



Shire Bulletin November 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Council held a Special Meeting on Monday 20th October to swear in Councillors Tim Hay and Des Pike for a new term. Newly elected Cr Chad Smith, was also sworn in and I would like to warmly welcome Cr Smith to Council. He will add considerable value to our Council and I know he will proudly serve the community. Also at the meeting, I was re-elected as President and Cr Hay was re-elected as Deputy President until October 2027. I thank Cr Hay for his continued commitment to the Shire of Northampton.

I recently attended an Open Day at the Northampton Old School Community, which was a wonderful opportunity to see some of the fantastic art on display in the gallery. After a Welcome to Country by Jack Whitby, a number of people spoke, telling a little of their connection to the area and about their story. It was wonderful. For me, having attended that school for ten years, it was a nostalgic visit. The presentation and lunch took place in the amphitheatre. I can remember when this was built, when I was in middle primary and it was the perfect venue for assemblies and concerts. The gallery and the studio were my year 3 and 4 classrooms, which back then were brand new! They are still beautiful light-filled spaces. I urge you to all have a visit. The gallery and arts work space is open Mon - Wed. Congratulations to Colleen and Mauretta Drage and all of the board and community members for the work that they do. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Carole Teakle, who has been a board member of the NOSCI group since she and Colleen worked as Education Assistants about thirty years ago!

The Community Grants Advisory Committee met last month to decide on how the Round 1 funding for the 2025/26 year, will be spent. Funds were awarded to the Kalbarri Development Association for two events over the Christmas and New Year period, to the Horrocks Community Centre for a New Year's Eve event and to the Kalbarri Offshore Angling Club for the 39th Kalbarri Sport Fishing Classic. We also awarded funding to the Kalbarri Arts and Crafts Group to assist in the purchase of IT equipment and to the Northampton Basketball Club to assist in the reduction of fees, to make that sport more accessible.

It's excellent that basketball is happening again this year at the Northampton Community Centre, as not everyone is able to play in Geraldton. Finally, we awarded some funds to continue the Northampton Botanic Line extension. If you require assistance to make a future application to the grant process, please reach out to our Community Development Officers, Cresta and Andrea. They are both committed community members and are passionate about the work they do to support communities across the Shire.

In addition to the funds granted, Andrea and Cresta have a couple of exciting projects in the pipeline for next year: an event for Northampton and a 'Community Impact Incubator' project to optimise community talent and capacity. So watch this space!

The AGM of the Kalbarri Visitors' Centre will be held on 28th October at the Kalbarri Camp off Anchorage Lane. The KVC are currently undertaking an exciting rebranding process, which aims to re-elevate Kalbarri as a 'must see' destination and this will be presented at the event. Also the guest presenter will be Michael Halawana, an award-winning videographer, photographer and cinematographer who currently has an exhibition: Walking with Colour: Cinematic Nature, at the Geraldton Museum until 1st Feb 2026. The projections and multi-media installations feature some stunning landscapes of Kalbarri and the local region.

Although it has been a gentle finish to the season, harvest has commenced in our area. I'd like to wish all the growers in the region a successful and problem-free harvest. There are certainly some big crops and it is possible that it will be a late finish for some. Please be mindful of extra trucks on the roads, especially at the Oakajee intersection area. Plan for your trip to take five or ten minutes longer.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

At a Special Council meeting held 20 October 2025, Tim Hay, Des Pike and Chad Smith were sworn in as Councillors for four year terms following the 2025 ordinary Council elections. In addition to this Liz Sudlow was re-elected to the position of Shire President and Tim Hay was re-elected to the position of Deputy Shire President, both for two year terms. Congratulations to all.

The Shire is about to kick off a project to improve storage capacity and reliability for the Port Gregory Water Supply. The project is in design phase and will include additional storage at the townsite and the mid-way tanks, automation improvements and a backup power system. The intention of the project is to eliminate supply issues experienced in the past and also to improve water capacity for fire fighting.

