



Shire Bulletin

August 2024

SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Winter season continues to bring regular and significant rain. To quote a wise and witty local farmer: "every time we get a morning dew, the rivers come up!" The swollen creeks, rivers and water-logged ground continue to present challenges to drainage of roads, buildings and paddocks. Fertilising crops and spraying weeds has been a difficult task and for many growers, getting bogged has become a regular event. However, I think most will agree the wet winter has been warmly welcomed.

As a timely reminder, please be respectful of the fragile state of many unsealed roads, take care with water and debris on both sealed and unsealed roads. Plan for your trips to take a little longer. There have been a number of accidents caused in our local area by motorists travelling too fast through water or ignoring 'road closed' signs. As in recent years, there is a larger volume of traffic on our major roads during this time of year. I'm often horrified at the impatience and arrogance of some drivers, who put everyone else on the road under pressure and at increased risk of accident.

Interspersed with the recent rain events, we have been blessed with some of the most magical of sunny, clear days. I've spent two separate weekends at Horrocks and Kalbarri recently and been reminded of just how amazing the beach is during Winter. The whales frolicking just off the coast on their migration north to warmer waters are numerous and majestic.

I recently attended a Northern Country Zone meeting, the regional Mid West group of local governments, where we heard a presentation from Janelle Ende, Just Raptors, about the damage that some rodent baits can do to our native animals. Rodent baits are generally grouped into two groups, first and second generation baits. First generation baits are less lethal, the animal needs to consume multiple doses.

Baits that contain anticoagulant rodenticides: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum and flocoumefen; are referred to as second generation baits. The rodents and native marsupials who consume these poisons, very often become the lethal food for a range of non-target species: native animals, including birds and domestic pets. Recent research in WA has shown that 73% of owls autopsied contained rodenticides. Countries such as the UK have banned or implement a restricted use of second-generation poisons, which are sold without regulation by Australian supermarkets, hardware stores and farm suppliers. Fertilisers that end up in creeks can also be damaging to the small animals who live in or drink the water.

The presentation was a timely reminder of the damage we can do to the environment without due consideration.

Kalbarri lost another of its long-serving residents at the end of June, with the passing of Dreda Allen. Dreda first came to Kalbarri with her husband Ron, to run the Murchison Caravan Park in about 1970. Dreda and Ron were a wonderful duo, and Dreda enabled Ron to have an incredible life of service to the Shire of Northampton and the Midwest region, by ably working with him to operate the park. Dreda was also a great community member with a fabulous sense of fun. My deepest sympathy to Tash, Andrew, Anthony and Di, as well as Ron and Dreda's grandchildren. To lose both Ron and Dreda is such quick succession must be very difficult and thoughts are with you all.

As we begin August, temperatures usually warm and attention turns to the season of Agricultural shows in our region. Please give some thought to how you might be able to assist or support the Northampton District Agricultural Show, which will be on Saturday 14th September.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Following the departure of Grant Middleton from the organisation, Council endorsed an organisational restructure whereby Michelle Allen was promoted to the role of Manager Corporate Services and Leanne Rowe was promoted to the role of Manager Financial Services, congratulations to both employees. In addition to this and as part of the organisational restructure, on 29 July 2024 we welcomed three new employees to the organisation being Spencer Roberts in a new position of Manager Parks and Gardens, Kaylene Roberts as Planning Officer (replacing Michelle Allen), and Tina Souroup in a new position as Administration Officer Works and Technical Services. A special thanks to Sue Koppensteiner who returned from retirement to diligently lead our parks and gardens program in Northampton whilst recruitment occurred. Well done Sue and enjoy your retirement!

The Shire has launched a new Community Grants Program applicable for the 2024/25 financial year. Individuals and community groups can apply for projects in the areas of general projects, financial hardship, events, youth projects, and capacity and skills categories. The first round is now open and closes 30 August 2024 with the announcement of successful applicants due in September 2024. A second round will occur in the first half of 2025. More information and application forms can be found on the

Shire website or by contacting the Northampton office on 9934 1202 or the Kalbarri office on 9937 1097.

With the upcoming endorsement of the Shire's annual budget this month, it is important for everyone to understand that a review of all Gross Rental Value (GRV) properties (primarily residential and commercial properties) by the Valuer General has occurred throughout the Shire district. This happens every four years whereas Unimproved Value (UV) properties (primarily rural properties) are reviewed every year in accordance with legislation. What this means is that your Rates bill impact for 2024/25 may be different to any average increase Council may elect to apply. How this works is the Valuer General has methodically assessed your GRV property value comparatively against all other similar GRV properties across the Shire district to set your new GRV which may go up, down or stay the same. Once this has been done, the Shire sets its rate in the GRV dollar based on its final Rate revenue from 2023/24 plus any average increase determined by Council. The rate in the GRV dollar is then applied to your property GRV which determines the Rate bill for your property for 2024/25.

