



North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

Dowerin | Koorda | Mt Marshall | Mukinbudin | Nungarin | Trayning | Wyalkatchem

# Council Meeting

Tuesday 1 April 2025

Shire of Mukinbudin Chambers

## MINUTES

1.30pm Light lunch and break  
2pm Council Meeting

[www.newroc.com.au](http://www.newroc.com.au)

E caroline@newroc.com.au



## ANNUAL CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MONTH	ACTIVITY	MEETING
January		Executive
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year)</li> <li>Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan</li> </ul>	Council
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDC attendance to respond to NEWROC project priorities</li> <li>Submit priority projects to WDC, Regional Development and WA Planning</li> </ul>	Executive
April	NEWROC Budget Preparation	Council
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEWROC Draft Budget Presented</li> <li>NEWROC Executive Officer Contract/Hourly Rate Review (current contract expires June 2027)</li> <li>Local Government Week agenda to be discussed at Executive meeting to determine if EA should attend</li> </ul>	Executive
June	NEWROC Budget Adopted	Council
July		Executive
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information for Councillors pre-election</li> <li>NEWROC Audit</li> </ul>	Council
September		Executive
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs)</li> <li>NEWROC Dinner</li> </ul>	Council
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEWROC Induction of new Council representatives (every other year)</li> <li>Review NEWROC MoU (every other year)</li> </ul>	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 for the Council Meeting to be held on 1 April 2025 at the Shire of Mukinbudin Council Chambers

## MINUTES

### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Brown opened the meeting and welcomed the group.at 2pm

### 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 Robert Trepp	President, Shire of Dowerin
Cr Owen Garner	President, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Rob Kerr	Shire of Wyalkatchem
John Merrick	A/CEO NEWROC, A/CEO Shire of Trayning
David Nayda	CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Tanika McLennan	A/CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Sabine Taylor	CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Zac Donovan	CEO Shire of Koorda
Manisha Barthakur	CEO, Shire of Dowerin
Ben McKay	CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall
Cr Rod Lawson Kerr	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem

#### 2.2. Apologies

Caroline Robinson	Executive Officer, NEWROC
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#### 2.3. Guests

Sam Harma	Wheatbelt Connect (2pm – 2.20pm)
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#### 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 Mukinbudin)	Council	CEO	Council Dec 2017
NEWROC Website	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council June 2017

#### 4. Presentations

Sam Harma, Wheatbelt Connect, spoke to the group in regard to the integrated project model for revegetation. His organization is considering a grouped Council project, perhaps focused on salt affected land. There also seems the possibility of a biofuel development which would see the planting of Mallies, which are a high biofuel source. Sam is to provide Caroline with a slide presentation which shows the possibilities.

#### 5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 November 2024 have previously been circulated.

##### RESOLUTION

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 November 2024 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**Moved: Cr DeLacy**

**Seconded: Cr Stratford**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 25 February 2025 have previously been circulated.

##### RESOLUTION

**That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 25 February 2025 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**Moved: Cr Garner**

**Seconded: Cr Shadbolt**

**CARRIED**

#### 5.1. Business Arising

##### 5.1.1 Telstra and DPIRD Presentation

The presentation by Telstra on the ATUs is attached (#1)

The NEWROC EO has followed up with Telstra regarding their outstanding items:

- The details for the NEWROC upstream/downstream site dependencies
- Finalising the community engagement agreement
- And the onboarding or training program with Ventia.

##### 5.1.2 Waste Project

The Shire of Mt Marshall passed the following item at its February meeting:

##### **2025/1-004 OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION:**

***That Council provide in principle support for the investigation of a Regional Landfill Facility in Mt Marshall.***

**Moved Cr SR Putt Seconded Cr IC Sanders Carried 5/0**

**RPPP Funding**

The NEWROC EO has followed up with the Department on numerous occasions seeking to establish where our project is in the evaluation process. The following response was received:

**From:** Regional Precincts <RegionalPrecincts@industry.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 5:31 AM  
**To:** Caroline Robinson <caroline@150square.com.au>  
**Cc:** Regional Precincts <RegionalPrecincts@industry.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 812 - Application - Process [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Caroline

Many thanks for your email.

We have no further advice to offer other than to assure you that we are continuing to assess all submitted applications in accordance with the grant opportunity guidelines.

Once the assessment process is completed for a specific batch, all applicants in that batch will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing.

Thank you for your continuing patience.