With the upcoming fire season nearly upon us, it is a timely reminder that compliance with the Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice 2025/26 is required. Shire Rangers, with the assistance of local bush fire networks will be ensuring a high level of compliance is achieved.

On the topic of bush fire, in conjunction with DFES and the Shire of Chapman Valley, we will soon be advertising for employment of a Community Emergency Safety Manager (CESM). The CESM will split their time equally across the two Shire districts and add significant capacity to emergency preparedness and response.

Following on from the Strategic Community Plan process that set the strategic direction for the district over a ten year period, the Shire will soon commence the Corporate Business Plan process. The Corporate Business Plan has a four year currency and will be used to capture priority initiatives arising from the Strategic Community Plan process.

Our works team and contractors have been maintenance grading in preparation for the upcoming harvest. Some of our unsealed roads are drying out but are still wet in places which has limited works however this is expected to improve rapidly. If you have any issues on individual roads, please do not hesitate to report to the Shire on 99341202.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

TENDER AWARDED TO REVIEW KALBARRI FORESHORE MASTER PLAN

The Shire of Northampton is the recipient of an \$8.1 million grant from the State Government towards Stage 1 works to revitalise the Kalbarri Foreshore. The project area being the southern foreshore of the Murchison River extends from Chinaman's Point to the Fishing Boat Harbour.

That grant funding was based on a Master Plan and opinion of probable costs prepared by the Midwest Development Commission and Tourism WA following an initial consultation process undertaken in 2021.

Following a more recent consultation process, which resulted in over 200 submissions, it was confirmed that a number of elements of the project were not supported by the Kalbarri Community. In response, Council resolved not to support a number of those works.

In order to guide the reallocation of funds associated with works not proceeding, the Shire is required to review the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Master Plan. The revised plan will then be used to inform an amended schedule of works for Stage 1 of the revitalisation program.

At its meeting held on 16 October 2025, Council resolved to award the Tender for review of the Kalbarri Foreshore Master Plan to consultant firm Realm Studios. Whilst largely Perth based, Realm Studios have significant experience in delivering regional design projects and will be utilising a number of sub-consultants based in Geraldton.

The consultants will be working with the Shire, Midwest Development Commission, Tourism WA and a local Advisory Committee appointed by Council. Further information on the project will be provided as the revised design develops.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Explore Local for Christmas

"Unwrap Local Gifts: Celebrate Christmas by Supporting Our Local Businesses. Discover Unique Gifts This Christmas Season!"

As Christmas approaches, we encourage you to look at what gift you could purchase at local businesses in Our Shire. By supporting this business, you help our community thrive and will find many unique and interesting gifts that will make you smile.

Community Grants

Exciting news! Community Grant Program Round 1 for 2025-26 has awarded the following events/projects in our community.

- Christmas in the Park – Kalbarri
- Australia Day Event 2026 – Kalbarri
- New Years Family Event – Horrocks
- Empowering change for our future Vision – Kalbarri Arts & Crafts Group
- 39th Kalbarri Sport Fishing Classic
- Northampton Basketball Club
- Botanic Line Extension stage 2 & 3 – Community Champion

Emergency WA App

As we enter a high-risk season, it's crucial to stay prepared. The Emergency WA app is available now on the App Store and Google Play, providing vital access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia. With features like setting custom watch zones, tailored notifications, and listening to emergency broadcasts, this app empowers our communities to remain informed and safe. Remember, emergencies can strike unexpectedly, disrupting power and communications.

Stay connected and informed by:

- Visiting Emergency WA and setting your watch zones
- Calling 13 DFES (13 3337)
- Tuning into ABC local radio at FM 106.1 MHz
- Following DFES on Facebook
- Staying aware of your surroundings
- Communicating with neighbours and loved ones



**DOWNLOAD
THE APP**



If you have any questions, please contact your Community Development Officer in your area.

Northampton - Andrea Teakle 0476 532 000

Kalbarri - Cresta Viellaris 0400 476 952

CONCERN OVER FIRE SAFETY

High levels of vegetation growth over the winter and spring periods this year have resulted in many properties containing much higher levels of fuel loading than normal. This could easily lead to more intense threats to the safety of people and structures in the district in the event of a fire.

