



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting MINUTES

Friday 8 May 2026

Shire of Bruce Rock, Council Chambers
54 Johnson St, Bruce Rock

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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 WEROC Inc. Board meeting held in Bruce Rock on Friday 8 May 2026.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Charmaine Thomson as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and guests from the Shire of Quairading and opened the meeting at 9.34am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Bryan Close

Mr. Mark Crees (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Mark Furr

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Mr. Andrew Malone

Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan

Ms. Emily Ryan

Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Chair)

Mr. Craig Watts

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Stuart Hobley

Ms. Alison Harris

Mr. Bill Price

Ms. Lisa O'Neill

2.3 Guests

Ms. Jasmine Geier, Acting CEO, Shire of Westonia

Mr. Peter Clarke, Acting CEO, Shire of Yilgarn

Mr. Nic Warren, CEO Shire of Quairading

Cr. Jo Hayes, Deputy Shire President, Shire of Quairading

Cr. Becky Cowcill, Councillor, Shire of Quairading

Ms. Rebecca McCall, CEO Shire of Narembeen, joined the meeting at 11.50am

Ms. Meegan Smith, Principal Hydrologist, Water Technology, joined via videoconference at 10.15am

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Shire of Quairading, 9.30am

The Shire of Quairading requested to attend the WEROC meeting to explore their options for joining a ROC. A brief overview of WEROC governance and priorities will be given and representatives from the Shire of Quairading will have an opportunity to ask questions of the group.

Comments from the meeting:

The Executive Officer provided an overview of WEROC's governance structure, priorities, and current projects and activities. Representatives from the Shire Quairading were then invited to ask questions.

A summary of the discussion is provided below:

Q: What is the focus of the waste education program being considered?

A: The primary aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, which in turn will help to reduce waste transport costs.

Q: Did WEROC find value in hosting McCusker Centre interns?

A: The program requires significant time and effort to coordinate and manage. Given the short placement period (approximately two weeks), outcomes are often limited to base level information rather than a completed project.

Q: Will the medical student immersion program continue?

A: Yes. As Notre Dame expands enrolments in the medical program, additional towns are likely to be sought to host students.

Q: Are there any metrics showing whether the drive trail has increased visitor numbers?

A: Metrics are available for social media engagement and website traffic, however, there is currently no data confirming the number of visitors travelling to the region specifically because of the drive trail. Visitor numbers generally appear to be down at present, likely due to fuel prices and supply issues.

4.2 Ms. Meegan Smith, Principal Hydrologist, Water Technology, 10.15am

Draft Water Supply Security Strategies have been completed for each Shire. Ms. Meegan Smith will attend the meeting to present an overview of the findings and recommendations.

Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. Smith provided an overview of the strategy development process and the recommendations arising from the work undertaken.
- Ms. Smith requested the following additional information from the Shires to complete the final reports:
 - Standpipe usage records
 - Feedback on network schematics
 - Farm resident property numbers
 - Coordinates of standpipe locations
 - Confirmation of scheme water usage classification (Bruce Rock & Cunderdin)
 - Details of community members Water Technology should consult regarding ideas related to water capture, storage, distribution, etc., or other relevant considerations that may not yet have been identified.
- Ms. Smith addressed feedback received on the draft reports and advised that the following actions have been undertaken in response:
 - Separate reports have now been prepared for each Shire.

- Assessment of farm resident numbers and potential emergency water demand for stock and bushfire response is currently underway.
- Mr. Ram Rajagopalan queried whether the reports addressed water loss. Ms. Smith advised that calculations of evaporation losses from dams had been completed. Mr. Rajagopalan further asked whether the reports would include recommendations to mitigate evaporation losses. Ms. Smith confirmed that they will be included.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2026

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Perth on Monday 16 February 2026 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Perth on Monday 16 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

Seconded: Ms. Emily Ryan

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Perth on Monday 16 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising – Status Report

