



**SHIRE OF IRWIN**  
DONGARA-PORT DENISON  

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A BRILLIANT BLEND

# MINUTES

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Monday 8 December 2025



I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2025

Signed:   
Shire President

24 February 2026

Date: .....

# Table of Contents

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS.....	2
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	2
3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE.....	3
4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.....	5
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST .....	5
6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	5
7. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS .....	5
8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND TABLING OF AGENDA FORUM NOTES .....	5
8.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025 .....	5
8.2 Agenda Forum Notes – 2 December 2025 .....	6
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION .....	6
10. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.....	7
10.1 Finance Reports.....	7
FIN 01-12/25 Accounts for Payment - November 2025 .....	7
FIN 02-12/25 Monthly Financial Statements - October 2025 .....	9
10.2 Development Reports .....	12
DEV 01-12/25 November 2025 Development Delegated and Authorised Authority Report .....	12
DEV 02-12/25 Disposal of Land by Lease – Dongara Irwin Race Club.....	15
10.3 Community Services Reports .....	18
COM 01-11/25 Dongara Golf Course Reticulation Upgrade Funding Model .....	18
COM 02-12/25 Magic on Moreton Budget Amendment .....	21
COM 03-12/25 Community Assistance Scheme and Events Committee – Community Members .....	23
COM 04-12/25 Visitor Centre Closure of Saturday Operations.....	25
10.4 Operations Reports .....	28
10.5 Office of the CEO Reports.....	28
10.6 Committee Reports .....	28
11. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.....	28
12. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.....	28
13. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION.....	28
14. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC .....	28
15. CLOSURE .....	28

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
held  
**8 December 2025**

**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.00pm and welcomed Councillors, Staff and Gallery Members.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Members**

Councillor I Scott  
Councillor A J Gillam  
Councillor P Summers  
Councillor S Hansen  
Councillor L Berecz  
Councillor L Musulin

**Staff**

Mr M Battilana	(Acting) Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Connell	Manager Development
Ms F Boksmati	Manager Community Services
Mr M Jones	Manager Operations
Miss P Machaka	Manager Finance
Mr M Antony	Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms S Mearns	Executive Assistant

**Guests**

Nil

**Apologies**

Councillor J Melsom

**Approved Leave of Absence**

Mr S Ivers Chief Executive Officer

**Gallery**

Mr John Rossitter 181 Point Leander Drive, Port Denison

### 3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

The following questions were raised at the Agenda Forum held 18 November 2025.

**Question 1:** Mr Ian Maluish, 5 Abbot Terrace, Port Denison

*Could the Shire resume including the “reason for payment” in the Accounts for Payment statement, as was previously the practice.*

*Response: Acting on expert cyber-security advice, the Shire is reviewing the types of data that may be publicly released to ensure no creditor or customer information is exposed, thereby preventing potential cyber-security, fraud, or scamming risks. Until this review is fully concluded, the Shire will maintain the existing information release practices.*

**Question 2:** Mr Ian Maluish, 5 Abbot Terrace, Port Denison

*Why several neighbouring blocks, including those adjacent to and behind his property, had not been mowed in accordance with the Shire’s Fire Break requirements due 1 November 2025, and asked what the Shire’s policy is and when compliance will occur, given the fire risk to his property.*

*Response: Inspections have been conducted on the neighbouring blocks, including those adjacent to and behind your property. Infringements have been issued where necessary in accordance with Shire of Irwin Fire Break requirements. We are committed to ensuring compliance and will continue to monitor the situation closely, taking further enforcement actions as needed. Our Firebreak Inspection Officers will be carrying out follow-up inspections over the next few weeks to ensure that property owners are contacted should additional or more thorough works be required.*

**Question 3:** Mr Ian Maluish, 5 Abbot Terrace, Port Denison

*Who is responsible for the eradication of Box Thorn (declared noxious weed) on urban blocks as there are several infestations nearby?*

*Response: African Boxthorn is a declared pest under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007. This means landowners are responsible for controlling and removing Boxthorn on their own properties, including urban lots.*

*The Shire manages declared weeds only on Shire-controlled land through its strategic spraying program. The Shire cannot require private landowners to remove Boxthorn unless formal compliance action is undertaken in partnership with DPIRD, which is generally reserved for significant biosecurity risks.*

*Landowners are encouraged to manage infestations on their properties, and the Shire can provide advice or guidance on effective control methods if needed.*

The following questions were raised at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025.

**Question 4:** Mr John Rossiter, 181 Point Leander Drive, Port Denison

*Am I wrong in saying that all of the people in this chamber are public servants except for those in the gallery, who would mainly be residents and ratepayers?*

*Response: In Western Australia, local government employees are not covered by the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (PSM Act). The Act applies to WA public sector bodies and their employees, but it specifically excludes entities listed in Schedule 1 of the PSM Act, which includes local governments. Local government employees are generally employed under the Local Government Act 1995 and relevant industrial instruments.*

**Question 5:** Mr John Rossiter, 181 Point Leander Drive, Port Denison  
 Is No 2 Kennedy Heights vacant? If so, how long has it been vacant? Why is it vacant?

*Response: The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the property was not vacant and that the Shire of Irwin provides the home for occupancy by the local General Practitioner.*

**Question 6:** Mr John Rossiter, 181 Point Leander Drive, Port Denison  
 Why does it take over three weeks for the Shire to provide a response to my questions raised at a Council Meeting?

