative Implications**

In accordance with section 2.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995,* Council is responsible for determining the local government's policies.

### Risk Management

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

| Theme | Risk | Likelihood | Consequence | Inherent Risk Rating | Risk Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Compliance** | Policy positions not being in place or statutorily compliant or operationally functional to support Council, the administration or community. | Unlikely (2) | Insignificant (1) | Low (1-4) | Reviewing policies in a structured framework ensures policies remain functional and legislatively compliant to meet the needs of Council, the administration and the community. Developing new policies to address legislatively operational change ensures clear guidance and improves awareness. |

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. Approves amendments to the following Council policies, subsequent to the review completed:
   (a) Asset Management, as detailed at Attachment 1
   (b) Debt Recovery, as detailed in Attachment 2
   (c) Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property, as detailed at Attachment 3
   (d) Corporate Transaction Cards, as detailed in Attachment 4
   (e) Risk Management, as detailed in Attachment 5
2. Endorses Council Policy - Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing, as detailed at Attachment 6.

**Council Decision** **050/2026**

**Moved** **Cr B Noone**

**Seconded** **Cr T Fox**

**That Council:**

1. **Approves amendments to the following Council policies, subsequent to the review completed:**
   - **(a) Asset Management, as detailed at Attachment 1**
   - **(b) Debt Recovery, as detailed in Attachment 2**
   - **(c) Consumption of Alcohol on Shire Property, as detailed at Attachment 3**
   - **(d) Corporate Transaction Cards, as detailed in Attachment 4**
   - **(e) Risk Management, as detailed in Attachment 5.**
2. **Endorses Council Policy - Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing, as detailed at Attachment 6.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

## 13.4 Differential Rates 2026-2027

| | |
|---|---|
| **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 20 May 2025 - Item 13.4 – 079/2025 |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Differential Rates - Statement of Objects and Reasons 2026-2027 |

### Report Purpose

Council as part of the annual budget process, is required to determine the method of levying rates. Council has historically used Differential Rating in accordance with section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates 2026-2027.

Council is requested to continue to use Differential Rating for the 2026-2027 financial year, endorse the 2026-2027 Statement of Objects and Reasons and provide public notice in accordance with section 6.36 of the Act.

### Background

Council must determine the method of rating to be used each year for the district and, if using Differential Rates, have these advertised, prior to consideration of the budget.

Differential Rating is one method of a small number of methods available for Council to generate the funds required to meet the annual budget deficiency and must be undertaken using a series of legislatively set rules to ensure relative parity amongst all ratepayers is achieved.

Council has, since prior to 2005, used Differential Rating to distribute the rating effort.

Individual property valuations determine what proportion of the total rate requirements are met by each property owner and this proportion will change when a revaluation year occurs (2026/2027 is not a general revaluation year), or a property has significant alterations.

Where a proposed rate in the dollar for a differential rating category is greater than two times the lowest rate (base rate), Ministerial approval is required prior to the setting of rates as part of the annual budget process.

### Comments

The Officer recommendation is based on rate modelling that includes a rate yield increase of 4.1% which is less than February 2026 year on year CPI for Perth (4.9%) released on 25 March 2026 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Rate Revenue

The adopted Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2026/2027 includes rate revenue of $77,264,026. The Shire has continued to experience growth in rate revenue on the previous year due to additional Transient Workforce Accommodation facilities being constructed within the district.

Proposed rates to be levied total $77,457,980 with interim and ex-gratia rates of $27,500 anticipated to be received during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Shire's Capital Works Program for 2026/2027 in accordance with the adopted LTFP will prioritise investment into the renewal of the Shire's extensive road ($17.7m) and drainage ($5m) networks. The second stage of the Onslow Streetscape development will be progressed ($14.8m), there will be additional investment in Staff Accommodation ($7.2m) and Plant Replacement of ($1.9m).

Runway strengthening is proposed to be undertaken at the Onslow Airport with significant funding from the resource sector and the State Government.

Differential Rating

The following are the proposed Differential General Rates and Minimum Payments for the Shire of Ashburton for the 2026/2027 financial year, to be effective from 1 July 2026.

| Rate Category | Rate in $ 2025/26 | Rate in $ 2026/27 | Multiplier | Minimum Payment | % of Revenue |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GRV Residential** | 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 | x1.97 | $1,390 | 76% |

**#** requires Ministerial approval, as greater than 2x the base rate

Statement of Objects and Reason

The Statement of Objects and Reasons for 2026/2027 proposes no change to the GRV Residential rate proposed. This is in recognition of cost of living pressures currently experienced within the district. Also proposed is a slight reduction in the UV Non-Pastoral rate, which has experienced growth in the number of properties as well as some anticipated changes in valuation.

No increase to the current minimum rate of $1,390 is proposed across all rate categories.

The proposed rate in the dollar for GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation will require Ministerial approval, being more than two times the lowest GRV differential rate in the dollar.

**Consultation**

Chief Executive Officer
Finance Team
Council

**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

The application of Differential Rating is about apportioning the budget deficiency (rate revenue) between different rate categories and rating classifications as equitably as possible.

