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GVROC Council Meeting

Friday 30th January 2026
In person meeting and video
hosted by City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
9:00am – 1:00pm
held at the at the Councillor conference room in the
City of Kalgoorlie Boulder's Administration Offices at
577 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie

Minutes

Andrew Mann
GVROC Executive Officer
27 March 2026

Cr Laurene Bonza
GVROC Chair
27 March 2026

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

A in person and video conference meeting of the GVROC Council was held Friday 30 January 2026 commencing at 9:00 am at the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Councillor conference room at 577 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie.

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss business related to the activities of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

Nil.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas	(via Zoom)
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas	
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas	
Cr Paul Wilcox	President, Shire of Coolgardie	
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie	
Ms Sabine Taylor	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie	
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	
Cr Wayne Johnson,	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	(via Zoom)
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance (A/GVROC Chair)	
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance	
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance	
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora	
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies	
Cr Tim Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna	
Cr Jim Quadrio	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna	(via Zoom)
Mr Matt McIntyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna	(via Zoom)
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC	
Ms Niki Curtis	GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator	(via Zoom)

4. GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 Ali Kent MLA

Ali Kent MLA, Member for Kalgoorlie, provided an update on regional matters from the State Government perspective and provided a formal certificate presentation for the Lotterywest Grant received for the Shared Regional Community Event Equipment project.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Department of Communities

David Bridge, Regional Executive Director Goldfields, Midwest Gascoyne for Service Delivery and Community Services provided a presentation from the Department of Communities with relevance to the Goldfields region (via Zoom).

5.2 City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Mayor Glenn Wilson provided an update and video on current projects and situation within the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.

Correspondence received:

1. Emails received on 26 November 2025 from the Shadow Minister for Local Government and Fisheries, Kirralee Warr MLA in response to the GVROC request on 24 November 2025.
2. Letter received on 2 December 2025 from Minister Carey regarding an update on social housing and GROH in the Goldfields Esperance region in response to GVROC request on 12 September 2025.
3. Email received on 15 December 2025 from Michele Bennetts, Managing Director LGIQ, regarding update on progress with ARIC's and Independent Chairs.
4. Letter received on 6 January 2026 from SEMC Chair, Bret Chaloner, in response to GVROC request on 8 December 2025.
5. Letter received on 15 January 2026 from Director General of the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure, Peter Woronzow, in response to GVROC request on 8 December 2025.

Correspondence sent:

1. GVROC Submission sent on 20 November 2025 to the Office of Road Safety regarding the Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit.
2. Letter sent on 24 November 2025 to Shadow Minister for Local Government, Kirralee Warr MLA, regarding the GVROC concerns on the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025*.
3. Letter sent on 24 November 2025 to Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government regarding the GVROC concerns on the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025*.
4. Letter sent on 3 December 2025 to Nick Sloan, CEO-WALGA, requesting assistance from WALGA to advocate to the Minister for Emergency Services and DFES regarding unfunded local government responsibilities under the *State Hazard Plan – Fire (v3.00, August 2025)*.
5. Letter sent on 8 December 2025 to WALGA, SEMC and Mainroads WA requesting assistance to address the current risks of unsealed shortcuts being posted via Navigation Platforms (e.g. Google Maps) and the implications for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and emergency management responses.
6. Letter sent on 8 December 2025 to Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government regarding strengthening oversight and accountability of candidate conduct during local government elections by considering an amendment to *the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021* to enable greater enforcement of Code of Conduct breaches by candidates, regardless of whether they are elected or not.
7. Email sent on 15 December 2025 to Michele Bennetts, Managing Director LGIQ regarding ARIC's and Independent Chairs in response to email received from her.
8. Email sent on 15 December 2025 to Damian Cunnane, Regional Housing Director at the Department of Housing and Works requesting details around current stock levels of social and GROH housing in the region.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the correspondence that was sent or received since the last GVROC meeting be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

7.5 GVROC CEOs Group Meetings

The GVROC CEOs held a meeting on 16 January 2026, and the Minutes of that meeting are presented at **Attachment 5** for noting by the GVROC.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC CEOs Group Minutes from its meeting on 16 January 2026 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS FINANCE

8.1 Financial Statement for January 2026

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: January 2026

Attachments: GVROC Financial Statements and accounts payable and receivable to 30 January 2026, Full Transaction Account history to 30 January 2026 and GVROC Bank Statement Snapshot, plus Account history full transaction to date for 2025/26 financial year, 2025/26 Budget update (**Attachment 6**).

Background:

Presenting the financial statement position and the accounts approved for payment for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 January 2026.

Also providing a picture of the 2025/26 Budget outlook as of 30 January 2026.

Financial Statement:

The Officer provides the following comment:

Since the last GVROC meeting for the period of 15 November 2025 to 30 January 2026 new transactions included in the financial statements are:

- Payments to Mann Advisory for the Executive Officer services and travel costs
- Payments to Niki Curtis for RCA Coordinator services and travel costs.
- Payments to XERO Accounting System – Monthly subscription for accounting software
- Payment to Up-to-Date Accounting for preparation of GVROC BAS Statement and Lodgement.
- Payment to Josh Byrne & Associates for final payment for the Wiluna Martu Bush Walk project as part of the GVROC Urban Greening Program.
- Interest earned on Commonwealth Saver account
- 2nd Grant receipt of funds from Lotterywest for Urban Greening Program received through the Shire of Esperance.

Officer Comment:

The budget for 2025/26 is currently tracking according to plan.

The GVROC should also note that based on the outcome of the GVROC Election process at the last meeting, that the Shire of Dundas is the new lead LGA, taking over from the Finances from the Shire of Coolgardie. The Shire President, Laurene Bonza and CEO, Peter Fitchat are in the process of being placed as authorised signatories to the GVROC Commonwealth Bank Accounts. The GVROC Executive Officer, Andrew Mann will remain as the primary authorising account holder. Peter Fitchat also now has full access an authorisation for the GVROC Accounts in our XERO Finance system.

A meeting to finalise the Bank Authorisations will be held with the Commonwealth Bank directly after this meeting.

Consultation: GVROC Chair, GVROC CEO Chair

Financial Implications: Funds for the expenditure is included in the 2025/2026 Budget

Strategic Implications: GVROC Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Objective 3

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC:

1. Note that the Statement of Financial Position for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 January 2026 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 15 November 2025 to 30 January 2026 totalling \$41351.34 and revenue received of \$342,293.17.
2. Endorse the actions taken by the GVROC Executive Officer to pay for GVROC expenses and receipt of GVROC Revenue.
3. Note the changes to the GVROC Bank Account Authorised Signatories will be completed post this meeting with the Shire of Dundas President and CEO added, along with the GVROC Executive Officer.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Timothy Carmody, Shire of Wiluna

Carried

9. GVROC REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCE PROGRAM

9.1 GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Program Update

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Niki Curtis, GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: RFQ CKB Karkurla Bushland Park (**Attachment 7**)
RFQ Scope Fee Martu Bush Walk Signed (**Attachment 8**)

Background and Officer Comments on each project are below:

The GVROC Regional Climate Alliance (RCA) Working Group has not met since the last GVROC meeting on 14 November 2025.

Regarding the GVROC led RCA projects being managed by the RCA Coordinator, these are listed below in more detail.

Disaster Ready Programs

The Disaster Ready Fund offers up to \$200 million annually to support projects that reduce the impacts of disasters caused by climate change and other hazards. Building on previous work with Blue Salt Consultants, data collected now supports major grant applications through DFES. The focus is on improving evacuation centre self-sufficiency, with regional plans considering solar, battery systems, and water tanks for centres in Dundas, Coolgardie, and Wiluna—mirroring a similar program in Esperance.

