



North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

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

Council Meeting

Tuesday 28 May 2024

Dowerin Community Club

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"> 👉 Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year) 👉 Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan 	Council
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 WDC attendance to respond to NEWROC project priorities 👉 Submit priority projects to WDC, Regional Development and WA Planning 	Executive
April	👉 NEWROC Budget Preparation	Council
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 NEWROC Draft Budget Presented 👉 NEWROC Executive Officer Contract/Hourly Rate Review (current contract expires June 2027) 👉 Local Government Week agenda 	Executive
June	👉 NEWROC Budget Adopted	Council
July		Executive
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Information for Councillors pre-election 👉 NEWROC Audit 	Council
September		Executive
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs) 👉 NEWROC Dinner 	Council
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 NEWROC Induction of new Council representatives (every other year) 👉 Review NEWROC MoU (every other year) 	Executive
December	👉 NEWROC Christmas / End of Year Drinks	Council

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Compliance

Media Releases

NEWROC Rotation

Shire of Mt Marshall

Shire of Nungarin

Shire of Wyalkatchem

Shire of Koorda

Shire of Mukinbudin

Shire of Trayning (Oct 2023 – Oct 2025)

Shire of Dowerin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....</u>	<u>4</u>
2.1 ATTENDANCE	4
2.2 APOLOGIES	4
2.4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPROVALS / APPROVED	4
<u>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DELEGATIONS REGISTER</u>	<u>4</u>
3.1 DELEGATION REGISTER	4
<u>4. PRESENTATIONS.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>5</u>
5.1 BUSINESS ARISING	5
<u>6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.....</u>	<u>6</u>
6.1 INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT AND LOSS	6
6.2 NEWROC BUDGET 2024/25	8
<u>7. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION</u>	<u>9</u>
7.1 WASTE MANAGEMENT – GRANT APPLICATION	9
7.2 HOUSING	10
7.3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS	12
7.4 LIVE SHEEP BY SEA	13
<u>7.5 POWER UPDATE.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>7.6 2024 DRY SEASON TASKFORCE.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>9. OTHER MATTERS, INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>10. GENERAL UPDATES.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>11. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>12. CLOSURE</u>	<u>20</u>

NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Minutes for the Council Meeting commencing at 2.02pm on 28 May 2024 at the Dowerin Community Club

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Stratford, Chair of the meeting welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 2.02pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

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
Dirk Sellenger	CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Zac Donovan	CEO Shire of Koorda
Sabine Taylor	CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Ben McKay	CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall
Aaron Wooldridge	Acting CEO, Shire of Dowerin
David Nayda	Acting CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Caroline Robinson	Executive Officer, NEWROC (entered 2.08pm)
Observers	
Cr Chris Loton	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Cr Rod Lawson Kerr	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem

2.2 Apologies

Cr Melanie Brown President, Shire of Trayning, NEWROC Chair

2.4 Leave of Absence Approvals / Approved

Nil

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

NEWROC Council Meeting 28 May 2024 - MINUTES

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

Nil

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 March 2024 are received as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Moved Cr Shadbolt**Seconded Cr Sachse****CARRIED 6/0**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 30 April 2024 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 30 April 2024 be received.

Moved Cr Trepp**Seconded Cr De Lacy****CARRIED 6/0****5.1 Business Arising**

Nil

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:	21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#1P and L
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

Account transactions for the period 1 March 2024 – 30 April 2024

Account Transactions

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
BB NEWROC Funds-5557					
Opening Balance			156,252.68	0.00	156,252.68
01 Mar 2024	Xero Australia	XERO Subscription	0.00	61.75	156,190.93
05 Mar 2024	Payment: Narembeen Community Resource Centre	Live Sheep Printing	0.00	778.40	155,412.53
05 Mar 2024	Payment: 150Square	INV-0272	0.00	4,038.13	151,374.40
05 Mar 2024	Payment: Econisis	24014-2	0.00	3,272.50	148,101.90
01 Apr 2024	Bendigo Bank		0.00	1.20	148,100.70
02 Apr 2024	Xero Australia	XERO Subscription	0.00	61.75	148,038.95
08 Apr 2024	Payment: 150Square	INV-0277	0.00	3,715.63	144,323.32
08 Apr 2024	Payment: Shire Of Nungarin	2076	0.00	3,000.00	141,323.32
Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557			0.00	14,929.36	141,323.32
Closing Balance			141,323.32	0.00	141,323.32
Total			0.00	14,929.36	(14,929.36)

Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils

As at 30 April 2024

30 APR 2024

Assets

Bank

BB NEWROC Funds-5557	141,323.32
BB Term Deposit Account-1388	305,671.84
Total Bank	446,995.16

Total Assets	446,995.16
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

GST	(3,322.49)
Rounding	0.07
Unpaid ATO Liabilities	(1,373.00)
Total Current Liabilities	(4,695.42)

