

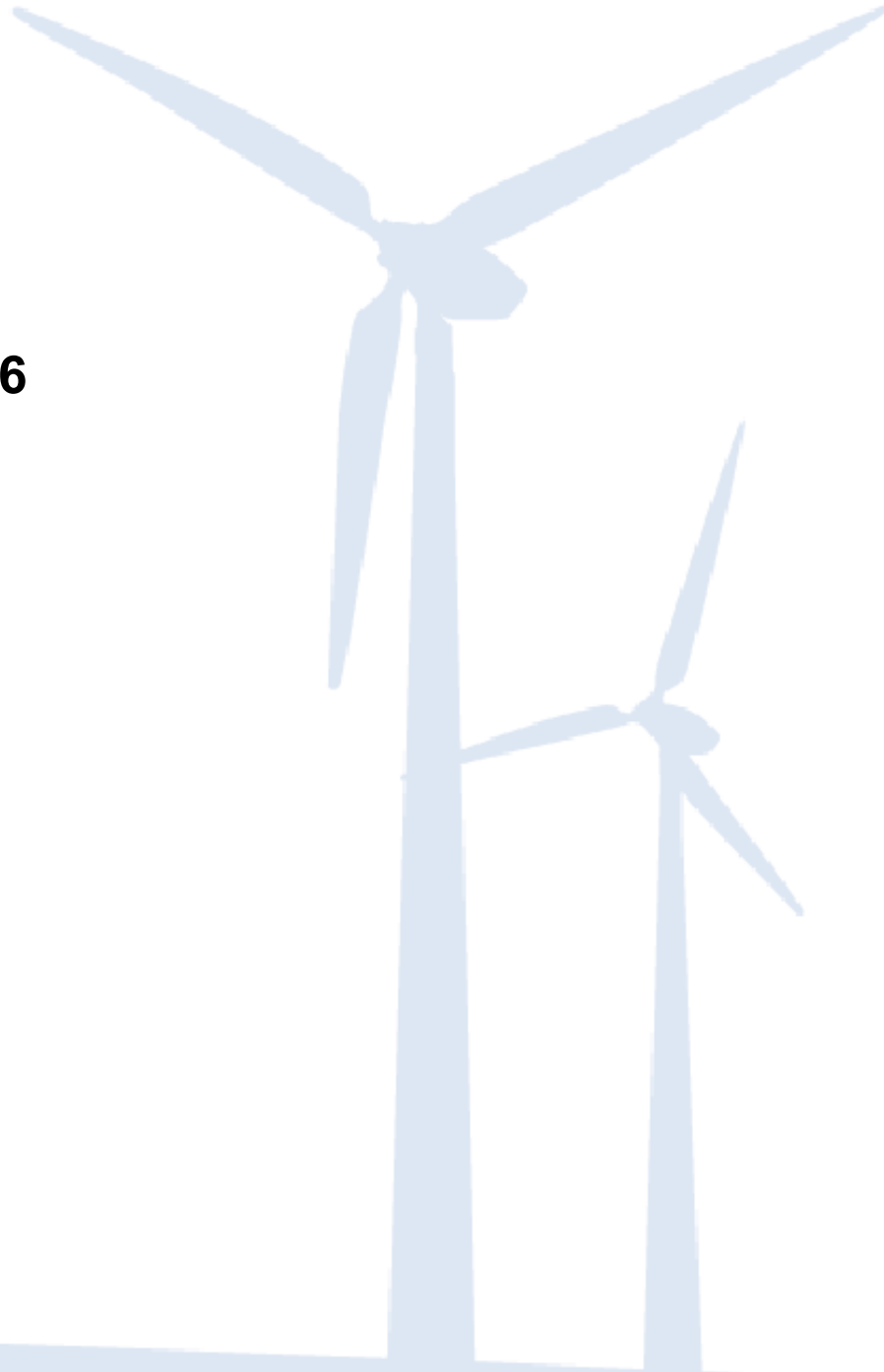


Shire of Esperance

SPECIAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026

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 5 MAY 2026.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Acting Shire President declared the meeting open at 10:31am 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 Acting President welcomed Councillors, staff, guests and members of the public to the meeting. The President advised the meeting will be video recorded. The recording will be made publicly available as soon as practical following the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

Members

Cr J Obourne	Acting President	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 G Ryan	
Mrs C Hoffrichter	Executive Assistant

Members of the Public & Press

Nil

3. APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr G McWilliam apology

Previously Granted Leave of Absence

A leave of absence was previously granted to Councillor Johnston for the period 24 March 2026 to 27 May 2026 inclusive.

A leave of absence was previously granted to Pres. R Chambers for the period 01 May 2026 to 17 May 2026 inclusive.

A leave of absence was previously granted to Councillor Davies for the period 01 May 2026 to 05 May 2026 inclusive.

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

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

A.1. [Verge Briefing Outline](#)

Item: 6.1 Verge Side Collection

Moved: Cr Graham
Seconded: Cr de Haas

S0526-089

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.**

LOST

F2 – A3

For: Cr Graham, Cr de Haas

Against: Cr Starcevich, Cr Harp, A/Pres Obourne

MOTION

Moved: Cr Obourne
Seconded: Cr Starcevich

S0526-090

That Council

- 1. Proceed with the 2026 verge side collection**
- 2. Request staff to undertake a structured review of future service models with regular councillor briefings and;**
- 3. Ensure community engagement is undertaken before any future changes are proposed.**

CARRIED

F3 – A2

For: Cr Starcevich, Cr Harp, A/Pres Obourne

Against: Cr Graham, Cr de Haas

Reason: To enable continuation of the 2026 verge side collection while allowing for a structured review of future service models prior to any proposed changes.



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**

The President declared the meeting closed at 11:11am.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on _____

Signed _____

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

Dated _____