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GVROC Council Meeting

Friday 31st January 2025
In person meeting and video
hosted by City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
9:00am – 1:00pm
held 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
28 March 2025

Cr Malcolm Cullen
GVROC Chair
28 March 2025

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

An in person and video conference meeting of the GVROC Council was held Friday 31 January 2025 commencing at 9:00 am at the Councillor conference room in the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder's Administration Offices.

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 Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie	
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie	
Mr Aaron Cook	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie	left at 10:30am
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas	(via Zoom)
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas	(via Zoom)
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance	(via Zoom)
Mr Matt Walker	A/CEO Shire of Esperance	(via Zoom)
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton	
Mr Phil Marshall	CEO, Shire of Laverton	
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora	
Mr Ty Matson	CEO, Shire of Leonora	
Cr Paul Warner	President, Shire of Menzies	
Mr Peter Bentley	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies	
Mr Matt Macintyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	(via Zoom)
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC	
Ms Niki Curtis	GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator	

3.2 Apologies

Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Sudhir Sudhir	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

3.3 Guest Speakers and Presenters

Guest Speakers

Ali Kent MLA Member for Kalgoorlie

Presenters

Liam O'Neill DLGSC, Director Regulatory Reform – Local Government

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Tony Brown Executive Director, Member Services

3.5 DLGSC Representatives

Kelly Waterhouse Regional Manager – Goldfields

3.6 GEDC Representatives

Regan Brewer Senior Regional Development Officer (via Zoom)

3.7 RDAGE Representatives

Nil

3.8 Observers

Nil

4. GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 Ali Kent MLA

Ali Kent MLA, Member for Kalgoorlie, made the official formal presentation of the LotteryWest certificate on behalf of the State Government for the grant to the Shire of Esperance on behalf of the GVROC for the Urban Greening Program for the Goldfields Esperance Region.

Ali also discussed Labors new vision for the Goldfields Document highlighting the funding commitments to the region and the upcoming election followed by a short Q&A session.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Liam O'Neill, Director Regulatory Reform – Local Government provided a presentation on the current status of the Local Government reform process and any other items relevant from the Department for our region's local governments followed by a questions and answer session.

5.2 City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (10 minutes)

Mayor Glenn Wilson provided a presentation on current and planned activities within the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.

6. AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 WALGA

WALGA verbal update report by Tony Brown

6.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

DLGSC verbal update report by Kelly Waterhouse.

6.3 Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

GEDC verbal update report by Regan Brewer.

6.4 Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance

There was no update from RDAGE due to Sharon Henderson being on leave.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the Agency Reports as provided.

RESOLUTION:

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

Carried

GVROC Chair called motion to adjourn the meeting for morning tea break at 10:35am.

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

GVROC Chair called motion to resume the meeting at 11:00am.

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

The [Disaster Ready Fund \(DRF\)](#) is an Australian Government initiative that will deliver up to \$200 million in funding over five years from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028, to fund projects that support natural disaster resilience and risk reduction.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is the Lead Agency for DRF Applications from Western Australia (WA) and the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) for Round Three. Applicants must submit their Project Proposals to DFES via the [online application portal](#) by 5 pm (AWST) on 2 April 2025. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Please ensure you have read and understood the DRF Round Three Guidelines and associated documentation available on the [Disaster Resilience Grants web page](#) before commencing your Project Proposal.

Begin your application today for a share of \$200 million in emergency management grant funding and help build a more resilient community while preparing for the challenges of future natural hazards.

If you have any questions in relation to the DRF grant program and associated round documents, please contact us at DisasterResilienceGrants@dfes.wa.gov.au

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters for noting as listed be received.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Mr Matt Macintyre, Shire of Wiluna

Carried

7.4 Correspondence for Noting

The following correspondence was sent and received since the last GVROC meeting and are all contained in **Attachment 5**.

Correspondence received:

1. Email dated 29 November 2024 from Renew inviting Council Partner opportunities for Sustainable House Day in 2025.
2. Email dated 29 November 2024 from RDAGE Director, Sharon Henderson regarding Federal submission, Surveys and Funding opportunities.
3. Email dated 12 December 2024 from Awards WA with a Webinar Invite: Bringing the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award to Youth in Your Community.
4. Email dated 16 December 2024 from Place Score CEO Kylie Legge providing insights on community wellbeing and decision making.
5. Email dated 20 December 2024 from Director General Department of Training and Workforce Development, Jodie Wallace.
6. Email dated 16 January 2025 from the Strategy Group requesting Councils' interest to be included in The Strategy Group's Australian Local Government CX Readiness Index 2025.

Correspondence sent:

1. Emails sent on 16 January 2025 with a copy of the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26 to the following:

Hon Anthony Albanese MP	Prime Minister
Hon Catherine King MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Hon Roger Cook MLA	Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade; Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport: Tourism

Hon Hannah Beazley MLA	Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development
Hon John Carey MLA	Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness
Hon Don Punch MLA	Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering
Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA	Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests
Hon Simone McGurk MLA	Minister for Training and Workforce Development; Water; Industrial Relations
Hon David Michael MLA	Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Ports; Road Safety; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport
Hon Paul Papalia MLA	Minister for Police; Corrective Services; Racing and Gaming; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues
Hon Amber- Jade Sanderson MLA	Minister for Health; Mental Health
Hon David Templeman MLA	Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage
Hon Reece Whitby MLA	Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action
Hon Sabine Winton MLA	Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; Minister assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development; Jobs and Trade.
Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC	Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business.
Hon Kyle McGinn MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering
Hon Darren West MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action
Ali Kent MLA	Member for Kalgoorlie
Hon Shelley Payne MLC	Member for Agricultural Region
Shane Love MLA	Leader of The Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Transport; Jobs & Trade; Finance; Federal-State Relations; Climate Action; Commerce; Public Sector Management; Government Accountability
Libby Mettam MLA	Leader of the WA Liberal Party; Shadow Minister for Health; Mental Health; Prevention of Family & Domestic Violence
Peter Rundle MLA	Deputy Leader of The Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Education; Training; International Education; Sport & Recreation; Racing & Gaming; Tourism
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC	Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Regional Health; Road Safety; Local Government; Volunteering; Regional Cities
Hon Steven Martin MLC	Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party; Shadow Treasurer Shadow Minister for Housing, Forestry
Hon Neil Thomson MLC	Shadow Minister for Environment; Planning and Lands
Rick Wilson MP	Federal Member for O'Connor

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

8. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS FINANCE

8.1 Financial Statement to 31 January 2025

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: January 2025

Attachments: GVROC Financial Statements and accounts payable and receivable to 31 January 2025, Full Transaction Account history to 31 January 2025 and GVROC Bank Statement Snapshot, plus Account history full transaction to date for 2024/25 financial year (**Attachment 6**).

