



Shire Bulletin October 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have just returned from a visit to Italy where among other things, Tony and I had the opportunity to do a walking tour through Tuscany in the north west of the country. We were able to step away from the usual tourist spots and cities and get a feel for the agricultural area of Tuscany and walked through some very small towns. It was a great way to holiday, as the daily exercise of between 15 – 25 km, with a rest day here and there, justified all the magnificent food we also enjoyed!

While I've been away, the rains have continued and the country looks as good as I think I've ever seen it. It's nice to visit other places, but it's always nice to come home and appreciate how lucky we are to live where we do.

We had three nominations for three vacancies in the Local Government elections, so no election will be required for the Shire of Northampton. I'm delighted to congratulate Councillors Tim Hay and Des Pike on their re-election for another term and to welcome Councillor Elect, Chad Smith to Council. Chad will bring a wide range of experience with business, agriculture, tourism and general community involvement to the role.

Recently Neil Broadhurst, Manager of Works and Technical Services, announced that he will be resigning at the end of November. Neil has been employed with the Shire of Northampton for 27 years and has overwhelmingly, made Northampton his home. His depth of knowledge about the road network will be missed and would like to thank Neil sincerely for his dedicated service to the Shire of Northampton. Aside from his work, Neil is a fantastic community member and I am thrilled that he intends to stay in town.

We also received a resignation from Raelene Tarchini and I would like to sincerely thank her for her gardening services during her time at the Shire.

On the 20th September I had the privilege of attending the opening of a new shed at the Northampton Motors and Machinery Restoration Museum in Gwalla St. This precinct is a credit to the members, whose goal has been to preserve the farming, mining and fishing heritage of the district of Northampton. The site is brimming full of machinery and motors from around the area which have been lovingly restored by the very passionate members of the group. Many of the exhibits have stories attached, as to where the machine came from, who donated it and who it was who completed the restoration work. It was great to see a fantastic crowd attend the event and have it supported by other organisations, such as the Northampton Lions Club, Bean Drifting Coffee van from Kalbarri and to have photographer, Jess Pearce from Captured Creations in attendance.

From all reports the Northampton District Agricultural Show was a great success and congratulations must go to the organisers, as well as all of the exhibitors and those who work hard to make the day a success. It really is a day which showcases our region and it's great that visitors come from throughout the Midwest.

The end of September also marks the changeover of winter to summer sport. Congratulations to all those who were successful in their winter sporting competitions. This time also marks the end of Term 3 for schools in WA. There's a welcome holiday break for students, and a special time for some students who have, or are about to complete their schooling.

At the time of writing this, I am about to head off with some of the Councillors to the WA Local Government Convention in Perth. This is an opportunity to meet

with other local government organisations and Councillors from around the state, as well as listen to our MPs and hear a range of presentations relevant to local government.

Until next time,

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The 2025 Local Government Election for the Shire of Northampton has been declared as a result of having three vacant positions and three candidates nominating. What this means is there is no need to conduct a Postal Election in 2025. Congratulations to current Councillors Des Pike and Tim Hay and new candidate Chad Smith all being elected to Council until 20 October 2029. The new Councillor terms can only take effect after the 18 October 2025 with a Special Council meeting to be held at 3.00pm 20 October 2025 to swear in the three positions, elect a Shire President and Deputy Shire President, and establish Committee membership.

As a result of the 2025 Local Government Election, Councillor Trevor Gibb did not re-nominate meaning he will cease to be a Councillor on 18 October 2025. On behalf of the organisation and community, I would like to thank Trevor for his service to the community over the past four years.

Neil Broadhurst has resigned from his position of Executive Manager Works and Technical Services with his last day with the organisation being the 28 November 2025. Neil has been a stalwart at the Shire for the past 27 years and has contributed much to the community through the Shire and privately. It is very pleasing that Neil will remain in Northampton and continue to serve the community in a voluntary capacity where he can. I would like to congratulate Neil on his outstanding service to the organisation and wish him well for the future.

The Shire of Northampton is pleased to announce the appointment of Principal Building Surveyor, Jon Trotter who commenced with the organisation on 30 September 2025. Based between Kalbarri and Northampton, Jon will provide statutory building services for the Shire as well as coordinating the Shire's building maintenance programs. Jon has extensive experience in the sector having coordinated building services functions for the City of Greater Geraldton.

Another exciting appointment for the Shire of Northampton is the appointment of Scott Rintoul as a fully grant funded Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator. The Shire of Northampton will act as the employer in conjunction with the Shire's of Cue, Wiluna, Murchison and Yalgoo with Scott's time applied in equal parts. With the time allocated to the Shire of Northampton,

Scott will be reviewing and updating our expired Bushfire Risk Management Plan in consultation with stakeholders. Once this is done it will allow the Shire of Northampton to apply for significant Bushfire Risk Mitigation funding to reduce fuel hazards and increase response to bushfire particularly around townsites and settlements.

