



Shire of Lake Grace

23 November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.1 - ATTACHMENTS

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None



Information Bulletin
Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the November 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information up to the end of October 2022

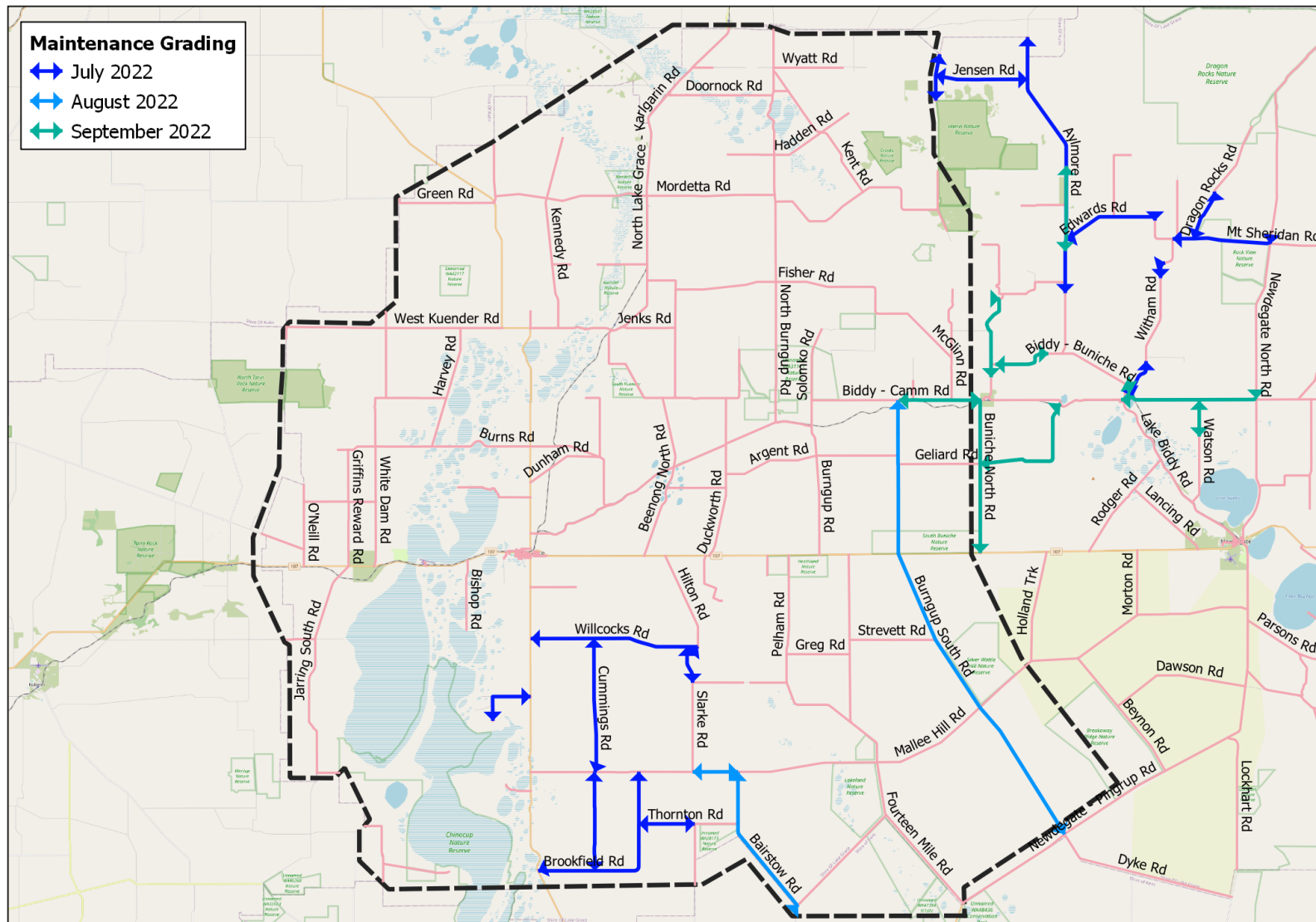
Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of October 2022

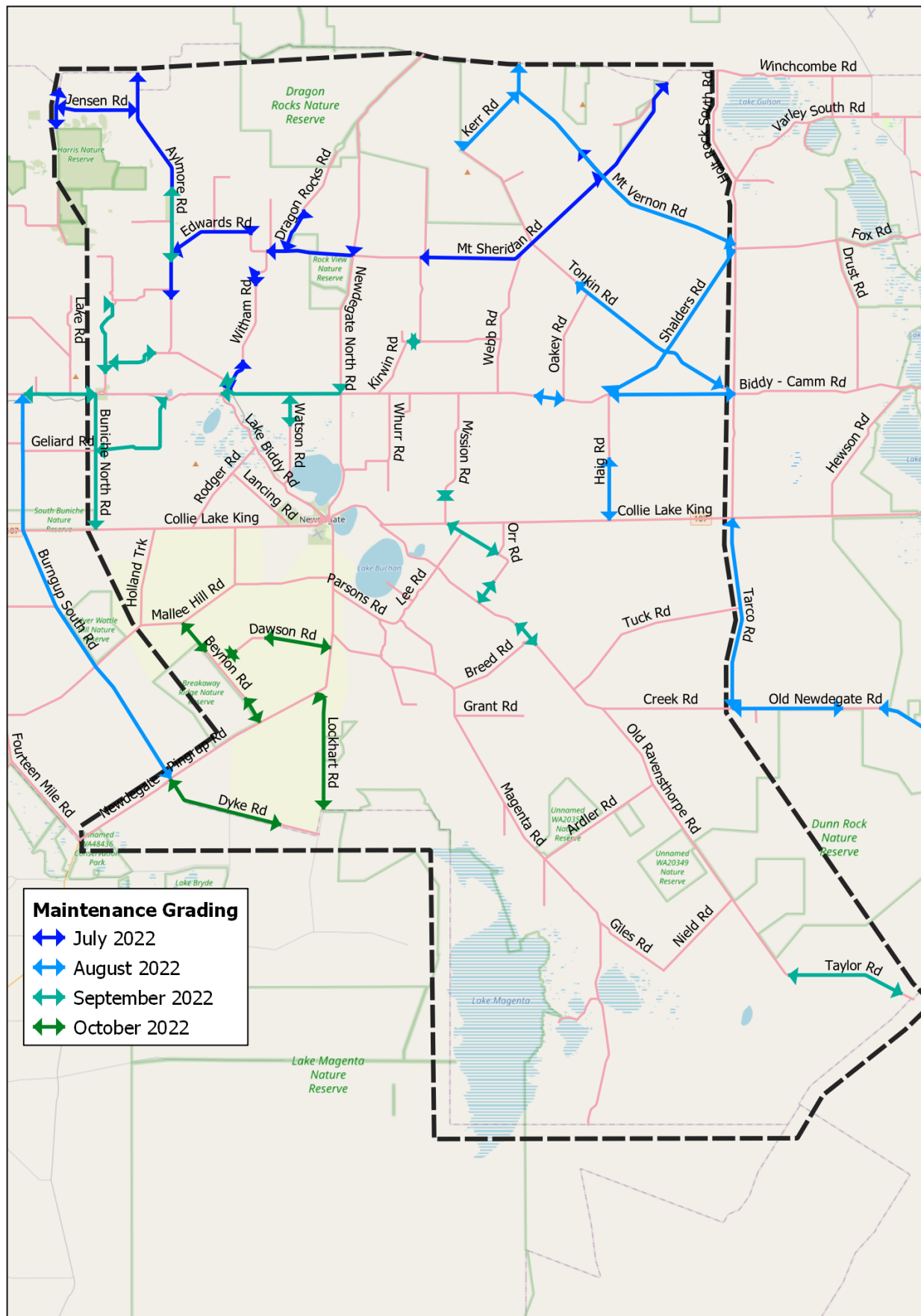
<i>Lake Grace Area</i>		<i>Newdegate Area</i>		<i>Lake King-Varley Area</i>	
<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>	<i>Road Name</i>	<i>Graded (km)</i>
<i>Backslope works only</i>		Beynon Rd	5.52	Allen Rd	3.43
		Dawson Rd	6.55	Baanga Hill Rd	4.70
		Dyke Rd	10.30	Hatters Hill Rd	27.10
		Lockhart Rd	10.06	Kanny Rd	9.91
				Ladyman Rd	8.32
				Milarup Rd	4.02
				Muncasters Rd	11.68
				Smerdon Rd	11.61
				Tilbrook Rd	9.80
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>32.43</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>90.57</u>

