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GVROC Council Meeting

Friday 31st July 2026

In person meeting and video

hosted by Shire of Menzies

9:00am – 1:00pm

held at the at the Shire Council Offices

Minutes

Andrew Mann
GVROC Executive Officer
11 September 2026

Cr Laurene Bonza
GVROC Chair
11 September 2026

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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 July 2026 commencing at 9:00 am at the Shire of Menzies Council Chambers.

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	(Chair)
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas	
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas	
Cr Paul Wilcox	President, Shire of Coolgardie	(via Zoom)
Cr Anthony Ball	Councillor, Shire of Coolgardie	(via Zoom)
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	
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance	
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton	
Ms Jackie Hawkins	A/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	
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies	
Mr Rob Stewart	A/CEO, Shire of Menzies	
Mr Matt McIntyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC	
Ms Niki Curtis	GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator	

3.2 GVROC and Agency Apologies

GVROC

Mr Geoff Glass	A/CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Cr Tim Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Jim Quadrio	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna

Others

Sharon Henderson	Director, RDAGE
Ross MacCulloch	Chair

3.3 Guest Speakers and Presenters

Guest Speakers

Ali Kent MLA	Member for Kalgoorlie	(via Zoom)
Shane Love MLA	Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs	
Hon Rob Horstman MLC	Member for Western Australia, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Volunteering	(via Zoom)

Presenters

Tony Brown	Local Government Inspector, Office of Local Government Inspector, DLGIRS
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3.4 WALGA Representatives

Kirsty Martin	Executive Manager Member Services
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3.5 DLGIRS Representatives

Nil

3.6 GEDC Representatives

Kris Starceovich	CEO	(via Zoom)
Regan Brewer	Director Regional Development	

3.7 RDAGE Representatives

Nil

3.8 Observers

Kate Mills	Manager of Major Projects and Advocacy, Shire of Leonora and Shire of Laverton
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4. GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 Ali Kent MLA – Member for Kalgoorlie

Ali Kent MLA, Member for Kalgoorlie, provided an update on regional matters from the State Government perspective.

Ali Kent also advised that the next Community Cabinet will be held in Kalgoorlie in October 2026 (actual date to be confirmed) and this will provide an opportunity for the GVROC and individual LGAs to have meetings with Ministers.

4.2 Shane Love MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA; Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Mines and Petroleum; Electoral Affairs and the Hon Rob Horstman MLC, Member for Western Australia, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Volunteering

Shane Love MLA and Hon Rob Horstman MLC provided updates on regional matters from the National Party perspective.

A question was asked from Shane Burge, CEO Shire Esperance, regarding the Nationals view of the State Government's current review of the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and Club Night Lights Program (CNLP) and what appears to be only funding election commitments in this space.

Shane Love MLA, advised that Peter Rundle MLA and Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation has been encouraging sporting clubs and local governments to provide feedback to the State Government and Department and pushing for funding to recommence. Shane Love MLA also provided a copy of the attached Media Release from Peter Rundle MLA released on 30 July 2026 <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:7b91db2c-8ad3-4a6a-adea-ddb0d981a981>.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Office of Local Government Inspector (DLGIRS)

Tony Brown the Local Government Inspector presented to the GVROC on the local government reform changes, the focus of his office and best practice governance and compliance (see **Attached Presentation**).

5.2 Shire of Menzies

Cr Paul Warner, Shire President provided a presentation on current projects within the Shire of Menzies.

6. AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 WALGA

WALGA verbal update report was provided by Kirsty Martin.

6.2 Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

GEDC verbal update report was provided by Kris Starceвич.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the Agency Reports as provided.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies*

Seconded: *Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora*

Carried

GVROC Chair called motion to adjourn the meeting for morning tea break at 10:29am.

Moved: *Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies*

Seconded: *Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora*

GVROC Chair called motion to resume the meeting at 10:49am.

Moved: *Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies*

Seconded: *Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance*

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) meeting held 22 May 2026

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 22 May 2026 (**Attachment 1**) are presented for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 22 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora**
 Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

7.2 Action Sheet Report

An update on the actions based on the resolutions from the meeting held on 22 May 2026 meeting is presented for noting (**Attachment 2**).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Action Sheet Report as listed for noting be received.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies**
 Seconded: Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance

Carried

7.3 Matters for Noting

The following matters were presented for noting.

1. **WA Government Ministerial Media Statements** of relevance to the Goldfields Esperance Zone since the last GVROC meeting is contained at **Attachment 3**.
2. **GVROC Final Executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 2026 -2028** contained at **Attachment 4**.
3. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 24 June 2026 regarding **Guidance on requirements to review local law reviews by December 2026**

Under the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) local governments are required to undertake a review of local laws subject to transitional arrangements of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024*.

Transitional provisions in clause 65 of Schedule 9.3 require local governments to review local laws **that have not been reviewed within the 8 years prior to legislative amendments being made**. This requirement does not apply to local laws already reviewed during that period.

These reviews must be completed by **7 December 2026**. **Local laws not reviewed by this date will lapse**.

Pursuant to section 3.16 of the Act a review is considered complete when the local government has:

- given public notice of a review and invited submissions for a 6-week period
- considered any submissions received
- prepared and submitted a report of the review to council
- resolved whether the local law should be repealed, amended or remain unchanged.

Local governments are advised that there is no ability to extend the statutory review deadline and the Minister's exemption power under section 9.63A is only available where an exemption is reasonably necessary due to an emergency or unusual circumstances and supported by evidence.

Meeting procedures local laws

Reforms to introduce standardised meeting procedures regulations are progressing. These regulations are being developed with the sector to be consulted, through the Regulations Working Group, later in 2026.

It's anticipated the new standardised meeting procedures will be implemented in 2027-28.

If undertaking a review of a meeting procedures or standing orders local law, local governments may wish to reference these forthcoming reforms in their public notice, associated consultation materials and report/s to council. Suggested wording is provided below:

"The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety is progressing standard meeting procedures regulations to create uniform requirements and replace existing local laws. These reforms are expected to be implemented in 2027-28. This upcoming reform process should be considered when providing comments and proposing any further action."

Public notice options

Local governments concerned about the cost of meeting public notice requirements for reviewing standing order or meeting procedure local laws may contact LGIRS to explore alternative publication options during this transition period.