Background:

Presenting the financial statement position and the accounts approved for payment for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025.

Financial Statement:

The Officer provides the following comment:

Since the last GVROC meeting for the period of 30 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 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.
- Payments to the Shire of Coolgardie for reimbursement of GVROC expenses
- Payment to BlueSalt Consulting for services on the RCA Project - Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts - Milestone payment
- Payment to Malcolm Cullen – GVROC Chair Allowance payment
- Interest earned on Bankwest Saver account

Officer Comment:

Regarding the change of GVROC Banking facilities, the GVROC Executive Officer is continuing to work with the Shire of Coolgardie to implement this transfer from Bankwest to the Commonwealth Bank and the GVROC Chair, Executive Officer and Shire of Coolgardie staff have a meeting with the Commonwealth Bank on 31 January following this GVROC meeting to set up the new accounts .

The financial position of the GVROC is tracking according to budget and in a healthy position, with significant successful grant funding still to come into the account when invoiced against milestones.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: Funds for the expenditure is included in the 2024/2025 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 2024 to 31 January 2025 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 30 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 totalling \$100,930.43 and revenue received of \$23.42.
2. Endorse the actions taken by the GVROC Executive Officer to pay for GVROC expenses and receipt of GVROC Revenue.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies*

Seconded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie*

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 2025

Attachments: Lotterywest Grant Urban Canopy 2025 GVROC Media Release (**Attachment 7**)
Urban Canopy Project Timelines (**Attachment 8**)
Urban Canopy Project Grant Approval Schedule Letter (**Attachment 9**)

Background:

The Regional Climate Alliance Working Group has not met since the last GVROC Council meeting in November.

Officer Comment:

Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study

Since November, the consultants have advanced to Stage 3 of the **Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study**. They have been paid \$133,848 and the subcontracted economists are expected to submit a draft report in mid-February for feedback.

Payment Details			
Upon completion of stages, to the satisfaction of the Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator, the contractor shall submit a tax invoice based on the agreed contract value/details as per schedule below.			
Stage	% of total fee	Payment Amount (ex GST)	Payment Amount (inc GST)
Start up	25%	\$46,800	\$51,480 PAID
Stage 1 (Desktop Review & Situation Analysis) Completion	20%	\$37,440	\$41,184 PAID
Stage 2 (Engagement & Data Gathering) Completion	20%	\$37,440	\$41,184 PAID
Stage 3 (Economic Assessment & Framework Development) Completion	20%	\$37,440	\$41,184
Stage 4 (Project Recommendations & Communication) Completion	15%	\$28,080	\$30,888
Total Project Fee	100%	\$187,200	\$205,920

Urban Greening Program for the Goldfields Esperance Region.

At the end of December, GVROC was notified of its success in the application to Lotterywest for the full amount requested of \$573,000. An embargoed GVROC media statement (**Attachment 7**) will be released following an announcement by the State Government.

Between 2025 and 2027, the grant will support planting over 30,000 trees and shrubs in Goldfields Esperance region. See the attached Project Tracker (**Attachment 8**) for more information.

This (establishment) year's focus includes:

- Establishing a steering committee (will include Water Corporation, WALGA, BPGA)
- Releasing a Native Plants Guide
- Procuring trees and shrubs for each LGA
- Preparing sites and engaging local schools
- Raising awareness/communication
- Rolling out the Adopt a Tree Program
- Community Engagement through Planting Days
- Providing training and development for GVROC members with the Botanical Parks and Gardens Authority (BPGA).

The Grant Approval Schedule (**Attachment 9**) outlines the schedule of payments which will be sent to the Shire of Esperance, the lead agency for this project. GVROC will then invoice Esperance for the full instalment amount and manage the funds, reporting to the RCA. A summary of both the payment and reporting details are outlined further in the table below.

Date	Description	Payment amount	Payment requirements
19/12/2024	Payment 1	\$165,193 – PAID to SHIRE OF ESPERANCE AND AWAITING TRANSFER TO GVROC	
30/11/2025	Payment 2	\$342,293	A project update meeting between GVROC and Lotterywest, and provision of an Income and Expenditure statement that accounts for 75% of Payment 1
30/1/2026	Report 1 due		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)	

- **EV Charging Stations - Leonora and Menzies**

The Shires of Menzies and Leonora were notified in October of their successful grant applications which have been pending Horizon Power quotes for the upgrade of power to the Leonora Recreation Centre, where the two plug DC fast charger will be located. We are still waiting on Horizon Power to action this.

Once the quote has been provided by Horizon Power, the grant application for the Shire of Leonora can be re-submitted. It is planned that the stations will be installed at the same time by EV Charging Systems who are a WALGA Preferred Supplier. This will reduce the preliminary costs of installation and on-going maintenance and servicing.

- **Community Water Supply Partnership Program (CWSP)**

Round 4 of the Community Water Supply Partnership Program is now open until February 21. An application is underway for the Shire of Dundas to upgrade several of its community water supply assets.

The Shire of Dundas aims to restore Bromus Dam, which was built in 1925 to supply steam locomotives. Upgrades could offer emergency water supplies and tourism benefits. Funding will cover signage on the dam's historical and emergency management importance. A tank, standpipe, swipe card with solar pump, fencing, bank/wall upgrades, and a walkover will be installed, and Dundas is also considering applying for a back-up water trailer and generator for firefighting purposes.

In the previous round, the Shire of Menzies applied for \$83,800. DWER has recommended approval, with an announcement expected by March – if not hopefully earlier.

Further grant rounds are anticipated to occur until the middle of 2025.

- **Goldfields Esperance Water Security Group (GEWSG)**

GEDC is one of six WA Development Commissions managing the Federally and State funded Regional Drought Resilience Planning program. As part of its activities, GEDC received \$600 000 to develop a Drought Resilience Plan, and once approved by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, further funding of \$300 000 to implement the plan.

Consultants were engaged by GEDC in 2024 to develop the plan for the GE region and the GEDC submitted a working draft plan and Drought Vulnerability Assessment (DVA) for CSIRO review on December 18 which was a key milestone in their funding agreement.

The consultancy team is continuing to develop key elements of the plan and there will be more opportunities for GVROC to contribute which GEDC can provide an update on once feedback from the CSIRO review is received, expected around mid-February.

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 that:

1. Blue Salt Consultants are nearing the end of Stage 3 of the *Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study*.
2. The \$573,000 Urban Greening application to Lotterywest for a large tree planting program across the Goldfields Esperance region has been successful.
3. The Charge Up grants for EV Charging stations in Menzies and Leonora are awaiting a quote for power upgrades at Leonora from Horizon Power.
4. Round 4 of the Community Water Supply Partnership Program is open and an application is underway with the Shire of Dundas. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the application for the Shire of Menzies in Round 3. Further grant rounds are anticipated to occur until the middle of 2025.
5. GEDC submitted a working draft plan and Drought Vulnerability Assessment (DVA) for CSIRO review in December and feedback is expected by mid-February 2025.

