

WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 27 November 2025

Cunderdin Sport & Recreation Centre



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WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in Cunderdin on Thursday 27 November 2025.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Charmaine Thomson as the newly elected Chair of WEROC Inc. advised prior to the meeting of her preference for Ms. Lisa O'Neill to Chair the meeting. Accordingly, Ms. Lisa O'Neill welcomed members of the Board and opened the meeting at 10.18am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Bryan Close

Mr. Mark Crees

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Ms. Alison Harris

Mr. Stuart Hobley

Mr. Andrew Malone

Ms. Lisa O'Neill (Chair)

Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan

Ms. Emily Ryan

Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Nic Warren

Mr. Craig Watts

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Mark Furr

Mr. Bill Price

2.3 Guests

Ms. Jasmine Grier, Deputy CEO, Shire of Westonia

Meegan Smith, Principal Hydrogeologist, Water Technology (joined the meeting at 11.10am and left at 11.30am)

Dr. Glenn Harrington, Senior Principal Hydrogeologist, Water Technology (joined the meeting at 11.10am and left at 11.30am)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As per Clause 42 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, “a member of the management committee of an incorporated association who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must, as soon as the member becomes aware of the interest, disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the management committee”.

Name	Agenda Item / Initiative	Disclosure
Rebekah Burges	7.1 Executive Officer Services Contract Review	Ms. Rebekah Burges declares an interest in this matter as an employee of 150 Square, who currently hold the contract for WEROC Executive Services and are applying for an extension of this contract.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Southern Cross on Tuesday 14 October 2025 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Southern Cross on Tuesday 14 October 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Alison Harris

Seconded: Mr. Nic Warren

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Southern Cross on Tuesday 14 October 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4.2 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2025

Attachment 1: Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting 4112025

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee held in Perth on Tuesday 4 November 2025 are provided as an attachment.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Perth on Tuesday 4 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Craig Watts

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held in Perth on Tuesday 4 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4.3 Business Arising – Status Reports

4.3.1 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 14 October 2025

Attachment 2. Letter to Minister Saffioti regarding the state of the Great Eastern Highway

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
5.2 Business Arising	Arrange WEROC CEO Committee meeting to continue discussion on shared resources.	A CEO Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 4 November 2025. A meeting with WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan is scheduled for Monday 15 December to discuss the possibility of shared resourcing arrangements out of WALGA.
7.1 Corella Management	Advise Wheatbelt NRM that WEROC wish to decline their invitation to rejoin the Corella Management Project in its final year.	An email was sent to Wheatbelt NRM CEO, Ms. Renata Paliskis 27 October 2025 advising of WEROC's decision to decline the invitation to re-join the project.
7.2 Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail map reprint	Proceed with printing up to 5,000 copies of the map if the price is less than \$2,000.	The map re-print has been completed. The maps will be distributed to members at the November meeting.
8.2 Strategic Waste Management	Defer discussions to a WEROC CEO Committee meeting.	A CEO Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 4 November 2025.
8.4 Marketing	WEROC to become a member of Australia's Golden Outback	A membership application has been completed.
9.1 Great Eastern Highway	1) Prepare a letter to be sent to relevant Ministers regarding the state of the Great Eastern Highway. 2) Request advocacy support from RDA Wheatbelt.	A letter (refer to Attachment 2) was sent to Minister Saffioti on 5 November 2025. The Member for the Central Wheatbelt was copied in on the correspondence with Minister Saffioti. A copy of the letter was forwarded to Josh Pomykala, Director Regional Development at RDA Wheatbelt, with a request for advice on the best way to get this matter on the radar with the federal government. Mr. Pomykala advised that he would contact Minister King's senior advisor to discuss the appropriate channels to get it shortcut directly to the Minister. Sam McLeod, Executive Officer of the Great Eastern Country Zone contacted the WEROC Executive Officer requesting a copy of the letter to assist in preparing their own advocacy piece.
10.1 Opportunity for locally based	Request that the Wheatbelt Development Commission come	A request was sent via email to Ms. Renee Manning, who advised that the WDC would be happy to be involved in a discussion about what

sub-regional planner	back to the group with a proposed model for a sub-regional service.	a model for sub-regional planning services in the region might look like.
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4.3.2 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2025

