



## Shire Bulletin April 2026

World events in the last few weeks have left no doubt how reliant Australians are on energy and fuel. There is considerable concern and fear everywhere about rising fuel costs and possible fuel shortages and the flow-on effect that this will have. I'm currently travelling through South Australia, having driven across the Nullabor and can report that the prices we are paying in the Midwest are similar to the rest of the country. The most we paid for petrol was \$3/litre. Before I left last Thursday, Councillors and farmers met with our local federal MP, member for Durack, Melissa Price, to help her to drill down her understanding of the importance of fuel and fertiliser security for primary producers. Ms Price had met with Federal Energy Minister, Chris Bowen two days prior, to communicate to him the important role that primary producers and farmers play in feeding the country. It was good to hear that there was bipartisan communication on the issue. It is difficult to predict how things will play out, and we can only cross our fingers that the issues will be resolved sooner than later.

Congratulations to the Horrocks Community who at the end of February, held a very successful golf day and community evening fund raiser. This event was to raise money to purchase and deliver hay to the Upper Gascoyne area, where pastoralists are struggling with limited feed on their properties for their cattle. It was wonderful that members of that community, including President Jim Caunt, Councillor Blanche Walker and CEO John McCleary, and others from the area were able to attend and it was a great night. The Shire of Gascoyne were very generous to the communities in our area following Tropical Cyclone Seroja, so it was fitting that we should reciprocate. Congratulations to Sandy Stock-Standen, Colin Reynolds, Anthony Jupp and the HCC on organising this with relatively short notice. Thank you to the Williams family and Thomas Waite who transported the hay.



Congratulations to Hannah Husbands who is the Shire of Northampton recipient of the Hollomby Foundation scholarship at the Geraldton University Centre. Hannah is studying a Bachelor of Science (Nursing). Every year since the inception of the Hollomby Foundation, our shire has awarded \$2000 to a student studying at GUC and who resides in the shire of Northampton.

Tickets are selling fast for the Story Harvest event which will be held at the NCC on the 11th April which is the 5th anniversary of Cyclone Seroja. The purpose of this event, MC'd by Paul Hasleby, is to celebrate the resilience and achievements of people throughout the rich history of the Northampton region. Shire of Northampton Community Development Officers have been working energetically to make this a fabulous event. To buy your ticket, please scan the QR code or contact the shire office.

In the lead-up to the 11th, which is the anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Seroja, I always get a little tight in the throat, when inundated with various media who want to investigate how our communities are going. I always encourage journalists to be respectful – there is still a degree of anxiety for many residents when thinking back to that event and even when faced with any potential storm or weather event - as we are faced with, as I write this. This is a reminder to be kind, considerate and helpful to your neighbour wherever possible. Community connection is what sets our regional communities apart from big -city living.

The Shire of Northampton is in the final stages of completing our Corporate Business Plan which guides our strategic planning and annual budget process. This process started with community consultation to the Strategic Community Plan last year, which you all had a chance to contribute to. I wish everyone an enjoyable break over Easter.

**Liz Sudlow**  
**Shire President**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Red Dust Holdings have commenced the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) repair works that resulted from the declared emergency event in June 2024. The approval process to reach this point has been very complex but has resulted in the approval of works on various roads across the Shire district in the magnitude exceeding \$2M.

The tender for Fifth Avenue, Northampton drainage project has been awarded to a contractor and will commence soon. Other significant funded road infrastructure projects that are the Shire's current focus are Horrocks Road widening Stage 1; Kalbarri-Ajana Stage 2; Karina Mew repairs; Ogilvie East Road construction; Binu East Road floodway reconstruction; and Port Street upgrades.

The Shire is currently developing its new Corporate Business Plan following the development of the Strategic Community Plan in late 2025. Feedback suggestions from the Strategic Community Plan consultation process are being used by Council to determine priorities for the Corporate Business Plan which will apply to the next four years.

