

# **AGENDA**

# **Ordinary Council Meeting**

To be held in Council Chambers Corner King & Barrack Streets, Merredin Tuesday, 24 October 2023 Commencing 4.00pm



# **Notice of Meeting**



Dear President and Councillors,

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Merredin will be held on Tuesday, 24 October 2023 in the Council Chambers, corner of King and Barrack Streets, Merredin. The format of the day will be:

4:00pm

**Council Meeting** 

LISA CLACK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
20 October 2023

### **DISCLAIMER**

### PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER BEFORE PROCEEDING:

Statements or decisions made at this meeting should not be relied or acted on by an applicant or any other person until they have received written notification from the Shire. Notice of all approvals, including planning and building approvals, will be given to applicants in writing. The Shire of Merredin expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damages suffered by a person who relies or acts on statements or decisions made at a Council or Committee meeting before receiving written notification from the Shire.

The advice and information contained herein is given by and to Council without liability or responsibility for its accuracy. Before placing any reliance on this advice or information, a written inquiry should be made to Council giving entire reasons for seeking the advice or information and how it is proposed to be used.

Common Acronyms Used in this Document			
СВР	Corporate Business Plan		
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc		
CEO	Chief Executive Officer		
CSP	Community Strategic Plan		
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre		
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO		
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services		
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services		
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services		
EMS&C	Executive Manager Strategy & Community		
ES	Executive Support Officer		
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone		
GO	Governance Officer		
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services		
LPS	Local Planning Scheme		
МСО	Media and Communications Officer		
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MP	Manager of Projects		
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre		
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan		
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association		
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils		



# **October Ordinary Council Meeting**

1.	Official Opening	4
2.	Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence	4
3.	Swearing In of Councillors Elect	4
4.	Election of President	4
5.	Election of the Deputy President	6
6.	Draw for the Position at the Council Table	7
7.	Public Question Time	7
8.	Election of Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Committees	7
8.1	Shire of Merredin Audit Committee	8
8.2	Eric Hind Scholarship Committee	9
8.3	Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)	10
8.4	Western Australian Local Government Association Great Eastern Country Zone (GECZ)	11
8.5	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC)	13
8.6	Wheatbelt North (WBN) Regional Road Group (RRG)	15
8.7	Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) Inc	16
9.	Disclosure of Interest	16
10.	Applications of Leave of Absence	16
11.	Petitions and Presentations	16
12.	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings	17
13.	Announcements by the Person Presiding without Discussion	17
14.	Matters for which the Meeting may be Closed to the Public	17
15.	Receipt of Minutes of Meetings	17
16.	Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council Consideration	18
17.	Officer's Reports – Development Services	19
18.	Officer's Reports – Engineering Services	19
19.	Officer's Reports – Corporate and Community Services	19
20.	Officer's Reports – Administration	20
20.1	Wheatbelt Development Commission Board – Local Government Nominations	20
21.	Motions of which Previous Notice has been given	24
22.	Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given	24
23.	Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision	24
24.	Matters Behind Closed Doors	24
25.	Closure	24

## Shire of Merredin Ordinary Council Meeting 4:00pm Tuesday, 24 October 2023



### 1. Official Opening

### 2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

### **Councillors:**

Cr D Crook

Cr M Simmonds

Councillors Elect:

To be determined by the election to be

held 21 October 2023.

Staff:

L Clack CEO
A Tawfik EMES
C Brindley-Mullen EMS&C
L Boehme EMCS
P Zenni EMDS
M Wyatt EO

Members of the Public:

**Apologies:** 

**Approved Leave of Absence:** 

### 3. Swearing In of Councillors Elect

Section 2.29 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998* requires a person elected to the office of Councillor to make a declaration in the prescribed form before acting in that office. The declaration must be made before an Authorised Person under the Oaths, Affidavits and Statutory Declarations Act 2005.

The declaration will be made on the prescribed form, which will be provided to newly elected Councillors prior to the making of the declaration.

