



Shire Bulletin March 2026

Congratulations to Tatiana Vafiades on her appointment as the new Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) for the Shires of Chapman Valley and Northampton. This position is funded 60% by DFES, and a 20% share each from the Shires. There are currently 35 CESMs assisting 57 local governments across the State. The state government commitment to his program means local governments and their communities are better supported across the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases of emergency management.

I am delighted that we have been successful in securing a CESM, because during the recovery phase of Cyclone Seroja, I was not entirely satisfied that we were fully prepared, should there be another cyclone, or other disaster in the region. We did learn a lot from the Cyclone and having a CESM will enable both shires to be better equipped with preparedness and response. I know the recent threat of Cyclone Mitchell did cause distress for many residents. Fortunately, it just delivered a good drink of rain! Tatiana has proved herself to be process driven and highly competent in her role as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) and has worked collaboratively with Andrew Vlahov, the CBFCO from Chapman Valley.

On the subject of Cyclone Seroja, planning for the community event, 'Story Harvest' is progressing well. The event is a celebration of the history in our area, with a focus on the resilience of our people. It does have a strong Hasleby flavour, with Paul to act as MC for the evening, to be ably assisted by Hon Rob Horstman. Sue White (nee Hasleby) along with Helen McQuie (nee Sellers) have been assisting with the research for the evening. Story Harvest will take place on April 11 at the NCC, and will include a meal. Elsewhere in the paper are the details about booking a ticket through the Humanitix platform. If you need help to do this, please feel free to contact Andrea, Cresta at the Shire, or myself to assist.



In my position as the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) State Councillor for the Northern Country Zone (NCZ), which includes ten local governments from Coorow to Northampton, I attended a farewell function for outgoing President of WALGA, Karen Chappel, AM JP. This was held in Perth on 13th February. Karen is the President of the Shire of Morawa, so hails from our NCZ, where she is also the President.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Karen on her 4-year term of office as WALGA State President. Karen has been an outstanding advocate for local government and has represented the organisation with professionalism and incredible energy. She is also the Deputy President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and travels regularly to the East in that capacity. Karen, along with her husband Lindsay and family, operate a grain property in Morawa – when Karen is home! Karen has a strong sense of justice, a strong voice, likes things to be done properly and is a great mentor to Presidents and councillors in our region. It has been a privilege to have watched and worked with Karen.

Under the constitution, at the next WALGA Council meeting, a new President from the metropolitan area will be elected.

It's the time of the year when many organisations across the various communities have their AGMs or other meetings. The NCC have just completed a community forum, which was a great initiative for discussion and improvement. Congratulations on all those community members who put their hand up to take on new roles and contribute to improve the quality of life in our local government area. You really do make a difference!

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that our new Executive Manager Works and Technical Services, Mr Jamie Muir has hit the ground running, quickly getting to know the district, people and infrastructure networks. Jamie is busily preparing procurement documentation for several significant long overdue projects in the Shire. The first one on this list is the Fifth Avenue Drainage project which Council will consider an award of Tender on 19 March 2026.

On the subject of roads, the Shire and its consultants GHD, have finally navigated the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA) and received funding approval for approximately \$2M of repair works arising from flooding events in 2024. Red Dust Holdings have been appointed as contractors to undertake these works which are required to be completed by 30 June 2026.

The Shire has now commenced the process for the detailed design and specifications for the Kalbarri Multipurpose Evacuation and Community Centre project. \$250k of State funds were promised for this activity as part of the last election and this has now commenced with the outcome due by 30 June 2026. Following this process the Shire will be in a strong position to understand the estimated project cost, apply for external grant funding, and have the level of documentation to enable the Shire to proceed to tender for construction if determined.

The Shire has recently commenced negotiation with the State Government to finalise a Financial Assistance Agreement for a "Growth Plan" for the district as part of the Federal Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. This is an important project that will involve significant stakeholder consultation and is required to be finalised by 30 June 2027.

The Shire is about to release an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Management and Operation of Caravan Facilities at Lot 500 Anchorage Lane, Kalbarri to Support Local Employment. EOIs are sought from commercial operators and community groups that have the capacity to be able to manage this facility on behalf of the Shire of Northampton.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

PANACEUM NORTHAMPTON

The Doctors Surgery in Northampton is reporting strong support from the community which is a fantastic outcome. Community support is essential to ensure that the service remains viable and continues to be supported by the Shire.