The Shire has entered into a contract to purchase vacant land known as Settlers Hill Estate with the purpose to safeguard future residential land availability in the town site of Northampton. Whilst this is likely to be a medium term initiative, after servicing some residential land may be released to the market as demand requires.

Panaceum Northampton is operating at capacity for the current three day per week service which is fantastic news. Thank you to the community for supporting the service as this is the only way the service can continue to operate sustainably in the future. The Shire is excited to announce that Panaceum Northampton is likely to expand its service to the full five days per week soon. The Panaceum Group is awaiting further assessment of an additional doctor to take up the extra days and once finalised, the five days per week service should commence.

**Panaceum Northampton**  
**51 Robinson Street, Northampton**  
**Telephone: (08) 9934 1001**  
**Email: [northampton@panaceum.com.au](mailto:northampton@panaceum.com.au)**

**Andrew Campbell**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

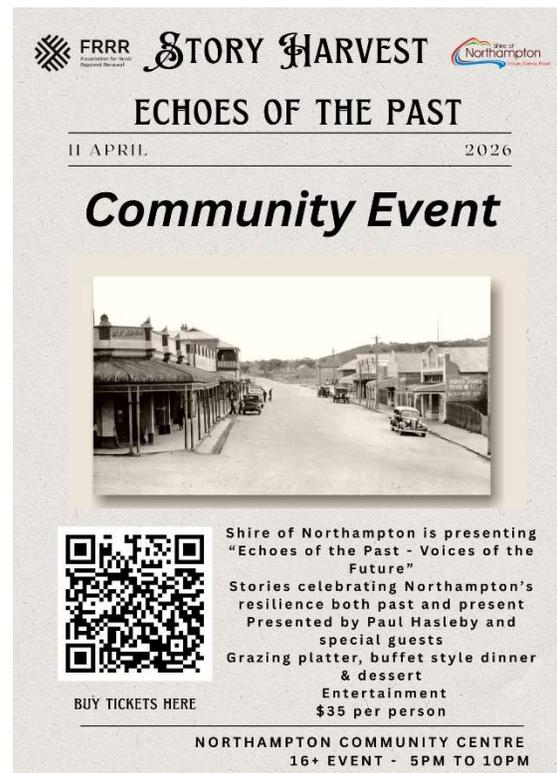
The Shire of Northampton recently celebrated Harmony Week with a special Citizenship Ceremony. During the ceremony, Northampton proudly welcomed its newest Australian citizens, recognising the significance of this milestone and celebrating the diverse backgrounds that enrich and strengthen our local community.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Exciting news!!

**Community Event in Northampton – Story Harvest – Echoes of Past.**



**FRRR** **STORY HARVEST** **Shire of Northampton**

**ECHOES OF THE PAST**

11 APRIL 2026

**Community Event**

Shire of Northampton is presenting  
"Echoes of the Past - Voices of the Future"  
Stories celebrating Northampton's  
resilience both past and present  
Presented by Paul Hasleby and  
special guests  
Grazing platter, buffet style dinner  
& dessert  
Entertainment  
\$35 per person

BUY TICKETS HERE

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTRE  
16+ EVENT - 5PM TO 10PM

Step into an unforgettable evening with the Shire of Northampton's "Echoes of the Past - Voices of the Future." Join us on Saturday, April 11, 2026, as we celebrate the 5-year anniversary of Cyclone Seroja with a powerful night of storytelling, community spirit, and reflection on our shared resilience.

Enjoy a delicious meal, including a grazing platter to start, buffet-style dinner, and a selection of desserts, along with engaging entertainment and inspiring presentations from Paul Hasleby and special guests. Hear moving stories that capture Northampton's indomitable spirit—how we've faced challenges, supported one another, and emerged stronger as a community.

This 16+ event is more than a celebration; it's a chance to connect, remember, and look forward together. Doors open at 5:00 pm, with the first speaker at 5:30 pm. Don't miss this unique opportunity to honour the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future of Northampton!

**Buy your Tickets now!**

## Shire of Northampton Community Grant Round 2 2025-26

The Shire of Northampton Community Grant Round 2 for 2025-26 closed on 31 March 2026. Applicants are advised that results will be published following the May Council meeting.

