



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday, 23 June 2026
Commencing 5:00pm



Common Acronyms Used in this Document	
BFAC	Bush Fire Advisory Committee
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DSO	Development Services Officer
EO	Executive Officer
EMCS	Executive Manager Corporate Services
EMIS	Executive Manager Infrastructure Services
EMS&C	Executive Manager Strategy & Community
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
GO	Governance Officer
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media and Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
OCM	Ordinary Council Meeting
SCM	Special Council Meeting
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan
WAEC	Western Australian Electoral Commission
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils



June Ordinary Council Meeting

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Shire of Merredin
Ordinary Council Meeting
5:00pm Tuesday, 23 June 2026.



1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, and paid her respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The President then welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 5:00pm.

This meeting is being recorded on a digital audio device to assist with minute taking purposes. The public is reminded that copying or distribution of any part of the recording is not permitted. The Shire reserves all rights in relation to its copyright. Audio contained in a recording must not be altered, reproduced or republished without the written permission of the Shire and in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Shire of Merredin Standing Orders Local Law 2017, no person is to use any electronic, visual or audio recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of the Council or a Committee without the written permission of the Council.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr D Crook	President
Cr P Van Der Merwe	Deputy President
Cr H Billing	
Cr P Boehme	
Cr P Madigan	

Staff:

C Watts	CEO
L Boehme	EMCS
C Brindley-Mullen	SCEM
M Mono	EMIS
M Hussey	EO
S Doncon	GO

Members of the Public: Nil

Apologies: Nil

Approved Leave of Absence: Cr L O'Neill

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question from Mr R Alderton of Merredin (via email)

Q - I have noticed the elderly from the hospital and their staff trying to cross the highway to go to town for an outing, at times they have waited for some period to cross. The children from both schools cross when on outings and again must wait some time so it's safe to cross. I imagine there are plenty of other elderly get worried to cross the highway.

Has there been any consideration to do anything about safety for school children and the elderly to cross the Highway in a certain area or areas.

A – Thank you for your question Mr Alderton. The Shire has been liaising with Main Roads WA in relation to installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the Great Eastern Highway pedestrian crossing located adjacent to the Merredin Water Tower. The Shire has undertaken a pedestrian count in this location and will be forwarding this data to Main Roads to support provision of a VAS, similar to the speed reminder at Sawyers Valley. The Shire has also liaised previously with Merredin Police who undertake speed patrols, who have confirmed that the majority of vehicles transiting through the town and the pedestrian crossing area are complying with speed limits. Provision of safety improvements to Great Eastern Highway pedestrian crossing has been identified as an action in the Shire's Council Plan 2025-2035, with the Shire working with stakeholders to progress this.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr H Billing declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.2.

5. APPLICATIONS OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Crook applied for a leave of absence for 7 July 2026 until 3 August 2026.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Van Der Merwe Seconded: Cr Boehme

83796

That Councillor Crook be granted a Leave of Absence from 7 July 2026 until 3 August 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

6. PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 May 2026 (Attachment 7.1A)

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing **Seconded:** Cr Madigan

83797 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 26 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

9. MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

20.1 Proposed Office & Single House

10. RECEIPT OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

10.1 Minutes of the BFAC Meeting held Thursday 19 March 2026. Attachment 10.1A.

Voting Requirements

☒

Simple Majority

☐

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Boehme **Seconded:** Cr Billing

83798 That Council RECEIVES the minutes of the BFAC Meeting held Thursday 19 March 2026.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION

Recommendations of the BFAC Meeting held Thursday 19 March 2026. Attachment 10.1A

Voting Requirements

☒

Simple Majority

☐

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded:

Cr Van Der Merwe

That Council following the BFAC Meeting held Thursday 19 March 2026:

- 1. APPOINTS the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as the Chairperson for future meetings;**
- 2. NOTES the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Bush Fire Officer for the 2026/27 season remain the same as 2025/26 season;**
- 3. RESCINDS all previous appointments for the Fire Control Officer and Fire Weather Officer for the 2026/27 fire season;**
- 4. APPOINTS the following Fire Control Officers for the 2026/27 fire season:**

Name	Brigades
Chris Barnett	Burracoppin
Jeremy Dean, Brendan Crees	Burracoppin South
David Last, Glenn Crees, Kael Crees, Stephen Crook	Collgar
Cam Gethin, Colin Miller, Luke Growden	Hines Hill
Sam Hooper, Craig Last, Lee Dolton	Korbelka
Paul Wanless, Darren Major, Michael Wanless	Muntadgin
Neil Smith, Mick Caughey, Phil Gray, Marshall Crook, Dan Giles	Nukarni/Nokanning
Sheree Lowe	Shire of Merredin

83799

- 5. APPOINTS the following Fire Weather Officers for the 2025/26 fire season:**

Name	Brigades
Chris Barnett	North East
Brendan Crees	South East
Neil Smith	North
Craig Last	South West
Stephen Crook	Central
Paul Wanless	South
Cam Gethin	West

- 6. APPOINTS the following Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2025/26 fire season:**

Name	Brigades
	Bruce Rock
Cam Gethin and Colin Miller	Kellerberrin
Michael Caughey / Neil Smith	Nungarin
Darren Major / Paul Wanless	Narembeen
Chris Barnett	Westonia

- 7. NOTES Firebreak Orders 2026/27 are as follows:**

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all owners and/or occupiers of land are required to carry out fire prevention work in

accordance with the requisitions of this notice on or before 31st October each calendar year or within fourteen days of the date of becoming the owner or occupier of the land, should this be after the 31st October. All work specified in this Notice is to be maintained up to and including the 16th March the following calendar year.

8. NOTES Prohibited/Restricted Burning Periods are as follows:

That the Restricted Burning Period will commence on Wednesday 16 September 2026, and will continue until Saturday 31 October 2026 and from Wednesday 17 February 2027 until Tuesday 16 March 2027 (permits required); and

The Prohibited Burning Period will commence on Sunday 1 November 2026, and will continue until Tuesday 16 February 2027 (no burning).

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Van Der Merwe thanked the volunteers for taking on these roles within the community.

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

12. OFFICER'S REPORTS – DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.1 Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street Merredin – Proposed Single Dwelling, Water Tank & Shed

Development Service 	
Responsible Officer:	Musa Mono, EMIS
Author:	Xinyi Zhao, DSO
File Reference:	A9373
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author and Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 12.1A - Application for Development Approval and Supporting Documentation.

