



**North Eastern Wheatbelt
Regional Organisation of Councils**

Council Meeting

Tuesday 5 August 2025

Shire of Koorda Council Chambers

MINUTES

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	👉 Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year) 👉 Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan	Council
March	👉 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	👉 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	👉 Information for Councillors pre-election 👉 NEWROC Audit	Council
September		Executive
October	👉 NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs) 👉 NEWROC Dinner	Council
November	👉 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 (Oct 2023 – Oct 2025)

Shire of Dowerin

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NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 August 2025 at the Koorda Council Chambers
commencing at 10.04am

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Brown welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10.04am

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1. Attendance

Cr Melanie Brown	President, Shire of Trayning, NEWROC Chair
Cr Gary Shadbolt	President, Shire of Mukinbudin
Cr Pippa De Lacy	President, Shire of Nungarin
Cr Jannah Stratford	President, Shire of Koorda
Cr Tony Sachse	President, Shire of Mt Marshall
Cr Owen Garner	President, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Peter Naylor	CEO NEWROC, CEO Shire of Trayning
David Nayda	CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Tanika McLennan	A/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

2.2. Apologies

Cr Robert Trepp	President, Shire of Dowerin
Manisha Barthakur	CEO, Shire of Dowerin

2.3. Guests

Janine Erikson, JE Planning (online)

2.4. Leave of Absence Approvals / Approved

Nil

3. Declarations of Interest and Delegations Register

Nil

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 Mukinbudin)	Council	CEO	Council Dec 2017
NEWROC Website	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council June 2017

4. Presentations

Janine Erikson, JE Planning 10.04am – 10.34am (Key Worker Housing Presentation) via TEAMS. Please see attached presentation.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 1 July 2025 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 1 July 2025 be received.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Stratford

CARRIED 6/0

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Stratford

CARRIED 6/0

5.1. Business Arising

5.1.1 Town Team Movement – Builder

Project based funding for 2026 will proceed. TTM will continue to service the NEWROC.

5.1.2 Community Benefit Framework (Powering WA submission)

NEWROC members supported the Collective Local Government Submission on the Community Benefits Guidelines, submitted by the Shire of Narrogin. Originally the NEWROC were going to make a submission, however the Shire of Narrogin's submission was of a very high standard and they had engaged an external consultant. Over 30 Wheatbelt Local Government's supported their submission.

5.1.3 Key Worker Housing Report (review in progress)

An action from the Executive meeting in July was for the NEWROC EO to develop case studies and testimonials to support the NEWROC Key Worker Housing Project. Suggested businesses for this work are welcomed.

NEWROC EO to pass on 2 x 2 (rather than 2 x 1) to Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Janine will check on vacant residential lot numbers provided by Wheatbelt Development Commission.

5.1.4 RPPP Funding

NEWROC EO has enquired about progress of the funding with RDA Wheatbelt and the Department. No outcome as yet.

5.1.5 Wheatbelt Futures Forum

White paper has been updated, NEWROC EO to follow up.

6. NEWROC EO KPI Status Report

PROGRAM	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2025	STATUS REPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY	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.	1a. Shared services model options in the July Executive meeting – progressed with a HR EOI 2a. GP advocacy in Canberra (see report). Support of Rural Health Funding Alliance put forward at this meeting. Correspondence from Melissa Price included. 2a. Presentation to ARENA on microgrid on 11 August. Presentation to Powering WA on 19 August. 5a. Volunteer first responders policy position adopted by Council 3a. NEWROC supported the Shire of Narrogin et al submission to Powering WA regarding CBF
TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	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.	1a. NEWTRAVEL accommodation strategy working group meeting one conducted (EO was not present), consultant currently being engaged 2a. NEWROC Town Team Builder contract negotiation with TTM
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	1. Wheatbelt Business Network presentation to members with one collaborative low cost project pitched	1a. TEAMS meeting with WBN CEO to discuss proposals. Work in progress.
LOCAL COMMUNITY REVITALISATION	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	2a. Waste Education Grant to be discussed at this meeting.

**REGIONAL BRAND
ESTABLISHMENT**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Brand guidelines adopted | 1a. Logo refreshed. |
| 2. Website updated and current | 2a. New website live. |
| 3. Regular communication across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn | 4a. Presentation at WFF |
| 4. Presentation at Wheatbelt Futures Forum | 5a. Attendance at ALGA. President's report attached. |
| 5. 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). | |
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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:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#1 Balance Sheet
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

Account transactions for the period 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025:

Account Transactions

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

For the period 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
BB NEWROC Funds-5557					
	Opening Balance		144,680.79	0.00	144,680.79
01 May 2025	Bendigo Bank		0.00	2.80	144,677.99
01 May 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	66.50	144,611.49
30 May 2025	Payment: Shire of Dowerin	INV-0135	200.00	0.00	144,811.49
30 May 2025	Payment: Shire of Dowerin	INV-0134	7,450.00	0.00	152,261.49
02 Jun 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	66.50	152,194.99
04 Jun 2025	Bank Transfer from ATO Integrated Client Account to BB NEWROC Funds-5557	ATO	3,876.00	0.00	156,070.99
06 Jun 2025	Payment: Shire of Trayning	INV-0130	7,450.00	0.00	163,520.99
06 Jun 2025	Payment: Shire of Koorda	INV-0132	7,450.00	0.00	170,970.99
10 Jun 2025	Payment: 150Square	INV-0405	0.00	4,140.63	166,830.36
10 Jun 2025	Payment: 150Square	INV-0404	0.00	4,412.63	162,417.73
10 Jun 2025	Payment: Alyce Smith	2099	0.00	2,420.00	159,997.73
10 Jun 2025	Payment: Alyce Smith	2101	0.00	1,936.00	158,061.73
10 Jun 2025	Payment: 150Square		0.00	2,927.69	155,134.04
13 Jun 2025	Payment: Shire Of Nungarin	INV-0128	7,450.00	0.00	162,584.04
20 Jun 2025	Payment: Shire Of Mukinbudin	INV-0129	7,450.00	0.00	170,034.04
23 Jun 2025	Payment: Shire of Wyalkatchem	INV-0133	7,450.00	0.00	177,484.04
	Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557		48,776.00	15,972.75	177,484.04
	Closing Balance		177,484.04	0.00	177,484.04
Total			48,776.00	15,972.75	32,803.25

Note in the balance sheet the Sundry Creditors is the JE Planning invoice for the workforce housing project, which had not been allocated last financial year.

RESOLUTION

That the income and expenditure from 1 May – 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2025 balance sheet be received.

Moved Cr De Lacy

Seconded Cr Garner

CARRIED 6/0

8. MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1. Provision of Rural GP Services

FILE REFERENCE:	Provision of Rural GP Services
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	150Square is engaged by the Alliance for professional services
DATE:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	Alliance media release NEWROC President's report Unconfirmed Alliance meeting minutes (outside of attachments) 150Square presentation to the Alliance Melissa Price correspondence
CONSULTATION:	Alliance
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

The Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance has been established. 150Square (Caroline Robinson) is undertaking work for the Alliance. The Alliance website is www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au

The Alliance wrote a report and presented a motion at the 2025 ALGA Conference, which was unanimously supported (see media release attached).

There is synergies in the work the Alliance is undertaking and the current GP arrangements in the NEWROC. The NEWROC provision of medical services policy also supports the position that the Alliance has taken. The NEWROC President and EO also met with Hon Melissa Price to raise the NEWROC's policy position on provision of GP services.

The NEWROC President and EO attended meetings with the Alliance whilst in Canberra (see the President's report attached).

The Alliance recently met again in Lake Grace (see attached unconfirmed minutes and presentation by 150Square). The Alliance is seeking support from remote and very remote local governments in WA and shortly across Australia to advocate on two fronts:

1. An increase to the Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor within the Financial Assistance Grants; and
2. Block funding for their preferred rural generalist service delivery model (which is similar to what is delivered in the Kununoppin Medical arrangements, the Alliance is not advocating for the service provider).

RESOLUTION

That the NEWROC writes to the Alliance (lead Shire of Lake Grace) in support of their work and thanks them for inclusion in their Canberra meetings.

That each local government in the NEWROC becomes a supporter of the Alliance (no cost presently) by signing up through the Alliance website.

NEWROC CEO's distribute the information and President's report to their Councils.

Moved Cr Shadbolt

Seconded Cr Garner

CARRIED 6/0

NEWROC EO to update BLOCK explanation.

8.2. WASTE SORTED GRANT

FILE REFERENCE:	103-2 Regional Waste Project
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	
DATE:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

Community groups, not-for-profits, local governments and other eligible organisations across Western Australia can now apply for a share in \$250,000 through the WasteSorted Community Education Grants program.

Administered by the Waste Authority, the program provides up to \$25,000 per project for initiatives that promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and environmental protection through education and better waste practices.

Projects may include workshops, campaigns, research and other community-based initiatives that align with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

The NEWROC EO has provided this information back to the CEO's for their feedback with their support to apply for funding for the following:

- Community awareness and education on waste management and behaviour change (which we will need if we pursue a regional solution).
- Educational signage at the various sites to direct people where to separate their loads (and why)

This year's grant funding will focus on:

- communicating messages for behaviour change consistent with the 'WasteSorted' and 'Be a GREAT Sort' communications materials; and
- developing and implementing targeted waste behaviour change initiatives with an emphasis on focus materials.

Focus materials are:

- Construction and demolition materials – concrete, asphalt, rubble, bricks, sand and clean fill
- Glass – packaging and containers
- Metals – steel, non-ferrous metals, packaging and containers
- Organics – food organics and garden organics
- Paper and cardboard – office paper, newspaper and magazines
- Plastics – packaging and containers
- Textiles – clothing and other fabric-based materials
- Hazardous waste – non-household

RESOLUTION

NEWROC (Lead Shire of Trayning) apply for \$25,000 for a Waste Sorted Grant.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr De Lacey

CARRIED 6/0

9. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

9.1. BENCUBBIN MICROGRID FEASIBILITY

FILE REFERENCE:	107-1 Power
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	Sunrise Energy – Matt and Neil Grant Arthur - WDC
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

At the July Council meeting the following was resolved:

RESOLUTION

NEWROC Council receives the Bencubbin Microgrid Feasibility Study.