LGIRS can facilitate publication on the Department's website to support transitional provisions and assist local governments in meeting local public notice requirements in accordance with section 1.7 of the Act and regulation 3A of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Enquiries regarding this option can be directed to legislation@lgirs.wa.gov.au

4. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 29 June 2026 regarding [Online registration of off-road vehicles launched in WA](#)
5. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 30 June 2026 regarding [Office of the Auditor General Reports published – Information for Local Governments](#)
6. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 1 July 2026 regarding [Local government website content has moved to WA.gov.au](#)
7. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 3 July 2026 regarding [Rating of certain mining licences](#).
8. **July 2026 District Emergency Management News - Wheatbelt and Goldfields Esperance**
9. **DLGIRS Local Government Alert** dated 23 July 2026 regarding [Updates and disruptions to Local Government support phone numbers](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the matters for noting as listed be received and noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

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 received 3 June 2026 from Renew Councils on Council Sustainability Programs & Sustainable House Day Workshop Series.
2. Email received 5 June 2026 from WWC Screening Unit (WA) with advice regarding the GVROC request for information on whether GVROC LGA Councillors require WWC checks or card.
3. Email received 24 July 2026 from RDAGE Director, Sharon Henderson, regarding her presenting at the upcoming inquiry of the Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport Committee of the Parliament of Australia and its Hearing into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.
4. Letter received 28 July 2026 from Basil Zempilis MLA, Leader of the Opposition in response to the GVROC Chair's letter on 17 June 2026 below on the outcome of the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025*.

Correspondence sent:

1. Letter sent on 2 June 2026 to Cr Scott Crosby – Chair Great Southern Country Zone in response to their letter to GVROC Chair re Cost Shifting to Local Government advocacy position.
2. Email sent on 2 June 2026 to the WWC Screening Unit (WA) to request information on whether GVROC LGA Councillors require WWC checks or card.
3. Letter sent 17 June 2026 from GVROC Chair and Shire of Dundas President, Laurene Bonza to Basil Zempilis MLA, Leader of the Opposition following meeting on 5 June 2026 to discuss the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025*.

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 Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

7.5 GVROC CEOs Group Meetings

The GVROC CEOs held a meeting on 17 July 2026, and the Minutes of that meeting are presented at **Attachment 6** for noting by the GVROC.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC CEOs Group Minutes from its meeting on 17 July 2026 be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

8. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS FINANCE

8.1 End of Year Financial Statements for 2025/26 and Financial Statement for July 2026

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: July 2026

Attachments: GVROC 2025/26 Financial Statements (**Attachment 7**)
GVROC Financial Statements and accounts payable and receivable to 31 July 2026, Full Transaction Account history to 31 July 2026 and GVROC Bank Statement Snapshot, plus Account history full transaction to date for 2026/27 financial year, 2026/27 Budget update (**Attachment 8**).

Background:

Presenting the 2025/26 end of financial year statements

Presenting the financial statement position and the accounts approved for payment for the period 23 May 2026 to 31 July 2026.

Also providing a picture of the 2026/27 Budget outlook as of 31 July 2026.

Financial Statement and Accounts Paid and Received:

The Officer provides the following comment:

Since the last GVROC meeting for the period of 23 May 2026 to 31 July 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
- Payments to Josh Byrne and Associates for work on the Martu Bush Walk Wiluna Project as part of the Urban Greening program.
- Payment to Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban LandCare Group for GVROC Urban Greening Project - Planning sessions with Shires of Dundas and Menzies.
- Payment to Laurene Bonza for GVROC Chair Allowance for 6-month period Nov25 to May 26
- Payment to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for Webinar content preparation and delivery - Year 2 of GVROC Urban Greening Project - 8 July 2026
- Interest earned on Commonwealth Saver account
- Grant received from GEDC towards Feasibility study Building Flood Resilient Roads for the Goldfields Esperance Region
- GVROC Membership subscription fees for 2026-27 received from Shires of Dundas, Esperance, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku and Wiluna

Refer to the Accounts paid and received spreadsheet and Full Transaction Account history to 31 July 2026 included as part of **Attachment 8**.

Officer Comment:

The GVROC tracked well financially in comparison to the 2025/26 adopted budget compared to actuals. This allows the GVROC to invest in further projects going into the 2026/27 fiscal year as per the adopted 2026/27 Budget.

Invoices have been sent out to all GVROC LGA CEOs on 2 July 2026 for the annual GVROC Subscription fees (\$35,000 plus GST each) for 2026/27, which are due for payment by the 31 July 2026.

As of this meeting the Shires of Dundas, Esperance, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku and Wiluna have already paid their annual subscription fee.

Note the Shires of Coolgardie (received 30 July 2026) and Leonora (received on 31 July 2026) have now also paid their annual subscription fees.

This only leaves the Shire of Laverton and City of Kalgoorlie Boulder as outstanding.

Consultation: GVROC Chair, GVROC CEO Chair

Financial Implications: Funds for the expenditure is included in the 2026/2027 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 2026 to 31 July 2026 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 23 May 2026 to 31 July 2026 totalling \$74,581.30 and revenue received of 236,506.48.
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 Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton*

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:	July 2026
Attachments:	Minutes RCA Working Group 15 June 2026 (Attachment 9) Disaster Ready Fund Application-DRF2627-010 (Attachment 10) Karlkurla Bushland Meeting Notes July26 (Attachment 11)

Background and Officer Comments on each project are below:

A Regional Climate Alliance Working Group meeting was held on June 15, and the unendorsed Minutes are in **Attachment 9**.

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

Disaster Ready Fund application submitted

A Round Four application was submitted to the Disaster Ready Fund before it closed on 1 July 2026. Round Four will provide up to \$142.5 million in Commonwealth funding in 2026–27. Of this, \$104.6 million is notionally allocated to infrastructure projects, \$34.9 million to other projects, and \$3 million to support Lead Agencies (DFES) in administering the DRF.

If funded, GVROC's combined infrastructure project, *Preparing the large and diverse Goldfields Esperance region and protecting remote communities from natural disasters*, will improve local resilience by installing generators, batteries, solar systems and related infrastructure at key community support facilities in Esperance, Norseman, Leonora, Coolgardie, Kambalda, Wiluna, Laverton and Warburton. The final application is provided in **Attachment 10**. The City of Kalgoorlie has also applied.

The GVROC project aims to provide reliable backup power, maintain emergency services and offer safer refuge for remote and vulnerable communities during floods, bushfires, heatwaves and other disasters. The final funding request for the \$2 million project is \$1.55 million, following DFES feedback requiring each LGA to provide at least a 10% cash contribution. Outcomes are expected from late October 2026.