In December 2025, the Shire of Esperance received \$946,938 from the Federal Community Energy Upgrades Fund – Round 2 for solar, battery, and efficiency upgrades to 16 buildings. This \$1.8 million project will deliver 580 kW of solar capacity and 460 kWh of battery storage, lowering energy bills by over \$280,000, cutting carbon emissions by 400 tonnes annually, and providing an average energy saving of 59%.

You can contact the Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator if you would like further information on the DRF project being developed.

Urban Greening Program for the Goldfields Esperance Region.

In December 2024, GVROC was notified that it has been successful in a \$573,000 grant from Lotterywest to plant over 30,000 native species across the GE region.

As part of this project, each Council has agreed to sign up to the Waterwise Council program with Water Corporation, and we are waiting on the final application documents from Water Corporation.

Lotterywest agreed for a variation to the contract for 2026 and 2027 and changes to the budget will reflect that:

- less trees will be planted in 2026 and more in 2027; and
- there will be further online training provided for staff by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) in 2026 ; and
- Kim Eckert from the Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group will be engaged to visit some towns to better plan for landscaping and tree planting locations; and
- a working group will be established in 2026 with ground staff to better communicate timing of community planting days, etc.

Tree and shrub orders have been placed with the Esperance Native Nursery and Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group, and these orders may be extended once more planning has been undertaken.

A summary of both the payment and reporting details for the project are outlined in the table below.

Date	Description	Payment amount	Payment requirements
19/12/2024	Payment 1	\$165,193	PAID
30/11/2025	Payment 2	\$342,293	PAID
30/1/2026	Report 1 due	Underway	Provide this through Portal
30/01/2027	Report 2 due		Provide this through Portal
30/01/2028	Payment 3 (Acquittal)	\$65,910	Provide an update on progress against the Community Impact Planner and an Income and Expenditure statement that accounts for 75% of payment 2.
TOTAL		\$573,396 (ex GST)	

Urban Greening Program Officer Comments:

- A Request for Quote closes on January 30 for consultancy services to develop a landscaping masterplan for the Karlkurla Bushland Park at Kalgoorlie (**Attachment 7**). The Landscaping Master Plan will prioritise planting local species to enhance shade, biodiversity, and cultural identity in the park, which is a key recreation attraction for the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.
- Josh Byrne and Associates have had their contract extended to develop a staged landscape design plan for the Martu Bushwalk at Wiluna (See **Attachment 8**), following extensive consultations with the community in 2025 to develop a Masterplan for the Shire of Wiluna.
- Lotterywest has paid a further \$342,293 to GVROC for Milestone 2, as agreed in the grant contract, and a milestone report will be submitted by the RCA Coordinator by January 30.
- Kim Eckert from KBULG will be contacting those Shires that have expressed interest in her services over the next six weeks, to develop plans for planting programs in 2026 and 2027 (Coolgardie, Dundas, Leonora and Menzies).

EV Charging Stations - Leonora and Menzies

The National Roads and Motorists Association (NRMA) expressed interest in assuming responsibility for the Menzies and Leonora charging station projects, including covering all expenses related to site preparation, installation, maintenance, and electricity.

However, it became apparent that there would be no imminent commitment from the Federal Government. As a result, both Menzies and Leonora have decided to proceed with the installation of charging stations utilizing funding from the State Government's ChargeUp grants, which provide a 50% co-contribution.

EV Charging Systems has now been engaged to install the charging stations. Subject to electrician availability and the arrival of necessary supplies, installation may be possible within the next month. Confirmation is expected in the coming weeks.

Community Water Supply Partnership Program (CWSPP)

The Shire of Menzies has completed its project and is waiting for rain to set the bentonite on the dam. Three tanks and solar pumps have been installed for landscaping and firefighting water storage.

The Shire of Dundas is finalising plans to add a large tank and solar pumps at Bromus Dam for firefighting, with similar upgrades planned for Pioneer Dam next.

Additional DWER funding rounds will open later this year.

Strategic Implications:

- Mitigating drought impacts and improving water security
- Sustainably managing the increased risk of bushfire threats
- Improving uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions
- Managing waste sustainably at a regional scale
- Reducing carbon emissions across the GE region to support our vision of a thriving, clean, green and economically resilient region

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC notes:

1. A regional project is underway to equip Goldfields Esperance Community Evacuation Centres with solar power and battery backup, in preparation for submission to the upcoming Disaster Ready Fund.
2. The Urban Greening project has received its next payment of \$342,293 from the \$573,000 in grant funds, and preparations for on-ground activities in 2026 are already in progress.
3. The ChargeUp grants for EV charging stations in Menzies and Leonora have been approved, and the installation of these stations is scheduled to take place in the next few months.
4. Further Community Water Supply Partnerships Programs grants will be made available in 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9.2 Goldfields Esperance Water Security Group and Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP) Update

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil.

Date: January 2026

Attachments: GEWSG Minutes from meeting 11 November 2025 (**Attachment 9**)
2025 Drought Hub Overview GE Water Security Group (**Attachment 10**)
[Goldfields-Esperance-Regional-Drought-Resilience-Plan](#)
Future Drought Fund website: [Regional Drought Resilience Planning - DAFF](#)

Background:

The Goldfields-Esperance Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP) provides a foundation to identify, inform and guide actions to achieve water security and drought resilience across the region.

Jointly funded by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Federal government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund (FDF), this RDRP builds on the region's aspiration to achieve water security through a shared vision.

The RDRP should be read in conjunction with the Drought Vulnerability Assessment (DVA) for the region, which provides an evidence base that underpins the priorities and actions identified.

The RDRP was approved and officially released on 12 November 2025 (see link above).

Officer Comment:

The GEWSG held its last meeting on the 11 November 2025, and the minutes can be found at **Attachment 9**.

At the meeting a presentation (see **Attachment 10**) was provided by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Knowledge Coordinator, Tanya Kilminster, providing an update on the Hub's operations and programs plus the Future Drought Fund Grants and Programs available over the next 8 years.

Since then, the GEDC has been exploring opportunities for collaboration in the next phase of implementation of the plan's actions.

The GEDC is also progressing the next stage of regional water planning work with underspend from the RDRP planning to build a clear and robust evidence base of the region's non-potable water resources, that will inform all other foundational actions of the RDRP and implementation projects. It is expected to get a RFQ out for Wastewater Treatment Opportunities early this year, with potential to start works by March/April 2026.

The next GEWSG meeting is scheduled for the 24 February 2026.

Consultation: GEDC, GEWSG

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: Alignment with Regional Climate Alliance strategies

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update from the GEWSG and the RDRP Implementation Plan for 2025-2027.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

10. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS BUSINESS

10.1 Update on the Rateability of Miscellaneous and Mining Leases – Sector Support Discussion

Reporting Officer: Peter Fitchat, CEO -Shire of Dundas

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: [Local Government Amendment \(Rating of Certain Mining Licences\) Bill 2025](#)
Shire of Mt Magnet Legal Advice – Local Government Amendment Bill 2025 (**Attachment 11**)

Background:

On 8 July 2025, the Supreme Court of Western Australia determined that occupied Miscellaneous Licences are rateable under section 6.26(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Despite this judicial clarification, on 1 August 2025, the Minister for Local Government announced the State Government's intention to introduce legislation to make Miscellaneous Licences non-rateable.

This proposal would override the Supreme Court's ruling and remove an established, lawful revenue stream available to Local Governments. The impact would fall most heavily on regional and remote Band 3 and 4 Local Governments, which service large mining operations but receive limited compensation for infrastructure wear, environmental health oversight, or community service impacts caused by mining activity.

The Shire of Mount Magnet CEO, Tralee Cable, submitted a motion to the 2025 WALGA Annual General Meeting opposing any amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995* that would restrict Local Governments' ability to rate Miscellaneous Licences.

The Shire of Mount Magnet also advise that it is worth noting that a Miscellaneous License was NOT exempt from rates after the 1978 Mining Act was introduced, as has been alleged by AMEC. A Miscellaneous License was in fact clearly rateable under the 1960 Local Government Act.

