

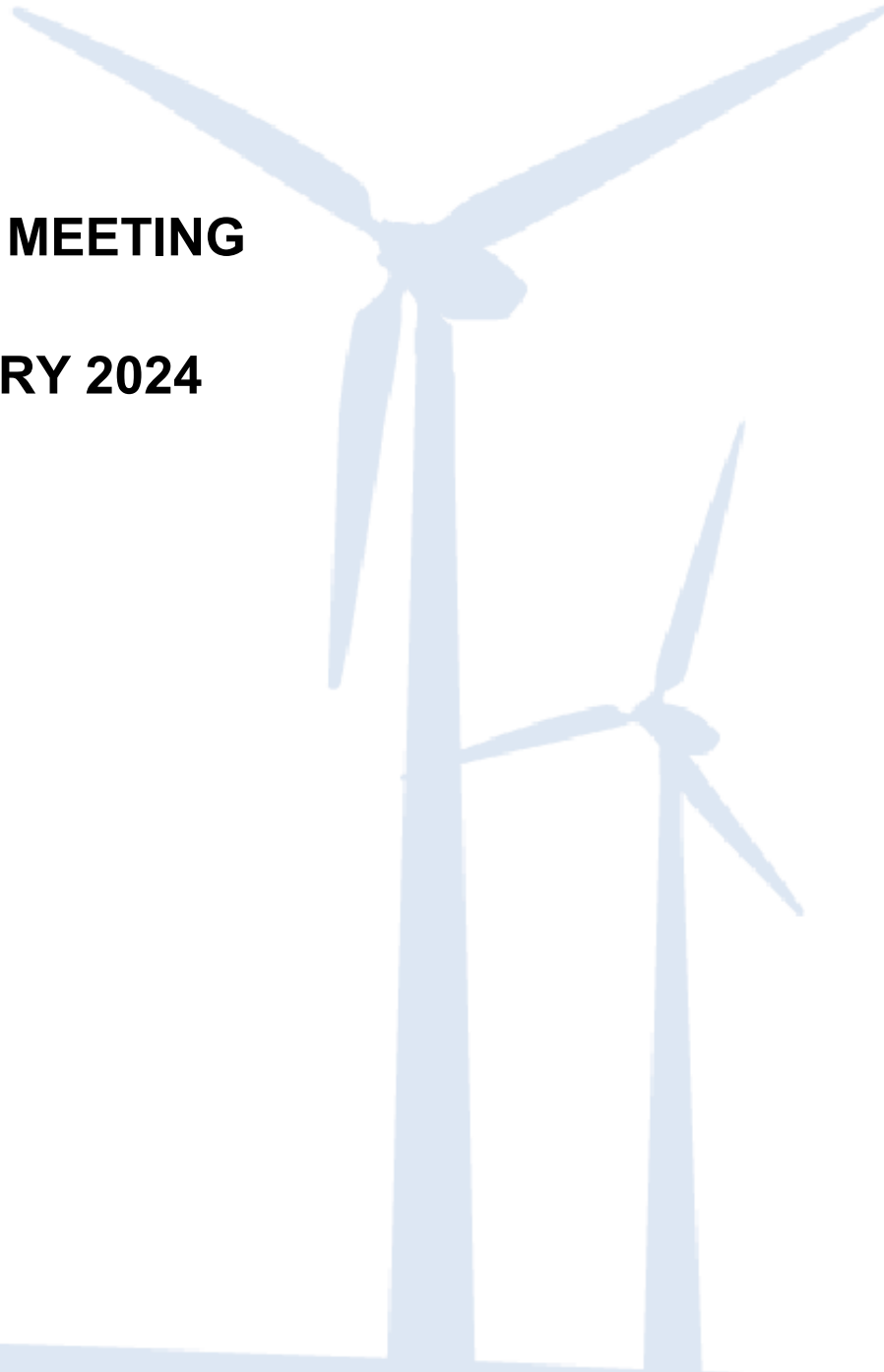


**Shire of Esperance**

**ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING**

**TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024**

**MINUTES**



### **DISCLAIMER**

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### **ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Council is committed to a code of conduct and all decisions are based on an honest assessment of the issue, ethical decision-making and personal integrity. Councillors and staff adhere to the statutory requirements to declare financial, proximity and impartiality interests and once declared follow the legislation as required.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Please be advised that in order to save printing and paper costs, all attachments referenced in this paper are available in the original Agenda document for this meeting.

### **RECORDINGS**

The Meeting will be audio recorded for record keeping and minute taking purposes.

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**SHIRE OF ESPERANCE**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING**  
**HELD IN ESPERANCE CIVIC CENTRE ON 6 FEBRUARY 2024.**

**1. OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6:01pm and did an acknowledgement to country.

*The Shire of Esperance acknowledges the Kepa Kurl Wudjari people of the Nyungar nation and Ngadju people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and we extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians today.*

The President welcomed Councillors, staff, guests and members of the public to the meeting.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

**Members**

Pres R Chambers		Town Ward
Cr J Obourne	Deputy President	Town Ward
Cr G Johnston		Town Ward
Cr L de Haas		Town Ward
Cr W Graham		Rural Ward
Cr S Starcevich		Rural Ward
Cr S Flanagan		Town Ward
Cr C Davies		Town Ward