There are no financial implications by simply applying Differential Rating other than minor advertising costs.

Council could raise the same rate revenue by applying a general rate to all categories however, the rate burden would fall differently and less equitably.

Future Financial Year(s)

Nil

**Legislative Implications**

*Local Government Act 1995*

*Section 6.32 Rates and service charges*

When adopting the annual budget, a local government, to make up the budget deficiency, is to impose a general rate on land within the district, either uniformly or differentially, and may also impose a specified area rate, minimum payments, and service charges.

*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.

*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 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 then resolve to maintain, or amend, the advertised differential rates prior to application the Minister for approval of the GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation differential general rate.

### Risk Management

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

| Theme | Risk | Likelihood | Consequence | Inherent Risk Rating | Risk Treatment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Compliance** | Council does not accept the Shire officer's recommendation resulting in Council non-compliance with the *Local Government Act 1995.* | Possible (3) | Moderate (3) | Moderate (5-9) | Provide Council members with sufficient information for sound decision making. |
| **Reputation** | Council set the rate in the dollar and minimum payments too high (for any, or all, or the categories) causing community backlash. | Possible (3) | Moderate (3) | Moderate (5-9) | Implementation of a communication strategy relating to the proposed increases will assist in mitigating this risk. |
| **Interruption to Services** | Council set the rate in the dollar and minimum payments too low (for any, or all, of the categories) resulting in an inability to maintain services, facilities, and infrastructure. | Rare (1) | Moderate (3) | Low (1-4) | Continued review of long-term planning documents will help mitigate this. |

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. Elects to apply Differential Rates for the 2026/2027 financial year.
2. Accepts the Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates 2026/2027, as detailed in Attachment 1.
3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to advertise, in accordance with section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates 2026/2027.
4. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to present the results of the public consultation period to a future meeting of Council, to inform Council's application seeking Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation differential rating category.

**Council Decision** **051/2026**

**Moved** **Cr L Rumble JP**

**Seconded** **Cr K Day**

**That Council:**

1. **Elects to apply Differential Rates for the 2026/2027 financial year.**
2. **Accepts the Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates 2026/2027, as detailed in Attachment 1.**
3. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to advertise, in accordance with section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates 2026/2027.**
4. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to present the results of the public consultation period to a future meeting of Council, to inform Council's application seeking Ministerial approval for the GRV Transient Workforce Accommodation differential rating category.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

## 13.5 Correction - Independent Deputy of the Presiding Member Appointment and Meeting Attendance Fee Adjustment Proposal - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | GV04 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | R Marlborough, Senior Governance Officer |
| **Authorising Officer** | D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Ordinary Council Meeting 19 August 2025 – Item 13.3 - (151/2025)<br>Ordinary Council Meeting 28 October 2025 – Item 13.4 - (192/2025) |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Local Government Variation - No. 1 of 2025<br>2. Update - Committees and Working Groups Booklet - ARIC Terms of Reference |

### Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider:

- correcting the prior appointment of the Deputy Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) to the Deputy of the Presiding Member to align with statutory requirements;
- increasing the meeting attendance fee payable to the independent Presiding and Deputy of the Presiding Member (Committee Members) of the ARIC within the range prescribed in the Local Government CEO and Elected Council Members Determination Variation No.1 of 2025 made on 19 December 2025 (refer to Attachment 1); and
- minor consequential amendments to the Committees and Working Groups Booklet relating to the ARIC Terms of Reference (refer to Attachment 2).

Council is requested consider these matters and make a formal determination.

### Background

In August 2025, Council formally established an ARIC and agreed to progress the appointment of an independent Presiding and independent Deputy Presiding Member of the ARIC, given pending legislative changes to the *Local Government Act 1995* (Act) requiring the appointment of these two independent Committee member positions on the ARIC.

In October 2025, Council considered the formal appointment of the mentioned ARIC independent members and resolved, as follows:

*"That Council, in support of pending amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 (Act) to introduce a new Section 7.1A, and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act, appoint:*

1. *Stephen Brown to be the independent Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, for a term expiring on 16 October 2027; and*
2. *Duy Vu Vo to be the independent Deputy Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, for a term expiring on 16 October 2027.*

At this same meeting Council formally appointed elected members to this committee.

**Comments**

Internal discussion and investigation following recent advice from the current ARIC's independent Presiding Member determined that to be legislatively compliant with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 199*5 (the Act) a correction to Mr Vo's appointment as an independent member of the ARIC was required.

The correction necessary to achieve effective governance and compliance with the Act is to appoint Mr Duy Vu Vo as the independent Deputy of the Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. No change to the term of office previously resolved, is proposed.

With reference to increasing the meeting attendance fee payable to the independent Presiding Member of the ARIC, when Council determined the 2025/2026 Annual Budget, the meeting attendance fee was set at $415 per meeting. This was the maximum allowable under Salaries and Allowances Tribunal determination for Local Government CEO and Elected Council Members, in effect at the time.

On 19 December 2025, the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal issued the Local Government CEO and Elected Council Members Determination Variation No.1 of 2025, as detailed at Attachment 1. This variation increased the meeting attendance fee range payable to independent ARIC members for all local governments. The prescribed fee range is now $105 (minimum) to $1,215 (maximum).