In the first week of inspecting properties for compliance with the Shire's 2025/2026 Annual Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice, Shire Rangers have identified a significant level of non-compliance. Prior to the end of October, Shire Rangers will be working to educate landowners and ensure compliance with the Annual Notice Requirements. Where landowners fail to act, orders and fines will be issued.

Residents and Landowners are urged to take immediate action to ensure compliance with the Annual notice and reduce fuel loads on their properties.

NEW CHIEF BUSH FIRE OFFICER AND DEPUTY APPOINTED

The Shire is pleased to welcome Tatiana Vafiades as the Shire of Northampton's new Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. The appointment of Tatiana, a member of the Yallabatharra Bushfire Brigade, was unanimously supported by Council following her nomination by the Shire's Bush Fire Advisory Committee. Shire Ranger – Brock Lucev has also been appointed as a Fire Control Officer.

The Shire thanks Shire Ranger Rob McKenzie for his service as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Rob remains as Captain of the Isseka Bush Fire Brigade and returns normal Ranger duties.

2025/26 ANNUAL FIRE BREAK AND FUEL REDUCTION NOTICE

The Shire's Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice 2025/26 identified mitigation works for the fire season were due to be implemented by 15 October 2025.

The requirements which apply to all private property within the Shire are required to be maintained until up until the end of February 2026.

TOWNSTE AND RESIDENTIAL LOTS
ALL LOTS UNDER 0.4ha Flammable materials shall be mowed/slashed /mulched to a height between 50mm and 100mm and maintained for the fire season, with the exception of live standing trees and selected shrubs. Retention of selected shrubs that are located more than 3 metres from an adjacent building is encouraged to reduce soil instability. ALL LOTS OVER 0.4ha Graded/ploughed/hoed or Chemical applied firebreak at a width of at least 3.0 metres
RURAL – RESIDENTIAL AREAS
Graded/ploughed/hoed or Chemical applied firebreak at a width of at least 3.0 metres. All buildings must have a minimum of 20 metres clearance of all flammable material.
RURAL AREAS
Graded/ploughed/hoed or chemical applied firebreaks installed within 20 metres inside and along the whole of external boundaries – All buildings must have a minimum of 20 metres clearance of all flammable material

Failure to comply with the above requirements is an offence under the Bush Fires Act 1954. Inspections by Shire Rangers to ensure compliance with the notice requirements have commenced.

GENERAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST OFFICE FURNITURE

Pursuant to section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire of Northampton provides notification that it intends to dispose of goods with a value of less than \$1,000 by way of public tender.

The assets, detailed below, are considered minor property that are surplus to the needs of the Shire of Northampton and have been identified for disposal. The assets will be disposed of in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and all Expressions of Interest (EOI) offers will be considered.

The items to be disposed of on a 'where is, as is' basis with no warranties, and is detailed below:

No.	Asset Type	Asset Name/Item
1.	Filing Cabinet	4 drawer Metalux Filing Cabinet (Grey)
3.	Filing Cabinet	2 Drawer Filing Cabinet (Cream)
4.	Metal Cabinet	1 door metal cabinet (White)
5.	Bar Stools	6 bar stools (blue fabric seats)
6.	Shelving Unit	1 shelving unit with shelves (Grey)
7.	Office Partition	1 free-standing fabric wall partition
8.	Office chairs	2 Office Chairs with arms (blue fabric)

Inspection of the assets is available in Kalbarri by arrangement with Michelle Allen, Manager Corporate Services who can be contacted on 99341202 or michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au

Written Expressions of Interest to acquire these items must be submitted by **4:00pm on Friday 14 November 2025** to the Shire of Northampton via email to michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au or by mail to Manager Corporate Services, PO Box 61 NORTHAMPTON WA 6535. Photos of items and EOI forms are available on the Shire of Northampton website at www.northampton.wa.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disposal of unit 4 (Lot 83)