5.2.1 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 16 February 2026

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
7.1 WEROC Priorities for 2026	Follow up with WALGA regarding planning services	A meeting with WALGA has been organised for Wednesday 29 April 2026.
7.2 Joint ROC Forum	Invite Sean Brown from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to the next WEROC meeting	A joint letter to DPLH was sent on 18 March 2026, requesting a meeting with the three ROCs to discuss native title and land tenure. A separate email was sent to DPLH with an invite to attend the WEROC Board meeting on 8 May. At the time of preparing this agenda a response is still pending.
8.1 Housing	Organise meeting with Department of Housing to discuss WEROC key worker housing investigation	Awaiting completion of town actions plans to proceed in organising a meeting with the Department of Housing. Ms. Rebecca McCall, CEO Shire of Narembeen and head of the RoerOC housing sub-committee will join the meeting to discuss the additional work being undertaken to secure funding for housing in the RoerOC district.

8.2 Strategic Waste Management	Circulate quote for waste education once received from the Western Metro Regional Council (WMRC).	A copy of the quote provided by WMRC was sent on 20 February 2026 along with the minutes of the WEROC Board meeting held on 16 February. This matter will be discussed under Agenda item 7.2.
8.3 Roads	1) Request a follow up meeting with Joanne Vinci and Belinda Stopic 2) Share summary of the meeting with Ms. Vinci and Ms. Stopic with Lachlan Hunters office	A meeting request was sent and Ms. Vinci responded to say that they were unavailable to meet on the requested day but advised that regional visits have been planned and formal correspondence will be sent to all Shires who wrote to the Deputy Premier regarding the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network. A summary of the meeting with Ms. Vinci and Ms. Stopic was sent to Lachlan Hunters office.

Recommendation:
That the status report be received.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer advised that there had been further correspondence regarding the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) attending a WEROC meeting. It was requested that each Shire provide their priority crown land actions and 2-3 topics they would like DPLH to discuss with the group. DPLH will then be invited to attend the July meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Mark Furr

Seconded: Mr. Mark Crees

That the status report be received.

CARRIED

6. WEROC INC. FINANCE

6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 30 April 2026

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Date: 1 May 2026

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
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Note 2	Payments made by NEWROC to cover their contribution to the workforce housing investigation as per the grant agreement with WDC, and from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the WEROC water audit
Note 3	Interest paid on term deposit
Note 4	GST received
Note 5	GST Refunds – Q3 BAS 2025/26 financial year
Note 6	Executive Officer Services.
Note 7	Executive Officer travel to meetings.
Note 8	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software
Note 9	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for 2024-25 financial year audit
Note 10	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, Chadwick Consulting for site feasibility testing and Econosis for the key worker housing business case and cost-benefit-analysis drafts. Payments have also been made to Water Technology for the water supply security strategy and NEWROC for the joint ROC forum.
Note 11	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 12	GST paid
Note 13	Payment to ATO for Q4 2024-25 and Q1 and Q2 2025-26 BAS

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

		Budget 2025/2026	Actual to 30/04/2026	Notes
INCOME				
0501	General Subscriptions	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	2
0575	Interest received	\$4,392.33	\$4,392.33	3
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$8,400.00	\$13,900.00	4
	GST Refunds	\$6,399.00	\$5,815.00	5
	Total Receipts	\$103,191.33	\$163,107.33	
EXPENSES				
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$38,920.00	\$28,437.73	6

1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$3,080.00	\$1,285.20	7
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,080.00	\$613.62	8
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,100.00	\$1,036.00	9
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$122,232.41	10
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$900.00	\$902.00	
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,232.43	11
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	\$12,212.32	12
	ATO Payments	\$9,088.71	\$11,122.00	13
Total Payments		\$146,786.71	\$184,073.71	
Net Position		-\$43,595.38	-\$20,966.38	
OPENING CASH 1 July		\$94,312.12	\$99,971.03	
CASH BALANCE		\$50,716.74	\$79,004.65	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Emily Ryan