The Kalbarri Temporary Worker Caravan Facility has finally had the power connected. This will now allow the facility to be utilised for its intended purpose, to accommodate workers to support local business. The Shire is now seeking a market valuation to enable the commencement of an Expression of Interest process to operate the facility.

A request for quotation has been sent out for the detailed design, structural engineering and specifications for the Kalbarri Multi-Purpose Evacuation and Community Centre project. The request for quotation is funded from a State Government election promise in 2025.

Our works team and contractors have commenced maintenance grading in preparation for the upcoming harvest. Some of our unsealed roads are still very wet, however with some fine weather predicted they should start to dry out to the point where they can be graded properly. If you have any issues on individual roads, please do not hesitate to report issues to the Shire on 99341202.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

UNAUTHORISED CAMPING WITHIN THE SHIRE

There is only one Free Camping area within the Shire of Northampton being at Galena Bridge. All other camping is restricted to authorised camping grounds and caravan parks.

Despite this, the Shire and its communities is currently experiencing unprecedented level of unauthorized/illegal camping. This is particular the case for our coastal communities of Horrocks, Port Gregory and Kalbarri.

This is not a problem unique to our Shire, with many other communities on the Western Australian coast experiencing the same issues.

Shire Officers are working hard to enforce the requirements, having issued more fines in the last 10 months than the previous 10 years with the fines being issued at \$200 per person. Shire Officers are also working on a new education campaign to get the word out.

Should you observe people setting up camp outside of a caravan park please report it to the Shire Rangers as soon as possible on the telephone numbers below:

Shire Rangers

Rob McKenzie – 0458 341 200; and

Brock Lucev – 0429 341 203

**Note: For the Shire to issue fines, Shire Rangers must catch the person(s) camping, and we are unable to do anything after the fact.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Event Application Guidelines

What constitutes an event?

“an organised occurrence hosted by a person or organisation on public or private land where people assemble at a given time for a given purpose”

To host an event in the Shire of Northampton an appropriate event application form needs to be filled out and submitted. You will find these forms on our website.

This includes events that are held at Shire buildings that are outside of the scope of their normal business and/or are serving alcohol.

Small events (under 24 hours) - needs to be submitted 30 days prior to the event taking place.

Medium to large scale events (over 24 hours) - needs to be submitted 90 days prior to the event taking place.

If you have any questions, please contact your Community Development Officer in your area.

Northampton - Andrea Teakle 0476 532 000

Kalbarri - Cresta Viellaris 0400 476 952



REQUESTS FOR PROPERTY PLANS AND INFORMATION

Any requests for property information or house plans need to be authorised by the current owner(s) of the property and attracts a fee of \$30 per request. A copy of the “Request for Plans and Information” can be obtained through the Northampton and Kalbarri offices.

HOW YOUR RATES ARE CALCULATED

The amount of rates payable is determined by three factors – the method of valuing the land; the value of the land and improvements; and the rate in the dollar applied to the valuation by the Local Government. The Minister for Local Government determines the appropriate method for the valuation of land according to the relevant legislation and the current rating policy, which determines whether the Unimproved Value (UV) or the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of the land applies. The purpose for which land is held or used determines the classification (ie. UV or GRV).

You will also find an ‘Emergency Services Levy’ included on the rate notice. Local Government collects this levy each year on behalf of the State Government and funds are then disbursed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This levy funds various operating costs, training and capital equipment purchases for the Bush Fire Brigade, Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the State Emergency Services.

Pension Rebates

The Pensioners and Seniors Rebate Scheme is a mechanism that provides a rebate or deferment of charges to eligible pensioners and seniors. Concessions apply to Local Government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charge. Pensioners or seniors who hold an eligible concession card and own and occupy residential property on or before 1 July may be entitled to a rebate.

The Water Corporation accepts applications over the phone (1300 659 951) or via an online application facility via www.watercorporation.com.au. More information can be found online in the form of a Fact Sheet titled *Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme*.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY (ESL)

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is an annual charge paid by all property owners in Western Australia. Every dollar raised through the ESL pays for the delivery of critical and life-saving fire and emergency services across the State. In the event of a structure fire, bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, hazardous spill, road crash or any other emergency on land or sea, our role at DFES is clear.

The ESL pays for frontline services provided by Western Australia's career and volunteer fire and emergency services including:

- Firefighters ready to serve on the frontline in times of emergency.
- Emergency services volunteers and support personnel a dedicated network of volunteers ready to respond to hazards from structure fires and bushfires, helping people during floods, cyclones and storms, road crashes, hazardous spills and people lost on land and at sea.
- Fire and emergency vehicles powering our firefighters and volunteers on the frontline, with fire trucks, incident control vehicles, rescue and flood boats and road crash rescue trucks set to roll out at any time.
- Fire stations and emergency facilities operating bases for firefighters and volunteers, with vehicles and equipment ready to respond 24/7.
- Aerial fleet and rescue suppressing fires through a network of helitacs, fixed-wing bombers, aircrews and water bombers, and undertaking rescue missions.

