



WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Minutes

Monday 16 February 2025

Beaumonde on the Point
306 Riverside Dr, Perth

CONTENTS

1.	OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
	2.1 Attendance.....	3
	2.2 Apologies.....	3
	2.3 Guests.....	3
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4.	PRESENTATIONS	3
5.	MINUTES OF MEETINGS	4
	5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2025	4
	5.2 Business Arising – Status Report	4
	5.2.1 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 27 November 2025	4
6.	WEROC INC. FINANCE	5
	6.1 WEROC Inc. Financial Report as of 31 January 2026	5
	6.2 Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet	7
7.	MATTERS FOR DECISION OR DISCUSSION	9
	7.1 WEROC Priorities 2026	9
	7.2 Joint ROC Forum	10
8.	PROJECT UPDATES	11
	8.1 Housing.....	11
	8.2 Strategic Waste Management	11
	8.3 Roads.....	12
	8.4 Marketing/Promotion.....	13
9.	EMERGING ISSUES.....	13
10.	OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)	13
	10.1 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program 2026	13
	10.2 Disaster Ready Fund	13
	10.3 Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance.....	14
11.	FUTURE MEETINGS	14
12.	CLOSURE	15

WEROC Inc.

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Shires of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia, Yilgarn

MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in Perth on Monday 16 February 2026.

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Charmaine Thomson as Chair of WEROC Inc. welcomed Members of the Board and opened the meeting at 1.05pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Mr. Bryan Close

Mr. Mark Crees (Deputy Chair)

Mr. Mark Furr

Mr. Raymond Griffiths

Ms. Alison Harris

Mr. Andrew Malone

Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Mr. Bill Price

Mr. Ramesh Rajagopalan

Ms. Emily Ryan

Ms. Charmaine Thomson (Chair)

Mr. Craig Watts

Ms. Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Stuart Hobley

2.3 Guests

Mr. Peter Kenyon, Director, B.A.N.K of Ideas (joined the meeting at 1.37pm and left the meeting at 1.58pm)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Peter Kenyon, Director, B.A.N.K of Ideas

Peter Kenyon joined the meeting at 1.37pm to provide a brief overview of the B.A.N.K of Ideas and the programs they deliver.

Mr. Kenyon provided several handouts as an example of the work that they have done in other small communities. He commented that when deciding on the right program for your community you need to identify who you want to hear from, what you want to get out of it and what is going to make it interesting enough for people to come along.

Comments from the meeting:

- Members will take the information back to their Councils and determine what, if any, programs they are interested in delivering in their community.

Mr. Kenyon left the meeting at 1.58pm and did not return.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2025

Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held in Cunderdin on Thursday 27 November 2025 have previously been circulated.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Cunderdin on Thursday 27 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

Seconded: Ms. Alison Harris

That the Minutes of the WEROC Inc. Meeting held in Cunderdin on Thursday 27 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising – Status Report

5.2.1 Actions Arising from the WEROC Inc. Board Meeting held on 27 November 2025

Attachment 1: WEROC Inc. Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability

Agenda Item	Action(s)	Status
7.1 WEROC Water Audit	Executive Officer to prepare a template to record in-kind amounts from the Shires.	The Executive Officer forwarded a template on 17 December 2025. The first milestone report is due on 28 March and a summary of expenditure to date, including evidence of in-kind contributions is required.
8.1 Housing	Apply to the Regional Housing Support Fund for 100% of funding required to develop the lots and dwellings detailed in the WEROC key worker housing business case and cost benefit analysis prepared by Econosis.	An application was submitted on 24 December 2025.
8.2 Strategic waste management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact the Western Metropolitan Regional Council to enquire about the waste education they can support and any associated costs. 2) Executive Officer to arrange a meeting with Avon Waste for early in 2026. 	<p>A meeting with Avon Waste Managing Director, Ashley Fisher, took place on Thursday 5 February 2026. Refer to agenda item 8.2 for further detail.</p> <p>The Executive Officer has met with the Western Metropolitan Regional Council to discuss a waste education</p>