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider a Development Approval (DA) application for the placement of a single dwelling, a 1 x 27000L water tank with a diameter of 3.78 m and a 11m x 7m x 3.618m shed at Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street, Merredin.

Background

The Shire of Merredin has received a DA application for the placement of a single 3 bedroomed dwelling, 1 x 27,000L water tank with a diameter of 3.78 m and a 11m x 7m x 3.618m shed at Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street, Merredin.

According to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* Schedule 2: Deemed Provisions of the Local Planning Scheme (*Deemed Provisions*), development approval is not required for the erection of a single house, the installation of a water tank less than 5,000L and an outbuilding.

The capacity of the proposed water tank exceeds the threshold prescribed under the *Deemed Provisions*. Although there is currently no relevant Local Planning Policy relating to outbuildings within residential areas, the proposed 11m x 7m x 3.618m shed is considered as an oversized shed. As such, a formal planning application is required.

Comment

Proposed development

The proposed dwelling has an internal area of 141m², totalling 177m² including the verandas. According to the site plan, the front entry of the dwelling is not the front façade of the

development, with this being located on the side of the residence. The submitted plans show the side has no openings and therefore does not comply with the Residential Design Codes- Volume 1 (R-Codes).

To ensure compliance with R Codes (B5.2.3 Street Surveillance and C3.2 Streetscape), this report recommends that the developer adds a major opening (either window over 1m² in area, or an entry door) on the street side of the dwelling. The front setback is 6m and complies with the R-Codes. Since the height of the shed exceeds 3 metres and the length 11m, the rear set back should be at least 1m. The shed setbacks proposed meet the R-Code requirements.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

Local Planning Scheme

Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street, Merredin, is zoned 'Residential' under the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No.6 (the Scheme) with an R10/30 density code. Because the lot is connected to sewerage system, the R30 code applies.

A single house is a 'P' use in a Residential zone – which means that the use is permitted in a Residential Zone.

The development of a water tank and a shed are not specifically mentioned in the Zoning Table and cannot reasonably be determined as falling within the type of any other use category.

The objectives of Residential zone, are as follows;

- a) To provide for a high standard of residential development and residential character.***
- b) To provide for predominantly residential development with a variety of housing to meet the needs of different household types through the application of the Residential Design Codes of Western Australia.***
- c) Non-residential uses shall be compatible in character, scale and operation with the predominant residential use.***
- d) A non-residential use shall only be permitted if the use does not detract from the amenity of the area.***

Although the shed could be considered as oversized, the proposed 27,000 litre water tank and shed are consistent with the objects of Residential zone, given that they are ancillary to the primary residential use of the land therefore should be permitted.

Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street, Merredin is located within Development Area, as shown on the Scheme Map, as such is subject to the Scheme requirements specified by clause 4.9 as follows;

DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Subdivision and development of land included in a Development Area, as shown on the Scheme Map, shall be subject to the preparation of a Structure plan for the area in accordance with Part 4 of the deemed provisions.

It should be noted that the Omnibus Amendment No.8 changes the description the Development Area provisions as follows;

DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Subdivision and development of land included in a Development Area, as shown on the Scheme Map, may be subject to the preparation of a Structure plan or a Local Development Plan for the area in accordance with Part 4 or Part 6 of the deemed provisions.

LPS6 Omnibus Amendment No.8 is has been approved by WAPC and is scheduled to be published in the Government Gazette on 12 June 2026. As such, the Council may exercise their discretion in adopting the wording of the Omnibus amendment.

The proposed dwelling will be required to comply with requirements of the National Construction Code and Council's policies in relation to cross overs, landscaping and storm water drainage.

Statutory Requirements – Building Act Considerations

Building work including the placement or erection of a building or incidental structure on land is subject to building permit requirements in compliance with the *Building Act 2011*. In this case the builder will need to obtain a building permit from the Shire of Merredin for all the three structures before building work commences.

Statutory Requirements – Health Act considerations

The Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme Policy No.1 precludes any relocatable building containing unacceptable materials (asbestos). The proposed dwelling and ancillary structures do not contain asbestos materials and are therefore compliant with the Scheme and Environmental Health legislation.

	Strategic Implications
Ø Council Plan 2025-2035	
Theme:	2 Economy and Growth
Strategic Objective:	2.3 Promote and support access to safe, affordable and diverse housing options.
Priority Actions:	2.3.2 Facilitate for greater availability of housing to meet community needs (e.g. land and property owners to build apartments, villas, units, and mixed-use developments) including engagement with State Government on housing management practices (e.g. GROH housing).
	Sustainability Implications
Ø Strategic Resource Plan	

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a compliance risk associated with compliance with R Codes. The risk rating is considered to be Low (2), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Insignificant (1). This risk will be minimised by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report including within the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Madigan

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

That Council:

GRANTS development approval for the proposed single 3 bedroom dwelling, water tank and shed, to be situated at Lot 235 (8) Cummings Street, Merredin, as outlined in Attachment 12.1A, with the following conditions:

83800

- 1) The development must be carried out in accordance with the plans and documents submitted and endorsed with the Council's stamp, except where amended by other conditions of this approval;**
- 2) The design of the dwelling must be altered to add a major opening on the side facing Cummings Street;**
- 3) The development shall be connected to mains sewerage prior to commencement of any use;**
- 4) Prior to occupation, a vehicle crossover shall be constructed to the specifications and satisfaction of the Shire of Merredin; and**
- 5) The applicant be advised that the granting of Development Approval does not constitute a Building Permit and that an application for a Building Permit must be submitted to the local government for all building work.**

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

Cr H Billing declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.2.

12.2 Lot 19107 (357) Allsop Road Tandegin – Proposed Wind Monitoring Tower

Development Services 	
Responsible Officer:	Musa Mono (EMIS)
Author:	Xinyi Zhao (DSO)
File Reference:	A8045
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 12.2A - Application for Development Approval and Supporting Documentation. Attachment 12.2B – Summary of Responses Provided.

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to determine a Development Approval (DA) application for the placement of 1 x 160-metre lightweight galvanised steel mast framework with associated guy wires and buried anchor footings and weather monitoring sensors at Lot 19107 (#357) Allsop Road, Tandegin.

Background

The Shire of Merredin has received a DA from Collgar Renewables Pty Ltd for the placement of a single wind monitoring tower (WMT).

The proposed WMT would comprise:

- A 160-metre lightweight galvanised steel mast framework with guy wires and buried anchor footings.
- Weather monitoring sensors mounted on booms at various heights.
- Alternative bands of red and white paint on the top one third of the mast.
- 3 x visual marker balls on outer guy wires.
- Guy wire ground attachment points in contrasting colours to the surrounding ground/vegetation.
- A low-intensity obstacle light of 200 candela at the highest point of the WMT.