### 4. Election of President

Schedule 2.3, Division 1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that an election be conducted for the position of Shire President as the first item of business at the first meeting of Council following an ordinary local government election. The Chief Executive Officer is to preside at the meeting until the office of Shire President is filled and is to act as Returning Officer for the electoral process. The election must be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

### The election will be conducted as follows:

- 1. Nomination forms have been previously provided to all Councillors to assist with the election process and, where possible, should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Chief Executive Officer will, however, announce the closing time for the submission of nominations at the commencement of the meeting and will continue to receive nomination forms up until that time.
- 2. If a Councillor is nominated by another Councillor, then the Chief Executive Officer is not to accept the nomination unless the nominee has confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer, either verbally or in writing, that he or she is willing to be nominated for the office.
- 3. If more than one nomination is received, then Councillors will be required to vote on the matter by secret ballot, as if they were electors voting at an election. Positions on the ballot paper will be drawn at the meeting and ballot papers will be compiled and distributed at that time. Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
- **4.** Once all votes have been cast, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast at an election.
- **5.** For the purposes of clarity, a valid vote can only be cast by in person, so remote attendees cannot vote.
- **6.** As soon as is practicable after the result of the election is known, the Chief Executive Officer will declare and give notice of the result.
- 7. If there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in the count, the count is to be discontinued and the meeting adjourned for not more than seven (7) days. At the resumption of the meeting, the voting process will recommence.
- **8.** At this point, any nomination previously submitted may be withdrawn and new nominations will be received by the Chief Executive Officer up to a specified time.
- **9.** If there is still more than one nomination for the position then Councillors will be required to vote again by secret ballot. New ballot papers will be prepared and distributed at that time and Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
- **10.** Once all votes have been cast for a second time, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast in an election.
- **11.** If there is still an equality of votes following the second count, then in accordance with schedule 4.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 77A of the *Local Government (Election) Regulations 1997*, the Chief Executive Officer will draw lots to determine which candidate is elected.

The result will be declared by the Chief Executive Officer. The successful candidate will be called upon to make their declaration of office in accordance with s2.29 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*, and will then assume the Chair as Presiding Member for the remainder of the meeting.

### 5. Election of the Deputy President

Schedule 2.3, Division 2 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires that an election be conducted for the position of Deputy Shire President as the next item of business after the election of the Shire President at the first meeting of Council following an ordinary local government election.

The Chief Executive Officer is to preside at the meeting until the office of Shire President is filled and is to act as Returning Officer for the electoral process.

The election must be conducted by the President, (the Chief Executive Officer conducts the election in the absence of the President) in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

The election will be conducted as follows:

- Nomination forms have been previously provided to all Councillors to assist with the
  election process and, where possible, should be lodged with the Chief Executive
  Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Chief Executive Officer will,
  however, announce the closing time for the submission of nominations at the
  commencement of the meeting and will continue to receive nomination forms up
  until that time.
- 2. If a Councillor is nominated by another Councillor, then the Chief Executive Officer is not to accept the nomination unless the nominee has confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer, either verbally or in writing, that he or she is willing to be nominated for the office.
- 3. If more than one nomination is received, then Councillors will be required to vote on the matter by secret ballot, as if they were electors voting at an election. Positions on the ballot paper will be drawn at the meeting and ballot papers will be compiled and distributed at that time. Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
- **4.** Once all votes have been cast, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast at an election.
- **5.** As soon as is practicable after the result of the election is known, the person conducting the election will declare and give notice of the result.
- **6.** If there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in, the count is to be discontinued and, not more than 7 days later, a special meeting of the Council is to be held.
- 7. Any nomination previously submitted may be withdrawn and new nominations made before the special meeting is held. If there is still more than one nomination for the position then Councillors will be required to vote again by secret ballot. New ballot papers will be prepared and distributed at that time and Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
- **8.** Once all votes have been cast for a second time, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast in an election.

- **9.** If there is still an equality of votes following the second count, then in accordance with Schedule 4.1 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 77A of the Local Government (Election) Regulations 1997, the person conducting the election will draw lots to determine which candidate is elected.
- **10.** The result will be declared by the person conducting the election.