In addition, in 1998, post the 1995 Act implementation, an amendment was made to the Mining Act that modified the term of a Miscellaneous License from 5 years, plus two further 5-year terms to 21 years plus two further 21-year terms.

Clearly the intention was to facilitate long term investment and infrastructure requirements.

The Supreme Court judgment affirms Local Governments' role in regulating and servicing land subject to Miscellaneous Licences and acknowledges that such licences are used for permanent mining infrastructure, including:

- Roads and haulage corridors
- Accommodation camps
- Power, pipeline, and communication facilities
- Airstrips and storage depots

These activities have a direct and ongoing impact on local infrastructure and services. Removing the capacity to levy rates on such tenements would:

- Create further financial inequity between mining companies and local ratepayers;
- Increase cost-shifting from State to Local Governments; and
- Undermine the principle of user-pays in regional service delivery.

A coordinated LGA sector response is required to reinforce Mount Magnet's advocacy and demonstrate to the Minister and Parliament that the Local Government sector is united in seeking consultation and fairness.

On 23 October 2025, the State Government as highlighted by the Minister for Local Government on 1 August 2025 introduced the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025* to Parliament (see attached link).

The Bill aims to give effect to the decision to legislate changes to the rating of miscellaneous licenses on Crown Land, undermining the decision of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

WALGA has advised it has serious concerns about the proposed legislation, which, if passed, will:

- Prohibit Local Governments from rating Crown land that is the subject of a Miscellaneous Licence or a Small Prospecting Licence held under the *Mining Act 1978*. A Small Prospecting Licence is defined as a prospecting licence held in respect to land which does not exceed 10 ha. Collectively these are referred to as 'licence land'.
- Extinguish all rates imposed on licence land dating back to the 2017/2018 financial year.
- Compel Local Governments to refund any rates collected for licence land during this time period, including any additional charges, interest or costs of proceedings to recover rates.
- Require Local Governments to pay any refunds within 28 days from the day after the Amendment Act receives Royal Assent.
- Allow a ratepayer to recover the paid amount in the courts as a debt due if the Local Government does not meet the 14-day time period.

WALGA considers the proposed amendments to be unnecessarily punitive and disproportionate in their impact on any Local Government that has lawfully levied rates on occupied land under miscellaneous licences.

WALGA and the GVROC have written to the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne to express their strong concerns and to urge the Cook Government to reconsider both the scope and timing of the proposed changes.

WALGA and GVROC maintains that Local Governments should retain the right to rate miscellaneous licences, as determined by the Supreme Court.

However, if the Government proceeds with the exemption, WALGA and the GVROC are advocating for it to take effect from the 2026/27 financial year, with a prohibition on reassessing rate records for miscellaneous or prospecting licences. This would prevent future levying while allowing communities to retain rates already collected lawfully.

Officer Comment:

Since the GVROC meeting on 14 November 2025, the Shire of Mt Magnet has received further legal advice (see **Attachment 11**) and presented an item to the Murchison Country Region as follows as an update with a proposed solution.

Summary of the Proposed Solution

Explanation: Rather than allowing the State Government's Bill to remove all rating powers over **Miscellaneous Licences** — and claw back revenue to 2017 — the Mount Magnet proposal suggests: **All tenements under the Mining Act 1978 are declared non-rateable**, but the **State Government pays a standardised set fee to Local Governments** for Crown land leased or licensed for mining purposes.

This means:

- The landholder (State) pays, not the miner.
- Rating complexity is removed from the LG Act.
- Local Governments receive **predictable, secure income**.
- The State takes over administration, simplifying systems for all parties.

What Problem Is It Solving?

The **current Bill is punitive**, and:

- Retroactively removes millions in local government revenue.

- Exposes councils to **clawback of 9 years of rates, interest, and recovery costs**.
- Risks of making even existing Ministerially approved **rated mining camps exempt**., and subject to clawback provisions
- It is **legally overreaching** and **politically tone-deaf**, especially after the Supreme Court supported councils.

Legal advice clarifies Local Governments and Miners are set for more long running legal disputes under the Amendment

Benefits of the Mount Magnet Proposal

Benefit	Explanation
Reduces Red Tape	No more complex rating disputes, SAT appeals, or revenue insecurity.
Provides Cost Certainty	Industry pays State; State pays LGs a transparent, standardised fee .
Fairer Model	Recognises Local Government costs without overburdening miners.
Aligns with ESG Principles	Allows mining companies to build philanthropic partnerships with communities instead of battling over rates.
Supports Rural Sustainability	Ensures LGs in resource regions are not defunded by central decisions.
Politically Viable	It may be more palatable for Labor and AMEC than a return to court battles.

Key Legislative Suggestion

A proposed amendment to **section 6.26 of the Local Government Act 1995**, with clarification that: *"A tenement issued under the Mining Act 1978 is not rateable... except where the State Government pays a fee to the relevant local government in lieu of rates."*

This reflects **precedent in other jurisdictions**, such as:

- **State agreements** and **resource rents** in QLD and SA.
- **Federal payments in lieu of rates** on Commonwealth land.

The current **Bill has passed the Lower House** and:

- **Removes all rating powers** on Miscellaneous Licenses.
- **Claws back funds to 2017**, risking serious financial distress to Shires.
- Was introduced **without genuine sector consultation** — only 4 days for response, with embargoed version provided to two peak bodies only.
- It could be abused by miners converting camps and infrastructure into non-rateable licenses.

Recommended Next Steps

1. **Support the WALGA Zone Motion (noting that GVROC has already done this)**

- As recommended in the document:

"Explore alternative options to the unreasonably punitive Bill and support referring the Bill to a Legislative Council enquiry."

2. **Lobby the Upper House for Enquiry or Amendment**

- The proposal offers an **alternate model worth referring to for committee review**.
- Crossbench support will be vital.

3. **Propose a Sector-Wide Model via WALGA**

- Work with WALGA to develop a **rate-in-lieu framework** with Treasury or DLGSC.

4. **Engage with Media and Stakeholders**

- Highlight the fairness and viability of this alternative — including its benefits for miners, the State, and the community.

The Shire of Mt Magnet's proposal is a **strategic and constructive solution**. It avoids costly litigation, prevents political overreach, and preserves rural councils' financial viability. It also addresses **AMEC's concerns** by removing perceived "double-dipping," while still compensating local governments for the infrastructure burden they bear.

Key numbers and assumptions

- According to industry sources, the decision by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) estimates that if councils were permitted to rate all eligible "miscellaneous

licences", the cost to the mining sector might be **≈ A\$50–55 million per year**. <https://australianminingreview.com.au/news/miners-warn-supreme-court-decision-could-cost-industry-millions/>

- For one small shire, the Shire of Mount Magnet, the local CEO indicated rates income would shrink from ~A\$3 million to ~A\$300,000 in the event of the reforms. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-11-19/miscellaneous-rate-local-government-reform-bankrupt-mount-magnet/106019936>
- The State is already collecting rent for miscellaneous licences (e.g., one reference in Hansard mentions the State's rent at \$135 per ha for a misc licence). <https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/hansard/daily/lh/2025-11-13/17>

Estimating the impact

If the State chooses to pay a rate-in-lieu to all affected local governments, the budgetary impact would depend on the size of the payment. Let's consider scenarios:

- **Scenario A:** The State simply takes over the revenue stream that local governments would have gained. If the mining sector estimate of ~A\$50 million per annum is accurate, and assuming local governments would have collected that amount, then the State would **commit ~A\$50 million per year** to local governments under the new model.
- **Scenario B:** The State pays a fraction of that (say 50%) as a transitional or partial compensation. That would be ~A\$25 million per year.
- **Scenario C:** The payment is indexed, or devoted only to councils with highest impact (e.g., remote resource shires) – maybe ~A\$10–20 million per year.

Scenario D: Payment is made by the State to Local Government when Crown Land is leased. Provides a clear unambiguous or arguable position across many sectors facing similar rating issues.