*Response: Shire of Irwin Meeting Procedures Local Law 2016, along with the Agenda Forum Information and Council Meeting Information, stipulate that no specific timeframe is provided for responding to questions taken on notice during a meeting. The only requirement is that a written response must be provided at a later time, and a summarised version of that response is to be included in the Agenda for the next Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM).*

*Our CEO is responding in accordance with Local Government Regulations and prescribed timeframes, ensuring that the matter has been thoroughly investigated before providing a response.*

*Exerts from the aforementioned documents are as follows:*

**Meeting Procedures Local Law 2016**

6.7 (2) A question may be taken on notice by the Council for later response.

6.7 (3) When a question is taken on notice the CEO is to ensure that:

- (a) a response is given to the member of the public in writing; and
- (b) A summary of the response is included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Council

**Agenda Forum Information & Council Meeting Information – Published in the Agenda Forum Papers and Council Meeting Agenda**

A question may be taken on notice by Council for a later response. Responses will be provided in writing to the member and summary will be included in the agenda of the next Ordinary Council Meeting of Council.

**Question 7:** Mr John Rossiter, 181 Point Leander Drive, Port Denison  
 Referring to my previous questions in relation to No 4 Kennedy Heights – How can you sell a duplex and then also sell the land on which it sits?

*Response: The land and two units are registered under a single legal title, and as such, they cannot be sold separately under property law. However, it is important to note that property laws and accounting standards do not always align. While Property Law mandates that 4 Kennedy Heights must be sold as a single entity, Accounting Standard AASB 116 stipulates that duplex assets on a single title must be recognised as separate assets. This discrepancy is why the assets are reflected separately in the Shire's financial records, as shown below.*

SHIRE OF IRWIN									
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY									
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021									
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>									
<b>NOTE 7</b>									
<b>DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</b>									
Asset Number	Asset Description	Amended Budget				YTD Actual			
		Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)	Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Land and Buildings</b>									
2646	Land - 4 Kennedy Heights	160,000	160,000			160,000	160,000		
2598	Duplex 4A Kennedy Heights	215,310	125,000		(90,310)	215,310	125,000		(90,310)
2599	Duplex 4B Kennedy Heights	220,657	125,000		(95,657)	220,657	125,000		(95,657)

**Question 8:** Mr Ian Maluish, 5 Abbot Terrace, Port Denison

*The two upcoming Foreshore Redevelopment Community Engagement Sessions being held on 9 December 2025 are being held at 10.00am and 4.00pm. Could these sessions be rescheduled to give working community members an opportunity to attend?*

*Response: The Shire President advised that the 4:00 pm session runs until 7:00 pm, allowing working community members sufficient time to attend. The sessions are held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with both sessions providing the same information. There is no formal presentation; instead, attendees can speak directly with the consultants, GHD, and view and discuss the foreshore redevelopment plans displayed throughout the room.*

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Acting Chief Executive Officer advised that Declarations of Interest were received as listed below:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
Cr Hansen	DEV 02-12/25 – Disposal of Land by Lease – Dongara Irwin Race Club	Impartiality – Cr Hansen is the Secretary (Volunteer) of the Dongara Irwin Race Club
Cr Gillam	DEV 02-12/25 – Disposal of Land by Lease – Dongara Irwin Race Club	Impartiality – Family Member is a Committee Member of Dongara Horseriding Club which is also a user of the Race Club grounds.

**6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**7. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

**8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND TABLING OF AGENDA FORUM NOTES**

**8.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025 are included in the *Attachment Booklet – December 2025*.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>011225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Summers</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Hansen</b>
<b>That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025.</b>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b> Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin	
<b>Against:</b> Nil	

**8.2 Agenda Forum Notes – 2 December 2025**

At the Agenda Forum held 2 December 2025, Shire Officers presented background information and answered questions on items to be considered at the December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Notes from the Agenda Forum are included in the *Attachment Booklet – December 2025*.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>		<b>021225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Gillam</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Summers</b>	
<b>That Council confirms the Notes of the Agenda Forum held 2 December 2025.</b>		
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>	
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>	
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>	

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

- 27 November 2025 Shire President and Acting CEO attended Mitsui E&P Sundowner
- 28 November 2025 Shire President and Acting CEO met with MWDC

## 10. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### 10.1 Finance Reports

<b>FIN 01-12/25 Accounts for Payment - November 2025</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>S Clarkson, Senior Finance Officer</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>P Machaka, Manager Finance</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>2.0057</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to receive the list of accounts paid under delegated authority during November 2025.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>031225</b>																						
<b>MOVED: Cr Gillam</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Berecz</b>																						
<p>That Council, by Simple Majority, receives the Accounts paid during November 2025 as contained in FIN01-12/25 Attachment 1 of the Attachment Booklet – December 2025 represented by:</p>																							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payment Type/Numbers</th> <th>Total Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EFT 34214 – 34380</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$975,900.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muni Cheques – 32254 – 32255</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$50,157.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – Telstra</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – WA Treasury Corporation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$65,350.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – Credit Card</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,392.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – N-Able Pty Ltd</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,393.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – Australian Phone Company</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$225.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – Telair Pty Ltd</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,614.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit – Superannuation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$31,178.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$1,138,412.59</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Payment Type/Numbers	Total Amount	EFT 34214 – 34380	\$975,900.36	Muni Cheques – 32254 – 32255	\$50,157.15	Direct Debit – Telstra	\$200.00	Direct Debit – WA Treasury Corporation	\$65,350.56	Direct Debit – Credit Card	\$10,392.98	Direct Debit – N-Able Pty Ltd	\$2,393.16	Direct Debit – Australian Phone Company	\$225.23	Direct Debit – Telair Pty Ltd	\$2,614.90	Direct Debit – Superannuation	\$31,178.25	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,138,412.59</b>
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<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>																						
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>																						
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>																						

**Background:**

A list of accounts paid under delegated authority is attached showing all payments made during the month of November 2025.