### 6. Decision or Draw for the Position at the Council Table

Council's Standing Orders Local Law Clause 8.2 states:

### "Members to occupy own seats

- (1) At the first meeting held after each election day, the Council shall allot a position at the Council table to each member.
- (2) Each member is to occupy his or her allotted position at each Council meeting."

Either a decision by consensus, or a draw will be conducted for the position at the Council table. Existing Councillors may wish to retain their existing seating position.

### 7. Public Question Time

Members of the public may submit questions up to 2pm on the day of the meeting by emailing <a href="mailto:ea@merredin.wa.gov.au">ea@merredin.wa.gov.au</a>.

### 8. Election of Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Committees

The only committees that Council will be discussing at this meeting will include committees that require immediate appointment. The remainder of Council appointment to Committees will be brought back to a later meeting for discussion and consideration.

There are two types of Committees for consideration.

### **Committees of Council**

In accordance with section 5.10 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a Councillor is entitled to be a member on any committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum. Additionally, the President is entitled to be a member on any committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum. The CEO is entitled to be on (or appoint a representative to) any committee having employee representation.

In respect the Deputy Delegates, Council protocol appoints the Councillors who are not members to the committee as Deputy Delegates to enable their attendance and participation in committee meetings to ensure quorums.

### **External Committee Representation**

Appointment of Council representatives to External Committees will be in accordance with each appropriate constitution, and will have regard to the Council endorsement of the selected representative. As such, representation will be voted on by resolution of Council.

Council Policy 1.19 – Election of Committees and Representatives is applicable.

8.1 Shire of	Merredin Audit Committee		
<b>Current Membe</b>	rs: Cr Flockart, Cr Patroni, Cr Crook, Cr McKenzie, Cr Manning		
<b>Deputies:</b>	All other Councillors		
Membership:	5 Councillors		
Quorum:	3 Councillors		
Purpose:	Regulation 16 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 states:		
	"An audit committee —		
	(a) is to provide guidance and assistance to the local government —		
	(i) as to the carrying out of its functions in relation to audits carried out under Part 7 of the Act; and		
	<ul><li>(ii) as to the development of a process to be used to select and appoint a person to be an auditor; and</li></ul>		
	(b) may provide guidance and assistance to the local government as to $-\!\!\!\!\!-$		
	(i) matters to be audited; and		
	(ii) the scope of audits; and		
	(iii) its functions under Part 6 of the Act; and		
	<ul><li>(iv) the carrying out of its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management; and</li></ul>		
	(c) is to review a report given to it by the CEO under regulation $17(3)$ (the CEO's report) and is to $-$		
	<ul><li>(i) report to the council the results of that review; and</li></ul>		
	(ii) give a copy of the CEO's report to the council."		
Meeting Cycle:	At least once annually to recommend adoption of the Annual Report and Compliance Audit Return, and at least once every three years to recommend adoption of the CEO's Report.		
	Voting Requirements		
Simple M	lajority Absolute Majority		
	Officer's Recommendation		
Councillors	ee with sections 5.10, 5.11A and 7.1A of the Local Government Act 1995,, and appointed as delegates to the Shire of Merredin Audit Committee, with		
	ors appointed as Deputies.		

### 8.2 **Eric Hind Scholarship Committee Current Members:** Cr Billing **Deputies:** All other Councillors Membership: 1 Councillor and 2 community members Quorum: 3 Members To award the Eric Hind Music Scholarship as per Council Policy 3.10 **Purpose: Meeting Cycle:** Once annually (if required) **Voting Requirements** Simple Majority **Absolute Majority** Officer's Recommendation That, in accordance with sections 5.10 and 5.11A of the Local Government Act 1995, be appointed as delegate to the Eric Hind Scholarship Councillor \_ Committee, with all other Councillors appointed as Deputies.