Best regards

**Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Team**

Program Delivery| Business Grants Hub| External Programs & Assurance Branch

Department of Industry, Science and Resources | [www.industry.gov.au](http://www.industry.gov.au)

The NEWROC EO also requested RDA Wheatbelt to seek further information about our application. A similar response was received.

ACTION: Work with the Shire of Mt Marshall to identify a site. Then prepare for community engagement.

ACTION: NEWROC EO to find out more info on the Merredin regional site proposed.

**5.1.3 2025 Presidents Dinner**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

NEWROC Executive and NEWROC EO leave the NEWROC Council meeting to allow Presidents to continue discussions from the February Presidents Dinner, as well as proceed with the Council meeting as per the Agenda

and

to provide time for the Executive to discuss operational matters across resource sharing, PRISS, the Housing Strategy and waste.

**MOTION**

**CEOs and elected members remain in today's meeting**

**Moved Cr Sachse**

**Seconded Cr Garner**

**CARRIED 4/3**



## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 6.1. Income, Expenditure and Profit and Loss

**FILE REFERENCE:** 42-2 Finance Audit and Compliance  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson  
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil  
**DATE:** 27 March 2025  
**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:** #2P and L  
**CONSULTATION:**  
**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

Account transactions for the period 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025 for both accounts:

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
<b>BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b>					
<b>Opening Balance</b>			<b>203,756.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>203,756.16</b>
01 Dec 2024	Bendigo Bank		0.00	1.60	203,754.56
02 Dec 2024	Xero Australia	XERO Subscription	0.00	66.50	203,688.06
09 Dec 2024	Payment: Sunrise Energy Group	IV00000000466	0.00	20,900.00	182,788.06
09 Dec 2024	Payment: Seed Studio	00339	0.00	370.00	182,418.06
09 Dec 2024	Payment: 150Square	INV-0349	0.00	4,404.13	178,013.93
09 Dec 2024	Travel	UWA Intern	0.00	582.25	177,431.68
10 Dec 2024	Payment: Merredin Tourist Park	UWA Intern	0.00	340.00	177,091.68
01 Jan 2025	Bendigo Bank	Fee	0.00	2.00	177,089.68
02 Jan 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	66.50	177,023.18
21 Jan 2025	Payment: 150Square		0.00	3,715.63	173,307.55
21 Jan 2025	Payment: Bencubbin Community Resource Centre	INV-2320	0.00	100.00	173,207.55
22 Jan 2025	Payment: Shire Of Mukinbudin	INV-0113	14,300.00	0.00	187,507.55
31 Jan 2025	Payment: Shire Of Mukinbudin	INV-0127	357.48	0.00	187,865.03
01 Feb 2025	Bendigo Bank	Fee	0.00	0.80	187,864.23
03 Feb 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	66.50	187,797.73
05 Feb 2025	Bendigo Bank	Fee	0.00	30.00	187,767.73
17 Feb 2025	Payment: Wheatbelt Business Network	Wheatbelt Futures Forum Sponsorship	0.00	2,750.00	185,017.73
17 Feb 2025	Payment: 150Square		0.00	3,715.63	181,302.10
26 Feb 2025	Bank Transfer from ATO Integrated Client Account to BB NEWROC Funds-5557	ATO Credit	1,737.00	0.00	183,039.10
<b>Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b>			<b>16,394.48</b>	<b>37,111.54</b>	<b>183,039.10</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>183,039.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>183,039.10</b>
<b>BB Term Deposit Account-1388</b>					
<b>Opening Balance</b>			<b>311,785.83</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>311,785.83</b>
26 Dec 2024	Bendigo Bank		6,235.72	0.00	318,021.55
<b>Total BB Term Deposit Account-1388</b>			<b>6,235.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>318,021.55</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>318,021.55</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>318,021.55</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>22,630.20</b>	<b>37,111.54</b>	<b>(14,481.34)</b>

# Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils  
As at 28 February 2025

	28 FEB 2025
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
BB NEWROC Funds-5557	183,039.10
BB Term Deposit Account-1388	318,021.55
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>501,060.65</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>501,060.65</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
ATO Integrated Client Account	1,737.00
GST	(1,635.44)
Rounding	0.07
Sundry Creditors Control	24,685.63
Unpaid ATO Liabilities	(1,737.00)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>23,050.26</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>23,050.26</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>478,010.39</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	(3,347.59)
Retained Earnings	481,357.98
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>478,010.39</b>

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the income and expenditure from 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025, P and L and balance sheet be received.