Note 7	Monthly subscription fee for Xero accounting software
Note 8	Payment to Audit Partners Australia for 2024-25 financial year audit
Note 9	Payments to Australia’s Golden Outback for cooperative marketing, Flat Earth Mapping for the update to the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail, the Shire of Merredin for social media management for the drive trail, JE Planning for the workforce housing investigation, Chadwick Consulting for site feasibility testing and Econosis for the key worker housing business case and cost-benefit-analysis drafts.
Note 10	Payments to Local Community Insurance Services for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers compensation insurance - Association Liability insurance - Public and Products Liability insurance - Personal Accident insurance - Cyber insurance
Note 11	GST paid
Note 12	Payment to ATO for Q4 2024-25 and Q1 2025-26 BAS

WEROC Inc.
ABN 28 416 957 824
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

		Budget 2025/2026	Actual to 31/01/2026	Notes
INCOME				
0501	General Subscriptions	\$84,000.00	\$84,000.00	1
504.01	Consultancy & Project Reserve	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	2
0575	Interest received	\$4,392.33	\$4,392.33	3
584	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	GST Output Tax	\$8,400.00	\$13,900.00	4
	GST Refunds	\$6,399.00	\$0.00	
	Total Receipts	\$103,191.33	\$157,292.33	
EXPENSES				
1545	Bank Fees & Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1661.01	WEROC Inc. Executive Services	\$38,920.00	\$18,422.73	5
1661.02	Executive Officer Travel and Accommodation	\$3,080.00	\$994.50	6
1661.03	WEROC Executive Officer Recruitment	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
1687	WEROC Financial Services Accounting	\$1,080.00	\$477.26	7
1687.03	WEROC Financial Services Audit	\$1,100.00	\$1,036.00	8
1585	WEROC Consultant Expenses	\$70,000.00	\$52,043.57	9
1850	WEROC Management of WEROC App & Website	\$900.00	\$902.00	
1801	WEROC Meeting Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00	
1851	WEROC Insurance	\$6,300.00	\$6,232.43	10
1852	WEROC Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
1853	WEROC Incorporation Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	

1854	Transfer to Term Deposit	\$0.00	\$0.00	
1930	WEROC Sundry	\$300.00	\$0.00	
3384	GST Input Tax	\$12,518.00	\$7,588.46	11
	ATO Payments	\$9,088.71	\$10,021.00	12
Total Payments		\$146,786.71	\$97,717.95	
Net Position		-\$43,595.38	\$59,574.38	
OPENING CASH 1 July		\$94,312.12	\$99,971.03	
CASH BALANCE		\$50,716.74	\$159,545.41	

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026, be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Alison Harris

Seconded: Ms. Lisa O’Neill

That the WEROC Inc. financial report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026, be received.

CARRIED

6.2 Income, Expenditure & Balance Sheet

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

A summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026 is provided below.

Date	Description	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance		148,348.04		
06 Nov 2025	150 Square Pty Ltd		3,641.50	144,706.54
06 Nov 2025	PWD Australia		79.20	144,627.34
06 Nov 2025	Shire of Merredin		93.95	144,533.39
17 Nov 2025	Australia's Golden Outback		185.00	144,348.39
18 Nov 2025	Vanguard Publishing		1,958.00	142,390.39
20 Nov 2025	ATO		6,403.00	135,987.39
21 Nov 2025	Econisis Pty Ltd		1,980.00	134,007.39
01 Dec 2025	North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils	5,500.00		139,507.39
05 Dec 2025	PWD Australia		385.00	139,122.39
12 Dec 2025	150 Square Pty Ltd		3,706.00	135,416.39
17 Dec 2025	Chadwick Consulting		9,955.00	125,461.39
18 Dec 2025	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	55,000.00		180,461.39
31 Dec 2025	Water Technology		7,813.48	172,647.91
09 Jan 2026	150 Square Pty Ltd		2,735.00	169,912.91

WEROC Inc. Board Meeting Monday 16 February 2026 - Minutes

23 Jan 2026	Chadwick Consulting		9,955.00	159,957.91
30 Jan 2026	Australia's Golden Outback		412.50	159,545.41
TOTAL		60,500.00	49,302.63	159,545.41
Closing balance		159,545.41		

Balance Sheet

Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc
As at 31 January 2026

31 Jan 2026

Assets		
Bank		
Term Deposit		100,000.00
Westpac Community Solution One		159,545.41
Total Bank		259,545.41
Total Assets		259,545.41
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		1,101.00
GST		2,303.53
Total Current Liabilities		3,404.53
Non-current Liabilities		
GST Clearing		(3,509.00)
Total Non-current Liabilities		(3,509.00)
Total Liabilities		(104.47)
Net Assets		259,649.88
Equity		
Current Year Earnings		63,283.84
Retained Earnings		196,366.04
Total Equity		259,649.88

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026 totalling \$49,302.63 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 January 2026 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Andrew Malone

Seconded: Mr. Ram Rajagopalan

That the WEROC Inc. summary of income and expenditure for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026 be received.