The ARIC undertakes significant oversight of the Shire's audit responsibilities. The independent ARIC members should receive appropriate compensation within the allowable limits in recognition of skills and expertise. It is proposed that the meeting attendance fee payable for the independent ARIC Presiding Member be increased to $1,093 per meeting (90% of the maximum rate allowable).

To support some of the matters presented in this report it is proposed to amend to the Committees and Working Groups Booklet as detailed in Attachment 2. The following table summarises the proposed amendments presented for consideration.

| Reference | Proposed Amendments |
|---|---|
| Part 1 – Council Committees (Page 3) | In paragraph 5. Correct the title Deputy of the Presiding Member and add the correct legislation references for the appointment of independent members of the ARIC. |
| Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Terms of Refence (Page 4) | In the table.<br>• Correct the title Deputy of the Presiding Member.<br>• Delete reference to Deputy Chief Executive Officer and amend to Chief Executive Officer. |
| Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Terms of Refence (Page 7) | In Clause 1 of Membership Correct the title to Deputy of the Presiding Member. |

For Council's information, recent legislative change has enabled future meetings of the ARIC to held 100% electronically (ie. the 50% rule no longer applies).

As 2026 Council and Standing Committee meeting schedule has been set and published, it is not proposed to alter the current adopted meeting schedule. However, further information and options for 2027 meeting schedule will be presented to Council for consideration later this year.

**Consultation**

Chief Executive Officer
Director Corporate Servies
Independent Presiding Member (ARIC)

**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 Implications**

Current Financial Year

Increasing the meeting attendance fee from $415 per meeting to $1,093 per meeting will result in a net cost increase of $678, this financial year.

Sufficient funds are available in the current budget to cover the cost increase presented for consideration.

Future Financial Year(s)

Each year, funding must be set aside in the annual budget to cover the costs of the ARIC's appointed independent presiding member participation at committee meetings.

**Legislative Implications**

*Local Government Act 1995* (Act)

Section 5.11A of the Act deals with deputy committee members

(1) The local government may appoint* a person to be a deputy of a member of a committee and may terminate such an appointment* at any time.

* Absolute majority required.

Section 5.12 of the Act deals with the appointment of presiding members and deputies

(1) The local government must appoint* a member of a committee to be the presiding member of the committee. *

(2) The local government may appoint* a member of a committee to be the deputy presiding member of the committee.

Section 7.1B of Act deals with the deputy of presiding member or of deputy presiding member of ARIC's

(1) The local government must appoint a person under section 5.11A to be a deputy of the presiding member of the audit, risk and improvement committee.

(2) In addition to the requirement of section 5.11A(2)(c), the deputy of the presiding member cannot be a council member of any other local government.

*Absolute majority required.

Section 7.1A(4) of the Act provides:

Any deputy presiding member of the audit, risk and improvement committee cannot be a council member of the local government or of any other local government.

**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 amending the appointment to the Deputy of the Presiding Member would result in the Shire not being statutory compliant. | Unlikely (2) | Minor (2) | Low (1-4) | Adopting the officer recommendation. |

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. Supports the correction of the appointment of Mr Du Vu Vo as the Deputy of the Presiding Member of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with section 5.11A of the *Local Government Act 1995* with the term expiring on 16 October 2027;
2. Agrees to increase the meeting attendance fee for the independent Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk Improvement Committee to $1,093 (being 90% of the prescribed maximum); and
3. Approves of the minor amendments to the Committees and Working Groups Booklet, as detailed at Attachment 2.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Council Decision** | **052/2026** |
| **Moved** | **Cr L Rumble JP** |
| **Seconded** | **Cr T Fox** |

**That Council:**

1. **Supports the correction of the appointment of Mr Du Vu Vo as the Deputy of the Presiding Member of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with section 5.11A of the *Local Government Act 1995* with the term expiring on 16 October 2027;**
2. **Agrees to increase the meeting attendance fee for the independent Presiding Member of the Audit, Risk Improvement Committee to $1,093 (being 90% of the prescribed maximum); and**
3. **Approves of the minor amendments to the Committees and Working Groups Booklet, as detailed at Attachment 2.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **For:** | **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers** |
| **Against:** | **Nil** |

**Carried By Absolute Majority 8/0**

## 13.6 Emergency Expenditure Approved by the Shire President - Cyclone Narelle

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | FM31 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | D Kennedy, Director Corporate Services |
| **Authorising Officer** | K Woodward, Chief Executive Officer |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Nil |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | Nil |