**Officer's Comment:**

Changes to the format of the list of payments has been made to be aligned with Section 13(1) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations.

**Consultation:**

Nil

**Statutory Environment:**

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* provides as follows:

13. *Payments from municipal fund or trust fund by CEO, CEO's duties as to etc.*

(1) *If the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month showing for each account paid since the last such list was prepared*

- (a) *the payee's name;*
- (b) *the amount of the payment;*
- (c) *the date of the payment; and*
- (d) *sufficient information to identify the transaction.*

(3) *A list prepared under sub-regulation (1) or (2) is to be —*

- (a) *presented to the council at the next ordinary meeting of the council after the list is prepared; and*
- (b) *recorded in the minutes of that meeting.*

**Policy Implications:**

Under Delegation CEO101 Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to authorise payments from the municipal or trust fund.

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

Nil

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 4.2.1 Ensure compliance whilst embracing innovation and better practice principles

Strategy 4.3.2 Adopt and follow better practice processes

**Attachments:**

*Attachment Booklet –December 2025*

FIN01-12/25 Attachment 1: Accounts for Payment – November 2025

<b>FIN 02-12/25 Monthly Financial Statements - October 2025</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>P Machaka, Manager Finance</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>S Ivers, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>2.0057</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to consider and receive the Monthly Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 October 2025.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>041225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Musulin</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Summers</b>
<b>That Council, by Simple Majority, receives the Monthly Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 October 2025 as contained in FIN 02-11/25 Attachment 1 of the Attachment Booklet – December 2025.</b>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

The Monthly Financial Statements to 31 October 2025 are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and includes the following statutory reports:

- Statement of Financial Activity by Nature
- Statement of Financial Position
- Explanation of Material Variances
- Net Current Funding Position

The Statements also include various other financial information not required by legislation, but for Council information.

**Officer's Comment:**

The draft financial position to the end of October 2025 is detailed in the attached report and summarised as per below:

31/10/2025	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Operating Revenue	8,987,143	9,403,452
Operating Expenditure	(4,854,830)	(3,193,630)
Net Operating	4,132,313	6,209,822
Non-Operating Revenue	624,668	0
Non-Operating Expenditure	(1,863,055)	(765,689)
Net Non-Operating	(1,238,387)	(765,689)
Cash at Bank		4,489,407
Cash at Bank Restricted		624,539
Reserve Bank		1,042,802
Total Cash Funds		6,156,748

**Consultation:**

Nil

**Statutory Environment:***Local Government Act 1995*

- *Section 6.4 Financial report*

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations*

- *Section 34 Financial activity statement report provides as follows:*

- (1) *A local government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d), for that month in the following detail -*
  - (a) *annual budget estimates, taking into account any expenditure incurred for an additional purpose under section 6.8(1)(b) or (c);*
  - (b) *budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates;*
  - (c) *actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates;*
  - (d) *material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c); and*
  - (e) *the net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.*
- (2) *Each statement of financial activity is to be accompanied by documents containing -*
  - (a) *an explanation of the composition of the net current assets of the month to which the statement relates, less committed assets and restricted assets;*
  - (b) *an explanation of each of the material variances referred to in sub-regulation (1)(d); and*
  - (c) *such other supporting information as is considered relevant by the local government.*
- (3) *The information in a statement of financial activity must be shown according to the nature classification.*
- (4) *A statement of financial activity, and the accompanying documents referred to in sub-regulation (2), are to be -*
  - (a) *presented to the council - at an ordinary meeting of the council within 2 months after the end of month to which the statement relates; and*
  - (b) *recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented.*

**Policy Implications:**

Nil

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

Any issues in relation to expenditure and revenue allocations or variance trends are identified and addressed each month or at budget review.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future - Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 4.2.1 Ensure compliance whilst embracing innovation and better practice principles

Strategy 4.3.2 Adopt and follow better practice processes

**Attachments:**

*Attachment Booklet –December r 2025*

FIN 02-12/25 Attachment 1: Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31 October 2025.

## 10.2 Development Reports

DEV 01-12/25 November 2025 Development Delegated and Authorised Authority Report	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>M Connell, Manager Development</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>S Ivers, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>3.00125</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

### Report Purpose:

For Council to receive the partial November 2025 Development Delegated and Authorised Authority Report.

COUNCIL DECISION		051225
<b>MOVED: Cr Gillam</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Berecz</b>	
<b>That Council by Simple Majority, receives the November 2025 Development Delegated and Authorised Authority Report, as contained in DEV 01-12/25 Attachment 1.</b>		
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>	
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>	
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>	

### Background:

Local governments utilise levels of delegated authority to undertake day-to-day statutory functions, thereby allowing Council to focus on policy development, representation, strategic planning and community leadership, with the organisation focussing on the day-to-day operations of the Shire.