That the Accounts Paid by WEROC Inc. for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026 totalling \$49,302.63 be approved.

That the Balance Sheet as of 31 January 2026 be noted.

CARRIED

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION OR DISCUSSION

7.1 WEROC Priorities 2026

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: NA

Financial Implications: NA

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 17 March 2025, the WEROC Board agreed on priorities for the 2025 calendar year. The following is a summary of the priorities agreed to, and the actions taken to date.

Constraints/ Challenges	Agreed actions for WEROC in 2025	Progress to date
Escalating compliance requirements are placing increased pressure on already limited Shire resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review need for assistance with Public Health Plans, once State Health Plan is released. Request that James McGovern attend a meeting with the WEROC CEOs to discuss the possibility of conducting a compliance health check. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 13 August 2025, it was resolved that Councils would independently develop or review their own Public Health Plans. In 2025, a number of meetings were conducted with James McGovern and his colleagues at Civic Legal. As the proposed process did not align with the needs of all Shires, engagement with Civic Legal occurred on an individual basis. A meeting was held with the CEO of WALGA late in 2025 to discuss the option of WALGA offering shared resourcing arrangements on a fee for service basis.
There is no flow on benefit from large scale developments (e.g., mining & renewable energy) in the region	Await the release of the WALGA community benefit framework before taking further action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WA Government released a Draft Guideline on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects in mid-2025 and invited feedback. Individual Councils made submissions.
The lack of housing is a significant barrier to growth	Concentrate on the housing investigation already underway with the aim to have the work completed by August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WEROC workforce housing investigation has now been completed and an application to the Regional Housing Support Fund was submitted in late 2025.
Sustainability of childcare services	Childcare is still a priority but there is no clear way forward for WEROC to support this.	No action taken.
Tourism activation	Continue with current co-operative marketing initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEROC entered into an agreement with the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre to manage social media

		<p>accounts for the Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEROC has made contributions to several cooperative marketing campaigns to promote the trail.
Water	<p>Meet with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to discuss funding and opportunities for WEROC Councils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEROC were successful in obtaining a grant to undertake the development of water audits for all seven Shires. These are due for completion in mid-2026.

Executive Officer Comment:

The above outlines our progress towards the agreed priorities for WEROC in 2025. It is recommended that we now consider the next steps and identify any new or emerging priorities to focus on for 2026.

Recommendation:

That the WEROC Board discuss and agree on priorities for 2026.

Comments from the meeting:

- It was mutually agreed that the current focus areas of waste, water, housing and roads should continue to be WEROC’s priorities for 2026.
- It was questioned if there has been a response from WALGA since the meeting in December 2025. The Executive Officer advised that a follow up email was sent to Kirsty Martin, Executive Manager Member Services, in early February and it was advised at that time that they have been looking into the request. Another follow up email will be sent.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mr. Bryan Close

Seconded: Ms. Emily Ryan

That the priorities for WEROC in 2026 will be waste, water, roads, and housing.

CARRIED

7.2 Joint ROC Forum

Author: Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose.

Attachments: Nil

Consultation: NA

Financial Implications: NA

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

Background:

The Made in the Eastern Wheatbelt Forum brought together the three Regional Organisations of Councils from the Eastern Wheatbelt, along with key State government and industry representatives, to identify common priorities and start conversations about how to work together on practical solutions.

Executive Officer Comment:

Following the forum, it is recommended that the Board discuss general thoughts, key reflections and agree on next steps (if required).

Recommendation:

That the matter be discussed.

