

Shire of Esperance

SPECIAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2025

MINUTES



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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 live streamed. The recording will be made publicly available as soon as practical following the meeting.

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SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
MINUTES
OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 21 OCTOBER 2025.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at: 4:00pm and did an acknowledgement to country.

The Shire of Esperance acknowledges the Nyungar 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. The President advised the meeting will be live streamed. The recording will be made publicly available as soon as practical following the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

Members

Pres. R Chambers	President	
Cr J Obourne		Town Ward
Cr G Johnston		Town Ward
Cr G Harp		Town Ward
Cr L de Haas		Town Ward
Cr W Graham		Rural Ward
Cr S Starceovich		Rural Ward
Cr G McWilliams		Town Ward
Cr C Davies		Town Ward

Shire Officers

Mr S Burge	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Walker	Director Asset Management
Mr R Greive	Director External Services
Mrs R Hamilton	Acting Director Corporate & Community Services
Mrs C Hoffrichter	Executive Assistant
Miss E Godwin	Administration Assistant – Executive Services

Members of the Public & Press

Chris Meyer	Observing
Gail Walker	Observing
Kim Harp	Observing
Kelly Mc William	Observing
Steve McMullen	Observing
ShayInn McMullen	Observing
Shayne Flanagan	Observing
Nikki Bailly	The Weekender
Christiane Smith	Media

2.1 Swearing in of Elected Member of Council

The swearing in of all newly Elected Councillors was facilitated by Ian Mickel AM JP, per Form 7 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*

Cr Garry McWilliams	Town Ward
Cr Gerry Harp	Town Ward
Cr Leonie de Haas	Town Ward
Cr Samantha Starcevich	Rural Ward

3. APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mrs F Baxter	Director Corporate & Community Services
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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

4.1 Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60a
Nil

4.2 Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60b
Nil

4.3 Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Admin Regulations Section 34c
Nil

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil Questions

6. PURPOSE OF MEETING

Item: 6.1

Election of Deputy Shire President and Seating Allocations

Author/s	Chantelle Hoffrichter	Executive Assistant
Authorisor/s	Shane Burge	Chief Executive Officer

File Ref: D25/29934

Applicant

Internal

Location/Address

The Shire of Esperance, Windich Street, Esperance

Strategic Implications

Council Plan 2022 - 2032

Performance - Outcome 14. Community confidence and trust in Council

Attachments

A¹. [Council Seating Plan](#)

RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION

6.1 Election and Declaration of Deputy Shire President

The Chief Executive Officer will advise of any nominations received in writing for the position of Deputy Shire President in order of receipt. If there is only one (1) nomination received, then the nominee will be appointed Deputy Shire President. If more than one (1) nomination is received, a secret ballot will be conducted as per *schedule 2.3 of the Local Government Act 1995*, and the Deputy Shire President is appointed based on the result of the secret ballot.

The Chief Executive Officer advised he had received three (3) nominations for the position of Deputy Shire President, as follows;

1. Cr Obourne
2. Cr de Haas
3. Cr Johnston

As there was more than one (1) nomination received a secret ballot was conducted to determine the election of the Deputy Shire President.

The result of the election ballot was:

Cr Obourne – 6 votes

Cr de Haas – 2 votes

Cr Johnston – 1 vote

Cr Obourne was duly elected as Deputy Shire President for two (2) years ending October 2027. Cr Obourne took the declaration of office of Deputy Shire President as conducted by Ian Mickel AM JP.

