



Norseman Woodlands to Eucla Coast

**Unconfirmed Minutes
Special Council Meeting
12th February 2026**

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next Special Meeting of the Council will be held on 12th February 2026 in the Council Chamber at the Shire Administration Office commencing at 6:00 pm (AWST) to consider and resolve on the matters set out in the attached agenda.

All meetings are open to the public, except for matters raised by Council under "Confidential Items".

Members of the public may ask a question at a Special Council meeting under "Public Question Time".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Chief Executive Officer
10 February 2026

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES for the SPECIAL Meeting of Council
held in the Council Chamber at the Shire Administration office– commencing at
6:00 pm (AWST)

Notes to Agenda

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER BEFORE PROCEEDING:

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Any statement, comment or decision made at a Council or Committee meeting regarding any application for an approval, consent, or licence, including a resolution of approval, is not effective as an approval of any application and must not be relied upon as such.

Any person or entity who has an application before the Shire must obtain, and should only rely on, written notice of the Shires decision and any conditions attaching to the decision and cannot treat as an approval anything said or done at a Council or Committee meeting.

Any advice provided by an employee of the Shire on the operation of written law, or the performance of a function by the Shire, is provided in the capacity of an employee, and to the best of that person's knowledge and ability. It does not constitute, and should not be relied upon, as a legal advice or representation by the Shire. Any advice on a matter of law, or anything sought to be relied upon as representation by the Shire should be sought in writing and should make clear the purpose of the request.

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1. Declaration of Opening and Announcement of Visitors.

The Shire President welcomes all in attendance and declares the meeting open at: 6.00PM

This Special Council Meeting will be video recorded, and the recording published on the Shire of Dundas website.

1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

The Shire of Dundas recognises the Ngadju and Mirning as traditional custodians in the Shire of Dundas and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

1.2 Attendance at meetings by electronic means

2. Declarations of Financial, Proximity, Impartiality Interests & Gifts Received.

Financial Interests:

None declared.

Proximity Interests:

None declared.

Impartiality Interests:

None declared.

Gifts Received by Councillors: None declared.

As per section 5.87A of the Local Government Act 1995 and the Shire of Dundas Code of Conduct section 3.4 Gifts.

3. Record of Attendance of Councillors / Officers and Apologies.

Cr Sharon M Warner
Cr Sharon Brown
Cr Chantelle McLeod
Cr Priscilla Fleming
Cr Andie Holman

Deputy Shire President

Peter Fitchat
Pania Turner
Barry Hemopo
Hannah Turner

Chief Executive Officer
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Manager of Works and Services
Executive Assistant

Apologies

Cr Laurene G Bonza

Shire President

Public Gallery**4. Public Question Time.**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, any person may during Public Question Time ask any question.

5. Petitions, Deputations or Presentations.**6. Announcements by Presiding Member without Discussion.****7. Reports**

Agenda Reference & Subject	
7.1 – Acceptance of the draft Annual Report including the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30th June 2025	
Location / Address	Shire of Dundas
File Reference	FM.AD
Author	Peter Fitchat, CEO & Pania Turner, DCEO
Date of Report	10 February 2026
Disclosure of Interest	Nil

For Council to consider and approve the Draft Annual Report for the financial year ended 30th June 2025 (as included in the papers relating) and to set the date for the Annual Electors Meeting.

Background

The Audited Annual Financial Report and Auditor's Report were presented to the Audit & Risk Committee on 16th December 2025. It was resolved:

That the Audit & Risk Committee recommend to Council that:

- 1. The audited Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2025 be received.***
- 2. The Independent Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2025 be received.***
- 3. The Audit Management Letter be received.***

Subsequently, the Audited Annual Financial Report and Auditor's Report were presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16th December 2026. Council resolved:

That the:

- 1. Audited Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2025 be received.***
- 2. Independent Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2025 be received.***
- 3. Audit Management Letter be received.***

Statutory Environment

In accordance with section 5.54(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA), a local government is required to accept its Annual Report by 31 December following the end of the financial year, subject to the audit report being received. If the auditor's report is not available by that date, section 5.54(2) provides that the Annual Report must be accepted no later than two months after the audit report is received.

The Auditors report was accepted by Council at their Ordinary Council Meeting on the 16th of December 2025.

Further, under *section 5.27(2)* of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a General Electors Meeting must be held within 56 days of the local government's acceptance of the Annual Report.

Policy Implications

The actions and activities presented in this Annual Report are consistent with, and guided by, Shire of Dundas policies.

Financial Implications

Expenditure throughout the reporting period was managed within the approved Shire of Dundas budget and in accordance with applicable legislative requirements.

Strategic Implications

The 2024/25 Annual Report details the Shire's progress in delivering its strategic objectives throughout the reporting period. Key initiatives and projects are aligned with the Shire of Dundas community vision - Diverse, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Accountable - supporting transparency, accountability, and a clear link between strategic outcomes and the aspirations of the community.

The Annual Report demonstrates progress against the Strategic Community Plan and integrated planning framework, including:

- Infrastructure investment across roads, drainage, airstrips, heritage assets, and safety upgrades.
- Advocacy, regional leadership, and partnership activity supporting remote service delivery.
- Community wellbeing, accessibility improvements, and inclusive planning initiatives.
- Delivery of essential services through operations such as the waste management, supermarket, post office, emergency management supports, animal control and transport infrastructure.