Comments from the meeting:

- The short, sharp format of the forum was praised.
- It was suggested that this be made an annual event but next time it would be good to showcase what we have done/are doing rather than just what our challenges are.
- Particular challenges around housing were discussed with land availability being a major blocker to development. Tim Reed from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage recommended reaching out to Sean Brown to discuss these challenges.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Ms. Emily Ryan

Seconded: Ms. Alison Harris

That Sean Brown from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage be invited to the next WEROC meeting.

CARRIED

8. PROJECT UPDATES

8.1 Housing

Attachment 2: WEROC Inc. Application to the Regional Housing Support Fund

The WEROC workforce housing investigation which commenced in early 2025 is close to completion. The Wheatbelt Development Commission are currently finalising the town action plans, which will conclude the project.

An application to the Regional Housing Support Fund was made on 24 December 2025. As discussed at the WEROC Inc. Board meeting on 27 November 2025, the application was for the full cost to build the 34 dwellings identified over the six Shires.

The information and evidence that has been generated through this process is the starting point for securing funding for housing development. Other ROCs and Shires that have gone through this process have progressed further and undertaken additional work to be in a shovel ready position.

Comments from the meeting:

- At the ROC forum, a representative from the Department of Housing advised that they can review the completed workforce housing investigation to identify any existing programs that may support housing development, or to outline any additional information required to meet funding criteria. It was agreed that progressing discussions with the Department of Housing is worthwhile.

8.2 Strategic Waste Management

Attachment 3: WEROC Waste Management Review

The WEROC CEOs met with Ashley Fisher, Director of Avon Waste on Thursday 5 February 2026.

A summary of the recommendations for WEROC Shires is provided below. Mr. Fishers full presentation is provided as Attachment 3.

- Bruce Rock:
 - A recycling education program is recommended. Avon Waste can assist with this in consultation with Veolia.
 - There is potential to add more bulk recycling bins in town.
 - When the Bruce Rock landfill site reaches capacity, the Shire may need to consider introducing a transfer station (minimum of 14 bins) and waste being transported to a regional facility (Merredin or Bending).
- Cunderdin:

- The current monthly kerbside recycling collection is unique – most have a fortnightly collection. As a result, resident participation is quite low. More frequent collection would add a cost to the Shire but be offset by reduced tipping fees at Northam. Recycling education is also recommended.
- Avon Waste have noticed a considerable increase in volumes of waste since the transfer station in Cunderdin became unmanned.
- There is an option to have more cardboard only bins at the Cunderdin transfer station.
- Kellerberrin:
 - The introduction of kerbside recycling collection is recommended. There is high use of the bulk recycling bins in town and kerbside collection would reduce waste being sent to landfill.
 - Kellerberrin are interested in adding e-waste and mattress recycling.
- Tammin:
 - Currently do not have kerbside recycling collection. This could be introduced.
 - If the landfill site is decommissioned, a transfer station similar to what has been built in Corrigin or Kondinin would be a suitable option for Tammin. Waste would likely need to be transported to Merredin.
- Merredin:
 - A fresh round of recycling education is recommended.
 - Front lift bins at the gate could be installed to limit rubbish being taken to the tip face.
 - If Merredin are to become a regional waste facility a weighbridge needs to be installed to allow accurate capturing of waste entering the site for billing purposes.
- Westonia:
 - Westonia does not have a kerbside recycling collection. This could be introduced.
 - Similar to Tammin, if the landfill site is decommissioned a transfer station could be built and waste transported to the Southern Cross landfill.
- Yilgarn
 - Twice monthly kerbside recycling collection at the moment. It is recommended that this goes to fortnightly for consistency. A recycling education program is also recommended.
 - The addition of a weighbridge is recommended for more accurate recording of waste entering the site.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer advised that the Western Metropolitan Regional Council is working on a quote to provide a waste education program for WEROC Shires. The quote will be circulated for consideration once it is received.

8.3 Roads

The WEROC CEOs met with Joanne Vinci (Senior Policy Adviser – Roads, Office of the Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA) and Belinda Stopic (Acting Executive Director Infrastructure Delivery) on Thursday 5 February 2026 via Teams. A summary of the discussion is provided below.