2022/23 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

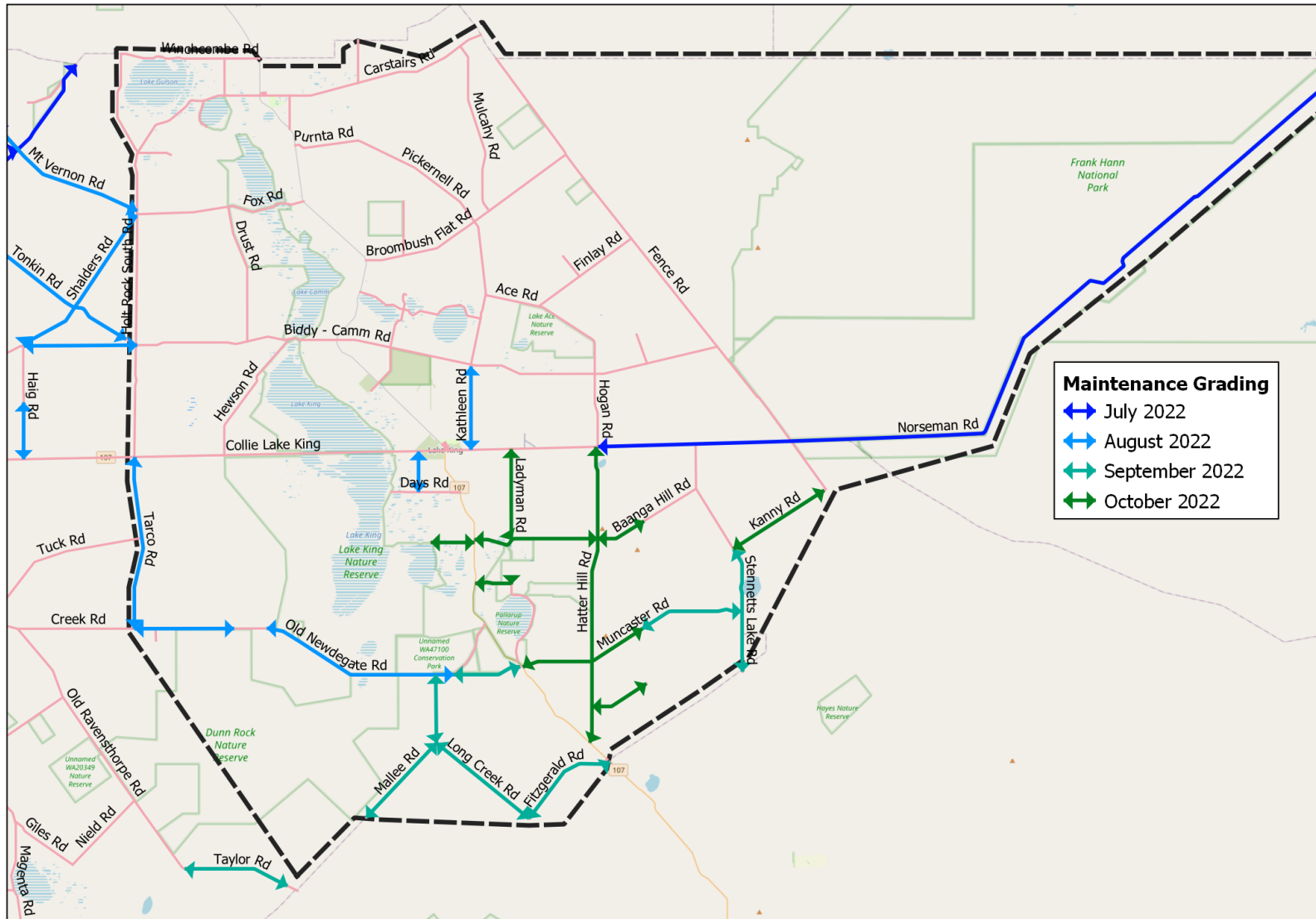
Year	Month	Lake Grace Area (km)	Newdegate Area (km)	Lake King-Varley Area (km)	Monthly Subtotal
2022	July	54.94	83.19	93.13	231.26
	August	49.65	80.41	54.70	184.76
	September	6.02	77.52	63.46	147.00
	October	0.00	32.43	90.57	123.00
2023	November				
	December				
	January				
	February				
	March				
	April				
	May				
	June				
	<u>To-Date</u>	<u>110.61</u>	<u>273.55</u>	<u>301.86</u>	<u>563.02</u>



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

Plant Maintenance

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
PFT06	2022 Tatra Fire Truck	Installation of communications equipment.
PGRA08	2020 Caterpillar 140 Grader	Puncture repair.
PTRA25	2014 Tri-axle Water Tanker	Repairs to airbrake system.

Plant Acquisitions

- New 2022 Tatra Fire Truck to be based in Lake King.

Building Construction & Maintenance

Construction

- Construction of tank pads for new corrugated steel tanks around the Shire.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- Painting of window frames at Old Doctor's Surgery.

Newdegate

- Initial termite damage inspection of Tennis Club Shed;
- Fixing of fencing at swimming pool.

Lake King

- Nil works.

Varley

- Nil works.

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing & tidying of gardens and parks;
- Mowing of town entrances;
- Mowing and marking ovals;
- Mowing swimming pool lawn.

Newdegate

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park;
- Spray for broadleaf and mow around town;
- Mow cricket oval;
- Spray cemetery;
- Reticulation repair at hall;
- Disbudding roses at Pioneer Park.

Lake King

- Carried out general gardening, mowing and spraying to all parks and gardens.

Varley

- Carried out gardening maintenance and general maintenance, including spraying, mowing, raking of the town site, sports complex and cemetery for weeds.

Customer Service Requests

For the period of 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	4	12	16	25.0%
Building	10	7	17	58.8%
Parks & Gardens	10	8	18	55.6%
<u>Total</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>47.1%</u>

Lake King Library Report October 2022

Our Harry Potter event ran from October 17th – 21st. We managed to create lots of excitement with a quiz, colouring and other competitions along with the school dress up day. Ida was crowned our number 1 Harry Potter fan with Noah, Olly, Emily, Tianna, Darcy, Seb and Eden all winning prizes. Our updated copies of the Harry Potter series along with a couple of illustrated editions will be available for all to borrow going forward. I'm not sure we managed to encourage many extra community members into the library but I was joined for coffee and cake by a few.