The installation of the WMT would be conducted by a team of up to 10 people over a two-week period using a combination of a crane, gin pole, and winch. The excavations associated with the WMT will be undertaken to anchor the structures using an excavator (approximately 8 tonnes). Concrete will then be poured into the excavations to secure the anchoring system.

The primary objective of the WMT is to obtain detailed wind speed and direction data for the surrounding area. The data collected would be used, in conjunction with long-term data from the existing Collgar Wind Farm and on-site LiDAR units, to validate the wind resource and inform the design and decision-making process for the proposed Tandegin Wind Farm.

The nature of the existing land use is agriculture use. There would be two potential options for the proposed WMT, and both are located within Lot 19107 (#357) Allsop Road, Tandegin.

Comment

Lot 19107 (#357) Allsop Road, Tandegin is zoned as 'General Farming' under the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No.6 Amendment No 8 - Omnibus (the Scheme). The proposed WMT could be considered as a Renewable Energy Facility and would be an A use in General Farming zone. This requires advertising of the proposal prior to it being considered by Council.

Part of the lot is designated as SCA4 (Special Control Area 4) under the Scheme. However, the two proposed location options for the WMT are situated outside the boundaries of the SCA4 area.

The height of the WMT would be 160m, as the equivalent height of a 40-storey building albeit not of the same impact. The excavation works associated with the WMT installation would also require appropriate rehabilitation measures to ensure that disturbed soil and ground surfaces are reinstated to a satisfactory condition following the completion of the works.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

The proposed development was advertised for a period of 14 days (including notifying owners and occupiers of the properties in the vicinity of the proposal) in accordance with clauses 64 (4) and (7) of the Deemed provisions.

A Public Notice was published on Shire website, newsletter and social media for public submissions on 29 May 2026 inviting submissions to the proposal before 15 June 2026. There were no submissions received other than those from the servicing agencies discussed below.

In addition to the public invitation, several agencies were specifically contacted regarding the proposed development. Four responses were received including, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), Western Power and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). A summary of their responses is provided in Attachment 12.2B.

Although the adjacent neighbours, DPIRD, DBCA, EPA and Water Corporation were notified, they did not respond at the closing of advertising.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

Local Planning Scheme

Lot 19107 (#357) Allsop Road, Tandegin is zoned as 'General Farming' under the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No.6 Amendment No 8 - Omnibus (the Scheme). A Renewable Energy Facility is an 'A' use in General Farming zone. 'A' use means that the use is not permitted unless the local government has exercised its discretion by granting development approval after giving special notice in accordance with clause 64 of the Deemed Provisions.

Statutory Requirements – Building Act Considerations

The proposed development of the WMT will consist of Class 10 structures under the National Construction Code. The erection of Class 10 structures outside of town site boundaries within the Shire of Merredin does not require a building permit. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed structure complies with all structural requirements specified by the relevant Australian Standards.

Strategic Implications

Theme:	3 Environment and Sustainability
Strategic Objective:	3.1 Promote environmental stewardship through the support of initiatives which mitigate and adapt to potential climate change impacts.
Priority Actions:	3.1.2 Continue support for renewable energy and diversity of development.

Sustainability Implications

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk associated with this Item as refusing the development application would be contrary to the Shire's position of supporting renewable energy projects which are appropriate for the region. The risk rating is considered to be Moderate (9), which is determined by a likelihood of Possible (3) and a consequence of Moderate (3). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report including within the Long-Term Financial Plan. Planning fees have been submitted with the development application.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Boehme

Seconded:

Cr Van Der Merwe

That Council:

- 1. GRANT development approval for the erection of a single Wind Monitoring Tower at Lot 19107 (#357) Allsop Road, Tandegin WA 6415, as outlined in Attachment 12.2A, subject to following conditions;**
 - a. Rehabilitation measures for excavation works to be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Shire of Merredin;**
 - b. Installation of an appropriate steady low intensity red obstacle/hazard light at top of the tower and marker balls on guide wires for the mast at 50ft Above Ground Level (AGL), 100ft AGL, 150ft AGL and 200ft AGL; and**
 - c. Construction work, including erection of the tower, shall protect Western Power infrastructure and interests from any potential land use conflict.**
- 2. ADVISE the applicant that;**
 - a. The proposed development comprises of Class 10 structures under the National Construction Code. The construction of Class 10 structures outside of town site boundaries within the Shire of Merredin do not require a building permit. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed structures comply with all structural requirements specified by the relevant Australian Standards;**
 - b. The proposed development should be included on aeronautical maps (CASA) and should be provided to DFES and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) for inclusion on relevant mapping systems; and**
 - c. No development (including drainage, fill, fencing, storage or parking) will be permitted within Western Power line and cable easements or restriction zones without the prior written approval of Western Power prior to commencement of the relevant works.**

83801

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan, Cr Van Der Merwe

Against: Nil

13. OFFICER'S REPORTS – INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Nil

14. OFFICER'S REPORTS – CORPORATE SERVICES

Cr Van Der Merwe left Chambers at 5:09pm and did not return.

14.1 Statement of Financial Activity – May 2026

Corporate Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As Above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 14.1A – Statement of Financial Activity Attachment 14.1B – Detailed Statements Attachment 14.1C – Capital Works Progress Attachment 14.1D – Investment Report

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to receive the Statements of Financial Activity and Investment Report for the month of May 2026 and be advised of associated financial matters, including consideration of a proposed budget amendment and reserve transfer.

Background

The Statement of Financial Activity, Detailed Statements, Capital Works Progress and Investment Report are attached for Council's information.

Comment

Statement of Financial Activity

Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires the Shire to prepare a monthly statement of financial activity for consideration by Council within 2 months after the end of the month of the report. These reports are included at Attachments 14.1A to D inclusive.

Budget Amendments

The following budget amendment is recommended:

GL/Job	Description	Current Budget	Variation Amount	Revised Budget	Reason
RC239	Merredin-Narembeen Road Capital	\$0,000	\$149,900 ex GST	\$149,900	Line Marking completed by Main Roads on Merredin-Narembeen Road
Total extra expenditure:				\$149,900	
3120118	ROADC – Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network	\$0,000	\$144,900 inc GST	\$144,900	Line Marking completed by Main Roads on Merredin-Narembeen Road – payment to be received from WSNF.
Total extra income:				\$144,900	

The above-mentioned amendment is recommended to provide funding for finalisation of current works associated with Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSNF) funding of Merredin-Narembeen Road. These works were due to occur in July 2024/25, however were undertaken this financial year under arrangement between Main Roads and WSNF. The Shire has only been recently notified that payment is required.

