

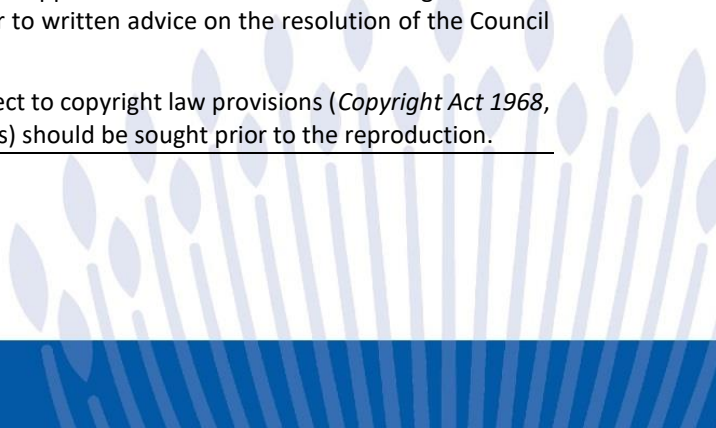
Annual Electors Meeting

Minutes | 6th February 2024

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CONTENTS

ITEM 1	OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
ITEM 2	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	3
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING	5
3.1	Confirmation of Minutes: Annual Electors Meeting – 27 April 2023.....	5
	BUSINESS ARISING	5
ITEM 4	GOVERNANCE	6
4.1	2022/2023 Annual Report	6
ITEM 5	GENERAL BUSINESS	8
5.1	Questions with Notice	8
5.2	Proposed Motions	15
5.3	Consideration of other General Business.....	16
ITEM 6	CLOSURE	17

SHIRE OF QUAIRADING

Annual Electors Meeting

The Annual Electors Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on 6th February 2024 commencing at 7.27pm.

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson opened the Meeting at 7.27 pm.

“Before we start our meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Noongar/Ballardong land. We pay respect to the original custodians of the land...past, present and future. I welcome you all here today for this meeting.”

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors

Cr JN Haythornthwaite	Shire President
Cr TJ Stacey	Deputy Shire President
Cr RC Faltyn	
Cr JC Hayes	
Cr JR Hippisley	
Cr PD Smith	

Council Officers

Ms NJ Ness	Chief Executive Officer
Ms T Brown	Executive Manager, Corporate Services
Ms SE Caporn	Executive Manager, Works & Services
Ms J Green	Acting Executive Manager Economic Development

Electors in attendance

Mrs Mariane Kevill
Mr Graeme Ellis
Ms Kay Fraser
Mr John Hards
Ms Cynthia Dann
Ms Donna Bunce
Mr Philip Winmar
Mrs Lyn Whyte
Mr David Whyte
Mr Lindsay Greenwood
Mr Garry Taylor
Mrs Raelene Taylor
Ms Wendy Hayward
Mrs Janet Hall
Mr Goeffrey Hall
Ms Jill Hayes
Ms Phoebe Caporn
Ms Melanie Mills

Ms Tarnya Fraser
Ms Muriel Collard
Ms Dallas Yarran
Mrs Sue Peacock
Mr Rob Peacock
Mrs Liz Smith
Mr Chirs Brandis
Mrs Eiritekura Reynolds
Mr Kym Reynolds
Ms Helen Rogers
Ms Dorothy Rogers
Mrs Shirley Stacey
Mr Cliff Blurton
Mr Philip Raymont
Mr Greg Hayes
Dr Sing Jack Yap

Apologies

Cr Becky Cowcill
Ms M Haeusler
Mr Darryl Richards

UNCONFIRMED

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes: Annual Electors Meeting – 27 April 2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AEM 001-23/24

Moved: Mrs Liz Smith

Seconded: Ms Sarah Caporn

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on the 27 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

ITEM 4 GOVERNANCE

4.1 2022/2023 Annual Report

Responsible Officer Natalie Ness, Chief Executive Officer**Reporting Officer** Marion Haeusler, Executive Officer**Attachments** Nil**Voting Requirements** Simple Majority**Disclosure of Interest** Reporting Officer: Nil
Responsible Officer: Nil**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AEM 002-23/24**

Moved: Mrs Tarnya Fraser

Seconded: Ms Mariane Kevill

That the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2023, be received.