Over a 5-year horizon:

- At A\$50 million/year → A\$250 million.
- At A\$25 million/year → A\$125 million.
- At A\$15 million/year → A\$75 million.

Given the mining sector cited the possibility of "\$250 million additional rate bill this year" if all back-rates were applied. <https://amec.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/47.-Bipartisan-support-to-protect-WA-resources-sector-from-Miscellaneous-Rates-grab.pdf> That sets the upper bound for potential large-one-off payments or catch-up payments.

Key factors affecting the actual impact

- How many local governments participate and claim for payments?
- Whether payments cover **past years** (backdating) or only future years.
- The size and valuation of miscellaneous licences in each LGA.
- Whether the State sets a **flat-fee in-lieu** or ties payments to actual rate valuations.
- The administrative cost of managing this new payment system.
- Whether there is any matching requirement (i.e., councils must show infrastructure burden to receive payment).

Conclusion

The financial impact is material for the State budget, but not necessarily budget-breaking at the scale of the State's overall finances. A commitment of **A\$50 million per annum** would be significant, but within the realm of what the WA Government handles in tax/royalty changes (for example, WA's mineral royalty collections run into hundreds of millions). <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-12/2024-25-overview-of-state-taxes-and-royalties.pdf>

If the State opts for a modest in-lieu payment model (e.g., A\$10–25 million/year) or only covers forward years, the budget impact is modest. If the State also agrees to **back-pay** multiple years, the cost could spike into the **hundreds of millions**, but it would likely be a one-off rather than recurring.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group/WALGA/Shire of Mt Magnet

Financial Implications: Loss of rateability would remove a potential or existing source of revenue from mining infrastructure occupying Crown land within Local Government districts.

Strategic Implications: The issue directly relates to the financial sustainability of local governments and regional fairness, particularly for remote, resource-based communities.

Policy Implications: Supports WALGA's advocacy for financial autonomy and procedural fairness for Local Governments.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update and proposed Shire of Mt Magnet solution to the Rateability of Miscellaneous and Mining Leases and the current Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025 still to be passed in the upper house.
2. Continue to lobby and advocate against the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025* currently in Parliament's Upper House and remain aligned with the WALGA State Council and Zone Motion.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Timothy Carmody, Shire of Wiluna**
Seconded: Cr Tracy Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.2 GVROC Shared Regional Event Equipment Pool - Update

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: Lotterywest approval letter and grant approval schedule (**Attachment 12**)
All Toilets (WA) Quote for City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (**Attachment 13**)
Australian Portable Toilets – All Access Toilet brochure (**Attachment 14**)

Background:

Back in 2012, the GVROC through funding received by each GVROC LGA under the then Country Local Government Fund, entered a joint agreement to acquire event equipment (crowd control barriers and fences, BBQ Trailer and ablution facilities (16 pan toilet block)) that could be hired by community groups and also used by LGAs in the GVROC when holding regional events. The City of Kalgoorlie took on the responsibility of storing and managing the hiring of these assets on behalf of the GVROC.

The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (CoKB) have advised that the current ablution block asset is now at the end of life and the GVROC has been working with the City to look at replacement of the asset.

At the GVROC meeting held on 31 January 2025 the GVROC resolved the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the quotations received by the CoKB for a new replacement 16 pan Toilet Facilities costed at \$91,700 exc GST and a new 6-cubicle unisex shower block costed at approx. \$83,000 exc GST.
2. Request the GVROC Executive Officer and CoKB investigate possible grant funding towards purchasing these new facilities and the costs for a disabled toilet trailer.
3. Subject to the advice being received regarding possible grant funding options, will make a decision on whether to proceed with a funding allocation towards this within its current budget.
4. If a replacement is sourced, the GVROC Executive Officer to work with the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder to arrange the sale of the existing toilet block, with any surplus funds returned back to the GVROC, less selling costs involved.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

Following the resolution, the GVROC Executive Officer in consultation with the CoKB submitted an application to Lotterywest on 25 June 2025 based on the project proposal for the GVROC Shared Community Potable Event Equipment Replacement. The grant requested was to be for the new equipment (6-cubicle unisex shower block and a universally accessible mobile toilet) estimated at \$104,000 and not the replacement of the existing 16 pan Toilet Facilities costed at \$92,000, which the GVROC would fund as its contribution to the overall replacement project.

Officer Comment:

On 17 December 2025 our Lotterywest Grant was approved for the full amount of \$104,000 (see **Attachment 12**) and the money has been received by the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder and held in Trust pending the official announcement and certificate presentation that will occur at this meeting.

As per the previous GVROC meeting the new quotes for the equipment are as follows:

Equipment	Original Cost estimate in grant application Exc GST	Revised quotes received December 2025 Exc GST
16 pan Toilet Facilities	\$92,000	\$91,700
6-cubicle unisex shower block	\$83,000	\$89,000
universally accessible mobile toilet	\$21,000	\$48,000 - \$51,580
Total	\$196,000	\$228,700- \$232,280

This leaves the total funding required by the GVROC to be estimated at \$128,550.

Since the last meeting of the GVROC a further quote has been received for the universally accessible mobile toilet which is substantially higher again if it comes with its own purpose-built trailer. This quote is \$85,050.00 exc GST, however if it was just to be for the unit and no trailer then the quote is similar at \$48,800 and as with the other units this would need to be lifted on and off a truck when being used (see **Attachments 13 & 14**).

The next decision by GVROC is whether they want the GVROC to acquire the new equipment and thus have the grant funds transferred from the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder to the GVROC, or whether the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder as the lead GVROC LGA conducts the procurement and invoices the GVROC for its portion of the cost.

If the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder undertakes the procurement it is recommended that the GVROC Executive Officer participate on the tender panel.

Also to note that based on timelines from Lotterywest we need to purchase the new equipment this year.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
CoKB

Financial Implications: up to \$128,550 contribution

Strategic Implications: Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the Lotterywest Grant approval and grant approval schedule requirements.
2. Endorse City of Kalgoorlie Boulder to conduct the procurement of the new replacement equipment and invoice the GVROC for the difference between the grant allocation and cost of equipment procured.
3. Request that the GVROC Executive Officer provide a project update on the progress of the procurement at the next meeting in March 2026.

RESOLUTION: Moved: *Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder*
Seconded: *Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies*

Carried

10.3 GVROC Housing and Land Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2026
Attachments:	Letter from the Minister for Housing and Works to GVROC Chair (Attachment 15)

Background:

In March 2023, the GVROC finalised a [GVROC LGA Housing and Land Audit and Action Plan](#). This followed a [GVROC Housing Strategy](#) which was completed in April 2022.

Since then, the GVROC has continued to advocate and support progress towards housing and land opportunities in the region.

Officer Comment:

Since the last GVROC meeting on 14 November 2025 the following related regional housing announcements have been made by the State Government through the Minister for Housing and Works:

- [Cook Government boosts vital FDV services in the Goldfields](#)
- [\\$5.84 million housing project for youth to open in South Bunbury](#)
- [\\$5 million grant for key worker homes in Fitzroy Crossing](#)
- [Builder appointed to build homes for Murujuga National Park rangers](#)
- [\\$20 million reallocated to social housing in Kununurra and Wyndham](#)
- [Major milestone for program helping rough sleepers into homes | Western Australian Government](#)

As it can be seen from some of the projects in other regions, opportunities are still being funded to progress housing initiatives with assistance from the State Government with one in the Goldfields region.

At the GVROC CEOs meeting on 16 January 2026, several CEOs also advised that they have recently had new GROH homes delivered/completed in their towns, which is a positive development.

In response to the GVROC letter sent on 12 September 2025 to the Minister for Housing and Works and the Minister for Goldfields requesting an update for each Goldfields Esperance LGAs on the current status of existing social and GROH stock for each LGA area, its plans for repairs, maintenance or upgrade of this existing stock, and any future plans for new construction of social housing or GROH within the region, we have received a response on 2 December 2025 from the Minister as per **Attachment 15**.