The use of delegated authority means the large volume of routine work can be effectively managed and acted on promptly, which in turn facilitates efficient service delivery to the community. In addition, as of 1 July 2024, the determination of development applications for single houses or any development associated with a single house (excluding development associated with a heritage place), can now only be done by the CEO or authorised employees of the local government.

### Officer's Comment:

This report presents the details of development functions made under delegated or authorised authority for the partial month of November 2025 (up until 25 November 2025), with 8 building permits/certificates, 3 single house applications and 1 application for development approval having been issued.

### Consultation:

Nil.

### Statutory Environment:

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*
- *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*

### Policy Implications:

Nil.

### Financial/Resource Implications:

Nil.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 4.2.1 Ensure compliance whilst embracing innovation and better practice principles

Strategy 4.3.2 Adopt and follow better practice processes

**Attachments:**

*Attachment Booklet – December 2025*

DEV 01-12/25 Attachment 1: November 2025 Development Delegated and Authorised Authority Report

*Cr Gillam and Cr Hansen declared an Impartiality Interest in Item DEV 02-12/25.*

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>		<b>061225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Gillam</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Hansen</b>	
<p><b>That Council suspends the meeting as per Clause 17.1 of the <i>Shire of Irwin Meeting Procedures Local Law 2016</i> at 6.09pm to discuss item DEV 02-12/25 Disposal of Land by Lease – Dongara Irwin Race Club.</b></p>		
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>		<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Berecz, Cr Hansen, Cr Musulin	
<b>Against:</b>	Nil	

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>		<b>071225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Berecz</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Melsom</b>	
<p><b>That Council reconvenes the meeting as per Clause 17.1 of the <i>Shire of Irwin Meeting Procedures Local Law 2016</i> at 6.11pm.</b></p>		
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>		<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Berecz, Cr Hansen, Cr Musulin	
<b>Against:</b>	Nil	

<b>DEV 02-12/25 Disposal of Land by Lease – Dongara Irwin Race Club</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>M Connell, Manager Development</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>S Ivers, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>P25/70 – A8942</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Simple</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to consider the disposal by way of a new lease of portion of Reserve 40590 Brennand Road, Dongara to the Dongara – Irwin Race Club (Inc).

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>081225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Berecz</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Summers</b>
<b>That Council by Simple Majority:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dispose by way of lease portion of Reserve 40590 (Lot 11765) Brennand Road, Dongara to the Dongara – Irwin Race Club (Inc) for the purpose of Equestrian Race Club including:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>conducting public horse racing meetings;</b></li> <li>b. <b>use and operation of an equestrian centre for equestrian activities; and</b></li> <li>c. <b>such other incidental uses as may be required from the Lessor from time to time consistent with the vesting of the land in the Lessor for recreational purposes.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Set the conditions of the lease as follows:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>a term of twenty one (21) years commencing on the date at which the consent of the Minister for Lands is granted; and</b></li> <li>b. <b>a lease fee of \$1.00 per annum.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute all documents necessary for the lease.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

Reserve 40590 comprises Lot 11765 on Deposited Plan 14550 and is vested in the Shire for the purpose of "Recreation". The Shire has been granted care, control and management of the site under a Management Order with the power to lease for any term not exceeding 21 years, subject to the consent of the Minister for Lands.

The site is occupied by the Dongara Irwin Race Club (Club) who currently lease the premises. The current lease does not expire until 1 July 2029, however the Club have requested an early extension of the lease period to provide long-term security that will enable them to:

- Continue running the Club in a way that supports local tourism and encourages community participation in a variety of events;
- Maintain the Club as a sustainable organisation that brings visitors to town, particularly on race days;

- Invest in planned infrastructure upgrades, including racetrack improvements and the installation of a new sprinkler system;
- Access funding opportunities for upgrading the racetrack and horse yards;
- Support future committee succession by ensuring certainty of tenure; and
- Continue attracting and retaining sponsors.

### Location Plan



### Officer's Comment:

The draft lease is contained in DEV 02-12/25 Confidential Attachment 1 and key aspects of the lease are:

- The lease is for the site along with all buildings and improvements, which are to be maintained, replaced, repaired, cleaned and kept in good repair by the Lessee.
- The lease is for a term of 21 years.
- The proposed lease rent is to be \$1.00, which is the equivalent to the old 'peppercorn' lease term.
- The permitted purpose of the lease is for equestrian activities including conducting public horse racing meetings and incidental recreational purposes.
- The Lessee may make the premises available for hire on a casual basis for equestrian purposes or private functions.
- The lease contains a clause that Lessee shall not unreasonably refuse any request for the casual hire of the premises for equestrian purposes.
- The lessee is required to pay all outgoings and charges.

The draft lease is generally consistent with the substantive terms of the current lease but has updated terms and conditions to reflect contemporary lease drafting standards. The existing lease is contained in DEV 02-12/25 Confidential Attachment 2 for comparison.

**Consultation:**

Nil.

**Statutory Environment:**

Section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995* details the process governing 'disposing of property' which includes disposal by way of lease.