NEWROC EO seek additional information on stage 2 of the project and costs involved.

NEWROC presents the project to the Wheatbelt Development Commission and seeks assistance in engaging with Western Power.

NEWROC EO contact the City of Geraldton Greenough (Mullewa) to discuss ways to collaborate.

NEWROC President and Executive Officer meet with ARENA when in Canberra for ALGA.

NEWROC Executive recommends to Council to engage with DLGSC and Sunrise Energy to further investigations on a regional subsidiary for the ownership and management of a microgrid.

Moved Cr Shadbolt

Seconded Cr De Lacy

CARRIED 6/0

An update:

Cr Brown and the Executive Officer could not secure a meeting with ARENA in Canberra, however NEWROC has been invited to present the feasibility study via TEAMS to the ARENA Regional Microgrids Funding Team on 11 August. This is a jump in the usual process however after discussion with Sunrise Energy we will take this opportunity.

Sunrise Energy is happy to support us with a letter indicating they have funders that are interested in the project, however the risks to investment needs to be reduced and ROI need to be improved – something which ARENA funding can do.

It is recommended that the NEWROC EO and Shire of Mt Marshall CEO present to ARENA. Sunrise Energy are supporting the key messages of the presentation and have supplied some information for the slides.

The pitch to ARENA will include the following key points:

- Community led submission (not private developer)

- Opportunity for ARENA to invest in a pilot project for the SWIS
- We will request the \$200K start up funding and 10-20% of the capital cost of the project that essentially reduces the risks of the project, reduces hurdles for additional investment and will activate additional funding

The NEWROC EO has also discussed the project with the Wheatbelt Development Commission. We have submitted our final REDS report, however they require additional information from us regarding how we are attracting investors (ARENA etc).

The NEWROC EO has supplied this information to the Wheatbelt Development Commission. They are interested in combining the Mullewa and Bencubbin projects together as a position / pilot to Western Power to improve reliability and power capacity.

NEWROC has also been invited to present to the Electricity Network Regulation team, Powering WA and Energy Policy WA on 19 August. Sunrise Energy will support this meeting.

Information is received.

Discussion:

- Discussion regarding SPS deployment as a risk on this project, however it was deemed this was minimal.
- Request to engage a President in the August presentation to ARENA

9.2. LIVE SHEEP TRANSITION

FILE REFERENCE:	130-1 Economic Services General
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	Media release
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

A media release on NEWROC's Live Sheep Transition Policy work is included.

The NEWROC has written to both the Federal Minister for Agriculture and State Minister for Agriculture requesting funding of the policy position.

We have also followed up with the DAFF Transition Team and Dr Chris Rodwell (informed Dr Rodwell of our meeting outcomes).

Information is received.

10. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1. MAJOR EASTERN WHEATBELT PROJECTS UPDATE EVENT
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FILE REFERENCE:	130-1 Economic Services General
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	Draft Joint ROC Agenda
CONSULTATION:	Cr Brown and Peter Naylor ROEROC EO and President WEROC EO and President
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

Each ROC has allocated \$2000 to the event.

Invitation extended to the Minister for the Wheatbelt Hon Sabine Winton to invite her to host the Eastern Wheatbelt Major Projects Update.

Possible venue is ANZAC House. Estimated that each ROC local government will be represented by their Shire President and CEO.

The three ROC EOs identified possibly a Friday in September as the preferred date, however have left this open to the Minister. State Parliament sits in the middle two weeks of September Tues to Thursday.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting. Draft agenda attached.

Update received

10.2. IN PERSON PRESENTATION TO MEMBER COUNCILS

FILE REFERENCE:	
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	1 August 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	Nil
CONSULTATION:	Nil
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

Feedback from presentations at the Shires of Mukinbudin, Wyalkatchem and Koorda:

- Advocacy role is commendable however we have incurred costs with no tangible results e.g. Live Sheep.
- Can some of the role of NEWROC be to promote our communities and industry to metropolitan areas? Other key stakeholders?
- General lack of understanding of NEWROC's key priorities.

Further verbal updates at the meeting.

Update received

Discussion:

- NEWROC's strength in partnerships and seeking relationships with our neighbours
- Joint ROC event will increase our profile
- Find what funding is available and target it, aligned to our economic development priorities

GENERAL UPDATES

- Discussion on upcoming Local Government Elections and Supreme Court decision on mining land rates
- Discussion on education in the NEWROC and some emerging issues in Mukinbudin

11. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

4 September (amended)	Executive	Shire of Nungarin
7 October (note Cr Sachse will be an apology)	Council	Shire of Wyalkatchem
4 November	Executive	Shire of Mt Marshall
2 December	Council	Shire of Mukinbudin

12. CLOSURE

Cr Brown thanked the NEWROC for supporting her attendance at ALGA.

NEWROC Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 11.44pm.