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
5.1 Water	Pending confirmation of a successful grant outcome, appoint Water Technology to undertake the WEROC water audits and invite them to the WEROC Board meeting on 27 November to kick off the project.	The outcome of the Community Water Supply Partnership Program application was advised on 18 November 2025.
5.2 Waste Management	1. Mr. Mark Furr to contact Western Metro Regional Council to enquire about community education support. 2. Managing Director of Avon Waste to be invited to a WEROC CEO Committee meeting in early 2026.	Refer to agenda item 8.2.
5.3 Shared Resources	Arrange meeting with WALGA CEO to discuss the potential for WALGA to host shared resources and offer this as an add-on service for members.	A meeting with Mr. Nick Sloan, WALGA CEO, is scheduled for Monday 15 December 2025.
6.3 Volunteer Emergency Services	Add as an item to the WEROC Inc. Board meeting agenda for 27 November, a motion to endorse NEWROC's policy position.	Refer to agenda item 7.3
6.4 Housing	Request additional information from the Wheatbelt Development Commission to enable the Shires of Bruce Rock and Tammin to be included in the business case and cost-benefit analysis.	Refer to agenda item 8.1

Recommendation:

That the status reports be received.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer advised that Minister Saffioti's office has responded to WEROC's letter regarding the Great Eastern Highway, advising that the Minister has asked her Senior Policy Adviser from Main Roads to meet with WEROC on her behalf.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Andrew Malone

Seconded: Ms. Alison Harris

That the status reports be received.

CARRIED

5. WEROC INC. FINANCE

5.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 October 2025

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 7 May 2025 the budget for the financial year commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026 was adopted. The approved Budget for 2025-26 is used as the basis for the financial report.

An explanation for each of the notations on the financial report is provided below.

Note 1	Annual member contributions
Note 2	Interest paid on term deposit
Note 3	GST received
Note 4	Executive Officer Services.
Note 5	Executive Officer travel to meetings.
Note 6	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software
Note 7	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for 2024-25 financial year audit
Note 8	Payments to Australia's Golden Outback for cooperative marketing, Flat Earth Mapping for the update to the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail, the Shire of Merredin for social media management for the drive trail, JE Planning for the workforce housing investigation and Econosis for the key worker housing business case and cost-benefit-analysis drafts.
Note 9	Payments to Local Community Insurance Services for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers compensation insurance - Association Liability insurance - Public and Products Liability insurance - Personal Accident insurance - Cyber insurance
Note 10	GST paid
Note 11	Payment to ATO for Q4, 2024-25 BAS

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

		Budget 2025/2026	Actual to 31/10/2025	Notes
	INCOME			
0501	General Subscriptions	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0575	Interest received	\$4,392.33	\$4,392.33	2
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	

	GST Output Tax	\$8,400.00	\$8,400.00	3
	GST Refunds	\$6,399.00	\$0.00	
	Total Receipts	\$103,191.33	\$96,792.33	
	EXPENSES			
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$38,920.00	\$10,118.18	4
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$3,080.00	\$272.00	5
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,080.00	\$272.72	6
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,100.00	\$1,036.00	7
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$22,631.82	8
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$900.00	\$480.00	
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,232.43	9
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1854	Transfer to Term Deposit	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	
3384	GST Input Tax	\$12,518.00	\$3,754.17	10
	ATO Payments	\$9,088.71	\$3,618.00	11
	Total Payments	\$146,786.71	\$48,415.32	
	Net Position	-\$43,595.38	\$48,377.01	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$94,312.12	\$99,971.03	
	CASH BALANCE	\$50,716.74	\$148,348.04	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July to 31 October 2025, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Nic Warren

Seconded: Ms. Emily Ryan

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July to 31 October 2025, be received.

