



3 NOVEMBER 2025

Shire of Esperance

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

A Special Council meeting of the Shire of Esperance will be held at Council Chambers on 4 November 2025 commencing at 9:30 AM to consider the matters set out in the attached agenda.

S Burge

Chief Executive Officer

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Esperance for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings. The Shire of Esperance disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Esperance during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Esperance. The Shire of Esperance warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Esperance must obtain and should only rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Esperance in respect of the application.

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.

Disclosure of Interest

☐ Agenda Briefing

☐ Ordinary Council Meeting

☐ Special Meeting

Details

Name of Person Declaring an Interest

Position

Date of Meeting

This form is provided to enable elected members and officers to disclose an interest in the matter in accordance with the regulations of Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

Interest Disclosed

Item Number

Item Title

Nature of Interest

Type of Interest

☐ Financial

☐ Proximity

☐ Impartiality

Interest Disclosed

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☐ Financial

☐ Proximity

☐ Impartiality

Declaration

I understand that the above information will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and recorded by the Chief Executive Officer in an appropriate register.

Signature

Date

Disclosure of Interest

Notes for Your Guidance



Financial Interest (*Sections. 5.65. & 5.67. Local Government Act 1995*)

A member who has a Financial Interest in any matter to be discussed at a Council or Committee Meeting, that will be attended by the member, must disclose the nature of the interest:

- a. in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the Meeting; or
- b. at the Meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member, who makes a disclosure under section 5.65 must not:

- a. preside at the part of the meeting relating to the matter; or
- b. participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relative to the matter,

unless, and to the extent that, the disclosing member is allowed to do so under *Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Local Government Act 1995*.

The following notes are a basic guide for Councillors when they are considering whether they have a Financial Interest in a matter.

1. A Financial Interest, pursuant to *s. 5.60A or 5.61 of the Local Government Act 1995*, requiring disclosure occurs when a Council decision might advantageously or detrimentally affect the Councillor or a person closely associated with the Councillor and is capable of being measured in money terms. There are expectations in the *Local Government Act 1995* but they should not be relied on without advice, unless the situation is very clear.
2. If a Councillor is a member of an Association (which is a Body Corporate) with not less than 10 members i.e sporting, social, religious etc, and the Councillor is not a holder of office of profit or a guarantor, and has not leased land to or from the club, i.e, if the Councillor is an ordinary member of the Association, the Councillor has a common and not a financial interest in any matter to that Association.
3. If an interest is shared in common with a significant number of electors and ratepayers, then the obligation to disclose that interest does not arise. Each case needs to be considered.
4. If in doubt declare.
5. As stated if written notice disclosing the interest has not been given to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting, then it must be given when the matter arises in the Agenda, and immediately before the matter is discussed. Under *s. 5.65 of the Local Government Act 1995* failure to notify carries a penalty of imprisonment for 24 months and a fine of \$24 000.
6. Ordinarily the disclosing Councillor must leave the meeting room before discussion commences. The only exceptions are:

- 6.1 Where the Councillor discloses the extent of the interest, and Council carries a motion under s.5.68(1)(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act 1995*; or
- 6.2 Where the Minister allows the Councillor to participate under s.5.69(3) of the *Local Government Act 1955*, with or without conditions.

Proximity Interest (*Section. 5.60B Local Government Act 1995*)

1. For the purposes of this subdivision, a person has a proximity interest in a matter if the matter concerns;
 - a. a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; or
 - b. a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or
 - c. a proposed development (as defined in s 5.63(5) *Local Government Act 1995*) of land that adjoins the person's land.
2. In this section, land (the proposal land) adjoins a person's land if;
 - a. the proposal land, not being a thoroughfare, has a common boundary with the person's land; or
 - b. the proposal land, or any part of it, is directly across a thoroughfare from, the person's land; or
 - c. The proposal land is that part of a thoroughfare that has a common boundary with the person's land.
3. In this section a reference to a person's land is a reference to any land owned by the person or in which the person has any estate or interest.

Impartiality Interest

An interest, pursuant to *Regulation 22 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021*,

- a) That could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest; and
- b) Arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association.

It does not include an interest as referred to in s. 5.60 *Local Government Act 1995*.

There are very different outcomes resulting from disclosing an interest affecting impartiality compared to that of a financial interest. With the declaration of a financial interest, an elected member leaves the room and does not vote.

With the declaration of this type of interest, the elected member stays in the room, participates in the debate and votes. In effect then, following disclosure of an interest affecting impartiality, the member's involvement in the meeting continues as if no interest existed.

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SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

AGENDA

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 4 NOVEMBER 2025
COMMENCING AT 9:30 AM**

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

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.

2. ATTENDANCE

Members

Pres. R Chambers	President	
Cr J Obourne	Deputy President	Town Ward
Cr G Johnston		Town Ward
Cr G McWilliams		Town Ward
Cr L de Haas		Town Ward
Cr W Graham		Rural Ward
Cr S Starceвич		Rural Ward
Cr G Harp		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 F Baxter	Director Corporate & Community Services
Mrs C Hoffrichter	Executive Assistant

Members of the Public & Press

3. APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

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

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

4.3 Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Admin Regulations Section 34c

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. PURPOSE OF MEETING

Nil

7. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Officer's Comment:

It is recommended that the meeting is behind closed doors for the following item, in accordance with section 5.23(2) of the Local Government Act 1995.

Item: 7.1

Legal Assistance Request

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

This report is considered confidential in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995, as it relates to a matter affecting an employee or employees (Section 5.23(2)(a)); and the personal affairs of any person (Section 5.23(2)(b)); and legal advice obtained, or which may be obtained, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting (Section 5.23(2)(d)).

8. CLOSURE