GE Urban Greening Program

Background:

In December 2024, GVROC was advised it had secured a \$573,000 Lotterywest grant to plant more than 30,000 native species across the GE region.

As part of the project, each Council will join Water Corporation's [Waterwise Council](#) program.

Plants for 2026 were ordered through Esperance Native Nursery and Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group, consistent with the Lotterywest grant application. This supports local nurseries and builds their capacity and knowledge of species best suited to assist LGAs across the region.

Botanica Consultants was engaged this year to prepare a landscaping masterplan for Karlkurla Bushland Park in Kalgoorlie. Josh Byrne and Associates has worked with the Shire of Wiluna on the Martu Bushwalk, and its contract was extended late last year after stage one to continue developing a masterplan that identifies suitable species and planting locations.

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	Completed	
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)	

Officer Comment:

- Botanica Consulting has begun work on the Karlkurla Bushland Park Masterplan, and the park survey is complete. The plan will prioritise local species to improve shade, biodiversity and cultural identity in this key recreation area for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Botanica, CKB and KBULG members recently met to discuss the next project stages, including community consultation. Meeting notes are provided in **Attachment 11**.
- Almost all GVROC members have now signed a letter of commitment to become Waterwise Councils. Grants of up to \$10,000 per member will be available this financial year for trees or water data loggers to help detect leaks and measure water use. This aligns with the Water Demands Study underway with GEDC, which is assessing each Council's current and future non-potable water needs.
- Josh Byrne and Associates has submitted a planting proposal to TMPAC and the Shire of Wiluna for Martu Bushwalk works in 2026 and 2027. TMPAC rangers will undertake the works with support from the Shire. The Shire of Wiluna Council has endorsed the Central Node planting proposal.
- Kim Eckert from KBULG has visited Dundas and Menzies and met with representatives from Leonora to discuss planting locations and species.
- Online training with Kings Park botanists was held as a follow-up to last year's sessions in Norseman, Kalgoorlie and Leonora. Each Council has now received tree-care information.
- Trees and shrubs have been delivered and collected from the Kalgoorlie and Esperance nurseries. Orders for next year's planting program will be placed within the next month.
- Botanica Consulting will prepare a planting plan for the Shire of Leonora's cemetery, Gwalia and surrounding town areas within the next month.

EV Charging Stations - Leonora and Menzies**Officer Comment:**

EV Charging Systems is ready to install the charging stations at Menzies and Leonora, pending completion of electrical works at Leonora, which are expected by mid-August, with Horizon Power expected to connect the power in the last week of August. EV Charging Systems is scheduled to be onsite between August 31 and September 5.

The installations coincide with the State Government's announcement of major power supply upgrades for Menzies and then Laverton, positioning Menzies to have one of the cleanest power supplies in WA. See the State Government media release: [Goldfields town to be powered by up to 80 per cent renewable energy](#). This supports our RCA vision for the GE region to be *thriving, clean, green and economically resilient*.

EV Charging Systems is also preparing a national project bid through the [DRIVEN Program](#) to install more regional charging stations. This would involve working with regional businesses to act as Charge Point Operators. Under the proposed model, EV Charging Systems would supply, install, commission, service and maintain the chargers for five years, in line with the grant funding. Once the chargers become profitable, any surplus funds would be transferred to the site owner. They have contacted Laverton, Wiluna and Norseman Shires that have been earmarked as potential sites in the

Community Water Supply Partnerships Program

The final report for the Shire of Menzies town dam sealing project has been submitted. The Dundas final report will be submitted later this year once works are complete.

A project application is being prepared for the Shire of Leonora to install tanks at key sites and potentially upgrade wastewater treatment capacity to support town greening.

Building Flood Resilient Roads Across the Goldfields Esperance Region

Recent projects have identified flood-risk data gaps for road networks in the Northern Goldfields, including Wiluna, Laverton, Ngaanyatjaraku, Menzies and Leonora. Flood events have also affected LGAs in the Central Goldfields, including the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Shires of Coolgardie and Dundas, as well as the south-eastern coastal shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe.

In response to ongoing flood risks to roads and infrastructure, GVROC is developing a project in partnership with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (RDAGE).

The project aims to:

- Assess the data, knowledge and technical requirements needed to develop flood-resilient roads across the GE region, focusing on vulnerable communities and critical economic infrastructure.
- Identify long-term flood resilience priorities and practical next steps to support future funding or assistance.

GEDC has committed \$40,000 to the project, and a matching funding submission has been made to RDAGE, with an announcement now not expected until the end of the 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. An application has been submitted to the Disaster Ready Fund on behalf of seven GE Councils to install solar, battery and generator systems and upgrade Community Evacuation Centres to improve disaster resilience.
2. The Urban Greening project is progressing as planned.
3. The Menzies and Leonora charging stations are awaiting electrical services.
4. DWER-funded water security projects in Menzies, Dundas and Leonora are progressing at different stages.
5. A regional project is being developed to identify long-term flood resilience priorities for GE roads in partnership with GEDC.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

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: July 2026

Attachments: Nil

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.

Officer Comment:

Key items of note from the GEDC in relation to the RDRP implementation include:

RDRP – Non-potable Water Demand Study update

Progress on the water audit is continuing, with data now received from most local governments. The immediate priority is to complete data collection through targeted follow-up emails and phone calls to resolve outstanding queries. For most LGAs, this will be responding to queries to confirm the data already provided, however a number of LGAs are still to provide key data. Providing this data as soon as possible reduces the risk the project will be further delayed.

Once this initial dataset is complete, the consultants will be in a position to develop initial views on future pathways, including scenarios that consider both climate change and economic growth. These assumptions will then be tested with each local government in the form of a concept Water Outlook Statement, before finalising through written feedback. It is essential that the underlying data is as accurate and representative as possible, as these figures will underpin the demand modelling and future planning.

Subject to receiving the outstanding information, the completion of the water audits is targeted to occur by the end of August, allowing work to commence on the indicative pathways, scenarios and demand model. A workshop with the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) is planned for late August, followed by a single engagement session with stakeholders between mid and late September to present and discuss the draft Water Outlook Statements. Final reports and review versions are expected to be completed by the end of October.

After discussion at the meeting, it was noted that both the Shires of Esperance and Wiluna has now submitted their data, the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder and Shire of Laverton also advised they were in the process of completing and submitting this to the consultants.

RDRP - Waste Water Treatment Opportunities update

GEDC has now onboarded a consultant, Ricardo in partnership with Story Advisory, to deliver the Waste Water Treatment Opportunities project.

