



**North Eastern Wheatbelt  
Regional Organisation of Councils**

## **Council Meeting**

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Dowerin Council Chambers

## **MINUTES**

9.30 am Morning Tea  
10.00 am Council Meeting

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## 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> </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

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 7 July 2026 at the Dowerin Council Chambers commencing at 10.00 am.

### MINUTES

#### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NEWROC President welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10.01 am

#### 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 Pippa De Lacy    | President, Shire of Nungarin                     |
| Cr Jannah Stratford | President, Shire of Koorda                       |
| Cr Tony Sachse      | President, Shire of Mt Marshall                  |
| Cr Christy Petchell | President, Shire of Wyalkatchem                  |
| Cr Ashley Walker    | Councillor, Shire of Mukinbudin                  |
| Manisha Barthakur   | CEO NEWROC, CEO Shire of Dowerin                 |
| Dave Nayda          | CEO, Shire of Nungarin                           |
| Tanika McLennan     | CEO, Shire of Mukinbudin                         |
| Zac Donovan         | CEO, Shire of Koorda                             |
| Tom Kettle          | CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem                        |
| Caroline Robinson   | Executive Officer, NEWROC                        |
| Maddison Sumpton    | Executive Assistant/Support, Dowerin/NEWROC      |
| Cr Chris Meakins    | Councillor, Shire of Dowerin                     |
| Cr Darrel Hudson    | President, Shire of Dowerin                      |

##### 2.2 Apologies

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Peter Naylor  | CEO, Shire of Trayning         |
| Ben McKay     | CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall      |
| Gary Shadbolt | President, Shire of Mukinbudin |

##### 2.3 Guests

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Julian Goldacre | EHO, Shire of Dowerin |
|-----------------|-----------------------|

##### 2.4 Leave of Absences

##### 2.5 Delegations

## 2.6 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 |

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

Julian Goldacre, EHO, to discuss the regional land site and transfer stations (10.30 am – 11 am)

### 4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 May 2026 have previously been circulated.

#### RESOLUTION

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 May 2026 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**Moved Cr De Lacy                      Seconded Cr Brown                      CARRIED 7/0**

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 June 2026 have previously been circulated.

#### RESOLUTION

**That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 9 June 2026 be received.**

**Moved Cr De Lacy                      Seconded Cr Walker                      CARRIED 7/0**

#### 4.1 BUSINESS ARISING

Status update on strategic projects

| Strategic Project                    | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Joint ROC Forum</b>               | <p>RESOLUTION (March 2026)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes outcomes of the Joint ROC Event</li> <li>2. Considers and determines priority next steps arising from the event</li> <li>3. Executive proposes actions and presents to Council (circular resolution to enable this and timeliness)</li> </ol> | <p>Advocacy Plan developed and being worked through.</p> <p>See correspondence from Minister Dawson (attached).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Key Workforce Housing Project</b> | The joint application to the Regional Housing Support Fund was submitted in January 2026 (three Shires).                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Crown Land Assembly exercise with members currently underway to prepare for a DPLH meeting.</p> <p>The State Government has not announced the successful applications of RHSF.</p> <p>Discussions with other Wheatbelt local governments have similarly identified that several current housing grant programs contain eligibility criteria that limit access for Wheatbelt local government-led housing projects. As a result, collaborative advocacy across Wheatbelt local governments is emerging as a preferred approach in seeking amendments to funding eligibility and improved access to future housing funding opportunities.</p> <p>Early conversation on group procurement of modular housing.</p> <p>Feedback from Zone delegates on recent Ministerial meetings.</p> |
| <b>Regional Waste Project</b>        | <p>RESOLUTION (May 2026)</p> <p>Council adopt the 26/27 budget, with the waste management project—subject to a successful grant application—funded from NEWROC reserves.</p>                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Funding received.</p> <p>Project Plan developed.</p> <p>CEOs have been completing a site review of their tips to identify site works for the grant.</p> <p>Shire of Dowerin will hold the grant and agreement.</p> <p>Timeline extension request to DEWR.</p> <p>Julian Goldacre, EHO, attending the Council meeting 7/7/26</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## 5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 5.1 FINANCES

**FILE REFERENCE:** 031-1 Finance and Audit  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson  
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil  
**DATE:** 30 June 2026  
**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:**  
**CONSULTATION:**  
**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

