



## Shire Bulletin August 2025



### SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of you in the Northampton community and surrounds will be devastated by the news of the closure of the Northampton doctors' surgery. Please be assured that, although it is not a core responsibility of Local Government, Council is fully committed to assisting in the provision of health services in both Kalbarri and Northampton. For many years, the Shire has worked to do this, and we will continue to work hard and advocate for a positive outcome.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me. My number is 0427 362 025.

My heartfelt plea is that you continue to support the local Northampton Pharmacy. Jo and her team are intrinsically involved in the fabric of Northampton and I know, will greatly appreciate you continuing to get your scripts filled and medicines purchased locally. It is essential for the health (both literally and economically) of our town, that the business continues.

I recently attended the funeral of Viv Gill at the RSL Hall in Northampton. I had to work hard to get there. It was a Council meeting day and the timetable for various meetings had to be re-arranged and caused disruption for other Councillors and staff. Cr Roslyn Suckling and I gave ourselves 50 mins to attend.

If a funeral can be positive or pleasant, this one was definitely that, and I was overcome by the experience. The hall was packed. Roslyn and I sat, squashed against the back wall. As I listened to two of Viv's nieces give the most heart-warming tribute to their aunt and 'second mother' (both lost their mothers prematurely), I marvelled at the beauty of the RSL hall, which is a sacred space and has only continued to get better, as time has gone by. The walls are lined with photos of Northampton servicemen and women, and the hall was full of some of the very best Northampton people, all with a connection to Viv and the Gill family, as well as with rich histories of their own. Our local

poet laureate, Richard Williams read a heartfelt and humorous poem which summed Viv up perfectly. We listened, smiled, wiped away a few tears and viewed photos, accompanied by quiet, understated music. I found myself thinking and hoping, as I often do at funerals, that the person, in this case Viv, was watching over the event. She was a no-nonsense character, some might even say, hard-boiled; but I think she would have been quietly chuffed. At the end of the day, our lives are enhanced by the connections we make to a place, to nature, and to people (and in Viv's case, also to her cattle and her dogs).

I found myself overcome with gratitude for this place and community at Northampton. And I've felt that same deep connection at funerals and events in Kalbarri. I've felt that way at events at Port Gregory, at Horrocks, and of course in my own more-local communities, at Ogilvie, Binu and Alma. If you live in a regional community and you get involved, you have a connection, and I'm sure I'm not telling you anything that you don't already know!

My sincere sympathy to the Kalbarri community who are mourning the recent loss of a local identity. The way the community rallied around an evening call for help was, although to be expected, amazing and an absolute credit to the community.

Even after the busy July school holidays, communities across our region are brimming with travellers. It's a timely reminder to take extra care on the roads. Specifically, take extra care on the Oakajee Interchange area, as people hopefully learn to drive safely and keep left!!

As I write this, I am in Perth with CEO, Andrew Campbell and Councillor Richard Burges, meeting with a number of Government Departments and organisations to advocate for our Local Government area. Please also be assured that when we do this, we do it at the VERY minimal cost to the organisation. It's certainly not a holiday!

Life in regional towns and communities such as ours, have a richness and realness to them, that only those who live and give to the community, could understand. In spite of challenges and difficult times, we are lucky to live where we live, and it's important to work to maintain, to advocate for and to improve what we have.

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The Strategic Community Plan is nearing finalisation with a few minor amendments to be made before it is presented to Council at the meeting to be held 21 August 2025 in Kalbarri. Following the adoption of the Strategic Community Plan, the Shire will commence the Corporate Business Plan process which will bring in many of the concepts and projects identified during the public consultation phase during the Strategic Community Plan.

Illegal camping has been a hot conversation topic in the Shire particularly in our coastal areas. This is not something exclusive to the Shire as it is happening right throughout Western Australia at the moment. Ranger enforcement has already resulted in more than 60 infringements at \$200 per person in the last four months along with many more "move on" warnings being issued. This will be a continuing issue and we are working on strategies of education and enforcement to reinforce the message that all camping in the Shire must be through registered providers such as caravan parks and camping grounds.

The 2025/26 annual budget will be put to the Special Council meeting held on 1 August 2025 with a recommended average rate increase of 4%. At the time of writing this piece on 23 July 2025, Council had yet to make a formal decision to adopt the budget, however if they do Rates notices will be issued shortly afterward. There are a number of capital projects identified in budget that will be spread across towns in the Shire and watch this space for further updates.

At the Special Council meeting to be held on 1 August 2025, Council will also be asked to make a decision on a submission to the State Government's Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects. It is great news that the State Government has finally engaged in this area with an intent to guide Local Government through the Community Benefit processes. Prior to this Council has been actively engaged with proponents on this quite difficult issue and this has included much advocacy to the State Government for support.

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been finalised with the Whiting Pool Stairs, Little Bay Road improvements, and Hampton Road footpath improvements representing the final projects completed under the program.

