



## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Firstly, my apologies for not getting a column into last month's edition. It was written, but unfortunately missed the deadline. There are a number of items that are too important for me not to acknowledge:

- Belated but sincere congratulations to the Northampton Rams, on winning the Great Northern Football League (GNFL) grand final for 2023. Also, special congratulation to Barry Mitchell on being awarded Life Membership to the GNFL. Thank you for all that you do for sport and community in the Midwest.
- Congratulations to Fred Porter and the Ag Society Committee, for another fantastic Northampton Show. From my information the crowd was every bit as large as 2022. Events such as this require a huge amount of work but are a fantastic showcase for our community.
- Deepest sympathy to all who have lost loved ones recently. I want to make mention of two very significant women who have contributed to our area.  
Firstly, Mary Hasleby passed away on the 8 September 2023, aged 103 – which would have made her one of, if not the oldest resident in the Shire, when she left us. Mary served in WW2 in the Middle East as a nurse before she moved to Northampton to manage the local hospital. Mary married Arnold Hasleby and became a 'farmer's wife' until her husband was tragically killed in a car accident. She moved to Geraldton and began a new voluntary 'service' chapter. She advocated, among many things, for the establishment of the Brookview Aged Care facility in Northampton and it is poignant, that after almost 40 years as a widow and a very determined community advocate, Mary came a full circle and ended up a resident of Brookview herself, the home she helped to create. This facility is so important to allow our elderly residents to age in place.
- Secondly, Noelene Drage, author and gardener, also passed away in her home in Northampton on the 10 September 2023. Noelene was responsible for helping to save the Araluen Camp Reserve in the Darling Ranges in the Perth Metro area in the mid-1990s, when it was in danger of being sold to a property developer. As a result of her lobbying, the land has become a state Botanic Garden, the annual highlight which is the famous Spring Tulip Festival. When Noelene returned to live in Northampton, she with others, developed the Botanic

Line, restoring the railways line that runs through Northampton.

As you may be aware, Local Government elections have recently taken place. Changes to the electoral rules have resulted in the removal of Wards in our Shire. As we had five nominations for five positions, we did not require an election.

On 23 October 2023, a Special Meeting of the Council took place to swear in five Councillors, four who re-nominated: Cr's Ros Suckling, Des Pike, Richard Burges and myself. We also welcomed Cr Karl Suckling to Council. Karl farms with his family north of Northampton and has a history of active citizenship. Karl has an extensive local knowledge across the Shire and I know he will have a 'whole of Shire' approach to his role. Congratulations and best wishes to these Councillors for the forthcoming term. At the meeting I was re-elected as President and Cr Rob Horstman was re-elected as Deputy President. My sincere congratulations to Cr Horstman. We also elected Councillors to the following:

1. Chief Executive Officer Review Advisory Committee
2. Audit and Risk Management Committee
3. Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
4. Community Grants Advisory Committee

I am proud to continue to serve as the President of the Shire. I believe we all have a responsibility to work together to make our communities better places to live and work, and I feel a sense of duty to play my part to do this.

Finally, along with Cr's Hay and Burges and CEO Andrew Campbell, I attended the Midwest Chamber of Commerce and Industry Skywalk Sundowner on Thursday 19 October 2023. Congratulations to the Kalbarri Group of the MWCCI who co-hosted the event and work so hard to advocate for economic development in Kalbarri. Your work, energy and enthusiasm, is very much appreciated by the Kalbarri community and across the Shire.

Every time I visit the Skywalk I am uplifted by the incredible natural beauty of the Murchison gorge region, which makes me feel small and insignificant. I love that feeling of grounded perspective. As individuals we are just small insignificant dots in the scheme of something much bigger than we are! How lucky we are to live in this beautiful part of the world where natural beauty is at our doorstep.

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- 17 November 2023 – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 15 December 2023 – Council Chambers Northampton

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate Cr Liz Sudlow as being re-elected to the position of Shire President, and Cr Rob Horstman being re-elected to the position of Deputy Shire President. Also, congratulations and welcome to new Councillor Karl Suckling and congratulations to returning Councillors Ros Suckling, Richard Burgess, and Des Pike.

Again, I would like to reinforce the need for statutory compliance. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse and the obligation to comply with the law is an individual responsibility. Some of the legislation administered by the Shire of Northampton can carry substantial penalties with proven serious breaches in the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars. I would ask that everyone in the Shire district comply with their statutory obligations and if you are in any doubt about your obligations, please do not hesitate to contact the Shire and ask for advice.