Seconded: Mr. Bryan Close

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 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 31 January to 30 April 2026 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance		159,545.41		
10 Feb 2026	Australia's Golden Outback	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	\$157,345.41
10 Feb 2026	150 Square Pty Ltd	\$0.00	\$2,735.00	\$154,610.41
27 Feb 2026	Payment: ATO	\$0.00	\$1,101.00	\$153,509.41
06 Mar 2026	150 Square Pty Ltd	\$0.00	\$3,865.70	\$149,643.71
23 Mar 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$139,643.71

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24 Mar 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$129,643.71
25 Mar 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$119,643.71
26 Mar 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$109,643.71
27 Mar 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$815.42	\$108,828.29
27 Mar 2026	NEWROC	\$0.00	\$1,537.00	\$107,291.29
13 Apr 2026	150 Square Pty Ltd	\$0.00	\$4,415.00	\$102,876.29
15 Apr 2026	ATO	\$5,815.00	\$0.00	\$108,691.29
27 Apr 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$98,691.29
28 Apr 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$88,691.29
29 Apr 2026	Water Technology	\$0.00	\$9,686.64	\$79,004.65
TOTAL		\$5,815.00	\$86,355.76	\$79,004.65
Closing balance		\$79,004.65		

Balance Sheet

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc
As at 30 April 2026

	30 Apr 2026
Assets	
Bank	
Term Deposit	100,000.00
Westpac Community Solution One	79,004.65
Total Bank	179,004.65
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	33,000.00
Total Current Assets	33,000.00
Total Assets	212,004.65
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	(2,420.48)
Total Current Liabilities	(2,420.48)
Non-current Liabilities	
GST Clearing	2,306.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	2,306.00
Total Liabilities	(114.48)
Net Assets	212,119.13
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	15,753.09
Retained Earnings	196,366.04
Total Equity	212,119.13

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 31 January to 30 April 2026 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 31 January to 30 April 2026 totalling \$86,355.76 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 30 April 2026 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan **Seconded:** Mr. Andrew Malone

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 31 January to 30 April 2026 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 31 January to 30 April 2026 totalling \$86,355.76 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 30 April 2026 be noted.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION OR DISCUSSION

7.1 WEROC Budget 2026-27

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: NA

Financial Implications: As per budget

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The WEROC Inc. Constitution states that:

17.3 The Board will prepare and approve the annual budget at least 1 month before the end of the financial year.

As there are no further scheduled meetings of the WEROC Inc. Board before the end of the financial year, to adhere to the rules of our Association, a draft budget for WEROC Inc. for the financial year commencing 1 July 2026 and ending 30 June 2027 has been prepared and is presented for the Board's consideration.

The proposed budget assumes that the \$12,000 (Ex. GST) annual subscription per Member Council will remain consistent with previous years. On the matter of subscriptions, the WEROC Inc. Constitution does not specify the amount of the annual subscription rather it states:

10.1 Annual Subscriptions: Members are not required to pay a membership fee or annual subscription but may be required to pay an annual financial contribution as determined by the Association with such contributions to be in equal shares.

Under the proposed budget, it is anticipated that the WEROC Inc. Westpac Community Solution One Account will have a cash balance of \$27,772.38 on 30 June 2027. This assumes that the \$100,000 in the term deposit will be reinvested at maturity.

BUDGET NOTES

Income

- A. The draft budget assumes that the annual subscription amount will be retained at \$12,000 (Ex. GST) per Member Council.
- B. The estimated income in the Consultancy and Project Reserve to 30 June, is Shire contributions toward the WEROC workforce housing analysis.
- C. Budgeted interest is based on the current rate on the Westpac Term Deposit of 4.80%.
- D. GST on General Subscriptions.
- E. GST refunds have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

Expenditure

1. The Westpac Community Solution One Account does not incur any fees and therefore no fees have been budgeted for.
2. Proposed budget is based on the Executive Officer's estimated hours (38 hours per month standard plus additional hours for attending meetings and WMSIP) and a rate of pay of \$85 Ex. GST per hour.

