



## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Shire of Northampton staff and Councillors, I extend sincere sympathy to the family of Mr Kevin Brown, who recently lost his battle with cancer. Kevin was our legendary grader driver for many years, taking over the mantle from his Dad, Jackie. Kevin started working for the Shire in 1978, and with only a short break of a year or two, worked until his retirement in 2016.

Also, in November we received resignation from Mick Sparling, Leading Hand in Kalbarri. Mick has served a total of 25 years with the Shire of Northampton. We thank him for his outstanding service and wish him well for his future endeavours.

I was a guest at the recent Northampton RSL Remembrance Dinner on November 11. It was wonderful to see service men and RSL supporters from Geraldton, Northampton and Kalbarri in attendance. Mr Scott Norman, a military chaplain who served for ten years, was the keynote speaker and spoke of the need to support serving members of the forces and also service veterans.

My favourite part of the evening is the roll call, where those servicemen present, state their service number and tell their story. One guest in attendance was Bishop Michael Morrissey who served as an army chaplain from 1983 until 2016, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Michael was deployed to the Middle East during this period and became the Senior Chaplain of Army's Reserve Second Division. He retired as an army chaplain to focus on his increasing responsibilities in the Diocese of Geraldton, becoming the Bishop in 2017.

Proposed concept plans for a new RSL War Memorial at Kalbarri were endorsed at the November meeting of Council. CEO Mr Andrew Campbell will now be initiating the development process to ensure the proposal is consulted with the Kalbarri community.

Finally, the older I get, the faster each year appears to pass and here we are with the festive season upon us once again! To those who have helped to make our communities better, by way of your contribution – thank you! May I extend season's greetings to everyone – I hope you are able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. Stay safe.

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

December marks my first six months in the CEO role and I would like to thank Council, staff and community for welcoming me to the district. Recently I have spent a significant amount of time building relationships with external stakeholders and this approach has opened a number of doors that has enabled the progression of key projects, strategies and operational activities that will likely benefit the community now and into the future.

Since my last update, the Shire has been able to secure new premises for the Kalbarri Mens Shed that will incorporate a brand new community garden facility. This is a great collaborative opportunity for the Kalbarri community, and I am sure both the Kalbarri Mens Shed and the newly formed Kalbarri Community Garden group will prosper.

Another significant project for the Kalbarri community is the proposed Kalbarri Multi-Purpose Evacuation and Community Facility proposed to be located at the Recreation Grounds. This is a \$6.3M project and relies heavily on being able to secure substantial grant funding. The response to my request for letters of support from the community for grant purposes has been fantastic with more than forty now received.

On 17 November 2023 Council endorsed the concept for the replacement of the RSL Memorial in which the Shire will now work collaboratively with Kalbarri RSL. Whilst there is detailed design work to do, it is expected this project will be completed before the end of this financial year, bearing in mind the need to minimise any disruption for ANZAC Day.

The coastal infrastructure repair projects in Kalbarri resulting from TC Seroja are progressing well with detailed design and State and Federal Government sign off due by the end of this year. Procurement is expected in early 2024 with a contract awarded and works completed by mid to late 2024. The Shire will keep the Kalbarri community updated on progress.

Renewable Energy and Hydrogen are a significant topic of conversation in the community at the moment with a number of prospective proponents in this space in our region. The Shire is preparing to enable our town planning systems to be ready to deal with proposals if they eventuate. Council has recently adopted two new Local Planning Policies being "Renewable Energy Facilities" and "Social Impact Assessment" as part of the preparatory strategy. As these types of proposals are likely to create very significant demands on communities if they are approved, the Shire is also seeking grant funding to develop an Economic Development Framework which will enable future strategic planning to ensure our communities are able to cope if populations do significantly increase in the future.

I continue to raise the matter of development compliance in my messaging as it is becoming more apparent that there is a sufficient lack of understanding or ignorance being shown toward the law. To put it very simply, if you are intending to clear, develop, construct or modify/change your land, buildings or even business, you have an obligation to ensure you have necessary approvals in place prior to the activity occurring. All it takes is a call to the Shire to confirm requirements, we are happy to work through matters with you.

Free tip passes have been raised as an equity issue by landowners outside of town sites that do not receive a weekly kerbside waste collection service. There is a common misconception that kerbside waste collection services received by people living in town sites that this service is subsidised by Rates. This is actually not true as people receiving kerbside waste collection services actually pay a waste charge over and above Rates.