### Account Transactions

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils  
 For the period 1 May 2026 to 30 June 2026

| Date                              | Description                                  | Reference                    | Credit            | Debit           | Running Balance   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b>       |                                              |                              |                   |                 |                   |
| <b>Opening Balance</b>            |                                              |                              | <b>148,744.90</b> | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>148,744.90</b> |
| 01 May 2026                       | Xero Australia                               | XERO                         | 0.00              | 71.25           | 148,673.65        |
| 01 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Narembreen                 | Joint ROC Forum Contribution | 1,537.00          | 0.00            | 150,210.65        |
| 01 May 2026                       | Bendigo Bank                                 | Fee                          | 0.00              | 1.20            | 150,209.45        |
| 08 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire Of Nungarin                   | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 153,037.45        |
| 13 May 2026                       | Payment: Bencubbin Community Resource Centre | Records                      | 0.00              | 155.00          | 152,882.45        |
| 13 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Mt Marshall                | Venue Hire                   | 0.00              | 170.00          | 152,712.45        |
| 13 May 2026                       | Payment: Mint Collaborative                  | Joint HR project             | 0.00              | 7,150.00        | 145,562.45        |
| 13 May 2026                       | Payment: Dimensions Cafe                     | NEWROC Training              | 0.00              | 1,161.60        | 144,400.85        |
| 18 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire Of Mukinbudin                 | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 147,228.85        |
| 18 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Dowerin                    | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 150,056.85        |
| 22 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Trayning                   | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 152,884.85        |
| 22 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Koorda                     | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 155,712.85        |
| 22 May 2026                       | Payment: Shire of Wyalkatchem                | Joint HR project             | 2,828.00          | 0.00            | 158,540.85        |
| 01 Jun 2026                       | Bendigo Bank                                 | Fee                          | 0.00              | 1.60            | 158,539.25        |
| 02 Jun 2026                       | Xero Australia                               | Xero                         | 0.00              | 71.25           | 158,468.00        |
| <b>Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b> |                                              |                              | <b>18,505.00</b>  | <b>8,781.90</b> | <b>158,468.00</b> |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>            |                                              |                              | <b>158,468.00</b> | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>158,468.00</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                      |                                              |                              | <b>18,505.00</b>  | <b>8,781.90</b> | <b>158,468.00</b> |

# Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

As at 30 June 2026

30 JUNE 2026

## Assets

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bank</b>                  |                   |
| BB NEWROC Funds-5557         | 158,468.00        |
| BB Term Deposit Account-1388 | 324,363.98        |
| <b>Total Bank</b>            | <b>482,831.98</b> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>        |                   |
| Sundry Debtors Control       | 2,828.00          |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>  | <b>2,828.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>          | <b>485,659.98</b> |

## Liabilities

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>       |                 |
| ATO Integrated Client Account    | 3,876.00        |
| GST                              | (145.55)        |
| Rounding                         | 0.21            |
| Sundry Creditors Control         | 3,776.00        |
| Unpaid ATO Liabilities           | (5,419.00)      |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b> | <b>2,087.66</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>         | <b>2,087.66</b> |

**Net Assets** 483,572.32

## Equity

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Current Year Earnings | (19,804.48)       |
| Retained Earnings     | 503,376.80        |
| <b>Total Equity</b>   | <b>483,572.32</b> |

## RESOLUTION

That the income and expenditure from 1 May 2026 to 30 June 2026 and the balance sheet as of 30 June 2026 be received.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 7/0

## 6. MATTERS FOR DECISION

|                                |                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 103-1 Waste Management                                 |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson                                      |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                                                    |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 2 July 2026                                            |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | Project Plan<br>Regional Landfill Site Assessments (2) |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | Executive                                              |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                                                    |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority                                        |

### COMMENT

NEWROC resolved to submit an application to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) under the WA Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF). The application has been approved, and the Deed of Grant is now ready for execution by the Shire of Dowerin on behalf of the NEWROC.

Grant amount: \$521,664.00 (excluding GST)

NEWROC co-contribution: \$260,832.00

Total project cost: \$782,496.00 (excluding GST)

Project commencement: 01 July 2026

Grant timeframe: Completion 30 November 2026 (likely to be extended, negotiation with DWER to come)

#### Deliverables:

- Construct infrastructure at each existing landfill site to enable waste separation and resource recovery.
- Procure and install 8 x 6m<sup>3</sup> collection bins per station (6 front-lift waste bins and 2 cardboard cages) — 72 bins in total — targeting plastics, paper and cardboard.
- Create FTE positions to operate the transfer stations at designated times (if required).
- Increase paper, cardboard, plastics processing capacity
- Divert an estimated 2,695 tonnes to recycling
- Introduce dedicated recycling infrastructure into some towns.
- Extend the operational life of landfill sites

Following the NEWROC June Executive meeting, CEO's together with Works Managers have responded to NEWROC EO as to what is required at each site.