Total Liabilities	(4,695.42)
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Net Assets	451,690.58
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	(17,911.12)
Retained Earnings	469,601.70
Total Equity	451,690.58

RESOLUTION

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

Moved Cr Garner

Seconded Cr De Lacy

CARRIED 6/0

6.2 NEWROC Budget 2024/25

FILE REFERENCE: 032-1 Budgets
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: #2 Draft Budget 24/25
CONSULTATION:
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

COMMENT

The draft budget for 2024 / 25 is presented for discussion. This budget was discussed at the April Executive Meeting. One amendment – NEWROC Town Team Builder reduced to one day a week for the 24/25 financial year.

A sponsorship request has also been received for the 2024 NEWROC Literary Luncheon.

RESOLUTION

2024/25 Budget is adopted

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Garner

CARRIED 6/0

Caroline Robinson entered at 2.08pm.

7. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 WASTE MANAGEMENT – GRANT APPLICATION

FILE REFERENCE: 103-1 Waste Management
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: #3 Supporting documents for the grant application
CONSULTATION:
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

COMMENT

An application for the [Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program](#) has been completed and submitted.

As part of the application the following was required:

- Project Plan
- Budget
- Community and consultation plans
- Letters of Support
- Proof of engagement with traditional owners, RDA Wheatbelt and the Waste Authority

Since submitting the application the NEWROC EO will meet with Senior Manager, Infrastructure & Value Chains, Amanda Joseph from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to discuss the project (24 May 2024).

RESOLUTION

Information is received.

Moved Cr De Lacy

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 6/0

Discussion:

- Costs will escalate at implementation stage
- The project will be subject to the Shire of Trayning procurement policy and process. The Shire of Trayning has allocated \$100,000 in their forward financials for a transfer station (individual approach)
- NEWROC waste sub committee will assist with the planning of the project, subject to receiving Federal funding

7.2 HOUSING

FILE REFERENCE:	090 Housing
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	Alex MacKenzie, WDC Gavin Treasure, Shire of Dumbleyung Rob Cossart, WDC
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

NEWROC EO met with Alex MacKenzie, Senior Regional Officer from the Wheatbelt Development Commission. Alex's has a strong focus on housing, and a background in planning and development across public (local, State) and private sector. He has led the 4WD Housing Strategy which has resulted in the identification of 8 project sites for housing (not across all 4WD members though). Gavin Treasurer, CEO Shire of Dumbleyung provided some insight into their work. Gavin is the project lead for the 4WD:

- 4WD needed to investigate worker housing as they only had anecdotal information
- 4WD needed to quantify the problem for investment
- They conducted a needs analysis in 2023 and each local government invested approximately \$18K and this was matched by the WDC (market demand for worker housing, stakeholder analysis, economic modelling)
- They have now progressed to a Business Case to establish a cost benefit analysis and MVP. Each local government contributed \$6.5K.
- Econisis has undertaken the work with supporting consultants
- They intend to develop a prospectus and advocate the economic viability of the 8 project sites. Potentially a state budget submission or approach a private developer.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is undertaking a similar project in AROC. WDC have approached NEWROC again and asked us if we want to undertake a similar project individually or collectively. WDC would match our investments into the stage one needs analysis. Potentially \$10K per Shire (either funded by individual members or by the NEWROC / combination). The NEWROC Executive discussed the proposal in February 2024 however at the time indicated it was cost prohibitive. Since then, a few member Shires participated in a Growing Regions funding application for housing which was unfortunately unsuccessful.

WEROC is considering a similar proposal from the WDC. To achieve scale, the work needs multiple participants. The Wheatbelt Development Commission has indicated the work will contribute towards their advocacy for State Government assistance with headworks funding of residential land.

Also, to note is a request from Robbie Banks which Cr De Lacy has received (attached) and needs to be discussed.

ACTION: NEWROC EO to speak to Robbie Banks. Speak to CEACA.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC does not participate in the housing strategy with the WDC.

Moved Cr Garner

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 6/0

7.3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FILE REFERENCE: 107-4 Communications
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:
CONSULTATION: Rob Cossart (WDC)
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

COMMENT

The NEWROC made a submission to the Inquiry into Regional Telecommunications in WA (by a WA Parliamentary Committee).

A copy of the NEWROC submission and others is available here: [Committee Details - Inquiry \(parliament.wa.gov.au\)](https://parliament.wa.gov.au/Committee/Details/Inquiry)

The NEWROC EO will provide a verbal update to the members regarding conversations with the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC receives the information.