Statistics Interlibrary Loans

September	VDX Lake King Requests received	0
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VDX Responded to other Library requests 1

[illegible]

Newdegate Library Report to 30/10/22

October was a bit of a busy month for the library as we have had a few things on in this space. We had Halloween crafts on the 28th. LEGO club on the 17th, Shire bushfire training on the 13th & 14th. Our total of loan statistics for October is 42.

The last Library exchange was 25 new items.

Interlibrary Loans 2 sent items
 items requested

Regards

Jade Parker

Newdegate Library Statistics												
Issued and Renewals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	12	45	37	21	46	33	4	16	6	15	15	14
2006	21	21	27	7	21	22	14	34	27	6	20	15
2007	17	16	24	3	24	32	15	39	25	19	19	4
2008	9	30	15	14	33	14	6	16	9	20	17	8
2009	2	23	20	15	25	28	12	15	10	17	15	8
2010	3	13	16	14	13	23	28	26	27	26	35	27
2011	5	37	52	27	77	54	22	42	35	76	72	38
2012	10	69	33	27	50	20	49	18	26	54	59	31
2013	8	34	30	20	30	21	36	28	18	27	36	29
2014	39	50	35	33	53	36	61	29	24	61	32	47
2015	23	50	52	58	62	53	42	59	45	38	88	38
2016	17	77	29	45	42	15	53	39	43	43	65	42
2017	26	55	40	43	29	29	40	13	29	39	29	28
2018	9	37	15	30	19	36	33	18	51	30	66	48
2019	31	26	54	34	33	39	29	34	7	43	35	33
2020	6	33	42	2	12	23	27	24	39	54	21	16
2021	17	36	51	53	22	32	25	31	38	33	20	27
2022	5	23	27	8	31	13	19	32	8	42		

WALGA Breakfast with Heads of Agencies

Monday, 3 October 2022

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Attendees

- Lanie Chopping, Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Tony Brown, Executive Director - Member Services, WALGA
- Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Cuballing
- Ben Rose, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- President Wayne Fewster, Shire of Gingin
- Alan George, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Lake Grace
- President Bill Mulroney, Shire of Pingelly
- Frazer Sullivan, Director Corporate Services, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
- Colin Cameron, Chief Executive Officer, City of Subiaco
- President David Menzel, Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Discussion Issue Briefs

Shire of Gingin

- Lancelin Off-Road Vehicle Areas

Background note prior to meeting:

The Shire has provided correspondence to the Minister regarding transferring the responsibility of the Lancelin Off-Road Vehicle Area (LORVA) back to the State to manage as Council is unable and unwilling to continue managing and taking responsibility for this area. The Shire has been advised verbally that the matter is with the Department's policy team, but the Shire is seeking a formal acknowledgement and response to this request, given the significance of the issue for the Shire.

There are other issues in that the Sand Mining Tenement over the LORVA will destroy this attraction for future generations. In addition, the Mining of the Water Corporation water catchment area, next to the LORVA, will result in the area being irrevocably damaged by not having sand replenishment and the mining will force the cessation of all recreational activities.

Comment:

DG advised that the DLGSC and DMIRS will meet shortly to discuss issues and she will endeavour to cover this.

The Shire of Gingin prefer shifting the mining lease and leave the Off-Road Vehicle Area where it is and for the Shire to manage.

There was discussion that there is money in the Off-Road Vehicle fund for management of the area. Gingin advised that they have always struggled to obtain funding.

The Shire believe that the Department are looking for a new land site for the Offroad Vehicle activity.

The Shire is not opposed to the mining activity, just not on the LORVA.

Action

Following the meeting of the 2 State Government Agencies, the DLGSC will provide advice to the Shire accordingly.

- Sport and Recreation Funding

Background note prior to meeting:

More direct advice from DLGSC to groups regarding Sport and Recreation grants - many sporting groups request information from the Department regarding eligibility of their project. The response provided is a standard response that a project meets the guidelines, but the groups are not being provided any additional information or guidance that the project meets specific requirements such as sustainability and co-location. The Shire has verbally and unofficially been advised that many of these groups will not be eligible to receive grant funding, yet the formal advice gives these groups false hope and the Shire is part of a process that will not succeed, and which creates lots of ill will and tension in the community.

Comment:

This query related to a Bowling Club application. The Shire is concerned that the club are submitting a grant application that is contrary to the Councils masterplan for the area.

Action

Message back to Regional Sport office to see the status of the grant application and advise Gingin accordingly.

- Land Valuation System

Review of rating methodology used by the Valuer-General to value land (see attached agenda item for WALGA Annual General Meeting)

Action

Wait for outcome of AGM item at WALGA convention.

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

- Rating and Valuation Methodology:

Background note prior to meeting:

The Shire recently adopted a rating strategy and plan to address changing rating value methodology.

Officers are to conduct a change of valuation methodology process in keeping with the Minister's Rating policy – Valuation of Land, for all properties identified in the Rural Valuation Review.

Comment:

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale are looking to shift all properties to a differential rating system. Currently SJ has a lot of properties on UV that should be on a GRV.

Discussion on the State Government considering a different valuation system to the GRV and UV system. Noting that other States using the Capital Valuation System, which is easier for the resident to understand.

The DLGSC were involved in a working group with the Valuer General and the WA Treasury Corporation, however the group was confidential, and no one knows the outcome.

SJ understand that the Valuer General provides a GRV on all properties for the ESL and questioned why this cannot be applied for Local Government use.

Action

Wait for outcome of AGM item at WALGA convention.

- Infrastructure Projects – Price escalation

Discussion on the price escalation of projects and that there is a focus by the State Government on making sure election commitment projects are carried out in the term of government. This puts pressure on Local Governments to deliver the projects by the next State election. This promotes price escalation.

Action

State Agencies should review this strategy. Lanie to discuss with the Departments Infrastructure portfolio and work with Treasury on pipeline smoothing.

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

- DLGSC assistance with Procurement documentation on Major Projects

Background note prior to meeting:

The Shire was successful in securing \$6m from the State's COVID Recovery Plan for the development of a multi-purpose sport and community precinct in Donnybrook. The Shire is co-contributing \$3.5M, taking the project to a total of \$9.5M.

The project seeks to develop a co-located/shared sport and recreation facility for local clubs. As with many other LGA and State projects currently, the procurement

process is especially complex and the Shire requests assistance from the DLGSC procurement team to peer-review the procurement contract and process.

Noting the State is contributing \$6M to the project, it is the Shire's expectation that the State would be keen to ensure the funds are well administered / spent, by being involved in the peer review process. It is expected that the peer review process would only require 10-15 hours from DLGSC.

Comment:

The Shire is looking for someone from the Department to review the Shires contract documentation and to advise if ok or not.

Lanie advised that the Department can assist the Shire with this.

Action

Lanie to ask an officer from the Sport and Recreation side of the agency to contact the CEO of the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK)

- Financial Sustainability of Local Government

Background note prior to meeting:

The measurement of the sustainability of local Governments and the impact of the current process of determining the Federal Assistance Grants (noting this is a Federal Government responsibility).

Comment:

SWEK would like a review of the methodology of the Financial Assistance Grants and whether the Grants Commission are considering this. There was discussion on ALGA's advocacy for the Federal Government to increase the funding pool to 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.