3. Budget based on anticipated travel for the Executive Officer to attend 10 meetings (CEO and Board) averaged at 350km for a return trip at the current ATO rate of 0.88c per km.
4. Current contract expires on 1 March 2028 therefore no provision has been made for recruitment of an Executive Officer.
5. The proposed budget for Financial Services includes the monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software (\$75 Ex. GST).
6. The financial services audit allocation is based on the accepted quote of Audit Partners Australia for \$1,000 Ex. GST and an allowance for disbursements.
7. This allocation enables WEROC Inc. to engage consultants and to undertake special projects. Co-operative marketing initiatives are also allocated to this budget line item. The budgeted amount includes \$7,000 for tourism/marketing initiatives. The remaining allocation is an allowance for new projects.
8. The allocation for the management of the WEROC Inc. website is based on the hosting fee of \$40 (Ex. GST) per month. The hosting fee is currently paid up until October 2026. An allowance is also included for renewal of the WEROC domain names, security upgrades and SSL certificate.
9. Host Council's will generally cover all meeting expenses. A small allocation is provided for any unforeseen meeting costs.
10. The proposed budget allocation for insurance is based on the current financial year's actual expenditure, with an allowance for premium increases for the following forms of insurance cover:
 - Public & Products Liability
 - Associations and Officials Liability
 - Workers Compensation
 - Personal Accident – Volunteers
 - Cyber Insurance
11. A small allocation is made for legal expenses to cover any eventuality.
12. There are no estimated expenses relating to WEROCs incorporation.
13. A small allocation is made for any miscellaneous items.
14. GST Input Tax is calculated on budgeted expenditure items subject to GST.
15. ATO payments have been calculated based on estimates of GST Input and Output Tax for each quarter.

WEROC Inc.

DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

		Budget 2025/2026	Actual to 30/04/2026	Estimated Income/ Expenditure to 30 June 26	Proposed Budget 2026-2027	Notes
INCOME						
0501	General Subscriptions	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	A
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$0.00	B
0575	Interest received	\$4,392.33	\$4,392.33	\$4,392.33	\$3,614.52	C
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	GST Output Tax	\$8,400.00	\$13,900.00	\$13,900.00	\$8,400.00	D
	GST Refunds	\$6,399.00	\$5,815.00	\$5,815.00	\$6,857.00	E
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$103,191.33	\$163,107.33	\$213,107.33	\$102,871.52	
EXPENSES						

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1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	1
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$38,920.00	\$28,437.73	\$35,243.73	\$48,960.00	2
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$3,080.00	\$1,285.20	\$1,491.12	\$3,080.00	3
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	4
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,080.00	\$613.62	\$763.62	\$1,150.00	5
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,100.00	\$1,036.00	\$1,036.00	\$1,100.00	6
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$122,232.41	\$158,036.47	\$70,000.00	7
1850	Management of WEROC Website	\$900.00	\$902.00	\$952.00	\$1,000.00	8
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	9
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,232.43	\$6,232.43	\$6,400.00	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	11
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	12
1854	Transfer to Term Deposit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	13
3384	GST Input Tax	\$12,518.00	\$12,212.32	\$16,513.92	\$13,449.00	14
	ATO Payments	\$9,088.71	\$11,122.00	\$11,122.00	\$8,847.21	15
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$146,786.71	\$184,073.71	\$231,391.29	\$156,786.21	
	Net Position	-\$43,595.38	-\$20,966.38	-\$18,283.96	-\$53,914.69	
	OPENING CASH 1 July	\$94,312.12	\$99,971.03	\$99,971.03	\$81,687.07	
	CASH BALANCE	\$50,716.74	\$79,004.65	\$81,687.07	\$27,772.38	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2027, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Raymond Griffiths **Seconded:** Mr. Mark Furr

That the WEROC Inc. draft budget for the year ending 30 June 2027, as presented, with a general subscription for each Member Council set at \$12,000 (Ex. GST), be adopted.

