



1 MAY 2026

Shire of Esperance

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

A Special Council meeting of the Shire of Esperance will be held at Council Chambers on 05 May 2026 commencing at 10:30am 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	<input type="text"/>		
Position	<input type="text"/>	Date of Meeting	<input type="text"/>

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	<input type="text"/>	Item Title	<input type="text"/>	
Nature of Interest				
<input type="text"/>				
Type of Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Proximity	<input type="checkbox"/> Impartiality	

Interest Disclosed

Item Number	<input type="text"/>	Item Title	<input type="text"/>	
Nature of Interest				
<input type="text"/>				
Type of Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Proximity	<input type="checkbox"/> Impartiality	

Interest Disclosed

Item Number	<input type="text"/>	Item Title	<input type="text"/>	
Nature of Interest				
<input type="text"/>				
Type of Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Proximity	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OFFICIAL OPENING	8
2.	ATTENDANCE	8
3.	APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	8
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:	8
4.1	Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60a	8
4.2	Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60b	8
4.3	Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Admin Regulations Section 34c	8
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	8
6.	PURPOSE OF MEETING	9
6.1	Verge Side Collection	9
7.	CLOSURE	14

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

AGENDA

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 5 MAY 2026
COMMENCING AT 10:30 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

Cr J Obourne	Acting President	Town Ward
Cr G McWilliam		Town Ward
Cr L de Haas		Town Ward
Cr W Graham		Rural Ward
Cr S Starcevich		Rural Ward
Cr G Harp		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

Cr GJ Johnston (Leave of Absence 24 March 2026 - 27 May 2026)
Pres. R Chambers (Leave of Absence 01 May 2026 – 17 May 2026)
Cr C Davies (Leave of Absence 01 May 2026 – 05 May 2026)

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

Item: 6.1

Verge Side Collection

Author/s	Roy Greive	Director External Services
Authorisor/s	Shane Burge	Chief Executive Officer

File Ref: D26/12746

Applicant

Internal – Sustainability & Recourse Recovery.

Location/Address

Shire of Esperance

Executive Summary

For Council to consider options around the 2026 verge side bulk waste collection program (the program).

Recommendation in Brief

That Council:

1. Does not conduct the bulk verge collection program for the 2025/2026 financial year;
2. For the next 3 month (May, June & July 2026), waive fees associated with the delivery of mattresses and refrigerators at the Wylie Bay waste site;
3. Enacts a communication plan to ensure that the community are well informed about the change to the bulk verge collection program; And,
4. Investigate options for an on-demand bulk collection service for the 2026/2027 financial year, ensuring that any proposal includes consideration for vulnerable members of the community and, bring an item back to Council for consideration before the end of the 2026 calendar year.

Background

After several years without verge side bulk waste collection program, bulk waste collections were reintroduced to Esperance in 2020 as a response to the COVID19 pandemic. In 2021 the Council added an additional option of skip bins for small lifestyle blocks in the peri-urban areas.

The program has proven difficult to budget for accurately as both contractors and Shire of Esperance staff are utilised and, volumes of waste that are required to be collected are variable.

Officer's Comment

The Sustainability & Resource Recovery team have been exploring options to replace the program and have discovered that a number of local governments who historically have undertaken a bulk verge pickup program similar to that which the Shire of Esperance have run in previous years are shifting to an on-demand system.

The on-demand system often reduces overall service cost as residents consider their waste needs more carefully and the program leads to a reduction in unnecessary pick-ups and total waste volume.



Verge Side V On Demand

Factor	On-Demand Collection	Verge-Side Collection
Operational cost	Lower — only service households that book	Higher — trucks cover entire suburbs for unknown volumes or waste type
Waste volume	Lower — residents book only what and when needed	Higher — “if it’s free, put it all out” behaviour
Illegal dumping	Often reduced	Often increases before/after verge dates
Resident convenience	High — choose timing	Medium — fixed dates
Council cost predictability	High	Lower — volume spikes common,

15

As the Shire of Esperance transitions from a traditional waste site to a modern transfer station model, changes to the program will be necessary as the delivery of large bulk volumes within short periods of time will not be able to be managed appropriately. The cost of carting bulk waste to our chosen waste partner’s site outside of the Shire of Esperance would likely be prohibitive. An on-demand pickup allows for pre planning of waste which would bring more predictability as pickups are able to be scheduled and bookings can be monitored in real time. Without changes to the current service delivery, scope and or cost-recovery mechanisms, the financial impact of the bulk waste collection program would likely grow.