96.6% of the total cost will be reimbursed to the Shire from WSNF, with the remaining 3.33% to be drawn down from the Merredin-Narembeen Road Reserve. The proposed transfer will be as follows:

Account Number	Current Balance	Proposed Transfer	Remaining Balance
196799040 Merredin-Narembeen Road Reserve	\$1,078,038.83	Up to \$5,500	\$1,072,538.83

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

Theme: 4 Communication and Leadership

Strategic Objective: 4.8 Financial Management

Priorities Actions: 4.8.1 Maintain strong fiscal and financial management of Council's budget

Sustainability Implications

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

The Statement of Financial Activity is presented monthly and provides a retrospective picture of the activities at the Shire. Contained within the report is information pertaining to the financial cost and delivery of strategic initiatives and key projects.

To mitigate the risk of budget over-runs or non-delivery of projects, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has implemented internal control measures such as regular Council and management reporting and a quarterly process to monitor financial performance against budget estimates.

Materiality reporting thresholds have been established at 10% or \$10,000 whichever is greater, for operating and capital, to alert management prior to there being irreversible impacts.

It should also be noted that there is an inherent level of risk of misrepresentation of the financials through either human error or potential fraud.

The establishment of control measures through a series of efficient systems, policies and procedures, which fall under the responsibility of the CEO as laid out in the *Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996* regulation 5, seek to mitigate the possibility of this occurring.

These controls are set in place to provide daily, weekly, and monthly checks to ensure that the integrity of the data provided is reasonably assured.

There is a compliance risk associated with this Item as the Shire would be contravening the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* if this Item was not presented to Council. The risk rating is considered to be Low (4), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Minor (2). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

The adoption of the Statements of Financial Activity is retrospective. Accordingly, the financial implications associated with adopting this are nil.

In regards to the proposed budget amendment, the funds received from WSNF and those proposed to be drawn down from the Merredin-Narembeen Road Reserve, will offset the expense, meaning that there is no impact on the current budget bottom line.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Boehme

Seconded:

Cr Crook

That Council:

1. RECEIVE the Statements of Financial Activity and Investment Report for the period ending 31 May 2026 in accordance with Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*; and
2. APPROVES the amendment to the Shire of Merredin 2025/26 Annual Budget as per the following table, pursuant to section 6.8(1(b)) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

83802

GL/Job	Description	Current Budget	Variation Amount	Revised Budget	Reason
RC239	Merredin-Narembeen Road Capital	\$0,000	\$149,900 ex GST	\$149,900	Line Marking completed by Main Roads on Merredin-Narembeen Road
Total extra expenditure:				\$149,900	
3120118	ROADC – Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network	\$0,000	\$144,900 inc GST	\$144,900	Line Marking completed by Main Roads on Merredin-Narembeen Road – payment to be received from WSNF.

Total extra income:	\$144,900	
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3. **APPROVES** the transfer of up to \$5,500 from the Merredin-Narembreen Road Reserve account to cover the Shire's portion of the total cost of line marking on Merredin-Narembreen Road; and

Account Number	Current Balance	Proposed Transfer	Remaining Balance
196799040	\$1,078,038.83	Up to \$5,500	\$1,072,538.83

4. **NOTES** that payment will likely be made after 1 July 2026, therefore funds will be carried forward into the 2026/27 budget if required.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

14.2 List of Accounts Paid – May 2026

Corporate Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 14.2A - Payments Listing May 2026

Purpose of Report

☐

Executive Decision

☒

Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider the schedule of accounts paid for the month of May 2026.

Background

The attached list of accounts paid during the month of May 2026, under Delegated Authority, is provided for Council's information and endorsement.

Comment

Nil

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

Theme: 4 Communication and Leadership
Strategic Objective: 4.8 Financial Management
Priorities Actions: 4.8.1 Maintain strong fiscal and financial management of Council's budget

Sustainability Implications

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a compliance risk associated with this Item as the Shire would be contravening the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* if this Item was not presented to Council. The risk rating is considered to be Low (4), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Minor (2). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Madigan

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

83803

That Council RECEIVE the schedule of accounts paid during May 2026 as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totaling \$1,027,234.37 from the Merredin Shire Council Municipal bank account and \$0 from the Merredin Shire Council Trust bank account.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

14.3 Annual Information Statement Review

Corporate Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declares that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 14.3A – Information Statement 2026/27

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to note the update to the Shire of Merredin Information Statement for 2025/26.

Background

It is a compliance requirement of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI Act)* that the Shire publish an up-to-date Information Statement every 12 months. The Shire last published an update in June 2025.

Comment

The Shire's Information Statement has recently been reviewed and updated and is attached at 14.3A for Council's information.

Key changes included:

- updated organisational structure
- updated Shire Values
- reference to Strategic Community Plan updated to Council Plan
- removal of Development Services as a separate business unit for the Shire
- Engineering Services updated to Infrastructure & Development Services
- change to council meeting time from 4pm to 5pm
- addition of Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member to ARIC membership
- updated document list to include Council Plan, updated DAIP etc

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation was required.

Community Consultation

No Community consultation was required.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Statutory Implications

Freedom of Information Act 1992 - Part 5 - Publication of information about agencies

s.96 Information statement, each agency to publish annually

(1) An agency (other than a Minister or an exempt agency) has to cause an up-to-date information statement about the agency to be published in a manner approved by the Minister administering this Act —

- (a) within 12 months after the commencement of this Act; and
- (b) at subsequent intervals of not more than 12 months.

s.97 Information statement and internal manual, each agency to make available etc.

(1) An agency (other than a Minister or an exempt agency) has to cause copies of —

- (a) its most up-to-date information statement; and
- (b) each of its internal manuals,

to be made available for inspection and purchase by members of the public but may delete any exempt matter from those copies.

(2) An agency has to provide a copy of its information statement to the Commissioner as soon as is practicable after the statement is published under section 96.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

Theme:

4 Communication and Leadership

Strategic Objective:

4.2 Decision Making

4.5 Communication

4.7 Customer Service

Priorities Actions:

4.2.1 Support the Shire President and Councillors by working in partnership with the Executive to deliver leadership and oversight of the Shire, providing advice, information and guidance to support sound, informed decision making.