Moved Cr de Lacy                      Seconded Cr Stratford

Cr Shadbolt requested further information on the financials.

## RESOLUTION

That this item lay on the table until the next meeting.

Moved: Cr DeLacy                      Seconded: Cr Stratford                      **CARRIED**

## 6.2. 2023/24 Audit

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	42-2 Finance Audit and Compliance
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#3 Audit
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	Audit Partners
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

### COMMENT

The Audit was delayed for the 2023/24 due to the auditor's availability.

### RESOLUTION

That the 2023/24 Audit is received.

Moved: Cr Sachse

Seconded: Cr Garner

**CARRIED**

## 7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 7.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – LOGO

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	041-5 Strategic and Future Planning
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#4 Logo Designs
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

The Economic Development Sub Committee has provided feedback to SEED Studio on 5 logo designs.

The Executive narrowed the designs down at its February meeting and provided additional feedback to SEED Studio. The colours and logos were refined, with some inclusion of Wheatbelt Way brand colours.

It is recommended Council adopt a logo at this meeting, to ensure the group can re-brand in a timely manner and in time for the Wheatbelt Futures Forum in May.

#### RESOLUTION

**Council adopts logo number 1 using the two colours from number 2.**

**Moved: Cr Stratford**

**Seconded: Cr DeLacy**

**CARRIED 4/3**

**Councillors Shadbolt, Sachse and Garner voted against the motion.**

**7.2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – WHEATBELT FUTURES FORUM**

**FILE REFERENCE:** Economic Development Strategy  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson  
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil  
**DATE:** 16 February 2025  
**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:** #5 NEWROC Submission  
**CONSULTATION:**  
**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

ED. PROGRAM	ED. STRATEGY	OUTCOME	FOR DISCUSSION
REGIONAL BRAND ESTABLISHMENT	NEWROC will seek to establish a clear and compelling “brand” for the region to facilitate investment, business, funding, new resident visitor attraction and increase general State and national awareness of the region and associated Shires.	NEWROC has a presence at economic development forums.	Wheatbelt Futures Forum, Friday 2 May 2025 (Northam). NEWROC President Cr Brown will present on behalf of the group. 4 passes are provided to attend.
		Regular meetings with regional, state and federal government representatives.	ALGA 2025 National General Assembly 24 – 27 June (Canberra). This year’s NGA theme is ‘National Priorities Need Local Solutions’. You can also submit your council’s 2025 NGA motions until 31 March.  Federal Pre Budget Submission 25/26 submitted (attached).

**RESOLUTION**

NEWROC’s presentation at the Wheatbelt Futures Forum is to focus on its Economic Development Strategy, strategic opportunities across all member Shires and brand re-fresh. Further that Cr Brown and the EO, Caroline Robinson represent NEWROC at the ALGA general assembly in Canberra in June 2025 at the expense of NEWROC.

Moved: Cr Sachse

Seconded: Cr Stratford

**CARRIED**

### 7.3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - TOURISM

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	132-1 NEWTravel
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#6 Project Scope (Confirmed)
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	Linda Vernon, NEWTRAVEL
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

NEWTRAVEL was approached by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to partner in a Wheatbelt Way Accommodation and Market Expansion Project.

The project proposes to conduct a comprehensive audit of tourism and accommodation services in the NEWTRAVEL members areas, including a market research and gap analysis of local business capacities and destination experiences.

The goal is to attract new visitor segments beyond the caravan and camping market.

The project will also evaluate accommodation demand (tourism and short-stay/drive in drive out), evaluate investment opportunities, and explore tourism strategies that foster industry collaboration and long term economic sustainability. Additionally it will assess how short catering for the short stay or drive in drive out workforce can deliver mutual benefits for businesses and residents.

The initiative has potential to unlock new economic opportunities, diversify the visitor economy, and create a more resilience and sustainable tourism sector in the North East Wheatbelt.

The NEWTRAVEL EO and NEWROC EO have had discussions regarding the scope of work over the past few months and the Wheatbelt Development Commission has committed \$50,000 towards the work.

The NEWROC EO has been requested to be part of the project steering committee.

The NEWROC EO recommends the NEWROC commit \$7000 cash plus \$3000 in kind support to the project, in the 25/26 Budget.

