



**North Eastern Wheatbelt
Regional Organisation of Councils**

Council Meeting

Tuesday 2 December 2025

Mukinbudin Recreation Centre

MEETING

9.30am Morning Tea
10am Council Meeting

www.newroc.com.au

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ANNUAL CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MONTH	ACTIVITY	MEETING
January		Executive
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year) 👤 Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan 	Council
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 WDC attendance to respond to NEWROC project priorities 👤 Submit priority projects to WDC, Regional Development and WA Planning 	Executive
April	👤 NEWROC Budget Preparation	Council
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 NEWROC Draft Budget Presented 👤 NEWROC Executive Officer Contract/Hourly Rate Review (current contract expires June 2027) 	Executive
June	👤 NEWROC Budget Adopted	Council
July		Executive
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Information for Councillors pre-election 👤 NEWROC Audit 	Council
September		Executive
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs) 👤 NEWROC Dinner 	Council
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 NEWROC Induction of new Council representatives (every other year) 👤 Review NEWROC MoU (every other year) 	Executive
December	👤 NEWROC Christmas / End of Year Drinks	Council

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Compliance

Media Releases

NEWROC Rotation

Shire of Mt Marshall

Shire of Nungarin

Shire of Wyalkatchem

Shire of Koorda

Shire of Mukinbudin

Shire of Trayning

Shire of Dowerin (Oct 2025 – Oct 2027)

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NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 December 2025 at the Mukinbudin Recreation Centre commencing at 10am.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Trepp, NEWROC President welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10am.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1. Attendance

Cr Robert Trepp	NEWROC Chair, Deputy President, Shire of Dowerin
Cr Melanie Brown	President, Shire of Trayning
Cr Gary Shadbolt	President, Shire of Mukinbudin
Cr Jannah Stratford	President, Shire of Koorda
Cr Tony Sachse	President, Shire of Mt Marshall
Cr Chris Loton	Deputy President, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Pippa De Lacy	President, Shire of Nungarin

Manisha Barthakur	NEWROC CEO, CEO Shire of Dowerin
David Nayda	CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Peter Naylor	CEO, Shire of Trayning
Tanika McLennan	CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Zac Donovan	CEO Shire of Koorda
Ben McKay	CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall
Ian McCabe	A/CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem

Caroline Robinson	Executive Officer, NEWROC (arrived 10.10am)
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2.2. Apologies

Cr Christy Petchell, President, Shire of Wyalkatchem

2.3. Guests

Cr Ashley Walker, Deputy President, Shire of Mukinbudin

2.4. Leave of Absence Approvals / Approved

3. Declarations of Interest and Delegations Register

3.1. Delegation Register

Please find below a delegations register as per the new policy adopted in March 2017:

Description of Delegations	Delegatee	Delegated to	Approval
Records Management	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council
NEWROC Financial Management	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council Dec 2017
Bendigo Bank Signatory (NEWROC)	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council Dec 2017
Bendigo Bank Signatory (Shire of Dowerin)	Council	CEO	Council Nov 2025
NEWROC Website	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council June 2017

4. Presentations

Nil

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2025 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2025 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Moved Cr Shadbolt

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 7/0

5.1. Business Arising

5.1.1 Waste Sorted Grant

NEWROC was unsuccessful for its waste project.

Ask Waste Management has completed their site assessment in the Shire of Mt Marshall. Project will be discussed by the Executive,

5.1.2 Disaster Resilience Grant

Shire of Narembeen (Lead for NEWROC and ROEROC (combined application)) was unsuccessful (generators). Discussed in the late agenda item.

5.1.3 Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance

Majority of members have passed support motions at their Council meetings.

5.1.4 HR Policies

To be workshopped at the Executive.

