



Shire of Cunderdin

Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

Dear Council Member,

The Ordinary Meeting of the Cunderdin Shire Council was held on **Wednesday 27 August 2025** in the Cunderdin Shire Council Chambers, WA, 6407 **commencing at 6.00pm.**

Stuart Hobley
Chief Executive Officer

27 August 2025

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MINUTES

1 Declaration of Opening

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

The Shire of Cunderdin disclaimer will be read aloud by Cr AE (Alison) Harris.

The *Local Government Act 1995* Part 5 Division 2 Section 5.25 and Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13.

“No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Cunderdin for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this meeting. It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this Meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of Council’s decisions, which will be provided within ten working days of this meeting”.

2 Record of Attendance, Apologies and Approved Leave of Absence

2.1 Record of attendances

Councillors

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Cr AE (Alison) Harris | Shire President |
| Cr A (Tony) Smith | Deputy Shire President |
| Cr TE (Todd) Harris | |
| Cr N (Natalie) Snooke | |
| Cr B (Bernie) Daly | |
| Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen | |

In Attendance

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Stuart Hobley | Chief Executive Officer |
| Samantha Pimlott | Governance & Administration Officer |

Guests of Council

Members of the Public

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Public | Three (3) |
|--------|-----------|

2.2 Apologies

Cr HN (Holly) Godfrey

2.3 Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil.

3 Public Question Time

Public Question Time is included in the recording of Council meetings. Members of the public are required to state their name and address when addressing the meeting, and to provide a copy of their question in writing.

Declaration of public question time opened at: 6.01pm.

The following question was submitted by Joy Van Ballgooyen, Cunderdin WA 6407, at the Council Meeting held Wednesday 27 August 2025.

The following questions are related to the contract for provision of General Practitioner Services.

- Q: How does a Council award a successful tender to a corporate entity, who is only now advertising for a doctor to start on Monday?
- A: Cr AE (Alison) Harris advised that herself as the presiding member and the CEO will not be making comment on this matter due to a declaration of interest and that the question would be taken on notice and an answer would be provided at a later date.

The following question was submitted by John Coleman, Tammin WA 6409, at the Council Meeting held Wednesday 27 August 2025.

- Q: Why was Dr Van shafted?
- A: Cr AE (Alison) Harris advised that Karis Medical were the contractors for the provision of medical services their contract was not extended. Cr AE (Alison) Harris again reiterated that herself as the presiding member and the CEO will not be making comment on this matter due to a declaration of interest.

Cr AE (Alison) Harris declared public question time closed at: 6.04pm.

Cr AE (Alison) Harris called a 10-minute adjournment of the meeting.

All members of the public left the room and did not return.

Meeting re-adjourned.

4 Petitions, Deputations & Presentations

Nil.

5 Applications for Leave of Absence

5.1 Applications for leave of absence

Nil.

6 Confirmation of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held 23rd July 2025

Attachment 6.1.1 - Unconfirmed Minutes OCM - 23 July 2025 - Public Copy

Resolution 6.1

1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
2. The President to sign the minute declaration on the previous minutes.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

6.2 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held 28th July 2025

Attachment 6.2.1 - Minute SCM - 28 July 2025 - Public Distribution

Resolution 6.2

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 28th July 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Seconded: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

6.3 Minutes of Special Council Meeting Held 6th August 2025

Attachment 6.3.1 -Minutes SCM - 6th August 2025 - Public Copy

Resolution 6.3

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th August 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

6.4 Minutes of Special Council Meeting Held 13th August 2025

Attachment 6.4.1 - UNCONFIRMED Minutes SCM - 13.08.2025 - Public Distribution

Resolution 6.4

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Seconded: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

7 Declaration of Members and Officers Interests

Stuart Hobley declared an indirect financial interest in Urgent Item 13.3.
Cr AE (Alison) Harris declared an impartially interest in Urgent Item 13.3.
Cr TE (Todd) Harris declared an impartially interest in Urgent Item 13.3.

8 Announcements by President without Discussion

Nil.

9 Finance and Administration

9.1 Financial Reports for July 2025

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Location: | Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Date: | 22 nd August 2025 |
| Author: | Stuart Hobley |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | |

Proposal/Summary

The financial reports as at 31st July 2025 will be presented to Council verbally by Chief Executive Officer.

Background

Nil.

Comment

Nil.

Consultation

Nil.