4.5.1 Deliver accurate, effective and timely information to internal and external stakeholders.

4.7.1 Continue to provide access to services and information through a variety of in person and on-line mediums, in various formats, to the Merredin community.

Sustainability Implications

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a compliance risk associated with this Item, as this document is to be reviewed by the Shire every 12 months, as per the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The risk rating is considered to be Low (4), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Minor (2). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded:

Cr Crook

That Council:

83804

1. NOTE the review of the Shire of Merredin Information Statement 2026/27, as presented in attachment 14.3A, in accordance with Part 5 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992: and
2. NOTE the Shire of Merredin Information Statement 2026/27 will be publicised on the Shire's website and forwarded to the Commissioner by the CEO, in accordance with Part 5 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

14.4 CEACA Rates Review

Corporate Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As above
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	A9900
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider the request of CEACA Inc to retain the non-rateable status of their property located at Lot 500 (No. 21) Fifth Ave, Merredin.

Background

CEACA Inc have requested application of Section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, to confirm the property at 21 Fifth Street, Merredin be non-rateable.

Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc (CEACA Inc) was formed in 2012 by 11 Wheatbelt Shires, to investigate resources and services for the aged in the wheatbelt. Support from the founding Shires and Royalties for Regions grants have enabled CEACA to construct 71 two-bedroom units across the region. 27 of these units have been constructed in Merredin on a parcel of land that CEACA acquired from the State Government.

CEACA Inc took ownership of Lot 500 (No. 21) Fifth Street, Merredin, adjacent to the old North Merredin Primary School site during the 2018-19 financial year. At that point the vacant property became rateable and was subject to a pro-rata minimum rate. Minimum rate was also levied for the 2019-20 financial year (during construction of the 27 units).

At a Special Council Meeting on 5 October 2021, Council resolved to waive the rates levied and write-off the outstanding rates balance from previous years (CMR#82799). At its 25 October 2022 Ordinary meeting (CMR#83036), Council resolved to waive rates for the CEACA Inc property, approve the property as non-rateable and apply this for a period of three years. It should be noted that CEACA Inc have paid the Emergency Services Levy (ESL), refuse and rubbish/ recycling charges associated with the property during this period.

Comment

As a registered charitable organisation, CEACA Inc are entitled to request that the Shire consider their property non-rateable, as per the *Local Government Act 1995*. The properties in the other CEACA Inc shires are exempt from rates and have not been required to reapply annually.

CEACA Inc hold a current charitable registration with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (Federal Govt), with the beneficiaries of the charity including:

- Adults - aged 65 and over
- Financially disadvantaged people
- People in rural/regional/remote communities
- People with disabilities

Contact has been made with CEACA Inc who confirmed that:

1. Based on the current register of tenants as at 17 June 2026:
 - Units containing tenants 65+yrs = 24
 - Units containing tenants with a disability or neurological disorder = 2
 - Units containing tenants under 65yrs who are on low income (Band B) = 1
2. They are liaising on a continuous basis with tenants, their home care providers, mental health teams, medical teams, social workers and family members to ensure that tenants can remain living in their units independently as long as possible. CEACA Inc also provide information and support relating to other support services that may be available to the tenants (eg. meals delivery).
3. They confirm that the current CEACA Inc units (27) in the Shire of Merredin will remain in the name of CEACA Inc and are not being transferred into the name of CEACA Limited.

According to the *WALGA Rates and Charitable Land Use Exemption Application Best Practice Guidelines* (the Guidelines), the use of the land by CEACA Inc to provide housing would meet the provision of “land is used exclusively for charitable purposes”. The Guidelines also provide examples of charitable organisations similar to CEACA Inc who provide housing in a similar manner that have appealed to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) due to local governments charging rates. In these cases, the determination of SAT supported the charitable organisation’s position and directed that the properties be non-rateable.

The Guidelines confirm that properties which are deemed un-rateable are still liable to pay for the ESL and applicable refuse charges. The Guidelines also recommend that the application of the non-rateable provisions be reviewed at least every three years, or where there is a change of land use circumstances or land ownership.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

Payment of rates for the CEACA Inc property has been raised at a confidential briefing of Council.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

Section 6.26 of *Local Government Act 1995* is applicable:

6.26. Rateable land

- (1) *Except as provided in this section all land within a district is rateable land.*
- (2) *The following land is not rateable land —*
 - (g) *land used exclusively for charitable purposes;*

Strategic Implications

Theme: 4 Communication and Leadership

Strategic Objective: 4.8 Implement strong financial management to maintain current services and facilities, while providing for future growth.

Priority Actions: 4.8.1 Maintain strong fiscal and financial management of Council's budget.

Sustainability Implications

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a compliance and reputational risk associated with this Item as if council does not adopt the officer's recommendation, it is likely that CEACA Inc will appeal to SAT, with that appeal upheld based on precedence. The risk rating is considered to be Moderate (8), which is determined by a likelihood of Likely (4) and a consequence of Minor (2). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

If the property was considered rateable, the Shire would receive an income of approximately \$120,000 over the next three years, assuming standard average rate increases for the period.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Madigan

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

83805 That Council:

1. **NOTES** that CEACA Inc currently has a registered charity status;
2. **APPROVE** the request of CEACA Inc for the property located at Lot 500 (No. 21) Fifth Street, Merredin to be considered non-rateable and apply this for the 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years unless there is a change in land ownership or change in land use circumstances; and
3. **CONFIRMS** that CEACA Inc are still liable to pay for the applicable Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and refuse charges during the three year non-rateable period.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

14.5 2026/27 Differential General Rates and Minimum Payments Submissions

Corporate Services



Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declares that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Confidential Attachment 14.5A – Submission received

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider any submissions received in response to providing local public notice and advertising the proposed differential rating model intended for the 2026/27 financial year.

Background

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) requires each local government to prepare and adopt a budget for the Municipal Fund to 30 June the following year. A required component of the setting of the budget is the consideration of rate revenue for the year to meet the estimate of the budget deficiency.

