

Shire of Lake Grace

Special Council Meeting

MINUTES

05 August 2026

Meeting Commencing at 4:00pm

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Acknowledgement of Country

I wish to acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.



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SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Council Chambers, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace, WA on Wednesday 05 August 2026 commencing at 4:00pm.

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

President Len Armstrong opened the meeting at 4:00pm.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I wish to acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

3.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)

3.1 PRESENT

Cr LW Armstrong	Shire President
Cr S Hunt	Deputy Shire President
Cr RA Lloyd	
Cr AJ Kuchling	
Cr DS Clarke	
Cr J Roche	

3.2 APOLOGIES

3.3 IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Alan George	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A Wooldridge	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Phil Burgess	Manager Infrastructure Services
Mrs T Hall	Manager Corporate Services
Miss K McGougan	Executive Assistant

3.4 OBSERVERS / VISITORS

Nil

3.5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY GRANTED

Nil

3.6 ABSENT

Cr Benjamin Hyde

4.0 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

6.0 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7.0 NOTATIONS OF INTEREST**7.1 DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT
1995 SECTION 5.60A****RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION****RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Lloyd
Seconded: Cr Roche

Cr Kuchling declared interest affecting financial interest for Late Item 8.1 – Shire of Lake Grace Review of Organisation Structure July 2026.

CARRIED: 5/0

For: Cr Armstrong, Cr Hunt, Cr Clarke, Cr Roche, Cr Lloyd
Against: Nil

**7.2 DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL PROXIMITY INTEREST – LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 1995 SECTION 5.60B**

Nil

7.3	DECLARATIONS OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST – ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS 1996 SECTION 34C
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Nil

8.0	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION
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President Cr. Armstrong advised that there was a late report of significance that required Members' consideration at this meeting; he noted that the Shire's Standing Orders Local Law 2015 states:

3.1 Business to be specified in the agenda

(1) No business is to be transacted at any ordinary meeting of the Council other than that specified in the agenda, without the approval of the Presiding Member or a decision of the Council or Committee.

(2) No business is to be transacted at a special meeting of the Council other than that given in the notice as the purpose of the meeting.

As such, for this report to be considered it is necessary to suspend standing orders to allow this matter to be dealt with prior to the rest of the agenda items.

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kuchling
Seconded: Cr Hunt

1. That Council suspend standing orders to allow consideration of the Late Confidential Item 8.1 Report REVIEW OF ORGANISATION STRUCTURE - July 2026
2. Meet behind closed doors to consider the confidential item(s) in accordance with Section 3.7 of the Shire of Lake Grace Standing Orders Local Law 2015.

These items and any attachments are confidential in accordance with Section 4.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1995.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Armstrong, Cr Hunt, Cr Clarke, Cr Roche, Cr Kuchling, Cr Lloyd
Against: Nil

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Roche

That Council reinstate Standing Orders at 4.15pm to continue the meeting.

CARRIED: 6/0

For: Cr Armstrong, Cr Hunt, Cr Clarke, Cr Roche, Cr Kuchling, Cr Lloyd
Against: Nil

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Lloyd

That Council:

Accept, endorse and adopt the changes outline in Item 8.1 – Review of Organisation Structure July 2026

These items and any attachments are confidential in accordance with Section 4.23(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

President Armstrong advised that staff were allowed to stay in the room due to the Confidential Item involving them. However, Cr Kuchling was restricted from voting due to declaring Financial Impartiality.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Armstrong, Cr Hunt, Cr Clarke, Cr Roche, Cr Lloyd
Against: Nil

9.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 FINANCE

9.1.1 2026/2027 SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE – BUDGET ADOPTION

Applicant:	Internal Report
File No.	0781
Attachments	• 2026/2027 Statutory Budget • Schedules • Fees and Charges
Author	Tegan Hall Manager Corporate Services
Disclosure of Interest	Nil
Date of Report	31 July 2026
Senior Officer	Mr Alan George Chief Executive Officer

Summary

To consider and adopt the Shire of Lake Grace Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year together with supporting schedules, including striking of the municipal fund rates and other consequential matters arising from the budget papers.

Background

The 2026/2027 Budget has been compiled based on the parameters established in the Council integrated planning documents including Long Term Financial Plan, Corporate Business Plan and Strategic Community Plan.

Council gave consideration to the detail within the budget after working through three budget workshops in May, June and July 2026.

Comment

Further to the Budget Workshops and Ordinary Council Meetings all changes have been incorporated into this document along with all committed projects not complete as of 30 June 2026.