The NEWROC EO has received feedback from various Executive members regarding the project, and notes one member Council is not supportive of the project being funded from NEWROC Reserves.

- The project timeframe should be negotiated and extended with DEWR
- Allocation of funds was determined on an even split across member Shires, noting two Councils have more than one tip and NEWROC had limited reserves initially for co-contribution (a grant requirement). It is expected that member local governments will have to allocate funds towards their project works.
- We have not secured a regional landfill site; however, NEWROC has expended funds on assessments for two member local governments to consider 'hosting' the regional landfill and potentially to assist the group work towards phase 2 of the project, this needs to be determined within the short to medium term (and the mechanisms required to acquire land if required)
- The NEWROC Executive will be the working group for the project.
- Acknowledge logistics, waste management assets, fees, compliance, etc., are at different levels and complexities in each member Council
- This waste management model is demonstrated elsewhere by other ROCs.

Julian Goldacre, EHO, will be attending the meeting. Members will have the opportunity to seek Julian's expertise and discuss the transfer stations, future logistics and movement of waste, as well as the proposed regional facility.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Receives the Project Plan for the WA Recycling Modernisation Fund.

#### RESOLUTION

**Received the Project Plan for the WA Recycling Modernisation Fund.**

**Endorse Stage 1 of the Project Plan for the WA Recycling Modernisation Fund and NEWROC Council Members advise the Executive Group to proceed with planning and acceptance of the Deed.**

**Moved Cr Brown**

**Seconded Cr Sasche**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Julian Goldacre, EHO Shire of Dowerin, left the meeting at 11.24 am.

Tom Kettle CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem, left the meeting at 11.25 am and returned at 11.27 am.

Discussion:

- Stage 1 of the project does not commit to Stage 2 (regional facility).
- Executive will undertake work on stage 2 costings and logistics at its next Executive meeting for presentation back to Council.

## 6.1 EO KPI's

|                                |                                                              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 042-2 Executive Officer                                      |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson                                            |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                                                          |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 3 July 2026                                                  |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | Advocacy Plan<br>GPs Stakeholder Plan<br>Housing<br>Cr Trepp |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | Nil                                                          |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Simple Majority                                              |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     |                                                              |

### COMMENT

At the May Council meeting, the members discussed the current KPIs and the new set of KPI's.

These require endorsement by the members.

| TIER 1 HIGH PRIORITY (12 months)                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1. Progress towards funding for residential land headworks (as per the NEWROC workforce housing strategy and individual member Town Action plans)<br><br><i>Readiness – evidence base documented</i> | A2. Progress towards funding for residential housing construction (as per the NEWROC workforce housing strategy and individual member Town Action plans)<br>A2. Investigate housing 'group procurement'<br><br><i>Readiness – evidence base documented</i> |
| B. Progress funding towards the planning of the NEWROC Microgrid.<br><br><i>Readiness – feasibility study completed, Western Power support, no governing structure to implement</i>                   | C. Secure funding for waste transfer stations in the NEWROC.<br><br><i>Readiness – evidence base documented and in principle agreement for regional site, budget allocations in each member Council</i>                                                    |
| TER 2 MEDIUM PRIORITY (12 months)                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| D. Progress towards a solution to reduce annual rate contributions towards the provision of GP services in communities.<br><br><i>Readiness – evidence base documented, Alliance established</i>      | E. Advocate for second round of funding for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.<br><br><i>Readiness – WSFN established and proof of concept</i>                                                                                                       |
| TIER 3 LOW PRIORITY                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| H. Investigation into the purpose of a Regional Subsidiary for housing.<br><br><i>Readiness – foundational documents developed, needs revision and Council endorsement / public commentary.</i>       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Additional points from Council May discussion relating to NEWROC EO KPIs:

- NEWROC Council sets the strategic direction for NEWROC, including the Executive Officer's KPIs, and works with the Executive to research, support and implement the priorities identified by member councils.
- NEWROC EO has worked with the Shire of Dowerin as the lead Shire for NEWROC to split projects and administration duties. Engaged by 150Square, administration support for the NEWROC EO to assist with agendas, minutes, newsletters, and general administration is underway.
- Newsletter and communications. Next newsletter has been prepared. **NEWROC EO seeking feedback from members as to NEWROC communications on our social media (LinkedIn and Instagram). NEWROC EO seeking feedback on whether we should produce a 2025/26 Annual Report and communicate it to our partners.**
- To be further investigated: Investigate grant writer (retainer or casual), EV chargers, tourism development (with NEWTRAVEL).