RESOLUTION:

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

Carried

10. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS BUSINESS

10.1 GVROC CEOs Chair and responsibilities

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2025

Attachments: GVROC Memorandum of Understanding 2023-2025 (**Attachment 10**)

Background:

Under the GVROC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 2023-2025 (**Attachment 10**) the financial management of the GVROC will be dealt with by the Chief Executive Officer of the member council of the GVROC Chair and will hold the accounts on behalf of the GVROC. The GVROC Executive Officer will assist the Chief Executive Officer of the member council of the GVROC Chair with the financial management.

Additionally, while not formally written within the MOU, the Chief Executive Officer of the member council of the GVROC Chair also has responsibility for the contractual management and liaison with the GVROC Executive Officer and to Chair the GVROC CEOs Group when and if required to meet.

Officers Comments:

Given the current situation in the Shire of Coolgardie with its CEO suspended and an Acting CEO in place and also based on the requirements of the MOU for the GVROC listed above, the GVROC Chair and Shire of Coolgardie President, Cr Mal Cullen, has advised that the Shire of Coolgardie Acting CEO is not able to conduct these responsibilities.

Cr Cullen has also advised it is likely that the Shire of Coolgardie will not have a permanent CEO in place for some time, possibly not until after the next election process for the Local Governments in October this year and the corresponding GVROC elections for positions of Chair and Deputy Chair at our November 2025 meeting.

Based on this the GVROC Chair has discussed with the Shire of Dundas President and CEO, given their elected Deputy GVROC Chair role on whether the Shire of Dundas CEO, Peter Fitchat, would take on the GVROC CEOs Chair role and direct liaison and management with the GVROC Executive Officer. The Shire of Dundas has confirmed it is willing and able for Mr. Fitchat to step into the GVROC CEOs Chair role if it is endorsed by the GVROC, until either the Shire of Coolgardie resolves its current CEO situation or the outcome of the next GVROC election process is known and undertaken.

It is recommended that the GVROC take a vote on this proposal.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
Shire of Dundas President and CEO

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: Ongoing stability and administration of GVROC

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Endorse the Shire of Dundas CEO, Peter Fitchat to take on the GVROC CEOs Chair role and direct liaison and management with the GVROC Executive Officer until either the Shire of Coolgardie resolves its current CEO situation or the outcome of the next GVROC election process is known and undertaken in November 2025.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Seconded: Mr Matt Macintyre, Shire of Wiluna

Carried

10.2 GVROC Shared Regional Event Equipment Pool - Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2025
Attachments:	Quotation for new Toilet block replacement facilities (Attachment 11) Quotation for new Shower block facilities (Attachment 12) GVROC Shared Toilet Block Facilities Usage Report (Attachment 13)

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 (City) have advised that the current ablution block asset is now at the end of life. The City has looked internally for funding to repair or upgrade them but have exhausted funding options internally to meet the engineering costs required to make this decision. In summary:

- The shared GVROC Events Ablution facilities (16 toilet block) are at the end of its life.
- The GVROC Events Ablution facilities are needing to either be replaced or a full renovation. The 16 toilet block is made of boarding that is held together by pop rivets.
- The block is regularly dropped off the back of a truck for pickups and drop offs, resulting in substantial movement in the boarding, which is of concern.
- The block is also showing its age and the overall treatment by the public and event holders is becoming evident.
- The block has been extremely well used by the GVROC regional councils and community groups (large events) on an ongoing basis, since being acquired in 2012.
- There may be an option under Disaster Ready Funding (Round 3) to apply for an entirely new Ablution block facilities.
- An Engineering report would cost approx. \$5,000 maximum to look at whether the exiting block could be renovated or recommendation for renewal or replacement including costs.

This was considered at the GVROC meeting held on 26 July 2024 at which the GVROC resolved the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Does not Support for an Engineering report to be completed by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (CoKB) on the existing Ablution Toilet Block for a maximum of \$5,000 with recommendations for renewal or replacement including costs.
2. If not supported in Recommendation One:
 - a. Request the CoKB with assistance from the GVROC Executive Officer to source quotes for a new replacement (including showering facilities) and look at possible funding options.
 - b. Bring the quotes for a replacement back to the GVROC at its next meeting, along with a usage report and funding options and seek GVROC endorsement for a funding allocation towards this within its current budget.
 - c. Once a replacement is sourced, 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.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Sherryl Botting, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

Officer Comment:

The CoKB has gone out for quotation for a new toilet block replacement with a costing of \$91,700 exc GST for a 16-pan toilet block and also has a previous 2023 quote for a new showering facilities block which was \$73,000 exc GST for a 6-cubicle unisex shower block which they believe in 2025 terms could now be obtained for approximately \$83,000 exc GST (see **Attachments 11 and 12**).

The CoKB has also provided a usage report for the existing toilet block facilities by the LGA members which can be found at **Attachment 13**.

The GVROC Executive Officer is now investigating potential avenues for grant funding towards the replacements, however the GVROC needs to consider if it endorses using some of its existing GVROC project funds to make a purchase through the CoKB, subject to, or not, grant funding being acquired.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
CoKB

Financial Implications: TBC depending on whether grant funding can be sourced but for both new facilities up to \$175,000 exc GST

Strategic Implications: Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

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 disable 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

10.3 Information requested to help establish Panel of Monitors to assist the Local Government Inspector to engage suitable people to identify and resolve issues.

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2025

Attachments: [Monitor Panel Request for Information | DLGSC](#)
[DLGSC RFI - Local Government Panel Monitors RIFDLGSCT2450](#)

Background:

The *Local Government Amendment Act 2024* (the Amendment Act) was assented to on 6 December 2024. The Amendment Act introduces powers for a new Local Government Inspector to appoint monitors to local governments to assist with avoiding dysfunction.

Once the relevant legislation is commenced, the Inspector can appoint a monitor to a local government by request, or on their own initiative, when a local government is:

- not properly performing one or more of its functions
- not complying with one of more written laws applicable to it
- in need of assistance in performing one or more of its functions
- in need of assistance in complying with one or more written laws applicable to it
- experiencing other circumstances that make it in the public interest for a monitor to be appointed.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) commenced a Request for Information (RFI) process on 7 January 2025 to gather information from potential providers to plan for the establishment of a panel of monitors.

Further information about the proposed services can be found in the attached links above.

Interested parties are invited to provide information by completing and submitting the information form, available online or in Part C of this RFI document.