The community can look forward to a range of exciting projects and events on the horizon. Stay tuned for the announcement of successful grant recipients.

## Dual-Use Pathways Plan “Enhancing our pathways for the future”

The Shire, with financial support from the State Government, are currently reviewing existing path networks within the Shire to inform a new plan guiding the future location and form of Dual Use Paths in each of the Shire's townsites.

Community Development officers will be inviting businesses, community groups and individuals to participate in surveys and provide feedback. Your input is vital to creating safe, accessible, and enjoyable dual-use pathways for everyone in our towns. Well-designed walking and riding networks create vibrant, liveable and connected communities. Don't miss your chance to help shape a more active community! If you do not receive an email, please reach out to us

Cresta Viellaris

[cresta.viellaris@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:cresta.viellaris@northampton.wa.gov.au)

Andrea Teakle

[Andrea.teakle@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:Andrea.teakle@northampton.wa.gov.au)



Scan here to have your say in the Dual-use Pathways plan!

## PLANNING SERVICES

### Draft Renewable Energy Planning Code

As reported in the last edition of the Shire Bulletin, the Western Australian State Government has released, for public comment, a proposed Planning Code and associated guidelines on renewable energy development proposals. Initially focused on wind farms, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has identified that the Code will have flexibility to expand to other renewable energy developments in the future.

The WAPC is also proposing to amend provisions of relevant planning regulations to modify the current statutory planning framework to ensure consistency between local planning instruments and the Code, introduce requirements for noise sensitive premises to obtain approval when in proximity to turbines and amend the *Planning and Development (Significant Development) Regulations* to ensure all renewable energy proposals (including wind and hydrogen) over \$20 million are considered mandatory significant developments. Applications for approval for such developments will be made to and determined by the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Council considered the Draft Code at its meeting on 19 March, resolving to lodge a detailed submission on the Code raising a number of concerns regarding the document and proposed approach. Details of the Council decision can be located within the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2026, being available via the Shire website.

The submission period will remain open until 10 April 2026. All interested persons are encouraged to lodge a submission.

For more information please visit:  
<https://haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au/draft-renewable-planning-code>

## Compliance with Approved Plans

Proposals for development or land uses that are approved by the Shire are approved on the basis of the plans that have been submitted. Proponents that are seeking to vary their plans, particularly in respect of setbacks that have been approved, must seek approval to vary the approved plans, **before proceeding**.

Proceeding with development that does not comply with the approved plans is an offence under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. In accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2005 (the Act)*, the Shire may also issue a Stop Work Order under Section 214 of the Act, and:

- Impose a modified penalty of \$500;
- Impose a daily modified penalty for ongoing works; or
- Commence legal action.

Should the Shire commence legal action, penalties of up to \$200,000 and daily penalties of \$25,000 per day may be issued by the courts for an individual, with corporations facing up to five times that amount (\$1,000,000).

If in doubt whether work you are proposing require the Shire's prior Development Approval, please contact the Shire's Planning Officer on 9934 1202.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Food Premises Inspections

The risks associated with commercial food production and sales can be significant depending on the types of activities being undertaken and the food being served.

As part of their duties, the Shire's Environmental Health Officer is required to enforce requirements of the Food Act, Food Regulations, and Food Safety Standards. A significant part of this is enforcement, ensuring a safe food environment for residents and visitors alike, with the Shire required to undertake regular food premise inspections to confirm compliance with premises and food handling requirements.

The Shire's Environmental Health Officer has commenced their latest round of inspections which will involve the inspection of all food premises within the Shire. Are you the owner or operator of a food premise, if so your co-operation with the inspection program will be greatly appreciated.

Rather than wait for an inspection to be scheduled, food premise operators are encouraged to contact Wendy Dallywater at Shire of Northampton to schedule an inspection time that would be convenient to you.