**Shire Officers**

Mr S Burge	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Walker	Director Asset Management
Mr R Grieve	Director External Services
Mrs F Baxter	Director Corporate & Community Services
Mrs C Hoffrichter	Executive Assistant
Miss C Smith	Manager Media & Communications
Mr I Wallace	Casual Civic Centre Technician

**Members of the Public & Press**

Mr T Gray	Observing
Mr D Fraser	Observing
Mr I Mumme	Observing
Mr S Pickering	Observing
Mr I Heasford	Observing
Mrs S Starr	Observing

**3. APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr S McMullen	Town Ward	Granted Leave
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**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved:** Cr Obourne  
**Seconded:** Cr de Haas

**AEM0224-013**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held Tuesday 7 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**CARRIED**

**5. PURPOSE OF MEETING**

**Moved:** Cr Starcevich  
**Seconded:** Cr de Haas

**AEM0224-014**

**That the 2022/2023 Annual Report be received**

**CARRIED**

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Shire President Chambers – Auditors Report**

Pres. Chambers read aloud the auditors letter from the Audit Report completed on the 2022/2023 Annual Report. He highlighted the some key milestones and projects within the Annual Report.

**2. Mr Pickering – Free Camping Issues in Esperance**

How does Council plan to address the free camping issues in Esperance. Twilight Beach seems to be a significant issue including littering.

*Cr Chambers responded by acknowledging the free camping issue Esperance is currently facing. Cr Chambers has requested the CEO to look at best practise options, possible increased ranger patrols around the area.*

*The CEO added there is nowhere to free camp legally in Esperance, where do they go? Twilight is semi contained for campers.*

*Mr Gray added Council not to push tourists away but find a solution.*

**3. Mr Gray - Proposal for an Abalone Farm**

It's been reported in the Esperance Weekender that Council voted to grant ETNTAC a two year option to purchase Shire of Esperance land – Lot 50 Wylie Bay Road for \$500,000. Was this transaction open to competitive tender? Given that this Abalone farm has been trying to be established since 2019 what business case was presented to Council before it made its decision? What evidence did ETNTAC provide to the Shire to satisfy that the development of the proposed aquaculture precinct will proceed?

*Cr Chambers responded they did not have a criteria, and it's up to Council to determine that the aquaculture precinct will go ahead. They are required to be shovel ready before approval of the sale and Council will ensure they do not lose control of the land.*

**4. Mr Gray – CCTV**

Mr Gray asked what auditing procedures does the Shire have to ensure that the data captured by the CCTV camera is dealt with appropriately including protection of privacy of its citizens?

*Cr Chambers responded that WA Police are the only people who have access to it. Shire staff don't have access to it.*

Mr Gray asked if we do an audit to ensure the Police are using it appropriately?

*CEO responded that the WA Police have their own auditing process and policies to ensure it is used appropriately.*

**5. Mr Gray – Reducing Speed Limit on Portion of Goldfields Road**

Mr Gray asked what progress has been made by the Shire and Main Roads in considering a reduction of the current speed limit of 60 kph on Goldfields Road between Esperance-Coolgardie Highway and just beyond Phyllis Street?

*Mr Walker responded Main Roads are coming to do an assessment in February.*

**6. Mrs Starr – Cat Laws**

Mrs Starr asked what is happening with the Cat Laws?

*Cr Chambers responded that Local Cat Laws can't exceed the powers of the Act, there are issues with the definition of nuisance.*

*Mr Grieve added there are portions of the Local Cat Law that State Government didn't agree with, the Local Cat Law is currently being amended and finalised. State Government advised we cannot enforce cats wandering as there is no ability to restrict cats and it contradicts the Cat Act.*

Mrs Starr asked can I get a cat trap?

*CEO responded yes you can get a cat trap.*

**7. Mrs Starr – FOGO Bins**

Mrs Starr asked what's happening with FOGO bins?

*Mr Walker advised we are waiting for Myrup Station*

**8. Mrs Starr – Accommodation Issues in Esperance**

Mrs Starr advised there are accommodation issues in Esperance and a lack of rentals, could we look at a National Lifestyle Village? Can we encourage companies to invest?

*Cr Chambers responded the Town Planning Scheme is suitable and allows for a Lifestyle Village in Esperance, there is a business that has put in a request and are doing due diligence. Blocks have been identified as suitable options we just need to make sure town planning scheme allows for development.*

*CEO added we are looking at smaller block developments for people to downsize, the accommodation study identified it as an option. The Shire has also been in discussion with a lifestyle village operator who is currently doing due diligence. We are waiting to hear back from them.*

Mrs Starr asked since there is a lack of rental properties in Esperance and too many Airbnb's in town can we limit the amount of Airbnb's so there is more rentals available?

*Cr Chambers responded legislation doesn't allow us to limit or dictate what someone does with their property. We are trying to minimise the issue and have implemented a review after 12 months when they apply to have their property as an Airbnb.*

*Mr Greive added Shire of Esperance has a policy to regulate short stay accommodation in Esperance. Finders Estate has a restriction on Airbnb's. Rental issues aren't just limited to Esperance, but the Shire is looking into development options and Motel, Hotel and Caravan Park development is encouraged.*

**7. CLOSURE**

The President declared the meeting closed at 6:39pm.

**These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_**

**Presiding Member at the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed.**

**Dated \_\_\_\_\_**