- a. **online form**
- b. **by email**
Send the completed Information Form located in Part C of this RFI to inspectorplanning@dlgsc.wa.gov.au with the subject line: Response to Request for Information (RIFDLGSCT2450)
- c. **by post**
Mail a paper copy of the completed Information Form located in Part C of this RFI to:
Attention: Amy Walsh
PO Box 8349
Perth Business Centre
WA 6849

Officers Comments:

The deadlines for all submissions and information must be received by 4:00pm Wednesday 30 April 2025.

The DLGSC advise that it or any other Western Australian Government agency associated with this RFI, will not be liable for any payment to a Respondent for any costs, losses or expenses incurred by a Respondent in submitting its information form. All information provided in your response will be treated as confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of this RFI process.

If you have any enquiries about this RFI process, please contact:

Amy Walsh, Project Manager

Telephone 61 8 6552 1433

Email amy.walsh@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Consultation: DLGSC
GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the DLGSC Request for Information process to gather information from potential providers to plan for the establishment of a panel of monitors.
2. Request that all LGA CEOs review and consider the Request for Information with their Councils and submit a response if deemed necessary by the due date of 4:00pm Wednesday 30 April 2025.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.4 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) 24-27 June 2025: Submission of Motions

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2025

Attachments: 2025 NGA Discussion Paper (**Attachment 14**)

Background:

WALGA have emailed out to all LGA CEOs advising that the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) will be held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre from 24-27 June 2025.

Attached is a discussion paper detailing the processes, criteria, and key dates related to the submission of motions for the 2025 NGA of Local Government (see **Attachment 14**).

The theme for this year's NGA, "National Priorities Need Local Solutions," emphasizes the unique role of councils in addressing national challenges through local action. Councils are invited to submit concise, practical, and implementable motions that align with one or more of the 12 identified priority areas, including intergovernmental relations, housing, climate change, and infrastructure.

Key Details:

- **Call for motions:** 18 December 2024
- **Submission deadline:** 11:59 PM AEST, Monday 31 March 2025
- Motions must be submitted electronically via the ALGA website at www.alga.asn.au

Officers Comments:

WALGA is encouraging all LGAs to participate in this process and submit motions. WALGA requests that you have a look at the attached document for detailed guidelines, criteria, and submission instructions.

If there are key areas that all GVROC LGAs wish to address these can be put into a coordinated submission with the GVROC Executive Officer liaising with the CEOs so that the same consistent responses can be then lodged by each LGA.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification on this request, feel free to contact WALGA's Executive Manager Policy, Nicole Matthews at nmatthews@walga.asn.au.

Consultation: WALGA
GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) will be held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre from 24-27 June 2025.
2. Note the call for motions are now open, with submissions closing on Monday 31 March 2025.
3. Encourage all GVROC LGAs to participate in this process and submit motions.
4. Request if there are key areas that all GVROC LGAs wish to address, that these be put into a coordinated submission with assistance from the GVROC Executive Officer liaising with the CEOs so that the same consistent responses can be then lodged individually by each LGA including the following two areas:
 - a. Raise awareness of the issues for telephone connections occurring with the phase out of 3G telecommunications to 4G and also its impact on emergency services and communities able to contact in the case of an emergency.

- b. State of the road infrastructure in the region and a need to increase regional road funding allocations.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

Seconded: *Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas*

Carried

10.5 2024 Update of Bushfire Planning - SPP 3.7, Guidelines and Explanatory Note

Reporting Officer: Peter Fitchat, Shire of Dundas CEO
Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2025

Attachments: [2024 Update of Bushfire Planning Framework](#)

Background:

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) have recently advised of an update to the Bushfire Planning Framework.

The *State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire* (SPP 3.7) and *Planning for Bushfire Guidelines* (the Guidelines) became operational on 18 November 2024. Current versions of these and related bushfire planning documents can be found on a dedicated [SPP 3.7 page](#).

Minor editorial changes were made to the Guidelines before publishing, so DPLH request that you please ensure you are using the 'Active in force' version, dated November 2024.

An updated [SPP 3.7 Explanatory Note](#) provides answers to common questions, and Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) and Bushfire Emergency Plan (BEP) manuals can also be found on the SPP 3.7 webpage.

Bushfire planning enquiries

General queries on SPP 3.7 and the Guidelines can be directed to Jackie Holm or Briony Moran at bushfire@dplh.wa.gov.au, as DPLH are keen to understanding how the new policy framework is being implemented.

Questions about requirements for specific properties and applications should be directed to the relevant local government or DPLH area team. Referral of proposals from decision-makers to the DFES land use planning team should be guided by Section 9 of the Guidelines and use the updated DFES form.

Updated Map and newly mapped areas

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has also published an updated [Map of Bushfire Prone Areas](#) (the Map) on 24 September 2024. Newly mapped areas are shown differently during a four month transition period, which ends on 24 January 2025. Queries about the Map and future updates can be directed to obrm@dfes.wa.gov.au

The Map can be viewed from [Landgate's Shared Location Information Platform \(SLIP\)](#).

Bushfire practitioner accreditation update

[Requirements for Bushfire Planning and Building Industry Accreditation Bodies](#) were also updated in 2024. This and the related [Explanatory Note on Accreditation Changes](#) can be found on the SPP 3.7 page.

Approved courses of study for bushfire practitioners can be found in the Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA) [BPAD Handbook](#) for WA.

In 2025, there are Commonwealth Supported Places (discounted student fees) for the [Graduate Certificate in Bushfire Protection](#) online course through the University of Western Sydney. This will assist Provisional Level 2 Practitioners to become fully accredited through FPAA.

Officers Comments:

The Shire of Dundas CEO, Peter Fitchat requests the GVROC look at the requirements of the State Planning Policy 3.7 Bushfire (SPP 3.7) and challenge it due to concerns about the insurance implications of compliance with SPP 3.7 and its impact on homeowners and prospective developers in bushfire-prone areas. While the policy aims to improve safety and resilience against bushfires, it has also resulted in significant cost burdens, particularly concerning construction and insurance.

Challenges for Homeowners and Developers

1. **Increased Insurance Premiums:** Properties located in designated bushfire-prone areas are subject to higher insurance premiums, ranging from 30% to 200% more than standard rates. For many families already managing higher construction costs due to compliance with Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) ratings, these additional insurance expenses can make homeownership unaffordable.
2. **Restricted Coverage:** Some insurers are reluctant to provide coverage for properties in high BAL-rated zones, particularly BAL-40 or BAL-FZ, leaving homeowners with limited or no protection. Where coverage is available, policies often have significant exclusions for bushfire damage.
3. **Financial Barriers to New Development:** These combined costs discourage new home construction in bushfire-prone areas, leading to stagnation in housing supply and economic activity, particularly in regional communities where affordable housing is already scarce.