Statutory Environment

The *Local Government Act 1995* Part 6 Division 3 requires that a monthly financial report be presented to Council.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Administration recommendation

That Council notes receiving the verbal monthly financial reports for the periods ending 31st July 2025.

Resolution 9.1

1. That Council due to unforeseen circumstances the financial statements for the period ending 31st July 2025 were not available. They will be presented at the next Ordinary Council Meeting 24th September 2025.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.2 Accounts Paid 31st July 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Location: | Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Author: | Stuart Hobley |
| Report Date: | 22 nd August 2025 |
| Item Approved By: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Attachment 9.2.1 – July Creditors Listing Attachment 9.2.2 – Credit Card Statement |

Proposal/Summary

Council is requested to confirm the payment of accounts totalling:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Total for Municipal - | \$478,312.14 |
| Total for Trust - | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL - | \$478,312.14 |

For July 2025 as listed in the Warrant of Payments for the period 1st to 31st of July 2025.

Background

Nil.

Comment

Nil.

Consultation

Nil.

Statutory Environment

In accordance with Financial Management Regulations 12 & 13, a list of all accounts paid or payable shall be presented to Council (Refer Warrant of Payments attached).

Financial Management Regulations 12 & 13.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

All financial implications are contained within the reports.

Strategic Implications

Nil.

| Resolution 9.2 | | |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. That Council's payments of accounts amounting to \$478,312.14 being from Municipal Account for July 2025, as follows: | | |
| Municipal Account | \$ | Total |
| Electronic Funds Transfer: EFT 9353- 9745 | \$417,793.97 | |
| Direct Debit (Inc Bank Charges): | \$38,331.63 | |
| Cheques: 11996 to 11999 | \$22,186.54 | |
| Trust Account | \$0.00 | |
| | | |
| TOTAL | | \$478,312.14 |

2. That Council's receive reports for payments of corporate credit cards amounting to \$6,086.02 being from Municipal Account for period 16th June to 15th July 2025, as follows:

| 40030 - Westpac Banking Corporation Visa- Hayley Byrnes | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Job | Job Description | Comments | Line Total |
| 17-Jun | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | Youth Group | 175.00 |
| 30-Jun | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | School Holiday Youth Programs | 232.50 |
| 05-Jul | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | Adobe Subscription | 383.86 |
| 10-Jul | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | School Holiday Youth Programs | -1.00 |
| 10-Jul | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | School Holiday Youth Programs | 11.50 |
| 10-Jul | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | School Holiday Youth Programs | 99.44 |
| 10-Jul | 11161030.521 | Community Events Expenditure GEN | School Holiday Youth Programs | 89.86 |
| | | | | 991.16 |

| 40030 - Westpac Banking Corporation Visa- Robert Bell | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Job | Job Description | Comments | Line Total |
| 26-Jun | DEPEX/317/4000 | Depot Expenses | Various Workshop Items | 203.45 |
| 08-Jul | DEPEX/317/4000 | Depot Expenses | Beers for Shaun's farewell | 60.75 |
| | | | | 264.20 |

40030 - Westpac Banking Corporation Visa- Stuart Hobley

| Date | Job | Job Description | Comments | Line Total |
|--------|----------------|---|---|---------------|
| 15-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | Accidental Charges on Work credit card. Invoice sent for reimbursement by CEO | 3.00 |
| 16-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 2.00 |
| 18-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 1.00 |
| 19-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 1.00 |
| 22-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 1.00 |
| 23-Jun | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 1.00 |
| 02-Jul | 11451000.521 | Expenses relating to Administration GEN | | 10.00 |
| 10-Jul | P3019/317/4019 | 2024 Everest SUV | Diesel | 131.03 |
| | | | TOTAL | 150.03 |

3. That Council receives the monthly payment reports for the periods ending 31st July 2025.

Moved: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Seconded: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.3 Council Investments – At 31st July 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location: | Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Author: | Stuart Hobley |
| Report Date: | 22 nd August 2025 |
| Item Approved By: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Attachment 9.3.1 – Bendigo Bank Statement Attachment 9.3.2 – Westpac Bank Statement |

Proposal/Summary

To inform Council of its investments as at 31st July 2025.

Background

The authority to invest money held in any Council Fund is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. Council Funds may be invested in one or more of the following:

- Fixed Deposits;
- Commercial Bills;
- Government bonds; and
- Other Short-term Authorised Investments.

