

Notice of Meeting



Dear President and Councillors,

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Merredin will be held on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 in the Council Chambers, corner of King and Barrack Streets, Merredin. The format of the day will be:

2:00pm Briefing Session

4:00pm Council Meeting

CODI BRINDLEY-MULLEN
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
12 September 2025

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	
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CP	Council Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DSO	Development Services Officer
EO	Executive Officer
EMCS	Executive Manager Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager Development Services
EMIS	Executive Manager Infrastructure Services
EMS&C	Executive Manager Strategy & Community
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
GO	Governance Officer
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
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils



September Ordinary Council Meeting

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Shire of Merredin
Ordinary Council Meeting
4:00pm Tuesday, 16 September 2025



1. Official Opening

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2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr D Crook	President
Cr R Manning	Deputy President
Cr B Anderson	
Cr H Billing	
Cr L O'Neill	
Cr P Van Der Merwe	

Staff:

C Brindley-Mullen	A/CEO
L Boehme	EMCS
B Wall	EMIS
R Cahill	TO
K Ornig	EA

Members of the Public:

Apologies:

Approved Leave of Absence: C Watts - CEO

3. Public Question Time

Members of the public may submit questions up to 2pm on the day of the meeting by emailing ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.

4. Disclosure of Interest

5. Applications of Leave of Absence

6. Petitions and Presentations

7. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 August 2025
Attachment 7.1A

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 29 August 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

8. Announcements by the Person Presiding without Discussion

9. Matters for which the Meeting may be Closed to the Public

10. Receipt of Minutes of Meetings

- 10.1 Minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held 18 August 2025.
Attachment 10.1A

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation

That Council RECEIVE the minutes of the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held 18 August 2025.

11. Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council Consideration

12. Officer's Reports – Development Services

12.1 Reserve 18613 – Proposed Water Corporation Easement

Development Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Brian Wall, EMIS
Author:	Xinyi Zhao, DSO Paul Bashall – Planwest (WA) PTY Ltd
Legislation:	Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No 6.
File Reference:	A9567
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 12.1A – Water Corporation Correspondence Attachment 12.1B – Water Corporation Map

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to provide formal consent to the Water Corporation (WC) for the installation of a new section of pipeline and creation of an easement on Reserve 18613.

Background

The Shire of Merredin (the Shire) has received correspondence from the WC seeking consent from the Shire for the proposed installation of a new section of pipeline and the subsequent creation of an easement over the pipeline once installed. These works will improve the reliability of the Goldfields & Agricultural Region Water Supply Scheme (the Scheme).

Reserve 18613 is Crown land vested in the Shire for the purpose of Public Utility under the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme no 6. (LPS).

Comment

The scheme supplied by the WC has played a vital role in sustaining residential, agricultural, and industrial activities across the region since its commissioning in 1903. To improve the reliability of the Scheme, a new water main is required to replace a section of the existing water main. These upgrades are required to continue to support development, and to ensure a safe and reliable water supply in the Goldfields and agricultural region.

The WC are now seeking formal confirmation from the Shire with respect to the creation of the proposed easement which will enable WC personnel to install, access, maintain and protect the proposed new section of pipeline.

Impacts

Environmental

The proposed development is in proximity to residential dwellings. The WC should be reminded of its obligations to carry the proposed works in the most sensitive manner, especially in proximity to dwellings. A response to the WC should mention the fact that Council expects that rehabilitation works will include removal of building matter, leveling of soils, replacing landscaping, and fixing infrastructure that is damaged during construction (like roads etc).

Infrastructure and Asset Maintenance

The local government acknowledges the need to periodically maintain and replace essential infrastructure.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Compliance with the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No.6.

The land in question is located at Reserve 18613 its current purpose being Public Utility under the LPS. The proposed installation and operation of pipeline renewal and associated easement complement the existing use of the area.

Although the WC is not a government department, it performs the functions of a public utility and should therefore be exempt from being required to lodge a Development Approval (DA) application.

The reasons are that:

- a) Section 6 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* says that the Act should not interfere with public works, and
- b) the Deemed Provisions (cl 61 (1)) exempt 'Maintenance and repair works' - providing they are not within a heritage area.

The Deemed provisions are not clear regarding what 'repair works' means, so it is taken on face value and that it is not referring solely to residential repair works.

The request letter states that it has - or will - contact the owners where the works are on private land.

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan

Theme: 1. Community and Culture

Strategic Objective: 1.7 Statutory Compliance (Environmental Health, Building, Planning, Rangers)

Priorities Actions: Maintain the health, safety and well being of our community through application of regulatory process
1.7.1 Promote responsible strategic and statutory planning to meet current and future needs
1.7.5 Continue to provide regulatory services to the Shire to meet statutory obligations.

