



Shire Community News

From the CEO

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By now everyone should have received their annual Shire Rate Notices and have noted that there has been no increase this year on Gross Rental Value (GRV) rates as recommended by the Minister of Local Government as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. There has, however, been a small increase in Unimproved Value (UV) rates as gravel roads still need to be maintained.

You will no doubt have noticed that Sport and Recreation Specified Area Rates (SARS) have again not been raised this year and I would like to provide a bit of background.

SARS appears to have been first initiated around 20 years ago and was imposed on the four locations of Varley, Lake King, Newdegate and Lake Grace and it was applied in full for expenses relating to halls, swimming pools, other recreation and sport, libraries and other culture.

In March 2019, Council engaged Moore Stephens to undertake a strategic rate review and it found that the SARS for Sport and Recreation did not appear to relate to specific projects or services and in their current form were difficult to justify. Subsequently, the SARS for 2019/2020 was removed from the budget and instead, the equivalent rate revenue was raised through the general rate. This resulted in an increase in rates for ratepayers who had not been paying SARS or were paying a low specified area rate.

Legal opinion was then sought as to whether the SARS was compliant with current legislation. The outcome was that, for a SARS to be validly imposed under section 6.37(1) of the Local Government Act 1995, a specified area rate must relate to a 'specific work, service or facility' and the affected ratepayer must have a relevant benefit from, have access to or contribute to the need of the specific work, service or facility, for example, the SARS raised for the Lake Grace sewerage. As this is a specific benefit for the sole use of the residents of Lake Grace town and as such is a legitimate purpose as defined by the Local Government Act 1995. Furthermore, the SARS could not be redefined so as to achieve the exact same purpose but be compliant in future years as it relates to a category of expense rather than 'specific works, services or facilities'.

As a result of further questions from some ratepayers, additional legal opinion was sought in relation to whether there is an alternative to the imposition of the SARS that would achieve the same outcome and comply with the Local Government Act 1995. Council was subsequently advised that, at the present time, there is no alternative rate or charge available that the Shire could validly impose under the Local Government Act to achieve the same outcome as the Recreation and Culture Specified Area Rates.

Council has been advised that as part of the Local Government Act 1995 review, currently being undertaken, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has considered possible options for reform to rates, fees and charges under the Act. This also included consideration of a possible amendment to the annual rate charges to enable a local government to impose a levy on all ratepayers to fund a particular service, facility or activity that benefits the entire community. If there is a reform to the rates, fees and charges under the Local Government Act 1995 this may provide an alternative mechanism to impose a rate or charge which would achieve the same outcome as the SARS but comply with the Local Government Act 1995.

The result of all this is that at the present time, Recreation and Culture Specified Area Rates cannot legally be imposed. However, this by no means implies that capital expenditure on new projects will not continue. Worthwhile projects will continue to be supported within all areas of the Shire of Lake Grace.

Extraordinary Elections for two (2) Councillor positions.

There are two Councillor positions with the term of office expiring in October 2021. The Electoral Roll closed on 23 July, nominations for candidacy closed on 08 August. We have six (6) candidates who are vying for the positions as follows:

- Benjamin Hyde
- Shashi Balekudru
- Greyham (Rusty) Lee
- Walter (Wally) Newman
- Stephen Hunt
- Shane Carruthers

Candidate details can be viewed on www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au.

Participate and make your vote count before 6:00pm on

11 September 2020.

Alan George
Chief Executive Officer

Ordinary Council Meeting

An Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 from 3:30pm at the Council Chambers, Administration Building. The Agenda will be available on www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

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

Shire Infrastructure News

The last of the Lake Grace swimming pool water has been taken. Thanks to all who made the trip in to help empty it.

Resurfacing starts 10 August, Bishop Street residents please be aware that there may be some noise disruption for the next week or so.