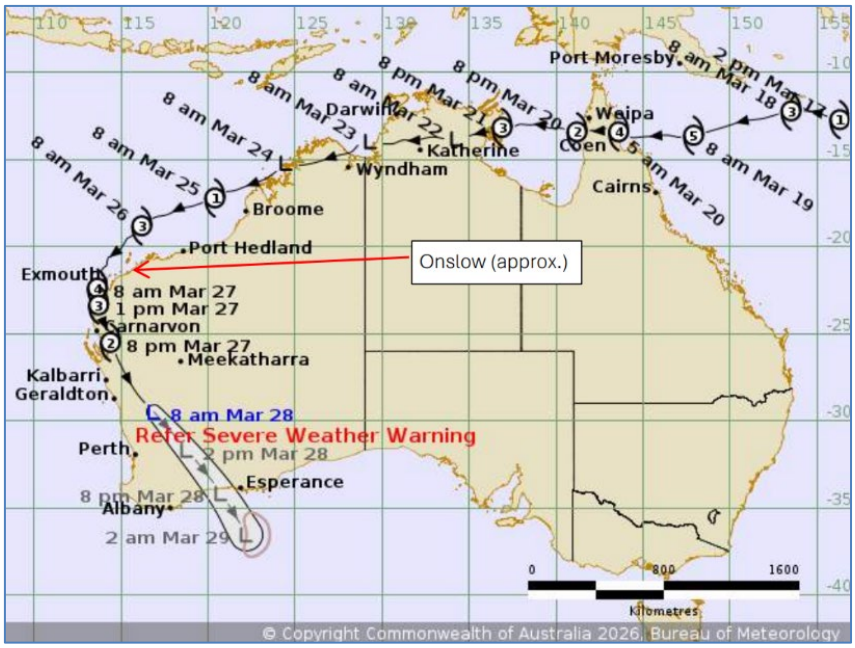
### Report Purpose

To fulfill the legislative compliance requirement for Council to acknowledge the emergency expenditure authorised by the Shire President following Tropical Cyclone Narelle (2026) impact on Onslow and surrounding areas.

The report also provides an update on the actions taken in response to this significant weather event.

### Background

Tropical Cyclone Narelle (2026) was a large and complex tropical system that developed in mid-March 2026 near the Solomon Islands before tracking westward across northern Australia. The cyclone intensified over warm waters, reaching severe intensity (up to Category 5 with winds exceeding 200 km/h), and followed an unusually long path across Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. TC Narelle crossed the Western Australian coast on Friday, 27 March 2026, making landfall near Exmouth/Coral Bay as a severe Category 4 tropical cyclone.



Onslow and the immediate surrounds were impacted by significant winds, storm surge and rainfall, as the system passed. In addition to private property impacts, some Shire infrastructure and facilities sustained substantial damage.

Under Section 6.8(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire President has authority to authorise emergency expenditure in situations where immediate action is necessary.

On Sunday, 29 March 2026, Shire President Smith and the Chief Executive Officer travelled to Onslow to inspect community and Shire assets. Engagement occurred that facilitated authorisation to undertake emergency expenditure to support necessary remedial works, for damage sustained to Shire assets and facilities.

**Comments**

**Actions taken in response to the storm**

The following actions were undertaken in response to the recent storm events:

1. Incident Management and Coordination
    - Activation of the Shire's Emergency Response Plan.
    - Collaboration with emergency services (e.g., State Emergency Service (SES), Police, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Servies (DFES)).
2. Community Support
    - Provision of welfare assistance to affected residents and cleanup crews.
    - Communication updates via social media, the Shire website, and local radio.
3. Assessment and Reporting
    - Ongoing assessment of damages and cost estimations for permanent repairs.
    - Liaison with Shire's insurer – Local Government Insurance Services (LGIS) and the appointment of a loss adjuster – Charles Taylor Adjusting.

**Direct Impacted on Shire Operations and Assets**

Removal of Debris and Opening up Activities

In the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, town-wide debris removal was necessary to clear fallen trees and storm material, address safety hazards, and reopen access routes to support a return to normal daily living.

Separately, significant works were required to remove and manage rock wall soil displaced into the Ocean View Caravan Park and nearby coastal areas. The Shire received great support from many local business and contractors that enabled Onslow to return to some level of normality within a couple of days.

Initial estimates are that the cost of this cleanup will exceed $500,000. This expense is not covered by insurance or claimable under DFES disaster recovery arrangements and will therefore be an unbudgeted expense.

Damage to Onslow Foreshore Rock Wall & Staircase

The foreshore rock wall protecting essential public infrastructure in Onslow—from Anzac Park along First Avenue and past Onslow Beach Resort—sustained significant undermining in multiple locations, including around one set of concrete stairs. A structural engineer has inspected the full length of the structure and is preparing remediation options. If, as anticipated, the scope includes reconstruction of sections of the rock wall, the works are expected to be high cost. Officers are currently investigating the availability of disaster recovery funding to support these repairs.

Ocean View Caravan Park

Water ingress to one ablution block caused significant damage, with minor water damage also sustained to multiple onsite cabins. A builder has been engaged to undertake the required repairs, which are expected to be largely covered by insurance. These works are being prioritised to minimise impacts ahead of the peak tourist season.

Notably, the recently completed Stage 3 works at Ocean View Caravan Park performed extremely well, with no damage sustained.

Staff Housing

Most staff housing sustained minor impacts (including minor water ingress and fence damage), which are being addressed through normal maintenance operations.

More significant damage was sustained at 11B Otway, 15 First Avenue (CEO Residence) and 7 First Avenue (Transit). Structural engineering reports have been obtained, and the scope of repair works is currently being finalised.