Council resolved at the Ordinary Council meeting, 26 May 2026, to adopt the differential rates for advertising for the 2026/27 financial year. (CMRef 83789)

That Council;

- 1. ADOPT for draft budget purposes, Option Four (4) as stated in the Item, as the differential rate in the dollar and minimum payments for Unimproved Value rated properties for the Shire of Merredin, subject to finalisation of the draft 2026/27 Annual Budget and the establishment of the funding shortfall required from imposition of rates on Gross Rental Value rated properties;*
- 2. ADVERTISE its intention to levy differential rates on Unimproved Value properties together with Gross Rental Value rated properties for the 2026/27 Budget, and advise the public of the availability of the Shire of Merredin's 2026/27 Differential Rating Objects and Reasons (updated to suit the option selected by Council), in accordance with section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995; and*
- 3. NOTES that any public submissions received in response to Item 2 above, will be presented to Council for consideration prior to adoption of the 2026/27 Rates.*

The proposed differential rates were set as per Option Four:

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$1,190.00	0.010194
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,190.00	0.020300
UV3 – Mining	\$200.00	0.020000
UV4 – Power Generation Gen	\$1,190.00	0.020388
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,190.00	0.018491

Comment

A notice seeking submissions to the proposed differential rates for 2026/27 was advertised on 29 May 2026. The closing date for submissions was 19 June 2026. One submission was received during the advertising period. The submission is attached for Council's information and consideration.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation was required.

Community Consultation

No Community consultation was required.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Statutory Implications

Section 6.33 of the Local Government Act 1995 allows for local governments to differentially rate properties.

Section 6.33 (3) of the Local Government Act 1995 outlines "In imposing a differential general rate a local government is not to, without the approval of the Minister, impose a differential general rate which is more than twice the lowest differential general rate imposed by it."

As the highest UV sub-category rate is not more than twice the lowest, Ministerial approval is not required.

Section 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995:

6.35. Minimum payment

(1) Subject to this section, a local government may impose on any rateable land in its district a minimum payment which is greater than the general rate which would otherwise be payable on that land.

(2) A minimum payment is to be a general minimum but, subject to subsection (3), a lesser minimum may be imposed in respect of any portion of the district.

(3) In applying subsection (2) the local government is to ensure the general minimum is imposed on not less than —

(a) 50% of the total number of separately rated properties in the district; or

(b) 50% of the number of properties in each category referred to in subsection (6),
on which a minimum payment is imposed.

(4) A minimum payment is not to be imposed on more than the prescribed percentage of —

(a) the number of separately rated properties in the district; or

(b) the number of properties in each category referred to in subsection (6),
unless the general minimum does not exceed the prescribed amount.

(5) If a local government imposes a differential general rate on any land on the basis that the land is vacant land it may, with the approval of the Minister, impose a minimum payment in a manner that does not comply with subsections (2), (3) and (4) for that land.

(6) For the purposes of this section a minimum payment is to be applied separately, in accordance with the principles set forth in subsections (2), (3) and (4) in respect of each of the following categories —

(a) to land rated on gross rental value; and

(b) to land rated on unimproved value; and

(c) to each differential rating category where a differential general rate is imposed.

[Section 6.35 amended by No. 49 of 2004 s. 61.]

Section 53 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 sets the Prescribed amount in Relation to Minimums.

53. Amount prescribed for minimum payment (Act s. 6.35(4))

The amount prescribed for the purposes of section 6.35(4) is \$200.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

Theme: 4 Communication and Leadership

Strategic Objective: 4.2 Decision Making

Priorities Actions: 4.2.1 Support the Shire President and Councillors by working in partnership with the Executive to deliver leadership and oversight of the Shire, providing advice, information and guidance to support sound, informed decision making.

Sustainability Implications

➤ Strategic Resource Plan

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a compliance risk associated with this Item as the Shire would be contravening the *Local Government Act 1995* if this Item was not presented to Council. The risk rating is considered to be Moderate (6), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Moderate (3). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

Adopting a differential model will result in required rates revenue for the 2026/27 financial year.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Crook

Seconded:

Cr Madigan

83806

That Council **NOTES** the submission that was received regarding the proposed 2026/27 Differential General Rates and Minimum Payments.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

15. OFFICER'S REPORTS – COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

16. OFFICER'S REPORTS – ADMINISTRATION

16.1 Status Report – June 2026

Administration SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Craig Watts, CEO
Author:	Martina Hussey, EO
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author and Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 16.1A – Status Report – June 2026

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider the updated Status Report for June 2026.

Background

The Status Report is a register of Council Resolutions that are allocated to the Shire of Merredin's (the Shire) Executive Staff for actioning. When the Executive Staff have progressed or completed any action in relation to the Council Resolution, comments are provided until the process is completed or superseded by a further Council Resolution.

Comment

In the interest of increased transparency and communication with the community and Council, the Status Report is provided for information.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

The report has been circulated to ELT members for their review and comment.

Community Consultation

No Community Consultation is required.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

- Theme: 4 Communication and Leadership
- Strategic Objective: 4.2 Provide accountable leadership, transparent decision making and good governance.
- Priority Actions: 4.2.1 Support the Shire President and Councillors by working in partnership with the Executive to deliver leadership and oversight of the Shire, providing advice, information and guidance to support sound, informed decision making.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk associated with this Item, as it may be perceived that the Shire is not acting upon or implementing the decisions of Council. The risk rating is considered to be Low (1), which is determined by a likelihood of Rare (1) and a consequence of Insignificant (1). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

83807 That Council RECEIVES the Status Report on Council Resolutions for June 2026.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

16.2 Second Local Government Extraordinary Election 2026

Administration



Responsible Officer:	Craig Watts, CEO
Author:	As above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declares that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 16.2A – WAEC Cost Estimate Attachment 16.2B – WAEC Written Agreement

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider the proposal from the Electoral Commissioner to manage the second 2026 Local Government Extraordinary Election for the Shire of Merredin (the Shire).

Background

The resignation of Councillor Manning left a vacancy within Council which is required to be filled. The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) was commissioned to undertake this election, however since no candidates nominated, the election will not take place on 25 June 2026. A second election must now be held to fill the vacancy before the Shire can request to retain a vacancy until the next ordinary election cycle (October 2027), which follows the same process.

Comment

At the 24 March 2026 OCM, Council resolved to:

“DECLARE in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the Electoral Commissioner be responsible for the conduct of the 2026 extraordinary election together with any other elections or polls which may be required; and

DECIDE in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the 2026 extraordinary election be as a postal election;”

Due to no candidates nominating for the 25 June 2026 election, the WAEC has advised that second extraordinary election must be held, with the process to engage the Commission to recommence. The Shire Administration requested the Commission provide a written agreement for them to oversee a postal election for the second extraordinary election, together with a quote for the service.

The Shire of Merredin Council 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2025 elections were administered by the Electoral Commissioner and conducted using the postal method.

Elections conducted by the WAEC utilises their resources and expertise in conducting elections and ensures the impartiality and integrity of the election process. The advantages of using the WAEC to conduct the election include:

- A postal ballot has a higher elector turnout;
- It is seen to be independent from Council; and
- It relieves Administration staff of the workload associated with the election process, although some staff may be contracted by the WAEC to assist with the vote counting.