Road Works

Our staff have carried out the following works:

The Lake Grace Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- McGlenn Road
- Morton Road
- Burngup North Road
- Fisher Road
- Duckworth Road
- Jenks Road

The Newdegate Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- North Buniche Road
- Aylmore Road
- Dillon Road
- Edwards Road

The Lake King and Varley Maintenance Grader has carried out grading on:

- Norseman Road

Buildings

The Building Maintenance Crew has carried out the following work:

- Removal of CWA bee hive
- Replacement of Newdegate Recreation Centre mirror
- Varley Town Hall Maintenance
- Repairs to Shire Depot fence
- Assembly of fence to Gumtree Playground
- Lake Grace Pavilion maintenance
- Newdegate Country Club maintenance
- Lake Grace Cemetery maintenance
- Aylmore culvert road maintenance

Parks & Gardens

The Parks and Gardens Crew have carried out the following work:

- Weeding at Lake Grace Truck stop

- Fertilise fruit trees around town
- Garden maintenance to 8 Wattle Drive
- Mowing of Lake Grace Football & Hockey Ovals
- Stubbs Street gardening

Craig Elefsen

Manager Infrastructure Services

Seen a faulty streetlight?

Western Power has recently automated streetlight fault reporting, making it easier to report faulty streetlights.

If a streetlight doesn't turn on, turn off or flickers, let Western Power know using the streetlight reporting tool at:

<https://westernpower.com.au/faults-outages/report-a-faulty-streetlight/> or call on 13 10 87

Help stop the spread of caltrop

Following the recent rainfall the townsites have experienced an outbreak of caltrop.

What You Can Do:

You can assist by spraying and/or removing any caltrop on your property or verge, please do not put into your rubbish bin as this will contaminate our waste facility and the neighbouring farm lands.

Disposing of Caltrop Plants

To dispose of any removed caltrop plants please:

- place them into a marked and sealed plastic bag and keep them until winter when they can be safely burnt

or

- take them to the Shire Depot at Absolon Street Lake Grace, where there is a specially marked caltrop wheelie bin facility located just outside the main depot gate.

or

- Newdegate: place them in one of the two blue bins specially marked **Caltrop** on Lot 12 May St (vacant block) Newdegate.



Community Info

Office Open Hours

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm
Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Staff can be contacted by phone between 8am - 5pm

Transport & Licensing

All licensing payments are to be made in person at the Shire of Lake Grace Administration office, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8.30am - 4.15pm
Thursday and Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

As an agency we process the majority of transactions, including: renewals, transfers, number plate orders, boat registration renewals and new licence applications. With every transaction we perform here, we try to offer the best service possible.

We do ask all licensing customers to be considerate, even though we are aware of people being 'locals' it does not exempt us from following the rules set by the Department of Transport.

Driving Assessor

The Practical Driving Assessor (PDA) will be at the Shire of Lake Grace Office on:

Friday 7 August

Friday 4 September- to be confirmed

Bookings are essential for all Practical Driver's Licence Assessments and we advise booking in advance as there is often a waiting list.

All bookings to be made at the Shire office on 9890 2500 until further notice.

Lake Grace has one assessment day each month held on the first Friday of the month.

For more information go to: www.transport.wa.gov.au.

Libraries

Lake Grace Public Library School Place Absolon St
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Closed for lunch 12.30 - 1pm

Newdegate Public Library Collier St
Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 4.30pm
Closed for lunch 12noon - 1pm
Friday 9am - 2pm

Lake King Library Newdegate/Ravensthorpe Rd
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am - 3.30pm

Town Planner

Planning Officer, David Johnston and Building Surveyor, Gary Bruhn can be contacted through the Shire Office on 9890 2500 or email shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au.

Environmental Health Officer

The Shire's Environmental Health Officer, Brendon Gerrard. Contact the Shire on 9890 2500 or email shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au.

Tip Times

Lake Grace

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 2pm
Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm

Newdegate

Wednesday 9am - 1pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Lake King and Varley

Open every day

Recycling Services

Household Waste Collection is a weekly service and collected each Tuesday for Lake Grace, Newdegate, Lake King & Varley.

Recycling is a fortnightly service and alternates between Lake Grace and Newdegate. See below for the upcoming recycling collection dates.