At 11B Otway (purchased by the Shire in 2024), non-compliant upstairs balcony sliding doors were identified. These doors are understood to have contributed to the water ingress that caused the majority of the internal damage. While the resulting damage to flooring and downstairs ceilings is expected to be covered by insurance, the cost to remove the non-compliant doors and install compliant replacement doors (to prevent future water ingress) will be borne by the Shire.

Both First Avenue properties are more than 50 years old and contain asbestos. Officers are assessing response options, which may include demolition of 7 First Avenue given the extent of internal damage. Damage at 15 First Avenue is largely external and remediation may extend the property's useful life for a further period; however, in the longer term the building is beyond its effective life and will be considered for redevelopment in the medium term.

The five recently constructed houses at Watson Drive sustained minor water ingress, which is being rectified by the builder under the defects liability period.

Liquid Waste Pond Liner Failure – Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility

The Pilbara Regional Waste Management Facility (PRWMF) includes two large liquid waste ponds constructed in 2024. Anchor points along one wall of one pond have failed, causing the liner to detach, fold over on itself and slump into the pond. While an environmental breach is not believed to have occurred, significant repair works will be required to reinstate the pond and return it to operational use. The incident was reported to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as required by the sites licence conditions.

The design engineer has inspected the pond and provided a remediation scope of works. A specialist liner contractor and civil contractor are currently being engaged, and it is anticipated that repairs will be completed in the coming weeks (subject to contractor availability and weather conditions).

As with other civil infrastructure (e.g., roads, drainage and footpaths), the ponds are not covered by insurance and the cost of repairs will therefore be borne by the Shire. The design, construction and Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) documentation have been reviewed and, at this stage, do not indicate a basis for the Shire to pursue a professional indemnity claim against any contractor involved.

In addition to the immediate repairs (which may exceed $150,000), further preventative works around the full perimeter of both ponds are being considered to reduce the likelihood of a similar failure occurring in future.

Onslow Transfer Station – Dome Shelter

The roof cover on the large dome shelter at the Transfer Station was destroyed during the cyclone.

The structure has been assessed by the Structural Engineer and replacement is being pursued via the LGIS insurance claim process.

Onslow Multi-Purpose Centre – MPC

The air-conditioning system sustained damage, and significant water ingress resulted in ceiling damage in multiple areas of the building.

A roofing inspection report is being obtained to confirm the extent of damage. The majority of repair costs are expected to be covered by insurance.

Given the age of the building, the roofing report is also expected to identify pre-existing maintenance requirements that have contributed to the water ingress (including renewal of flashing and replacement of Tek screws). Any such maintenance works would be the responsibility of the Shire.

Airport

The airport sustained damage to perimeter fencing, windsocks, gable markers, runway lighting and air conditioning units. Temporary repairs have allowed the Airport to resume operations.

Insurance claim is being progressed that is expected to cover the majority of repair costs.

**Consultation**

Shire President
SES, Police & DFES
LGIS
Charles Taylor Adjusting – Loss adjuster appointed by LGIS
Sequel Consulting Engineers

**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**

Council Policies » Shire of Ashburton

Council Policy – Purchasing and Procurement

**Financial Implications**

Current Financial Year

The impact on the Shire's 2025/26 budget is unable to be quantified at this point. Approximately $300,000 has been incurred to date, with the majority of this on immediate make safe works and the clearance of debris.

Insurance will cover a portion of the damage sustained to property and a disaster fund application will be pursued for the damage to the rock wall.

Outside of this the Shire is expected to have unbudgeted expenditure of up to $1 million relating to emergency expenditure as a result of Tropical Cyclone Narelle. This will be more quantifiable in the coming months, but will invariably reduce the operating surplus for 2025/26.

In addition to the above, the Shire has incurred approximately $150,000 in stand down costs related to Stage 1 of the Onslow Streetscape project. This will be funded from the contingency budget allocated to this project.

Future Financial Year(s)

Minimal financial impact on future financial years with the majority of expenditure expected to have occurred before 30 June 2026.

**Legislative Implications**

*Local Government Act 1995, section 6.8 (1)(c) & (2)(b)*

Section 6.8(1)(c) & (2)(b) - Expenditure from municipal fund not included in annual budget

*(1)* A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure —

(c) is authorised in advance by the mayor or president in an emergency.