CARRIED**The 2022/2023 Annual Report includes the following: -**OVERVIEW

2022/2023 Annual Report

Our Shire at a glance

A year in review – From the Shire President

A year in review – From the CEO

COUNCIL

Our Council - Elected Members

Council Allowances & Fees

Our Leadership & People

Community Events

Works & Services Update

Emergency Management Update

Strategic & Community Projects

Community Development Update

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Community Plan 2021 - 2031

Future planning

Our communities vision for the future

Corporate Business Plan 2023 - 2027

GOVERNANCE

Planning and Reporting – Compliance

Financial Statements

The 2022/2023 Annual Report was formally received by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on Thursday 14th December 2023, Resolution 134-23/24.

QUESTIONS ON ANNUAL REPORT

Nil

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ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS**5.1 Questions with Notice**Questions from Graeme Ellis

As attached.

Answer:**McCleay Park**

The Shire's Works Team have plans to mulch the regrow vegetation and bring this back to public open space. The limb has now been removed.

Beautifying Plans and Tree Trimming

Street trees were trimmed by a contractor, but they did a very unsatisfactory job. Shire Works Staff have prioritised completing major projects such as a park and funded road works but will be playing catch up to bring street trees back to good condition in coming months – we simply can't get to everything at once. There are issues with our staff working under and near powerlines so we need to outsource those trees to trained professionals but should be able to trim others.

Street Sweeper

Our small Tennant Street Sweeper was designed for large yards and workshops, not whole townsites so it has been broken down a lot in the last 12 months. The Shire has now bought a broom and kerb brush to fit the Bobcat so streets are back on the regular schedule. The Tennant Sweeper has now been repaired but will be kept for the main shopping precinct, footpaths and carparks.

Footpaths

Upgrades to footpaths are considered as part of the Forward Capital Works Plan. Council has a fixed Capital Works budget annually that must get divided between sealed roads, unsealed roads, bridges, drainage and footpaths. Council is in the process of drafting a new plan and we would welcome feedback on major areas of concern to ensure they are captured. In terms of regular maintenance, we have three Gardens staff to look after over 80 different venues in town. If there is an area of major concern, please fill in a Service Request so it can be addressed in a timely manner.

The whole length of McLennan Street has been renewed in the last several years. Jennaberring Road will be the next section the Shire renews but the price of concrete has increased by 20% and we don't have dedicated budget in FY23/24.

Any budget excess was going to be reallocated to footpath renewal however the Shire is currently undertaking it's FY23/24 Budget Review to go to Council in March for endorsement.

Power Outages

Synergy, in consultation with Western Power and the Shire of Quairading, has undertaken a high-level assessment of sites potentially suitable for the provision of electrical utility services to the Quairading town, including the incorporation of a battery energy storage system.

The aim of this project to enhance the local community's access to reliable power and bolster the area's resilience in case of power outages, ensuring a more robust system. The infrastructure proposed to be installed is also expected to serve as a virtual power plant when the grid is

functioning normally, thus contributing to the overall efficiency and sustainability of the energy infrastructure in the region.

At the 2023 November OCM, Council carried a motion as a first step in facilitating land tenure for the project for Synergy to seek approval to request the Minister of Lands to:

1. Amend the existing purpose of Reserve 50111 (land adjacent to the Shire's Waste Facility – preferred site for the project) to include 'battery energy storage system and ancillary uses' (under section 51 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*; and
2. Amend existing Management Order K884662 (under section 46 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*) to reflect the new reserve purpose and grant the Shire of Quairading the power to lease or licence for up to 30 years.

Synergy is currently working on the business case for the project to present to the State Treasury for funding. Synergy, Council, and the Shire's CEO meet on a fortnightly basis on the project.

Railway Line

The railway line from Quairading to Bruce Rock shut over 40 years ago so would be too far gone to be renewed. Arc Infrastructure were undertaking a feasibility study on the York-Quairading line but I'm not sure where that is up to.

York-Merredin Road

The York-Merredin Road is the jurisdiction of Main Roads, and the Shire does not have any involvement nor input on their works programme or how they allocate funds or resources.