### 8.3 Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) **Current Members:** Cr Van Der Merwe All other Councillors **Deputies:** Membership Shire of Merredin Merredin SES **Agencies: WA Police** Main Roads WA Department of Fire & Water Corporation **Emergency Services** Department of Communities Western Power Department of Primary Primary Health, Eastern Industries & Regional Wheatbelt Development Department of Biodiversity, Merredin College Conservation & Attractions St John Ambulance St Mary's School, Merredin WA Country Health Services Merredin Residential College Merredin Volunteer Fire & Merredin Bushfire Brigades Rescue N/A Quorum: Regulation 39 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* states: **Purpose:** "The functions of a local emergency management committee are, in relation to its district or the area for which it is established -(a) to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district; (b) to liaise with public authorities and other persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and (c) to carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations." **Meeting Cycle:** Quarterly **Voting Requirements** Simple Majority Absolute Majority Officer's Recommendation That, in accordance with section 5.10s and 5.11A of the Local Government Act 1995, be appointed as Chair and Delegate to the Shire of Merredin Councillor

Local Emergency Management Committee, with all other Councillors appointed as

Deputies.

8.4 Western Austr (GECZ)	alian Local Government Association Great Eastern Country Zone	
Attachments	Attachment 10.5A – Email regarding Election of Zone Delegates and State Councillors  Attachment 10.5B – Elected Member Prospectus	
<b>Current Members:</b>	Cr McKenzie, Cr Crook	
Deputies:	Cr Patroni	
Membership:	Shires of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Kellerberrin, Kondinin, Koorda, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Nungarin, Tammin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn	
Quorum:	8	
Purpose:	1. To provide a united voice for Local Governments in the GECZ;	
	<ol><li>To work collectively to enhance the sustainable social, environmental and economic development of the GECZ at strategic and project levels;</li></ol>	
	3. To promote the profile of Local Government within the region encompassed within the GECZ;	
	4. To speak on behalf of Local Governments in the GECZ;	
	5. To elect, nominate and appoint Committees and representatives of the Zone to other organisations,	
	6. To enter into agreements, formal or informal, with organisations having similar aims and objectives,	
	7. To represent the views of Local Governments within the GECZ at the State Council of the Association;	
	8. To do all and any such other things as in the opinion of the Zone may conveniently be carried on by the Zone or which promote or assist or are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects or any of them, or anything considered beneficial to the Zone; and	
	9. To use the property and income of the Zone solely for the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Zone. No part of the property or income of the Zone may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Zone, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.	
Meeting Cycle:	GECZ Committee and Executive Committee meetings, generally on the Thursday prior to State Council meetings or as otherwise agreed from time to time	

	Voting Requirements			
Simple N	Лаjority	Absolute Majority		
	Officer's Recommendati	on		
That Council ENDORSE, that Councillor and Councillor be appointed as delegates to the Western Australian Local Government Association Great				
Eastern Country Zone, with Councillor appointed as Deputy.				

### 8.5 Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC)

Current Members: Cr McKenzie, CEO

Deputies: Nil

**Membership:** 2 members from each of the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin,

Merredin, Westonia and Yilgarn

Quorum: 3

**Purpose:** 1. The Objects of WEROC shall be:

- (a) To effectively represent the businesses, community and local governments of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region in its broadest sense and to promote the economic, cultural and environmental development of the region;
- (b) To take an active interest in all matters of the moment affecting the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region with the view to improving, promoting and protecting the interests of Members and the Community;
- (c) To establish a rapport with civic, business, ethnic and other sectors of the Community;
- (d) Be recognised as representing and presenting the view of community to the relevant agencies and communities of the participating Members;
- (e) To keep Members informed on important matters affecting the economic, cultural and environmental development of the region;
- (f) To consider and respond to and advocate the amendment of Commonwealth or State legislation, regulations and policies and the local laws, regulations and policies of local government bodies and other corporations directly or indirectly affecting the interests of the Central Page 5 of 16 Eastern Wheatbelt Region and for such purposes to take all such steps or proceedings as may be expedient;
- (g) To gain greater recognition of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region;
- (h) To encourage Government and private enterprise to support the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region;
- (i) To deliver projects considered beneficial to the whole of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region.

Meeting Cycle: WEROC Council & Executive alternate monthly meetings

	Voting Requirements	
Simple Majority		Absolute Majority
	Officer's Comment	

As per the WEROC Inc. Constitution representatives to the WEROC Board are to be nominated every two years by each Member Local Government and the Executive Officer must be notified of these nominations in writing. Representatives must be either a sitting Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer. There is no provision in the new constitution for deputies to be appointed.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council ENDORSE that the President, Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Lisa Clack be appointed as delegates to the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils.