Lake Grace	Newdegate
Tuesday 18 Aug 2020	Tuesday 11 Aug 2020
Tuesday 1 Sept 2020	Tuesday 25 Aug 2020

Please Note: There is no kerbside recycling collection service in Lake King or Varley.

The recycling bins are collected by Warren Blackwood Waste and transported to a recycling facility. If items which are not recyclable are found the content can't be recycled and the load will be directed to the landfill.

If an item is covered in food, it is not recyclable. Food is one of the worst contaminants in the recycling process.



Check out our Facebook
www.facebook.com/shireoflakegrace



Check out our website
www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Facility Hire

Please contact the Shire and rebook the facility, to confirm you have read the COVID Safety Plan before you resume using the facility.

People, groups, clubs who hire public buildings are required to:

- Complete the WA Government Safety Plan
- Register uses of the facility
- Monitor entry and exits
- Disinfect surfaces, doors handles, table chairs, showers, toilets regularly.

At the end of the event requirements are:

- Return tables and chairs to designated storage area
- Put all rubbish into the outside sulo bins provided, including rubbish in toilets
- Ensure all stoves and lights are turned off
- Report any damages incurred while hiring facility
- Facility to be left in the same condition as found upon arrival including the floors.

All external doors are closed and locked;

This is most important as often doors are unlocked when cleaners arrive.

Shire cleaners are responsible for the general cleaning of a facility, however they are not responsible for cleaning up and putting away tables and chairs after a function.

Affiliation fees are set up to help cover some of the costs in maintaining the buildings for the hirer's use which include, but are not limited to, general cleaning, water and electricity usage.

Vacswim

Early Start PROGRAM, 2020

General information can be found at <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/vacswim> with updates shown on the Programs and Locations page.

Lake Grace and Newdegate:

Friday 18 December 2020 to
Thursday 24 December 2020

7 days x 45 minute lessons

Extended Power outage

The State Government's \$80 extended outage payment, which is a one-off payment of \$80 per any unplanned outage that lasts longer than 12 consecutive hours. Go to: <https://westernpower.com.au/faults-outages/make-a-claim/extended-outage/>



LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXTRAORDINARY POSTAL ELECTION ELECTION NOTICE

(Local Government Act 1995, s4.64)

An election is being held by postal vote on Friday 11 September 2020 in the Shire of Lake Grace to fill the following vacancies:

District 2 Councillors Terms to expire: 16 October 2021

CANDIDATES

HYDE, Benjamin
BELEKUDRU, Shashi
LEE, Greyham (Rusty)
NEWMAN, Walter (Wally)
HUNT, Stephen
CARRUTHERS, Shane

ELECTION PACKAGES will be sent to the electors on the Shire of Lake Grace local government electoral roll.

REPLACEMENT PACKAGES can be obtained from the Shire of Lake Grace, 1 Bishop Street, LAKE GRACE during business hours prior to election day and between 8.00am and 6.00pm on election day if the package is not received or should any papers be missing.

POST YOUR VOTE EARLY completed postal voting packages must reach the Returning Officer by 6.00pm on election day, Friday 11 September 2020.

YOU MAY HAND DELIVER YOUR PACKAGE to an electoral officer at the Shire of Lake Grace, 1 Bishop Street, LAKE GRACE during business hours before election day or at the polling place between 8.00am and 6.00pm on election day.

CHIEF POLLING PLACE: Shire of Lake Grace, 1 Bishop Street, LAKE GRACE 6353

THE COUNT OF VOTES will commence at 6.00pm at the chief polling place listed above.

Keryy Hitchins
RETURNING OFFICER
Mob: 0408 955 280



Total Fire Ban

Total Fire Ban regulations mean you can harvest or move vehicles across paddocks during a Total Fire Ban (TFB) as long as;

- a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has not been put in place by the Shire of Lake Grace.
- you have a firefighting vehicle on site, with a minimum 400 litres of water.

Shire of Lake Grace will be responsible for placing Harvest and Vehicle Movement. This will happen when local weather conditions result in the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) reaching 32. Very high in the Grassland Fire Danger Rating.