CARRIED

5.2 Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance		\$167,671.04		
01 Oct 2025	JE Planning	0.00	\$2,200	\$165,471.04
06 Oct 2025	150 Square Pty Ltd	0.00	\$2,735	\$162,736.04
27 Oct 2025	Econisis Pty Ltd	0.00	\$6,930	\$155,806.04
28 Oct 2025	Econisis Pty Ltd	0.00	\$6,930	\$148,876.04
31 Oct 2025	PWD Australia	0.00	\$528	\$148,348.04
TOTAL		0.00	\$19,323	
Closing balance		\$148,348.04		

Balance Sheet

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc
As at 31 October 2025

31 Oct 2025

Assets		
Bank		
Term Deposit		100,000.00
Westpac Community Solution One		148,348.04
Total Bank		248,348.04
Total Assets		248,348.04
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST		1,738.82
Total Current Liabilities		1,738.82
Non-current Liabilities		
GST Clearing		2,894.00
Total Non-current Liabilities		2,894.00
Total Liabilities		4,632.82
Net Assets		243,715.22
Equity		
Current Year Earnings		47,349.18
Retained Earnings		196,366.04
Total Equity		243,715.22

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025 totalling \$19,323 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 October 2025 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Seconded: Ms. Charmaine Thomson

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 October to 31 October 2025 totalling \$19,323 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 October 2025 be noted.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Water Technology, 10.45am

At the WEROC Inc. CEO Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025 the two proposals received to undertake the WEROC water audits/strategies were discussed, and it was resolved that Water Technology would be engaged to conduct the WEROC water audits, pending notification of a successful CWSP outcome.

WEROC were successful in obtaining a grant of \$100,000 to undertake this project. Meegan Smith and Dr. Glenn Harrington from Water Technology have been invited to the WEROC Board meeting to commence the WEROC water planning project.

Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. Alison Harris asked whether any research was available on cloud seeding. Dr. Harrington advised that research does exist, though it is predominantly focused on the east coast. They confirmed they can synthesise the available information and incorporate it into the report.
- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan noted concerns regarding water loss through dam evaporation and queried how captured water could be better retained. Dr. Harrington advised that they have modelling that can be used to estimate these losses.
- The approach to local engagement was discussed. Given the time of year, it was acknowledged that meeting with key community stakeholders may be challenging. It was therefore agreed that Water Technology would undertake initial data collection during December and January (e.g., via an online survey), followed by in-person engagement in February or March.
- To support their information gathering, Water Technology will require data from the Shires, such as known consumption rates, details of existing water sources, and water infrastructure mapping.
- Mr. Andrew Malone indicated that the Shire of Tammin would be interested in exploring desalination options for irrigation of green spaces.
- Dr. Harrington queried whether saline water could be used for firefighting purposes, noting this may present an opportunity.
- Mr. Craig Watts emphasised that the overarching objective of the project is to maximise the value of every drop of water.

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1 WEROC Water Audit

Author:	Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	<i>Attachment 3: Letter from Minister Punch RE: CWSP application outcome</i> <i>Attachment 4: Funding Agreement DWER</i> <i>Attachment 5: Water Technology Consultant Contract</i>
Consultation:	Water Technology

Financial Implications: \$7,000 plus travel and audit related expenses

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

WEROC Inc. applied to the Community Water Supplies Partnership Program in mid-May 2025, seeking funding to develop water strategies for each of the seven WEROC local governments. On 18 November 2025, the Executive Officer received a letter from Minister Punch advising that WEROCs application for a \$100,000 grant has been approved. On the same day a funding agreement was forwarded by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for signing. The following milestones are incorporated into the agreement:

Milestone		Milestone Payment		Original Milestone Date
		%	\$	
1	Signing of Funding Agreement	50%	\$50,000	On signing
2	Review of draft reports	30%	\$30,000	28 March 2026
3	Final report delivered and signed off	20%	\$20,000	28 June 2026
	Final Completion / Project Close Project closure and acquittal.			
		100%	\$100,000	

Executive Officer Comment:

At the WEROC Inc. meeting held on 7 May 2025 it was resolved as follows:

That WEROC Inc. proceed with an application to the Community Water Supply Partnerships Program for the full cash component of the water strategy project and each Shire will contribute in-kind to cover the 30% co-contribution requirement.