Why does the developer or homeowner need to fund higher standards of building in areas near unmanaged Crown land, Native Title land, and abandoned mine sites, which stem from their classification as higher bushfire risk areas? Here's why these areas may result in stricter building requirements under bushfire planning frameworks like SPP 3.7:

1. Unmanaged Vegetation

- **Risk Factor:** Unmanaged Crown land and abandoned mine sites are often overgrown with vegetation, creating significant fuel loads for fires.
- **Outcome:** Proximity to these areas means buildings are more exposed to intense bushfire events, requiring higher construction standards to ensure occupant safety and building resilience.

2. Limited Fire Management

- **Risk Factor:** Native Title and Crown lands may not have regular fire management, such as controlled burns or vegetation clearing.
- **Outcome:** The lack of active fire mitigation elevates the bushfire risk, necessitating stricter building measures in adjacent areas.

3. Access and Response Challenges

- **Risk Factor:** Remote and unmanaged lands may be harder for emergency services to access, increasing the potential for prolonged fire exposure.
- **Outcome:** Buildings in these areas may be designed to be more self-reliant (e.g., with ember protection and bushfire-resistant materials) to mitigate delayed firefighting support.

4. Policy Interpretation

- **Risk Factor:** Policies like SPP 3.7 may apply uniform standards to all high-risk areas without accounting for variations in land use or fire management across different types of land.
- **Outcome:** This broad application can lead to stricter requirements in places where the actual risk might be perceived as lower.

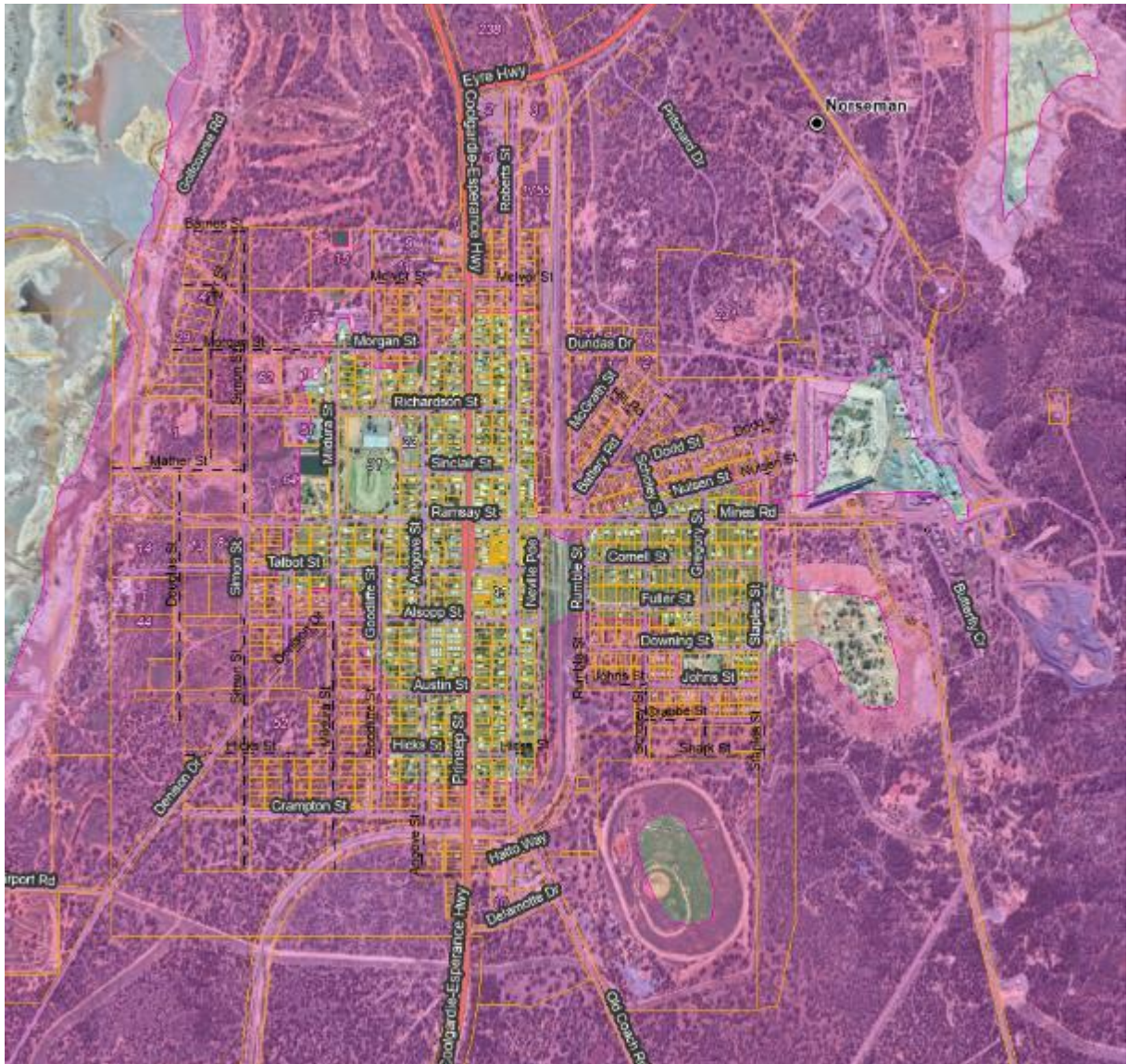
Challenges with the Logic of SPP 3.7

It can feel counterintuitive, especially if these lands are not actively utilised or inhabited. However, the overarching goal of these standards is to ensure long-term safety, even when nearby lands might change in use or remain unmanaged indefinitely.

If you believe the requirements don't align with local realities, this could be an opportunity to advocate for localised risk assessments or revised policies through government planning submissions.

Take Norseman for example:

[Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas](#)



Overview of Costs involved

The cost of building to comply with higher bushfire standards can vary significantly based on the **Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)** rating, the size and design of the building, and the materials used.

As a rough indicative costing, and this is based on regional areas around the cities; this could be significantly higher in remote places like our GVROC Area

1. BAL Rating and Associated Costs

- **BAL-LOW:** No additional cost.
 - Minimal risk; no special construction requirements.
- **BAL-12.5:** **\$5,000 to \$15,000** extra.
 - Basic ember protection (e.g., non-combustible materials, screens).
- **BAL-19:** **\$10,000 to \$25,000** extra.
 - Additional glazing, thicker windows, and improved ember resistance.
- **BAL-29:** **\$20,000 to \$50,000** extra.
 - Enhanced construction for flame and heat resistance, as well as bushfire shutters.
- **BAL-40:** **\$30,000 to \$80,000** extra.
 - High-performance materials for intense heat and potential flame contact.
- **BAL-FZ (Flame Zone):** **\$50,000 to \$100,000+** extra.
 - Highest standard: non-combustible construction, fully sealed to prevent ember ingress, bushfire-rated shutters, and materials like steel or reinforced concrete.