Cuneata Rise and Greater Need for Better Facilities and Infrastructure

The Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 (The Plan) reflects the community's focused vision for Quairading to be a place of welcome and inclusion for all, where we work together, with thriving industry creating jobs, seeking out new opportunities, a bright future for young people, and a bustling town in a beautiful and productive rural setting. The Plan balances the community's desire to look after the assets we have, invest in our future; and keep Rates increases to an affordable level.

With the current Strategic Plan, Council will have to continue to prioritize the Capital Works Program to provide a balance of new investments with the need to renew and maintain Council's existing Built Assets. Council will continue to actively seek out external grant funding opportunities to help fund the many planned projects.

Additionally, tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in Australia and a key factor in driving economic growth throughout regional Western Australia. Tourism has historically not been a major focus of the Shire of Quairading and its potential as an economic and community driver is now being realised.

The Shire supports the Quairading Community Resource Centre (CRC) proactively running Facebook and Instagram accounts called Visit Quairading. The CRC invests significant time in posting about our local attractions, businesses and events and engaging with a growing audience. The Shire also participates in regional collaboration through Roe Tourism Association to promote the self-drive trail "Pathways to Wave Rock".

The Quairading Tourism Strategy endorsed by Council in October 2022 considers that the development of infrastructure and tourism to attract more visitors is essential, both to the sustainability of our unique natural, cultural and historic attractions and to the creation of employment and prosperity of our residents. The Strategy provides a strategic and integrated

framework to guide the shared management, development of marketing of tourism for Quairading over the next five years.

The Shire has committed to developing a sustainable future for the town with improved social and economic outcomes for its residents, together with improved housing options such as the recent Cuneata Rise Land Sale (which has seen 7 of 12 Lots sold) and researching short-stay and workers accommodation and an aged-care residential facility in town. It comes up in the next question, however Council have sold 2 of the Light Industrial Area Lots to Elders and are in the process of researching costs to develop an additional 2 Light Industrial Area Lots which have a potential buyer.

Light Industrial Lots

Council is exploring Stage 2 of the Light Industrial Area now that both blocks in Stage 1 has settled. We would welcome ideas and suggestions from the community on how to better attract businesses to town.

Roads Program

The York-Merredin Road is the jurisdiction of Main Roads, and the Shire does not have any involvement nor input on their works program or how they allocate funds or resources.

The CEO and I meet regularly with our relevant Ministers to lobby for improved road renewal and maintenance programs for our Shire.

Snake Catcher

The Shire doesn't currently have any staff trained in the safe handling of snakes. This is also not a Local Government function, but we can direct community members to a local wildlife handler should one exist.

Thank you for the suggestion Graeme, the Shire's website has now been updated giving more information on snake handling together with alternate contacts residents can call in the event they have a troublesome snake on their property.

Question from Garry Taylor, Lindsay Greenwood, Lyn and David Whyte and Mariane Kevill

Please update on the Medical Practice, including staffing, wait times, hospital visits, rumours of privatisation and lack of updates to the community.

Answer: As a Council we often receive positive comments regarding the Shire owned and operated Medical Practice and how much appreciated is the service provided by Dr Jack Yap.

Both the Shire and Dr Yap are totally committed to maintaining and even improving the current level of medical and health services in Quairading. The recent introduction of the audiology service from Pristine Hearing is an example of this commitment.

When it comes to health care workforce supply, the Wheatbelt is one of the worst affected regions in Western Australia. To assist in maintaining health and medical services to the highest of standards, as well as working towards creating sustainability for the future Medical services in Quairading. The Medical Practice has now transitioned from being a Shire owned and operated Medical Practice to a Shire owned and Doctor managed Medical Practice, effective Thursday, 25 January 2024.

On good news, from 29 January 2024, Dr Jack has started the induction of new reception staff, Mary Jones, then employed Margaret Harry as Practice Manager for the Medical Practice. Margaret has relocated from Kojonup and commenced her role yesterday. Please join me in welcoming both to the Shire's Medical Practice, and Margaret to Quairading. Dr Jack has also employed local Nathan Gregory as the Cleaner for the Medical Practice. Nathan commenced his role Monday, 29 January. Dr Jack is currently recruiting for a Practice Nurse.

