



From the CEO

June Community Update

Hi everyone,

Well, I'm not sure how the first half of the year has gone so quickly, but things are certainly busy as we approach the end of financial year.

The July school holidays are fast approaching and will see Leonora host a basketball carnival on July 11th and 12th, which promises to be a great event. For those heading away over the break, enjoy yourselves and travel safe.

Shire representatives will be attending the upcoming Outback Way Forum and National General Assembly for the Australian Local Government Association in Canberra. We look forward to bringing back updates to share with you all.

Summary of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 18th June 2024

At our most recent meeting Council endorsed the recreation master plan, which entails the acquisition of a general lease subject to State approval. If successful, the Shire would gain control of the land in around 12 months' time and look to start developing it in the 2025/2026 financial year. As part of this potential development process the Shire is having ongoing conversations with Main Roads around potential Eastern bypass routes. The full master plan is contained in the meeting minutes.

Horizon Power is seeking to construct a solar field for power generation on the airport reserve, which is intended to replace the current gas-powered facility that is nearing the end of its life. Council endorsed the use of the reserve for this purpose.

Genesis Minerals Limited are proposing to undertake survey work on their Mining Lease to the west of town. The Mining Lease encompasses several Shire recreation reserves, and Council have endorsed the survey work subject to non-interference with recreational use. Should any additional activity beyond surveying sought to be undertaken, further approval from Council will be required prior to commencing.



Council have endorsed the proposed 2024/2025 fees and charges. A balance has been sought between keeping fees and charges as low as possible, while maintaining adequate service levels. A new inclusion in the fees is a subsidised rate of gym membership for approved volunteers, such as fire and ambulance. These prices will take effect from 1st July, and the full budget will be presented to Council on 16th July 2024.

A revised community grants scheme was also endorsed, that seeks to secure funding for key annual events and programs, while continuing to provide the opportunity for a range of community-based groups to apply for funds to assist them with events and services.

General updates

Road closures

As a result of recent weather, there are several restrictions in place for local roads. Please check the road report on our website, or contact our office, for more information. A reminder that an exemption to travel on closed roads, or in vehicles currently restricted from those roads, must be applied for with the Shire on each occasion. This is not only to protect the road conditions, but also to ensure public safety.

Leonora Safe House

The WA government recently announced \$1.7 million dollars in funding towards emergency accommodation for family and domestic violence victim-survivors in Leonora. This is something that the community has been working towards for many years, and the Shire has been dedicated to seeking funding for. We're delighted to see this budget commitment, which secures four years of operational funds for crisis care in Leonora.

The first step towards the safe house being operational is community consultation, and the Department of Communities welcomes interested residents to join them for a drop-in session on Thursday 27th June 2024. Details are available online and on flyers around town.

Property related crime

With a recent spate of break ins and thefts, it's a timely reminder to ensure that your property is secure, and all incidents are reported to WA Police. Ensuring all windows and doors are shut and locked can be enough to deter some activity, and reporting every incident is key to



ensuring accurate statistics, which are used to track trends and help inform operations. You can report online at Crime Stoppers, or burglary can be reported by calling 131 444.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to either one of our Councillors or me.

Ty Matson

CEO

Document links:

Council meeting documents

www.leonora.wa.gov.au/council-meetings

Crime Stoppers online report

www.crimestopperswa.com.au/report/