2. Key Factors Influencing Costs

- **Building Materials:** Non-combustible materials (e.g., metal cladding, fire-resistant timbers) are more expensive than standard materials.
- **Windows and Doors:** Double-glazed, toughened glass, bushfire shutters, and ember-resistant seals are costly upgrades.
- **Roof Design:** Fire-rated roofing with ember protection and metal mesh adds to the price.
- **Landscaping:** Clearing vegetation and creating a defendable space might cost **\$2,000 to \$10,000**, depending on the site.
- **Consultation and Reports:** Bushfire Risk Assessments and BAL certifications can cost **\$1,000 to \$3,000+**.

3. Example Estimates

- A **standard house in a BAL-19 area** may cost **\$15,000 to \$25,000** more.
- A **small house in a BAL-FZ area** could see costs rise by **\$100,000+**, especially if additional features like water tanks, sprinklers, or fire bunkers are required.

4. Additional Considerations

- **Insurance Costs:** Compliance might reduce insurance premiums over time, offsetting some costs.
- **Long-Term Benefits:** Enhanced safety and building longevity can justify the upfront expense.
- **Regional Variations:** Costs may be higher in remote areas like Norseman due to increased transportation and material expenses.

The Shire of Dundas's concerns highlight a significant issue with policy implementation and its broader impacts. The transfer of costs for bushfire compliance from the state (as land managers) to individual homeowners indeed places a heavy financial burden on private citizens. It can have several negative repercussions, particularly in areas struggling with housing affordability and development. Here's an analysis of the issue:

1. Cost-Shifting Dynamics

- **Land Management Responsibilities:** As the manager of Crown land, the Western Australian government bears the primary responsibility for maintaining and mitigating bushfire risks. However, the lack of proactive land management, such as controlled burns and vegetation clearance, shifts the burden of risk management onto adjacent property owners.
- **Compliance Costs:** Individual homeowners must meet stringent construction standards (e.g., BAL compliance) because unmanaged Crown land is often classified as high-risk, significantly inflating building costs.

2. Impacts on Housing

- **Affordability Crisis:** Additional compliance costs make it financially unviable for many prospective homeowners to build in these areas, exacerbating the housing affordability crisis.
- **Development Stagnation:** New home construction and private investment in high-risk areas may decline, leading to housing shortages, particularly in rural and regional communities.
- **Population Decline:** If costs deter new development, rural areas may see depopulation, further straining local economies and services.

3. Unequal Burden

- **Socioeconomic Inequity:** Low- and middle-income families disproportionately bear the brunt of these costs, as they are less able to absorb additional financial pressures.
- **Unfair Liability:** Homeowners are penalised for risks created or exacerbated by government land management deficiencies.

Possible Solutions

To address this imbalance, the Shire of Dudas CEO proposes that several measures could be considered as follows:

State Government Initiatives

- **Increased Land Management:** The state could implement better bushfire risk reduction strategies on unmanaged Crown land, such as regular controlled burns, clearing firebreaks, and invasive species management, or allow Remote Local Governments to manage these land around remote towns.
- **Funding Support:** Introduce grants or subsidies for homeowners to offset bushfire compliance costs.
- **Reassessment of Risk:** Reevaluate risk classifications for unmanaged Crown land to reduce overly cautious BAL ratings for nearby properties.

Local Government Collaboration

- **Advocacy:** Local governments (like the Shire of Dundas) can advocate for better state management of Crown land and increased financial support for affected homeowners.
- **Community Programs:** Work with residents to establish local bushfire preparedness programs and pooled funding for compliance measures.

Policy Reform

- **Cost-Sharing Models:** Establish policies where the costs of compliance are shared between the state and individual homeowners based on proximity to unmanaged Crown land.
- **Strategic Development Zones:** Designate specific areas for new development where bushfire risk has been actively mitigated by the state.

Advocacy Opportunity

This situation presents a strong case for advocacy by local governments, regional development organisations, and community groups. Raising this issue with decision-makers (such as state ministers) could lead to better outcomes for affected communities.

It is recommended that the GVROC consider the implications of the updated SPP 3.7 as outlined above, and if in agreement, request that the GVROC Chair write to the Minister for Planning and Director General of DPLH advising of its concerns. Also, for the GVROC to raise these concerns with WALGA and request WALGA raise them at the next State Council meeting for consideration.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
Shire of Dundas CEO

Financial Implications: Increased cost burdens to LGAs

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage 2024 Update of the Bushfire Planning - SPP 3.7, Guidelines and Explanatory Note
2. Support the Shire of Dundas CEO's concerns with the impacts and challenges with compliance with SPP 3.7 for regional and remote communities.
3. If supported above in Recommendation 2:
 - a. Request that the GVROC Chair write to the Minister for Planning and Director General of DPLH advising of its concerns.
 - b. Request WALGA raise these concerns at the next State Council meeting for consideration and support, with a request that WALGA advocate to the State Government to make changes to address these concerns and assist affected communities.

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

Carried

10.6 GVROC Housing and Land Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2025
Attachments:	Goldfields-Esperance Housing Workshop - Department of Communities Presentation (Attachment 15)

Background:

At the GVROC meeting held on 29 November 2024 the GVROC resolved the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the updates from the GVROC Executive Officer on the likelihood of a GVROC LGA Consortium being approved for registration as a Community Housing Provider and interest from existing Community Housing Providers operating in the region.
2. Note the letter from the WA Premier to LGAs regarding increasing housing supply and improving housing affordability and the areas being looked at by the State Government with WALGA to determine the best form of assistance for local governments to work on this.
3. Request that all GVROC LGAs ensure they have representation at one of the two Goldfields Esperance Regional Housing Workshops being held by the Department of Communities on the 3 or 5 December 2024.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

Officer Comment:

- **Update on the Goldfields Esperance Regional Housing Workshops being held by the Department of Communities on 5th and 13th December 2024.**

The Department of Communities has provided a copy of its presentation slides from its housing workshops held on 5th December in Kalgoorlie and the 13th December in Esperance (see **Attachment 15**) for those LGAs that were unable to attend.

There is still opportunity to provide input to the Regional Housing Reporting Team at the Department of Communities in the development of the Regional Housing Plans if you contact them directly through the email regionalhousingworkshops@communities.wa.gov.au.