6.2 Allocation of Council Seating

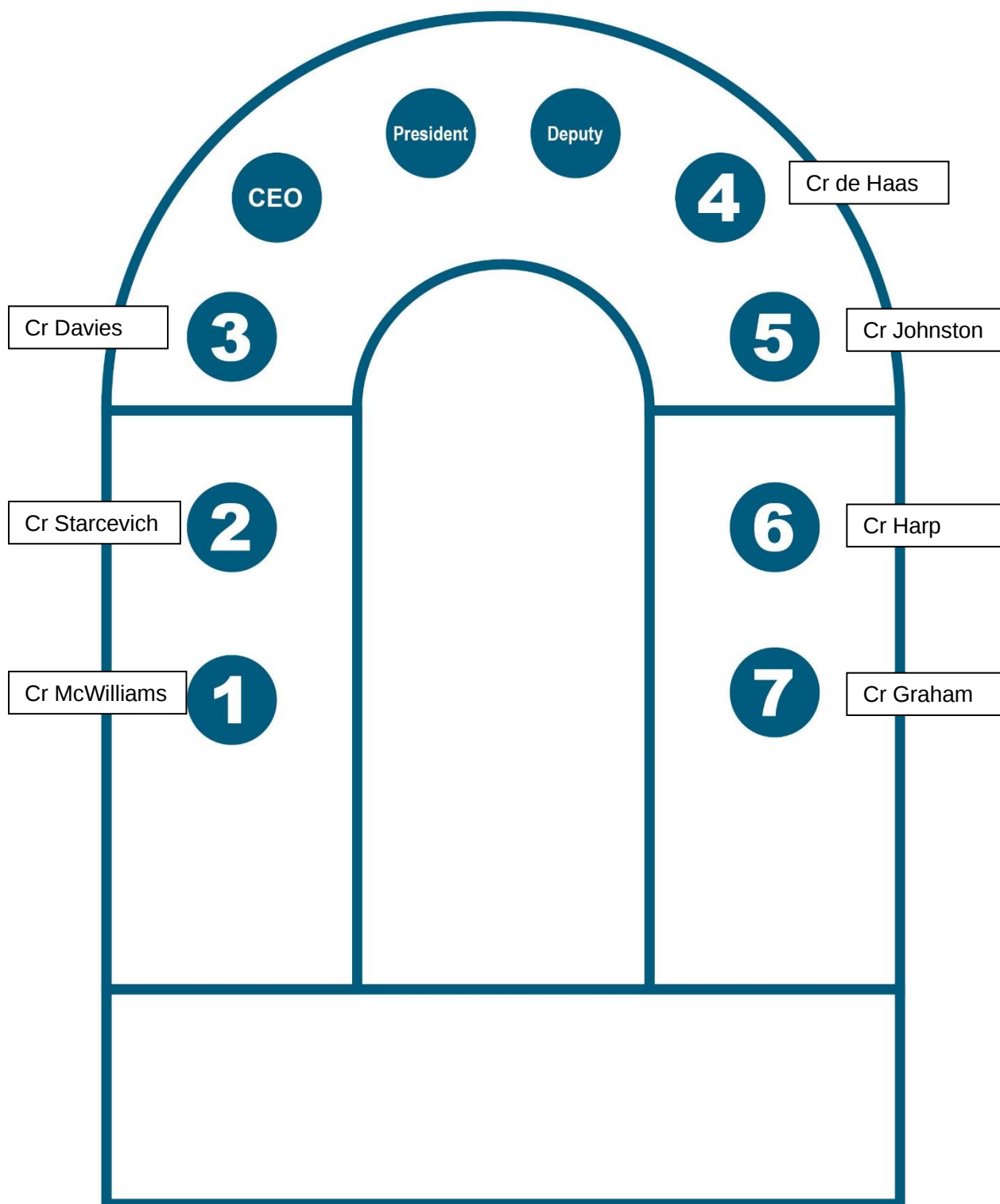
As per 8.2 (1) of the *Shire of Esperance Standing Orders Local Law*, the Chief Executive Officer is to allot a position at the council table to each Councillor, by a ballot process at the first meeting held after each Ordinary Election.

The Shire President and Deputy Shire President will not be included in the allotment of seats, as these are determined by their respective appointment of office.

The ballot for the seating allocation was conducted by Shire President, Ron Chambers.

1. Cr McWilliams
2. Cr Starcevich
3. Cr Davies
4. Cr de Haas
5. Cr Johnston
6. Cr Harp
7. Cr Graham

Council Seating Arrangement



7. CLOSURE

The President declared the meeting closed at 4:39pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on _____

Signed _____

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

Dated _____