Council funds are to be invested with the following financial institutions:

- Major Banks & Bonds Issued by Government and/ or Government Authorities.

Comment

In addition to the Shire's Municipal Operating Accounts, the below investment accounts are held as at 31st July 2025.

| COUNCIL ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Institution | Amount | Investment type/ Account details | Municipal Funds | Reserve Funds | Trust Funds |
| Westpac Bank | \$1,186,336.80 | Municipal- 0000030 | \$1,186,336.80 | | |
| Bendigo Bank | \$1,165,126.87 | Municipal- 155971377 | \$1,165,126.87 | | |
| | | | | | |
| Westpac Bank | \$364,059.07 | Business Cash Reserve 22-3647 0.50% | | \$364,059.07 | |
| Bendigo Bank | \$12,247.86 | Bendigo Trust Account 164 488 686 | | | \$12,247.86 |
| Westpac Bank | \$0.00 | Trust Working Account 12-2981 | | | \$0.00 |
| Bendigo Bank | \$1,821,909.09 | Term Deposit -5.06% Exp 20 Dec 2024 | | \$1,821,909.09 | |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | \$5,024,642.07 | | \$2,826,667.26 | \$2,185,726.95 | \$12,247.86 |

In addition to the above Shire funds, the Shire administers following accounts for the Cunderdin Community Centre Trust Accounts being Bendigo Term Deposits & operating Ac#000073 - \$4,163.08.

| CUNDERDIN COMMUNITY TRUST DETAILS <u>INTEREST ACCOUNT</u> 31st July 2025 | | | |
|---|--------------|--|-------------------|
| Opening Balance as per Bank Statement & Term Deposits | | | |
| Term Deposit# 5152882 | | | |
| Maturing 4 Nov 2025 (4.25%) | | | |
| | | | 270,936.53 |
| | TOTAL | | 270,936.53 |
| Credits: | | | 0.00 |
| Debits: | | | 0.00 |
| Closing Balance as Per Bank Statements & Term Deposits | TOTAL | | 270,936.53 |
| INCOMING | | | 0.00 |
| | | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| OUTGOING | | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| Balance as at end of month | TOTAL | | 270,936.53 |
| CUNDERDIN COMMUNITY TRUST DETAILS <u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</u> 31st July 2025 | | | |
| Opening Balance as per Bank Statement & Term Deposits | | | |
| Term Deposit# 5152883 | | | |
| Maturing 4 Nov 2025 (5.05%) | | | |
| | | | 369,862.05 |
| | TOTAL | | 369,862.05 |
| Credits | | | 0.00 |
| Debits | | | 0.00 |
| Closing Balance as Per Bank Statements & Term Deposits | TOTAL | | 369,862.05 |
| INCOMING | | | 0.00 |
| | | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| OUTGOING | | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| Balance as at end of month | TOTAL | | 369,862.05 |

Consultation

Nil.

Statutory Implications

Financial Management Regulation 19.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in considering this item.

Strategic Implications

This item related to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, which feeds into the Long-Term Financial Plan when determining annual Council Budgets.

Resolution 9.3

That the report on Council investments as at 31st July 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.4 Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Energy Renewable Energy Projects

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location: | Shire of Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Governance and Administration Officer |
| Date: | 19 th August 2025 |
| Author: | Samantha Pimlott |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Attachment 9.4.1 - Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects Consultation Paper Attachment 9.4.2 - WALGA Submission for Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects. Attachment 9.4.3 - Joint LGA submission - Powering WA Community Benefits Guideline Attachment 9.4.4 - CEC Submission Attachment 9.4.5 - Local-Government Rating of Renewable Energy Facilities Report |

Proposal/Summary

For Council to support the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance (CLGRA) joint submission to PoweringWA on the draft Community Benefits Guidelines for renewal energy.

Background

PoweringWA was established to coordinate the delivery of the new electricity infrastructure needed to decarbonise the State's main electricity grid - the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

The State Government has made significant commitments to reduce carbon emissions and address the impacts of climate change. Meeting these commitments requires embracing renewable energy and transforming the state's electricity generation, energy storage, and transmission infrastructure.

Central to this transition is upgrading the SWIS with new transmission infrastructure that will connect renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, to industries and households, delivering power where it is needed most. PoweringWA will drive these upgrades, unlocking renewable resources to support a low-emission future.