Finally, as we all move into the holiday season, I would personally like to wish everyone a happy and safe period, and a prosperous 2024.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE

With Summer coming along it is a timely reminder to check pool gates and fencing around residential pools and spas.

Statistics for the 2022 - 2023 put out by the Royal Lifesaving Society WA indicate that there were 301 near misses reported last year with 39 fatalities, 120 hospitalized, 142 reported to the Emergency Dept and these number are increasing.

Owners of a private pools and spas do have obligations to provide safety around pools and spas for their guests and relatives by checking that gates are self-closing from any position and that the gate swings away from the pool. A visual check of fence maintenance should be carried out with reference to any climbable items such as pot plants and tree branches that may allow climbable access to the pool area. Additionally, the Consumer Goods (Portable Swimming Pools) Standard 2013 requires Portable Swimming Pools to display a safety label warning of the potential drowning and advising that children must be always supervised by an adult. The label also advises consumers to empty and store the pool safely after use.

For any further advise please contact the Shire's Building Surveyor on 99371097 or [buildingsurveyor@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:buildingsurveyor@northampton.wa.gov.au)

## 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).

If you are considering building a structure, contact Shire Officers to see what is required. The following items are often overlooked:

- Rural lots will require building approval.
- Patios and sheds above 10m<sup>2</sup> will require approval.
- Sea containers require planning approval and are only allowed onsite for a temporary period of time.
- Signs require planning approval.

- Retaining walls higher than 0.5m may require planning and building approval.

Unauthorised works can attract significant fines and retrospective applications have higher fees. Don't hesitate to contact Shire Officers to discuss your proposal to help understand what approvals may be required.

## ADOPTION OF LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES – RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

At their 17 November 2023 meeting, Council resolved to adopt two draft Local Planning Policies (LPP) developed in response to the growing number of potential green energy proposals being developed/discussed within the Shire. The Renewable Energy Facility LPP establishes guidelines for the assessment and approval of renewable energy facilities. The Social Impact Assessment LPP ensures the social, economic and environmental consequences of land use and development deliver a better quality of life for communities and future generations.

## LIGHTING AND VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC DWELLINGS

With the introduction of the Building Act and associated requirements for Energy Efficiency, houses are now better insulated, unfortunately a by product of that is we are not allowing the building to breathe. This lack of ventilation results in mould growth in bathrooms and kitchen odours lingering in the kitchen that attracts domestic pests and vermin.

The Health Act, Light and Ventilation Regulations require all bathrooms and kitchen ventilation to be flued to the outside air unless a deemed to satisfy solution can be used. Under the Building Act, air movement or a breeze way can be borrowed from another room but this is difficult to put into practice if a closable door is involved.

The Building Industry are now using ventilation systems with dampers in them that close off, once the fan is turned off, so that the Energy Efficiency star rating for the building is not compromised. Another factor that will influence air movement within a building is the use of skillion flat roofs, this type of roofing has minimal roof cavity and can trap moisture within if not appropriately ventilated.

Further information on this topic can be found on the Building Commission web site under Industry Bulletins.

## TRANSPORT AND LICENSING

The Shire of Northampton is a Department of Transport registration and licensing agency and can process the following transactions:

- Vehicle registrations and renewals
- Vehicle transfers
- Drivers licence renewal- including photographic and additional classes
- Drivers licence applications and tests - CTT (Bike, Car, Heavy), HPT (Hazard Perception test) and PDA (practical driving assessment)
- Boat renewals and transfers
- Payment of Infringements
- Change of number plates
- Ordering personalised number plates
- Change of addresses

- Farm vehicle and farm haulage concessions

Please note that [Primary Identification](#) is required for ALL transport transactions. Payment in person can be made by cash, EFTPOS or cheque payable to the Shire of Northampton. Licensing functions are performed Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm excluding public holidays. (Be mindful there is a cutoff time for processing so you should arrive by 3.30pm or earlier to meet the processing deadline.)