The project aims to understand the process to implement and manage Waste Water treatment (WWT) systems and reuse (where applicable) for non-potable community supplies for small LGAs in regional and remote settings. The project includes:

- Outline of the policy and regulatory settings and the requirements for LGAs.

- Step by step of how to plan for, implement and maintain WWT systems and where applicable, opportunities for reuse as a non-potable supply.
- Develop regionally relevant case studies on LGAs in the region (The Shires of Dundas, Leonora and Ravensthorpe.)
- Recommendations + next steps.

The time commitment for consultation is expected to be minimal and will be aligned with planned engagements for the Water Demands study to minimise time required from your team.

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 RDRP Implementation Non-potable Water Demand Study and the Wastewater Treatment Opportunities project.
2. Note that all GVROC LGAs have now completed or are in the process of completing and submitting the key data survey for the Non-potable Water Demand Study so the project can proceed.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Ron Chambers, Shire of Esperance**
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

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: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Date: May 2026

Attachments: [Local Government Amendment \(Rating of Certain Mining Licences\) Act 2026 - \[00-00-00\].pdf](#)
[Miscellaneous and small prospecting licences exempt from rates | Western Australian Government](#)

Background:

On the 17 June 2026 (see link to Media Statement above) amendments ensuring that a miscellaneous licence or small prospecting licence (under 10 hectares) on Crown land is exempt from rates have passed Western Australian Parliament.

The *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026* the received Royal Assent on 25 June 2026 (see attached link above).

The *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026* (the Amendment Act) introduces targeted amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) to clarify the rateability of certain mining-related licences on Crown land. The reforms provide certainty that miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences (under 10 hectares) issued under the *Mining Act 1978* are exempt from local government rates.

Miscellaneous licences are used in connection with mining tenements to facilitate infrastructure such as roads, aerodromes, pipelines and staff accommodation needed to support mining activities.

The Act maintains an equitable approach to the rating of miscellaneous and small prospecting licences, which can co-exist with other types of mining tenements and are issued solely to support mining operations. The primary mining tenements associated with these licences remain subject to the payment of local government rates.

These reforms are intended to eliminate the risk of 'double rating' of land following the 2025 Supreme Court decision, providing greater clarity and certainty for both local governments and the resources industry in Western Australia.

What you need to know

On 8 July 2025, the Supreme Court of Western Australia delivered its decision in the *Shire of Mount Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium Pty Ltd [2025] WASC 274*, in which occupied Crown land under a miscellaneous licence is rateable under section 6.26 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

This decision overturned the 2024 decision of the State Administrative Tribunal, which had previously held that such land was exempt from local government rates, regardless of whether it was occupied.

In summary, the government advises the reforms in the Amendment Act do the following:

Confirms rateability

Miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences (under 10 hectares) issued under the *Mining Act 1978* are not subject to local government rates when located on Crown land, while other mining tenements on the same land remain rateable and may be overlapping with these licences.

Applies retrospectively

This allows refunds to be issued for rates notices relating to miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences on Crown land that apply from 1 July 2017, as well as preventing local governments from retrospectively amending the rate record to impose rates on these licences for previous financial years.

Extinguish related liabilities

Transitional provisions in the Amendment Act extinguish any rates, charges, interest or related liabilities previously imposed from 1 July 2017, reinforcing the long-held understanding prior to the 2025 Supreme Court decision.

Next steps for local governments

Local governments that have issued rate notices based on a miscellaneous licence or a small prospecting licence on Crown land from 1 July 2017 will be required to refund those rates within 90 days of the validation day. Noting that validation day is 25 June 2026, refunds must be issued by 23 September 2026.

Where rates have been levied for other rateable mining tenements overlapping the same land, no refund is required, as the Amendment Act does not alter other rateable interests in relation to the land. For example, mining camps that are located on the land of a rateable mining tenement remain rateable.

Affected local governments will need to update their rating records and financial statements. Where applicable, local governments must also reflect any refunds in future financial statements. More information on this is [available in the Implementation Guide](#).

For further queries on matters relating to issuing refunds and levying rates, local governments can contact the Local Government Financial Policy team at LG.accounting@lgirs.wa.gov.au.

Officer Comments

The following is a summary of the changes and impacts for the GVROC LGAs

Key changes**1. Miscellaneous licences are no longer rateable**

The Act confirms that miscellaneous licences on Crown land are exempt from local government **rates**, regardless of whether they are occupied.

These licences commonly include land used for:

- Mine accommodation camps
- Access roads
- Airstrips
- Pipelines
- Powerlines
- Water infrastructure
- Communications infrastructure
- Processing support facilities

They are regarded as supporting mining operations rather than being the primary mining tenure.

2. Small prospecting licences are also exempt

The legislation also makes clear that small prospecting licences on Crown land cannot be rated by local governments.

3. Mining leases remain rateable

Importantly, the Act does not remove rates from all mining tenements.

The following continue to be rateable where applicable:

- Mining leases
- Exploration licences
- Retention licences
- Other mining tenements capable of being rated under the Local Government Act

The amendment only affects miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences.

4. Prevents "double rating"

Where a miscellaneous licence overlaps an existing mining lease, local governments cannot levy rates twice over the same land.

The Government's stated intention is that supporting infrastructure should not attract a second layer of rates where the underlying mining tenure is already rateable.

5. Retrospective effect

One of the most significant aspects is that the Act applies retrospectively.

It:

- extinguishes liability for rates previously imposed on affected miscellaneous licences;
- prevents local governments from recovering those rates;
- terminates objections and court proceedings relating to those rates; and
- prevents future legal action based on those historical assessments.

6. Refunds required

If a local government has already collected rates on affected miscellaneous licences, it must refund:

- the rates paid;
- any interest; and
- associated charges covered by the Act.

The legislation establishes the legal mechanism requiring these refunds.

7. No back-rating

Normally, section 6.39 of the Local Government Act 1995 allows councils to amend their rate records. The new Act removes that ability for these licences, meaning local governments cannot retrospectively levy rates for previous financial years on miscellaneous licences or small prospecting licences.

Practical implications for local governments

For affected regional local governments, the Amendment to the Act means:

- miscellaneous mining licences are no longer part of the rate base;
- Any rates already levied under the Supreme Court decision must generally be refunded if captured by the Act;
- Ongoing litigation over those rates comes to an end;
- Future revenue projections cannot rely on miscellaneous licence ratings.