(2) Where expenditure has been incurred by a local government —

(b) pursuant to subsection (1)(c), it is to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

**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 meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 following the incursion of emergency expenditure. | Unlikely (2) | Minor (2) | Low (1-4) | Reporting meets the statutory compliance requirements. |

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 with respect to the Emergency Expenditure approved by the President, Council,

1. Note the decision by the Shire President to authorise emergency expenditure following the impact of Tropical Cyclone Narelle on the Onslow area on 26 and 27 March 2026 in accordance with Section 6.8(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995.*
2. Note the summary of actions contained within the report;
3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a further update report to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting; and
4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to consider the financial impacts of Tropical Cyclone Narelle, as part of budget deliberations for 2026/27.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Council Decision** | **053/2026** |
| **Moved** | **Cr B Noone** |
| **Seconded** | **Cr K Day** |

**That with respect to the Emergency Expenditure approved by the President, Council,**

1. **Note the decision by the Shire President to authorise emergency expenditure following the impact of Tropical Cyclone Narelle on the Onslow area on 26 and 27 March 2026 in accordance with Section 6.8(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995.***
2. **Note the summary of actions contained within the report;**
3. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a further update report to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting; and**
4. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to consider the financial impacts of Tropical Cyclone Narelle, as part of budget deliberations for 2026/27.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

# 14 Infrastructure Services Reports

Nil

# 15 Community Development Reports

## 15.1 Proposed Licence for a Portion of Lot 201, Onslow Airport to Network Aviation (Qantas Airways)

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | ONS.0016 - TT06.21 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | P Jayasinghe, Lease and Accommodation Officer |
| **Authorising Officer** | C McGurk, Director Community Development |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Ordinary Council Meeting 16 April 2024 - Item 12.2 – 071/2024 |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Annexure A - Plan of Proposed Licensed Area<br>2. Draft Commercial Licence Agreement - Qantas |

### Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider entering into a new commercial licence agreement with Qantas Airways Limited (Network Aviation) for a portion of Lot 201 on Deposited Plan 422498, Onslow Airport, Onslow, Western Australia.

Council is requested to support the endorsement of the proposed commercial licence agreement with Qantas Airways Limited.

### Background

Qantas Airways Limited operates regular air services that support resource industry operations and regional connectivity through the Onslow Airport. The airport is owned and managed by the Shire of Ashburton and provides essential aviation infrastructure for charter, regular public transport, and fly-in fly-out (FIFO) services servicing the Onslow region.

On 4 May 2024, Qantas Airways Limited (Network Aviation) commenced a licence agreement with the Shire of Ashburton for the use of facilities within the Onslow Airport Terminal (Portion of Lot 201 on Deposited Plan 422498 and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 4012 Folio 477. That portion of the Land depicted on the Plan annexed hereto as Annexure A – Plan of Proposed Licensed Area (Attachment 1). The agreement formalised the airline's use of designated areas within the terminal to support its operational requirements, including passenger processing and related airline activities.

The existing licence agreement has since expired, and a new agreement is required to formalise the continued use of the airport terminal facilities by Qantas Airways Limited.

### Comments

The Shire's Leasing team, in collaboration with the Onslow Airport Manager, have worked to obtain a market valuation dated 9 July 2025 from Property Valuation & Advisory Services (WA) Pty Ltd for specified leasable spaces at the airport to ensure the proposed licence agreement reflects fair and current market rates.

To secure a new licence agreement with Qantas Airways Limited on portion of Lot 201 McAullay Road, Onslow, the requirements of section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995* apply.

The following terms are proposed in the licence:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Licensed Area** | That part of the Land outlined on the plan. (Refer to Attachment 1) |
| **Term** | Two years commencing from the date of execution by all parties |
| **Further Term** | One further term of two years |
| **Permitted Hours of Use** | All hours as required to fulfill the obligations of the airline operator. |
| **Licence Fee** | **Licence Fee**: Forty four thousand six hundred dollars ($44,600) per annum exclusive of GST<br>**Manner of Payment**: $3,716.66 + GST payable monthly in advance from the commencement of the Term |
| **Licence Fee Review Date** | (a) CPI Review Dates: Not Applicable<br>(b) Market Review Dates: Not applicable<br>(c) Fixed Review Dates: Commencement of each anniversary date<br>(d) Fixed Rate: Fixed 3% per annum |
| **Permitted Use** | Shared operation airport facilities |
| **Security Deposit** | Nil |
| **Bank Guarantee Amount** | Nil |
| **Guarantor** | Not applicable |

### Consultation

Manager Airport Services
Qantas Airways Limited (Network Aviation)
Manager Facilities
Valuation Consultant – Property Valuation & Advisory (WA)
Director – Community Development
Leasing and Accommodation Officers

### 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 | 3.2 Aviation transport opportunities for the community |
| Strategy | 2 Focus on, and deliver, safe and enhanced services and facilities. |

### Council Policy

Nil

## Financial Implications

Current Financial Year

If agreement is endorsed by all relevant parties and an executed license commences prior to end of financial year, it would generate the license fee as income at $44,600 exclusive of GST per annum.

Future Financial Year(s)

The Shire will continue to derive an income of $44,600, plus GST for the licensed premises, noting that the total term is 4 years, including options. This is subject to an annual fixed rate increase of 3% per annum.

## Legislative Implications

### *Local Government Act 1995* Section 3.58

Section 3.58 sets out three means of disposing of property; under subsection (2)(2) by auction, or by (b) buy public tender, and under subsection (3) by the process referred to as 'private treaty', which is the process of this proposed licence. As required, should Council consent to disposing via licence, local public notice will be undertaken.

### *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*

An Airside Access Application must be completed in accordance with the Aerodrome's Transport Security Plan (TSP) to meet our obligations as an airport operator.

