



North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

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

# Council Meeting

Tuesday 30 July 2024

Nungarin Recreation Centre

## MINUTES

1.30pm Light Lunch  
2pm 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> <li>👉 Local Government Week agenda</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 commencing at 2pm on 30 July 2024 at the Nungarin Recreation Centre.

### MINUTES

#### 1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Brown, NEWROC Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting 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
Leanne Parola	NEWROC CEO, CEO Shire of Trayning
Zac Donovan	CEO Shire of Koorda
Sabine Taylor	CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Ben McKay	CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall
David Nayda	A/CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Tanika McLennan	A/CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Caroline Robinson	Executive Officer, NEWROC
Rob Cossart	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission (3.10pm – 4pm)
Cr Mischa Stratford	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Rod Lawson Kerr	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Tracy Dickson	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Chris Loton	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem

##### 2.2 Apologies

Aaron Wooldridge A/CEO, Shire of Dowerin

##### 2.4 Leave of Absence Approvals / Approved

**Cr Mel Brown requested a leave of absence for the September meeting. Approved.**

**Moved Cr De Lacy**

**Seconded Cr Trepp**

**CARRIED 7/0**

### 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 Trayning)	Council	CEO	Council Dec 2017
NEWROC Website	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council June 2017

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

Rob Cossart, CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Strategic Priorities of the Commission:

- New industries
- Enhance regional living standards
- Aboriginal participation in economy
- Excellence in organizational leadership

These strategic priorities are aligned to the Regional Investment Framework.

Key pieces of work:

- Developing the peri-urban corridor (freight, logistics, Avon Industrial Park)
- Renewable energy – how do we prepare? (policy, benefits etc)
- Preparing for transmission upgrades
- Regional housing – aggregation of local governments, minimum government intervention cost per house, headworks funding, key worker housing options
- Telecommunications – roll out of the automatic transfer units in high risk locations
- South West Native Title Framework and Aboriginal procurement and employment
- Wheatbelt District Leadership Group is developing an integrated strategic plan to guide investment in social services / community / health and human services
- Wheatbelt preparedness for natural disasters, capacity building people and organisations
- Capturing the new east to west fibre network

Alignment and opportunities in common (NEWROC and WDC):

- Residential land activation
- Information to better understand renewables development in our communities, the policy barriers, desired benefits
- Community Investment Framework – what's our position for developers (mining, energy etc) in our communities
- Live Sheep by Sea Trade policy implications
- Using our collective advocacy
- Private sector engagement, supporting proponents to get projects over the line

**5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 have previously been circulated.

**RESOLUTION**

**That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 are received as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**Moved Cr Stratford****Seconded Cr Garner****CARRIED 7/0**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 25 June 2024 have previously been circulated.

**RESOLUTION**

**That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 25 June 2024 be received.**

**Moved Cr De Lacy****Seconded Cr Stratford****CARRIED 7/0****5.1 Business Arising**

Nil

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 6.1 Income, Expenditure and Profit and Loss

<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>	25 July 2024
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#1P and L
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

Account transactions for the period 1 May 2024 – 30 June 2024

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
<b>BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b>					
	<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>141,323.32</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>141,323.32</b>
01 May 2024	Bendigo Bank		0.00	0.80	141,322.52
01 May 2024	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	61.75	141,260.77
09 May 2024	Payment: Grants Empire	00002308	0.00	532.00	140,728.77
09 May 2024	Payment: Econisis	23103-2	0.00	9,831.25	130,897.52
09 May 2024	Payment: 150Square	INV-0282	0.00	4,079.43	126,818.09
22 May 2024	Bank Transfer from ATO Integrated Client Account to BB NEWROC Funds-5557	ATO	1,373.00	0.00	128,191.09
01 Jun 2024	Bendigo Bank		0.00	1.20	128,189.89
03 Jun 2024	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	61.75	128,128.14
11 Jun 2024	Payment: Alyce Ventris	2072	0.00	4,137.54	123,990.60
11 Jun 2024	Payment: 150Square	INV-0287	0.00	4,276.63	119,713.97
11 Jun 2024	Payment: Alyce Smith	2079	0.00	4,105.75	115,608.22
11 Jun 2024	Payment: Econisis	23103-3	0.00	2,268.75	113,339.47
11 Jun 2024	Payment: Alyce Smith	2075	0.00	3,272.39	110,067.08
	<b>Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557</b>		<b>1,373.00</b>	<b>32,629.24</b>	<b>110,067.08</b>
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>110,067.08</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>110,067.08</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1,373.00</b>	<b>32,629.24</b>	<b>(31,256.24)</b>

# Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils  
 As at 30 June 2024

	30 JUNE 2024
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
BB NEWROC Funds-5557	110,067.08
BB Term Deposit Account-1388	311,785.83
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>421,852.91</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>421,852.91</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
ATO Integrated Client Account	1,373.00
GST	(5,056.15)
Rounding	0.07
Unpaid ATO Liabilities	(1,373.00)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,056.08)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(5,056.08)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>426,908.99</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	(42,692.71)
Retained Earnings	469,601.70
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>426,908.99</b>

## RESOLUTION

That the income and expenditure from 1 May 2024 to 30 June 2024, P and L and balance sheet be received.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 7/0



## 7. MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

<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>	21 June 2024
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#2 Economic Profile #3 Economic Development Strategy #4 Brand Quote
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	Cr Trepp Cr De Lacy Ben McKay
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

#### COMMENT

The Economic Development Sub Committee has been working with Econisis to develop a NEWROC Economic Development Strategy.

A face to face session was held with Econisis and the sub committee met on three further occasions to finalise the content and priorities. The sub committee presents two documents to the Executive to consider:

Part A: NEWROC Economic Development Strategy

Part B: NEWROC Economic Profile

Potential actions following the adoption of the Strategy:

1. Strategy and Economic Profile presented to member Councils, adopted individually
2. Individual Shire action plans developed
3. Uploaded to NEWROC website, social media posts, newsletter
4. Included in member Shire newsletters
5. Distributed to WDC, RDA Wheatbelt, WBN, NEWTravel with a request to meet to discuss implementation
6. Included in NEWROC annual calendar of activities (review and report)
7. Included in NEWROC EO schedule (contract)
8. Quarterly standing agenda item at NEWROC
9. ED Sub committee continues

Two quotes have been requested by local businesses to work with all members to establish a NEWROC brand. At the time of this agenda, one quote had been received.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Economic Development Strategy and Economic Profile

Invite Rob Cossart and Renee Manning (WDC) to the NEWROC Council meeting in July to discuss the Strategy.

Amendment to the 2024/25 Budget for branding costs.

**RESOLUTIONS****Economic Development Strategy and Economic Profile, with amendments be adopted.****Moved Cr De Lacy****Seconded Cr Sachse****CARRIED 7/0****Amendment to the 2024/25 Budget for branding costs is approved and the preferred choice of contractor is delegated to the Executive.****Moved Cr Sachse****Seconded Cr Stratford****CARRIED 7/0**

## Discussion:

- Amendments to Part B Profile: Key challenges and needs / change to key actions; Small and ageing population; reword to be opportunistic; Live Sheep; reword to government intervention in agriculture; Climate changes and green tech – include improving soil and agricultural practices; Keep changing of the climate; Global mega trends; add government intervention. Pg 8 – manufacturing – need to turn these into strengths; Pg 18 – increase manufacturing to simplify supply chains, manufacturing locally in the region; Innovation – add desalination.
- Community revitalization is a key priority for our Shires.
- Amendments to the Strategic Plan: small business - add capture value add small businesses; unskilled and skilled labour – add immigration; renewable energy needs to be strategically managed – salt land, not robbing productive agricultural land; add mining.
- Our brand – what's our value? Why are we different? What are our attributes?
- Resource sharing currently on an informal and ad hoc basis between Shires.