The ESL pays for Western Australia's emergency response capability:


- Triple Zero (000) Communications Centre operating 24/7 to take emergency 000 and 132 500 State Emergency Service calls from people in need.
- Emergency WA website dedicated to informing the community with warnings and emergency advice.
- Technology and communications infrastructure supporting frontline responders through radio networks and computer-aided dispatch programs.
- Emergency management planning undertaking regional hazard and incident risk profiling, analysis and prediction.
- Training developing firefighters and emergency services volunteers to be at the forefront of emergency response and capability.
- Safety and education preparing individuals and communities to reduce their risks and be resilient in the face of natural disasters and emergency events.

The ESL pays for initiatives that minimise the community's exposure to risks from all hazards:

- Bushfire risk planning to minimise the impact of bushfire on individual, property, communities and the environment.

- Controlled burns reducing fuel loads and protecting the things that you value the most.
- Fire breaks stopping fire in its tracks and protecting vulnerable and at-risk communities.
- Fire investigations looking at the causes of fires and research into risks in the home and environment.
- Building inspections ensuring that buildings and residents are safe from hazards.

2025 ELECTION RESULTS



NOTICE OF RESULTS OF THE 2025 ORDINARY COUNCIL ELECTION

At the close of nominations at 4.00pm on 4 September 2025 for three vacant Councillor positions in 2025, three nominations were received by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

As a result of the number of candidates equalling the Councillor positions available, the election was declared by the Returning Officer with all candidates being elected unopposed.

The following people have been elected to Council and will commence their new terms following their swearing in at a Special Council meeting to be held after 18 October 2025.

CANDIDATE	OUTCOME	TERM EXPIRY
Des PIKE	Elected Unopposed	20 October 2029
Tim HAY	Elected Unopposed	20 October 2029
Chad SMITH	Elected Unopposed	20 October 2029

The Shire of Northampton would like to congratulate the appointees and also thank Cr Trevor Gibb for his service as Councillor for the past four years.

ANDREW CAMPBELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SIGNAGE

If you are proposing to erect any form of advertising or signage (including feather/flutter flags) relating to your business or community group, you will need to refer to the relevant policies and guidelines that manage advertising. This includes *Main Roads Guide to the Management of Roadside Advertising* and the Shire's own signage policy. The purpose of the Shire of Northampton's Local Planning Policy (LPP) *Signage* is to provide guidance on design and placement of many forms of advertising within the Shire. This helps ensure the visual character and quality of locations is maintained, it minimises clutter and a proliferation of signage and maintains a degree of control appropriate to the locality. The LPP has guided decisions made in relation to advertising signs within the Shire since 2006. If you are thinking about a form of advertising for your business or community group, don't hesitate to contact the Shire's Planning Officer, Michelle Allen, by email to planning@northampton.wa.gov.au or by phone to (08) 99341202.

ACCESSIBLE RAMP COMPLETED AT NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Contractors and Shire employees were able to complete the installation of a new Accessible Complaint Access Ramp and the associated path and stairs just in time for the Northampton Agricultural Show.

The path now provides a connection for people of all walking abilities between the basketball stadium and associated parking area to the main Community Centre Building and oval.



BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING COORDINATOR

A new shared position of Bushfire Risk Planning Co-Ordinator has been created thanks to funding from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Northampton Local – Scott Rintoul has been appointed. Scott brings his experience in working as a Fire and Rescue Volunteer along with past experience as a Community Emergency Services Manager,

In his newly contracted position, Scott will be responsible for preparing detailed Bushfire mitigation plans for the Shire of Northampton and several other Shire's within the Mid-West. Once these Mitigation Plans are approved, they will be used as the basis for grant applications relating to the Shire's annual mitigation program and future infrastructure needs.

NEW BUILDING SURVEYOR APPOINTED

The Shire is pleased to announce that our newly appointed Building Surveyor – Mr Jon Trotter will be commencing his employment on 30 September 2025.

Jon, who comes with a substantial amount of experience in the Mid-West will be living in Kalbarri, based out of the Kalbarri Administration Office.

REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

16 October 2025 – Northampton

20 November 2025 – Kalbarri

18 December 2025 – Northampton

COUNCILLORS

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025

Cr Tim Hay, Deputy President – 0488 212 566

Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143

Cr Trevor Gibb – 0417 920 125

Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814

Cr Richard Burges – 0417 912 901

Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274

SHIRE ADDRESS

Northampton Office

Hampton Road, Northampton

PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535

Phone: 9934 1202 Opening Hours: Mon - Fri
8.00am - 4.30pm (DOT closes at 3.30pm)

Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri

Phone: 9937 1097

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm
(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