For some mining-intensive shires, this removes a potentially significant source of rating revenue that had become available following the 2025 Supreme Court decision.

Practical implications for the GVROC LGAs

- The estimated additional revenue from rating miscellaneous licences can no longer be pursued;
- Any future rate modelling should exclude miscellaneous licences from the rating base;
- mining leases and other rateable mining tenements remain unaffected and should continue to be assessed in accordance with the Local Government Act; and
- LGAs should continue to review their valuation records to ensure all rateable mining tenements are correctly captured, as the Act only removes miscellaneous licences and small prospecting licences from rating.

Consultation:

GVROC CEOs Group/WALGA/DLGIRS

Financial Implications:

Loss of rateability removes 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.

GVROC Comments:

The GVROC Chair tabled the letter received from the Leader of the Opposition, Basil Zempilis MLA on 28 July 2026 in response to the GVROC Chair's letter dated 17 June 2026 as listed the correspondence sent at **Attachment 5**. It was agreed to distribute a copy of this letter with the minutes of the meeting for noting by the GVROC.

Cr Paul Wilcox, Shire of Coolgardie President, also highlighted the recent media article (see <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-07-30/goldfields-esperance-and-mid-west-wa-local-news-briefing/106974884>) which highlighted the impacts of the decision with the Shire of Murchison stating it will be forced to repay \$1.15 million to mining companies and lose \$225,000 in revenue each year.

Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton President, requested that a recommendation 3 be included in the resolution to invite the Minister for Local Government to attend the next GVROC meeting in Norseman to discuss and explain the Government's position on this new amendment legislation and whether it is willing to assist Local Governments impacted by the amendments, like the Shire of Murchison. The GVROC agreed for to be included.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note that on the 17 June 2026 amendments ensuring that a miscellaneous licence or small prospecting licence (under 10 hectares) on Crown land is exempt from rates have passed Western Australian Parliament and the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026* then received Royal Assent on 25 June 2026.
2. Note the next steps and practical implications for local governments of the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026* from coming into effect as of 1 July 2026.
3. The GVROC Chair to formally invite the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beezley MLA, to the next GVROC meeting on 11 September 2026 in Norseman, to discuss the issues with the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026* now that it has come into effect as of 1 July 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Paul Wilcox, 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: July 2026

Attachments: Nil

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:

- Over the past two months, The CoKB team has received updated quotes and delivery timeframes from suppliers, in anticipation of the CKB budget being adopted, which occurred on 6 July 2026.
- The CKB has now begun procurement of the equipment, which, depending on chosen suppliers, has estimated delivery timeframes between 6-12 weeks.
- The CKB is mindful of procuring this as soon as possible, noting both the demand for equipment, and the acquittal timeframe with Lotterywest being 30 August 2026.

At the GVROC CEOs meeting on 17 July 2026 the following matters were also discussed and raised:

Ty Matson advised that a number of member councils are experiencing challenges in accessing the shared regional event equipment and the current booking arrangements.

Mal Osborne advised he would look into this at the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, but noting he is finished up on 23 July 2026, the CEOs are keen to ensure the matter continues to progress, as it is a concern held by several Shires, including the Shire of Leonora.

One question asked by Ty Matson is as the new equipment is being procured, could we also consider implementing a centralised booking system and an annual booking calendar?

Most local governments have their major community events planned well in advance, so an annual calendar would also provide greater certainty for councils while still allowing flexibility for other organisations to access the equipment when available.

It is recommended that the GVROC request that the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder look into the concerns around access to the equipment and the possibility of setting up a centralised online booking system and annual booking calendar.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
CoKB
RDAGE

Financial Implications: up to \$129,000 contribution

Strategic Implications: Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

GVROC Comments:

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Mayor Glenn Wilson advised that the Tender for the new equipment has been released and is closing next week to ensure that we meet the 31 August 2026 deadline for the Lotterywest Grant. Mayor Wilson also advised that he had spoken with the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder staff regarding the setting up of a centralised booking system for the new equipment and this was also in the process of being implemented as requested.

Regarding the existing 16 pan toilet block facility, Mayor Wilson confirmed that the City had decommissioned it, and noted that this had been done with GVROC authorisation. This will be followed up by the Mayor and the GVROC Executive Officer to determine what has happened to the 16 pan toilet block facility, and whether it can be put up for sale.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the update on the GVROC Shared Community Portable Event Equipment Replacement project.
2. Requests the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder to investigate the member Councils concerns around access to the shared equipment and advise of the setting up a centralised online booking system and annual booking calendar for when the new equipment is procured.

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: July 2026

Attachments: Nil

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 22 May 2026 the following related regional housing announcements have been made by the State Government through the Minister for Housing and Works:

- [Milestone reached for market process to deliver more homes in Karratha](#)
- [Cook Government delivering \\$49 million for local housing manufacturers](#)
- [Land sale for \\$1 to pave the way for new key worker village](#)
- [BHP to help deliver quality services, infrastructure in Port Hedland](#)
- [Unlocking land for new aged care housing in Darkan](#)
- [Cook Labor Government to reform social housing waitlist](#)
- [Further built-to-rent incentive to encourage new housing supply](#)
- [Eight new social homes for Falcon](#)
- [BHP to help deliver homes for Western Australians in the Pilbara](#)
- [New data reveals strong housing construction pipeline](#)

At the GVROC meeting held on 22 May 2026 in Wiluna the following resolution was made:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update on housing and land and in particular the State Government announcement regarding Seven Cities and the implications for GVROC and Remote GVROC LGAs.
2. Recognises the need for continued advocacy for:
 - a. direct housing investment in smaller and remote communities
 - b. funding models that reflect non-rateable land constraints and service population realities across the Goldfields-Esperance region.
3. Request the GVROC Executive Officer as part of the Housing update at the GVROC meeting on 31 July 2026 in Menzies, invite DoHW's Andrew Sutton, to outline how GROH housing will be implemented not only in Kalgoorlie as part of the seven cities project but also across the other towns in the region.
4. Request the GVROC Executive Officer as part of the Housing update at the GVROC meeting on 31 July 2026 in Menzies, also invite the DoHW, Regional Housing Director – South, Damian Cunnane, to further discuss the housing issues with the GVROC and its LGAs.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora
Seconded: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Carried

In relation to recommendation 3. And 4. Above the GVROC Executive Officer sent an invite to the DoHW on 12 June 2026 and has followed this up with phone calls in July but as of yet has had no response or commitment back from the DOHW officers to present to the GVROC.