- A consultant has been commissioned to look at overtaking lanes on the Great Eastern Highway. They have identified that nine are needed between Northam and Merredin. The top four priorities are as follows:
 - Two between Northam and Meckering (one east and one west bound)

- One west bound between Kellerberrin and Hines Hill
- One east bound between Meckering and Cunderdin
- These four overtaking lanes are in Main Roads 10-year plan, and they are pushing for funding.
- The Great Eastern Highway is identified as one of the top priorities for Main Roads WA.
- It was questioned what the State response is to the Avon West project. They were not able to provide any comment.
- Ms. Stopic agreed to travel out to the region with Mohammad Siddiqui, Main Roads Regional Director for the Wheatbelt, and meet with the Shires to discuss specific concerns.
- Ms. Stopic will also follow up on a blackspot funding submission for the Shackleton Road, which was raised as an additional concern.

Comments from the meeting:

- The Executive Officer advised that no correspondence has been received from Belinda Stopic or Joanne Vinci since the meeting on 5 February. It was suggested that a further meeting be scheduled to obtain an update on the agreed action items.
- The meeting summary will be shared with Lachlan Hunters office so that he is aware of the discussion that has taken place.

8.4 Marketing/Promotion

WEROC as a partner organisation to the Wheatbelt Co-operative Marketing Group, contributes financially toward cooperative marketing initiatives in conjunction with Roe Tourism, NEW Travel, Pioneers Pathway and Australia’s Golden Outback. Part of this funding (\$2,200) is being used toward a “For the Road Trippers Campaign”, which will include drive trail information on the road trippers landing page, editorial content in the Sunday Times Explore Your WAY pull out, social paid ads, Australia’s golden outback member emails. The campaign will launch in February.

In addition to the co-operative marketing campaign, WEROC have co-contributed to a stand at the Perth caravan and camping show which is taking place from 19 to 22 March 2026. The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre will be attending in-person to represent the Eastern Wheatbelt self-drive trail.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

NIL

10. OTHER MATTERS (FOR NOTING)

10.1 Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program 2026

The Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program for 2026 is scheduled for Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 March 2026.

At the WEROC Inc. Board meeting held on 27 November 2025, discussion was held around cultural engagement activities conducted during the visit. Mr. Raymond Griffiths advised that he would be meeting with representatives from the University of Notre Dame to discuss the Kellerberrin activity specifically.

Mr. Griffiths provided a meeting summary (via email) on 28 November 2025. The principal outcome of the discussion was that Notre Dame agreed to seek clarification from the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation on appropriate cultural representation for the area.

10.2 Disaster Ready Fund

WEROC have discussed applying to the next round of the Disaster Ready Fund for a high output portable generator and portable mobile phone tower. Round 4 is expected to open in early-to-mid 2026.

For the Boards interest, the successful projects from Round 3 were announced on 17 November 2025 and are listed below.

Successful Project	Amount of Funding Received
Mitigate the risk of seawater inundation of South Carnarvon	\$5,582,831
Kwinana power up project (mobile trailer mounted generator) and electrical connection upgrades at evacuation centre	\$30,816
Jamukurnu-Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation disaster resilience planning	\$300,000
Karajarri Ranger capacity building to mitigate extreme wildfire risks	\$895,114
HeatWatch - Department of Health (WA)	\$246,752
Flash flood warning system in Karijini National Park	\$228,785
Establishment of a remotely piloted natural hazard monitoring capability (DFES)	\$1,221,000
Shire of York - Emergency Evacuation Centre backup power generator upgrade	\$134,500
DFES and Main Roads Multi Hazard Detection Network (Pilbara & Kimberley)	\$1,135,606
City wide data collection and flood modelling (Fremantle)	\$399,000

10.3 Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance

Attachment 4: Pre-budget Submission

The Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance commissioned Econosis to conduct a cost-benefit-analysis on the rural generalist hub model, to support a pre-budget submission requesting a commonwealth sustainability payment disbursed as a pilot program at \$6m per annum, with eligibility limited to the MM6–MM7 local governments in the Alliance. A copy of the submission is provided as Attachment 4.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2026 is as follows:

WEROC Inc. Board Meetings

Date	Host Council
Monday 16 February 2026	NA – being held at the conclusion of the joint ROC forum
Wednesday 6 May 2026	Bruce Rock
Wednesday 29 July 2026	Merredin
Wednesday 23 September 2026	Tammin
Thursday 26 November 2026	Kellerberrin

The next meeting will take place in Bruce Rock on 6 May 2026.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 2.16pm.