Dr Jack is currently undertaking approximately up to 500 consults per month and improving the internal systems of the Medical Practice, which sees him working from 8am to 8pm daily, Monday to Friday. Due to this Dr Jack does not have capacity to take on the Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS) contract with the Quairading Hospital. WACHS has a pool of more than 8 Locum Regional Doctors that they can call on to rotate through, and to Quairading Hospital as required.

While there is absolute confidence that this Doctor managed Medical Practice transition will be extremely beneficial to our community in the medium to long-term, there will be some changes that will create some challenges over this month with face-to-face appointments and length of waiting times for appointments. Please be assured that both Dr Yap and the Shire will continue to work extremely well together to minimise disruption to current services until this transition is completed. Your patience is appreciated.

Keep an eye out for the Shire's monthly update in the Banksia Bulletin, together with the Quairading Medical Practice weekly updates in the Passion Sheet for Medical Practice information.

Questions from Wendy Hayward

When is the next mobile Centrelink office in Quairading?

Update on Western Power outages.

What is the plan for attracting tourism?

Are there any Buildings that could be leased cheaply to Businesses or Not-for-Profits?

Is there a plan for a by-pass for heavy vehicles?

Answer:

Centerlink

The Centrelink Mobile Service Centre tends to visit Quairading once per year. The Shire and the Quairading Community Resource Centre receive notice one month prior so that we can advertise in the Passion Sheet, Banksia Bulletin and on Facebook and Instagram. The Services Australia website shows where and when the truck is visiting too, but again only shows dates a month in advance.

The Quairading Community Resource Centre has a Services Australia functionality and designated telephone for Centrelink enquiries. Pop in to the CRC and speak with Jill and team, they're more than happy to assist with your enquiries.

Tourism

Because of strong community demand the Shire of Quairading in collaboration with the Quairading Community Resource Centre and the Quairading Tourist Tidy Town Committee developed the Quairading Tourism Development Strategy. The strategy was endorsed by Council in October 2022 and updated in March 2023.

The Strategy outlines a shared community vision to pursue tourism planning as a means of economic and community development, as referenced by the Shire of Quairading's Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031.

The objectives of the Quairading Tourism Development Strategy are:

- To promote Quairading as a quality place to live, work and play
- To encourage and support economic development, liveability and sustainability in Quairading.

An Action Plan forms part of the Tourism Strategy with strategic goals set out for the following areas:

- Infrastructure
- Experience
- Marketing.

The Shire's Strategic Community Projects Team that sits within the Economic Development Business Area is responsible for implementing planned initiatives and for the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

A formal review of the Strategy is undertaken annually following Council's adoption. A copy of the Tourism Strategy can be found on the Shire's website under the 'My Council' Tab - Strategies & Policies.

The Shire supports the Quairading Community Resource Centre (CRC) proactively running Facebook and Instagram accounts called Visit Quairading. The CRC invests significant time in posting about our local attractions, businesses and events and engaging with a growing audience. There is opportunity for the Shire to invest financially in this campaign to boost posts to target an even wider audience.

The Shire also participates in regional collaboration through Roe Tourism Association to promote the self-drive trail "Pathways to Wave Rock", a partnership with Beverley, Bruce Rock, Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace and Narembeen. A new Pathways to Wave Rock website was launched last year with a new marketing plan due to be rolled out this year. The Association employ an Executive Officer and a Marketing Coordinator who coordinate a mix of online and hard copy promotional campaigns and work with other RTOs (Regional Tourism Organisations) including Australia's Golden Outback.

In 2023 the Shire implemented a new website design that has improved our online presence. The Shire and Quairading Caravan Park continue to utilise social media to promote Quairading under the branding 'Shire of Quairading - Take a Closer Look' to attract visitors to Quairading. The Shire is currently developing a Marketing and Communications Strategy for 2024-2026 with the contribution of ideas from the community welcome. For further information please reach out to Nat Ness, CEO and Jen Green, Acting Executive Manager Economic Development.

Buildings for Lease

Currently the Shire does not have any vacant buildings available for peppercorn leases. The Quairading Community Resource Centre offers rooms for rent for external agencies to visit Quairading and conduct business.

Heavy Vehicle By-Pass

If the intention is to close York-Merredin Road and detour traffic, then the Shire needs to have a Traffic Management Plan prepared by a third-party traffic management company as well as an application to close the road.