Consultation: GVROC CEOs Group

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the update on housing and land and the implications for GVROC and Remote GVROC LGAs.
2. Note that the DOHW to date has not been responsive to presenting to the GVROC as per its resolution at the last meeting on 22 May 2026 requesting an:
 - outline how GROH housing will be implemented not only in Kalgoorlie as part of the seven cities project but also across the other towns in the region; and
 - to further discuss the regions housing issues with the GVROC and its LGAs.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies*

Seconded: *Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora*

Carried

10.4 Update on Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery 2026 – Regional Impacts

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Date: July 2026

Attachments: Nil

Background:

The Fair Work Commission has issued the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery – 2026, effective from 21 April 2026, following a rapid escalation in global fuel prices caused by conflict in the Middle East and disruption to oil supply chains.

The Order was made under new emergency provisions of the Fair Work Act, allowing expedited implementation where there is a significant national impact on the road transport industry.

The purpose of the Order is to ensure that road transport operators, including owner-drivers and small fleet businesses, are able to recover increased fuel costs, rather than absorbing these costs themselves.

The Order applies across the entire freight supply chain and requires:

- Fortnightly rate adjustments to reflect fuel price increases
- Use of mechanisms such as fuel levies, rate increases or reimbursements
- Obligations on both primary parties (e.g. mining companies, retailers, government) and secondary parties (transport operators)

This represents a structural shift in the freight industry whereby fuel cost risk is transferred up the contractual chain to those procuring transport services.

Officer Comment

On the 19 June 2026 the WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan, emailed all LGA CEOs the following update:

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) issued a [Statement \[2026\] FWCFB 150](#) on 19 June 2026 that clarifies the current obligations of parties in a [Road Transport Contractual Chain Order](#) (RTCCO) and the next steps the FWC is considering.

The Statement confirms that as the national average gate price for diesel is now below \$2.00 per litre, the obligations per clause 4 of the RTCCO have currently ceased. As a result, Local Governments are not required under the RTCCO to undertake rate adjustments or take reasonable steps to ensure that secondary parties implement such adjustments.

The FWC had conducted its scheduled one-month review of the initial RTCCO at a hearing on 25 May 2026. Following the hearing, the FWC released a [statement](#), [notice of intent](#), and a marked-up [draft order](#) for consultation.

One of the draft variations the FWC proposed to make to the RTCCO was that the obligations would only cease “following the fourth consecutive week in which the weekly average national terminal gate price falls below \$2.00”.

In its Statement, the FWC has clarified that it has yet to determine if this variation ought to be made. The Statement also clarifies that the RTCCO has not been revoked and continues to be in operation, although the requirement to undertake the obligations for rate adjustments under the RTCCO have ceased at this time.

The FWC has invited further submissions from interested parties as to what course should be adopted in the circumstances, these were due by Friday 3 July 2026.

WALGA will continue to inform and update the Sector as to any further requirements.

GVROC Comments:

The GVROC noted that given the current escalation in the Middle East again, that the fuel prices had again raised above the \$2.20 mark which is over the \$2.00 gate price and this had been that for a couple of weeks.

Based on this the GVROC sought from WALGA a follow-up on whether WALGA is monitoring this and what will happen if the price remains above \$2.00 past the 4-week mark, noting that the fuel excise rebate from the Federal Government also ceases on 1 August 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC:

1. Note the update at on the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery 2026 – Regional Impacts.
2. Note WALGA will investigate current price increases and inform and update the Sector as to any further requirements.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Carried

10.5 **GVROC Strategic Plan**

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Date: July 2026

Attachments: Short Version - Draft GVROC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 **Attachment 12**
Long Version Draft GVROC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 – **Attachment 13**

Background:

The GVROC last developed a Strategic Plan back in 2022 that was endorsed by the GVROC at its 27 May 2022 meeting, for the period 2022 through to 2026. It now requires a new Strategic Plan to be developed for the period 2026 through to 2030 to set the future direction of the GVROC.

Officers Comment:

At the GVROC meeting on 22 May 2026 in Wiluna the GVROC resolved the following:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the current GVROC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 is close to expiring.
2. Note that each GVROC CEO is coordinating their LGA's input and comments on the existing plan back to the GVROC Executive Officer by 19 June 2026 and all CEOs will workshop this input and feedback to develop a draft plan for 2026-2030 as part of its next meeting on 17 July 2026.
3. Note the GVROC Executive Officer will then finalise a draft Strategic Plan for 2026-2030 and present this to the GVROC for consideration and endorsement at its meeting on 31 July 2026.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies
Seconded: Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies

Carried

The GVROC Executive Officer has received feedback from the CEOs at Shires of Dundas, Esperance and Wiluna on the existing strategic plan and this has been incorporated into the attached new draft versions (short and long see **Attachments 12 & 13**) of a GVROC Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2030.

These two versions of the GVROC Strategic Plan were then presented to the GVROC CEOs at its meeting on 17 July 2026 to discuss and endorse for submission to the GVROC for approval at this meeting in Menzies.

During the CEOs discussion the following query was raised by Shire of Esperance CEO, Shane Burge, as whether there was an appetite to also include in the Strategic Plan a focus on advocacy for support funding from State and Federal Governments for waste management and airports. All the CEOs agreed to include this suggested inclusion. It was also proposed, that both short and long versions be retained so they could be both used depending on the audience.

Consultation: GVROC Chair, GVROC CEOs

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved regional outcomes and operations of the GVROC.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the drafts (short and long) GVROC Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030 as presented and that these were endorsed by the GVROC CEOs Group at its meeting on 17 July 2026.
2. Endorse/Not Endorse both versions of the Strategic Plan for 2026-2030.
3. If endorsed, request the GVROC Executive Officer to update the GVROC website with these new versions so they can be accessed by all delegates.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Mayor Glenn Wilson, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Seconded: Cr Sharon Warner, Shire of Dundas

Carried

10.6 Australian Government – Proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework Reforms

Reporting Officer: Peter Fitchat, CEO Shire of Dundas

Date: July 2026

Attachments: Letter from Hon Kristy McBain MP to Local Government Mayors regarding proposed reforms to Australia's disaster management system 1 July 2026 – **Attachment 14**

Background

The Australian Government, through the Minister for Emergency Management, has written to all Local Government Presidents advising of proposed reforms to Australia's disaster management and disaster recovery funding framework following the recommendations of the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review) (see **Attachment 14** example of letter sent to Shire of Dundas).

