




# MINUTES

## ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING Tuesday 24 March 2026



I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 March 2026

Signed:   
Shire President

Date: 28 April 2026



# MINUTES

## ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

held

**Tuesday 24 March 2026**

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

The Shire President welcomed Councillors, staff, and members of the public, and declared the Meeting open at 5.00pm.

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

#### **Members**

Councillor I Scott	Shire President
Councillor P Summers	
Councillor S Hansen	
Councillor L Berecz	

#### **Staff**

Mr S D Ivers	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Connell	Manager Development
Mr M Jones	Manager Operations
Miss P Machaka	Manager Finance
Ms S Mearns	Executive Assistant

#### **Guests**

Mr Michael Liprino	Pitcher Partners
Mr Caden Manfield	Pitcher Partners
Mr Vignesh Raj	Office of the Attorney General

#### **Apologies**

Councillor A J Gillam	Deputy Shire President
Councillor J Melsom	
Councillor L Musulin	
Mr M Antony	Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms F Boksmati	Manager Community Services

#### **Approved Leave of Absence**

Nil

#### **Electors and Members of the Public (Non electors)**

Beverley Sharp

### **3. 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT**

The CEO, Shane Ivers provided a verbal report to Council, Electors and members of the public, an overview of key achievements across operational areas as follows:

The 2024/25 financial year has been another year of strong delivery and innovation for the Shire of Irwin. Through the dedication of staff, the leadership of Council and the support of our community, we continued to deliver essential projects and services despite ongoing financial challenges and below-average State Government funding. Our results once again reflect a united organisation focused on efficiency, community connection and practical solutions that make a real difference.

#### **Infrastructure and Operations**

The Shire's Operations team continued to achieve excellent outcomes in maintaining and improving community assets. More than 9 kilometres of Mount Adams Road were reconstructed, with Water Supply Road scheduled next. Routine rural grading, drainage, and verge maintenance were completed across the Shire, supported by the Shire's Trimble GPS grader technology for more precise and efficient works. Townsite improvements included verge mowing, kerbing, signage and tree management, while transfer station upgrades improved traffic flow and recycling. The Granny's Beach playground renewal and new foreshore ramp were completed in time for summer, enhancing coastal access and amenity. These achievements highlight the Shire's ongoing commitment to maintaining high service standards while maximising the value of every dollar spent.

#### **Planning and Development**

Steady growth continued throughout the year, with a consistent flow of residential and commercial projects demonstrating local confidence. Over 60 applications were processed, supported by strong health and building compliance programs. The Local Planning Strategy review and new policies for caravans, tiny homes and short-term accommodation progressed, providing clearer guidance for future housing and tourism opportunities. Regular food, septic and pool inspections maintained community safety and compliance.

#### **Community and Recreation**

The Shire's community services, events and recreation programs continued to strengthen local identity and connection. Major events such as Australia Day and Magic on Moreton were well attended and widely supported. The Community Assistance Scheme & Events (CASE) program allocated its full budget to community projects, sporting travel subsidies and local events.

The Irwin Recreation Centre remained a hub for health and wellbeing, with 166 active members and over 520 visit-pass users in June 2025. Popular programs such as pickleball, gym classes and the school holiday program continued to grow. Customer service interactions exceeded 900 per month, supported by a commitment to prompt, personal assistance.

A highlight was the successful partnership with Mitsui E&P Australia, contributing towards the Dongara–Port Denison Public CCTV Strategy, further improving community safety.

#### **Emergency Management and Resilience**

The Shire's emergency management program strengthened local preparedness and volunteer capacity. The Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2025–2030 was completed and adopted, and volunteer brigades maintained strong readiness and community engagement. Through the \$500,000 Seroja Resilience Fund, projects advanced for the Secondary Resilience Hub (Shire Hall), Recreation Centre roof refurbishment, and the Firebreak Management System and drone program.

#### **Governance and Financial Stewardship**

Council maintained a clear focus on responsible financial management and transparent decision-making. Major funding outcomes included:

- \$5 million - Bridges Renewal Program (plus \$600 000 from Mitsui)
- \$1.53 million - Growing Regions Program;
- \$365 000 - Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme; and
- \$500 000 - Seroja Local Government Resilience Fund.

The Corporate Services Alliance Project and ERP partnership with iTANZ Infinity Pty Ltd progressed, modernising systems to improve service delivery and long-term efficiency.

### **Looking Ahead**

In 2025/26, the Shire will deliver the Milo Crossing upgrade, complete LRCI Phase 4 projects and continue to advocate for fairer regional funding. Innovation, sustainability and community partnership will remain our guiding principles.

### **Acknowledgements**

I thank Shire President Mark Leonard, Councillors and all staff for their commitment and professionalism, and extend appreciation to our volunteers, community groups and residents for their ongoing support. Together we are ensuring the Shire of Irwin remains a thriving, resilient and connected community, a brilliant blend of opportunity, lifestyle and pride.

## **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Michael Liprino – Pitcher Partners**

Michael Liprino from Pitcher Partners provided the following report on the 2024/25 Audit process.

The Shire of Irwin's 2024/25 financial audit, conducted in conjunction with Pitcher Partners, resulted in a clean audit opinion with no material issues, discrepancies, or matters requiring management attention. Both Pitcher Partners and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) undertook internal independence checks and confirmed the integrity of the process. As part of the audit, all Council and Committee minutes were reviewed, along with the Shire's current operations and forward budget, to ensure alignment with its primary focus and strategic direction. Auditors reported no instances of fraud during the period, noting that while fraud detection is a by-product of the audit process, no concerns arose. Importantly, there were no adjustments required as a result of the audit, no material discrepancies identified, and no matters needing to be raised with management.

Overall, the audit confirmed strong governance and compliance across the organisation, with no instances of non-compliance detected. Staff were commended for their high level of cooperation throughout the engagement and for demonstrating a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The findings indicate that the Shire is well-positioned moving forward, with "business as usual" expected over the next twelve months and no concerns impacting future operations. The only recommendation noted was to encourage staff to take accrued leave where balances exceed eight weeks, supporting workforce wellbeing and sustainability.

### **4.2 Questions from the public/Ratepayers**

There were no questions from Shire of Irwin Ratepayers/Gallery Members.

## **5. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5.16pm.