- Wyndham Changerooms Project
The project could not be carried out with the available funding due to cost increases.
- Alcohol issues
The Shire is trying to work on a ban of full strength alcohol. Discussion on the Banned Drinking Register.
Lanie advised that the Department will be meeting with WAPOL soon.

No action required

Shire of Lake Grace

- Sport and Recreation Grants

Background note prior to meeting:

The Shire is endeavouring to obtain funding from the State Government to enhance and upgrade the sporting venues and cultural activities within the region.

Comment:

The Shire applied for funding for the Bowling Club lighting, however the rules relating to the lights and the lux levels changed during the process. The price of the project then went up accordingly. The Shire will look to submit a further funding application in February 2023.

- Short Stay Accommodation Strategy

Action

Department staff to request the Lake Grace CEO to send the Department a copy of their Short Stay Accommodation Strategy.

Shire of Cuballing

Local Government Legislative Reform

Background note prior to meeting:

The process for the review of the Local Government Act continues. It is not clear whether it will be a new Act or a series of amendments to the existing Act.

Comment:

The Minister is proposing amendments to the existing Act.

- Red Tape Reduction

Background note prior to meeting:

As one of the smaller Local Governments in WA, the Shire is concerned that the opportunity to reduce compliance for small Local Governments has not been fully embraced. The financial statements for example will only be reduced by two pages out of approximately 50 pages.

One of the stated objectives of the reform is to reduce red tape, but the biggest source of additional red tape is regulations by the Department. Every time anyone anywhere makes a mistake whether deliberately or otherwise, there is a new regulation impacting on everyone. Is a regulatory impact statement required for each new regulation?

Comment:

The Minister for Local Government has been supportive of reducing red tape and Local Governments can submit examples of red tape reduction for the States consideration.

There was discussion on the DLGSC providing a scorecard of the increase and decrease in regulations for local Governments over the last 2 years.

Action

DLGSC to look at preparing a scorecard on the increase and decrease in regulations for local Governments over the last 2 years and what is proposed for future.

- Councillor Behaviour

Background note prior to meeting:

A Councillor will not be "a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)" for the purposes in the WHS Act, so CEOs will remain unprotected. Further CEO's will continue to have a central role in Councillor discipline so the unresolved tension will remain.

Comment:

There was discussion on the proposal for the Office of the LG Inspector and that this should have a positive effect for the sector.

CEO, Stan Scott was asked to write to the Department to advise of his experience with the Toodyay inquiry so that a review could be looked at.

Shire of Pingelly

- Local Government Legislative Reform

Background note prior to meeting:

Is there any update to the implementation of the Local Government Reforms?
Will there be any further opportunity to influence the outcome of the reform and if so, how?
When will the revised Standing Orders be released?

Action

DLGSC legislative reform area to provide an update for Pingelly.

City of Subiaco

Issues:

- Local Government Investment Fund

Comment:

Subiaco are interested in there being a Local Government Future Fund for Investments. Have attempted to obtain access to the State Future Fund with out success. CEO Colin Cameron believes that Local Governments need better investment options. Subiaco are looking at preparing their own business plan.

WALGA advised that they are carrying out due diligence on the potential for a Local Government Investment Fund and have appointed a consultant to investigate.

No action required

- Lords replacement (indoor sport)

Comment:

Subiaco are going to replace Lords and are looking at 2 sites.

No action required

Heads of Agency Breakfast - Notes

Monday, 3 October 2022

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

ATTENDEES

- Rebecca Brown, Director General, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
- Dana Mason, Manager Economics, WALGA
- President Jenny Mountford, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
- Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel, City of Bunbury
- Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Carnarvon
- James Pearson, Chief Executive Officer, City of Joondalup
- President Len Armstrong, Shire of Lake Grace
- Cr Mel Congerton, Deputy Mayor, City of Swan
- Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Pingelly
- Vin Fordham Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of West Arthur

NOTES

Council	Issue	Action	Responsibility
City of Joondalup	Opportunity to attract investment and work with JTSI in areas of strategic advantage for the City, including innovation and science, health and medical technology, higher education and tourism.	JTSI to continue to engage with City of Joondalup on relevant initiatives such as the State Innovation Strategy. JTSI to note Joondalup aspirations for hospital to become a tertiary hospital.	JTSI

Shire of West Arthur	Challenges in accessing and connecting with prospective investors and developers.	Webinar to provide Local Governments with a broader understanding of the role of JTSI and its key functional areas, including key contacts for relevant teams and grant funding opportunities.	WALGA
Shire of Carnarvon	Support with progressing strategic economic development opportunities for the Shire identified in ACIL Allen consultancy report.	Connect the Shire with the appropriate contacts within JTSI for projects related to tourism, hydrogen, mining. JTSI to provide information on future funding rounds for the Investment Attraction Fund.	JTSI WALGA to assist with disseminating information on funding opportunities.
City of Bunbury	Discussion deferred until a later date when JTSI will be in Bunbury	JTSI/City of Bunbury to arrange opportunity to meet in the afternoon. JTSI to arrange opportunity for Tourism WA Board to meet in Bunbury.	JTSI/City of Bunbury
Shire of Pingelly	Seeking assistance with next steps for progressing identified opportunity for manufactured wood industry	Provide relevant contacts in JTSI who may be able to provide guidance about next steps, particularly in relation to the Native Forest Transition, and grant funding opportunities.	JTSI
Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	Support with developing diverse industry and growing business in preparation for the end of life for the local lithium mine.	Provide information on industry and economic development potential in the region, and future funding rounds for the Investment Attraction Fund.	JTSI WALGA to assist with disseminating information on funding opportunities.

City of Swan	Issues with inadequate access to NBN in the Swan Valley impacting on business and tourism activity	Issue to be considered as part of the development of the 10 year tourism strategy. Internal Memo from the City of Swan detailing the challenges with this issue to be shared with the JTSI tourism team.	JTSI
Shire of Lake Grace	Access to labour for broadacre farming, opportunities for refugees to support local population growth.	Issue to be raised with with Director General of DPIRD, given this is outside of their remit.	JTSI



RDA Wheatbelt Inc

Annual Report 2021-2022

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INTRODUCTION

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt is a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation, governed by a committee and funded by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communities and the Arts.

RDA is a national initiative which seeks to grow and strengthen the regions of Australia. Comprising 53 committees, the RDA network covers metropolitan, rural and remote regions across the country. RDA Committees are strong advocates for their region and drivers of change and, as such, have a pivotal role in fostering regional economic development.

The RDA network strengthens partnership across all three tiers of government, regional business and the wider community to boost the economic capability and performance of regions. RDA committees are active in promoting Australian Government programs and shepherding communities towards appropriate funding sources that will assist projects that work towards economic development.

VISION, MISSION & PURPOSE

- The **vision** for our organisation is to actively shape the future of the Wheatbelt Region.
- To realise this vision, we commit to our **mission** of collaborating across communities, advocating with key decision makers and harnessing innovation to create local opportunity, growth and impact.
- And we do this because our **purpose** is to be the Wheatbelt's local voice to Federal Government to facilitate social and economic development.

CHARTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

STRONG, CONFIDENT AND VIBRANT REGIONS

Working in close partnership with fellow RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

- *Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.*
- *Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.*
- *Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.*

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again, I feel we have had a successful and productive past twelve months. It's been a year of transition as we have seen the end of our very successful Noongar Enterprise Development Support (NEDS) program and we now start our very exciting Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre (Lumen WRUC) program.