## “A LANEWAY CHRISTMAS” FAMILY EVENT ON SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2023

The Shire received and approved an Event Application from two local ladies, Ms Jody Douglas & Ms Aimee Rhodes in association with the Kalbarri Development Association to hold “A Laneway Christmas” Family Event between 5:00pm – 9:00pm on Saturday 16th December 2023. The event will be located in the Kalbarri Arcade front carparking area as well as Shire controlled land such as Kalbarri Lane and the carparking spaces directly off the road, plus adjacent grassed areas. This event is to provide something special particularly for children leading up to Christmas Day. The organisers are aware that similar Christmas events were held in Kalbarri many years ago, and they would like to re-establish the tradition.

There will be free face painting, photos with Santa, kids crafts, pony rides, market stalls, food vans, Finlay’s bar, shops in the Arcade will be open, and there will be piped Christmas music in the background. Something for everyone.

So mark this event on your calendar and be sure to come along and join in the festivities.



## HORROCKS WTP CONTINUOUS ELECTROCHLORINATION (CEC) UPGRADE

In June 2023 the Water Corporation of Western Australia commissioned the world’s first benign full-scale CEC aesthetics removal water treatment plant at Horrocks. Horrocks is the first example of its kind which is a game changer for the water industry. The Horrocks CEC plant has successfully implemented a full-scale treatment plant which simultaneously oxidise iron and manganese present in the ground water whilst disinfecting the treated water resulting in a plant that has eliminated the need to store chlorine and has led to a reduction in the amount of Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) required by the plant for pH correction by over 35%. “Using the Hydro-dis® technology, the plant is proven to the water sector. It now has the opportunity to reduce or even eliminate the industry’s reliance on hazardous chemicals such as chlorine (gas and liquid) and significantly reduce the use of other chemicals such as Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) in many applications” said Hydro-dis® CEO Mark Carey.

For more information on the Hydro-dis technology please visit <https://www.hydro-dis.com.au/>

## FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT

A new standard has been introduced across Australia to improve food safety. If your food business is captured under the standard, you will need to comply with the requirements by 8 December 2023. For information, please visit [Food safety management tools for food businesses](#) (in the search engine) on [www.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.health.wa.gov.au).

## IRRADIATION OF CERTAIN FOODS

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has recently suspended the use of dimethoate for post-harvest treatment of tropical and sub-tropical fruits with inedible peel to protect human health. Previously, fumigation with dimethoate was an accepted treatment method to prevent the introduction of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) from other Australian states into WA.

WA’s biosecurity requirements are established by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and require fruit and vegetables entering WA to be treated appropriately prior to import. Fumigation with dimethoate for tropical and sub-tropical fruit is no longer permitted and as of 17 November DPIRD require alternative methods for treatment of tropical and sub-tropical fruit to meet WA’s new biosecurity requirements.

Irradiation is a biosecurity control measure that is acceptable to DPIRD for protection against Qfly and is also permitted for use under the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). Irradiation is also used on herbs, spices, and plant material used for herbal infusions to control sprouting and treat microbiological organisms.

Food that has been treated with radiation in accordance with the requirements of the Code is safe to eat as the Code prescribes strict requirements for food irradiation including the types of food and the maximum absorbed dose of radiation for the specific types of foods. These requirements were developed through comprehensive health risk and technical assessments by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

Irradiated food is not radioactive, and you cannot get sick from eating it. The radiation passes through the food without making it radioactive, and the radioactive sources used to produce the radiation never come into direct contact with the food. Irradiation does not affect the nutritional properties of foods treated. The full risk and technical assessment report is available on the FSANZ website at [A1092 Irradiation-CFS-SD2.pdf](#) ([foodstandards.gov.au](http://foodstandards.gov.au)).

The Code requires that all irradiated food is to be labelled so that consumers are informed and can choose which foods to consume. This applies to whole fruit and vegetables as well as foods where a component used in it has been irradiated.

If you require further assistance / clarification, please contact the Food Unit at [foodsafety@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:foodsafety@health.wa.gov.au) or 9222 2000.

## REFUSE SITE OPENING TIMES

### Kalbarri

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday  
and Sunday  
9-00am to 2-00pm

### Northampton

Wednesday 1-00pm to 5-00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 8-00am to 5-00pm

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

## SHIRE OFFICE END OF YEAR CLOSURES

Please note that the Northampton and Kalbarri Shire Offices will be closed for all services from 25 December 2023 to 2 January 2024.

A small number of staff will be available during the period to respond to emergencies.

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2023

- 15 December 2023 – Council Chambers Northampton