In response to the Minister's letter the GVROC Executive Officer has been liaising with the Department of Housing and Works and has a meeting scheduled with the Regional Housing Director, Damian Cunnane on 11 February 2026 to discuss current stock levels and plans for these houses in the region. If any of the LGAs have anything they would like the GVROC Executive Officer to raise at that meeting please provide the information to Andrew Mann by 9 February 2026.

Regarding the \$25 million Regional Housing Support Fund to help unlock housing and land projects across regional Western Australia, the closing date for applications was extended from the original close of 19 December 2025 to now be on 6 February 2026.

This fund provides further opportunities for the GVROC LGAs to seek funding for wide a range of costs associated with housing and residential lot development, including construction, site preparation, roadworks, and essential infrastructure such as water, wastewater, electricity, and telecommunications.

To date the Shire of Esperance and the Shire of Dundas have advised they will be submitting applications.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update from the GVROC Executive Officer on Housing and Land for the region and that the new closing date for applications to the Regional Housing Support Fund now close on 6 February 2026.
2. Note that the GVROC Executive Officer will meet with the Department of Housing and Works Regional Housing Director, Damian Cunnane, on 11 February 2026 to discuss current social and GROH stock levels and plans for these houses in the region.
3. Request all GVROC LGA CEOs to provide the GVROC Executive Officer with any information or questions that they want to ask the Department of Housing and Works by the 9 February 2026 so these can be discussed at his meeting on 11 February 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.4 Call for ALGA NGA 2026 motions

Reporting Officers:	Peter Fitchat Ceo Shire of Dundas Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	No interest to disclose
Date:	January 2026
Attachments:	ALGA NGA 2026 – Call for Motion Discussion Paper (Attachment 16)

Background:

The ALGA NGA will be held from **23–25 June 2026** at the **National Convention Centre, Canberra**. The theme for next year's Assembly is Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United. Program and registration details will be released by ALGA in due course.

The **Call for Motions** opened on **27 October 2025** and will close at **11:59pm AEDT on Friday, 27 February 2026**. Motions must be submitted via ALGA's online portal. For guidance, please refer to the Discussion Paper (see **Attachment 16**), which outlines the process and requirements and the ten priority areas that this year's call for motions will focus on.

When preparing motions, ALGA asks that they:

- Are new and do not duplicate matters debated in the previous two years.
- Have national relevance (not council or region-specific, unless there are national implications).
- Align with your State/Territory Local Government Association's policy positions.
- Be concise and practical, with a clear national objective and supporting arguments.

Officer Comment:

The Shire of Dudas has put together the following draft shortlist of regional issues and priorities from their perspective and for the support and consideration of the GVROC that could be taken to ALGA for the upcoming **National General Assembly (NGA)**, *aligned where possible with themes already being debated at the NGA nationally* (based on the 2025 NGA motions list). <https://alga.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NGA-2025-resolutions-for-website.pdf>.

1. Regional Roads & Infrastructure Funding

Why it matters regionally

- The Goldfields-Esperance region (including the Shire of Dundas and other GVROC members) has *vast road networks with significant maintenance and development pressures*.
- Roads are critical for freight, tourism, mining supply chains and emergency access.

Proposed NGA submission points

- Sustained and **increased Federal funding** for local roads in remote/very remote areas.
- Advocate for **enhanced Roads to Recovery** funding that reflects road length, isolation and heavy freight use.
- Support **forward funding mechanisms** to enable long-term regional infrastructure planning. (*Aligned with NGA motions on Roads and Infrastructure – e.g., increasing Roads to Recovery, reinstating LRCI, etc.*)

2. Emergency Management Resilience & Insurance

Local context

- Shire of Dundas council minutes reveal challenges in evacuation centre compliance and community evacuation behaviours (e.g., pets), as well as the recognition of mitigation efforts in insurance premiums.

Proposed NGA submission points

- **Funding support for local emergency management planning and centre compliance** (including pets/household needs).
- **Recognition of council mitigation actions in insurance pricing models** to reduce premiums for regional councils investing in resilience.
- National support for **expanded volunteer recruitment & training** in regional areas. (*Connected to NGA motions on emergency management funding and volunteer support*).

3. Drought, Water Security & Resilience

Regional issue

- Councils in the Goldfields-Esperance region (including Dundas) are engaged in **regional drought resilience activities** (e.g. water conservation, infrastructure). <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/goldfields-esperance-regional-drought-resilience-plan.pdf>

Proposed NGA submission points

- Federal investment in **regional drought resilience plans** tailored to remote climates.
- Support for **local government capacity building** in water security planning.
- Partner with RDA and the State on data, modelling and investment.

4. Housing & Workforce

Regional challenges

- Remote and very remote councils like Dundas face **housing shortages for workers** and limited rental stock. (While this isn't in the excerpts found, *it is a well-known regional/local gov issue and aligns with national motion themes.*)

Proposed NGA submission points

- National funding for **regional housing initiatives** (workforce, affordable, and social housing).
- Support councils with **infrastructure funding** linked to housing development. (Aligned with NGA motions on housing & homelessness, focusing on infrastructure and collaboration on housing targets.) <https://alga.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NGA-2025-resolutions-for-website.pdf>

5. Digital Connectivity & Telecommunications

Regional need

- Shire priorities (and wider GVROC member councils, such as Laverton) have called for **reviews of mobile network coverage following the phasing out of 3G**, with gaps emerging. <https://alga.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NGA-2025-resolutions-for-website.pdf>

Proposed NGA submission points

- Federal support to **ensure equitable telecommunication coverage** in remote communities.
- Inclusion of digital connectivity in infrastructure planning to support safety, business and access to services.

6. Collaborative Regional Service Delivery

GVROC purpose

- GVROC exists to **collaborate on infrastructure, services, economic development and community outcomes** across its member councils.

Proposed NGA submission points

- Funding that **supports regional shared service models** (procurement, planning and service delivery).
- Incentives for **cooperative governance** that reduce cost and improve outcomes in remote local government.

Possible Items:

Theme	Regional Relevance	Example Federal Action
Local Roads & Infrastructure	High – remote road networks	Increase and tailor Federal funding formulas
Emergency Management	High – bushfires, isolation impacts	Dedicated resilience & mitigation grants
Water & Drought Resilience	High – dry region conditions	National drought resilience strategy funding
Housing & Workforce	High – workforce attraction & retention	Support regional housing and essential services
Digital Connectivity	High – communication gaps	Federal investment in mobile/Internet infrastructure
Shared Regional Service Delivery	Medium – cooperatives	Grants to support ROCs and joint service models

Notes on GVROC & Regional Context

- GVROC members work strategically to promote infrastructure, services and economic development across the Goldfields-Esperance region. <https://www.gvroc.com/>
- The region spans a *vast area with diverse needs, making* targeted Federal support even more important. <https://www.gedc.wa.gov.au/our-region/local-government/> and the [Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance – Regional Development in the Goldfields-Esperance Region](#)

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the details and required dates for the call for motions for the ALGA NGA 2026.
2. Support the Shire of Dundas to take the six suggested items shortlisted and presented and develop motions for these to be submitted to ALGA for the NGA 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

10.5 Drafting of regulations to prescribe information sharing agencies under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007

Reporting Officers: Matt McIntyre CEO Shire of Wiluna
Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: January 2026

Attachments: DPIRD Letter to the Shire of Wiluna (**Attachment 17**)
DPIRD Frequently asked Questions (**Attachment 18**)

Background:

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has written to Local Governments advising that regulations are being drafted to prescribe local governments, regional local governments and regional subsidiaries established under the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)* as an 'information sharing agency' for the purposes of section 184 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (the Act) (see **Attachment 17** example sent to the Shire of Wiluna).