#### RESOLUTION

**Adopts the NEWROC EO Key Performance targets for the 26/27 financial year.**

**Moved Cr Sasche**

**Seconded Cr Petchell**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Discussion:

- Annual report to be developed
- Prospectus to be developed

## 6.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RURAL HEALTH FUNDING ALLIANCE

|                                |                                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 071-1 Health General                         |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson                            |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                                          |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 2 July 2026                                  |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | Meeting Report<br>Media release<br>ALGA news |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           |                                              |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                                          |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority                              |

### COMMENT

The Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance convened a hybrid workshop in Canberra on 22 June 2026 to bring together rural and remote local governments experiencing the cost of attracting and retaining general practitioners in thin markets. The workshop was attended by representatives from Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia, together with WALGA, Local Government NSW, ALGA, the National Rural Health Alliance and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Cr Melanie Brown, Shire President of Trayning, participated in the workshop on behalf of the Shire of Trayning and as a NEWROC member council representative.

The workshop reinforced that local governments have become the funder of last resort for GP access in many rural and remote communities, despite primary health care being a Commonwealth and State responsibility. The Alliance's position is that the attraction and retention of GPs should not continue to fall to local government ratepayers, particularly in MM6 and MM7 communities where the market is not delivering sustainable primary health care services.

Key evidence presented at the workshop included:

- WALGA survey data showing that Western Australian local governments are contributing approximately \$9.5 million per annum to support GP services, with 91 per cent of that support provided by councils with populations under 5,000.
- The Alliance's independent economic assessment also identified that every dollar invested by councils in GP attraction and retention returns \$3.08 in value through reduced hospitalisations, a healthier workforce and stronger local economies.

Workshop participants agreed that a coordinated national advocacy effort is required, supported by consistent data collection, case studies demonstrating the human impact and opportunity cost to councils, and continued engagement with decision-makers. The Alliance is seeking tailored Commonwealth funding for thin markets so that local governments are no longer required to act as the funder of last resort for primary health care access.

An Alliance meeting is scheduled for Friday. The NEWROC Executive Officer will update the group on what comes from the meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

- 1. Notes Cr Brown's participation in the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance Canberra Workshop held on 22 June 2026;**
- 2. Receives the workshop summary and media release relating to the attraction and retention of general practitioners in rural and remote communities;**
- 3. Supports the Alliance writing to WAPHA, the Minister for Health and Department of Health and Ageing, seeking inclusion in thin markets funding priorities and advocating for a sustainable State and Commonwealth funding response for rural and remote GP attraction and retention.**

**Moved Cr Sasche**

**Seconded Cr Walker**

**CARRIED 7/0**

### 6.3 LAND AND HOUSING

|                                |                                                           |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 090 – 1 Housing General                                   |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson                                         |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                                                       |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 4 June 2026                                               |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | Housing Plan<br>DRAFT Briefing Note                       |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | ROEROC EO<br>WEROC EO<br>Wheatbelt Development Commission |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                                                       |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority                                           |

#### COMMENT

The NEWROC key worker housing project has now progressed to an evidence-based stage, supported by the preliminary business case and individual Town Action Plans being prepared for member Shires. The Town Action Plans are tailored to each Shire's circumstances and are intended to identify priority residential land, servicing constraints, planning actions and practical next steps to increase housing supply and workforce accommodation. It is noted that not every NEWROC member has received their Town Action Plan from the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

The preliminary business case identifies a significant housing shortfall across the NEWROC subregion. By 2031, the estimated workforce housing requirement is an additional 185 to 307 dwellings, with broader dwelling demand of 264 to 420 dwellings across the subregion. The analysis also estimates that 38 to 60 dwellings per year may be required over the next seven years to respond to demand, including at least 26 to 44 workforce dwellings each year.

The business case supports a coordinated sub-regional approach to key worker housing, with local government development and ownership identified as the preferred delivery model.

Housing was identified as a strategic priority at the Joint ROC Forum in February 2026, reflecting its importance across the participating regional organisations.

The NEWROC Executive Officer has prepared a Housing Plan to guide the group's next steps, with an initial focus on engaging relevant departmental officers. RoeROC has secured a meeting with Minister Carey and Minister Dawson to discuss regional housing and headworks funding, and NEWROC has been working closely with RoeROC to help shape the advocacy priorities to be presented, reflecting collaboration across the three regional organisations.