At the meeting 20 October 2023, Council endorsed the appointment of Mr Brian Robinson as the Executive Manager Community, Development and Regulation. Brian will commence with us on 22 January 2024 after providing three months' notice today to his current employer. Brian is a qualified Town Planner, he has acquired significant local government knowledge and experience over 30 years and has overseen functional areas of Town Planning, Building Services, Environmental Health Services, Ranger Services, Emergency Services, Project Management and Technical Services. In addition to this, Brian has private enterprise experience as a Town Planning Consultant and the CEO of a land development company. It is expected that Brian will be able to make a considerable contribution to further developing the Shire of Northampton as an organisation and look forward to his commencement with us.

Finally, Council has agreed to pursue an opportunity to attempt to acquire the Kalbarri Workers Accommodation site from the State Government. A request will be made soon, after a positive meeting with Minister for Housing Hon John Carey MLA.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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.

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

At their 15 September 2023 meeting, Council resolved to advertise 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 seeks to establish guidelines for the assessment and approval of renewable energy facilities. The Social Impact Assessment LPP seeks to ensure the social, economic and environmental consequences of land use and development deliver a better quality of life for communities and future generations. Comments on both draft policies were invited by Friday 13 October with several submissions being received which are currently being collated to be brought back to Council for their consideration.

## MAINTENANCE WORKS

### Gravel Sheetting

Yallabatharra Road.

### Pavement Reconstruction

Reconstruction of 1 kilometre of Binnu East Road near Mongeragarry Road, (before and after Christmas).

### Maintenance Crew

Commencing work on Port Gregory carpark in the immediate future.

## 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 Shires Building Surveyor on 99371097 or [buildingsurveyor.wa.gov.au](mailto:buildingsurveyor.wa.gov.au)

## FIRE SEASON

The start of the warmer weather is the time to be looking at how ready you are for the hot, dry, and windy conditions.

### Firebreaks

In line with the Bush Fire Act and as detailed in the First and Final Firebreaks Notice sent out with the Shire Rates Notices, firebreaks must be completed by the 15 October 2023 and maintained until the 14 February 2024. Firebreaks need to be a minimum of 3 metres wide, or if the lot is under 0.2 ha, cleared of all flammable material.

The purpose of firebreaks is to stop a fire spreading to neighbouring properties, allow entry and exit routes for firefighters and to provide a break from which back burning can take place to control a fire. Where the land owner fails to comply with the requirements of the notice, Council or its duly authorised officers will carry out the required work at the cost to the owner. The owner may also be issued with an infringement notice or prosecuted.

Permits are required for the burning of bush and grass at any time between 1 September to 14 October 2023. However, burning rubbish or green waste is not permitted within the town sites of Kalbarri and Horrocks unless in an approved Incinerator. All fires, including solid fuel barbecues and incinerators are prohibited on Very High, Extreme or Catastrophic rated fire danger days. These ratings can be found at [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

Please consult the notice or contact the Shire if you are unsure of what is required. This is also a good time for residents to clear their yards of flammable material. Remove long grass, leaves and debris which may also harbour snakes.

## KALBARRI WILDLIFE

As we all know, Kalbarri is located in the middle of National Parks, a privilege not many other towns in WA can boast. With this fact comes the issue of wildlife that often seem to invade the townsite, especially during dry periods. This summer will undoubtedly be a very hot and dry one so we can only expect plenty of wildlife to come into town for food and water, which will be lacking in the surrounding bush.

This creates problems for motorists potentially colliding with larger animals like kangaroos and emus, and many smaller animals like lizards, snakes and echidnas which may be run over and injured or killed. Birds will often land on roadways to drink water from puddles formed by reticulation runoff and may also become victims of collisions with cars.

Unfortunately, apart from a couple of areas where kangaroos cross roads on a regular basis, like between the golf course and the town oval, the animals are spread over a wide area of the town and so can't realistically be protected with signs warning motorists of the danger.

Most wildlife, after having being hit by a car, are badly injured and can't be saved. There are some dedicated wildlife carers who reside in Kalbarri, but their resources are limited and their time valuable. You can find their contact details in this publication.

The best advice for motorists to avoid collisions with wildlife around town is to slow down, especially in areas where wildlife congregate. Other forms of wildlife that appear around town are lizards,

monitors and bobtail goannas, echidnas, birds and even snakes, which are also a protected species. If there is wildlife near the road, slow down, pull up if safe to do so, and let them pass. Warn other motorists if possible.