- **Recent Housing announcements from the State Government**

Since the last meeting of the GVROC, the Minister for Housing has made several announcements related to housing and land in the region as follows:

- [Joint media statement - Landmark partnership to deliver nearly 1,800 new social and affordable homes for Western Australians | Western Australian Government](#)
- [Joint media statement - Housing boost for Western Australia | Western Australian Government](#)
- [Cook Government's STRA reforms taking effect through planning scheme approvals and upcoming register | Western Australian Government](#)
- [Cook Labor Government reforms Keystart loans to boost housing | Western Australian Government](#)
- [Scheme expanded to help more first home buyers | Western Australian Government](#)
- [\\$400 million fund to unlock housing and land supply | Western Australian Government](#)
- [Contract awarded to deliver new Leonora Safe House | Western Australian Government](#)

- [Joint media statement - EOI to open for community housing providers to operate new supply of social and affordable homes | Western Australian Government](#)

These announcements provide further opportunities for GVROC LGAs with housing ready projects to seek funding.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the updates from the GVROC Executive Officer on Housing and Land items for the region.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

10.7 Safer Goldfields Regional Action Plan (SGRAP) - Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 25
Attachments:	Minutes of the Safer Goldfields Regional Working Group Meeting 9 January 2025 (Attachment 16)

Background:

The GVROC identified the need for a coordinated response to address increasing issues of community safety throughout the region and on 3 February 2023 at its meeting agreed to engage a consultant to develop the Safer Goldfields Regional Action Plan (SGRAP) as a regional instrument to guide partnerships, document method and encourage the delivery of regional solutions. On 17 April 2023, Michelle Blackhurst Consultancy was engaged to develop the SGRAP.

Further at the GVROC meeting held on 28 July 2023, the SGRAP as presented was endorsed and adopted by the GVROC.

Subsequently the Safer Goldfields Regional Management Group (SGRMG) and the Safer Goldfields Regional Working Group (SGRWG) have been established to work towards implementing the SGRAP.

Officer Comment:

The SGRWG met on the 9 January 2025, with the outcomes from the workshop that was held in October 2024 being the core focus of discussion at the meeting. The minutes from this meeting are contained at **Attachment 16**.

As previously presented to Member Councils, the workshop was intended to identify roadblocks and progress outcomes of the SGRAP that would support and sustain representative agencies and service provisions at local level, improving outcomes across the Goldfields Esperance region as a whole.

There was unanimous feedback from all SGRWG members that whilst the SGRAP has significant value, in the absence of:

- Fundamental communication and established local relations with GVROC Member Councils;
- Identification of Local needs and unique priorities; and
- Member Councils leading with local directives to support the workings and outcomes of the local representatives of SGRMG to develop Local Safer Community Action Plans;

... Agencies will continue to face the challenge of providing meaningful services that Member Councils are expecting, that align with their ability to resource, fund, and schedule within their remit.

It was also evident, from an agency perspective, that there is minimal understanding as to how Local Government functions and the manner in which pathways are navigated to get things done. Improving this dynamic would have a significant impact on collaborating and identifying opportunities that would benefit communities across the region.

Ultimately, it was the SGRWG position that Member Councils adopt a local approach to actively engage service providers. Strengthening alliances will address the local needs of GVROC Member Council communities, activating a solid foundation/platform for future collaborative outcomes identified in the SGRAP across the GE region.

The SGRWG unanimously voted in favour of the proposed recommendation before the GVROC member Councils:

RECOMMENDATION

That the Safer Goldfields Regional Working group request:

1. The GVROC member councils give consideration to progressing outcomes identified from the SGRWG workshop held on the 24th of October 2024,
And
2. The GVROC support suspending the activity of the SGRWG pending a review of;
 - i) The Safer Goldfields Regional Action Plan,
 - ii) The development of individual Local Safer Community Plans.
3. GVROC continues to facilitate assistance to individual LGAs advancing their own safer community plans.

Moved: Laurene Bonza Seconded: Kate Collins Carried unanimously

Based on the above recommendation the GVROC is required to support or not support this request and advise back to the SGRWG.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
SGMG Chair and Secretary
SGWG Chair and Secretary
Representative Agencies

Financial Implications: TBC.

Strategic Implications: Improved liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the minutes from the SGRWG meeting on 9 January 2025.
2. Support the following request from the SGRWG:
 - a. That the GVROC member councils note and give consideration to progressing outcomes identified from the SGRWG workshop held on the 24th of October 2024 as outlined in the SGRWG minutes of 9 January 2025; and
 - b. Suspending the activity of the SGRWG pending a review of;
 - i. The Safer Goldfields Regional Action Plan,
 - ii. The development of individual Local Government Safer Community Plans.
 - c. to continue to facilitate assistance to individual LGAs advancing their own safer community plans.

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

Carried

10.8 Mine Waste Rock usage for Road Construction Program Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2025
Attachment:	Road works programs and potential volumes of mine waste usage by Goldfields LGAs (Attachment 17)

Background:

Original briefing on utilising Mine Waste Rock for road construction was held with the Ministers for Mines and Local Government on 5 June 2024.

This resulted in a working group formed to progress the matter that included:

Department of Transport, Steve Beyer - Director Transport Sustainability and Strategic Projects; (leading the State Government side of the investigations)
 Department Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's (DEMIRS), Richard Borozdin, Elliot Samson and James Harmer;
 And the GVROC Executive Officer, Andrew Mann

At the last GVROC meeting held on 29 November 2024 the GVROC resolved:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update on progress made with the Mine Waste Rock usage for Road Construction Project.
2. Support the concept of a two-year pilot trial in the Goldfields Esperance Region.
3. Do not support the funding for the two-year pilot trial to come from the existing Goldfields Esperance Regional Road Funding Allocation as proposed by the Department of Transport and request that WALGA advise the SAC this be funded from additional increased funding to the allocation taken from surplus funding held in the State Regional Road Group Program.
4. Request WALGA to advocate to State Government to amend the legislation regarding royalty payments to exclude Local Governments from having to pay royalties when sourcing mine waste material for local road construction, as the best alternative going forward.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

Officer Comment:

The GVROC Executive Officer liaised with WALGA's Ian Duncan, Executive Manager - Infrastructure post the last GVROC meeting on 29 November to advise of its resolution listed above so this could be provided as part of the discussion at the State Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for the 9 December 2024 to consider the Department of Transport submission on Mine Waste Rock.

The SAC decision from its meeting on the 9 December 2024 regarding this matter was as follows:

Mine Waste Rock

The State Advisory Committee:

1. Supported a two-year trial of mining waste on local roads in the Goldfields Esperance Region.
2. Noted the indicative \$730,000 value of mining royalties payable over the two-year trial period.

The State Advisory Committee does not approve recoup of the mining royalties from the Goldfields Esperance Road Projects Grant funding component of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement.

Action: WALGA's Ian Duncan to meet with Department of Transport's Steve Beyer regarding the feedback from the SAC and develop options for further consideration.

WALGA's view is that the proposed approach, to withdraw an amount of money from the funds allocated for Road Project Grants in the Goldfields – Esperance Region and use this to rebate the mining royalties that would become payable by the mining company on supplying material for road construction adds an administration process for no net benefit to Local Governments in the region. Additional considerations are:

1. The amount of money required to be set aside is an estimate only, so risks reducing the amount available for road projects prior to it being required; and
2. The risk that some Local Governments in the region will perceive the measure as disadvantaging them, if suitable overburden product is not readily available in areas where they are implementing road projects.

