



Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Ms Caroline Spencer
Auditor General for Western Australia
Office of the Auditor General
7th Floor, Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Spencer

REPRESENTATION LETTER IN RESPECT OF THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the Shire of Merredin's annual financial report for the year ended 30 June 2020. for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the annual financial report is fairly presented in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, Australian Accounting Standards.

We submit the following representations for the year ended 30 June 2020 after making appropriate enquiries and according to the best of our knowledge and belief. This representation covers all material items in each of the categories listed below.

1. GENERAL

- (a) We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial report in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, Australian Accounting Standards.
- (b) We have advised your auditors of all material contentious methods used in the presentation of the financial report.
- (c) There have been no changes in accounting policies or application of those policies that would have a material effect on the financial report, except as disclosed in Note 24 of the financial report.
- (d) The prior period comparative information in the financial report has not been restated.
- (e) Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable. We confirm the disclosures related to accounting estimates are complete and appropriate.
- (f) We have established and maintained an adequate internal control structure and adequate financial records as we have determined are necessary to facilitate the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

- (g) We have provided your auditors with
 - (i) Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report, such as records, documentation and other matters.
 - (ii) Additional information that your auditors have requested for the purpose of the audit.
 - (iii) Unrestricted access to staff and councillors of the Shire from whom your auditors determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- (h) All transactions have been recorded in the accounting and other records and are reflected in the financial report.
- (i) All internal audit reports and reports resulting from other management reviews, including legal issues and legal opinions which have the capacity to be relevant to the fair presentation of the financial report including, where relevant, minutes of meetings, have been brought to your auditors' attention and made available to them.
- (j) We have advised your auditors of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, and all known data or security breaches whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.
- (k) We have provided to your auditors the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- (l) No frauds or suspected frauds affecting the Shire involving:
 - (i) Management;
 - (ii) Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - (iii) Othershave occurred to the knowledge of management of the Shire.
- (m) To our knowledge no allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Shire's financial report has been communicated to us by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- (n) We have disclosed to your auditors all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report, and they have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

2. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

We confirm that where assets and liabilities are recorded at fair value, the value attributed to these assets and liabilities is the fair value.

We confirm that the carrying amount of each physical non-current asset does not materially differ from its fair value at the end of the reporting period. Significant fair value assumptions, including those with high estimation uncertainty, are reasonable.

We confirm the measurement methods, including related assumptions, used by management in determining fair values are appropriate and have been consistently applied.

We confirm that the fair value disclosures in the financial report are complete and appropriate.

3. GOING CONCERN

We confirm that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate for the annual financial report.

4. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no material contingent liabilities at year end that have not been completely and adequately disclosed in the Notes to the financial report.

5. COMMITMENTS FOR CAPITAL AND OTHER EXPENDITURE

Other than those commitments reported in the Notes to the financial report, there were no significant commitments for capital or other expenditure contracts carrying over at year end.

6. FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR CONTAMINATED SITES

We are aware of our obligations under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* and have reported to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, all land owned, vested or leased by the Shire that is known to be, or is suspected of being, contaminated. All actual liabilities or contingent liabilities, if any, have been recognised and/or disclosed in the financial report as appropriate.

7. RELATED ENTITIES

We acknowledge our responsibility under section 17(1) of the *Auditor General Act 2006* (as applied by section 7.12AL of the *Local Government Act 1995*) to give written notice to the Auditor General if any of the Shire's functions are being performed in partnership or jointly with another person or body, through the instrumentality of another person or body, and/or by means of a trust. We confirm that we have provided the Auditor General with details of all related entities in existence at 30 June 2020.

8. RELATED PARTIES

We have disclosed to your auditors the identity of the Shire's related parties, as defined in Australian Accounting Standards, of which we are aware, and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware. These include the Shire's key management personnel (KMP) and their related parties, including their close family members and their controlled and jointly controlled entities.

We have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

9. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

We confirm the Shire's key management personnel (KMP) have not received any other money, consideration or benefit (except amounts being reimbursements for out of pocket expenses) which has not been included in the compensation disclosed in the Notes to the financial report.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and up to the date of this letter for which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure, have been adjusted or disclosed.

11. INTERNAL CONTROL

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

12. INSURANCE

We have established procedures to assess the adequacy of insurance cover on all assets and insurable risks. We believe, where appropriate, assets and insurable risks are adequately covered by insurance.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

We confirm that we have established and maintained a risk management framework that is appropriate to the Shire.

14. FINANCIAL RATIOS

We confirm that the financial ratios included in the annual financial report have been prepared and fairly presented in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

We confirm that the asset consumption ratio and the asset renewal funding ratio are supported by verifiable information and reliable assumptions.

15. ACCOUNTING MISSTATEMENTS

There are no uncorrected misstatements in the financial report.

16. ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

- (a) We acknowledge that we are responsible for the electronic presentation of the annual financial report.
- (b) We will ensure that the electronic version of the audited annual financial report and the auditor's report presented on the Shire's website is the same as the final signed versions of the audited annual financial report and the auditor's report.
- (c) We have clearly differentiated between audited and unaudited information in the construction of Shire's website and understand the risk of potential misrepresentation in the absence of appropriate controls.
- (d) We have assessed the security controls over the audited annual financial report and the auditor's report and are satisfied that procedures in place are adequate to ensure the integrity of the information provided.
- (e) We will ensure that where the auditor's report on the annual financial report is provided on the website, the annual financial report is also provided in full.

17. OTHER (UNAUDITED) INFORMATION IN THE ANNUAL REPORT

We will provide the final version of the annual report to you when available, to enable you to complete your required procedures.

Mark Dacombe

Chief Executive Officer

NAME: Mark Dacombe

8 June 2021

Date

Geoff Garside

Executive Manager Corporate Services

NAME: Geoff Garside

08/06/2021

Date