As Western Australia's energy sector is working towards achieving the State and Australian Governments' 2050 net zero emissions target, Local Governments will be a key stakeholder in these changes and have been asked to comment on the Community Benefits for Renewable Energy projects.

A key group of Local Governments that have been affected by renewables have driven for a co-ordinated approach which has led to the formation of the CLGRA and subsequent submission to PoweringWA.

Comments

Western Australia has an opportunity to set a nation leading standard for community benefits arrangements that benefits local communities, industry and all Western Australians. Developing a robust, WA oriented framework that benefits from the experiences of more advanced jurisdictions is essential to provide industry and local communities with the certainty and confidence necessary to navigate the renewable energy transition.

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) that have contributed to this submission are supportive of the need for a Community Benefits Guideline that recognises the diverse characteristics and needs of Western Australia's Local Governments. The PoweringWA Draft Guideline is a welcome start that requires some targeted improvements and a clear regulatory or state policy standing.

This submission by the undersigned CLGRA identifies a series of opportunities to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the Guideline prior to finalisation. These include:

- A single recommended mandated contribution value
- Allocation of benefits according to the location of nameplate capacity
- Neighbour payments schemes separate and additional to community benefit contributions.
- Including Security of benefits arrangements as a key element in the Guideline
- Focussing on the opportunities community benefits provide
- Removing inconsistencies in the discussion of local rates
- Investing in LGA capability
- Providing advice on existing projects

These recommended improvements reflect the deep, direct and ongoing experience of Local Government leaders in negotiating with renewable developers on behalf of their communities. These negotiations have been undertaken without the support of PoweringWA's guidance. The proposed changes will benefit all parties – communities, State and LGAs and industry - if they are incorporated by PoweringWA into the final guideline.

Consultation

Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer
Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance

Statutory Implications

Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015

Policy Implications

Council will need to confirm its position with a policy. This will be put to Council next month.

Financial Implications

The submission advocates for the adoption of a uniform, fixed-rate per megawatt (\$/MW) formula for determining community benefit contributions associated with wind energy, solar array, and battery energy storage system (BESS) developments across Western Australia. In contrast to a variable or range-based contribution model, where proponents negotiate individual outcomes with host local governments, the fixed-rate model provides clarity, fairness, transparency, and consistency. A mandated contribution rate would significantly reduce the uncertainty and risks inherent in the current approach proposed under the State's draft guidelines.

Strategic Implications

Shire of Cunderdin Strategic Community Plan.

5.2 Forward planning and implementation of plans

5.3 Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations

Resolution 9.4

That the Council supports the Country Local Governments Renewables Alliance (CLGRA) joint submission to PoweringWA on the draft Community Benefits Guidelines for renewal energy.

Moved: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Seconded: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.5 Bendigo Bank Closures

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location: | Shire of Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Date: | 19 th August 2025 |
| Author: | Stuart Hobley |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Attachment 9.5.1 - Banking-Code-of-Practice-28.02.25 |

Proposal/Summary

For Council to support forwarding correspondence regarding the to the Bendigo Bank closure to Federal Ministers and the Bendigo Bank.

Background

Council and the Cunderdin / Meckering communities discovered that their Bendigo Bank Agency at the Cunderdin IGA was going to close via various news media releases on about the 24 July 2025.

The Cunderdin Bendigo Bank Agency and 27 other Bendigo Bank Agencies are set to close in the near future, with the Cunderdin Agency scheduled to close on the 25 October 2025.

The Shire was not consulted, nor did it receive any forewarning of the closure from Bendigo Bank. The Shire released the following Media release in regards to the closure.

The Shire is extremely concerned over the announced closure of the Cunderdin agency of the Bendigo Bank leaving the town without a single in-person banking service.

This decision has sparked a deep concern in the community. The closure will have serious consequences for elderly residents, small business owners, and people with limited internet access or digital literacy.

The closure was initiated with no consultation and comes as a complete shock to the Shire and the community.

Shire of Cunderdin shire president Alison Harris commented "This will have negative repercussions throughout our community. I feel for the seniors and those in our community who do not have the ability to travel who will now have a one hour round trip to the nearest Bendigo Bank."

Bendigo Bank came into Cunderdin after the closure of the Westpac Bank with the promise that it wouldn't abandon Cunderdin like the other big banks, however this decision seems to renege on this commitment to support regional communities.

Local businesses and community groups will now be forced to travel to other towns to complete their banking requirements.

