

Shire of Lake Grace

ISSUE 8 2026



Lake Grace ○ Newdegate ○ Lake King ○ Varley ○ Pingaring

From the Acting Chief Executive Officer

The Shire of Lake Grace Council held an Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday, 22 April 2026, with several important decisions made that support governance, community initiatives, and future planning across the district.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the formal adoption of the Shire of Lake Grace Risk Management Framework 2026. This framework strengthens Shire's approach to governance, risk oversight, and compliance, introducing improved reporting, accountability, and monitoring processes. Emergency Management And Regional Collaboration Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Shire and the Main Roads of Western Australia to enhance incident management support on key State roads. This partnership will improve emergency response times, road safety, and coordination during incidents such as bushfires, road crashes, and other disruptions.

Council considered the proposed removal of a Crown Grant Trust over land in Newdegate and resolved to provide no objection, to ensure there is no impact on public or future Shire use.

Supporting Local Business

Council approved the introduction of a Regional Price Preference clause within its Purchasing Policy.

This initiative supports local suppliers in procurement processes while maintaining fair competition.

Finally, Council acknowledged the Shire's strong audit performance that had been released by the Office of the Auditor General, being recognised for the second consecutive year within the top-performing local governments in Western Australia. This achievement reflects the dedication of staff and leadership.

Council is pleased to welcome Chief Executive Officer Alan George back, who returned on Tuesday 28 April following a period of leave since late February.

Works are currently underway on the Wattle Drive housing subdivision, supporting future growth and housing opportunities within the district.

Around the shire we have recently received some very welcome rainfall, providing a positive start to the season for our agricultural community.

The Shire welcomes new staff members as well as some changes within the organisation:

·James McGougan has commenced in the role as Infrastructure Support Administrator with the infrastructure team as of 23 April.

·Evelyn Oatridge as our new Community Events and Engagement Officer (commenced 28 April).

Congratulations to our existing staff member, Mikaela Counsel on her new appointment as Shire's new Community Economic Development Officer.

Aaron Wooldridge, Acting Chief Executive Officer
dceo@lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Next Council Meeting

3.30pm, Wednesday 27 May

A minimum of 15 minutes is set aside for public question time, giving community members an opportunity to ask questions relating to Shire activities. All welcome.

Upcoming agendas, and minutes from previous meetings are available for public viewing at: www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

the growing centre

Financial Audit Results - Top 20

For the second year in a row the Shire of Lake Grace has appeared in the top 20 list of Regional Councils. We are one of only seven shires who achieved this for the second consecutive time this year. Entities are rated on their financial reporting practices against the following criteria:

- timeliness of CEO-certified financial report
- quality of financial report (including the number of errors identified)
- quality of working papers that support the financial report
- management resolution of accounting matters
- key staff availability during the audit
- number and significance of management letter findings
- clear opinion with no EoM or other audit report modifications.

This result is a testament to the continued hard work of those staff involved.

Alan George
Chief Executive Officer

A poster for community funding requests. It features a dark green background with a faint tree pattern. On the left, the Shire of Lake Grace logo is at the top, followed by the text 'COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUESTS' in large white letters. Below this, it says 'Applications are now open...' in a cursive font. Further down, it states 'Your not-for-profit community organisation could be eligible to receive up to \$5000 to support community driven initiatives.' At the bottom left, there is contact information: 'For further information, contact Mikaela Counsel', 'cec@lakegrace.wa.gov.au', and '(08) 9890 2500'. On the right side, there is a circular inset image of a building entrance with a QR code overlaid on it. Text next to the QR code says 'Follow the QR code to access the guidelines and an application form'.

Working Together to Keep Our Local Stores Strong

Like many regional towns across WA, we've seen some changes in ownership of our local supermarkets, roadhouses and hotels over recent years. With new owners comes new ways of doing things, and like any change in a close-knit farming community, it can take a bit of time for everyone to find their feet.

Our local stores are a big part of day-to-day life out here. They keep us supplied, support local jobs, and are often one of the few places we all cross paths during a busy week. Keeping those relationships strong matters for all of us.

A few helpful reminders to make things run smoothly:

- Keep your receipt

Most stores now rely on receipts for refunds or exchanges. It helps staff sort things quickly and fairly for everyone.

- Speak to the store first

If something's not right, have a chat with the staff or owner. Most issues can be sorted on the spot if they know about it.

- Food safety vs food quality

There's a bit of a difference worth keeping in mind:

- Food safety (e.g. off smell, mould, expired use by date items) - these should always be returned and replaced or refunded.
- Food quality (e.g. not as fresh as expected) - still worth raising, but solutions may vary, expired best before date still safe to eat but may not be as fresh

- A bit of patience goes a long way

New owners are getting to know the community, just as the community is getting to know them. A friendly approach on both sides can make all the difference.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing - good service, fair treatment, and strong local businesses that are here for the long haul. A quick chat, a bit of understanding, and supporting each other where we can helps keep our town ticking along.

Thanks everyone for doing your part.

Brendon Gerrard

Environmental Health Officer



Connect with us

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Lake Grace Swimming Pool

CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

Library Services

Lake Grace Community Library

School Place

T: 08 9865 1185

E: lakegracelibrary@hotmail.com

Newdegate Public Library

Collier Street

T: 08 9871 1791

E: admin@newdegatecrc.com.au

Lake King Library

Newdegate/Ravensthorpe Road

T: 08 9874 4147

E: lklib@lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Town Planning & Building

Please contact the Shire of Lake Grace for all Town Planning and Building Surveying enquiries.

Email: shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Department of Transport

All licensing payments can be made in person at the Shire of Lake Grace Administration Building:

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

Please allow a minimum of 30 minutes prior to closing to enable completion of transactions.

We process the majority of transactions including: renewals, transfers, number plate orders, boat registration renewals and new licence applications.

Driving Assessor

Lake Grace holds one assessment day each month (subject to change).

Bookings are essential for all Practical Driver's Licence Assessments as there is a wait list. Please contact the Shire office for bookings. For more information go to: www.transport.wa.gov.au

Environmental Health

Please contact the Shire of Lake Grace for all Environmental Health enquiries.

Email: shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au.

Waste Facilities

Lake Grace

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 2pm

Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm

Newdegate

Wednesday 9am - 1pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

Lake King

Open every day

Varley

Closed

Recycling Services

Household waste is collected each Tuesday in Lake Grace, Newdegate, Lake King & Varley.

Recycling is a fortnightly service, alternating between Lake Grace and Newdegate:

Newdegate	Lake Grace
Tuesday 12 May 26 May	Tuesday 19 May 2 June

Shire of Lake Grace

Telephone: 08 9890 2500 (8.00am–5.00pm) | Email: shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Administration Building, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace (8.30am–4.00pm Monday to Friday)

Postal Address: PO Box 50, Lake Grace, WA 6353

Website: www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Connect with us