CARRIED

7.2 Community Waste Education

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.
Attachments: Attachment 1: WMRC Quote for Community Education Program
Consultation: NA
Financial Implications: NA
Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held in Perth on Monday 16 February 2026, it was noted that the Western Metropolitan Regional Council (WMRC) had been contacted for a quote to deliver a waste education program across the WEROC Shires. As the quote had not been received in advance of the meeting the Executive Officer advised that it would be circulated via email.

Executive Officer Comment:

A quote from WMRC was circulated along with the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2026 and is provided again as Attachment 1.

The total cost to deliver a waste education program consisting of research and development, delivery of four in-region workshops and reporting/assessment is approximately \$20,000.

The Waste Sorted Community Education Grants program generally opens in August each year. Up to \$25,000 can be applied for. Assuming that there will be a 2026-27 round, the Board may like to consider waiting and applying for this funding to cover the costs of the proposed education program.

Recommendation:

That the matter be discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Andrew Malone commented that the proposed waste education program may be too detailed and suggested that it may be more effective to begin with simple educational pamphlets. Mr. Malone also noted that workshops are unlikely to attract strong attendance.
- Mr. Raymond Griffiths suggested developing a generic information sheet or infographic outlining the appropriate disposal methods for different waste types. Each Shire could then tailor the material by including maps identifying local waste disposal and drop-off locations.
- Mr. Craig Watts suggested that a supporting social media campaign could be undertaken to complement and reinforce the pamphlet distribution.

RESOLUTION: **Moved:** Mr. Mark Furr **Seconded:** Mr. Mark Crees

That:

- 1) The quote submitted by the Western Metropolitan Regional Council be declined.
- 2) An infographic be developed for adaptation by each participating Council, outlining the appropriate disposal methods for different waste streams and identifying local waste disposal locations.

CARRIED

8. PROJECT UPDATES

8.1 Housing

The WEROC workforce housing investigation which commenced in early 2025 is close to completion. The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) are currently finalising the town action plans, which will conclude the project.

An application to the Regional Housing Support Fund was made on 24 December 2025. As discussed at the WEROC Inc. Board meeting on 27 November 2025, the application was for the full cost to build the 34 dwellings identified over the six Shires. The outcome of this application is not yet known but it is unlikely that WEROC will receive any funding through this process.

Rebecca McCall, CEO, Shire of Narembeen and CEO of RoeROC will join the group at 11:50am to outline the work undertaken in addition to the WDC housing investigation process, to position the RoeROC Shire's as shovel-ready for future funding opportunities, and to discuss their advocacy efforts to secure government investment.

Comments from the meeting:

- Ms. McCall provided an overview of the work RoeROC have undertaken to pursue funding for their housing project:
 - Whitney Consulting was engaged to prepare a grant funding strategy and review the business case developed through the WDC led process. Feedback received indicated the business case was not sufficiently compelling to attract investment.
 - Advice was also received that the original business case lacked detailed concept plans and costings, requiring each Shire to undertake additional work to improve project readiness.
 - RoeROC invested further in having Whitney Consulting refine the business case, including incorporating local case studies and testimonials to better demonstrate community need and impact.
 - A \$16 million application was submitted to the Regional Housing Support Fund, with a \$2.8 million co-contribution from RoeROC Shires.
 - RoeROC are in the process of developing a website and advocacy kit to support consistent messaging in their ongoing advocacy efforts.
 - They are coordinating engagement with relevant State and Federal Ministers/Departments and are considering engaging a lobbyist to support their advocacy work.
- Ms. McCall advised that discussions had been held with Commonwealth representatives regarding the Housing Australia Future Fund. There are several barriers for Wheatbelt local governments accessing the program, including:
 - The fund's focus on social and affordable housing rather than key worker housing.
 - Eligibility requirements favouring developments of 500 or more dwellings.
 - The requirement to demonstrate State Government support for projects.
 - On the East Coast, some local governments operate as housing providers, reducing barriers to funding access; however, this model is not common in Western Australia.
 - The expectation of private sector investment to strengthen applications, despite local governments often acting as the primary investors in regional areas.
- Mr. Raymond Griffiths suggested that CEACA may provide an appropriate vehicle for progressing housing in the Eastern Wheatbelt.
- In closing, Ms. McCall encouraged the group to invest further in strengthening the narrative around housing need within WEROC Shires, allocate resources toward advocacy efforts, and consider preparing a housing prospectus similar to the approach undertaken by the 4WDL group.