It is therefore proposed that the WAEC again conduct the second 2026 Local Government Extraordinary Election via postal vote. The date of this election is proposed to be Thursday 24 September 2026.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required. Contact has been made with the WAEC to confirm they are able to conduct the election on behalf of the Shire. Advertising of the election will be undertaken as per legislative requirements closer to the election date.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

Sections 4.20(4) and 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* apply in appointing the WAEC to conduct the election on behalf of the Shire.

Strategic Implications

Theme:	4 Communication and Leadership
Strategic Objective:	4.2 Provide accountable leadership, transparent decision making and good governance.
Priority Actions:	4.2.1 Support the Shire President and Councillors by working in partnership with the Executive to deliver leadership and oversight of the Shire, providing advice, information and guidance to support sound, informed decision making.

Sustainability Implications

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

If the WAEC is not endorsed to undertake the election process, the Shire will need to seek an alternate provider or undertake the election using internal resources. This will impose a burden on the Shire Administration, potentially leading to compliance issues with the electoral process including vote counting via the preferential ballot method. The risk rating is considered to be High (12), which is determined by a likelihood of Likely (4) and a consequence of Moderate (3). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost for the WAEC to conduct the second 2026 election via postal ballot is \$18,000 ex GST based on a single position being filled. The details for the costs involved for the WAEC to run the election can be found in Attachment 17.4A. Funding will be provided within the 2026/27 budget.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Boehme

Seconded:

Cr Madigan

That Council:

83808

1. DECLARE in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* the Electoral Commissioner be responsible for the conduct of the 2026 extraordinary election together with any other elections or polls which may be required;
2. DECIDE in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the 2026 extraordinary election be as a postal election; and
3. NOTES the associated costs of conducting the second 2026 Extraordinary Election to be held on Thursday 24 September 2026, will be included in the 2026/27 Annual Budget.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

16.3 Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 - Generator

Administration



Responsible Officer:	Craig Watts, CEO
Author:	As above
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author/Responsible Officer declares that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider supporting a grant application to the Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 for the purchase of a generator to provide back-up power to the Shire's designated welfare centre.

Background

The Shire has previously sought grant funding for the purchase of a 500KVA generator to connect to an upgraded switchboard at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRCLC). The MRCLC is the Shire's designated welfare centre, to be used during and post times of emergency to support the community as it undertakes recovery operations. The most recent application for Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round 2 of the grant funding was unsuccessful.

WEROC are intending to make a joint submission to the DRF Round 4 to seek funding for generators to be provided to each member local authority. As part of the grant submission, each local government is required to provide a council resolution supporting the intention to seek grant funding, and confirm that there is money provided within the municipal budget to meet the Shire contribution.

Comment

The DRF is the Australian Government's primary disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative providing funding for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction initiatives across Australia. Projects are delivered in partnership with Australian state and territory governments. In 2026-27, a portion of the annual drawdown will be reserved to offset critical spending on national capability programs that enhance Australia's preparedness and resilience, with the balance (\$142.477 million) available as grants through DRF Round 4.

WEROC are intending to provide a consolidated application showing that the member councils are working collaboratively to source and install generators to their welfare centres and other areas of need, including medical centres. Each Local Government has in the past experienced issues with power reliability, especially in times of emergency, therefore have similar issues and concerns. The purchase and installation of a generator to be provided at the MRCLC to ensure stable power supply in the event of power failure within Merredin or the surrounding region.

The MRCLC is the Shire's nominated Welfare Centre and has been used previously during times of emergency. Having this capability in the town's nominated evacuation centre will strengthen preparedness for natural disasters and allow people from across the region access to shelter, food, water, supplies and respite from the elements in the event of an emergency.

The Shire has previously applied in previous rounds of this grant funding, however, was unsuccessful. A joint approach is more likely to be supported than having individual applications submitted by each Local Government, increasing the likelihood of success.

The Shire has released a request for quotation for upgrades to the MRCLC switchboard to enable connection of an external generator during times of emergency. No submissions were received at the time of closing, with the Shire Administration now working with a local electrical contractor to undertake these upgrades.

As part of the grant nomination process, each Shire participating in the grant application is required to seek formal approval for their contribution. A quote for a suitable generator has been received with the price being approximately \$80,000 ex GST.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

Consultation has taken place within the Executive Leadership Team who supported the proposal.

Community Consultation

To support the application, the Shire has consulted with and sought letters of support from local traditional owners, together with emergency services and the Community Resource Centre.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

The grant funding application requires confirmation that funds are available to meet the Shire's contribution to the project. As this is projecting spend of funds in the 2026/27 financial year, a decision via Absolute Majority as per the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* to include this within the 2026/27 budget prior to its adoption is required.

Strategic Implications

Theme:

1 Community and Culture

Strategic Objective: 1.2 Build community capacity and resilience to cope with natural disasters and emergencies including fire, storm, and flood.

Priority Actions: 1.2.2 Advocate for funding to support BFB stations, appliances and volunteer training.

Sustainability Implications

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer's recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a financial risk associated with this Item as if the Council does not support provision of co-matching funds for the purchase of the Generator, it will not meet the minimum requirements for consideration within the Disaster Ready Grant conditions. The risk rating is considered to be High (12), which is determined by a likelihood of Likely (4) and a consequence of Moderate (3). This risk will be eliminated by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

If the Shire were to apply individually, it would be required to provide a 50% co-contribution towards the cost of the generator. As this will be auspiced by one of the other WEROC Councils, depending on whom is selected as the lead agency, this could be reduced to 10-20% co-contribution. It is more likely that, if successful the Shire would be charged the 50% co-contribution rate. It is recommended that up to \$45,000 be allocated to provide sufficient funds to meet the co-contribution rate base, determined from the quote received and allowing for any price fluctuation based on if and when the grant is eventually received.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Madigan

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

That Council:

83809

1. **SUPPORTS** the application to the Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 for the purchase of a Generator for the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre.
2. **ALLOCATES** \$45,000 in the 2026/27 financial year budget to provide a maximum 50% co-contribution towards the cost of the generator.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

17. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

18. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Question from Councillor Van Der Merwe – Can the Administration consider rescinding Council Resolution 82698 from 16 March 2021 and provide a report to Council at the July Ordinary Council Meeting to consider retaining all current housing stock?