Closure of the Cunderdin Bendigo Bank agency will have a negative economic effect on Cunderdin as people who are forced to do their banking in other towns will naturally spend money in these towns damaging Cunderdin's long-term economic sustainability.

Comments

The Federal Government completed a Senate Inquiry into Banking in May 2024. The recommendations from this inquiry have not been considered by the Government even though they are required to within 90 days.

The recommendations support regional Australians and given them certain assurances over banking services. The Federal National Party has called on the Government to respond to the inquiry. Council has been advised to call on the Government to respond to the recommendations in the inquiry.

The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Australian Government adopt a policy recognising access to financial services as an essential service. To this end, it should commit to guaranteeing reasonable access to cash and financial services for all Australians.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Australian Government commission an expert panel to investigate the feasibility of establishing a publicly owned bank. In investigating this, the panel should examine options including, but not limited to a stand-alone public bank or one associated with, and using the branch network of Australia Post.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Australian Government urgently develop a mandatory Banking Code of Conduct or Customer Service Code (Code), incorporating a robust branch closure process, to be administered by a regulator with expertise in consumer protection.

The new Code would require financial institutions to:

- undertake meaningful consultation with communities before a branch is closed;
- prepare and submit a comprehensive report on the potential impacts of the closure and identify alternative financial services in the event of closure; and
- implement and fully fund transition arrangements and ongoing support services which ensure access to cash and essential banking services following a closure.
- The committee recommends that the regulator would assess compliance with the Code before any closure is agreed to.

Recommendation 4

In enforcing the mandatory Banking Code outlined in Recommendation 3, the committee recommends that the regulator be authorised to approve or defer any closure request. In deferring a closure, the regulator would be authorised to direct a bank to take certain reasonable actions, including to order further consultation or provide additional information to the regulator.

The regulator should be provided with a range of penalties should a bank fail to comply with an order to defer closure, or with any other undertaking.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Australian Government commission the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to explore the barriers to customers switching banks, with a view to allowing those that open and/or maintain branches in regional, rural and remote towns to attract more business.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Australian Government establish the Regional Community Banking Branch Program (RCBBP). The objective of the RCBBP would be to help underwrite the establishment of 'community bank' branches providing in-person banking services in regional, rural and remote Australia. Local communities would be required to raise their own capital as well, but the government contributions could help lower the required amounts. Consideration could also be given to using this fund to help enhance financial services available at Australia Post.

To support the RCBBP, the committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a supplement to the Major Banks Levy to be levied on the major banks. Funds raised by the supplement must be hypothecated to provide funding to the RCBBP.

Recommendation 7

The committee recommends that the Australian Government works closely with the banks and Australia Post, to require all major banks to have agreements with Bank@Post and to harmonise the terms of Bank@Post agreements to improve fairness and sustainability. Specifically, agreements should include increased deposit limits to support small businesses, provisions to facilitate identification verification, and to handle issues around temporary account closures or multiple signatory requirements.

Major banks that do not put in place agreements with Bank@Post to deliver financial services should pay an increased supplementary levy as described in Recommendation 6.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission consider measures to protect access to personal and business banking services in regional, rural and remote locations. This may include, but not be limited to, proposing an authorisation to circumvent anti-competitive laws such that banks can cooperate for the purposes of reducing the impacts of bank branch closures on regional communities.

Consultation

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this recommendation however, there will be a cost to Council in the future as staff will be required to travel to other towns for banking.

Strategic Implications

Shire of Cunderdin Strategic Community Plan.

Resolution 9.5

That Council:

1. Requests the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Treasurer Jim Chalmers to urgently respond to the May 2024 report of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Trade Committee's inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia, which investigated the crisis of regional bank closures in depth, and made fully-informed, bipartisan recommendations that put the onus on banks to provide branch services, by:
 - designating access to banking services as essential services;
 - commissioning an expert panel to investigate a public bank; and
 - enforcing the banking Code of Practice.
2. Council requests an answer as to why the Government has not responded to a Senate inquiry within 90 days as it is required to and expresses regret that the lack of response after 14 months has apparently emboldened Bendigo Bank to withdraw an essential financial service from Cunderdin, which will have devastating consequences. That this correspondence be forwarded to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Financial Services Minister Daniel Mulino and all Western Australia Senators.
3. Write to the CEO of Bendigo Bank expressing Councils concern regarding the recent and impending closures of Bendigo Bank agency in Cunderdin and seek an explanation of the reasons behind these closures, including:
 - The factors considered in making the decision
 - The extent of consultation with the affected communities
 - What measures Bendigo Bank will take to assist customers in transitioning to other banking options
 - Whether the bank will help them establish accounts with financial institutions that continue to operate in their area.
 - What ongoing support will be offered to vulnerable and digitally excluded customers to ensure they can continue to manage their finances effectively.