Key Highlights of the Reporting Period – Shire of Dundas

Challenges

The 2024/25 reporting period also highlighted a range of ongoing challenges associated with delivering services in a remote and geographically dispersed local government area. These include structural funding constraints, workforce attraction and retention pressures, increasing community expectations, and the operational complexities of maintaining essential infrastructure, emergency response capability, and commercial services in the regional areas. Despite these challenges, Council and staff have continued to demonstrate adaptability, and commitment to sustaining service delivery and progressing long-term strategic priorities for the benefit of the community.

Roads and Transport

Road infrastructure and asset management remained a priority for the Shire of Dundas, recognising the critical role the road network plays in community safety, regional connectivity, freight, and emergency response.

Ongoing maintenance, resheeting, drainage improvements, and targeted safety upgrades were undertaken to preserve road condition, protect long-term asset value, and reduce risk for all road users. Works are funded through a combination of external grants and own-source funding. Works also support the Shire's continued partnership with Main Roads Western Australia, to provide timely assistance during incidents along a nationally significant transport corridor, all with the goal of maintaining safe and reliable access for residents, industry, and visitors.

Installation and connection of solar and vanadium power at the Norseman airstrip terminal was completed. Council was pleased to receive notification that after extensive and long-term campaigning the State Government announced funding to upgrade the Eucla airstrip to an all-weather surface.

Community Engagement and Events

The Shire delivered a range of free community events throughout the year, including the Australia Day Breakfast, Senior's Christmas Dinner, ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services, free community barbeques, and activities for youth. By ensuring events are free or low-cost, the Shire promotes inclusivity and encourages strong community participation.

The Norseman Community Resource Centre continues to be an essential community hub providing key services such as Centrelink, Medicare, eSafety information, administration services, digital access point, and print of the local Norseman Today newspaper.

Partnering with the Anglican Diocese Perth and Norseman Historical Society the Shire invested in the relocation of the old Anglican chapel to the Norseman Historical Museum safeguarding the first iron clad Anglican church in the Goldfields.

Advocacy

Advocacy continues to be a priority for Council, with active engagement across regional, State, and national forums to highlight the realities and challenges of delivering services within a remote local government environment.

The Shire President Cr L. Bonza, Deputy President Cr S. Warner, and Cr C. McLeod attended the 2024 National General Assembly, with the President and Cr McLeod also representing the Shire at the 2025 Assembly. The NGA provides important opportunity for Council to present motions, participate in debate on issues impacting local government, and meet with politicians, and expert leaders.

The President, Cr Brown, and the Chief Executive Officer attended the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress where topics included enabling infrastructure for future housing development, renewable energy deployment and integration, innovation in active transport, and transitioning to a circular economy. In addition, elected members were appointed to a range of committees and working groups, collaborating with relevant stakeholders to progress regional and local priorities.

Governance and Finance

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) issued an unqualified audit opinion, confirming the integrity of the Shire's financial systems and statutory compliance. Operating revenue for the year remained steady at \$12.46 million derived primarily from rates, grants and contributions, and fees and charges associated with service delivery. In addition to this, capital revenue for the year was \$1,942,363 consisting of capital grants, subsidies, contributions, profit on asset disposals and fair value adjustments to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

Total operating expenditure for the same period was approximately \$16.49 million, with the most significant costs relating to employee expenses, materials and contracts, and depreciation of infrastructure and community assets. However, factoring in non-cash amounts of \$4.72 million which are excluded from operating activities (depreciation, and other components as defined in the financial report), operating expenditure for the reporting period was approximately \$11.76 million. This results in a surplus amount attributable to operating activities of \$775,085.

As per the Statement of Financial Activity, adding to this surplus other Investing and Financing Activities and Movements in Surplus or Deficit, the surplus after imposition of general rates results in a strong result of \$1.36 million.

As at the 30 June 2025, the Shire maintained a strong asset base of approximately \$81.54 million with \$1.59 million in liabilities, which provides a total equity of \$79.95 million, reflecting continued stewardship of community infrastructure and long-term financial sustainability.

Council remains a strong advocate for reforms that acknowledge the limited capacity of regional councils and the compounding effects of reduced Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs), policy-driven financial pressure, and expectations for high regulatory compliance.

Consultation

Elected Members
Auditor General
NEXIA Australia
Chief Executive Officer
Senior Officers

Comment

Council and Shire staff remain dedicated to meeting their obligations under the Act, upholding transparency and accountability, and continuing to deliver quality services, strengthen community engagement, and progress the goals and objectives set out in the Strategic Community Plan.

As stated in the report under *section 5.27(2) of the Local Government Act 1995*, a General Electors' Meeting must be held within 56 days of the local government's acceptance of the Annual Report. It is proposed to hold the General Electors Meeting on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 4.30pm.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Moved: Cr. C McLeod

Seconded: Cr. S Brown

Officer Recommendation

That the Shire of Dundas Council:

- 1. Accept the draft Annual Report including the Annual Financial Report for the financial year ended 30th June 2025 as is contained in the Papers Relating.**
- 2. Give public notice of the Annual General Electors Meeting to be held on 17 March 2026 at 4.30pm at the Shire Administration Building at 88-92 Prinsep Street, Norseman.**

Carried by: Absolute Majority

For: Cr. S Warner, Cr. S Brown, Cr. C McLeod, Cr. P Fleming, Cr. A Holman

Against: 0

8. Next Meeting

The next Special Meeting of Council will be called as required.

There being no further business the Shire President declares the meeting closed at: 6.02PM