This will enable the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to disclose 'relevant information' to Local Governments, when appropriate, to better support biosecurity and agricultural management outcomes, including supporting emergency responses. This could include, for example, information to assist local governments in managing the impacts of declared pests.

Information sharing under section 184 is discretionary. Any sharing of information by DPIRD must be done in accordance with guidelines issued by the Director General under section 184(7) of the BAM Act. This will ensure that information sharing is appropriate and relevant and has due regard for privacy and confidentiality. DPIRD is currently developing these guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding this request can be seen at **Attachment 18**.

Officer Comment:

The Shire of Wiluna CEO, Matt McIntyre tabled this item at the GVROC CEOs meeting on 16 January 2026 and asked if any of the other GVROC LGAs have raised concerns with this request from DPIRD, or whether they are agreeable with it?

It was agreed by the CEOs that any similar letter that has advised LGAs, from experience, under the banner of data or information sharing, often ends up being the precursor to the transfer of responsibility on the ground from State Government to Local Government with no funding provided to manage it.

It was also agreed by the CEOs that this should be taken to the GVROC for discussion and a letter written to DPIRD outlining any concerns raised?

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the letter from DPIRD advising that regulations are being drafted to prescribe local governments, regional local governments and regional subsidiaries established under the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)* as an 'information sharing agency' for the purposes of section 184 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (the Act).
2. Support the GVROC writing to the Minister and DPIRD outlining our concerns raised during the discussion on this item including cost shifting and lack of funding to conduct what is being proposed.

RESOLUTION: Moved: **Ct Timothy Carmody, Shire of Wiluna**
Seconded: **Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**

Carried

10.6 GVROC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: GVROC MOU 2023-2025 (**Attachment 19**)

Background:

GVROC is a regional grouping of local governments that operates by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The current MOU was in place for the period 2023 to 2025 (see **Attachment 19**) and has now expired and needs to be reviewed, updated and renewed.

As a result, and in discussion with the GVROC CEOs Group, it is proposed that a new MOU be drafted for consideration by the GVROC for the period 2026 to 2028.

Officers Comment:

A new draft MOU will be developed based on the current version as presented, which the GVROC Executive Officer will present at the next GVROC meeting for endorsement and signing under seal by each LGA.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the need to update the current GVROC MOU.
2. Request the GVROC Executive Officer to prepare a new draft MOU based on the current version for consideration by the GVROC at its meeting on 27 March 2026.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.7 Call for the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a Performance Audit of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2026
Attachments:	Extract of Minutes Murchison Country Zone of WALGA – 21 November 2025 Item 6.2 (Attachment 20)

Background:

The Murchison Country Zone of WALGA recently passed a resolution at their November meeting about issues relating to disaster recovery funding arrangements for flooding. This has been an ongoing issue for many Councils, and they have written to the GVROC requesting support given it is essential to bring change to this matter.

Murchison Country Zone has provided their attached minute in full (see **Attachment 20**). The Murchison Zone is asking that other Zones support the motion and are asked to request that the Auditor General conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia.

Officers Comment:

At the GVROC CEOs meeting on 16 January 2026 they endorsed this request from the Murchison Country Zone to be presented to the GVROC for consideration to support the call upon the Office of the Auditor General to conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia.

The GVROC CEOs agreed that support be given to the Murchison Country Zone resolution but in addition to the performance audit that alternative models for delivery of the funding should be included that would improve the performance going forward.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA resolution from their November meeting about issues relating to disaster recovery funding arrangements for flooding
2. Endorse the request from the Murchison Country Zone and request the GVROC Executive Officer and write to the Office of the Auditor General requesting they conduct a performance audit of Recovery and Resilience management of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in Western Australia including looking at alternative models for delivery and funding that would improve performance.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Timothy Carmody, Shire of Wiluna

Carried

10.8 2024-25 Model Financial Statements and guidance material now available for comment

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: [Model Financial Statements guidance materials feedback | LGIRS](#)

Background:

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety has advised on 9 January 2026 that the 2024-25 Model Financial Statements and guidance material is now available for comment.

Local government finance and accounting officers are invited to [provide feedback on the model financial statements and guidance materials](#) for the 2024-25 financial year by Friday, 6 February 2026.

The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) is reviewing the guidance materials and any feedback received will be considered for the 2025-26 revisions, due for release in April 2026.

The model financial statements and guidance materials for 2024-25 are available on the [financial policy and accounting webpage](#) of the department's website.

Please contact the LGIRS Financial Policy team LG.accounting@lgirs.wa.gov.au with any questions.

Officers Comment:

It is recommended that the GVROC LGAs provide feedback to the LGIRS as per the attached links.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the that the 2024-25 Model Financial Statements and guidance material is now available for comment, with feedback due by the 6 February 2026.
2. Request all GVROC LGAs provide feedback to the LGIRS as per the attached links by the due date.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

10.9 Senate Select Committee on Australia's Productivity – Invitation to Contribute

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: [Select Committee on Productivity in Australia – Parliament of Australia Productivity-Discussion-paper.pdf](#)

Background:

On 4 November 2025, the Federal Senate established the Select Committee to inquire into Australia's productivity performance and report by 30 September 2026. The committee has released terms of reference and a discussion paper (see links above) outlining key areas of interest, including productivity measurement, competitiveness, regulation, investment, workforce dynamics and productivity in regional Australia.

On 7 January 2026, RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) Director, Sharon Henderson advised that the RDAGE intends to prepare a submission to the Senate Select Committee on Australia's Productivity.

To inform its submission, RDA Goldfields Esperance is seeking input from regional stakeholders including the GVROC and its LGAs. The RDAGE has developed a short survey to capture practical insights and evidence, particularly from regional perspectives.

A link to the survey is provided [here](#), and they would welcome any views you or your local governments may wish to share.

Officers Comment:

It is recommended that the GVROC LGAs provide input to the RDAGE and complete its survey.

It is also noted that the GVROC or any of its LGAs can also make your own direct submission to the committee (see details below). Submissions close on Friday, **20 February 2026** and can be lodged:

- online via the inquiry webpage
- by email to productivity.sen@aph.gov.au
- or by post to PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Federal Senate established Select Committee to inquire into Australia's productivity performance, which is accepting submissions up to the 20 February 2026.
2. Request all GVROC LGAs to provide input to the RDAGE and complete its survey.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

10.10 Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into the state of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities.

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: [State of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities – Parliament of Australia](#)

Background:

On 28 October 2025, the Federal Government established the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into the state of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities.

On 12 January 2026, RDA Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE) Director, Sharon Henderson advised that the RDAGE intends to prepare a submission to this inquiry, which closes on 30 January 2026.

The inquiry is examining airfare affordability, airport and aviation charges, regulatory and security costs, service competitiveness, workforce impacts and the sustainability of aviation services in regional and remote Australia.

To inform its submission, RDAGE is seeking **input from regional stakeholders**, including airports, airlines, local governments, businesses, tourism operators and community users. The GVROC LGAs insights will help ensure regional aviation challenges and opportunities are clearly represented in this national process.

The RDAGE have developed a short survey to capture practical, on-the-ground evidence. Responses will be used in a consolidated submission and presented in **de-identified form**, unless you explicitly authorise attribution.

A link to the survey is provided [here](#) and the RDAGE would welcome any views you or your local governments may wish to share.

As LGAs that have and operate regional airports you may also choose to make your **own direct submission** to the inquiry if you wish [here](#).

Officers Comment:

It is recommended that the GVROC LGAs provide input to the RDAGE and complete its survey.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Federal Government established Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into the state of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities, which is accepting submissions up to the 30 January 2026.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.11 WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: [2026-27-WALGA-State-Budget-Submission-\(WEB\).pdf](#)
[GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025/26](#)

Background:

WALGA has released its 2026-27 State Budget Submission, which advocates for critical investments in key services and infrastructure to keep WA communities safe and strong.