Subsequent to this meeting, the Executive Officer advised via email, prior to submitting the application, that a cash contribution from WEROC would be required to adhere to the 30% co-contribution requirement. An amendment to the previous resolution is required to meet WEROC's financial obligation to this project.

On Tuesday 18 November 2025, the Executive Officer emailed Board Members advising the successful outcome and requesting approval to sign the Funding Agreement with DWER and the consulting services contract with Water Technology. Responses in favour of signing the documents were received from:

Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Mr. Mark Furr

Mr. Craig Watts

Mr. Andrew Malone

Ms. Emily Ryan

Ms. Charmain Thomson

Ms. Alison Harriss

Mr. Bill Price

Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

As this constituted a majority, the Executive Officer executed the signing of the documents. The decision is now presented for endorsement for recording purposes.

Recommendation:

That:

- 1) The Board ratify the signing of the funding agreement and consultant contract,

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2) Endorse the allocation of \$7,000 from the consultancy budget line item toward the consultant fees,3) Sufficient funds are reserved in the consultancy budget to cover consultant travel and audit related expenses. |
|--|

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Craig Watts requested that the Executive Officer prepare a form or template that can be used to record in-kind amounts from the Shires to ensure consistency.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Craig Watts

Seconded: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

That:

- 1) The Board ratify the signing of the funding agreement and consultant contract,
- 2) Endorse the allocation of \$7,000 from the consultancy budget line item toward the consultant fees,
- 3) Sufficient funds are reserved in the consultancy budget to cover consultant travel and audit related expenses.

CARRIED

7.2 Contract Review – Executive Officer Services

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: As noted in Agenda item 3.

Attachments: Attachment 6: WEROC EO Quote 2026-2029

Consultation: 150 Square Strategic Solutions

Financial Implications: As per proposal

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The provision of Executive Services to the WEROC Inc. Board is outsourced on a fixed term contract basis. The current contract for delivery of Executive Services is held by 150 Square Strategic Solutions with a term expiring on 28 February 2026.

Executive Officer Comment:

A proposal has been submitted by 150 Square to deliver Executive Services for a further three-year term. The rate of this service has been \$70 inc. GST for the past two years and an increase to \$77 inc. GST was budgeted for in this financial year. The proposed amount is greater than anticipated but will not apply until March 2026 and so the budgeted amount for Executive Services in the 2025/26 financial year is sufficient to cover this increase.

The Executive Officer left the room while the Board discussed the proposal.

<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>That the Board consider the proposal from 150 Square Strategic Solutions for the delivery of Executive Services for the period 28 February 2026 to 28 February 2029.</p>

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Seconded: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

That the proposal from 150 Square Strategic Solutions for the delivery of Executive Services for the period 28 February 2026 to 28 February 2029, be accepted.

CARRIED

7.3 Appointment of Signatories to the WEROC Inc. Bank Account

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: Nil

Financial Implications: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

WEROC Inc. holds a Community Solutions One account with Westpac Bank, into which all funds are deposited and from which all accounts are paid. Two signatories are required for any outgoing payment to be processed.

WEROC Inc. also hold a Term Deposit account with Westpac Bank. The current interest rate is 3.95% and the renewal date is 8 July 2025.

The current signatories to the Westpac accounts are Rebekah Burges (administrator, approver), Mr. Raymond Griffiths (approver), Mr. Craig Watts (approver) and Ms. Lisa O'Neill (approver).