The work aligns to the NEWROC Economic Development Strategy, specifically:

*2. NEWROC will facilitate the development and growth of the tourism sector within the region. This may include tourism product development, visitor accommodation attraction, sector strategy and planning development and tourism asset and attraction investment.*

- a) Increased visitation to the Wheatbelt Way.*
- b) Visitor accommodation across the NEWROC is improved and expanded.*

#### RESOLUTION

**NEWROC EO is part of the Wheatbelt Way Accommodation and Market Expansion Project Steering Committee.**

**NEWROC contribute \$7000 cash plus \$3000 in kind support to the project, from the 25/26 Budget.**

**Moved: Cr Shadbolt**

**Seconded: Cr Trepp**

**CARRIED**

**7.4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - NEWROC HOUSING STRATEGY**

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	091-1 Housing
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#7 Stakeholder Engagement Communication Framework
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

The NEWROC Executive and Shire of Wongan Hills participated in an inception meeting with JE Planning and the Wheatbelt Development Commission for the NEWROC Housing Strategy.

A Stakeholder Engagement Communication Framework was prepared, which addresses the commencement of the NEWROC Workforce Housing Investigation (attached).

Members are requested to promote the *Industry and Business Community Survey*. The survey is live at the moment (commenced on 10 March 2025).

Members are requested to email all known businesses/farmers/ not for profit etc and include a post on social media inviting comments for a period of 3 weeks with the survey link.

JE Planning will be consulting with State Government agencies to seek information relating to public sector workforce housing needs.

The NEWROC EO has made contact with WA Planning (Tim Reed) to seek assistance with member's Town Planning Strategies and land assembly.

The NEWROC EO recommends Council allocate funding towards a grant writer in the 25/26 NEWROC Budget to ensure the Strategy is progressed. To prepare for this, the EO proposed an EOI be developed and shared with three grant writers that can assist the NEWROC apply for grants when the Housing Strategy is completed.

**RESOLUTION**

**Information is received.**

**NEWROC prepare an EOI for a grant writer for future funding applications that align to the NEWROC Housing Strategy.**

**EOIs be presented to the Executive and fees proposed in the 2025/26 Budget.**

**Moved: Cr Stratford**

**Seconded: Cr Sachse**

**CARRIED**

## 8. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

### 8.1. SHARED SERVICES, RESOURCING AND SKILLS

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	041-5 Strategic and Future Planning
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	16 February 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

Common feedback from members is the desire to investigate shared services. Discussion at the November Executive meeting included:

- CEO's discussed specialised skills and generalist skills
- Members need to define what a shared service is
- Desire to use businesses within the NEWROC

The following resolution was passed at the December 2024 Council meeting:

#### RESOLUTION

That the Executive meet prior to the next Council meeting to workshop shared services.

Moved Cr Garner

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion at the December Council meeting included:

- Members discussed their interpretation of shared services.
  - Mukinbudin, Dowerin: filling positions that are traditionally specialist and hard to fill
  - Nungarin: shared businesses within the NEWROC, purchasing from businesses within our towns. HR support
  - Mt Marshall: would like to discuss all ideas and options, presentation from Executive to Council before refinement
  - Koorda: specialised services and skills, retain local employees, trying to do what Band 1 and 2's are doing with same skill sets, requires commitment from members
  - Wyalkatchem: skills required in compliance, opportunity to release financial or people resources, investigate creating an entity (how do you provide it)
  - Trayning – HR and IT support and software, timing issues, operational level for cost savings

There is a clear difference between shared services, shared skills and shared resourcing. The following definitions are provided for the consideration of the Executive:

**Shared services:** Delivery of a specific service for a group of local governments through contract arrangement, usually delivered by an external provider e.g. Environmental Health Services, Planning, Waste Management.



**Shared skills (A):** Employment of specialist skills for a group of local governments, generally employed under one local government on behalf of the group for skills unavailable across the local government e.g. Governance Officer, Human Resources, Engineer.

**Shared skills (B):** Identification and use of specialist skills already available within the human resources of the local governments. These skills may be used by the group for advice, mentoring or training.

**Shared resources:** Purchase of a piece of equipment or infrastructure for use by a group of local governments, generally 'sits' on one local governments asset register.

It is important to clearly define which 'space' the group would like to investigate.

The Executive may like to consider the following questions during the discussions. Are we:

- a) seeking to use existing staff within the local governments (is their capacity to do this?)
- b) identifying the gaps in current skill sets within the local governments?
- c) identifying vacant positions that require filling?
- d) identifying new positions across the local governments (internal or external)?
- e) are there any common training priorities across the local governments?

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

NEWROC Executive discuss the priority areas in either shared services, shared skills or shared resources (or combination).