At the meeting 19 June 2025, Council awarded a Tender to RDH as the contractor to repair Shire roads impacted by rainfall events in June 2024. The rainfall events were declared part of a natural disaster along with widespread damage across the Mid West region and the final road list eligible for funding should be finalised soon and works commencing shortly after.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Unlock New Grant Funding Opportunities with newly opened funding bodies:

- Shire of Northampton Community Grant Fund
- CBH, Grassroot Community Grant
- Nutrien Ag Solutions – Local Branch



Community Grant Fund Round 1 2025/2026. The Community Grants Program aims to enhance community liveability and connectedness, boost local events, engage youth, and provide financial support for funding applications.

- Cat 1a Community Group projects
- Cat 1b Community Groups financial hardship
- Cat 2 Youth Groups
- Cat 3 Events
- Cat 4 Skill and Capacity building

Opens: 1 July 2025

Closes: 30 August 2025

If you are considering applying for a grant, please don't hesitate to make a booking for one of our drop-in sessions.

Andrea & Cresta are on hand to support you with your project.



Grant Drop in sessions

Kalbarri @ Allen Centre  
10:00am – 12:30pm  
5 August 2025 – Tuesday  
26 August 2025 – Tuesday

Northampton @ RSL Hall  
10:30am – 1:00pm  
7 August 2025 – Thursday  
21 August 2025 – Thursday



CBH Grass Roots Community Grants are aimed at enhancing the health and vitality of grain-growing communities. To qualify for the CBH Grants, projects must: Be located within a grain-growing community and align with CBH's core purpose and values.

Events, Maximum \$10,000  
Small-scale infrastructure \$20,000  
Opens: 1 August 2025  
Closes 31 August 2025



Nutrien Ag Solutions aims to empower local grassroots organisations by providing funding for projects that hold significance for their communities. Pop in a see Bridget Pullella at Northampton Nutrien Ag Solutions she can help with a letter of support.

Open: 9 July 2025  
Closes: 7 August 2025

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS – LET'S CHECK IN

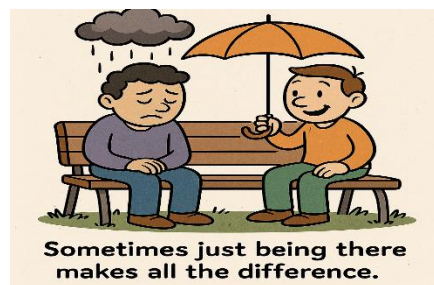
Life throws curveballs – grief, money stress, feeling lonely, tech headaches, or just the everyday juggle. It affects us all differently, and sometimes, all someone needs is a listening ear.

A quick chat, a kind word, or even just asking “Are you OK?” can make a real difference. If you're struggling, don't go it alone. Reach out – support is always there:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636

- Rural Link – 1800 552 002

Let's look out for each other – one conversation at a time.



## 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](http://www.watercorporation.com.au). More information can be found online in the form of a Fact Sheet titled *Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme*.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS UNDER NCC

All new residential building permit applications lodged with the Shire of Northampton on or after 1 May 2025 must meet the new minimum 7-star energy rating standard.

If your application was lodged before 1 May 2025, the previous requirements under NCC 2019 Amendment 1 will continue to apply — even if additional information is requested later.

To assist with understanding the transition timeline, please refer to the infographic below:

Time application for building permit is made	BCA 2019 Amdt 1	BCA 2022 with BCA 2019 Amdt 1 Energy Efficiency & Condensation requirements	BCA 2022	BCA 2022 Amdt 1
Until 30 April 2025	✓	✓	✓	✗
From 1 May 2025 until 30 April 2026	✗	✗	✓	✓
From 1 May 2026	✗	✗	✗	✓

Note: Regulation 15C of the Regulations modifies the BCA such that the application of the livable (accessible) housing provisions and the energy efficiency heating and cooling load limits is voluntary in WA.

For more information visit: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/understanding-ncc-2022-and-implementation-clarification>

## RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE DOG ACT IN WA

The Dog Act 1976 is administered and enforced by local governments and addresses control and registration of dogs; the ownership and keeping of dogs; and the obligations and rights of dog owners and others.

In addition, it is important that dog owners respect other people in the community. This can be achieved by keeping dogs adequately confined on their properties, or on a leash in public places, preventing aggressive behaviour and controlling excessive barking.

As a dog owner you have a legal responsibility to keep it under control and to ensure that your dog is not creating a public nuisance.

For more information visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Dog Ownership page at [www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/dogs)

## REPORTING ILLEGAL DUMPING OF DEMOLITION MATERIAL INCLUDING ASBESTOS

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Crime Stoppers WA have joined forces to combat the unlawful dumping of

demolition waste and asbestos. The unlawful dumping of demolition material is an ongoing problem in some parts of Western Australia so the aim is to step up efforts to catch offenders, including demolition companies that occasionally do the wrong thing.

Feedback in the past has indicated that some people did not know how to make a report, so the partnership between DWER and Crime Stoppers WA means that members of the community don't need to remember which organisation to call if they observe demolition or asbestos waste being dumped or come across it. They can simply [contact Crime Stoppers WA online](#) or by phoning 1800 333 000.

## REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

**21 August 2025 – Kalbarri**  
**18 September 2025 - Northampton**  
**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](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au)