Executive Officer Comment:

The Executive Officer in their capacity as Secretary/Treasurer remains a consistent signatory to the WEROC Inc. bank accounts. The other signatories have mirrored the incumbent Chair and CEO and as such change every two years as these responsibilities rotate between the Member Councils. Given the appointment of a new Chair at the Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2023, it is recommended that:

- 1) In their capacity as Secretary/Treasurer of WEROC Inc., the Executive Officer continues to be an administrator and approver for the Westpac account.
- 2) The newly appointed Chair of WEROC Inc. be added as approver of the account and the outgoing Chair be removed.
- 3) One or two other Members of the WEROC Inc. Board be appointed as approvers of the account to ensure that there are always two signatories available to process payments.

Recommendation:

That the bank signatories be Ms. Rebekah Burges (Secretary/Treasurer), the incoming Chair and one or two other Board Members.

Comments from the meeting:

- Traditionally, the incumbent Chair and CEO have served as signatories to the accounts. However, as neither the incoming Chair nor the incoming CEO are customers of Westpac, and given the practical difficulties associated with attending the bank to complete the required documentation, it was requested that the existing signatories remain unchanged at this time

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Ms. Charmaine Thomson **Seconded:** Mr. Craig Watts

That the signatories to the WEROC bank accounts remain the same.

CARRIED

7.4 Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Services

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Attachment 7: NEWROC Policy Position, Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Services

Consultation: 150 Square Strategic Solutions

Financial Implications: The increased amount will necessitate an adjustment to the 2025-26 budget

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

NEWROC requested that their policy position on volunteer emergency ambulance services be shared with the WEROC Shires and endorse by the WEROC board.

Executive Officer Comment:

At the WEROC Inc CEO Committee meeting held on 4 November, the policy position paper was presented, and it was agreed that a motion should be put forward to the WEROC Inc. Board to endorse the policy position paper. It was also suggested that an additional recommendation be added that St. John Ambulance sub centres make nominal payments to volunteers.

Recommendation:

That the NEWROC Policy Position on Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Services be endorsed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths suggested that St John Ambulance should be encouraged to provide payments to volunteers. He noted that while Local Governments pay for volunteer hours, not all organisations do, which can deter people from volunteering.
- Mr. Bryan Close noted that most sub-centers already offer a nominal payment to volunteers but very few claim it.
- The shortage of paramedics in the region was raised as a further concern. It was noted that increased paramedic presence may be another issue requiring advocacy.
- Mr. Bryan Close also highlighted that the significant amount of training required acts as a deterrent to potential volunteers. He noted that St John's expectations of volunteers continue to increase each year.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Emily Ryan

Seconded: Mr. Bryan Close

That the NEWROC Policy Position on Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Services be endorsed by WEROC.

CARRIED

8. PROJECT UPDATES

8.1 Housing

The WEROC Housing Investigation Report has been finalised, site feasibility testing completed, and an initial and revised draft business case and cost benefit analysis circulated to CEOs for feedback.

The Regional Housing Support Fund (RHSF) was announced at the end of October. Grants of up to \$5million are available to local governments, community housing providers and landowners/developers to support key worker, community housing and residential subdivision projects in regional Western Australia. Projects must propose the delivery of three or more dwellings and/or the delivery of three or more residential lots. Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday 19 December 2025.

The business case is not sufficient to support an application to the RHSF. If WEROC Shires do want to proceed with an application, additional information including letters of support, quotes or cost estimates, dwelling schematics, etc. will be needed.

Comments from the meeting:

- It was agreed that an application be submitted for 100% of funding required to develop the lots and dwellings detailed in the business case and cost benefit analysis prepared by Econosis.
- The Shire of Merredin will submit the application on behalf of the group.
- A letter of support from each Shire verifying their support of the application will be required. Any additional information required to support the application will be advised by the Executive Officer.
- It is acknowledged that a successful outcome is unlikely, but it is worthwhile going through the process to demonstrate to the State government that there is demand.