The proposal is consistent with the current as well as longer-term use of the area.

Sustainability Implications
Ø Strategic Resource Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk associated with this Item, as it may be perceived that the Shire is not acting upon information received in the best interest of the community. 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

No costs should be incurred by the Shire in consenting to the proposed pipeline replacement works being undertaken.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation

That Council:

1. AUTHORISE the creation of an easement over Reserve 18613 for the purpose of a pipeline easement;
2. REQUIRES the owners or occupiers of properties listed as sensitive use (such as dwellings) be contacted regarding any impact the works may have on those properties;
3. CONFIRM that all costs associated with the proposed works, easement creation and ongoing operation of the infrastructure are to be borne solely by the Water Corporation; and
4. CONFIRM that all costs associated with the rehabilitation of the land upon completion of the works are to be borne solely by the Water Corporation.

13. Officer's Reports – Engineering Services

13.1 MRWA Condition of Great Eastern Highway

Engineering Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Brian Wall, EMIS
Author:	As above
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 13.1A - Draft Letter to Main Roads WA

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

To seek Council's endorsement to forward a letter to Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) raising concerns regarding the current condition of the Great Eastern Highway between Northam and Merredin, and to request advice on what actions MRWA intends to take to ensure safety and efficiency along this transport corridor.

Background

Council and the community have expressed increasing concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of the Great Eastern Highway between Northam and Merredin. The highway is the primary freight and passenger route through the Eastern Wheatbelt and is vital for agricultural produce, freight logistics, and regional travel.

Observations and complaints have highlighted:

- Numerous potholes and pavement failures creating unsafe driving conditions.
- A rough road surface causing driver fatigue and vehicle wear.
- A lack of sufficient overtaking lanes leading to unsafe overtaking manoeuvres, particularly with heavy vehicle traffic.

The matter is of heightened importance given the continuing growth in truck traffic and the pending harvest season, which will place further pressure on the highway.

Comment

It is proposed that Council formally write to MRWA to highlight these issues and to request;

1. Immediate maintenance to address potholes and failed road sections;
2. Advice on longer-term plans for pavement renewal and highway upgrades;
3. Consideration for additional overtaking lanes to improve road safety; and
4. Confirmation of MRWA's priorities and timelines for improvements on this corridor.

The draft letter is provided as an attachment for Council's consideration.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan

Theme: 6. Transport and Networks

Strategic Objective: 6.1 Road Network. Maintain safe and efficient sealed road and transport networks, together with supporting infrastructure within the Shire of Merredin.

Priorities Actions: 6.1.4 Maintain safe and effective transport networks and associated civil infrastructure.

Sustainability Implications

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

Ensuring investment in regional road networks supports local economic activity and reduces safety risks.

Risk Implications

Failure to advocate for highway improvements increases risk of continued deterioration, road crashes, and negative economic impacts during freight and harvest periods. 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 direct financial implications to the Shire.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

	Officer's Recommendation
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That Council;

- 1. ENDORSE the draft letter to Main Roads Western Australia regarding the condition of the Great Eastern Highway between Northam and Merredin, as detailed in Attachment 13.1A; and**
- 2. AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to sign and forward the correspondence to Main Roads Western Australia.**

14. Officer's Reports – Corporate and Community Services

14.1 List of Accounts Paid – August 2025

Corporate Services SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Leah Boehme, EMCS
Author:	As above
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 14.1A - Payment Listing August 2025

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to receive the schedule of accounts paid for the month of August 2025.

Background

The attached list of accounts paid during the month of August 2025, under Delegated Authority, is provided for Council's information and endorsement.

Comment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

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

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan

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

Compliance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and to also give Council some direction regarding its management of finance over an extended period of time.

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

Officer's Recommendation

That Council RECEIVE the schedule of accounts paid during August 2025 as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totaling \$1,149,194.71 from the Merredin Shire Council Municipal bank account and \$0 from the Merredin Shire Council Trust bank account.

15. Officer's Reports – Administration

15.1 Status Report – August 2025

Administration SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT	
Responsible Officer:	Codi Brindley-Mullen, A/CEO
Author:	As Above
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 15.1A – Status Report – August 2025

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to consider the updated Status Report for August 2025.

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 Resolutions, 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.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Ø Council Plan

Theme: 4. Communication and Leadership
Strategic Objective: 4.5 Communication
Priorities Actions: 4.5.2.2 Provide regular opportunities for Councillors to be kept informed and provided timely and accurate information

Sustainability Implications

Ø Strategic Resource Plan

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

Officer's Recommendation

That Council RECEIVE the Status Report on Council Resolutions for August 2025.

16. Motions of which Previous Notice has been given

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

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

19. Matters Behind Closed Doors

20. Closure

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