As the Town Action Plans are finalised, the next step is to confirm priority land and infrastructure actions for each member Shire. This includes identifying Crown land that may be suitable for housing but has barriers to development, and identifying priority sites where headworks funding is required. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has requested a meeting, which may provide an opportunity to progress Crown land matters alongside future advocacy and funding applications.

At this stage, no financial co-contribution is being sought from member Shires. The purpose of this process is to engage DPLH and other relevant agencies to facilitate access to Crown land that has historically been challenging to develop, address existing constraints, and enable a coordinated approach to headworks planning and service delivery.

**RESOLUTION**

**That NEWROC Executive requests each member Shire to confirm:**

- 1. its priority land for housing development;**
- 2. any Crown land priorities or barriers requiring discussion with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and native title constraints (another authority);**
- 3. priority sites where headworks funding is needed to enable housing delivery.**

**That NEWROC receives the briefing note.**

**Moved Cr De Lacy**

**Seconded Cr Stratford**

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 7.1 MICROGRID

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 107-1 Power        |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson  |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 4 June 2026        |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | CPA Scope of Works |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | Ben McKay          |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority    |

#### COMMENT

The microgrid remains a priority project for NEWROC. The Bencubbin Renewable Microgrid Feasibility Study by Sunrise found that a renewable microgrid for Bencubbin and the downstream radial network is technically, commercially and practically feasible, and identified its key value in improving reliability, increasing local electricity capacity and supporting future economic development. Western Power has also provided a letter of support for the project in principle.

The project builds on earlier NEWROC work, including the previous REDS grant-supported technical planning phase and subsequent feasibility investigations. Acquittal of the REDS grant remains outstanding at present as NEWROC has not expended its full co-contribution (circa \$17K).

The NEWROC Executive Officer and the CEO of the Shire of Mt Marshall recently met with Community Power Agency (CPA) to discuss how the project could be progressed. CPA has provided options for supporting NEWROC, ranging from strategic advisory support through to a more involved delivery partner role.

Their proposed work could complement the technical and commercial pathway already developed by Sunrise and help to design community engagement, identify community participation and local benefit-sharing options, coordinate broader project planning inputs, and strengthen the project's readiness for future funding, investment and implementation discussions.

#### RESOLUTION

**Information is received**

**Moved Cr Stratford**

**Seconded Cr Brown**

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 7.2 TRAINING

|                                |                                        |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 041-9 Training – Councillors and Staff |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson                      |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                                    |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 2 July 2026                            |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      | Nil                                    |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | Nil                                    |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                                    |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority                        |

### COMMENT

WALGA is hosting the Essential Skills for Independent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Members training in Corrigin.

The session is scheduled to be held in Corrigin on Thursday, 23 July 2026.

Registration details are available [here](#).

### RESOLUTION

Information is received

Moved Cr Brown

Seconded Cr De Lacy

CARRIED 7/0

### 7.3 LG PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

**FILE REFERENCE:**

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil

**DATE:** 30 June 2026

**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:**

**CONSULTATION:**

**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil

**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

Expression of Interest: 2026 LG Professionals WA Annual State Conference

*All Hands on Deck:* Working together to navigate change and strengthen our communities

LG Professionals WA is seeking expressions of interest for presentations at its 2026 Annual State Conference. The conference theme, *All Hands on Deck*, focuses on how local governments are working together to navigate change, strengthen communities and respond to sector-wide challenges including workforce pressures, financial constraints, governance, technology, community trust and social cohesion.

Council is asked to consider whether NEWROC should submit an expression of interest for a presentation, or support an individual member local government to submit a case study or presentation that reflects the work being undertaken across the region.

- Potential presentation topics could include NEWROC's collaborative model, specific projects or lessons from working collectively across small Wheatbelt local governments.
- A presentation would provide an opportunity to share practical learnings with the sector, raise the profile of NEWROC and its member local governments, and highlight the value of regional collaboration in responding to community and organisational challenges.