8.2 Strategic Waste Management

At the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 14 October 2025, progress on the implementation of the WEROC Strategic Waste Management Plan recommendations was discussed. Further discussion was had at the WEROC CEO Committee meeting held on 4 November 2025. Recommendations arising from the discussion at the CEO meeting included:

- 1) A community education campaign highlighting the importance of responsible waste management in light of the region's capacity limitations and the costs associated with waste management.
- 2) Meeting with the Managing Director of Avon Waste to discuss options for WEROC Councils in future years.

The Western Metropolitan Regional Council was highlighted as a leader in community waste education. They have secured multiple rounds of funding through the WasteSorted Community Education Grant Scheme to deliver a variety of initiatives, including:

- **2025:** A six-part *Low Waste Living* series designed to equip the community with practical skills to reduce everyday waste, including food waste reduction, adopting reusable alternatives, and repairing clothing.
- **2024:** A program of eight low-waste cooking and waste-sorting workshops for young adults (18–35 years), focused on building kitchen confidence, improving cooking skills, and creating affordable, healthy meals using leftovers.
- **2023:** The *(Re)Love Your Stuff* campaign, which promoted the value of clothing reuse and repair to reduce textile waste. This also featured a retail trail involving 14 local businesses as part of the Western Suburbs [Textile Trail](#).

Given this strong track record, is there interest in approaching WMRC to develop a multi-faceted community education package for delivery within our region, building on the established programs and expertise they have already developed?

Comments from the meeting:

- It was agreed that contact should be made with the Western Metropolitan Regional Council to determine what waste education they can support and any associated costs.
- The Executive Officer will arrange a meeting with Avon Waste for early in 2026.

8.3 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program 2026

Attachment 8: WMSIP 2026 Town Itineraries

The 2026 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program will take place from Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 March. The working itineraries are provided as an attachment. Rural Health West are working directly with each Shire to finalise activities and venues and to source billet families.

The planning committee meets monthly to discuss progress and provide suggestions as the itineraries are being finalised. If there are any concerns the Shires would like raised in this forum, please advise the Executive Officer so that they can be addressed.

The North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils approached the Executive Officer with a request to join the WMSIP program. This request has been forwarded to Rural Health West for their consideration.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths advised that he is meeting with the University of Notre Dame tomorrow to discuss cultural engagement activities and will provide an update to the group after this meeting.
- It was discussed and agreed that the cultural engagement component of the visit worked better when it was held in Northam on the way out to the WEROC communities. It was suggested that reverting to this arrangement be proposed as the approach for next year.
- If individual Councils want to include a welcome to country or cultural activity it can be included in the Shire welcome.

8.4 Joint ROC Event

Attachment 9: Made in the Eastern Wheatbelt Invite

The joint ROC event will take place on Monday 16 February 2026. The venue is Beaumonde on the Point. Lachlan Hunter will be hosting the forum. The planned format includes presentations from the ROC's followed by round table discussions with Ministers/key decision makers. Invited guests will then leave and there will be a facilitated discussion amongst the ROC's.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan advised that either he or Mr. Mark Furr would be happy to present on behalf of WEROC.

8.5 Marketing

Attachment 10: Wildflower Campaign Report

From the end of July to mid-October Australia's Golden Outback ran an AGO wide Wildflower campaign, which was co-funded by WEROC, NEW Travel, Roe Tourism and Pioneers Pathway. The campaign report is provided as an attachment. The digital marketing activity through Caravan and Camping WA provided the strongest result for the Eastern Wheatbelt drive trail.

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (CWVC) have been managing social media accounts for the drive trail since the start of October. Carina Macdonald, Coordinator of the CWVC has provided the following update:

We are posting regularly on both facebook and Instagram. Initially, I have posted on the trail itself, towns we cover along with key sites to visit. We are also posting key events i.e. Bruce Rock Veterans Reunion and Wessy Christmas Markets. With the weather warming up, we will be focusing on the pools as a point of interest in the next month.