8.2 Roads

The WEROC CEOs met with Joanne Vinci (Senior Policy Adviser – Roads, Office of the Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA) and Belinda Stopic (Acting Executive Director Infrastructure Delivery) on Thursday 5 February 2026 via Teams.

At this meeting it was agreed that Ms. Stopic would travel out to the region with Mohammad Siddiqui, Main Roads Regional Director for the Wheatbelt, and meet with the Shires to discuss specific concerns.

A follow-up email was sent to Ms. Vinci on 16 March to enquire about the regional visits and to request another meeting with the WEROC CEOs. The meeting with the CEOs was declined but we were advised that Ms. Stopic and Mr. Siddiqui will be visiting the Wheatbelt in May/June.

The status of the Great Eastern Highway Improvements project listed on Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List, indicates that this still hasn't progressed any further than stage 1, despite WEROC's call for the State Government to prioritise and fast track stage 2 of the assessment process.

[Great Eastern Highway improvements | Infrastructure Australia](#)

The Board may like to consider any further action that can be taken to advocate for funding for the Great Eastern Highway.

Comments from the meeting:

- Individual meetings with Shires did not occur as expected. Instead, Ms. Stopic and Mr. Siddiqui attended the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting.
- It was requested that a follow-up email be sent to Ms. Stopic, with Ms. Vinci copied in, acknowledging the presentation to the Zone and welcoming the commitment to overtaking lanes on Great Eastern Highway. However, the correspondence should also note that attendance at a broad regional forum was not the one-on-one engagement discussed in February, and that the WEROC Shires would still value the opportunity to meet directly to discuss their specific concerns. The email should emphasise the Shires' desire to work collaboratively to identify practical solutions.

8.3 Shared Services

A meeting was held with Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer and Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services, WALGA in December 2025 to discuss the option of WALGA offering shared resourcing arrangements on a fee for service basis. Specifically, it was questioned if WALGA could offer a town planning service.

A follow up meeting was held on 29 April 2026. A summary of the key points of discussion in this meeting is provided below:

- WALGA is progressing a business case to explore the establishment of a dedicated planning service.
- This will take time so does not present an immediate solution. As an interim measure, WALGA has contacted all planning consultants on their preferred provider list and 16 of them have responded confirming that they have the capacity and capability to service the region.

Key Issues Identified with existing service providers:

- *Cost pressures:* While consultant availability is generally good and response times are prompt, costs are becoming prohibitive, particularly for complex work such as planning scheme amendments.
- *Lack of continuity:* Reliance on different consultants leads to inefficiencies, repetition, and limited site history, impacting assessment timelines and quality.
- *Preference for local and consistent service:* There is a strong preference for engaging local providers and establishing a more stable, ongoing service model.
- *Growing demand:* Increasing volumes of planning queries are placing pressure on internal resources, with significant time spent managing consultant interactions.

WALGA Service Considerations:

- A potential WALGA-led service would likely be advisory focused rather than undertaking core local government decision-making functions.
- The service would likely be bespoke and subscription-based, not necessarily available to all members.

- It is acknowledged that the service would require time to mature, with benefits realised in the longer term rather than immediately.
- Consistency and continuity of advice are seen as key advantages of a centralised service.

Indicative Budget Capacity (Annual):

- Current budget allocations for planning services range from \$7,000 on the lowest end to \$50,000+.

Next Steps:

- WALGA to further assess demand, scale, and feasibility of a subscription model.
- WEROC to facilitate broader input, including engagement with NEWROC and RoeROC Shires.
- WALGA to send a follow-up email to gather more detailed data on anticipated usage and service needs.