The review concluded that Australia's existing disaster funding arrangements are complex, administratively burdensome and no longer adequately reflect the increasing reliance on local governments to deliver disaster recovery works.

The Australian Government has commenced consultation with State and Territory Governments and local governments, with feedback requested by **31 July 2026**.

Proposed Reforms

The proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework includes:

- Introduction of a **50:50 cost-sharing model** between the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments for eligible disaster recovery costs.
- **No additional financial contribution required from local governments**, maintaining existing arrangements whereby councils are not required to contribute funding towards eligible disaster recovery.
- Replacement of the current funding thresholds with a simpler **event-based trigger** to enable earlier Commonwealth reimbursement, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
- Nationally consistent disaster recovery assistance categories and standardised support packages.
- Introduction of a **Resilient Infrastructure Scheme**, allowing eligible essential public assets to be rebuilt to a more resilient standard, with up to **15% additional funding** where approved.
- Continued tailored assistance for First Nations communities and provision for exceptional assistance during catastrophic events.
- Ongoing Commonwealth investment of **\$1 billion through the Disaster Ready Fund (2023–2028)** to improve national disaster resilience.

Officer Comments

The proposed reforms generally represent a positive step towards simplifying disaster recovery funding and improving national consistency.

For Goldfields local governments, the reforms may provide:

- improved certainty around disaster recovery funding;
- reduced administrative complexity;
- increased opportunities to incorporate resilience measures into infrastructure reconstruction;
- continued access to Disaster Ready Fund investment.

However, there may also be opportunities for GVROC to advocate for further improvements, including:

- recognition of the disproportionate costs faced by geographically large regional local governments;
- faster reimbursement processes following disaster events;
- increased funding for road and transport infrastructure recovery in remote areas;
- improved flexibility for rebuilding isolated infrastructure;
- additional support for local government capability and project delivery resources.

Given the shared challenges experienced across the Goldfields region, a coordinated regional submission may carry greater influence than individual council responses.

CEO Discussion and Comments at its meeting on 17 July 2026

Shane Burge advised via email prior to the meeting his concerns around the new event based financial triggers to access the Australian Government support. The current financial trigger is \$240,000 but this is proposed to increase to \$2.7m. Shane's concern is that a large number of localised events may now not qualify for funding and assume that if the trigger for Federal assistance is then at \$2.7m that the State probably won't step in to fill the void of smaller events between the current \$240k and the new \$2.7m gap. LGAs could be out of pocket a lot of money as events that may once have met the threshold will now not qualify.

Andrew Mann also advised that an article on ABC News also reported on 15 July 2026 that the Wheatbelt Council President of the Shire of Victoria Plains, Pauline Bantock, stated that the Wheatbelt Councils were nervous the changes to the federal government's disaster recovery funding arrangements could result in higher financial burdens on local governments leaving regional councils worse off.

The article explained that changes proposed by Emergency Management Minister Kristy McBain last month would mean the federal government would contribute a standard 50 per cent of recovery costs. The amount it contributes under the current arrangement varies from 50 per cent to 75 per cent, with the reimbursement rate decided by a complex calculation. The Minister has said the reforms would make the process simpler and faster for councils to navigate and no council should be worse off.

However, Ms Pauline Bantock said "We want to make sure that they have considered all of the elements of it". "And that there isn't going to be a mechanism to make this harder for small communities to apply [for funding]."

These comments back up Shane's concerns above.

Mal Osborne advised another concern is the holding costs for LGAs, as the current system requires LGAs to firstly pay for any disaster recovery costs required to be undertaken, while then waiting for grant funding to be provided. Many small LGAs do not have the financial capacity to meet the costs upfront from a disaster.

Ty Matson also highlighted the issue that the funding scheme does not have any set guidelines and there is changing views depending on who is managing the grant process on the pre and post damage evidence required to be shown as part of the grant applications. There needs to be clear standards and guidelines set out, which would help streamline the process.

Matt McIntyre also added that we should be pushing for up to 30% instead of 15% of additional funding towards essential public assets to be rebuilt to a more resilient standard and looking at stronger links and getting joint ventures with potential partners that support LGAs in the data requirements for mitigation and building resilient infrastructure.

Overall, all CEOs agreed that there needs to be change made to the current Funding Framework, but it needs to ensure that it will be beneficial to all parties, especially the LGAs and no one is worse off than it currently stands under the existing arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC:

1. Note the proposed Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Framework reforms.
2. Note the concerns raised at the GVROC CEOs meeting on 17 July 2026 with these reforms.
3. Request WALGA advocate back to the Federal Government the concerns of LGAs.
4. GVROC Chair write a letter to the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Emergency Management also outlining the GVROC's concerns with the proposed reforms.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Jill Dwyer, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

10.7 2026 Review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas – Regional Response and Advocacy

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Date: July 2026

Attachments: Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas – Local Government - **Attachment 15**
Map link: [Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas](#)

Purpose

To seek support from GVROC for a coordinated regional response to the 2026 Review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas and to advocate for greater recognition of regional bushfire mitigation efforts and State Government responsibilities in reducing bushfire risk.

Background

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has commenced consultation on the 2026 Review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas, with submissions closing on 28 August 2026. Local governments have been invited to review proposed changes and submit requests to amend the mapping when vegetation management or other permanent risk-reduction measures justify such amendments.

The Map identifies land considered bushfire-prone, including bushfire-prone vegetation and a 100-metre buffer, and directly influences planning and building requirements under:

- State Planning Policy 3.7 – Bushfire;
- Planning for Bushfire Guidelines; and
- National Construction Code (BAL requirements).

Properties within designated bushfire-prone areas may require a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Assessment before development approval, resulting in significantly increased construction standards and associated building costs.

Officer Comments

While GVROC member councils fully support measures that improve community safety, the current mapping methodology has broader implications for regional communities.

The expansion of bushfire-prone mapping has the potential to:

- Increase the number of residential, commercial, and industrial developments that require BAL assessments.
- Increase construction costs through mandatory bushfire-resistant building materials and design requirements.
- Reduce housing affordability and discourage private investment in regional communities already facing housing shortages.
- Increase planning assessment timeframes and compliance costs for local governments and developers.

A significant concern for regional local governments is that the mapping largely reflects existing vegetation, while ongoing vegetation management and fuel reduction on State-managed land is often beyond the control of local governments.

Many councils undertake annual firebreak inspections, roadside slashing and local mitigation works, yet extensive areas of unmanaged Crown land, reserves and other State-controlled land remain outside local government responsibility.