Based on previous experience, individual property Rates can experience significant deviation from any average Rate increase set by Council following a GRV revaluation. It is very important to understand that the Shire's Rate revenue in 2024/25 is capped to the value of the 2023/24 Rate revenue plus any average increase Council elects to impose. Following a GRV revaluation ratepayers may experience significant Rate increases or decreases compared to any average Rate increase Council elects to make. The Valuer General has an appeal mechanism for GRV valuations if you are aggrieved by any change. Further information on rates can be found at <https://www.dlqsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/rates-setting>

After higher than usual rainfall since June this year and saturated catchments, Shire roads are starting to really feel the effects of every new rainfall event. This has resulted in numerous road closures and heavy vehicle restrictions and the community is to be commended for their understanding and patience in what can be trying times. Our team has done a fantastic job in keeping most roads trafficable with urgent maintenance repairs, but unfortunately some roads are just simply too wet to undertake urgent maintenance works with large machinery. Looking forward we are hopeful that it will soon dry out enough to get to all of our impacted roads, however in the meantime we appreciate everyone's ongoing patience. It is also important for our producers to understand that when we do close roads to heavy vehicles, depending on circumstances you may be able to receive an exemption for one-off heavy vehicle use by contacting the Shire.

At its meeting held on 18 July 2024, Council resolved to support a design for replacement of the current Pelican Feeding Area in Kalbarri for the purposes of advertising. With the current Shade Sail now being beyond repair, Council is seeking to progress the establishment of a new Pelican Feeding Area facility as part of the Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment. Submissions on the proposal may be lodged with the Shire before the close of business on 16 August 2024. Further details regarding the project are outlined in the advertisement in this paper, or via the Shire Website.

In order to facilitate community involvement in the \$8.1 million Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment Project, Council has resolved to create a formal Advisory Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act. The purpose of the Committee is to assist Shire Officers in the refinement and detailed designs for conceptual elements of the Kalbarri Foreshore Masterplan, assist in the identification of priorities and make recommendations to Council on potential developments and commercial opportunities not identified in the Masterplan.

The committee is to consist of Shire Councillors, representatives from the Traditional Custodians of the land being the Nanda peoples, Kalbarri Development Association, Kalbarri Visitors Centre and two members of the public. Staff members from the Shire, Mid-West Development Commission and Tourism WA will be participating in a non-voting capacity.

The Shire is currently advertising for the two community members, calling for nominations from the Kalbarri community for the two community members to be submitted by 26 August 2024. For further information please refer to the advertisement in this paper or refer to the Shire of Northampton website.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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*.

REGISTER FOR eRATES

Did you know you can receive your rate notices via email instead of post. You can now register for eRates via our website. <https://www.northampton.wa.gov.au/shire-services/rates/register-for-erates.aspx>

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION REGISTER

The Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register (STRA) is an initiative of the Western Australian Government through the *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024*.

The register will open on 1 July 2024 and will become mandatory for all Short-Term Rental Accommodation Providers on 1 January 2025. Initial Registration to the portal is \$250 and there is a renewal fee of \$100 per year.

Register your property with the STRA between July and September 2024 to have the initial registration fee of \$250 waived.

For more information visit the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register website:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/short-term-rental-accommodation>

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND ROUND 1 NOW OPEN

Notice is hereby given that Round 1 of the Shire of Northampton's Community Grant Fund program is now open. Round 1 is the major round of the new program for 2024/25 with up to \$60,000 to be allocated for projects and events that directly benefit communities in the Shire district. A further smaller grant round will follow in January 2025.

Grants up to the maximum amount will be made available and must be acquitted within a year of successful notification: Application category	shall not exceed (ex. GST)
Cat 1a General Community Group projects	\$4,000
Cat 1b Community Group financial hardship	\$2,000
Cat 2 Youth and Community Youth Groups	\$3,000
Cat 3a Events with broader target area	\$5,000
Cat 3b Events with a more limited target area	\$4,000
Cat 3c Events which are new and emerging	\$3,000
Cat 3d One-off events celebrating a significant anniversary	\$3,000
Cat 4 Community Skills and Capacity Building projects	\$4,000

To find out more please request a copy of the Council Policy, Grant Application Form and Grant Acquittal Form from Shire Administration Offices or download from the Shire's website www.northampton.wa.gov.au

Round 1 grant applications close on **30 August 2024** and will be determined by Council at the meeting of 19 September 2024.