And asks if the Bendigo Bank understands the impact on the local community and that the withdrawal of banking services from rural communities undermines their economic resilience and social cohesion.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.6 Bank signatories

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location: | Shire of Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Executive Assistant |
| Date: | 19 th August 2025 |
| Author: | Brooke Davidson |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Nil |

Proposal/Summary

For Council to be aware of current delegations and signatories and to give an authorisation to newly appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer Kay Squibb as a bank signatory, for the Municipal bank account held with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd, and the Municipal bank account held with Westpac Banking Corporation, and to remove the access of former Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Hayley Byrnes.

Background

Council's bank accounts are held with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd and Westpac Banking Corporation. Current access for administration staff found in the table below:

| Bank Account Access/Approvals | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Employee | Position | Limit (\$) |
| Stuart Hobley | Chief Executive Officer | \$1,200,000 |
| Hayley Byrnes | Deputy Chief Executive Officer | \$500,000 |
| Alison Harris | Shire President | \$500,000 |
| Robert Bell | Manager of Works and Services | \$250,000 |
| Brooke Davidson | Executive Assistant | View Only |

Above limits allows employees to sign off on and upload bank payments such as creditors and payroll, as the first signatory. Approval of payments then requires a seconded signatory/authorisation from another of the above listed employees. The "view only" access allows employees ability to print transaction statements for receipting purposes and assistance with Bank Reconciliations, as well as uploading bank files such as creditors and payroll for authorisation.

Current administration purchasing delegations as seen in the Delegations register are as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Delegation by Council to: | |
| Chief Executive Officer | Unlimited |
| Delegation by Chief Executive Officer to: | |
| Deputy Chief Executive Officer | \$150,000 |
| Manager of Works and Services | \$150,000 |
| Depot Assets and Technical Services Officer | \$5,000 |
| Community Development Officer | \$5,000 |
| Museum Manager | \$5,000 |
| Mechanic | \$5,000 |
| Last Reviewed: 23 October 2024 | |

These limits allow for the timely purchase of materials, payment of wages and accounts.

Comments

Due the changes in staff members it is necessary to appoint our new Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Kay Squibb, as a signatory to the Shire's bank accounts and remove previous Deputy, Hayley Byrnes.

Consultation

Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer

Hayley Byrnes, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

5.44 - CEO may delegate powers and duties to other employees

- 1) A CEO may delegate to any employee of the local government the exercise of any of the CEO's powers or the discharge of any of the CEO's duties under this Act other than this power of delegation.

6.10. Financial management regulations

Regulations may provide for —

- d) the general management of, and the authorisation of payments out of —
 - i) the municipal fund; and
 - ii) the trust fund, of a local government.

Policy Implications

Council Policy Manual – 3.1 Purchasing Framework.

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

5. Civic Leadership

5.1 Shire communication is consistent, engaging and responsive.

5.3 Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations.

Resolution 9.6

That Council:

1. Authorise the addition of newly appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Kay Squibb, as a signatory for approval limits of up to \$500,000.00 for the Shire of Cunderdin Bank accounts held with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd. and Westpac Banking Corporation; and
2. Authorise the removal of former Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Hayley Byrnes, from the Shire of Cunderdin Bank accounts held with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd. and Westpac Banking Corporation.

Moved: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Seconded: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Vote – Absolute majority

Carried: 6/0

9.7 Receival of WEROC Inc Meeting Minutes

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Location: | Shire of Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Governance and Administration Officer |
| Date: | 19 th August 2025 |
| Author: | Samantha Pimlott |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachment/s: | Attachment 9.7.1 - WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Minutes 13082025 Attachment 9.7.2 -WEROC housing investigation final presentation |

Proposal/Summary

For Council to receive the minutes from the WEROC Inc. meeting held 13th August 2025.

Background

WEROC is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation whose membership is comprised of representatives from the Eastern Wheatbelt Shire's of Cunderdin, Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn.

