



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

E caroline@newroc.com.au



ANNUAL CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

| MONTH | ACTIVITY | MEETING |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| January | | Executive |
| February | Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year) | Council |
| | Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan | |
| March | WDC attendance to respond to NEWROC project priorities | Executive |
| | Submit priority projects to WDC, Regional Development and WA Planning | |
| April | NEWROC Budget Preparation | Council |
| May | NEWROC Draft Budget Presented | Executive |
| | NEWROC Executive Officer Contract/Hourly Rate Review (current contract expires June 2027) | |
| June | ≫ NEWROC Budget Adopted | Council |
| July | | Executive |
| August | Information for Councillors pre-election NEWROC Audit | Council |
| September | | Executive |
| October | NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs) | Council |
| | NEWROC Dinner | |
| November | NEWROC Induction of new Council representatives (every other year) | Executive |
| | Review NEWROC MoU (every other year) | |
| 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)

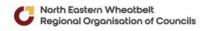


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NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

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
Cr Gary Shadbolt
Cr Jannah Stratford
Cr Tony Sachse

President, Shire of Mukinbudin
President, Shire of Koorda
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
lan McCabe A/CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem

Caroline Robinson Executive Officer, NEWROC (arrived 10.10am)

2.2. Apologies

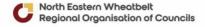
Cr Christy Petchell, President, Shire of Wyalkatchem

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 | S STATUS REPORT |
|---|--|---|
| INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY | Regional shared engineering resource model presented to members Continued advocacy on power, telecommunications and provision of GP services (demonstrated) | 2a. Cr Brown meeting with AFF 26 November in Canberra 5a. Volunteer Emergency Service Policy presentation to Nationals WA |
| | Community benefit framewor (renewable energy) developed for the NEWROC (and individual Shire adoption) | 'k |
| | Regional subsidiary application completed and submitted for one service in the NEWROC | |
| | Volunteer first responders (ambulance) report complete with associated action plan and presented to all branches, St Johns and key stakeholders. | ed |
| TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT | NEWTRAVEL Accommodation Strategy completed, adopted and funding avenues identified, with one application submitted in 2025 | 1a Participation in tow accommodation strategy meetings |
| | Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builder. | |
| SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | Wheatbelt Business Network presentation to members with one collaborative low cost project pitched | |
| LOCAL COMMUNITY REVITALISATION | Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builde with forward projects presented to Council | 2a. ASK Waste Management quote for site in the Shire of Mt Marshall. Work completed. 4a. Waste Sorted grant application |
| | Regional waste site identified and endorsed by host Council. Funding received towards the waste project that assists with implementation. | d unsuccessful cil e |
| | Community engagement and education completed across all Shires regarding changes to waste management | |



| REGION | IAL | BRAN | ID |
|---------------|-----|------|----|
| FSTARI | ISE | MENT | • |

- 1. Brand guidelines adopted
- 2. Website updated and current
- 3. Regular communication across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- 4. Presentation at Wheatbelt Futures Forum
- 5. Attendance at ALGA.

(once).

- 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

7a Joint Forum planned 16 Feb 2026

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 |

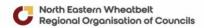
RESOLUTION

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 <u>WA Government Priorities 2025–2029</u>, 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 <u>recent presentation by the Premier.</u> 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.

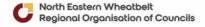
Moved Cr Stratford

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

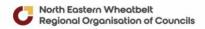
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

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 | Tea and coffee | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 9.30am | Elected Members Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 1 delivered by Incredible People • 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 • 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 planed an approach to giving feedback to a common employee performance / behaviour challenge |
| 10.30am 10.50am 12.30pm | Morning Tea (All) Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 2 delivered by Incredible People • 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 Lunch (All) | Essential Supervision Skills continued |



| 1рт | TBC | Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 1 delivered by Incredible People • Psychological safety and inclusivity • Why do safety and inclusivity matter in a Local government Context? • The brain science of safety and |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| 0 | A CL | inclusivity |
| 2pm 2.15pm | Afternoon Tea (All) TBC | Psychologically safe and inclusive Local Governments Part 2 delivered by Incredible People • 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

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) - <u>Disaster Ready Fund | NEMA</u>

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 Shire of Dowerin

NEWTRAVEL

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 Shire of Trayning

NEWTRAVEL

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