Deputy.

### 8.6 Wheatbelt North (WBN) Regional Road Group (RRG) **Current Members:** Cr Patroni **Deputies:** Cr Manning Membership: Shires of Chittering, Cunderdin, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Dowerin, Gingin, Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Moora, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Northam, Nungarin, Tammin, Toodyay, Trayning, Victoria Plains, Westonia, Wyalkatchem, Wongan-Ballidu, Yilgarn and York Quorum: N/A The WBN RRG is provided with State funding from a number of **Purpose:** categories contained within the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement with the RRG able to prioritise, allocate and approve its funding to specific local road projects. **Meeting Cycle:** Twice annually **Voting Requirements** Simple Majority Absolute Majority Officer's Recommendation That Council ENDORSE that Councillor \_\_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as delegate to the Wheatbelt North Regional Road Group with Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ appointed as

### 8.7 **Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) Inc Current Members:** Cr McKenzie **Deputies:** CEO Membership: 1 person resident in and appointed by the Council in the each of the following Shires - Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn. Quorum: 50% of membership plus 1 1. To capture economic benefit in the Wheatbelt by providing **Purpose:** older people with the necessary services and infrastructure to remain living in their community of interest; 2. To provide housing for an ageing population in the CEACA Region; 3. To secure funding from various sources for the construction of housing; 4. To manage the housing across the Region, including its tenants and sale; 5. To maintain the housing constructed in the Region; and 6. To ensure the ongoing viability and increase the number of accommodation units across the Region as required. **Meeting Cycle:** Quarterly with Executive Committee Meetings held within a similar timeframe, or as required. **Voting Requirements** Simple Majority **Absolute Majority** Officer's Recommendation \_\_\_\_ be appointed as delegate to the Central That Council ENDORSE, Councillor \_ East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) Inc with the CEO, Ms Lisa Clack appointed as Deputy. 9. **Disclosure of Interest** 10. Applications of Leave of Absence

### 11. Petitions and Presentations

Nil

12.	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings		
12.1	Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023		
40.0	Attachment 12.1A		
12.2	Special Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023  Attachment 12.2A		
	Voting Requirements		
	Simple Majority Absolute Majority		
	Officer's Recommendation		
That th	e following Minutes be confirmed as true and accurate records of proceedings;		
1.	Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023; and		
2.	Special Council Meeting held 17 October 2023.		
13.	Announcements by the Person Presiding without Discussion		
14.	Matters for which the Meeting may be Closed to the Public		
Nil			
15.	Receipt of Minutes of Meetings		
15.1	Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2023.		
15.2	Attachment 15.1A  Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023.		
10.1	Attachment 15.2A		
	Voting Requirements		
	Simple Majority Absolute Majority		
	Officer's Recommendation		

### That Council;

- 1. RECEIVE the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2023; and
- 2. RECEIVE the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023.

16.	Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council Consideration			
		Voting Requirements		
	Simple N	Alajority Absolute Majority		
		Audit Committee Recommendation		
That Council NOTES the quarterly Reg 17 and Risk Action Plan Progress Report for July 2023 as presented in Attachment 6.1A of the Audit Committee Meeting.				
		Voting Requirements		
	Simple N	Alajority Absolute Majority		
		Audit Committee Recommendation		

That Council NOTES the quarterly Reg 17 and Risk Action Plan Progress Report for October 2023 as presented in Attachment 6.1A of the Audit Committee Meeting.

### 17. Officer's Reports – Development Services

Nil

18. Officer's Reports – Engineering Services

Nil

19. Officer's Reports – Corporate and Community Services

Nil

### 20. Officer's Reports – Administration

### 20.1 Wheatbelt Development Commission Board – Local Government Nominations

# Administration Responsible Officer: Lisa Clack, CEO Author: Meg Wyatt, EO Legislation: Local Government Act 1995 File Reference: GR/17/10 Disclosure of Interest: Nil Attachments: Nil

	Purpose of Report	
Executiv	e Decision	Legislative Requirement

For Council to endorse that the decision of nominating two Elected Member for consideration by the Minister for Regional Development as Board Members (Local Government) of the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) and allow the decision to be made out of session by consensus, once more information is provided.