### *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR)*

In accordance with the Onslow Aerodrome Manual and Part 139 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASAR),* airport tenants are responsible for controlling airside access through their licenced areas.

As Onslow Airport is a security-controlled aerodrome, Aviation Security Identification Cards (ASICs) are to be worn and clearly displayed when airside, and high-visibility vests are also required. An aerodrome induction will also need to be undertaken.

## 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** | No formal licence agreement in place resulting in loss of income and unclear tenant obligations | Possible (3) | Moderate (3) | Moderate (5-9) | Enter into a formal licence agreement |

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. Approves, subject to compliance with section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995,* entering into a Licence Agreement with Qantas Airways Limited for shared use of a portion of the terminal facilities on Lot 201 on Deposited Plan 422498, located at Onslow Airport, as detailed in Attachment 1 for a period of 2 years, with one further option periods of 2 years, with the annual licence fee payable, commencing $44,600 plus GST.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the details of the proposed Licence Agreement at Lot 201 McAullay Road, Onslow with Qantas Airways Limited, by way of local public notice for a period of not less than two weeks.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to consider and determine any submissions received in response to point 2 and negotiate and execute the Licence Agreement as provided at Attachment 2 and any associated documents for the portion of Lot 201 McAullay Road, Onslow (Onslow Airport) between the Shire of Ashburton and Qantas Airways Limited; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute future deeds of renewal with Qantas Airways Limited for the further terms available under the Licence, subject to Qantas Airways Limited complying with the licence requirements during the preceding term.

**Council Decision** **054/2026**

**Moved** **Cr L Rumble JP**

**Seconded** **Cr A Sullivan**

**That Council:**

1. **Approves, subject to compliance with section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995,* entering into a Licence Agreement with Qantas Airways Limited for shared use of a portion of the terminal facilities on Lot 201 on Deposited Plan 422498, located at Onslow Airport, as detailed in Attachment 1 for a period of 2 years, with one further option periods of 2 years, with the annual licence fee payable, commencing $44,600 plus GST.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the details of the proposed Licence Agreement at Lot 201 McAullay Road, Onslow with Qantas Airways Limited, by way of local public notice for a period of not less than two weeks.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to consider and determine any submissions received in response to point 2 and negotiate and execute the Licence Agreement as provided at Attachment 2 and any associated documents for the portion of Lot 201 McAullay Road, Onslow (Onslow Airport) between the Shire of Ashburton and Qantas Airways Limited; and**
4. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute future deeds of renewal with Qantas Airways Limited for the further terms available under the Licence, subject to Qantas Airways Limited complying with the licence requirements during the preceding term.**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

**Council Decision** **055/2026**

**Moved** **Cr C Rogers**

**Seconded** **Cr K Day**

**That Council approve Councillor Noone as the Presiding Member for the following Item 15.2 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship..**

**For:** **A Smith, A Sullivan, K White, T Fox, L Rumble JP, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against:** **Nil**

**Carried 8/0**

*SP A Smith disclosed a direct financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr L Rumble JP disclosed a direct financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr B Noone disclosed an indirect financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr T Fox disclosed an indirect financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr C Rogers disclosed a direct financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr K Day disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

*Cr A Sullivan disclosed a direct financial interest in Item 15.2 (detailed in Item 5.2).*

At 1:39 pm, Cr Alana Sullivan left the meeting.

At 1:39 pm, SP Audra Smith left the meeting.

At 1:39 pm, Cr Linton Rumble JP left the meeting.

## 15.2 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship

| | |
|---|---|
| **File Reference** | GS01 |
| **Applicant or Proponent(s)** | Not Applicable |
| **Author** | T Taylor, Manager Communities |
| **Authorising Officer** | C McGurk, Director Community Development |
| **Previous Meeting Reference** | Ordinary Council Meeting 19 August 2025 - Item 6.6 – 145/2025 |
| **Disclosure(s) of interest** | Author – Nil |
| | Authorising Officer – Nil |
| **Attachments** | 1. Nameless Festival Committee Correspondence<br>2. Nameless Festival AGM Minutes |

### Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to reconsider of the proposed sponsorship for the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival, following the Nameless Festival Committee not meeting the conditions of the 19 August 2025 Council recommendation.

Council is requested to the support the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival with a total sponsorship package of $150,000, with $75,000 from the Inspire Community Partnership and $75,000 from Shire funds.

### Background

At its August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council endorsed the sponsorship for the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival with the condition that the Nameless Festival Committee held a successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) by 31 December 2025.

*Council Decision* *001/2025*

*Moved* *Cr R de Pledge*

*Seconded* *Cr B Healy*

*That the Community Grants Committee recommends that Council endorse a sponsorship of the 2026 Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival for the amount of $150,000 from General Ledger C3634, subject to this funding being approved in the 2025/2026 Annual Budget and the following conditions being complied with:*

1. *The allocated sponsorship funding is not to be disbursed until the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that the Nameless Festival Committee:*
   - *(a) has held a successful Annual General Meeting by 31 December 2025, in accordance with the requirements outlined in their Constitution to ensure they have a committee to deliver the 2026 Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival;*
   - *(b) has provided the Shire with a detailed 2026 Nameless Jarndunmunha Festival sponsorship package*

*For:* *K White, R de Pledge, M Lynch, B Healy and R Kapor*

*Against:* *Nil*

*Carried 5/0*

The Nameless Festival Committee held an AGM on 7 December 2025, however when Shire officers received the minutes for this meeting on 9 December 2025, it was identified that the Nameless Festival Committee did not have quorum in attendance to deem the AGM compliant as per their Constitution.