### RESOLUTION

**Information is received. EO to submit an EOI.**

**NEWROC CEO to present with EO support.**

**Moved Cr Sasche**

**Seconded Cr Stratford**

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 7.4 SHARED SERVICES

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>         | 042-20 Regional Shared Services |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>      | Caroline Robinson               |
| <b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b> | Nil                             |
| <b>DATE:</b>                   | 3 July 2026                     |
| <b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>      |                                 |
| <b>CONSULTATION:</b>           | Peter Naylor                    |
| <b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>  | Nil                             |
| <b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>     | Simple Majority                 |

### BACKGROUND

The OAG report in 2025 summarises the annual financial audits of local governments for the year ended 30 June 2025. The overall message is one of steady improvement in audit outcomes and timeliness, set against continuing concerns about the quality of financial reports and the financial sustainability of parts of the sector.

Alongside the OAG report is the State Government's local government reform agenda and more recently growing media reports on the governance of local government and the increasing demand for the LG inspector to intervene. The amalgamation or boundary issue has re-emerged amongst the sector and has been spoken about by the Minister for Local Government publicly. This is a risk to the NEWROC members.

The opportunity for NEWROC is that it can demonstrate it can work and deliver services collaboratively and can shape any future conversation from a position of strength.

### COMMENT

Retina Visions, presented at the last NEWROC meeting, is an Australian AI-based road and footpath inspection service. Cameras are fit to vehicles already operating in the Shire and automatically detect defects, feeding the data into each council's existing asset management system rather than a separate platform. It is used by more than 30 councils, state road authorities and contractors across Australia.

The Executive listened to the presentation and had discussion on the software, with a potential to see benefit particularly when storms, floods and fire impact the road network and requests for funding from government is required – helping to maximise the request. It may also be helpful in funding requests for the WSNF and Federal government packages.

Procuring together could improve pricing, shared setup and training, consistent road-condition data standards across the region, and a common basis for works delivery.

Additionally, it provides a benefit for audits and something the OAG has flagged. The report showed that asset valuation and condition-related prior-period errors are the single largest report-quality problem in the local government sector.

At the Works and Services Day in Bruce Rock in May, we heard from the Works Managers from Mukinbudin, Nungarin and Trayning who are in the early stages of working towards an MoU to share road works, plant and equipment. This is a practical example of collaboration NEWROC members should continue to have when needed, within budgets and governance can be shared.

The NEWROC Executive is also currently exploring the possibility of a shared planner. A potential applicant presented themselves to the Shire of Trayning and has had a soft interview with the NEWROC EO, with another interview planned on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Looking ahead, a regional subsidiary is the larger structural step and will take time to design, however we have the foundations in place. It is also listed as a low priority in the NEWROC EO's annual performance targets.

To pursue the regional subsidiary, the NEWROC needs a specific purpose: potentially this could be a shared service or waste management (in light of our recent DEWR funding) or the microgrid project. A discussion to be had perhaps at the next Executive and Council meetings of the NEWROC.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Information is received**

**Information is received and acknowledges progress to date, and will continue discussions at both Council and Executive level.**

**Moved Cr Sasche**

**Seconded Cr Stratford**

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 7.5 WORKS AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

**FILE REFERENCE:** 041-9 Training  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson  
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil  
**DATE:** 4 June 2026  
**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:** Works and Services Development Day Report  
Works and Services Manager Session  
**CONSULTATION:**  
**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

### COMMENT

Works and Services team members from a number of NEWROC Shires attended a development day in Bruce Rock.

Feedback from the event is attached as well as a summary of the Works and Services Manager session. Darren Mollenoyux will work with the WA LG Works and Services Association to progress areas of common priority.

### RESOLUTION

**Information is received and feedback noted by the Works and Services Managers.**

**Moved Cr Walker**

**Seconded Cr De Lacy**

**CARRIED 7/0**

## 8. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

- Country Ambulance discussion: the Executive Officer provided a verbal update on advocacy efforts to support 100% volunteer ambulance sub-centres.

## 9. GENERAL UPDATES / DISCUSSION

- Dowerin Down Town 24 July – NEWROC attendance
- Regional Collaboration Session with LG Professionals WA
- New Disaster Recovery Framework – Correspondence received by all Presidents from Hon. Kirsty McBain
- Waste Grant Media Release – Seeking advice on whether we put this out or not. Instruction is to put out a media release mirroring the Minister's statement

## 10. 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

|             |                            |                      |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 7 July      | Council                    | Shire of Dowerin     |
| 4 August    | Executive                  | Shire of Mt Marshall |
| 1 September | Council                    | Shire of Koorda      |
| 6 October   | Executive and<br>NEWTRAVEL | Shire of Nungarin    |
| 3 November  | Council                    | Shire of Wyalkatchem |

## 12. CLOSURE

NEWROC President closed the meeting at 12.16 pm