8.4 Marketing/Promotion

Attachment 2: Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive Update

WEROC as a partner organisation to the Wheatbelt Co-operative Marketing Group, contributes financially toward cooperative marketing initiatives in conjunction with Roe Tourism, NEW Travel, Pioneers Pathway and Australia’s Golden Outback. Part of this funding (\$2,200) is being used toward a “For the Road Trippers Campaign”, which launched on 20 April 2026.

In addition to the co-operative marketing campaign, WEROC co-contributed to a stand at the Perth caravan and camping show which took place from 19 to 22 March 2026. The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre attended to promote the Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive trail alongside the Wheatbelt Way, Pathways to Wave Rock and Pioneer’s Pathway. Further detail is provided in the attached update.

All Shires are encouraged to provide imagery and content to support the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre in marketing the drive trail. Please also remember to re-post content to increase reach.

Comments from the meeting:

- Mr. Mark Furr noted that Bruce Rock are looking at doing their own tourism drive as there is a view that additional opportunities could be pursued to further promote the region.
- The Executive Officer advised that new promotional content could be developed, with this identified as an optional component within the social media management proposal from the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre. Ms. Carina McDonald from the CWVC will be contacted to obtain indicative costs for content creation, and this will be presented at the next meeting.

8.5 Water Audits

As per discussion under Agenda item 4.2.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

9.1 Road Transport Contractual Chain Order

On 20 April 2026 an Expert Panel for the Road Transport Industry made the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026. The order relates to increased fuel costs in the road transport industry because of conflict in the Middle East. It covers workers and businesses.

From 21 April 2026, primary parties and secondary parties in road transport contractual chains must adjust their rates fortnightly, or twice each calendar month, to ensure recovery of the increased cost of fuel. Existing rise-and-fall rates already in contracts, industrial instruments or other arrangements, including those commenced before 21 April 2026, may satisfy the rate adjustment obligations.

The order will stop if the weekly average national terminal gate price for diesel falls below \$2 per litre. The order will be reviewed after one month of operation, and then every 3 months.

Comments from the meeting:

- Contract increases include 15% for ranger services and 17% for Avon Waste services.
- It was noted that pricing pressures do not appear likely to ease in the near future.
- The Shire of Merredin has approached Avon Waste seeking further justification for the proposed price increase.
- The Shire of Bruce Rock met with Avon Waste on Wednesday. It was indicated that the proposed 17% increase may be revised, with discussions now focusing on factors such as route lengths and vehicle fuel consumption to determine a fairer methodology.
- Avon Waste is also liaising with WALGA to seek advice on an appropriate pricing approach, with a preference for a consistent model across councils rather than individual agreements with each local government.

9.2 Shared Resourcing – Environmental Health Officer

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 13 August 2025, discussion occurred regarding shared resourcing opportunities between WEROC Councils, with Environmental Health services identified as a priority area for investigation. Mr. Craig Watts advised at the time that the Shire of Merredin was recruiting an Environmental Health Officer and that there may be an opportunity for the position to operate as a shared resource. The Shires of Kellerberrin, Yilgarn, Bruce Rock and Merredin agreed to continue discussions on the matter out of session.

An update on progress was requested. Mr. Watts advised that the position had been advertised, however, no suitable candidates were identified, and the Shire of Merredin continues to rely on consultant services.

It was agreed that the matter remains a priority and that a revised approach, including offering a more competitive package, may improve recruitment outcomes. The matter will be referred to the WEROC CEO Committee for further discussion.

10. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)

10.1 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program 2026

Attachment 3: Wheatbelt Staff Debrief Minutes

The Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program for 2026 took place between Tuesday 10 and Friday 13 March 2026. A staff debrief was held on Monday 23 March 2026. Feedback from each town is provided in the attached minutes.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2026 is as follows:

WEROC Inc. Board Meetings

Date	Host Council
Monday 16 February 2026	NA – held at the conclusion of the joint ROC forum
Friday 8 May 2026	Bruce Rock
Wednesday 29 July 2026	Merredin

Wednesday 23 September 2026	Tammin
Thursday 26 November 2026	Kellerberrin

The next meeting will take place in Merredin on 29 July 2026.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.19pm.