Both Ian Duncan and the GVROC Executive Officer have met separately with Steve Beyer on 20th and 23rd January 2025 to discuss the feedback from the SAC and the GVROC's and WALGA's views.

From the meetings between the GVROC Executive Officer and Ian Duncan with Steve Beyer the following outlines the actions and agreed as next steps and to be put forward for GVROC comment and consideration at this meeting.

The actions discussed between Steve, Ian and Andrew are:

1. Report back to GVROC – AM to brief next meeting on SAC decisions and outline initial steps to set up a trial.
2. Trial set up
 - a. Confirmation of 5 year works program for Goldfields LGAs and identification of committed LGAs and priority road projects in 2026 and 2027 - AM
 - b. GIS mapping of mine sites in proximity to above road projects – AM/ SB
 - c. Initial engagement with target mining companies – AM/ Shire CEOs
 - d. Subject to agreement in-principle at (c), arrange for sample crushing/ screening/ product testing of overburden - TBC
 - e. Subject to (d), assess costs and benefits of using overburden in priority projects - TBC
3. Further work to mainstream use of overburden, including crushing, screening and stockpiling.

The royalty issue will be further considered at 2(e).

So based on these actions and next steps the GVROC need to consider the following:

- Which Local Governments would be committed to participate in the two-year trial and the actual roads to be trialled as per those listed and submitted as part of the 5-year Regional Roads Program (refer to **Attachment 17**).
- Once the LGAs and roads are specified, mapping these against the existing surrounding mine sites close to the roads to determine which Mining Companies could be involved in supplying material and their proximity and haulage routes for the mine waste material.
- Once the mining companies are identified for these roads, commence discussions and engagement with these mining companies to see if they are interested in participating in the trial with supply of the waste material understanding that they will be responsible for undertaking any necessary hazardous testing on the mine waste, prior to supply.
- The relevant LGAs and Mining Companies then to determine what level of access to mine site will be required plus level of crushing, screening to meet roads requirements and haulage transportation routes and areas for stock piling if required.
- Once this is determined then map this out into a project plan of works with timelines for when the trial could commence.

From the above it is likely that the gathering of this information and development of a project plan will take some time and effort and that the commencement of an on-ground trial is more likely for 2026 and 2027 rather than this year.

While this work is undertaken the Department of Transport and MainRoads WA will continue to liaise with WALGA and the SAC on options going forward on how to fund the two-year pilot and deal with the royalty issue. It will also use when completed the framework and project plan to re-engage discussions with Treasury to seek direction on what options may be acceptable to Government and will support the intended outcome.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update on progress made with the Mine Waste Rock usage for Road Construction Project.
2. Not Endorse the request from the Department of Transport to develop a framework around what the two-year trial will look like answering those points listed in the agenda and producing a project plan and timeframe that highlights the LGAs, Mining Companies and roads to be included.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

10.9 Upcoming 2025 Federal and State Elections – Development of a GVROC Investment Prospectus

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2025
Attachments:	GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26 (Attachment 18)

Background:

At the last GVROC meeting held on 29 November 2024 the GVROC resolved the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the opportunity and examples of policy and funding proposals that can shape pre-election commitments by political parties and candidates.
2. Support the development of a GVROC investment prospectus of each of the Local Governments highest project priorities (maximum of 3 per LGA) be undertaken similar to those examples provided, which can be sent out to all Ministers and local Members of Parliament leading up to the election, and then to any new Ministers post the outcomes of the elections.
3. If supported above request the GVROC Executive Officer to prepare and send out the project investment templates to all LGA CEOs and for LGA CEOs to complete these and return to the GVROC Executive Officer by the first week of December 2024.
4. The GVROC Executive Officer then compile these and circulate for consideration by the GVROC out of session by 20 December 2025 to then email out to all relevant members of State of Federal Parliament.
5. A decision can then be made at the next meeting in January 2025 on whether a more formal GVROC Investment Prospectus should be developed and professionally designed.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

Officers Comments:

As per the resolution on 29 November 2024 an GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26 (see **Attachment 18**) has been created and was circulated for approval by the GVROC LGA Mayor/Presidents and CEOs in December 2024. It was then circulated to relevant State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament on 16 January 2025 as listed in **Agenda Item 7.4 Correspondence Sent**.

All GVROC LGAs have projects included accept the Shires of Menzies and Ngaanyatjaraku. The Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku advised they did not have any projects ready for inclusion at this stage, while no response was received from the Shire of Menzies when asked for suitable projects.

It is proposed that the GVROC Investment Prospectus be kept as an ongoing living document that is updated as and when required with projects removed if they receive funding and proceed or are no longer relevant and new projects added once they are developed to a stage ready to attract investment.

If agreed by the GVROC, then the GVROC Executive Officer can continue to manage this process with LGA CEOs to liaise and advise the GVROC Executive Officer when and if they wish to remove or add projects.

It is also recommended that this document remain as an online PDF version that can be distributed and used by the GVROC and its LGAs rather than spending costs on producing a graphic designed version and printing it in hard copies.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: N/A if kept in its current format as an online pdf version

Strategic Implications: Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26.
2. Notes that this has been distributed out to relevant State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament on 16 January 2025 as listed in Agenda Item 7.4 Correspondence Sent.
3. Endorse the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus:
 - a. be kept as an ongoing living document that is updated as and when required with projects removed if they receive funding and proceed or are no longer relevant and new projects added once they are developed to a stage ready to attract investment; and
 - b. remain as an online PDF version that can be distributed and used by the GVROC and its LGAs rather than spending costs on producing a graphic designed version and printing it in hard copies.
4. Request the GVROC Executive Officer to continue to manage this process with LGA CEOs to liaise and advise with the GVROC Executive Officer when and if they wish to remove or add projects.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora
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 2025 have been set for the GVROC meetings.

- **28 March 2025** in Esperance (to be hosted by Shire of Esperance)
- **30 May 2025** in Norseman (to be hosted by Shire of Dundas)
- **25 July 2025** in Kambalda (to be hosted by Shire of Coolgardie)
- **October 2025** (Date and Dinner TBC aligned with WALGA Convention and AGM in Perth)
- **28 November 2025** in Leonora (to be hosted by Shire of Leonora)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2025 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:

- 5 March 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **21 February 2025**
- 7 May 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **24 April 2025**
- 2 July 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **20 June 2025**
- 4-5 September 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **22 August 2025**
- 3 December 2025 WALGA State Council Meeting - GVROC meeting on **14 November 2025**

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:10pm.