NEWROC Executive investigate the following:

NEWROC Executive prepare a business case for:

Further, under the Local Government reform process, audit committees are proposed to be revised as 'audit, risk and improvement committees'. Audit, risk and improvement committees will be required to appoint two independent persons, one of which must chair committee meetings. Local Governments will also be able to establish shared audit, risk and improvement committees with other local governments.

The Executive is asked to consider whether shared audit, risk and improvement committees across smaller groupings of local governments within the NEWROC should occur.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

NEWROC Council recommends to members to establish audit, risk and improvement committees across smaller groupings of local governments in the NEWROC (subject to individual Council decisions).

#### Discussion at the Executive Meeting:

- Members discussed PRISS and status at each Shire
- Agreement that not all Shires need to participate in a shared service, program or resource
- Human Resources could be shared and discussion regarding individual located in the area

**ACTION:** NEWROC EO share the work tasks spreadsheet for CEO input.

**ACTION:** NEWROC EO to seek information from the DLGSC regarding Panel member (can it be another staff member from another Shire)

It is also noted that there is interest in promoting and utilising local businesses. The NEWROC EO has engaged with the Wheatbelt Business Network to discuss how this may occur. NEWROC also participated in an SBDC Program on procurement, which is relevant to supporting local governments. It has been included in the attachments.

*Note: This agenda item will be discussed in the Executive meeting.*

## **RESOLUTION**

**Received.**

**Moved: Cr Stratford**

**Seconded: Cr DeLacy**

**CARRIED**

## 8.2. DISASTER RESILIENCE FUND

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	60-2 Emergency Management
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	ROEROC DFES
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

### COMMENT

At the February Executive meeting, the members agreed to apply for the Disaster Resilience Fund for power switches and generators at nominated Evacuation Centres across members.

The NEWROC EO is currently preparing the application in partnership with members from ROEROC who are also seeking the same infrastructure under the grant.

The Shire of Narembeen has agreed to be the lead Shire for the grant. The ROEROC EO is collating their information and providing it to NEWROC.

This project aligns to the Economic Development Strategy:

1. *NEWROC will advocate for investment from state and federal governments in critical, enabling and catalytic infrastructure and essential services including telecommunications, electricity, regional waste and health care*
  - a) *Power and telecommunications are reliable and is an enabler to economic growth.*

The grant application will be supported by the Economic Impact Assessment on Power and Telecommunications Outages in the NEWROC.

*Note: This agenda item will be discussed in the Executive meeting.*

### RESOLUTION

Received.

Moved: Cr Shadbolt

Seconded: Cr Garner

**CARRIED**

**8.3. REDS GRANT - MICROGRID**

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	107-1 Power
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	27 March 2025
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

NEWROC engaged Sunrise Energy Group to investigate the feasibility of establishing a renewable energy microgrid in the town of Bencubbin that could improve the reliability of power supply in the area.

Sunrise Energy has completed the Bencubbin Microgrid Feasibility Study, funded by the Regional Economic Development Grant (Wheatbelt Development Commission).

The NEWROC Economic Development Sub Committee will meet with Sunrise Energy on April 10<sup>th</sup> via TEAMS to discuss the report.

Further information will be provided to the Executive and Council following this initial briefing.

This final report closes out the REDS grant. The project can now be acquitted.

**RESOLUTION**

**Received.**

**Moved: Cr DeLacy**

**Seconded: Cr Sachse**

**CARRIED**

## 9. GENERAL UPDATES

### 9.1 Minister for the Wheatbelt

The Hon Sabine Winton MLA has been announced as the Minister for Education and Minister for Education.

Potential action:

- Extend invitation to attend NEWROC brand re-launch and meet with her on key projects as well as the Regional Education Strategy. Other topical subjects could include the allocation of funds for the “Keep the Sheep” promotion, Regional subsidiaries focused on waste after contact with Tony Brown from WAGIA.

### 9.2 Central Wheatbelt Electorate

New State member for our electorate – Hon Lachlan Hunter. Extend an invitation to the NEWROC brand re-launch and next Council meeting.

## 10. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

29 April	Executive	Shire of Dowerin
27 May	Council	Shire of Mt Marshall
24 June	Executive	Shire of Trayning
29 July	Council	Shire of Koorda
29 August	Executive	Shire of Nungarin **FRIDAY
30 September	Council	Shire of Wyalkatchem
28 October	Executive	Shire of Mt Marshall
25 November	Council	Shire of Mukinbudin

## 11. CLOSURE

Cr Brown closed the meeting at 3.30pm.