6. NEWROC EO KPI Status Report

PROGRAM	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2025	STATUS REPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional shared engineering resource model presented to members 2. Continued advocacy on power, telecommunications and provision of GP services (demonstrated) 3. Community benefit framework (renewable energy) developed for the NEWROC (and individual Shire adoption) 4. Regional subsidiary application completed and submitted for one service in the NEWROC 5. Volunteer first responders (ambulance) report completed with associated action plan and presented to all branches, St Johns and key stakeholders. 	<p>1a. HR resource engaged</p> <p>2a. Cr Brown meeting with AFF 26 November in Canberra</p> <p>5a. Volunteer Emergency Service Policy presentation to Nationals WA MPs</p>
TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEWTRAVEL Accommodation Strategy completed, adopted and funding avenues identified, with one application submitted in 2025 2. Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builder. 	<p>1a Participation in tow accommodation strategy meetings</p>
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Business Network presentation to members with one collaborative low cost project pitched 	
LOCAL COMMUNITY REVITALISATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builder with forward projects presented to Council 2. Regional waste site identified and endorsed by host Council 3. Funding received towards the waste project that assists with implementation 4. Community engagement and education completed across all Shires regarding changes to waste management 	<p>2a. ASK Waste Management quote for site in the Shire of Mt Marshall. Work completed.</p> <p>4a. Waste Sorted grant application unsuccessful</p>

REGIONAL BRAND ESTABLISHMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brand guidelines adopted2. Website updated and current3. Regular communication across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn4. Presentation at Wheatbelt Futures Forum5. Attendance at ALGA.6. Advocacy plan implemented and reported against (during ALGA attendance).7. Demonstrated regular communication with Wheatbelt Development Commission and RDA Wheatbelt. Attendance annually at NEWROC Council (once).	7a Joint Forum planned 16 Feb 2026
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Discussion:

- NEWROC EO attended State Parliament to present the NEWROC Volunteer Ambulance Strategy to the members of the National Party. Well received and will be progressed.
- Cr Brown provided a comprehensive update on meetings in Canberra on live sheep, housing and health.
- NEWROC EO action – review Local Government Guide on Affordable Housing

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1. Income, Expenditure and Profit and Loss

FILE REFERENCE: 42-2 Finance Audit and Compliance
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:
CONSULTATION:
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

Account transactions for the period 1 October to 30 November 2025

Account Transactions

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
Opening Balance			153,975.35	0.00	153,975.35
01 Oct 2025	Xero Australia	XERO Subs	0.00	71.25	153,904.10
01 Oct 2025	Bendigo Bank	Bank Fee	0.00	0.80	153,903.30
07 Oct 2025	Payment: JE Planning	Housing Feasibility	0.00	17,952.00	135,951.30
07 Oct 2025	Payment: Alyce Smith	Town Team (Aug - Oct)	0.00	4,356.00	131,595.30
07 Oct 2025	Payment: 150Square	EO Services	0.00	4,446.63	127,148.67
20 Oct 2025	Bendigo Bank	Bank Fee	0.00	30.00	127,118.67
01 Nov 2025	Bendigo Bank	Bank Fee	0.00	1.20	127,117.47
03 Nov 2025	Xero Australia	XERO Subs	0.00	71.25	127,046.22
03 Nov 2025	Payment: 150Square	EO Services	0.00	4,069.23	122,976.99
03 Nov 2025	Payment: Beaumonde Hospitality	Deposit - ROC Day	0.00	1,000.00	121,976.99
Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557			0.00	31,998.36	121,976.99
Closing Balance			121,976.99	0.00	121,976.99
Total			0.00	31,998.36	(31,998.36)

Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils
As at 31 October 2025

31 OCT 2025

Assets

Bank

BB NEWROC Funds-5557	127,118.67
BB Term Deposit Account-1388	324,363.98
Total Bank	451,482.65

Total Assets

451,482.65

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

ATO Integrated Client Account	3,876.00
GST	(5,589.71)
Rounding	0.21
Sundry Creditors Control	(3,276.63)
Total Current Liabilities	(4,990.13)

Total Liabilities

(4,990.13)

Net Assets

456,472.78

Equity

Current Year Earnings	(33,733.68)
Retained Earnings	490,206.46
Total Equity	456,472.78

RESOLUTION

That the income and expenditure from 1 October to 30 November 2025 and the balance sheet 31 October 2025 be received.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr de Lacy

CARRIED 7/0

8. MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1. HOUSING

FILE REFERENCE:	091-1 Housing
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#1 Minutes of the CEO meeting
CONSULTATION:	Grant Arthur, WDC
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

The CEO's of NEWROC met to discuss an application to the Regional Housing Fund.