## 7.2 LAND USE – TREE FARMS

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	130-1 Economic Services General
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	25 July 2024
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group Wheatbelt Development Commission
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

### COMMENT

Land use policies set out a guide for applicants and establishes a Council or collective of Councils position on land use and developments.

A policy of interest regarding tree farm applications in a rural local government is the Shire of Perenjori's [Local Planning Policy No 1 – Tree Farms](#). This is raised with members due to tree farm establishments in the Shires of Morawa, Perenjori and Dalwallinu and more recently Woodside's purchase of farming properties in Mt Marshall and Westonia, so too other investors purchasing farming properties in Koorda with the intent to plant to trees.

It would be beneficial for the NEWROC to consider a policy and position either individually or collectively. For any collective work, this could be carried out internally by the EO and support the Economic Development Strategy.

Discussion at the Executive Meeting:

- Members do not currently have a land use policy for tree farms or renewables
- Shire of Mt Marshall is discussing land use with DPIRD
- Separate issues: investment framework v land use policy. Separate agenda items for Council

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

NEWROC Executive develop a position or guiding principles on new tree farms in the district, for consideration by members.

### RESOLUTION

**NEWROC Executive develop guiding principles on new tree farms in the district, for consideration by members.**

**Moved Cr Sachse**

**Seconded Cr Trepp**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Discussion:

- The Shire of Nungarin has been approached regarding a future tree farm. It currently has no Town Planning Scheme.
- The Shire of Mt Marshall has requested information from DPIRD regarding productive and non productive agricultural land, the impact of tree farms on this.
- There is a need to differentiate between tree farming and carbon offset projects.

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- Considerations that any application for a tree farm must have an economic impact statement attached.
- ACTION: NEWROC EO to ask how the Shire of Perenjori wrote their tree farm policy.

**7.3 LIVE SHEEP**

**FILE REFERENCE:** 130-1 Economic Services General  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Caroline Robinson  
**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Nil  
**DATE:** 21 June 2024  
**ATTACHMENT NUMBER:**  
**CONSULTATION:**  
**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:** Nil  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT:** Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

NEWROC EO presented to the Committee conducting the Inquiry into Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024 at Muresk on Friday 14 June. Other panelists included: Shire President and CEO of the Shire of Katanning; Shire Presidents of Wagin, Tambellup and Northam.

NEWROC also submitted a [written statement](#) to the Committee. Committee will provide a report to Parliament within the week.

At the last NEWROC Council meeting (May) the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLUTION**

NEWROC receives the information.

NEWROC writes to Minister Watt after input from NEWROC Executive.

NEWROC Executive reviews the transition package announced and implications for the district's economy and communities

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 6/0

The Transition Package has been announced, so too a timeline (not timeframe). Transition package will include: \$107 million over 5 years available from 2024-25 to assist those impacted, specifically:

- \$64.6 million to support sheep producers and the supply chain, particularly in WA
- \$27 million to enhance demand within Australia and internationally for sheep products
- \$2.6 million to continue improving sheep welfare standards
- \$1.7 million to appoint a Transition Advocate
- \$11.1 million for implementation and engagement

The Transition Package is focused on \$64.6m towards consultants and advisors to support producers plan their way out of the industry. It will also be allocated towards Rural Financial Counsellors. There is limited funding in the package for local governments to access to reverse the economic decline NEWROC is predicting (as per our economic impact assessment).

Between the Executive Meeting at this Council meeting, the legislation was passed.

At the Executive Meeting, the following resolution and action was passed.

**RESOLUTION**

Investigation into the transition package await further news of the Bill's progression (whether it passes the Senate).

Moved Z Donovan

Seconded B McKay

CARRIED 6/0

**ACTION**

NEWROC Executive will not prepare a letter to the Minister until an outcome of the Bill is known (Council resolution at the last meeting).

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

The NEWROC await the announcement of the transition package details prior to responding to the Minister for Agriculture (State and Federal).