## Label It Clearly

Always make sure containers are clearly labeled — whether they're in your home, shed, workshop or office. Unlabeled containers can lead to confusion, misuse or serious accidents, especially if they contain chemicals, fuels or cleaning products.

Clear labeling helps:

- Prevent accidental exposure or ingestion
- Ensure safe handling and storage
- Protect children, visitors and workers
- Assist emergency services if needed

If it's not labeled, don't assume you know what's inside.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Fires - When to Contact 000

If you see smoke or a fire 000 needs to be alerted. As with any car accident or medical emergency, please call 000 to ensure a timely response.

It is extremely importance to report any incident, even if it may have been reported. Fire brigades, trucks and key personnel cannot be dispatched if they are unaware.

Whilst the Shire does communicate through What's app, 000 must be alerted about the incident in order dispatch appropriate resources to ensure community safety through the protection of life and property.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Disposal of Lot 6 (No 78) Robinson Street, Northampton

In accordance with Section 3.58 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire of Northampton gives public notice of the intended disposal by way of sale of Lot 6 (No. 78) Robinson Street, Northampton being Lot 6 on Diagram 42861 contained in Certificate of Title volume 1431 Folio 262 as detailed below:

- Buyer – Daphne Jean Harris
- Offer Price - \$350,000
- Market Valuation - \$240,000

Submissions are invited to be received from the public in writing regarding the proposed disposition by **4.00pm Friday 10 April 2026**.

Andrew Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535  
[andrew.campbell@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.campbell@northampton.wa.gov.au)

### Works Program

The Shire wishes to advise that works are scheduled for the following roads and Shire reserves over the coming months:

- Fifth Avenue – drainage improvements
- Ogilvie Road East – reconstruction
- Binnu Road East – reconstruction and culvert improvements
- DRFA flood damage repairs – various locations across the Shire
- Horrocks Road – shoulder repairs
- Kalbarri – Capital Hill / Eco Flora - reserve remediations

We kindly ask all residents and members of the public to exercise caution when travelling near Shire worksites. Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated, as they help ensure the safety of our crews while enabling the efficient delivery of essential infrastructure improvements with minimal disruption.

The Shire apologises for any inconveniences that may result. For further information, please contact the Shire's Northampton Administration Office.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Works Coordinator

Full-time 1.0 FTE.

Negotiable salary \$97K - \$107K per annum, dependent on experience and qualifications.

**To Apply:** Please visit [www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au) for information about the position and how to apply.

**Further information:** Please contact Michelle Allen on (08) 99341202 or by email to [michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au)

**Closing date** – 4-00pm Friday 3 April 2026

### Kalbarri Refuse Supervisor

Permanent part-time 0.6 FTE

Negotiable salary up to \$40.72 p/h.

**To Apply:** Please visit [www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au) for information about the position and how to apply.

**Further Information:** Please contact Michelle Allen, on (08)99341202 or by email at [michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au)

**Closing Date:** 4-00pm Friday 10 April 2026

## PRACTICAL DRIVING ASSESSMENTS



Practical Driving Assessments (PDA) are conducted fortnightly on Tuesdays at the Shire of Northampton office by a qualified assessor who travels up from Geraldton.

There are only three appointment slots available on each assessment day. Please note that the final timeslot cannot be booked until the first two appointments are filled.

If you wish to book a PDA, please visit our friendly staff. They will check your individual circumstances and confirm that you have completed all necessary requirements before securing a booking.

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

**16 April 2026 – Northampton**

**21 May 2026 – Kalbarri**

**18 June 2026 – Northampton**

**16 July 2026 – Northampton**

**20 August 2026 – Kalbarri**

**17 September 2026 - Northampton**

**15 October 2026 – Northampton**

**19 November 2026 – Kalbarri**

**17 December 2026 – Northampton**

## **COUNCILLORS**

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025  
Cr Tim Hay, Deputy President –0488 212  
566  
Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143  
Cr Chad Smith – 0428 932 476  
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)

## **EMAIL**

[council@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@northampton.wa.gov.au)

## **WEBSITE**

[www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au)