Kitson Circuit 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 lease being portion of Lot 83 on Deposited Plan 70140 being the whole of the land in Certificate of Title Volume 2821 Folio 792 as detailed below:

- Cross WA Pty Ltd as trustee for Cross Family Trust trading as Northampton Tyres;
- Unit 4 being a portion of the light industrial units situated at Lot 83 Kitson Circuit Northampton;
- For a period of five (5) years with a further term option of five (5) years;
- Annual rent payable in advance at 1 July each year;
 - Commencement date 1 July 2025 for the amount of \$7500.58 (plus GST & outgoings; and
 - From 1 July 2026 and every year thereafter for the amount of \$11,500 plus GST & outgoings, being the current market rental valuation.
 - Annual rent payable figures to include annual CPI adjustments.

Submissions are invited to be received from the public in writing regarding the proposed disposition by **4.00pm Friday 7 November 2025**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROSPECTIVE LESSEES

Unit 1, Lot 83, Kitson Circuit

Northampton



The Shire of Northampton is seeking Expressions of Interest from prospective lessees for the abovementioned property.

Light Industrial unit of metal clad construction occupying a position 1.7km south-east of the Northampton townsite in 'General Industry' zone. The industrial unit comprises a clear span workshop space (120m²), airconditioned office (13m²), single disabled ablutions, kitchenette and a fenced rear courtyard and shares a front bitumenised communal parking area at the front.

Maximum lease term of 5 years with annual market rental value assessed as \$10,000 per annum plus GST, plus outgoings.

Expressions of Interest can be submitted by **Friday 14 November 2025** to the Shire of Northampton via email to michelle.allen@northampton.wa.gov.au or by mail to Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 61, NORTHAMPTON WA 6535. Further information is available on the Shire's website at www.northampton.wa.gov.au.

LANDOWNER PROSECUTED FOR NOT HAVING BUILDING PERMIT

Solicitors working on behalf of the Shire have successfully prosecuted a landowner for the unauthorised placement of a modular home on a property in Kalbarri.

Development, building or other construction 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).

Examples of works requiring prior approval include site works, new development or land uses.

Member of the public are encouraged to contact Shire Officers in Planning, Building and Environmental Health to confirm if prior approvals are in fact required prior to completing any proposed works on their property.

SWIMMING POOL BARRIERS

In Western Australia, private swimming pools and spas with water that is more than 300mm deep must have a compliant barrier installed and maintained. This is to prevent the drowning deaths and injury to children.

With the warmer weather fast approaching, landowners are urged to check that their safety barriers are still effective and compliant. More information on the barrier requirements is available via the following website.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/rules-pools-and-spas>

The Shire's new Principal Building Surveyor – Mr Jon Trotter will soon begin inspections to ensure compliant barriers are in place. To book an inspection please contact the Shire.

WORKPLACE SAFETY SNAPSHOT – 2024

Workplace safety continues to be a major focus across Australia, with 188 workers tragically losing their lives in 2024 due to traumatic injuries. While this number is still far too high, the fatality rate (1.3 per 100,000 workers) shows a small improvement from the five-year average of 1.4.

Sadly, 96% of these fatalities were men, and most occurred in high-risk industries such as:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Public administration and safety
- Transport, postal and warehousing
- Manufacturing
- Health care and social assistance, and
- Construction

The data shows that machinery operators and drivers remain the most at risk, accounting for about one-third of all worker fatalities, with a fatality rate five times higher than average.

Across all industries, vehicle incidents were the leading cause of death (42%), followed by falls from height (13%). The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest fatality rate, reminding us how critical it is to stay alert and follow safety procedures—especially in rural and outdoor work.

A safe workplace doesn't just happen — it's built through small, consistent actions every day.

- ✓ Check your surroundings before you start a job
- ✓ Keep up with your safety training
- ✓ Report hazards straight away
- ✓ Take care of your mates — and yourself

Let's make safety part of every job, every day.

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.dlgs.wa.gov.au/dogs

REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

20 November 2025 – Kalbarri

18 December 2025 – 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)

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