The imperative to consider changes to the program more urgently has come about due to the fuel crisis that has drastically affected all aspects of Local Government operations. The allocated budget to this program for the 2025/2026 financial year is \$139,150. Given the escalation in fuel price and other factors such a contractor and staff costs and the variable nature and volume of the items for pickup, the program is forecast to cost in excess of \$200,000 this financial year.

Given the above information the Sustainability and Resource Recovery team believe it is prudent to bring this likely substantial cost overrun to the attention of the Council and to present options that could mitigate these cost escalations while still being sensitive to the needs of the community.

An alternate option if Council wanted to continue with a verge collection for the current year is as follows-

Alternate Option

That Council run the verge side bulk waste collection program as planned in 2026 and allocate a further \$70,000 to allow the program to be fully funded.

Consultation

Sustainability and Resource Recovery
Manager of Asset Operations

Financial Implications

Should the Council wish to run the verge side bulk waste collection program as planned a further \$70,000 will need to be allocated.

Asset Management Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Council Plan 2022 – 2032

Natural Environment

A community that is empowered and motivated to minimise waste

Environmental Considerations

The environmental considerations arising from this report are that there may be an increased instance of illegal dumping should the Council decide not to undertake the 2026 verge side bulk waste collection program.

Attachments

A₁. Verge Briefing Outline

Officer's Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Does not conduct the bulk verge collection program for the 2025/2026 financial year;**
- 2. For the next 3 month (May, June & July 2026), waive fees associated with the delivery of mattresses and refrigerators at the Wylie Bay waste site;**
- 3. Enacts a communication plan to ensure that the community are well informed about the change to the bulk verge collection program; And,**
- 4. Investigate options for an on-demand bulk collection service for the 2026/2027 financial year, ensuring that any proposal includes consideration for vulnerable members of the community and, bring an item back to Council for consideration before the end of the 2026 calendar year.**

Voting Requirement

Absolute Majority



Date: 21.04.2026
Time: 9:15
Location: Chambers
Responsible Officer: Georgia Ryan

AGENDA – INFORMAL BRIEFING WITH COUNCIL

1. Alteration of 2026 Verge Side Bulk Waste collection program

Considering current circumstances relating to fuel prices, fuel availability and responsible use of this resource, the SRR team would like to discuss the possibility of pausing the verge side collection for this financial year to investigate our options and avoid budgeting relief in the short term.

2. Purpose of Briefing

The Verge side collection usually occurs around May /June or October/ November due to favourable weather conditions and availability of shire works crew during this period. The team has commenced the 2026 planning process and in doing so encountered the dramatic increase in costings to run this program in the current economic climate. The team reached out to WALGA to investigate what other councils were doing. It was highlighted that many other councils were analysing programs and prioritising works according to needs, essential services and budget maintenance.

3. Background

After several years without a verge side collection, bulk waste collections were reintroduced in 2020 as a response to COVID and in 2021 the council added an additional option of skip bins for small lifestyle blocks. The service has been difficult to budget for accurately as contractors as well as shire staff (Town Work Crew) are utilised. This is not town work crew core duties, and the salary component is drawn from the waste budget. It is perpetually an undesired task for the works crew as it often interferes with their scheduled programs.

The 2025–26 verge side collection is forecast to cost the Shire more than \$230,000 in direct operational expenditure, with a total net cost of around \$265,000 once forgone income is considered. The most significant cost escalation arises from the increased reliance on diesel-fuelled heavy plant and rising fuel prices in Regional Western Australia.

4. Key Points for Discussion

The SRR team have been researching and planning towards an on-demand system which is the option many councils in WA and throughout Australia are adopting. The on-demand system often reduces overall service cost as residents think through their waste needs more carefully and the program leads to a reduction in unnecessary pick-ups and total waste volume.

This system will be necessary once the waste site relocates to the Myrup Waste management Facility site as there will be no landfill option. The cost of carting bulk waste to Coolgardie or another site would be prohibitive. The on-demand system allows for pre planning of waste as it is clearly conveyed what items are booked for collection and options for reuse/recycling or disposal are scheduled and managed as required.

The cost predictability is generally more controllable as bookings can be monitored in real time. Without changes to the current service delivery, scope and or cost-recovery mechanisms, the financial impact of the bulk waste collection program will continue to grow.

5. Council Role

- Note only
- Discuss and provide feedback
- Provide strategic direction

Options

1. Business as Usual, run the collection as planned, despite unknown cost escalations.
2. Do not run a 2026 verge program and reallocate some budget to community education and information.
3. Pause verge collection program and allocate 26/27 budget to commission a feasibility study and procurement plan for an on-demand bulk waste service with a limited free entitlement per property and paid additional bookings.

6. Desired Outcomes

Direction from council

7. Attachments

Yes (list below)

No

7. CLOSURE