Between 9 December 2025 and 18 December 2025, Shire officers and the Nameless Festival Committee had numerous communications via email and phone to advise of this and determine what next steps the Committee needed to take (Attachment 1).

On 19 December 2025, a briefing note was prepared and sent to Elected Members providing an update on the status of the Nameless Festival Committee and the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival.

**Comments**

While the Nameless Festival Committee did not meet the timeframe required in the August 2025 recommendation, they held a successful AGM on 29 January 2026 (Attachment 2) and are moving forward with the planning and delivery of the 2026 Festival.

The Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival has historically been an integral part of the Tom Price community since 1969. The festival was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, with a welcome return in 2022. Unfortunately, the festival was unable to take place in 2023 and 2024 due to no committee being formed. In 2025 the Shire, together with Rio Tinto, through the Inspire Community Partnership, delivered the Inspire Festival in place of the Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival to deliver a festival to the community of Tom Price, thus allowing further time for the Nameless Festival Committee to form and take back the delivery of the festival.

It is important to acknowledge that the event has faced challenges in recent years due to the inability to form a functioning committee. Additional to these challenges, the current committee is now faced with a short time frame to plan and deliver the event in August 2026.

Council is requested to support the original sponsorship proposal of $150,000 for the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival understanding that funds will not be distributed to the Nameless Festival Committee until the following documentation has been received:

- Insurance documentation
- 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship Package

While supportive of the current Committee's efforts, any sponsorship and release of funds should be carefully considered by Council with appropriate safeguards and conditions to ensure accountability and delivery as outlined in the financial section of this report.

**Consultation**

Nameless Festival Committee
Manager Communities
Director Community Development
Director Corporate 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 Policies » Shire of Ashburton

Community Donations, Grants and Funding

**Financial Implications**

Current Financial Year

If approved, the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival will be a total sponsorship package of $150,000, with $75,000 contributed from the Inspire Community Partnership and $75,000 contributed from Shire funds utilising General Ledger C3634.

Provided the required documentation is provided by the Nameless Festival Committee, the sponsorship will be paid in two (2) milestone payments of $75,000 as listed below:

Milestone One (1)

$75,000 to be paid on receiving the required documentation

Milestone Two (2)

$75,000 to paid on receiving copies of invoices paid to the total of $75,000 from the Milestone One (1) payment.

Future Financial Year(s)

The Nameless Festival Committee have been advised of the Shire of Ashburton's Council Policy - Community Donations, Grants and Funding which outlines our process to provide funding to Signature Events. Future funding will be considered under this Policy.

**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)** | Failing to support such a major event in Tom Price could cause reputational damage to the Shire. | Possible (3) | Minor (2) | Moderate (5-9) | To provide sponsorship support to the event that also supports Council strategy and policy. |

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 endorses sponsorship of the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival for $150,000 from General Ledger C3634, subject to the following conditions being complied with:

a) Insurance documentation and the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship Package has been provided by the Nameless Festival Committee,

b) The Chief Executive Officer (or Delegated Officer) is satisfied the Sponsorship Agreement clearly outlines all conditions of sponsorship, including milestone payments, and

c) The Chief Executive Officer (or Delegated Officer) and two members of the Nameless Festival Committee have signed and returned the Sponsorship Agreement.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Council Decision** | **056/2026** |
| **Moved** | **Cr K Day** |
| **Seconded** | **Cr C Rogers** |

**That Council endorses sponsorship of the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival for $150,000 from General Ledger C3634, subject to the following conditions being complied with:**

**a) Insurance documentation and the 2026 Jarndunmunha (Nameless) Festival Sponsorship Package has been provided by the Nameless Festival Committee,**

**b) The Chief Executive Officer (or Delegated Officer) is satisfied the Sponsorship Agreement clearly outlines all conditions of sponsorship, including milestone payments, and**

**c) The Chief Executive Officer (or Delegated Officer) and two members of the Nameless Festival Committee have signed and returned the Sponsorship Agreement.**

**For: K White, T Fox, K Day, B Noone and C Rogers**

**Against: Nil**

**Carried 5/0**

At 1:40 pm, SP Audra Smith returned to the meeting.

At 1:40 pm, Cr Alana Sullivan returned to the meeting.

At 1:40 pm, Cr Linton Rumble JP returned to the meeting.

# 16 Councillor Agenda Items / Notices of Motion

Nil

# 17 New Business Of An Urgent Nature Introduced By Council Decision

# 18 Confidential Matters

Nil

# 19 Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at Council Chambers, Onslow Shire Complex, Second Avenue, Onslow.

# 20 Closure Of Meeting

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 1:41pm.