Disposal would normally involve getting a valuation for the land and publicly advertising the disposal. However there is an exemption under section 3.58(5)(d) of the Act which refers to "any other disposition that is excluded by regulations from the application of this section".

As the Dongara – Irwin Race Club is an incorporated body with charitable objects then the exemption from section 3.58 applies and advertising and valuation is not required.

**Policy Implications:**

Nil.

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

The draft lease proposes the lease rent to be \$1.00 with no rent reviews. The preparation, execution and registration of the lease is estimated at \$5,000 and the Club have agreed to cover all costs.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 1.2.4 Acknowledge and celebrate volunteers and community advocates

Strategy 4.2.1 Ensure compliance whilst embracing innovation and better practice principles.

**Attachments:**

*Attachment Booklet – December 2025*

DEV 02-12/25 Confidential Attachment 1: Draft Lease

DEV 02-12/25 Confidential Attachment 2: Existing Lease

**10.3 Community Services Reports**

<b>COM 01-12/25 Dongara Golf Course Reticulation Upgrade Funding Model</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>F Boksmati, Manager Community Services</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>S Ivers, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>3.00484</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Absolute Majority</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to consider the Dongara Golf Club’s request to renew and upgrade the existing Dongara Golf Course reticulation and control system using the recommended project funding model following the unsuccessful CSRFF grant application.

**Officer Recommendation:**

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>091225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Musulin</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Gillam</b>
<p><b>1. Supports the updated funding model for the \$200,000 project to upgrade the golf course reticulation, control system, water pumping system, and installation of a shed whereby:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Golf Club installs the shed at their own cost, valued at \$40,000, reducing the remaining project cost to \$160,000 in 2025/26.</b></li> <li>• <b>The Shire finances the remaining project cost through a four-year loan, initiated in 2026/27, with loan repayments of \$40,000 per annum set over the four-year term.</b></li> <li>• <b>Year 1: The Golf Club contributes 100% of the loan repayment (\$40,000) in 2026/27.</b></li> <li>• <b>Years 2, 3, and 4: The annual \$40,000 repayment is shared 50% Shire and 50% Golf Club (\$20,000 each per year) (2027/28 – 2029/30).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>2. Commits a cash contribution of \$20,000 per financial year for three years (years 2, 3 and 4), commencing in the 2027/28 Financial Year Annual Budget, up to and including the 2029/30 Financial Year Annual Budget, equating to total contribution of \$60,000 or approximately 40% of the total project value of \$160,000.</b></p>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

The Dongara Golf Club, established in 1932, has been a central part of the community for over 90 years. It is a vital community asset that provides recreational opportunities, promotes physical health, and fosters social connections for those interested in the sport of golf or as a function venue available to the general public. With over 130 regular members, omitting visitation by tourists and local visitors which has also steadily increased annually, maintaining a quality golf course is essential to operations and ensuring the club’s sustainability locally and to support local tourism.

The existing reticulation and control system is heavily contributing to inefficiencies, and presents the following three (3) key contributory challenges;

1. **Outdated Technology:** The existing system is over 20 years old and lacks modern features such as smart scheduling and moisture sensing.
2. **High Water Usage:** Inefficient watering practices result in excessive water consumption, increasing costs and negatively impacting the environment.
3. **Maintenance Concerns:** Frequent breakdowns and costly repairs divert necessary resources and staff from standard club operations.

The upgrade plan includes replacement of controller valves and wiring, upgrade to the pumping system, installation of a commercial plus water meter, and the supply and installation of an 8 metre by 8metre shed to house the upgraded system.

Expected benefits of the upgrade includes;

1. **Water Savings:** Estimated reduction in water usage by up to 30% annually
2. **Cost Reduction:** Decreased operational costs and a reduction in water, electricity and maintenance bills
3. **Environmental Impact:** Provides the opportunity to align with the club's and environmental sustainability goals including improved compliance with regulations
4. **Enhanced experience:** Improved course conditions results in increased member satisfaction and the likelihood of returning visitors.

The previous CSRFF grant application sought funding to support a total project value of \$424,461. The grant was unsuccessful, requiring reassessment of the project scope and funding structure. Following review, the project has been refined to align with essential components and available financial capacity, now estimated at \$200,000.

#### **Officer's Comment:**

The renewal and upgrade of the Dongara Golf Club reticulation control system is essential for the sustainability and quality of the club, and the satisfaction of all members and visitors. The course itself is renowned for its spectacular reviews and quality greens, providing recreational opportunities to not only members, but to the general public, and is highly popular with visiting tourists. With the reticulation system at end of life, there is risk of losing the course. Investing in an upgrade and more modern technology represents a crucial step towards supporting a sustainable and successful future for the Dongara Golf Club with water usage and maintenance costs also anticipated to reduce significantly.

The revised funding arrangement ensures the project remains viable and equitable, with the Golf Club committing a substantial upfront investment and ongoing contributions. The phased cost-sharing model supports project progression while allowing flexibility to leverage future grant opportunities.

#### **Consultation:**

- Craig Vinci, Regional Manager Mid West - Gascoyne for Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI)
- Golf WA have provided a letter of support for this project
- Dongara Golf Club Inc.

#### **Statutory Environment:**

*Local Government Act 1995*

**Policy Implications:**

Nil

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

The Shire will undertake a four-year loan to finance the \$160,000 of the project remaining, with repayments shared as outlined. The revised arrangement reduces the Shire's commitment in Year 1 (one) and spreads its contribution over subsequent years.