Minutes of the meeting are attached.

Dowerin, Wyalkatchem, Mt Marshall and Mukinbudin will be party to the application under NEWROC.

RESOLUTION

Minutes of the online meeting of CEO's on Monday 24 November 2025 be received.

Shires of Nungarin, Trayning and Koorda write a letter of support to the NEWROC application

Moved Cr Brown

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion:

- NEWROC EO to seek advice on both a NEWROC and individual Council application.
- Note terminology of affordable and key worker housing in the grant application

8.2. EASTERN WHEATBELT FORUM

FILE REFERENCE:	130-1 Economic Services General
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#2 Correspondence to ROC Presidents and CEOs #3 Invite #4 Invitation List
CONSULTATION:	WEROC and ROEROC Executive Officers
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

Correspondence has been sent to all ROC Presidents and CEOs (see attached).

Feedback from the NEWROC November Council meeting has been included in the revised agenda.

NEWROC members are requested to review and provide feedback on the draft invitation and proposed invitee list. Additional correspondence was sent to the Wheatbelt Development Commission; however, no response had been received at the time of preparing this agenda.

The three ROC presentations must clearly articulate requests and demonstrate alignment with the [WA Government Priorities 2025–2029](#), which focus on:

- Strong Economy – driving regional economic growth and job creation
- Better Services – improving housing, health, and education outcomes
- Sustainability and Climate Action – supporting renewable energy and resilient communities
- Regional Development – ensuring equitable access to opportunities across WA
- Aboriginal Wellbeing – fostering inclusion and cultural respect

The three ROC's should also consider a [recent presentation by the Premier](#). He addressed about 500 Senior Executive Service (SES) leaders at the "Spotlight: The Vision Edition" event on 5 September 2025. He emphasized the importance of aligning the entire public sector with the Western Australian Government's six priorities for 2025–2029:

- Diversifying the economy
- Improving healthcare access
- Ensuring housing for all Western Australians
- Promoting safe and inclusive communities
- Protecting and restoring the environment
- Delivering quality infrastructure and services.

The Premier stressed four essential success factors for achieving these priorities:

1. Focus – steadfast attention on the priorities
2. Capability – building a skilled and competent workforce
3. Leadership – SES leadership to drive the government's vision
4. Sense of urgency – coordinated and purposeful action across the sector.

Following this, Ministers John Carey, Stephen Dawson, and Meredith Hammat shared insights on leveraging these priorities to clarify minister-agency relationships and encouraged candid, unfiltered advice from SES.

The NEWROC will present on the **last topic of the session: Economic Diversification.**

RESOLUTION

NEWROC Vision and Presentation to include items as discussed.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion:

- Vision: positive approach, why we are important, what we contribute to the economy and global economy, we provide food security, community spirit, decentralisation opportunity, R4R alignment, we are resilient
- Presentation: we are looking for partnerships, we have solutions, we are entrepreneurial, diversified industry e.g. defence, mining, agriculture etc, we can alleviate metropolitan pressures, sustainable fuel supply and generation locally, alignment with the three ROCs housing piece
- Additional points: volunteer capacity, CESM

8.3. NEWROC MoU

FILE REFERENCE:	041-4 Memorandum of Understanding
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#5 Current NEWROC MoU
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

The NEWROC MoU has expired.

The current MoU is attached for members review. No amendments are proposed by the NEWROC EO apart from the date amendment.

RESOLUTION

The NEWROC MoU is recommended to each member Council for execution (1 January 2026 – 31 December 2028)

Moved Cr Loton

Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 7/0

9. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1. STAFF AND ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

FILE REFERENCE:	041-9 Training - Councillors & Staff
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

Members to advise a preferred date for the Staff and Elected Member Training.

Draft agenda below to be held at the Bencubbin Recreation Centre.