Panaceum Northampton are exploring extending their service in Northampton to four days per week from three days per week soon. If that additional day is further supported by the community, subject to doctor availability, Panaceum Northampton will look at some stage in the future to add the fifth day and therefore provide a full weekly doctor service to Northampton.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Exciting news!!

Save the Date for a Fantastic Community Event in
Northampton - Story Harvest - Echoes of the Past

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! Tickets go on sale in March!



Shire of Northampton Community Grant Round 2 2025-26

Now Open!

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

Closes 31 March 2026

Andrea & Cresta are on hand to support you with your project and provide more information.

Scan the code below to book an appointment or alternatively visit us in at one of our grant pop up hubs.

Kalbarri Allen Centre

3 March & 18 March 9.30am to 12.30pm

Northampton RSL Hall

5 March & 16 March 10am to 12.30pm



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.

DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANNING CODE

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 Code has been prepared to provide clearer guidance to industry, local government and communities by:

- Introducing a consistent development approach for renewable energy infrastructure in the State;
- Establish clear development standards and application requirements;
- Improve certainty in managing potential land use and environmental impacts, such as noise and landscape considerations.

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.

The submission period will remain open until 10 April 2026. Whilst Council will consider the implications and the lodging of a submission at its 19 March 2026 Council meeting, all interested persons are encouraged to lodge their own submission.

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

UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005

Development or land uses that commence prior to obtaining the necessary approvals from the Shire are considered to be unauthorised development. Typical unauthorised development within the Shire of Northampton over the past 12 months has included:

- Placement of Shipping Containers on Residential Property;
- Modification of existing contours without approval;
- Commencing the use of a home for Short Stay Residential purposes such as AirBnB.

Unauthorised development also includes proceeding with a development or use in manner contrary to the conditions of approval or that is different to the development or use than was approved.

In accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2005 (the Act)*, the Shire may 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).

Although the Planning and Development Act 2005 permits Local Government to consider granting approval to a development or use retrospectively, retrospective applications attract a fee three (3) times the normal application fee.

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.

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.

LABEL IT CLEARLY

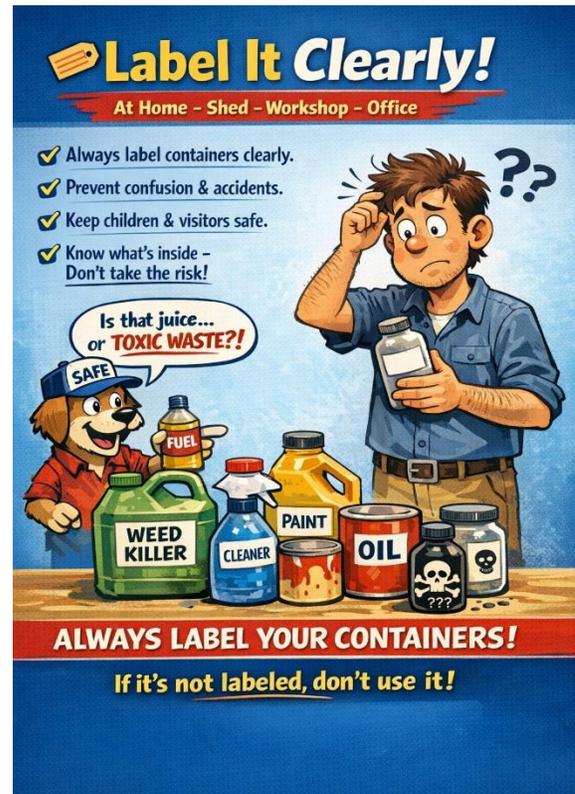
Always make sure containers are clearly labeled — whether they're in your home, shed, workshop or office.

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.



LOW NUMBER DISTRICT PLATES

Low number District Plates are available at the Shire Office through the Department of Transport now. Numbers are random and guaranteed to be under NR1000. They are available on a first come first served basis with priority given to residing families.

If you are the proud owner of a District Plate did you know that if you had one of your plates missing or stolen you lose that number and new plates need to be reissued?

The Department of Transport has brought in a new system named Optional Plates. For a fee you will secure that special number yourself gives you flexible options where it can be sold, transferred, changed to trailer issue and can be reissued to you if one or both of your plates go missing.

Did you know you can have your number plates remade? If you have state or district plates you can have your plates remade and also have the option of three colours. Blue WA, black on white background or black on yellow background. Please see one of our friendly staff members for further enquiries.

Department of Transport services are available Tuesday to Friday 8:00am – 3:30pm.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

19 March 2026 – Northampton

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

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