In the lead up to the 2025 State Election, WALGA launched *The West at its Best* - a comprehensive policy agenda for the incoming Government during its next term. *The West at its Best* now serves as WALGA's advocacy platform for the next four years.

WALGA's 2026-27 State Budget Submission calls on the State Government to build on the positive momentum of the 2025 State Election commitments through further targeted investment in priority initiatives to support Local Governments and communities. This includes:

- \$40 million over 10 years from 2026-27 to expand the Urban Canopy Grant Program
- 52 million to stop the spread of the Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer
- \$11 million per annum to double Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants
- \$12 million over four years from 2026-27 to fund the conversion of five priority children's crossings per year to signalised crossings
- An additional \$9 million per annum from 2027-28 to fully fund 63 Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMS) to work with all 111 Local Governments that manage Bushfire Brigades
- \$42.3 million in 2026-27, to clear the backlog of unfunded capital grant requests for Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (VBFs) and State Emergency Services (SES) units.

To view the submission, click [here](#) or link above

As the authoritative voice and trusted partner for Western Australian Local Government, WALGA will continue to engage with the State Government and advocate on behalf of our Members to drive better outcomes for Local Governments and their communities.

Officers Comment:

The following is a summary of WALGA submission and extractions for our Region:

Executive Summary – What Matters Most for Goldfields–Esperance

The WALGA 2026–27 State Budget Submission is strongly aligned to the realities of **remote and regional Local Governments**: vast land areas, ageing infrastructure, climate exposure, workforce shortages, and increasing cost-shifting from State and Commonwealth Governments.

For **Goldfields–Esperance**, the submission is particularly relevant in five critical areas:

1. **Disaster preparedness, mitigation and recovery**
2. **Regional road safety and transport**
3. **Climate adaptation and environmental management**
4. **Primary healthcare access**
5. **Core financial sustainability of Local Government**

1. Disaster Ready & Climate Resilient (High Priority for Goldfields–Esperance)

Key Budget Measures

- **\$42.3 million (2026–27)** to clear the backlog of unfunded Volunteer Bushfire Brigade (VBFB) and SES capital grant requests.
- **Reform of the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)** to ensure sustainable, equitable bushfire funding.
- **\$15 million per annum** increase to the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant Program (MAFGP) for bushfire risk reduction.
- **\$9 million per annum** to fully fund **63 Community Emergency Services Managers (CESMs)** statewide.
- **\$9 million per annum (4 years)** to establish a **Local Government Disaster Risk Reduction Fund**.
- **\$10 million reserve fund** for disaster-resilient reconstruction of essential public assets.
- **State Recovery Funding Framework** to fix delays, cash-flow pressure and lack of “build-back-better” options under DRFA.

Why this matters locally

Goldfields–Esperance councils:

- Manage **huge land areas** with small rate bases
- Are responsible for **most first-response bushfire activity**
- Face **repeat flood, fire and storm damage** to roads and community assets
- Carry upfront disaster costs long before reimbursement

These measures directly reduce **financial exposure**, **WHS risk**, and **volunteer burnout**, while improving recovery speed and resilience.

2. Safer Regional Roads & Transport Connectivity

Key Budget Measures

- **Long-term commitment to fully fund the Regional Road Safety Program**
- **\$250 million over four years (already committed)** – WALGA seeks continuation
- Low-cost, high-impact treatments: shoulder sealing, audible line marking, run-off-road mitigation

Why this matters locally

In Goldfields–Esperance:

- **44% of fatal and serious crashes occur on local roads**
- Councils manage long freight and tourist routes critical to mining, agriculture, and emergency access
- Programs reduce fatalities while lowering long-term maintenance and liability exposure

This aligns directly with Shire responsibilities for **remote road networks** with heavy vehicle and tourism use.

3. Climate Adaptation & Environmental Management (Regionally Scalable)

Key Budget Measures

- **\$7.2 million over four years** for **regional climate alliances**
- **\$40 million over 10 years** to expand the Urban Canopy Program (adaptable to regional centres)
- **\$16 million per annum (4 years)** to extend and expand **CoastWA**
- **\$15 million over four years** for a statewide biodiversity survey program
- **\$20 million per annum** to strengthen biosecurity preparedness (DPIRD)

Why this matters locally

Goldfields–Esperance councils are already working collaboratively (e.g. **GVROC**):

- Water scarcity, heat, drought and fire risk
- Biosecurity threats impacting pastoral, environmental and tourism assets
- Limited internal technical capacity

The submission explicitly recognises **regional alliances as the most cost-effective delivery model**, which strongly supports the Goldfields governance approach.

4. Access to Primary Healthcare in Remote Communities

Key Budget Measure

- **\$9.5 million per annum** to reimburse rural and remote Local Governments for **doctor attraction, accommodation, vehicles and clinic support**, until systemic reform occurs.

Why this matters locally

Many Goldfields councils are already:

- Funding GP housing
- Operating or subsidising medical facilities
- Absorbing costs that should sit with State/Federal health systems

This measure directly addresses **cost-shifting**, protecting Local Government budgets and preventing diversion from roads, waste, and community services.

5. Financial Sustainability & Governance Reform

Key Budget Measures

- **Reform of rating exemptions** (review funded)
- **Review and reform of LGGGS funding model**
- **AI pilot funding** for Local Government efficiency
- **Leadership capability program** to strengthen governance in small and remote councils

Why this matters locally

For Goldfields–Esperance councils with:

- High proportions of **Crown land**
- Significant **exempt properties**
- Expanding compliance and reporting burdens

These reforms go directly to **long-term financial sustainability and workforce capability**, not just short-term grants, so hopefully they will have a look at reducing cost shifting

Noting the WALGA 2026-27 budget submission it is also timely that the GVROC consider whether to also submit its own budget submission or alternatively to update its 2025/26 Investment Project Prospectus (see Attached link above) with updated current projects that we would like funded and to send that to the Premier, Treasurer and relevant Ministers for consideration in the upcoming budget.

Consultation: WALGA, GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note WALGA's 2026/27 State Budget Submission and the summary with extractions relevant for the Goldfields Esperance Region.
2. Request all GVROC CEOs to review the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025/26 and provide any project deletions and additions to the GVROC Executive Officer by 28 February 2026 so that it can be updated and sent to the Premier, Treasurer and relevant Ministers for consideration in the upcoming budget.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

10.12 Cost Shifting of Doctor Housing in Remote and Regional WA

Reporting Officers: Peter Fitchat, CEO Shire of Dundas

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2026

Attachments: Nil

Executive Summary:

Remote and regional local governments across Western Australia are increasingly bearing the cost of providing housing for medical practitioners who deliver State Government health services through State-run hospitals and clinics. This practice represents a clear and growing example of cost shifting, undermining the financial sustainability of councils that already operate with constrained rate bases and high service delivery costs.

The experience of the Shire of Gnowangerup highlights the severity of this issue. Faced with a 0% housing vacancy rate and persistent GP shortages, the Shire has been compelled to invest millions of dollars into doctor housing, vehicles, and facilities—despite these practitioners delivering services on behalf of the State through the WA public health system.

GVROC is requested to formally advocate that housing for doctors working in State hospitals and health services must be recognised and funded as a State Government responsibility, with appropriate policy, capital funding, and recurrent support mechanisms established urgently.

Background:

Medical practitioners in regional WA primarily work within the **State health system**, including facilities operated by the **WA Country Health Service**. These services are constitutionally and legislatively the responsibility of the State Government.

However, in practice, many regional and remote local governments are:

- Acquiring or developing housing stock
- Providing subsidised or free accommodation
- Supplying vehicles and facilities
- Absorbing ongoing maintenance, depreciation, and debt servicing costs

This occurs **without commensurate State funding**, creating an unsustainable precedent where councils are forced to fund State services to protect community health outcomes.

Officers Comment:

The following is a case study of the Shire of Gnowangerup which provides a clear, documented example of this systemic issue.