**RESOLUTION**

**NEWROC retains its position on opposing the Live Sheep by Sea Trade policy and supports the leaders of our agricultural industry in advocating against it.**

**The NEWROC write to the Federal and State Government requesting \$128m over 10yrs to support the sheep industry in the NEWROC and \$35m to support the communities in the NEWROC, as per the Economic Impact Report on the Live Sheep by Sea Trade Policy commissioned by the group in November 2023.**

**Moved Cr Sachse**

**Seconded Cr Garner**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Discussion:

- State Agriculture Minister indicated that communities need to engage with Government regarding the funding and transition package.

**8. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION****8.1 PREPARING FOR RENEWABLES**

<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	130-1 Economic Services General
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Robinson
<b>DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	Nil
<b>DATE:</b>	25 July
<b>ATTACHMENT NUMBER:</b>	#5 Shire of Hay
<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	Wheatbelt Development Commission
<b>STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:</b>	Nil
<b>VOTING REQUIREMENT:</b>	Simple Majority

**COMMENT**

Following on from the Nungarin workshop on helping private landowners prepare for renewable energy developments in 2023, a potential next step is to establish a NEWROC framework for renewables in the district. This should also flow onto ensuring NEWROC communities receive maximum benefit from investments in the area, that go beyond an annual community grant.

A group of Shires in WA (West Arthur, Dandaragan, Narrogin and Moora) are investigating and preparing policies to safeguard food production and their communities due to increasing interest in using agricultural land to build renewable energy assets or for carbon offsets.

[Renewable projects 'coming in large and fast' but local governments worry about legacy, food security - ABC News](#)

An example framework for Local Governments (and their communities) preparing for renewable energy development is in the Shire of Hay (NSW) (attached). Working with their community they have established a set of principles that seek to position their community to aspire for maximum benefit from coming investments.

It would be beneficial for the NEWROC to consider a similar frameworks either individually or collectively. For any collective work, this could be carried out internally by the EO and support the Economic Development Strategy.

At the NEWROC Executive Meeting, the EO was requested to engage with DPIRD regarding land classification (productive / non productive), which will be followed up.

**ACTION**

**NEWROC EO engage with the Shire of Merredin regarding community investment outcomes as a result of the renewable energy developments in their town.**

Discussion:

- At the ALGA Conference there was discussion regarding the loss of land when transmission lines are developed (setbacks on towers).
- Guidelines on the development – what you get out of it – what you get left with?
- Discuss the impact of mining as well (Yilgarn, Westonia).

## 9. OTHER MATTERS, INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

Nil

## 10. GENERAL UPDATES

### 10.1 ERP Software

NEWROC has been invited by WEROC to attend an information session on ERP options.

This will be held in Kellerberrin on August 6. – 5 RSVPs

### 10.2 Police Resourcing Presentation

Late apology, will attend a future Council meeting.

### 10.3 Wheatbelt Drought Resilience Plan

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program is one of eight foundational programs under the Australian government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund. Following the successful delivery of the pilot program in 2021-2022 in which Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRPs) were developed across Southern Wheatbelt, Inland Great Southern and the Northern Agricultural Region, the WA and Australian government are co-investing to extend the program to the end of June 2025.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) is leading the development of a Wheatbelt wide RDRP, building on the learning from the Southern Wheatbelt RDRP Pilot.

The Wheatbelt RDRP will be developed in collaboration with regional stakeholders and identify actions to build regional resilience to future droughts, with a focus on agriculture, allied industries and agriculturally dependent communities. RDRPs will be developed through a triple-bottom-line, collaborative, and evidence-based approach.

A sub committee will support the development of the Wheatbelt RDRP by the Commission. Cr Sachse and the NEWROC EO have been asked to participate in this sub committee.

### 10.4 Literary Luncheon 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Bencubbin.

Shire of Mt Marshall Councillors are requested to consider attending on behalf of the NEWROC as Cr Brown is unable to attend.

## 11. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

23 August	Executive	Shire of Mukinbudin **FRIDAY
24 September	Council	Shire of Wyalkatchem
29 October	Executive	Shire of Koorda
26 November	Council	Shire of Dowerin

## 12. CLOSURE

Cr Brown, thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 4.40pm.