WEROC exists to support the growth and development of the Eastern Wheatbelt.

Shire President, Alison Harris, and CEO, Stuart Hobley, attended the WEROC meeting held Wednesday 13 August 2025 in the Kellerberrin Recreation & Leisure Centre.

Comments

The minutes of the meeting can be found in the attachment to this item. A summary of the key items from the meeting include:

- Video conference attendance by Ms. Janine Eriksson who discussed the leading findings from the WEROC Workforce Housing Investigation.
 - Approximately 54% of businesses in the area reported a gap in their workforce.
 - It is estimated that the WEROC subregion needs an additional 333 workers to meet current needs.
 - The estimated demand for housing the workforce ranges between 234 and 370 dwellings by 2031. That equates to between 33 and 53 additional worker accommodation units per annum.
 - Sufficient zoned residential land exists to meet housing needs; however, a lack of servicing on some lots means developable land could be a limiting factor.
- Attendance from Mr. Jordan Reid, Regional Services Manager, and Mr. James Sheridan, Chief Executive Officer of LGISWA to discuss LGIS service delivery.
- That individual Shires will develop their own Public Health Plans rather than WEROC sourcing an external consultant on behalf of the members.
- Discussions held about the actions/recommendations that arose following a meeting WEROC members attended with Lachlan Hunter MLA.
- Summary provided of the outsourced services audit developed gauge members interest in exploring shared resourcing across any of the service areas.
- The Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive trail map and brochure have now been updated to include the Shire of Cunderdin in WEROC's marketing and promotion campaign.
- Wheatbelt Development Commission and WEROC proposed a co-funding arrangement for the conduct of housing feasibility studies.
- September meeting to be held in Southern Cross, the date and time to be confirmed.
- Shire of Cunderdin will host the WEROC meeting on Thursday 27th November.

Consultation

WEROC Inc
Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer
Cr AE (Alison) Harris, Shire of Cunderdin President

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Part 3, Division 4 — Regional local governments and regional subsidiaries

3.61 Establishing regional local government

- 1) Two or more local governments (referred to in this Division as the participants) may, with the Minister's approval, establish a regional local government to do things, for the participants, for any purpose for which a local government can do things under this Act or any other Act.

3.62 Constitution and purpose of regional local government

- 2) The purpose for which a regional local government is established (referred to in this Division as the regional purpose) is as set out in the establishment agreement.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

WEROC Membership fees included in Annual Budget.

Strategic Implications

Shire of Cunderdin Strategic Community Plan.

5. CIVIC LEADERSHIP

5.2 Forward planning and implementation of plans

Resolution 9.7

That the Council:

1. Receive WEROC Inc Minutes from meeting held Wednesday 13th August 2025.

Moved: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Seconded: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.8 Move Behind Closed Doors

Resolution 9.8

That Council move behind closed doors in accordance with s.5.23 of the Local Government Act.

Moved: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Seconded: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.9 Works Contracts for the Basketball Court Shelter

Resolution 9.9

That Council:

1. Accept the quotation from Earthstyle Contracting for the demolition and site preparation works at a cost of \$39,900 (excluding GST).
2. Accept the quotation from Wheatbelt Steel for the construction of a hard cover shelter at a cost of \$439,137.00 (excluding GST).
3. Accept the quotation from AMJ Industries Electrical Works for the provision of lighting and power, cooling and ventilation, security and surveillance and installation of sound system at a cost of \$70,032.37 (excluding GST).
4. Accept the quotation from Wheatbelt Plumbing for the provision of water and plumbing works at a cost of \$5,745.00 (excluding GST).
5. Accept the quotation from 3Monkeys for the provision of public address/sound system at a cost of \$29,144.42 (excluding GST).

Moved: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Seconded: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Vote – Absolute majority

Carried: 6/0

9.10 Move From Behind Closed Doors

Resolution 9.10

That Council move from behind closed doors in accordance with s.5.23 of the Local Government Act.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

9.11 Chief Executive Officers Report

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Location: | Shire of Cunderdin |
| Applicant: | Chief Executive Officer |
| Date: | 22 August 2025 |
| Author: | Stuart Hobley |
| Item Approved by: | Stuart Hobley, Chief Executive Officer |
| File Reference: | Nil |
| Attachments: | Attachment 9.11.1 - CRISP Wireless Tower Update |

Proposal/Summary

To provide an update on the matters that the Chief Executive Officer has been addressing over the past month.