ANDREW CAMPBELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TROPICAL CYCLONE SEROJA COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR

Tenders for the coastal infrastructure repair in Kalbarri have been awarded with contracts to be finalised at the end of July 2024. Works should commence in early August 2024 and the community is requested to be patient whilst access is restricted to sites such as Chinaman's, Blue Holes, Jacques Point and Red Bluff. All works have to be completed before the end of 2024 to meet the conditions of the Disaster Recovery Fund (WA) funding arrangements.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Unauthorised work is considered unauthorised if:

1. You have NOT received appropriate planning approval from Council for the building work (if applicable).
2. You haven't received a building permit for the work.
3. Your building or planning permit has expired (they expire after two years, extensions are available).

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.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/weve-teamed-crime-stoppers-wa-battle-illegal-dumping>

MOSQUITO AWARENESS

With our most recent inundation of rain events and the warmer weather just around the corner, we are expecting a high incidence of mosquito activity within the area around the end of August/September.

The warmer weather allows the final stages of the mosquito to come out of its larval stage and mature into adults, at this stage the adult mosquito is said to be "on the wing". The adult mosquito then attaches itself to the underneath of foliage for around 24 hours to mature before it mates. The female mosquito then requires a blood meal for her eggs which is high in protein prior to the laying of its eggs. It is at this stage the female mosquito bites humans. They inject an anticoagulant through its proboscis into the skin to stop the blood from coagulating, it is at this time that an infected mosquito injects the virus into the body.

Viruses such as Ross River and Australian Encephalitis are prevalent in Australia with the later having a mortality rate and there is no vaccine available for the mosquito borne disease. The species involved in this area are predominantly *Ae. Camptorynchus*, a common salt marsh breeder, with varieties of *Culex* species which are more common to fresh water/ container breeders.

Preventative measures include the usual methods such as cover up if outside after dark, use an effective repellent that contains at least 25% DEET (diethyltoluamide) and if camping stay away from areas that contain a lot of stagnant surface water.

Mosquito hygiene around the house includes emptying reservoirs that contain water regularly and after rain events.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT OF PLANNING PROPOSAL PROPOSED NEW PELICAN FEEDING AREA

The Shire of Northampton is in receipt of a development application to construct a new Pelican Feeding Area on Reserve 25307 Grey Street, Kalbarri. The new facilities, to be located immediately south of the new facility, are proposed to consist of a new roof structure, seating and improved access. Written submissions on the proposal are welcome and can be directed to the CEO either by post to PO Box 61 Northampton 6535 or email to planning@northampton.wa.gov.au and must be received no later than close of business on Friday 16 August 2024. A copy of the submitted application, as well as a submission form can be obtained from the Shire website at www.northampton.wa.gov.au or by visiting either of the two Shire of Northampton offices in Northampton and Kalbarri during office hours.

ANDREW CAMPBELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (TWO COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES – KALBARRI FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with Part 5 of the Local Government Act, the Shire of Northampton is seeking to identify two general members of the Kalbarri Community for appointment to the Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment Advisory Committee. Other members of the committee will include Shire Councillors along with representatives from the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Nanda people, Kalbarri Development Association and Kalbarri Visitors Centre.

The purpose of the committee is to:

1. Assist Shire Officers in the refinement and detailed designs for conceptual elements contained within the Kalbarri Foreshore Masterplan;
2. To assist in the identification of priorities in respect of the Foreshore Redevelopment;
3. Make recommendations to Council on potential development and commercial opportunities not identified within the Kalbarri Foreshore Masterplan;
4. Assist in the co-ordination of community participation in public consultation processes; and
5. Communicate and inform the member organisations and local community about the project, its elements and timeframes for work.

To be eligible for appointment to the committee, members of the public will be required to be an elector of the Kalbarri district. Preference will be given to the appointment of persons not associated with those organisations who will already have representation on the Committee.

Written nominations are welcome and can be directed to the CEO either by post to PO Box 61 Northampton 6535 or email to council@northampton.wa.gov.au and must be received no later than **close of business on Friday 23 August 2024**. ***Nominations should include a statement confirming that the nominee is a resident in the Kalbarri area and what knowledge or experience the nominee will bring to the committee.***

A copy of the draft terms of reference for the Advisory Committee can be obtained from the Shire website at www.northampton.wa.gov.au/public-notices.aspx or by visiting either of the two Shire of Northampton Offices (Hampton Road, Northampton & Grey Street, Kalbarri) during office hours.

ANDREW CAMPBELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNCILLORS

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025
Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368
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 Tim Hay – 0488 212 566
Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274

(please note that as of 21 October 2023 the Shire of Northampton has no Wards)

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 4.00pm)

Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri
Phone: 9937 1097
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm
(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

EMAIL

council@northampton.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