Terrific work has been done by the RDA Wheatbelt Director Regional Development Mandy Walker, Admin/Finance Officer Pippa Harris and Research, Evaluation, Project Support Officer Chris Evans on both the running of the NEDS program over the past four years and also in the big task of gaining the funding and setting up our Lumen WRUC. We thank them for their great work and expertise. A special thanks to Chris for his excellent evaluation of our NEDS program.

I want to emphasise our ongoing support for the extremely important Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network. This vital program will continue to bring benefits to the regions transport network for years to come.

RDA Wheatbelt continues to work hard to promote the opportunities offered within the Wheatbelt and advocate the issues that require state and federal attention. A big thank you to my fellow Members for enabling this important work, your attendance at meetings, your great input and your support of our staff and myself. I look forward to working with you over the next twelve months.

We are lucky to have such a strong close knit hard working team in Mandy, Pippa and Chris and on behalf of all the Members I say a big thank you and keep up your great work.

It's been another great year and I look forward to making the next twelve months exciting and productive for RDA Wheatbelt and our great Wheatbelt region.

Signature



Tuck Waldron



2. DIRECTOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In early 2021 we were recognised for the impact of our Noongar Enterprise Development Support (NEDS) projects by being offered an additional twelve months funding which we accepted, and wrapped up the project in June 2022. It was a privilege to be recognised for our work in delivering this project and we made sure that the last year was a step up on previous years activities. Ten new enterprise support activities were undertaken which provided mini business cases for funding opportunities, options analysis for services, Astrotourism and storytelling events, publishing opportunities and a transition for our Project Officer Robert Miles into a tourism business. We are now seeing the ripple effect of this effort with Iluka Resources now funding an arts studio space in Moora for Yued people which we started with NEDS funds and the continuation of the Drive to the Future program.

Moving on from NEDS we step straight into another significant project as successful recipients of the Australian Government's Regional University Centre funding. This project takes us into an exciting space delivering much needed support services for regional tertiary students. The impact of this project will be seen both in our regional high schools and across our industries and businesses looking to attract and retain employees. It will also see us providing jobs and expanding the RDA Wheatbelt team which is an exciting prospect.

During the year we refined how we articulate our vision, mission and purpose which clearly positions us as an important player in the regional development space. It's a challenging time for the region and our stakeholders as we move out of the COVID restrictions and into an environment of continued constrained workforce and housing availability. A challenge not unique to our region but certainly a handbrake on the plentiful economic and community development opportunities that are right in front of us ready to be harnessed.

Over the horizon we're looking at how to demystify the defence industry supply chain and encourage our Wheatbelt businesses, particularly manufacturers, into defence logistics. Longer term we are aiming to connect our businesses with defence and space industry opportunities.

We will need to continue to work smart with our State and Federal colleagues to ensure that we actively shape the future of the Wheatbelt, something which I have full confidence that our team can do.

Signature



Mandy Walker



*L to R Karen Strange Deputy Chair, Mandy Walker
Director Regional Development*

3. COMMITTEE AND STAFF

The Committee of RDA Wheatbelt is comprised of up to nine volunteer members drawn from community, business, government and not-for-profit organisations across the region. The Chair's appointment is made by the Minister for Regional Development, the Deputy Chair's appointment is confirmed after consultation with the Minister with all other Committee positions appointed at a local level by the Chair after consultation with the Committee.

Committee members have a strong understanding of the Wheatbelt region and the key issues it faces. They are strong advocates for the region and the RDA Wheatbelt committee and foster a region-wide view of issues. Members also actively contribute to debate within the committee and guide the preparation of reports, plans and other RDA Wheatbelt documents. This year we are pleased to welcome Mr Steve Gollan from Beverley who fills the vacant position.



Mukinbudin

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

Name	Position	Qualifications & Experience
Mr Terry Waldron Narrogin	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, WA Cricket Association Chair, Central Eastern Aged Care Alliance Chair, Rural Health West Chair, WA sports star of the year award Former Member of State Parliament for 16 years 6.5 years Minister for Sport & Recreation, Racing, Gaming & Liquor Former General Manager WA Country Football League Former Secretary Australian Country Football Council Former Real Estate Business Owner/Director Gt Southern & Wheatbelt South
Mrs Karen Strange Bruce Rock	Deputy Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grain and Livestock Producer in Bruce Rock Wheatbelt & Beyond Youth Mentoring (WBYM)- co-founder and Chair 2011 - current Bruce Rock DHS co-coordinator mentor program (2011-2018 True Blue Dreaming) (2018 - current WBYM) 2011 - current Community Liaison- Bruce Rock DHS Former Board Member of WA Women's Advisory Council
Mr Michael Aspinall Seabird	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Keep Australia Beautiful Council Former Board member Keep Australia Beautiful National Body President Wanneroo Agricultural Society Inc Former Shire of Gingin, Councillor (13 years) and President Former member of WALGA's Municipal Waste Advisory Council (13 years) Former member of the Control of Vehicles (off-road Areas) Act Advisory Committee 28 years in a variety of roles, for an engine and fuel injection research and development company

Name	Position	Qualifications & Experience
Mrs Lynette Baker Corrigin	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner and part time worker in farming enterprise Former Shire Councillor 16 years, President 10 years Honorary Freeman, Shire of Corrigin Past Board Director Rural Health West, 6 years. Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors Past member, working group Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Special interest in rural health
Mrs Fiona Bush York	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Owner, York Previously Regional Manager WA Primary Health Alliance 11 years in variety of health sector roles including health promotion, project management and contract management
Mr Stephen Gollan Beverley	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO Shire of Beverley 40 years experience in local gov't across Beverley, Wickelup and Gnowangerup Deputy Chair WA Country Cricket Board Committee Member WA Veteran's Over 50s Secretary/treasurer Beverley Golf Club
Mrs Kim Hewson Jurien Bay	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal, Economic Transitions Ten+ years assisting regional communities diversify their tourism product and seeking community sustainability Company Secretary of the Australian Prospectors & Miners' Hall of Fame Board member of Australia's Golden Outback Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors (Graduate) Member, Governance Institute of Australia
Mrs Lisa Judson Bolgart	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner, Small Business - 10 years AgriFinance Manager, Avon Valley and Wheatbelt - 15 years Member Mortlock Agri Focus Group Chair Bolgart School Council
Ms Wendy Newman Dowerin	Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Chair, WA Country Health Service Deputy Chair, Regional Early Education Development Inc (REED) Principal Consultant, Quintessence Consulting Member, Dowerin Events Management Member, Women on Boards Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors Member, Directions Workforce Solutions (Inc) Member, Australian Council Health Service Managers Member, RRR Network Member, Wheatbelt Business Network

STAFF

The staff are funded through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communities and the Arts. Staff are contracted to 30 June 2025, in line with the Operational Contract.

- ♦ Mandy Walker - Director Regional Development - mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au
- ♦ Chris Evans - Research, Evaluation, Project Support - chris.evans@rdawheatbelt.com.au
- ♦ Pippa Harris - Admin / Finance Officer - admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

4. OFFICE

Where of mutual benefit, RDA Wheatbelt employs staff (including the Director Regional Development) under a work-from-home arrangement with an administrative office in Gingin. This allows for greater coverage of the expansive geographical area that the region encompasses and reduces operational costs associated with office leases and travel.