The Chief Executive Officer advised that such action would require a notice of motion signed by three members of council as required by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995. Once received, the Administration will draft a report for consideration at the July Ordinary Council Meeting.

19. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Nil

20. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

In accordance with Section 5.23 (4)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1995* Council will go Behind Closed Doors to discuss these matters.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Boehme

Seconded: Cr Crook

83810

That Council move Behind Closed Doors and that Standing Orders be suspended at 5:16pm.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

Reason

This report is confidential as it contains information considered to be prescribed information as per Section 5.23 (4)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

20.1 Proposed Office & Single House

Development Service SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Musa Mono, EMIS
Author:	Xinyi Zhao, DSO
File Reference:	A1365
Disclosure of Interest:	The Author and Responsible Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.
Attachments:	Attachment 20.1A - Application for Development Approval and Supporting Documentation. Attachment 20.1B – Housing Guidelines and Assessment Forms.

This report is confidential as it contains information considered to be prescribed information as per Section 5.23 (4)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider a Development Approval (DA) application for an office use to be conducted from an existing single house.

Background

The Shire of Merredin has received an application from Share and Care for Development (Planning) Approval for an office and safe house to be conducted from an existing house located at 22 Farrar Parade, Merredin.

Comment

The proposed lot is zoned as 'Residential' under the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No.6 (the Scheme). An office development is a D use in Residential zone, and as such subject to Council's discretion.

In accordance with the Service Scope document provided by applicant, the existing house would be used as emergency accommodation for women and children where they can feel secure and supported during their time of crisis, including provide comprehensive facilities and services. The staff will be onsite daily to address the goals of the women and children, complete safety checks and work with the women and children to return to their own homes if they can, or plan for alternative living arrangements. The maximum number of occupants would be 10 people.

The applicant would conduct a sequence of renovation works to the existing house; including the construction of accessible facilities. This would be subject to a separate building permit application process.

Consultation

Councillor/Officer Consultation

No Councillor or Officer consultation is required.

Community Consultation

No community consultation is required, especially due to the confidential nature of this application.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Within the Act, there are a number of provisions relating to matters such as the employment of the CEO, tenders, legal matters, and other “Prescribed Information” that are considered confidential.

Upon further review of the supporting Regulations, a “Prescribed Information” includes information relating to a property that is used, or is proposed to be used, for any of the following purposes:

- a) a shelter for homeless persons;
- b) a shelter for persons who have experienced family or domestic violence; or
- c) a residence for employees or officers of a local government, the State, or the Commonwealth.

As such, although the proposed development is classified as a D use within the Residential zone, it may still be considered a Prescribed Matter under the Regulations. Accordingly, Council should consider the matter behind closed doors.

The report recommendation has been drafted in a manner that refers to the application by Share and Care, while not disclosing the address of the subject property.

Local Planning Scheme

The proposed lot is zoned as ‘Residential’ under zoning table of the Scheme. Although a single house use is a P use under Zoning table, an office development is a D use in Residential zone, and as such subject to Council’s discretion.

The Scheme, Table Two – Development Table, specifies the minimum number of onsite carparking bays required. In this case the table specifies 1 car parking bay for every 30m² plot ratio area.

Based on the area of the proposed office area within the existing house (11.64 m²), the Scheme would require the provision of 1 onsite car parking bays.

It should be noted that there is an existing carport/patio onsite capable of accommodating 2 cars, and a backyard for additional parking if necessary. Additionally, it is unlikely that the house would be filled on a regular basis.

The Development Table also specifies the maximum plot ratio of an office development. In this circumstance the maximum plot ratio is 0.5. The total size of the lot is 1012 m² in area, which complies with the plot ratio requirement.

As such, the provision of an office is compliant with the Scheme.

Statutory Requirements – *Building Act 2011* Considerations

The proposed office will require appropriate tie downs following placement on site as well as provision of access and services in accordance with AS 1428.1 – mobility and access standards (AS 1428.1) relating to persons with disability. It should be noted that the proposed DA plan does not include an accessible toilet, and an existing toilet is not compliant with AS 1428.1. The requirements of AS 1428.1 will therefore be applied to the existing toilet at the property to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.

Statutory Requirements – *Health Act 1911* considerations

The proposed use will constitute what is defined as a ‘Lodging House’ under the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*, and as such require registration with the Shire. Compliance will be required with the Shire of Merredin Health Local Laws relating to Lodging Houses and the premises subject to ongoing inspections by the Shire’s Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Noise emissions are governed by the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*. The activities conducted within the premises are unlikely to generate noise which exceeds the assigned noise levels for that area.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan 2025-2035

Theme: 2 Economy and Growth

Strategic Objective: 2.3 Promote and support access to safe, affordable and diverse housing options.

Priority Actions: 2.3.2 Facilitate for greater availability of housing to meet community needs (e.g. land and property owners to build apartments, villas, units, and mixed-use developments) including engagement with State Government on housing management practices (e.g. GROH housing)

Sustainability Implications

There is no impact on capacity, resourcing or asset management to carry out the Officer’s recommendation.

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk associated with this Item as the development supports domestic advice services and provides shelter for victims of domestic abuse. If the Council did not support this application, or provide a viable alternative, it could be viewed by the community

as unsympathetic to those victims. The risk rating is considered to be Low (4), which is determined by a likelihood of Unlikely (2) and a consequence of Minor (2). This risk will be minimised by the adoption of the Officer's Recommendation.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report including within the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Boehme

Seconded:

Cr Madigan

That Council:

1. GRANTS Development (planning) Approval for a proposed office & single house development managed by "Share and Care", to be situated within Shire of Merredin, as outlined in Confidential Attachment 20.1A, subject to the following conditions;
 - a. Compliance with *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911* and Shire of Merredin Health Local Law.
 - b. Compliance with provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.
2. ADVISES the applicant of the following;
 - a. This development approval does not constitute a building permit. An application for a building permit must be lodged with the Shire of Merredin and be approved before any building work can commence on site;
 - b. Compliance is required with provisions of the National Construction Code (BCA) and relevant standards including disability access requirements; the existing toilet should be upgraded to comply with the AS 1428.1 – mobility and access standards.

83811

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr Crook

Seconded:

Cr Boehme

83812

That Council return from Behind Closed Doors at 5:18pm, resume Standing Orders and that the resolutions being passed in the confidential session be confirmed in open meeting.

CARRIED 4/0

For: Cr Billing, Cr Boehme, Cr Crook, Cr Madigan

Against: Nil

The Shire President confirmed all resolutions passed in the confidential session within the open meeting.

21. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the President thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5:19pm.

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