Road closure is a complicated process and requires the Order for Road Closure Form from WA Police which is a lengthy process to complete.

The Shire of Quairading is not currently part of the Main Roads WA Traffic Management Company Registration Scheme and is not permitted to implement regularly temporary traffic management on the Main Roads' network.

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Questions to Shire of Quairading Councillors 6th February

- Any plans for Macleay Park please? It is an eyesore and in an unsafe condition. After one of the storms in early January a branch had fallen at the corner of Jennaberring Rd and Forrest St. The branch is still there hanging at a 45degree angle off the main trunk.
- Along with the above it seems to me that the eastern end of Quairading heading east from the shire offices is being neglected from being beautified. I thought we wanted tourists to stop/stay/enjoy our town as well as spend some dollars but coming from that direction our town does not look appealing at all.
- The trees along Jennaberring Road require trimming so people are able to walk along the footpaths unobstructed from the low hanging tree branches and leaves.
- The statement 3) does apply to other streets in town as well.
- Where is the street sweeper and why haven't all the streets been kept clean on a regular basis?
- Footpaths in some areas are in a disgusting state (as in unsafe) or not in existence. I understand tree roots are a big problem. For the elderly who walk around town they need decent flat walkways please!
- Has the council been advised of any updates on when our power will become more reliable?
- I congratulate the council for the initiative of reducing the price of blocks at the Cuneata Rise.
- With that in mind, now Quairading needs better facilities and infrastructure to attract larger businesses to bring opportunities for employment. Quairading is a centrally located town that should be able to have businesses to actively service towns outside and beyond.
- Has the Quairading Shire any knowledge of what will become of the railway line from York to Bruce Rock?
- Is the Quairading Shire in contact with main roads and politicians to get the major roads fixed (not Band-Aid fixes like they are doing towards York)? Is the government waiting on a certain number of deaths on the York to Quairading road before they will fix properly and now, not in twenty five years?
- I had a visitor who was house sitting asking if there were any snake handlers in town, so I called the afterhours shire number 0429 451 001 at 8.20 PM to find a snake handler and went to message bank. Before this, I called "The Community Emergency Services Manager" at 8.06pm and was told he was only a fire officer! He did try the works assistant manager with no luck. The directory should state that the above is "Fire Emergency Services Manager"!! I also called the ranger services from the website but no luck there either! There is nothing on the shires website to assist in this type of problem! Can there be more direction if this problem arises again, please?

5.2 Proposed Motions

Motions proposed by Marian Kevill

MOTION 1

That the Quairading Shire obtain services of admin staff for the Medical Practice immediately.

MOTION LAPSED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AEM 003-23/24

Moved: Mrs Mariane Kevill

Seconded: Mrs Lyn White

That the Quairading Shire obtain housing for workers in Quairading.

CARRIED

Mrs Kevill suggested that Council develop one of the vacant blocks on Cuneata Rise as housing that can be made available to occupational health professionals in the future.

5.3 Consideration of other General Business

John Hards

John congratulated the Shire on their Australia Day event and thanked them for the way it was run. The Shire President thanked Mr Hards for his comment.

Janet Hall

Is there something the Shire can do to prevent underaged riders using eScooters irresponsibly? The Shire President answered that is something the Shire can look into.

Eiritekura Reynolds

Is the Shire developing a dog park?

The Shire President answered that a dog park has previously been an item for discussion in Council and that Council would revisit this.

Wendy Hayward

The question was asked whether there is a chance of getting Synergy to raise the amount paid out in case of extended power outages, considering the rising cost of living?

The Shire President answered that no promises could be made but that it was certainly worth a try to lobby Synergy on this topic on behalf of our residents if the whole of Council was in agreement.

Dallas Yarran

Is it possible to have a speed bump along the main road and a pedestrian crossing?

The Shire President answered that unfortunately, the road in question is a Main Roads responsibility and the Shire has no control over it, but she would investigate the possibility.

Cynthia Dann

What is the actual speed limit on road in the previous question?

The Shire President answered that to her knowledge it was 50 km/h and that she suspected the comment was being made because vehicles were frequently exceeding that speed.

Garry Taylor

What is the Shire doing to support new businesses starting up in town.

The Shire President took this question on notice and will provide a written response.

ITEM 6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 8.00 pm.

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