Administration Office:

3 Constable Street, Gingin WA 6503

Tel: (08) 9575 1888

Email: admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Web: www.rdawheatbelt.com.au (New website September 2022)

5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

RDA Wheatbelt is committed to working with key stakeholders to maximise opportunities for our region. Our primary stakeholders include:

- The 42 Local Government Authorities that make up the Wheatbelt region
 - The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) – a statutory authority charged with the role of implementing the State’s Regional Development Policy.
 - Local community members and community groups
 - The 41 WA Community Resource Network Centres and Network
 - WA Local Government Association – Three zones Great Eastern Country, Avon-Midland Country and Central Country.
 - The Wheatbelt Business Network (WBN)
 - Local industry groups
 - State and Federal government agencies and departments
-
- **RDA Great Southern and Geraldton RUCs.** Working closely with these organisations to develop the Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre (Lumen WRUC)
 - **Shires of Merredin, Narrogin, Wongan Hills and York.** Working to set up Lumen WRUC study hubs in these locations.
 - **Wheatbelt Business Network.** RDA Wheatbelt supported the 2022 We Shine regional women’s business event and continues to distribute grant information and share in business activities.
 - **Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route Group.** Financial, in-kind and Working Group Member.
 - **Wheatbelt Development Commission.** A collaborative approach to aligning RDA Wheatbelt with the WDC Strategic Regional Plan and to avoid duplication of activities.
 - **RDA Midwest Gascoyne.** A collaborative GrantGuru funding portal.
 - **Health/aged working group.** Ongoing work with stakeholders within the aged, health and disability sectors to facilitate solutions to workforce and service delivery issues.

6. RDA WHEATBELT REPORTING OUTCOMES

RDA Wheatbelt reports on three outcomes to the Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communities and the Arts.

1. Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
2. Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.
3. Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.

7. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-22

RDA Wheatbelt Initiative – Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre – Outcomes 1 & 2.

RDA Wheatbelt made a submission to the 2022 Regional University Centre (RUC) funding round in response to an identified need for access to higher education facilities within the region.

After many months of research, engagement with stakeholders and the Regional Universities in Geraldton and Albany, a hub model has been developed utilising current infrastructure. Initial hubs are being planned for Merredin, Narrogin, Wongan Hills and York, it is anticipated that some of these facilities will become operational in Semester 2 of 2022.



The regional university centre will provide access to internet, computers, printers, video conferencing and more importantly, a student support/services person who will assist students with navigating university life, all at no cost to the student. Any student, regardless of what university they study with, will be able to access these facilities and support.

Discussions with Curtin, Murdoch and University South Aust have identified courses ready to deliver which have a market in the Wheatbelt in terms of current and future career pathways. These include nursing, education, art/cultural industries, agriculture, ag tech, mining and renewable energy. Discussion with stakeholders have also commenced to enable student placements within hospitals and industry sectors. Additional courses and universities will continually be added to this list.

This funding is an important step in showcasing the Wheatbelt as a modern, smart region where you can pursue a workforce ready career pathway. The Wheatbelt is home to some of the most innovative businesses, farming systems, industry, and service sectors in the State who are willing to partner with us. Our model for a regional university enables those people already in the workforce to access additional study options and for our school students both regional and returning from boarding school, an opportunity to connect with a future focused career path.

Regional communities will benefit by having a means to attract and retain residents within their towns. We know that around 60% of people who study in the regions stay in the regions to work, this will be a great outcome for our hospitals and schools, as well as our key industry sectors of agriculture and mining.

Employment opportunities will be generated with a full time Director and four part-time Student Support Officers (1 in each of the 4 locations).

RDA Wheatbelt was advised in April 2022 that this submission was successful.

RDA Wheatbelt Initiative - Noongar Enterprise Development Support – Outcomes 1,2 & 3.

The one year extension of the Department of Social Services (DSS) funding of the Noongar Enterprise Development Support (NEDS) program has consolidated several existing enterprises along with the registration of new clients and development and or implementation of new projects or enterprises.

Some of the high points of the year are:

- Beemurra Corporation, Yallalie Downs initiated two pilot camps for their community enterprise project 'Camping with the seasons on Yallalie Downs' for Aboriginal young people in Yued Country. In the process, The program received funds from an anonymous philanthropic donor that enabled the purchase of necessary equipment for the camps. In addition, Tourism WA is assisting to establish a camp site with the necessary amenities to establish a commercial cultural tourism business on Yallalie Downs.
- Ngala Koolangka Kaadadjin (NKK) (Our kids Learning) continues to make progress in implementing NKK Aboriginal education program that was piloted in Brookton District High School, into other learning institutions.

A meeting with Mr. Blake Innes has resulted in Hive Publishing providing further creative and publishing development support that will result in a 500 print run of the first reading resource, 'Five Kangaroos'. It is anticipated that schools or other learning institutions will acquire this resource as it aligns with an Aboriginal Curriculum directive for WA schools to increase the levels of Aboriginal literature and resources in libraries and classrooms.

- Mr. Robert Miles, NEDS program consultant, Director of Six Seasons Connect. Mr. Miles has continued to deliver the NEDS program as a consultant to RDA Wheatbelt as well as developing his own cultural tourism business, Dudja Dreaming.
- Ballardong Astro project - development of Ballardong astronomy storytelling and cultural business opportunities, similar to the Yued astronomy project, across the Shires of Tammin, Wyalkatchem and Beverley.



Ballardong Astrotourism. L to R - Robert Miles Six Seasons Connect, Catrina Smith, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Molly West, Robyn Davis. Photo credit Rebecca Parkhouse Photography

- Star Tracks TV documentary series working with Aboriginal Astronomy storytellers to develop a product for use in their Astrotourism businesses.
- Ballardong Tourism initiative - engaging Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) to provide advice and support for potential Ballardong tourism operations in the Shires of York, Quairading, Northam and Toodyay.

- Moora Drive to the Future project – not having a driver’s licence is a barrier to business and employment, this project assists Aboriginal people who are unable, due to cost, and/or lack of access to vehicles, attain their drivers licence and is jointly funded by Iluka Resources and the Ngala Wele Karla NEDS project. Iluka Resources have committed resources to this project for 2022.



Moora Drive to the Future – L to R Mandy Walker RDAW, Jane Atterby Northam PCYC, Pippa Harris RDAW, Bronwyn Fox Iluka Resources, Kaye McGlew Amity Health, David van Ooran PCYC CEO.

- Moora Arts Project - a 10 week creative hub project to engage potential businesses that has now been extended with funding support from Iluka Resources.
- Yued Tourism Business Plan - to explore the opportunity for a Yued tourism enterprise in the Pinnacles and the region. Developed with support from the Local Yued Elders group, representatives from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, WAITOC and the CEO of the Shire of Dandaragan. An Aboriginal ranger is now working to deliver cultural tours.
- Business Development Coaching and support sessions with 11 new clients. Mini business plans completed for a number of enterprises.
- Ballardong Yued Business Network - Currently 15 members, administrated by Six Seasons Connect with regular communications by email and plans for a formal structure in the future.



<https://www.moorditjaakiny.com.au/>
This website will remain live for some time to enable access to the resources available in the 'Tool box'.

Ballardong Astrotourism. 'Ballardong Dreams' artwork. Photo credit Rebecca Parkhouse Photography

RDA Wheatbelt Initiative – Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network – Outcomes 1 & 2.

This project has identified the secondary freight routes in the Wheatbelt, completed a high level analysis of the current condition of each road and what is needed to bring these roads to fit for purpose. Of the 80 secondary freight routes comprising 4400 kms, the program’s proposed works have identified 2850 kms (65%) that are prioritised for upgrades, at a cost in excess of \$500 million, of which \$167.5 million has already been sourced. A business case including the cost benefit analysis has previously been completed.