The Shire and Club will continue to seek external funding opportunities to reduce the total cost impact.

A revised funding model is being proposed to accommodate the work which essential components can be completed at an estimated project cost of \$200,000

**Revised Funding Approach:**

2025/26 The Golf Club installs the shed to house the reticulation and pumping systems at their own cost, valued at \$40,000, reducing the remaining project cost to \$160,000.

The Shire finances the remaining project cost of \$160,000 through a four-year loan with loan repayments of \$40,000 per annum set over the four-year term.

Year 1 (2026/27): The Golf Club contributes 100% of the loan repayment (\$40,000).

Years 2, 3, and 4 (2027/28 – 2029/30): The annual \$40,000 repayment is shared 50% Shire and 50% Golf Club (\$20,000 each per year).

This approach enables the project to proceed despite the unsuccessful grant application, while maintaining a shared cost structure and minimising the Shire's early financial burden.

The Shire and the Golf Club will continue to actively pursue alternative funding sources to further reduce financial exposure.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031:

Strategy 1.1.1 Identify and support services, events and programs for building capacity, social inclusion and wellbeing (including those catering for families, youth and seniors)

Strategy 1.1.2 Advocate for retention of existing and enhanced facilities and health and social support services

Strategy 1.2.2 Support the strong sporting culture that shapes the Shire of Irwin's identity and lifestyle

Strategy 1.2.3 Support community-initiated projects and activities

Strategy 3.1.1 Prepare for and manage natural disasters and environmental risks

Strategy 3.1.3 Identify, provide and manage Shire assets (including community infrastructure, Shire controlled reserves and freehold land) in accordance with agreed service levels

Strategy 4.1.1 Enhance the Shire's profile through marketing initiatives and community engagement

Strategy 4.1.3 Maintain effective working relationships with relevant stakeholders

**Attachments:**

Nil

<b>COM 02-12/25 Magic on Moreton Budget Amendment</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>T Tang, Tourism and Events Officer</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>F Boksmati, Manager Community Services</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>2.00046</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Absolute Majority</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to consider and support an increase to the Magic on Moreton 2025 event budget from \$15,000 to \$19,000, ensuring adequate funding for entertainment, logistics and community engagement activities associated with the event scheduled for Saturday, 6 December 2025.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>101225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Hansen</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Berecz</b>
<b>That Council by Absolute Majority,</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Supports the proposed increase of the Magic on Moreton 2025 event budget from \$15,000 to \$19,000 within the 2025/26 Financial Year to ensure sufficient funding for entertainment, logistics, and community engagement activities associated with the event.</b></li> <li><b>2. Notes that the additional expenditure will be incorporated into the existing Community Services 2025/26 event budget.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

Magic on Moreton has become one of the Shire of Irwin's most popular community events since its introduction in 2021, celebrating the vibrancy of the Shire during the festive season. The event transforms Moreton Terrace into a Christmas-themed street festival featuring local food and market stalls, roving entertainment, live music and a range of family-friendly activities for residents and visitors.

In 2024, the event was delivered with a budget of approximately \$28,500, which supported a full program of entertainment, decorations and operational requirements. For 2025, the Shire allocated \$15,000 to the event, supplemented by \$6,000 in sponsorship from Mitsui. Several cost-saving measures have also been applied, including in-kind toilet hire (approx. \$1,000 saving) and live music provided by the Dongara Hotel Motel (approx. \$4,000 saving).

Despite these efficiencies, the 2025 program introduces additional children's entertainment and enhanced Christmas decorations to further strengthen community engagement and the festive atmosphere. The current funding allocation is therefore insufficient to deliver the event to the standard expected by the community. An increase to the event budget is requested to ensure Magic on Moreton 2025 remains a safe, inclusive and high-quality celebration.

**Officer's Comment:**

*Magic on Moreton* is one of the Shire's key community events, celebrating the festive season and bringing together residents, visitors, and local businesses for an afternoon of food, markets, live music, and entertainment along Moreton Terrace.

For 2025, the event will maintain its successful format while adding more children's activities and Christmas decorations to enhance the family-friendly atmosphere. Despite sponsorship from Mitsui and cost-saving measures, the expanded program and annual 5% increase in service costs have placed pressure on the event budget.

An increase in the budget from \$15,000 to \$19,000 is therefore proposed to ensure the event can continue to meet community expectations and deliver a safe, vibrant, and high-quality celebration.

**Consultation:**

The Manager Community Services engaged with Mitsui via email to secure sponsorship for the Magic on Moreton event and held in-person discussions with Nic and Dylan Grove, Managers of the Dongara Hotel Motel, in October 2025 to seek local business support. As a result of these engagements, both parties confirmed their sponsorship and participation in the event, with the Shire's contribution to the Hotel as per previous years, being absorbed by the business.

During the Council Agenda Forum held on 21 October 2025, the event format and key components were presented to Council for direction and confirmation, ensuring alignment with Council objectives and community expectations.

**Statutory Environment:**

Local Government Act 1995

**Policy Implications:**

Nil

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

The proposed increase from \$15,000 to \$19,000 for the 2025/26 Financial Year reflects the additional costs associated with expanded children's entertainment, enhanced Christmas decorations and general increases in service costs of approximately 5% annually.