9am	<i>Tea and coffee</i>	
9.30am	Elected Members Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 1 delivered by Incredible People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological safety and inclusivity • Why do safety and inclusivity matter in a Local government Context? • The brain science of safety and inclusivity 	Staff Essential Supervision Skills delivered by MINT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the mindset and skills shift essential for leading others • Identify how and when to delegate to others • Consider how to monitor the progress of work in their team through a regular system • Practice giving feedback and plan an approach to giving feedback to a common employee performance / behaviour challenge
10.30am	Morning Tea (All)	
10.50am	Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 2 delivered by Incredible People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the balance right on directness vs. care • Other strategies to enhance safety and inclusivity: • Application: Snakes and ladders – the impact of our everyday actions and interactions • Reflection & commitment to action 	Essential Supervision Skills continued
12.30pm	Lunch (All)	

1pm	TBC	<p>Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 1 delivered by Incredible People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological safety and inclusivity • Why do safety and inclusivity matter in a Local government Context? • The brain science of safety and inclusivity
2pm 2.15pm	<p>Afternoon Tea (All)</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 2 delivered by Incredible People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the balance right on directness vs. care • Other strategies to enhance safety and inclusivity: • Application: Snakes and ladders – the impact of our everyday actions and interactions • Reflection & commitment to action
4pm	Close	

RESOLUTION

NEWROC EO to distribute two dates to Councils.

Moved Cr Brown

Seconded Cr de Lacy

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion

- Open to all Councillors
- Opportunity for transferrable skills

10. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

10.1. BENCUBBIN MICROGRID FEASIBILITY

FILE REFERENCE:	107-1 Power
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	25 November 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#6 Correspondence from Western Power
CONSULTATION:	Ben McKay
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

Correspondence attached and received from Western Power.

RESOLUTION

Information is received.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 7/0

LATE ITEM 10.2 NEWROC Volunteer Ambulance Policy Position
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FILE REFERENCE:	041-13 Policy Positions
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	
DATE:	1 December 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#1 Updated Policy Position
CONSULTATION:	WA Country Health Service
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

Updated NEWROC Volunteer Ambulance Policy Position is attached following consultation with WA Country Health Service.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC adopts the revised NEWROC Volunteer Ambulance Policy Position

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 7/0

LATE ITEM 10.3 – Disaster Resilience Grant

FILE REFERENCE: 035-6 Federal Grants
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:
DATE: 1 December 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:
CONSULTATION:
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's initiative for disaster resilience and risk reduction. The Australian Government is providing up to one billion dollars through the DRF. The funding runs over five years from 1 July 2023.

The funding supports projects. These projects address the physical and social impacts of disasters in communities. Disasters that can be caused by climate change and other natural hazards.

NEMA administers the DRF. NEMA do this in partnership with state and territory government agencies responsible for emergency management. In WA this is DFES.

NEMA responsibilities include consulting with stakeholders to develop the guidelines for each DRF round, establishing the application process, and supporting the assessment of applications by an expert panel.

COMMENT

The Shire of Narembeen applied for Disaster Ready Funding on behalf of ROEROC and NEWROC local governments. The application requested gensets for emergency evacuation sites in each town.

The Shire of Narembeen has been advised that they were unsuccessful.

The projects funded are summarised in this link (see Round Three) - [Disaster Ready Fund | NEMA](#)

Of concern is the significant funding allocation to DFES (and other state agencies such as Main Roads, Department of Health etc). DFES received applications from WA as the lead agency, as well as assessing and prioritising applications which is a clear conflict of interest in the process.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC writes to DFES outlining priorities in the NEWROC communities.

Moved Cr Loton

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 7/0

GENERAL UPDATES / DISCUSSION

- Tree and Carbon Farming applications. NEWROC EO to develop a draft tree policy for the Shire of Nungarin and Mukinbudin.
- FRRR Drought Funding is available

11. 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

3 February	Executive and NEWTRAVEL	Shire of Dowerin
16 February	Joint ROC day; Made in the Eastern Wheatbelt (Perth)	
3 March	Council	Shire of Mt Marshall
7 April	Executive	Shire of Koorda
5 May	Council	Shire of Mukinbudin
2 June	Executive and NEWTRAVEL	Shire of Trayning
7 July	Council	Shire of Dowerin
4 August	Executive	Shire of Mt Marshall
1 September	Council	Shire of Koorda
6 October	Executive and NEWTRAVEL	Shire of Nungarin
3 November	Council	Shire of Wyalkatchem

12. CLOSURE

Cr Trepp thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.46am