Background

Cunderdin Industrial Lot Development

The Industrial Lots have gone on the market. They are currently being advertised on the Development WA website. The Shire has also advertised the Lots on behalf of development WA on its social media pages.

Watts Street Subdivision

Waiting on Western Power for design costings.

Design and Planning for Stage 2 has commenced. It is expected that this could take up to 12 months to complete the initial planning works as this will be more complicated and include internal road construction and deep sewerage connections.

Mitchell Street and Yilgarn Street Housing Update

Yilgarn Street

Works at the house have slowed as they are waiting on the cabinet makers.

Mitchell Street

The driveways, fencing, and retaining works have been completed. The landscaping will commence next week.

Palliative Care Unit

Renovations being undertaken by Bentnail on the Palliative Care Unit have been completed. Painters have been engaged to paint any walls that have been renovated and flooring retailers are being requested to provide suggestions on the best way to fix the laminate floors.

Play Our Way Basketball Court Shelter and Upgrade

See Agenda Item 9.9 for the progress on the shed.

Tender documents have been advertised for the construction of the court surfaces and site inspections were held. Tenders close on the 11th September 2025.

Growing Regions – Aquatic & Wellness Hub

Council is waiting for the Community Sport and Recreation Facility Fund (CSRFF) to open so a grant application can be submitted.

The Lotterywest grant has commenced and will be submitted by the end of the month.

The plans for the buildings have been completed by Donovan and Payne and will be available for inspection at the Council Meeting in August.

Pathways Construction

The pathway construction on Mitchell has been put on hold for four weeks due to the rain. This has been advertised locally.

Comment

Nil.

Consultation

Nil.

Statutory Implications

Nil.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Resolution 9.11

That the Chief Executive Officers report be received.

Moved: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Seconded: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

10 Environmental Health and Building

Nil.

11 Planning & Development

Nil.

12 Works & Services

Nil.

13 Urgent Items

13.1 Accept urgent items

Resolution 13.1

That Council move to accept the urgent items presented.

Moved: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Absolute majority

Carried: 6/0

13.2 Move Behind Closed Doors

Resolution 13.2

That Council move behind closed doors in accordance with s.5.23 of the Local Government Act.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

Cr AE (Alison) Harris, Cr TE (Todd) Harris and Stuart Hobley declared an interest in item 13.3 and left the room at 6.43pm.

13.3 Private & Confidential - Contract for the Provision of Medical Services to the Shire of Cunderdin

Resolution 13.3

That Council:

1. Accepts the Contract for the Provision of Medical Services to the Shire of Cunderdin as presented by Livingston Medical Pty Ltd (ACN 602 398 603 Five (5) years from the Commencement Date, subject to the option to extend the Term for a further five (5) years at the Shire's discretion pursuant to clause 2.2 (Option Term).
2. Authorise Deputy Shire President and Manager of Works and Services to sign and affix the Common Seal to the Contract.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr N (Natalie) Snooke

Vote – Absolute majority

Carried: 4/0

Cr AE (Alison) Harris, Cr TE (Todd) Harris and Stuart Hobley returned to the room at 6.48pm.

13.4 Private & Confidential – Tender Consideration – Grader

Resolution 13.4

That Council:

1. Accepts the quote submitted by Afgri for the 670GP Grader amount of \$500,000.00.
2. That the President and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and affix the Common Seal to the Contract Agreement for purchase of.
3. That all other tenderers be advised of (1) above.

Moved: Cr TE (Todd) Harris

Seconded: Cr NW (Norm) Jenzen

Vote – Absolute majority

Carried: 6/0

13.5 Move from behind closed doors

Resolution 13.5

That Council move from behind closed doors in accordance with s.5.23 of the Local Government Act.

Moved: Cr B (Bernie) Daly

Seconded: Cr A (Tony) Smith

Vote – Simple majority

Carried: 6/0

14 Scheduling of Meeting

14.1 September 2025 Ordinary Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24th September 2025 commencing at 6:00pm at the Cunderdin Shire Council Chambers, Cunderdin, WA 6407.

15 Closure of meeting

There being no further business the Shire President will declare the meeting closed at 6.51pm.

16 Certification

DECLARATION

I, Alison Harris, certify that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27th August 2025, as shown, were confirmed at the ordinary meeting of Council held on Wednesday 24th September 2025.

Signed: _____

Date: _____