To date, 37 projects have been constructed at an approximate total of \$40 million.

RDA Wheatbelt remains committed to supporting this iconic and complex project, providing ongoing links between stakeholders and with representation on the Steering Committee.

Photo credit – Jane Taylor

Collaborative Grant and Funding Portal – Meets Outcomes 1 & 2.

In 2020 RDAs Wheatbelt and Midwest Gascoyne collaborated to provide a GrantGuru portal across the two RDAs regions. The project is providing a funding support online platform available to all Wheatbelt WA and Midwest Gascoyne stakeholders.



There are two components to this project, the free portal for communities, Local Government's (LGs) and businesses, where they can sign up to receive free alerts to opportunities based on preference selections, and the second is the subscription based LG only portal where all funding opportunities eligible for LGs are available and alerts can be set up based on funding needs. Subscription is very heavily subsidised and based on LG population.

The Wheatbelt region of WA comprises 42 Shires over an area twice the size of Tasmania. The region covers from coast to broadacre farming in the West. A low population density, under 75,000, and having no major city makes it difficult for most the small, underfunded, Shires to attract staff with the high level of skills for developing a strong funding proposal application. RDA Wheatbelt, whilst able to give strong support to some projects, are not in a position to actively support/write every application and without the funds to subscribe individually.

The 22 subscribing LGs from the Wheatbelt WA will have greater time to develop proposals through early targeted notification of suitable funding options and not risk missing suitable grants. RDA Wheatbelt has access to statistics and information on what stakeholders are looking for to be able to offer targeted support and greater knowledge and a raise in applicants' skills should result in greater levels success which support social and economic benefits.

As this project enters the third year the participating local governments continue to support this initiative and subscribe, indicating the level of need.

<https://rdawa.grantguru.com.au/>

Supporting Funding Applications – Meets Outcomes 1,2 & 3.

RDA Wheatbelt continues to assist with grant applications across a range of projects and funding streams that vary greatly in size and scope. The support ranges from research support, feedback on applications, matching projects to funding, identifying partners and providing letters of support.

BRRF Round 5 was heavily subscribed to from the Wheatbelt with 14 applications assisted. One application was successful, with the Pingelly Somerset Alliance Aged and Disability skills audit receiving \$20,000.



RDA Wheatbelt assisted 11 applicants for BBRF Round 6, with results yet to be announced.

(Late notice - on the 24th Oct 2022 it was announced that the Government will not be proceeding with the Building Better Regions Fund) Round 6 and that no funding will be allocated.)

Toodyay Pool – Photo credit Shire of Toodyay

8. EXTERNAL FUNDING

Noongar Enterprise Development Support (NEDS) – Dept of Social Services Funding. During 2018 RDA Wheatbelt secured two third party contracts totalling \$975,000 (ex GST) over 3 yrs and 3 mths to support Aboriginal Enterprise Development in the Yued and Ballardong Noongar regions of the Wheatbelt. In an additional fourth year, \$303,300 was received during this reporting period.

9. REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- ◆ There are around 9,000 small and medium enterprises registered in the Wheatbelt region. Supporting SMEs within the Wheatbelt region to harness innovation in their sector, deliver products and services in a profitable and sustainable manner as well as being a source of local job creation is critical to ensuring the economic vibrancy of the region is maintained.
- ◆ A gap still exists in outcomes for Aboriginal people within the Wheatbelt across the spectrum in health, education, workforce participation, employment, life expectancy, home ownership and many other measures. A concerted effort is required across all agencies in collaboration with the Noongar people to reverse this trend. RDA Wheatbelt has contributed to this by fostering economic participation at a micro business scale.
- ◆ Agriculture is fundamental to the region's economy. The prospects for this industry are bright but for it to thrive, new and innovative farm products, practices and business models need to be demystified and accessible across the sector.
- ◆ Limited mobile phone reception in many parts of the region impacts on emergency services, social amenity of communities and business performance/development. Sub-standard internet connections are a further social and economic handbrake in the region, which will only be partially addressed by the NBN roll-out. Digital connectivity is essential to provide opportunities for business growth and innovation in the region.
- ◆ The natural attributes of the region make it particularly suitable for renewable energy projects including large scale wind and solar farms. State Government regulation, connection costs, storage technology and capacity restraints in the distribution network are inhibiting the development of energy generation and limiting the regions ability to contribute to the renewable generation market.
- ◆ The natural and cultural attributes of the region make it extremely versatile in tourism service and product offerings. Support for local government, business and communities is required to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the regional, state, national and international tourist sectors.

- ◆ There is a lack of diverse and suitable housing stock across the Wheatbelt which poses a major constraint to workforce attraction and retention. Multi-purpose housing developments to accommodate the needs of different sectors of the community are required across the region.
- ◆ An extensive national, state and local road and rail network serves the Wheatbelt region. Investing in this infrastructure is imperative to ensure safe and efficient access to ports and strategic hubs for connection with domestic and international markets.
- ◆ The Wheatbelt has lower Year 12 attainment rates when compared with those of Western Australia. There are also limited opportunities to participate in post-compulsory education in the region. Innovation in the delivery of education to this region is required to improve the employability of school leavers within the Wheatbelt. The Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre will be an affordable and attractive option for those students who don't want to, or can't afford to, relocate to the city for further education opportunities.
- ◆ Wheatbelt residents require health care services of a suitable standard. It is important to support health care facilities as well as the care workforce to take advantage of modern technologies that can help us maintain high quality services and increase the ability of people to remain in their homes.

10. CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

Staying in Place – This initiative, originally titled 'Aging in Place' has evolved to 'Staying in Place' to encompass disability residents as well. Whilst a concerning issue across the whole Wheatbelt, RDA Wheatbelt is working closely with the Pingelly Somerset Alliance to develop a model for the Shire of Pingelly and surrounds that could then be used in all Wheatbelt areas. Significant work has been completed on this project and the next phase is to source funding with 14 funding streams identified as possible options.

The Pingelly Somerset Alliance project was successful in receiving \$20,000 BBRF Round 5 funding to complete an aged and disability skills audit. A further grant of \$377,000 over three years from the Dept of Social Services Seniors Connected Program was received to pilot the virtual aged village.

Telecommunications - This remains a significant challenge for the region. Both mobile reception and 'reasonable' internet access continues to elude a large portion of our residents and impacts on business, schooling, tourism and the economy. For a region with a serious inhibiting disadvantage in internet access this is a significant impediment not only to the provision of vital services, but it limits potential gains in productivity and business model changes that can align to the 'new economy'. Emergency services and responses are compromised and exacerbated during disasters such as bushfires. RDA Wheatbelt will continue to advocate for a 'reasonable' standard of service delivery and affordability.

Workforce availability – COVID travel restrictions led to significant workforce availability issues. The agricultural workforce that enters Australia has not been able to in past seeding and harvest times posing major constraints and concerns for the sector. The March 2022 data indicates that the Wheatbelt unemployment rate is under 3.8%, but with 26% of people over the age of 74 currently working at some level, this raises concerns that this resource will diminish too.

Regional workforce housing – accommodation options for regional workforces across all sectors is an issue that RDA Wheatbelt will be continuing to look at. Large projects in the region have seen the opportunity for economic and community growth however there is a lack of suitable accommodation for construction and ongoing workforce needs.