I have been in touch with all shires along with AGO to advise them to follow our pages and share content. Cunderdin and Bruce Rock Shires have shared a lot of content along with CWVC page but if you can encourage all shires to like and share the posts we will gain more traction. Also, if they can encourage their staff to send anything they want promoted i.e. events and new images through and we can post this for them.

AGO have begun tagging us in reels they have created on Instagram, and I have shared Carol Taylors content on stories that she took last year for WEROC. We are performing better on Facebook than Instagram, but that is the case with the Visitor Centre pages too.

Comments from the meeting:

- It was requested that each Shire provide the contact details for the staff members responsible for social media management so that this can be passed on to the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

Nil

10. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING OR DISCUSSION)

10.1 Inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability

Attachment 11: *Letter from the Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport*

Attachment 12: *WEROC Local Government Sustainability Submission 29052024*

On 20 November 2025, the Executive Officer received, via email, a letter from the Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Mrs Fiona Phillips MP, inviting a submission to the committee's inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability. The email advised that the evidence provided by WEROC to the committee's previous inquiry (refer to Attachment 12) will be considered as part of the new inquiry, but the committee welcomes updated views from WEROC.

On 19 November 2025, the Executive Officer also received an email from Rick Wilson's office encouraging WEROC to make a submission. The Board may like to consider if a new submission is required.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Raymond Griffiths advised that the committee are seeking up to date information not a repeat of what was submitted before.
- It was suggested that new information be presented focusing on the cost of Shires contributing to GP services and the impact on local roads of increasing heavy vehicle movements.
- Ms. Alison Harrise suggested referring to the Local Government Primary Health Care Services Survey Report released in 2024 for an indication of the cost to Local Government to support primary health care services.
- It was also noted that the Rural Health Alliance is undertaking a survey on costs to local governments and may be able to provide valuable information to support this work.

10.2 Peter Kenyon, WEROC Roadshow

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held in Southern Cross on 14 October, the Shire of Westonia advised of their plan to invite Peter Kenyon, the convener of small-town reinvention convention, to facilitate a workshop with young people in the community focused on shaping their vision for the future. It was suggested that a coordinated roadshow of workshops and events be held across the WEROC region.

The Executive Officer contacted Mr. Kenyon, who confirmed he is willing to facilitate a roadshow but requires additional information before preparing a quote. In particular, he requested details on the proposed timing of the workshops (e.g., morning, afternoon, or evening), the target participants, and the intended outcomes.

It was agreed that these workshops should differ from the usual strategic planning sessions. They should take a big-picture, innovative approach, with a strong focus on engaging young adults in the communities. A late-afternoon timeslot, potentially structured as a sundowner-style event, was considered the most suitable option.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The proposed schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2026 is presented for consideration:

WEROC Inc. Board Meetings

Date	Host Council
16 February 2026	Perth
6 May 2026	Bruce Rock
29 July 2026	Merredin
23 September 2026	Tammin
26 November 2026	Kellerberrin

In developing the proposed schedule of meetings, the Executive Officer has taken into consideration the following events, meetings, and holidays in 2026:

- School holidays
 - Term 1: 2 April – 19 April
 - Term 2: 3 July – 19 July
 - Term 3: 25 September – 11 October
 - Term 4: 17 December 2026 – 1 February 2027
- Public Holidays (1 & 26 January, 2 March, 3, 6 & 27 April, 1 June, 28 September)
- Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program (10 - 13 March)
- The Ordinary Council Meeting dates for WEROC Member Councils:
 - Shires of Bruce Rock, Yilgarn and Westonia, the third Thursday of each month
 - Shires of Tammin and Cunderdin the fourth Wednesday of each month
 - Shires of Kellerberrin and Merredin, the third Tuesday of each month
- The Dowerin Field Days (26 & 27 August)

Recommendation:

That the proposed schedule of meetings for 2026 be discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- The first meeting for 2026 will be held on 16 February at the conclusion of the joint ROC event in Perth.
- The meeting rotation for 2026 will be as reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.33pm.