Where State agencies do not adequately undertake fuel reduction, prescribed burning or strategic vegetation management, the consequence is that surrounding communities continue to be classified as bushfire-prone, resulting in higher BAL requirements and increased costs for landowners and developers.

This effectively transfers the financial burden of elevated bushfire risk onto property owners and regional communities, despite much of the underlying risk originating from vegetation management responsibilities that sit with the State Government.

The DFES consultation specifically allows local governments to request removal of vegetation from the Map where it is managed in perpetuity, provided sufficient evidence of ongoing management is supplied.

This presents an opportunity for regional councils to advocate collectively:

- Recognition of local government mitigation activities;
- Greater investment by State agencies in ongoing fuel reduction;
- Consideration of strategic firebreaks and landscape mitigation when determining bushfire-prone mapping; and
- A review of planning and building impacts where bushfire risk can be demonstrably reduced through government-managed mitigation.

Regional Implications

This issue has potential implications across the Goldfields-Esperance region, including:

- Increased residential construction costs.
- Additional costs for commercial and industrial developments.
- Higher development approval costs.
- Reduced investment attractiveness.
- Increased demand for BAL assessments.
- Potential impacts on affordable housing initiatives.
- Greater administrative workload for local governments.

Proposed Regional Advocacy

That GVROC write to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Minister for Planning seeking:

1. Recognition that ongoing State-managed fuel reduction programs should be considered when determining bushfire-prone mapping.
2. Increased State investment in prescribed burning, strategic firebreaks and vegetation management on Crown land, reserves and other State-managed land adjoining regional communities.
3. Consideration of permanent strategic mitigation infrastructure when determining Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) triggers.
4. A review of the cumulative cost impacts that expanding bushfire-prone mapping has on regional housing affordability and economic development.
5. Greater consultation with regional local governments before significant mapping changes are adopted.

CEO Discussion and comments at its meeting on 17 July 2026

Andrew Mann advised he has also been approached by the CEO and Co-founder of Geoneon, Roxane Bandini-Maeder, a Tasmania-based company using Earth observation, AI and data fusion to map climate risk, exposure and vegetation.

Geoneon work with councils across Australia to deliver bushfire severity and building-exposure mapping that supports planning, preparedness and community awareness.

A few years ago, Geoneon completed work with the Shire of Dundas and the Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia, and they thought it would be worthwhile reaching out given GVROC's regional focus and the shared bushfire challenges across the Goldfields–Esperance region.

More recently, Geoneon has worked with councils across Greater Hobart to develop regional bushfire severity and building-exposure mapping, while still providing outputs relevant to each individual council. You can see a short overview of this work here: [Hobart Home](#)

Engaging Geoneon could be relevant to any current or future regional climate initiatives through GVROC, including further mapping of bushfire risks and also the work the GVROC is looking at for the flood mapping under the Building Flood Resilient Roads Across the Goldfields Esperance Region project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC:

1. Note the commencement of the 2026 Review of the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas and the consultation closing on 28 August 2026.
2. Support a coordinated regional submission highlighting the impacts of expanded bushfire-prone mapping on development costs, housing affordability and regional investment.
3. Advocate to the Western Australian Government for increased investment in State-managed bushfire mitigation activities, including strategic firebreaks, fuel reduction and vegetation management, to reduce bushfire risk and minimise unnecessary BAL triggers.
4. Request WALGA consider advocating for reforms that better recognise government-led bushfire mitigation activities when determining bushfire-prone mapping and associated planning and building requirements.
5. Request GVROC Executive Officer investigate with Geoneon regarding possibilities for assistance on GVROC current or future regional climate initiatives.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: *Mr Matt McIntyre, Shire of Wiluna*

Seconded: *Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies*

Carried

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

11.1 Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 (WA)

Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 (PRIS Act) ([Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing](#)) commenced on 1 July 2026 and now applies to local governments.

The GVROC Executive Officer, Andrew Mann, advised that David Mosel, CEO at the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku, reached out to see what if anything other member councils are doing as they had recently received some preliminary advice from their IT contractor regarding the measures they believe may be required to support compliance. The indicative cost is in excess of \$40,000, which is significant for a small regional local government.

The GVROC Chair also raised this WALGA and Kirsty Martin advised WALGA have been advocating for some time to the DLGIRS that the sector needed support prior to the 1 July 2026 rollout.

The last correspondence WALGA had from ODG (through DLGIRS) detailed the engagement the Office has been undertaking with the sector and DLGIRS advised WALGA that they would speak to ODG and OIC about support and targeted resources.

WALGA advised it would be appropriate for Local Governments to direct queries to the State Government whether that be DLGIRS, ODG or the OIC.

Similarly, the Shires of Esperance and Coolgardie CEOs have also provided some information back to the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku on what they are proposing which tends to be more round focusing initially on policy development, staff training, governance processes and information management practices, rather than implementing expensive ICT related processes.

It was agreed that the GVROC Chair will write to the DLGIRS Director General seeking more clarification and requesting support for the local government sector on how to meet the new requirements.

11.2 Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance Zone Update

The GVROC Executive Officer, Andrew Mann, advised he had received an email from the Shire of Lake Grace's Caroline Robinson regarding the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance. The information that has been provided is the most recent updates and current work that the 6 Shires involved in the Alliance have been completing and are continuing to work on. The Alliance hope that the update provides some information in regard to the progress that has been made towards helping Local Governments with their ongoing Health Funding Issues.

Andrew advised that he would include this update on the agenda for the upcoming GVROC Zone meeting to be held on 21 August 2026 for review and discussion.

11.3 National Small Town Reinvention Conference 6-11 September 2026

Cr Patrick Hill advised that the National Small Town Reinvention Conference 6-11 September 2026 will be held in Longreach, Queensland and that a number of the Northern Goldfields LGAs were planning to attend so may be absent for the next GVROC meeting on 11 September 2026.

This Conference is being organised to provide an opportunity for Community Builders and organisations who care deeply about the future of small-town Australia, and who desire to discover renewed passion, and new skills, knowledge and resources about rural and remote small-town reinvention.

The GVROC noted this and the GVROC Chair encouraged that all GVROC LGAs have representatives at the next GVROC meeting on 11 September 2026 as the Minister for Goldfields, Hon David Michael MLA will be attending as well as the WALGA President, Mark Irwin.

12. FUTURE GVROC COUNCIL MEETINGS/FUNCTIONS

Next Meetings

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

- **11 September 2026** in Norseman (to be hosted by Shire of Dundas)
- **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 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 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 11:54am.