Case Study: Shire of Gnowangerup

Key Findings

1. Council Assumption of Responsibility

Due to an acute housing shortage (0% vacancy rate), the Shire has taken proactive steps to attract and retain GPs, including planning a **\$5.0 million housing complex** for staff, including medical personnel. This project is being progressed using land sourced through **Development WA**.

2. Significant Financial Burden

The Shire has publicly stated that it:

- Provides free housing and vehicles to doctors
- Receives little to no ongoing financial assistance from State Government
- Has directed approximately **10% of its annual operating budget** toward sustaining GP services

This level of expenditure is unsustainable for a small regional local government and diverts funds away from core municipal responsibilities such as roads, community infrastructure, and asset renewal.

3. State Responsibility Acknowledged but Not Delivered

While WACHS has acknowledged the importance of staff housing to regional health sustainability, implementation has been inconsistent and insufficient. Councils continue to fill the gap by default, not by mandate.

4. Debt and Risk Transferred to Councils

Gnowangerup is funding its housing development through a combination of debt and reserves, transferring long-term financial risk from the State to local government balance sheets.

Why This Is Cost Shifting

This issue meets all established tests of cost shifting:

- **Service Authority:** Doctors work in State hospitals and clinics
- **Employer / System Owner:** State Government (via WACHS)
- **Funding Responsibility:** State Government
- **Actual Cost Bearer:** Local Government

Local governments have **no legislative responsibility for health service delivery**, yet are increasingly required to subsidise it to avoid service collapse.

Broader Impacts on Council Sustainability

For remote and regional councils, including many GVROC members, this practice:

- Erodes already limited financial capacity
- Distorts long-term financial planning
- Increases debt exposure
- Crowds out funding for roads, housing, community facilities, and climate resilience
- Creates inequity between councils that can absorb costs and those that cannot

This mirrors other recognised cost-shifting pressures, including:

- Social housing shortfalls
- Emergency management responsibilities
- Policing and community safety infrastructure
- Native title engagement and compliance costs

Recommended GVROC Position

GVROC is requested to formally adopt and advocate the following position:

That housing for doctors and medical practitioners delivering services in State-run hospitals and health facilities is a State Government responsibility, and that the State must fully fund, deliver, and maintain appropriate accommodation in regional and remote communities.

Recommended Advocacy Actions

If agreeable GVROC should seek:

1. **A clear State policy position** confirming responsibility for medical staff housing
2. **Dedicated capital funding programs** for regional medical accommodation
3. **Recurrent funding models** covering maintenance, upgrades, and lifecycle costs
4. **Retrospective recognition** of council-funded housing contributions
5. **Formal agreements** preventing further cost shifting to local governments

Conclusion

The Shire of Gnowangerup's experience is not isolated—it is emblematic of a broader systemic issue facing regional WA. Without decisive State intervention, councils will continue to absorb unsustainable costs for services outside their statutory remit.

Addressing medical staff housing as a State responsibility is essential to:

- Protect council sustainability
- Ensure equitable health service delivery
- Support long-term regional workforce retention
- Restore appropriate roles and responsibilities across government

GVROC advocacy on this issue is both timely and necessary.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the issue of cost shifting of doctor housing in remote and regional Western Australia as presented.
2. Endorse, Adopt and Advocate the following position:
 - **That housing for GPs/doctors and medical practitioners delivering primary health services under State Government requirements and funding is a State Government responsibility, and that the State must fully fund, deliver, and maintain appropriate accommodation in regional and remote communities.**
3. Task the CEO of Shire of Dundas to provide further information around the State Funding Model for appointment of local GPs/doctors in regional communities in arrangement with local governments.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.13 Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2026
Attachments:	WALGA State Council Flying Agenda - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability submission (Attachment 21) Draft GVROC Submission - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability (Attachment 22)

BACKGROUND

The Federal Parliament House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport adopted an inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability on 6 November 2025, following a referral from the Minister for Emergency Management; Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Kristy McBain MP.

The **Terms of Reference** for the inquiry are as follows:

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will inquire into and report on local government funding and fiscal sustainability, with a particular focus on:

1. **Interactions between Governments**
 - i. Assess the nature and scale of Australian, state and territory government funding provided to local government, both directly and through Commonwealth-state agreements.
 - ii. Examine the legislative and policy frameworks underpinning Commonwealth financial support to local government.
2. **Identification of All Funding Sources**
 - i. Identify and map all sources of funding received by local government from the Australian Government and state/territory governments, including:
 - a. Untied grants (e.g., Financial Assistance Grants).
 - b. Tied/specific-purpose grants and project-based programs, co-contribution requirements and competitive grant processes.
 - c. Revenue sharing arrangements (e.g., stamp duty, rates capping subsidies, GST-related disbursements where applicable).
 - d. Emergency, disaster recovery and resilience funding.
 - e. One-off or ad hoc funding streams.
 - ii. Examine local government own-source revenue (such as rates, fees, charges and commercial activities).
3. **Impacts and Effectiveness**
 - i. Evaluate how funding arrangements, including indexation freezing, influence the financial sustainability, service delivery capacity and infrastructure investment of local governments.
 - ii. Consider whether existing funding mechanisms are addressing the evolving responsibilities of local governments.
 - iii. Identify barriers to infrastructure service delivery, including trends in attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, impediments to security for local government workers and impacts of labour hire practices.
 - iv. Explore opportunities to improve productivity and coordination of local government.
4. **Previous Inquiry**
 - i. Consider evidence provided to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport of the 47th Parliament [Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability](#)
5. **Other relevant matters**

COMMENT

The Office of Rick Wilson MP Federal Member for O'Connor on the 19 November 2025 contacted the GVROC Executive Officer to bring to the GVROC's attention an important opportunity to contribute to this Federal Government Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability with submissions open until 3 February 2026.

This was presented for a resolution at our GVROC State Council meeting on 21 November 2025 with the following resolution carried:

GVROC RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. note the terms of reference for the Federal Parliament House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability with submission closing on 3 February 2026.
2. Endorse a combined GVROC submission to the inquiry.
3. If endorsed in Recommendation 2, request all GVROC LGA CEOs to provide comment and feedback to the GVROC Executive Officer by the 9 January 2026 so a submission can be finalised for consideration by the GVROC at its meeting on 30 January 2026 prior to submission.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Seconded: Cr Anthony Ball, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

Officer Comment

WALGA has also developed a submission on behalf of the sector, which was distributed via Flying Minute for comment to the GVROC members in January (see **Attachment 21**).

Feedback was received from the Shires of Esperance and Dundas on this matter and a draft GVROC submission has been compiled (see **Attachment 22**) aligned to this feedback for consideration and endorsement at this meeting so it can be submitted by the due date of 3 February 2026.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Endorse the draft GVROC submission to the Federal Parliament House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport adopted an inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability.
2. If endorsed above, request the GVROC Executive Officer to lodge the GVROC submission prior to the due date of 3 February 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

11. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

Nil.

12. FUTURE GVROC COUNCIL MEETINGS/FUNCTIONS**Next Meetings**

The following suggested dates in 2026 have been set for the GVROC meetings.

- **27 March 2026** in Esperance (to be hosted by Shire of Esperance)
- **29 May 2026** in Wiluna (to be hosted by Shire of Wiluna)
- **31 July 2026** in Menzies (to be hosted by Shire of Menzies)
- **11 September 2026** in Norseman (to be hosted by Shire of Dundas) **TBC**
- **16-18 September 2026** (WALGA LGA Convention and AGM in Perth)
- **13 November 2026** in Leonora (to be hosted by Shire of Leonora)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates remaining in 2025 and for 2026 with suggested GVROC Zoom video conference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROC's representatives attending the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 4 March 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **20 February 2026**
- 6 May 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **24 April 2026**
- 1 July 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **19 June 2026**
- 4 September 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 August 2026**
- 2 December 2026 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **23 November 2026**

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:42pm.