General Rates

The budget has been formulated with an increase of 3% on rate in the dollar for GRV (within town site) rate revenue and 3% on rate revenue for UV properties. The UV valuations carried out by Landgate substantially increased the value of these properties (on average by 20.81%) which has had a bearing on the setting of rates. This has led to the rate increase being formulated off total revenue which will reduce the rate in the dollar.

Borrowings

The outstanding loan principal on 1 July 2026 is \$1,414,949. The principal repayments for 2026/27 amount to \$208,984 and interest payable of \$63,868 leaving a balance of \$1,205,964 on 30 June 2027.

Reserve Transfers

Council commences the new financial year with \$8,132,381 in its reserve accounts. The budget proposal includes transfers to and from reserves and interest with a predicted decrease overall in reserve funds of \$206,157.

Transfers to Reserves:

- Recreation (Lake King Pavilion Project) \$200,000

• Office Furniture & Equipment (ERP upgrades circa 2030)	\$49,005
• Centenary (Lake King/Varley)	\$20,000
• Interest	\$290,941

Transfers from Reserves:

• Lake Grace Sewerage Scheme	\$51,103
• Land Development (Industrial Land Project)	\$200,000
• Plant Replacement	\$415,000
• Essential Medical (offset part cost of medical services)	\$100,000

The above transfers and interest earned will budget to give Council a closing balance of \$7,926,224 at the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

Infrastructure – Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Cemetery Upgrades

An amount of \$3,305,490 has been set aside for road renewal and upgrades to cover works on:

• Rasmussen Rd + McCracken Rd	\$250,000
• LK-Norseman 11.00-14.00 (RRG)	\$229,383
• Old Ravensthorpe 37.00-42.00 Resheet (RRG)	\$360,818
• North Lake Grace-Karlgarin Multiple Pavement Repairs (R2R)	\$140,000
• West Kuender Rd 4.50-4.70 Seal Repairs (R2R)	\$130,000
• Biddy Camm Rd 16.50-19.00 Resheet (R2R)	\$137,353
• Milstead Rd 0.00-6.22 Resheet (R2R)	\$362,000
• Lake King-Norseman Rd 45.00-50.00 Resheet (R2R)	\$345,000
• Old Ravensthorpe Rd 0.00-1.00 Geometry Improvement (R2R)	\$72,278
• Tonkin Rd 0.02-6.00 Resheet (R2R)	\$375,000
• West Kuender Rd 11.40-15.84 New Seal	\$553,658
• Carstairs Rd 1.60-6.60 Widen & Resheet	\$350,000

The following urban infrastructure allocations were provided for:

• Lake Grace & Newdegate Recycling Stations	\$4,500
• Dempster Rock Dam Revitalisation (CWSP)	\$45,000

Infrastructure – Parks, Gardens and Recreation Facilities

A total of \$597,820 has been allocated for capital parks and garden works which include:

• Lake Grace Tip	\$50,000
• Lake King Tip	\$59,000
• Jam Patch (New Walkway)	\$200,000
• Lake Grace Oval	\$36,720
• Lake Grace All Abilities Playground (Path Upgrades)	\$90,000
• Lake Grace Lookout	\$140,000
• Regional Drought Resilience (2 water tanks)	\$22,100

Property, Plant & Equipment

An amount of \$1,029,432 has been allocated to Shire Building refurbishment and upgrades including Shire houses, Lake Grace Medical Centre, Lake Grace/Newdegate Community Bus Shed, Lake Grace/Lake King/Newdegate/Varley Hall Refurbishment, Lakes Village Hall, Lake King Sports Pavilion, Lake Grace Sporting Precinct, Newdegate Recreation Centre, Lake Grace Pool, Lot 352 Stubbs St (Pink Building) and Hainesworth Museum Shed.

The Shire is currently in the process of carrying out grant funded capital works to release more residential land blocks in Lake Grace (Wattle Drive). An amount of \$200,000 has been

included to purchase Industrial Land in Lake Grace which will in turn be subdivided at a later date.

An amount of \$1,436,000 has been allocated to purchase plant and equipment which includes:

• DCEO Vehicle	\$68,000
• MIS Vehicle	\$80,000
• MCS Vehicle	\$68,000
• Grader	\$530,000
• Building Maintenance Ute	\$56,000
• Maintenance Grader Ute	\$54,000
• Float	\$145,000
• Forklift	\$20,000
• 6 Wheel Tip Truck	\$415,000

Legal Implications

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt, (Absolute Majority required) in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its municipal fund for the financial year ending 30 June of the next year.