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA WHEATBELT INC					
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS					
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022					
	Operating	Projects	Income	Investments	TOTAL
Opening reconciled cash at 1 July 2021	43,125	5,956	186,123	229,476	464,680
INCOME FOR THE YEAR					
Grant Income - DITRDCA/DSS	349,493	303,300			652,793
Capacity Building funds - DITRDCA	1,364	-			1,364
Noongar Enterprise Development	49,179	-			49,179
Interest Income	11	36	12	1,049	1,108
Grant Guru Subscriptions	15,200	-			15,200
Vehicle reimbursement	-	-	5,433		5,433
Wander the Wheatbelt	15,000	26,614			41,614
Other Income	2,400	623		87,500	90,523
TOTAL INCOME	432,646	330,573	5,445	88,549	857,213
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE 2022	475,771	336,529	191,568	318,025	1,321,893
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR					
Asset Acquisitions	1,337	-	-	-	1,337
Committee & Board Costs	29,948	-	-	-	29,948
Financial & Professional	6,096	1,518	-	-	7,614
Activities	22,760	151,577	-	-	174,337
Office Lease & Outgoings	11,017	-	-	-	11,017
Operational Costs	10,936	1,391	-	-	12,327
Staff Salaries	265,082	114,545	-	-	379,626
Other Staff Expenses	51,402	-	-	-	51,402
Motor Vehicle Costs	23,123	705	3,025	-	26,853
Consultants, facilitation, evaluation	-	25,064	-	-	25,064
Project Management	-	31,620	-	-	31,620
Wander the Wheatbelt	-	-	41,614	-	41,614
Other	1,364	-	80,000	-	81,364
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	423,066	326,420	124,639	-	874,125
CASH AT BANK 30 JUNE 2022	52,705	10,109	66,929	318,025	447,769

12. CONTACTS

Administration Office:

3 Constable Street, Gingin WA 6503

Tel: (08) 9575 1888

E: admin@rdawheatbelt.com.au

Web: www.rdawheatbelt.com.au

Director, Regional Development

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E: mandy.walker@rdawheatbelt.com.au



***Minutes for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) Annual General Meeting held
Tuesday 18th of October, 2022 at Merredin Community Resource Centre Conference Room.***

Chairperson: Steve Palm.

1. Opening of Meeting: 10.01am.

2. Attendance and Apologies:

- a. Attendance:** Ron Burro, Mark Crees, Ross Della Bosca, Scott Stirrat, Steve Hunt, Steve Palm, Peter Barnes, Gary Guerini, Romolo Patroni, Jim Sullivan, Stuart McEwan, Daniel Hay-Hendiy, Tom Mulcahy, Dean Sinclair, Jason Davis, Lisa O'Neill.
- b. Apologies:** Kelly Manning, Mia Davies, Melissa Price, Darren West, Adrian Chesson, Cyril Smith, Stuart Putt, Linda Vernon, Len Armstrong, Jamie Taylor, Glenice Batchelor, David Burton.

3. Disclosure of Interests:

Steve Palm – current Chairperson noted that Lisa O'Neill the Executive Officer was his daughter.

Jim Sullivan – on the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) Committee.

4. Confirmation of Minutes:

- a.** Meeting held 17th of March 2022, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.
- b.** Meeting held 29th of September 2021, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.

Motion:

That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 29th of September 2021 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

***Moved: J. Sullivan. Seconded: G. Guerini.
Carried.***

Motion:

That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 17th of March 2022 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

***Moved: R. Patroni. Seconded: P. Barnes.
Carried.***

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a.** Processworx Update
- b.** DBCA RP Permits extended until Dec 31st, 2022.

6. Adoption of Financial Statement:

- a.** 2021/2022 Audited Financials presented.



Motion:

That the financials presented to be accepted as true and accurate and that the Audit Partners Australia Audit of the EWBG's 2021/2022 financials were tabled at the meeting to the members.

**Moved: T. Mulcahy. Seconded: M. Crees.
Carried.**

b. 2020/21 Budget Forecast as per Operational Plan.

Action: The Committee of Management will meet prior to the end of December 2022 to endorse the 2023/24 Operation Plan for EWBG.

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's bank account is any 2 to sign and held at Bankwest. The following members are authorised by the members to operate the group's Bankwest bank accounts Scott Stirrat (Chairman) – Narembreen Shire and Jason Davis (Deputy Chairman) Nungarin Shire.

**Moved: S. Palm. Seconded: R. Burro.
Carried.**

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group transfer \$60,000 from the transaction account to term deposit.

**Moved: R. Della Bosca. Seconded: G. Guerini.
Carried.**

7. Appointment of Auditor

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group appoint Audit Partners Australia as the auditors for 2022/23 fiscal year.

**Moved: R. Burro Seconded: S. Hunt.
Carried.**

8. Setting of Membership Fee

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's will set a membership fee of \$100 for 2022/23 for the eleven member Shire's of the group.

**Moved: M. Crees. Seconded: S. Palm.
Carried.**



9. Chairs Report

Motion:

That the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's Chairpersons report was presented by Steve Palm and included in the 2021-2022 Annual report.

**Moved: M. Crees. Seconded: S. Stirrat.
Carried.**

10. Election of Office

- a. Chair – Scott Stirrat (Narembreen)
- b. Deputy Chair – Jason Davis (Nungarin)
- c. Committee:
 - Dean Sinclair – Nominated by T. Mulcahy, seconded by S. Stirrat. Accepted.
 - Jim Sullivan – Nominated by R. Burro, seconded by S. Palm. Accepted.
 - Mark Crees – Nominated by R. Della Bosca, seconded by S. Palm. Accepted.
 - Steve Hunt – Nominated by S. Palm, seconded by R. Burro. Accepted.
 - Ron Burro – Nominated by R. Della Bosca, seconded by G. Guerini. Accepted.
 - Steve Palm – Nominated by S. Stirrat, seconded by M. Crees . Accepted.

11. Agenda Items

- a. **LPMT (Dogger) Update: provided by Stuart McEwan.**
- b. **DBCA Update- provided by Lisa O'Neill on behalf of Adrian Chesson.**
 - i. MOU to be finalised in the next week. EWBG to receive funds from DBCA to continue LPMT Operations in the northern area of EWBG's prescribed area.
- c. **DPIRD update- provided by Lisa O'Neill on behalf of Michael Britton.**
 - i. DPR notices were successfully sent out to ~22,000 ratepayers across the State in September.
 - ii. DPIRD has commenced reviewing all RBG Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements.
 - iii. DPIRD has commenced working with some RBGs in relation to total budgets for 2023/24 and what rate may be required to fulfil those expectations.
 - iv. A SmartyGrants working group will be formed in the near future (comprising a few selected RBGs) to develop a new system for applying for a Declared Pest Rate which will likely replace the need for RBGs to submit a full Operational Plan to DPIRD (an Ops Plan would still be required for community consultation/information).
 - v. Synergies Consulting are continuing the process of reviewing the RBG model and the BAM Act review panel continues its work on behalf of the Minister (see notes from last email update).



d. DPIRD Research Scientist Update – Tracey Kreplin.

e. Operational Plan

- i. Operational Plan to be submitted to DPIRD by December 30, 2022. Committee of Management to meet and finalise.

12. General Business

- a. All SBF maintenance and other issues, including illegal travellers to be reported to Sue Connell via EWBG Executive Officer - Lisa O'Neill.

13. Next Meeting: March 2023 (TBC).

14. Close of Meeting: 11.35am.