The revised budget will ensure adequate funding for logistics, entertainment and community engagement activities, enabling the event to continue meeting community expectations while maintaining safe and inclusive delivery.

As this proposed budget increase is managed internally, the Community Services team would be required to accommodate the additional costs within the existing events budget. This may result in reduced allocations for other community events throughout the year to offset the increased expenditure for Magic on Moreton.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 1.1 The community has access to suitable community spaces, vibrant events and relevant services

Strategy 2.1 Opportunities are maximised to promote economic growth and local development

Strategy 4.1 An engaged and inclusive community

**Attachments:**

Nil

<b>COM 03-12/25 Community Assistance Scheme and Events Committee – Community Members</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>G Jewell, Community Development Officer</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>F Boksmati, Manager Community Services</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>3.0016</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Absolute Majority</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to consider appointing two (2) community members to join the Community Assistance Scheme and Events (CASE) Committee.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>111225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Gillam</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Summers</b>
<b>That Council, by Absolute Majority, appoint Kelli Dawson and Steph Bligh-Lee as the CASE Committee Community Members for a term of two (2) years or in line with the Local Government Ordinary Election, expiring October 2027.</b>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

The role of the CASE committee is to administer, assist and evaluate the distribution of the Community Assistance Scheme funding within budgetary guidelines approved annually by Council. The CASE committee also discuss and provide recommendations to event organisers to stimulate and encourage projects, events or activities to meet the needs of the community and offer the best opportunity to provide economic benefits and potential to market Dongara and Port Denison outside the Shire.

The CASE Committee Terms of Reference for Community Members states that the CASE committee will consist of up to five members and that membership will be:

- Manager, Community Services
- 2 x Elected Members; and
- 2 x Community Members.

The CASE Committee Terms of Reference for Community members also states that the tenure of the committee will be in accordance with Section 5.11 of the Local Government Act (1995) and that membership of the committee continues until;

- The person no longer holds office by virtue of which the person became a member;
- The person resigns from membership of the committee;
- The committee is disbanded; or
- The next ordinary elections day, whichever happens first.

In anticipation of the appointment of two (2) Councillors as Elected Member delegates to the CASE Committee, the Community Development Officer (CDO) commenced advertising for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to fill the two (2) vacant committee positions held by community members. Two (2) EOIs were received. The two (2) EOIs from the remaining candidates are now being presented to Council for review.

The candidates are:

- Ms Kelli Dawson (new candidate)
- Mrs Steph Bligh-Lee (current committee member re-nominated)

**Officer’s Comment:**

To ensure transparency, the candidates have been presented to Council to consider and appoint. Given the suitability of the expressions of interest received and given that only two expressions of interest have been submitted, it is recommended that these community member vacancies be filled unopposed.

**Consultation:**

The Manager Community Services engaged with Mitsui via email to secure sponsorship for the Magic on Moreton event and held in-person discussions with Nic and Dylan Grove, Managers of the Dongara Hotel Motel, in October 2025 to seek local business support. As a result of these engagements, both parties confirmed their sponsorship and participation in the event, with the Shire’s contribution to the Hotel as per previous years, being absorbed by the business.

During the Council Agenda Forum held on 21 October 2025, the event format and key components were presented to Council for direction and confirmation, ensuring alignment with Council objectives and community expectations.

**Statutory Environment:**

*Local Government Act 1995*

- Section 5.8 Establishment of committees

**Policy Implications:**

C7 Financial Assistance Funding Policy

Community Assistance Scheme and Events Committee – Terms of Reference for Committee Members

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

At the August Ordinary Council Meeting, Council adopted the 2025/26 budget including a \$30,000 allocation to the Community Assistance Scheme. The CASE committee will make recommendations to Council for the expenditure of this allocation and for future budget allocations.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

- 1.1.1 Identify and support services, events and programs for building capacity, social inclusion and wellbeing (including those catering for families, youth and seniors)
- 1.2 Arts, culture, heritage and recreation are valued
  - 1.2.2 Support *the strong sporting culture that shapes the Shire of Irwin’s identity and lifestyle*
  - 1.2.3 Support *community-initiated projects and activities*
- 4.1.1 Enhance the Shire’s profile through marketing initiatives and community engagement

**Attachments:**

*Attachment Booklet – December 2025*

COM 03-12/25 Attachment 1: 2025 CASE Committee EOI Candidate Profiles

COM 03-12/25 Attachment 2: CASE Committee Application Letter KD

<b>COM 04-12/25 Visitor Centre Closure of Saturday Operations</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>F Boksmati, Manager Community Services</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>S Ivers, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	<b>2.00046</b>
<b>Council Role:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Voting Requirements:</b>	<b>Simple</b>

**Report Purpose:**

For Council to note the cessation of Saturday operations at the Shire of Irwin Visitor Centre, currently staffed from 9.00am to 12.00pm, effective from 29 November 2025, due to low visitation levels and the cost-inefficiency of maintaining these hours.