Moved Cr De Lacy

Seconded Cr Trepp

CARRIED 6/0

Discussion:

- Local government will be responsible for a generator at the exchange switches


7.4 LIVE SHEEP BY SEA

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


COMMENT

Panel Report: agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/3_AGR195.1123_Independent_panel_report_v9.3.pdf


Transition Plan




Phase out of live sheep exports by sea — transition plan



Live sheep exports by sea will end on 1 May 2028



\$107 million over 5 years in transition support committed



Legislation to be introduced in this term of government

Commitment

- Election commitment made to sufficiently meet Australian community expectations for sheep welfare

Certainty

- The government provides certainty by announcing:
 - the phase out date for Australia's live sheep exports by sea
 - the phase out will be legislated
 - the release of the panel report and government response
 - trade may continue without caps or quotas until the trade ceases

Time

- The government has taken time to get the right balance
- For those impacted, there is time to plan and adapt
- Early action will support resilience and position individuals, businesses and communities to:
 - plan and alter on-farm practices
 - develop markets for sheep products
 - increase onshore processing
 - secure and train workers
 - access support and funding

Transition Support

- \$107 million over 5 years available from 2024-25 to assist those impacted:
 - \$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
 - \$11.3 million for implementation and engagement
- Leverage existing whole of government initiatives:
 - ACCC reviews
 - employment programs, including for First Nations people
 - programs to re-skill and up-skill
 - migration, and labour conditions
 - mental health support


Transition Oversight

- Appointment of a Transition Advocate
- Monitoring of the transition will occur via a stocktake in 2026-27


Advice

- Appointment of an independent panel and public consultation
- The panel undertook an extensive national consultation process:
 - more than 2,000 people attended WA forums
 - more than 330 people attended virtual forums
 - almost 100 stakeholder meetings were held
 - 800+ written submissions and 3300+ unique survey responses were received
- The panel made – in its report to the government – 28 recommendations focused on individuals, businesses, communities, trade and animal welfare


Animal Welfare




Continued regulation of live sheep exports




Funding for reviewing the standards and guidelines for land transport of sheep




Enhanced engagement in the World Organisation for Animal Health



\$77m
ABS value of live sheep exports by sea from Australia in 2022-23



\$4.5b
ABS value of Australian sheep meat exports in 2022-23



\$3.5b
MLA estimate of value of domestic retail markets of sheep meat 2022

For more information visit: agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out

Federal Budget Allocation

“The 2024-25 Budget includes \$107.0 million over 5 years from 2024-25 for transition support for the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

- \$64.6 million to assist sheep producers and the supply chain, particularly in Western Australia, to capitalise on existing and emerging opportunities so that they are well positioned when the trade ends. Funding will assist businesses to plan and implement transition actions and to expand domestic sheep processing capacity. It will also support community wellbeing activities and rural financial counsellors.
- \$27.0 million to enhance demand within Australia and internationally for sheep products to maintain and develop market opportunities. With a range of delivery partners, including Austrade, this will fund activities such as market analyses, consumer studies,

product promotions and building business relationships. Agricultural counsellors and Austrade will also work to support diverse trade to and relationships in the Middle East and North Africa region.

- \$2.6 million to continue to improve sheep welfare standards so that they are practical and meet community expectations and for Australia to enhance its engagement in the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- \$1.7 million to appoint a Transition Advocate to facilitate two-way communication between industry and government, provide information to industry about the transition plan and support, and provide advice to government on how the transition is progressing.
- \$11.1 million for the implementation of the phase out, including a stocktake of transition progress in 2026-27 and to facilitate ongoing engagement with industry, communities, trading partners and other stakeholders.”

Activities:

- NEWROC EO on ABC Country Hour and Rural News 13 May in response to the Panel’s report: [Western Australia Country Hour - ABC listen](#)
- Mia Davies speech in WA Parliament: <https://www.facebook.com/MiaDaviesMLA/videos/652775423683775>
- Invitation to Senator Pocock to visit the NEWROC again, has been sent.
- Group of local governments in the Great Southern commissioned a report, similar to the NEWROC and will be made available shortly. An update on how they will use their report will be provided at the meeting (attachment).

Discussion items:

- Response to Minister Watt regarding the transition package and its inadequacy for the NEWROC communities (linked to our report)

MOTION

NEWROC receives the information.

NEWROC writes to Minister Watt.

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

Moved Cr Garner

Seconded Cr De Lacy

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

Discussion:

- NEWROC to focus on business and community impact
- Summary of the report and transition package as an education piece

7.5 POWER UPDATE

FILE REFERENCE:	107 -1 Power
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	ERA RAI Energy Empire Carbon
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

NEWROC President and EO met online with the Economic Regulatory Authority. Representatives included the:

- Principal Regulator;
- Executive Director Regulation and;
- Electricity Access Officer.

The ERA recommended NEWROC engage with the Energy Policy Authority to present the impact report as they currently have a focus on a regional power reliability plan. ERA was complimentary of the work to date by the NEWROC in this space as the local data and impact piece helps inform their work.