# Background

The WDC Board nominations for two Local Government representative vacancies on its Board, will open on 24 October 2023 and close at 4:00pm on 4 December 2023.

The WDC drives strategic partnerships that deliver jobs growth and maximises leverage from private and government investment. Details of the WDC's purpose and priorities can be found at www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au.

In accordance with the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*, nominees for the vacancies must be members of the Council of a Local Government in the region and are to be nominated by Local Governments in the region.

All Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region will be invited to nominate up to two Councillors, who are willing and able to be candidates, for appointment. The Commission will be seeking nominees from highly motivated and enthusiastic people, with the following experience:

- Understanding of key issues impacting the development of the Region;
- Demonstrated involvement in the economic and/or social development of the Region; and
- The ability to work cooperatively to achieve agreed goals across a wide range of issues and stakeholders.

The Minister for Regional Development, Hon Don Punch MLA will make the appointments to the Board after consultation with WA State Cabinet.

There are 7 members on the Board, 6 appointed by the Minister for Regional Development through this and other processes, and the WDC's Chief Executive Officer as an ex-officio, voting member.

The Board is responsible for strategic direction, discussion of policy issues and organisational performance, whilst the CEO is responsible for the operation of the WDC.

The Board meets bi-monthly in various regional locations. The dates for 2023 are currently being set. An agenda is provided at least a week prior to these scheduled meetings.

All meals and accommodation are provided. There is a standard sitting fee and travel costs are covered for eligible board members.

A range of material is sent out, often for general information between meetings to keep board members informed. Guest speakers attend board meetings and cover a range of topics relevant to the Wheatbelt.

The Local Government nominees must be endorsed by the Council of which they are currently a member, hence Council may wish to nominate up to 2 Councillors for a position on the WDC Board.

### Comment

Representing the interests of Merredin specifically, and the Eastern Wheatbelt generally, is seen as important particularly in the current climate of cost-shifting to local government, reduced services and funding, and the apparent lack of interest from a State level in the region.

At its November 2021 meeting Council endorsed the nomination of Mrs Julie Flockart as an Elected Member to the WDC Board for consideration by the then Minister (CMRef 82834). Given the complex nature of Development Commission business nominees which are standing board members are usually preferred to ensure business continuity for the board of the Commission.

As the Administration do not currently have any further details including the application forms to provide to Council it will be difficult for Councillors to consider whether they would like to be nominated for a position on the Board. Further details will be sent out to the Administration when the nomination period commences on 24 October 2023, due to this the Administration is recommending that Council allow the decision of who to nominate to be discussed and decided at a future briefing session once Council has been provided with all the information. The resolution proposes the Shire President be authorised to endorse the nomination once this discussion is held.

Nominations close prior to the next confirmed Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> December, which is why this endorsement is sought to confirm a candidate out of session. Council can discuss interested candidates at a briefing session with the Shire President then authorised to endorse the nomination.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

**Strategic Implications** 

Ø Strategic Community Plan

Theme: 2. Economy and Growth

Service Area 2.1. Economic Development

Objective: 2.1.2. The Shire of Merredin is a place of choice for business

investment and for new residents settling to enjoy a balance

lifestyle and employment opportunities

Priorities and

Strategies for Change: Nil

**Sustainability Implications** 

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

Nil

**Financial Implications** 

Nil

		Voting Requirements	
Sim	Simple Majority		Absolute Majority
		Officers Recommendation	

### That Council;

- 1. NOTES the Shire of Merredin will submit a nomination for consideration by the Minister for Regional Development as a Board Member (Local Government) of the Wheatbelt Development Commission; and
- 2. AUTHORISES the Shire President to endorse the application of a suitable Shire of Merredin Councillor candidate once further information is provided by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to Council.

21. Motions of which Previous Notice has been given

Nil

22. Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given

Nil

23. Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision

Nil

24. Matters Behind Closed Doors

Nil

25. Closure

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