

## 10.1 NEWROC Regional Precincts and Partnership Program Grant Application

Date of Report:	13 November 2023
File Ref:	4.3.8.2 North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC)
Officer's Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority

### **Purpose of Report**

To consider endorsing a grant application by NEWROC to the Federal Government's Regional Precincts and Partnership Program.

### **Background**

Member Councils and the NEWROC has identified the need to improve waste infrastructure and services in the district.

A number of NEWROC members have either identified the need to expand their current landfill sites or likely to need expansion or a new site in the future, as well as improvements to meet compliance.

Across the NEWROC, landfill sites are unmanned and with 24/7 public access. Some Shires provide a general bin pick up whilst others operate a general and recycling bin pick up.

A *Regional Landfill Strategy* was commissioned in 2020. Ask Waste Management completed the report. The NEWROC Council received the report and identified a preferred option going forward, that being option 4: Transfer stations in each Shire and one staffed Regional Landfill.

At that time, the Shire of Trayning resolved to support retaining the status quo, however the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer have continued to participate in the discussions as part of NEWROC.

NEWROC members including the Shire of Trayning Chief Executive Officer visited the Narembeen Waste Transfer Station in 2021 and requested information from ROEROC regarding their waste governance structure, infrastructure and fee arrangements (five waste transfer sites, one regional landfill).

Tip closure plans have been commissioned for Shires. Some of these plans have been completed. This is a necessary requirement under state legislation, regardless of this project.

Wyalkatchem was identified as a preferred site for a regional landfill and a capacity and site assessment was completed – the *Wyalkatchem Capacity Assessment Report*. The Shire of Wyalkatchem completed a DEWR assessment on the site as well to determine its 'fit' against site criteria and end of life expectancy.

The Shire of Wyalkatchem suggested NEWROC investigate alternative green field sites central to all members for further consideration.

Ask Waste Management completed a *Landfill Site Identification Report* in July 2023, which identified a number of sites that may be suitable for siting a regional landfill that could service the NEWROC region.

The Landfill Site Identification Report was received by the NEWROC Council.

To progress the waste project and improve each member Council's waste sites, the NEWROC is considering an application to the Regional Precincts funding. An outline of the funding is summarised below.

### **Regional Precincts and Partnership Program**

- Funding opened in August 2023 with a non-competitive process, can apply at any time.
- Objectives:
  - facilitate place-based approaches to planning, characterised by collaborative partnerships,
  - engaging in shared design, stewardship and accountability of planned outcomes,
  - provide targeted benefits related to productivity, equity and resilience for the people of regional, rural or remote Australia,
  - support community priorities for regional cities, rural or remote centres and areas, and
  - reflect the Government's approach to regional investment as outlined under the Regional Investment Framework.
- Outcomes (including but not limited to):
  - demonstrate the value of partnerships between governments, communities and businesses for effective planning, coordination and delivery of regional infrastructure,
  - develop and deliver regional precincts comprised of multiple infrastructure components, which provide benefits related to productivity, equity and resilience, and
  - contribute to the Australian Government's current policy priorities, including but not limited to Closing the Gap, transition to a net zero economy, Australia's emission reduction goals, social and affordable housing, and National Cultural Policy.
- What are Precincts? User defined, geographic area with specific shared need or theme. They will be located in renewal and growth areas in regional centres, regional corridors, regional cities etc
- Needs to be based on community need and demonstrated partnerships

The NEWROC intend to apply for Stream One: Precinct development and planning. Grants of between \$500,000 to \$5 million will be available for master planning, consultation, design, business cases and partnership establishment (\$500,000 - \$5million).

A summary of the grant and the NEWROC's eligibility against the criteria can be found in the NEWROC October 2023 Council minutes. This is a significant project for member Councils and requires additional planning and community consultation. Should the NEWROC be successful in stream one, the group may proceed to stream two of the Regional Precincts funding for precinct delivery, subject to each member Council's decision.

## **Statutory Environment**

DWER are the custodians of standards for the management of landfills in WA. A regional landfill will reduce the Council's risk of failing a landfill compliance test.

## **Consultation**

As per DWER policy and in alignment with the NEWROC objective to solve problems as a collective, NEWROC has been exploring scenarios to aggregate landfills to create a regional solution that results in less but larger and more efficiently run landfills.

Progress in recent times has been hampered by competing priorities, our inability to agree on a regional landfill site and funding constraints.

This matter was discussed during the recent NEWROC meeting in Bencubbin and it was resolved to explore making a funding application to the Federal Government's recently released Regional Precincts and Partnership Program.

To be successful the submission to the funds needs to be endorsed by each of NEWROC's member councils. It is intended that the preparation of a funding application submission be approved during NEWROC's next scheduled meeting on 28 November 2023.

## **Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications.

## **Financial Implications**

NEWROC will be required to contribute a cash and in-kind contribution towards the grant application. This will be resourced from the NEWROC, not individual member Councils.

## **Strategic Implications**

The Shire of Trayning Strategic Community & Corporate Business Plan includes the following strategic action:

*3.3.1 Work with NEWROC to explore opportunities to improve waste management and establish regional landfill*

Funding through the Federal Government's Regional Precincts and Partnership Program would enable this work to progress.

## **Environmental Implications**

There are no direct environmental implications in applying for grant funding.

## **Social Implications**

There are no direct social implications.

**Officer Recommendation**

That the Shire of Trayning supports the NEWROC to apply for Regional Precincts Funding for waste management planning.