ERA said that one of the issues NEWROC experiences in determining a local solution is understanding the current power needs of customers in the location. ERA suggested we could get customer permission (signed form) and present this to Western Power.

ERA also shared with NEWROC that the Network Quality Code is currently under review and NEWROC should engage in the process to determine how Western Power is going to develop a plan to meet the new standards in performance, particularly for the NEWROC area.

NEWROC to determine what they want out of the work they are doing and ERA suggested it was network resilience.

Additionally, the NEWROC EO met with Liz Aitken from Empire Carbon and RAI Energy to discuss potential projects. It is recommended the NEWROC economic development sub committee meets with RAI.

NEWROC REDS Grant update

Purpose of the grant: Technical and engineering design for a solution that improves the reliability of electrical supply to a NEWROC townsite.

REDS Funding: \$27,500

NEWROC contribution committed and invoiced by the Shire of Koorda: \$27,500

TOTAL: \$55,000

Expenditure to date: \$14,500

Items of expenditure: Business case for Community Batteries across NEWROC communities with ARENA (technical design included). Unsuccessful.

Outstanding item under grant: Technical design for one location. Investor ready report

RESOLUTION

NEWROC Economic Development sub committee meets with RAI Energy.

NEWROC engages with the Energy Policy Authority.

Moved Cr Trepp

Seconded Cr Garner

CARRIED 6/0

7.6 2024 DRY SEASON TASKFORCE

FILE REFERENCE:	
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	21 May 2024
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	Rob Cossart (WDC)
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

The State Government has announced a 2024 Dry Season Taskforce to help address concerns as farmers across Western Australia experience challenging seasonal conditions.

The taskforce will share information and identify ways in which the agriculture industry, in collaboration with Government, can support farm businesses and rural communities during current dry season challenges, which are expected to become the 'new normal' due to climate change.

In particular, the taskforce will consider:

- access and availability of fodder for livestock;
- access and availability of water for livestock and cropping operations;
- extension and adoption of drought resilient practices across different farming systems;
- opportunities for collaboration and co-ordination of industry, local and State Government activities; and
- provision of evidence-based information and tools to support on-farm decision making processes.

The taskforce is chaired by Wheatbelt Development Commission Chief Executive Officer Rob Cossart.

The taskforce communiqués are available here: [19 April 2024](#) and [3 May 2024](#)

Members should note the following:

DWER advised that the Community Water Supply Partnership Program will be expanded to regional communities with average annual rainfall >600mm (part of the \$8.6 million dry season support package). Local Governments and community groups will be able to apply for up to \$100,000 for water supply projects based on community needs for infrastructure, including additional water storage capacity and water carting.

The Grower Group Alliance has also been engaged with the Dry Season Taskforce. The GGA has been contracted via a \$250,000 package to partner in the dry season response initiatives. They have a five-part plan which will support and mobilise on-ground efforts for community wellbeing in the agriculture sector.

- Part 1 – Grants of \$5,000-\$35,000 to support existing or new initiatives led by GGA members or other local agricultural groups (GGA members in our district include: Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group, WANTFA, Rural Edge, MADFIG)
- Part 2 – On-ground intelligence gathering – GGA will provide a channel to capture local on-ground situation updates to relay to the Dry Season Taskforce to support informed decision-making as the situation evolves.

- Part 3 – Knowledge Directory – curating all known dry season events, resources and financial initiatives across organisations
- Part 4 – Communications support – driving engagement with all dry season initiatives leveraging the GGA suite of digital assets
- Part 5 – Collaboration – GGA will engage in weekly DPIRD Response communications team meetings around planned activities and attend weekly Dry Season Response team meetings for information cross-sharing.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC EO engage with the GGA to assist in the dissemination of information to members and communities.

Moved Cr De Lacy

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 6/0

9. OTHER MATTERS, INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

Cr Sachse requested electronic meeting invites for the NEWROC

Police presentation at next Council meeting

10. GENERAL UPDATES

- Economic Development Strategy Update
 - Report has been received by the sub committee
 - Sub committee met in Trayning to discuss and develop priorities
 - Presentation to Executive, then Council
- Bringing Dowerin Down Town: [The Future of Farming is Now!](#) Friday 26th July
NEWROC to hold a Friday night dinner subject to RSVP's



- 3G Networking shut down is coming up. Cr Trepp shared information on the [Zestafy](#) antennae.

11. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

25 June	Executive	Shire of Trayning
30 July	Council	Shire of Mukinbudin
23 August	Executive	Shire of Nungarin **FRIDAY
24 September	Council	Shire of Wyalkatchem
29 October	Executive	Shire of Koorda
26 November	Council	Shire of Dowerin

12. CLOSURE

Chair Cr Stratford thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 2.57pm.