At this time of year many animals suffer from the lack of food and water and so often become weak and susceptible to diseases and parasites. It may seem cruel, but it is best not to feed wildlife that appear to be suffering. This is a natural part of life that will help control the animal population for the particular season. Kangaroos, and to a lesser extent, emus, are wild animals and may become dangerous around humans if they are encouraged into the townsite.

Often, at this time of year, baby birds can fall prey to other birds or animals. This is nature at work and sometimes the best option is to let nature take its course. At most a person could replace a baby bird in its nest, if the nest can be found.

If you do encounter a snake in an area where it is likely to be a danger to people or pets, if you can, keep watching it from a safe distance and call any of the snake catchers. It is against the law to kill a snake and most snake bites occur with people trying to do this.

## CAT AND DOG REGISTRATIONS

All pet owners are required to have their pets microchipped and registered with the Shire. The new term for pet renewals starts on the 1st November each year. Please ensure your pet's microchip details are up to date with the correct microchip company and that your pet is registered with the Shire. Please also contact the Shire to let us know if any of your details have changed. Terms of registration can be for one, three years, or for the pet's lifetime.

There are significant penalties for non-compliance.

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

### **Stay safe when storing diesel in polyethylene tanks.**

This information is intended for farmers and their workers, to highlight the importance of storing diesel safely and correctly. It explains the requirements of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 (the Regulations) and the Australian Standard 1940. The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids (AS 1940), and how by following them you can prevent or mitigate an incident at your farm.

### Dangerous Goods

Combustible liquids like diesel are not defined as 'Dangerous Goods' during transport, however, they are deemed to be 'Dangerous Goods' while they are being stored and handled. This means the Regulations apply and set out how they must be stored and handled.

### Advice for storage

To remain compliant with the Regulations and to minimise risk, follow these guidelines:

- Polyethylene tanks that have been manufactured to store diesel in quantities exceeding 10,000 L should not be used, even if you are storing less than 10,000 L. You need to prioritise the replacement of such tanks.
- Ensure diesel spills or leaks are able to be contained (e.g. bund) and cleaned up, refer to AS 1940 for further guidance.

Other things to consider when designing or reviewing your diesel storage area include:

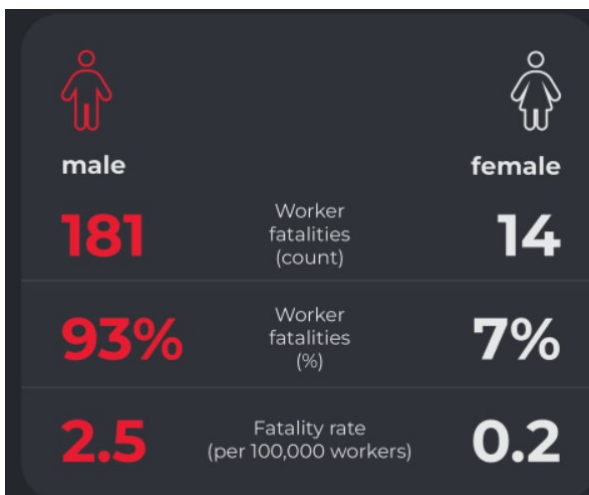
- Locating the tanks outdoors and at least 15 m away from dwellings.
  - Protecting them from the elements and impact (from vehicles on the farm).
  - Securing tanks to prevent access by unauthorised people
- REFERENCE: Australia Standard AS 1940. The storage and handling of Flammable and combustible liquids.



## WORK RELATED FATALITIES

Tragically, in 2022, 195 people were fatally injured at work in Australia. Some interesting facts to consider:

- The traumatic injury fatality rate for workers in Australia has decreased by 20% since 2012.
- 93% of worker fatalities were male.
- 42% of all worker fatalities involved a vehicle.
- Machinery operators and drivers had the highest number of fatalities by occupation (74 fatalities).
- The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest worker fatality rate (14.7% per 100,000).



## 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

## REGISTER FOR FUTURE SHIRE OF NORTHAMPTON E-RATES

Would you like to receive your rates notice in a convenient electronic form? Then contact the Shire's Rates Officer, Sharon Blight by email to sign-up for Shire of Northampton e-Rates [rates@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:rates@northampton.wa.gov.au).

## 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)