<b>COUNCIL DECISION</b>	<b>121225</b>
<b>MOVED: Cr Summers</b>	<b>SECONDED: Cr Musulin</b>
<b>That Council by Absolute Majority,</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Notes the permanent cessation of the Shire of Irwin Visitor Centre operations on Saturdays, effective from 29 November 2025, due to low visitation and disproportionate staffing costs.</b></li> <li><b>2. Notes the implementation of alternative visitor information measures to ensure continued access to essential tourism resources.</b></li> </ol>	
<b>VOTING DETAILS:</b>	<b>CARRIED: 6/0</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>Cr Scott, Cr Gillam, Cr Summers, Cr Hansen, Cr Berecz, Cr Musulin</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Background:**

The Shire of Irwin Visitor Centre provides tourism information services for visitors, with current operating hours including a Saturday shift from 9.00am to 12.00pm. Historical visitation data over several years shows consistently low attendance on Saturdays, with minimal community or visitor demand during these times.

A review of the 2025 operational year shows that Customer Service Officers collectively covered 47 Saturday shifts at the Shire of Irwin Visitor Centre. These shifts were delivered consistently throughout the year as part of the Centre's weekend operating schedule. Across these 47 Saturdays, 22 days recorded zero visitor interactions, demonstrating that nearly half of all Saturday openings resulted in no foot traffic, calls, or visitor enquiries. When interactions did occur, they remained minimal. The total annual interaction count results in an average of only two (2) visitors per Saturday, further reinforcing that weekend demand for in-person visitor servicing has remained extremely low throughout 2025. The current cost of operating on Saturdays annually is approximately \$6,500.

More recent data continues to show no improvement in visitation, even during traditionally higher-activity periods. Between 1 August and 25 October 2025, which aligns with peak tourism season, the Visitor Centre operated for 13 consecutive Saturdays. During this 13-week period, the Centre recorded a total of only 13 interactions, averaging one visitor per Saturday. This confirms that the longstanding pattern of low visitation remains unchanged even when visitor numbers in the region are typically at their highest.

Despite ongoing efforts to promote tourism engagement, the level of foot traffic received does not justify the staffing and operational costs associated with remaining open on Saturdays.

To maintain responsible resource allocation and align service levels with actual community need, the Shire has reviewed available alternatives to continue providing accessible tourism information without requiring physical staffing on weekends.

**Officer's Comment:**

Based on a review of previous years' visitation statistics and current resourcing considerations, it is evident that Saturday operations at the Visitor Centre are no longer justified. Attendance during the three-hour Saturday shift remains extremely low, and the staffing cost required to maintain this opening period significantly outweighs the benefit to the community. In addition to the low return on investment, the impact on staff has been a key factor in assessing operational viability.

Saturday shifts require Officers to work weekends on a rotational basis, reducing opportunities for consistent family time and interrupting normal weekend routines. These shifts fall outside standard business hours, create work-life balance challenges, and provide limited organisational benefit, particularly given that no Shire administrative duties are undertaken during these periods.

Transitioning away from Saturday openings will enable the Shire to better support staff wellbeing, implement more sustainable rostering practices, and redirect resources toward activities that provide greater value to the organisation and community.

To ensure visitor information remains accessible, a range of alternative measures will be implemented, including:

- Enhanced tourism information on the Shire's website, providing 24/7 access to maps, brochures, trails, attractions, tours, and local services.
- A display stand positioned outside the Visitor Centre containing maps and brochures available for collection at any time.
- A prominently displayed "Events and What's Coming Up" calendar to highlight upcoming activities and community events.

These alternative arrangements will maintain effective access to visitor information while eliminating the need for weekend staffing.

**Consultation:**

Internal consultation has been undertaken with Community Services staff to assess operational impacts and confirm that no Shire administrative duties are undertaken during the Saturday shift. As such, ceasing Saturday operations does not affect the Shire's statutory or administrative obligations. Staff also provided feedback that the requirement to work Saturdays had ongoing impacts on their ability to spend allocated weekends with their families, noting the personal and work-life balance challenges created by these shifts.

At the Councillor Discussion Session held on 28 November 2023, Council considered Visitor Centre opening hours during the Christmas period. Councillors acknowledged previous years' visitation statistics and the costs associated with staffing the Centre during traditionally low-activity periods. It was agreed that administrative closure could be supported through enhanced alternative visitor information methods, including notices on windows, website updates, a front-of-building information stand, and a publicly displayed Events Calendar.

External consultation was not required, as alternative visitor information methods ensure continued access to essential tourism information.

**Statutory Environment:**

Local Government Act 1995

**Policy Implications:**

Nil

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

The cessation of Saturday operations will reduce staffing costs currently allocated to physically manning the Visitor Centre during low-demand periods. Resources saved can be reallocated to enhance digital and printed visitor information, thereby improving service accessibility without increasing operational budgets.

Maintaining Saturday operations would continue to incur staffing costs without demonstrated benefit to the community or visitors.

Additionally, no Shire administrative duties are conducted during Saturday operations, meaning closure will not affect statutory responsibilities or service obligations.

The proposed cessation aligns service delivery with actual demand and supports more efficient allocation of staffing resources.

**Strategic Implications:**

Our Brilliant Future – Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

Strategy 1.1 The community has access to suitable community spaces, vibrant events and relevant services

Strategy 2.1 Opportunities are maximised to promote economic growth and local development

**Attachments:**

Nil

**10.4 Operations Reports**

Nil

**10.5 Office of the CEO Reports**

Nil

**10.6 Committee Reports**

Nil

**11. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

**12. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

**13. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION**

Nil

**14. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Nil

**15. CLOSURE**

There being no further business and Shire President closed the meeting at 6.20pm.