Divisions 5 and 6 of the Local Government Act 1995 refer to the setting of budgets and the raising of rates and charges. The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 details the form and content of the budget. The budget as presented is considered to meet statutory requirements.

- Cemeteries Act 1986
- Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960

Policy Implications

Policy 3.3 - Specified Area Rating is used for consideration of rating levied for the Lake Grace Sewerage Scheme.

Consultation

Internal – Staff members and Council

External – Community groups have had the opportunity to submit budget requests

Financial Implications

The Budget document establishes activities which the Shire will pursue during the 2026/2027 financial year taking into account the Shire of Lake Grace Corporate Business Plan and Long-term Financial Plan.

Strategic Implications

This item aligns with Aspire 2033 – Shire of Lake Grace Strategic Community Plan

Leadership Objective - Strong governance and leadership, demonstrating fair and equitable community values		
Outcome	9	An efficient and effective organisation
Strategies	9.1	Maintain accountability and financial responsibility through effective planning
	9.2	Comply with statutory and legislative requirements

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ADOPTION

PART A - BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopt the Shire of Lake Grace Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year.

PART B – GENERAL AND MINIMUM RATES, INSTALMENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995 impose the following general and minimum rates on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

General Rates

Gross Rental Valuations (GRV)	12.8967 cents in the dollar
Unimproved Valuations (UV)	0.4995 cents in the dollar

Minimum Payments

Gross Rental Valuations (GRV)	\$575.00
Unimproved Valuations (UV)	\$575.00

2. That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, offers a one, two and four instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Option One – 1 instalment

Full payment due date	18 September 2026
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Option Two – 2 instalments

First half instalment due date	18 September 2026
Second half and final instalment due date	20 November 2026

Options Three – 4 instalments

First quarterly instalment due date	18 September 2026
Second quarterly instalment due date	20 November 2026
Third quarterly instalment due date	28 January 2027
Fourth quarterly and final instalment due date	31 March 2027

3. That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$11 for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
4. That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopts an interest

rate of 5.5% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

5. That Council, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and section 6.51(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopt a rate of interest of 7% applicable to any amount owing (other than rates or service charges) with interest calculated from the due date, which is 35 days from the date of issue shown on the account for payment.
6. That Council, pursuant to section 6.37 of the Local Government Act 1995 and the Water Services Act 2012, adopt the following charges for the Lake Grace Sewerage Scheme:

Specified Area Rates – Sewerage

Gross Rental Valuations (GRV)	4.2492 cents in the dollar
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Sewerage Fixture Charges

First Major Fixture	\$293.00
Additional Fixtures	\$130.00

PART C – GENERAL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2026/2027

That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995, adopts the fees and charges included in the 2026/2027 budget as attached to this agenda.

PART D – OTHER STATUTORY FEES FOR 2026/2027

1. That Council, pursuant to Part 7 Local Government Planning Charges of the Planning and Development Regulations 2009 adopts the Fees and Charges for Planning Services within the Shire of Lake Grace as included in the 2026/2027 budget as attached to this agenda.
2. That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the Cemeteries Act 1986 adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Lake Grace as included in the 2026/2027 budget as attached to this agenda.
3. That Council, pursuant to section 245A(8) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960 adopts the swimming pool inspection fee included in the 2026/2027 budget as attached to this agenda.
4. That Council, pursuant to section 67 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, adopt the charges for the removal and deposit of domestic and commercial waste as included in the 2026/2027 budget as attached to this agenda.

PART E – ELECTED MEMBERS FEES AND ALLOWANCES FOR 2026/2027

That Council, pursuant to section 5.98 and section 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995 and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following annual attendance fees for elected members:

President's Allowance	\$23,257
Deputy President's Allowance	\$5,814

Meeting Attendance Fees

President	\$9,456
Elected Members	\$4,728

Information and Technology Allowance of \$3,500 to each Elected Member.

PART F – MATERIAL VARIANCE REPORTING FOR 2026/2027

That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, and AASB 1031 Materiality, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2026/2027 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10) and \$10,000, whichever is the greater.

Voting Requirements

Absolute majority

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kuchling
Seconded Cr Roche

That pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, Council adopts the 2026/2027 Shire of Lake Grace Budget, Fees and Charges, Rates and Instalment Arrangements, Elected Member Fees and Allowances, and Material Variance Reporting threshold as presented in this report.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Armstrong, Cr Hunt, Cr Clarke, Cr Roche, Cr Kuchling, Cr Lloyd
Against: Nil

10.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President closed the meeting at 4.20pm

11.0 CERTIFIATION

I, Leonard William Armstrong, certify that the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 05 August 2026 as shown were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date