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GVROC Council Meeting

Friday 28th March 2025
In person meeting and video
hosted by Shire of Esperance
8:30am – 1:00pm
held at the Esperance Civic Centre (Council Place, Esperance).

Minutes

Andrew Mann
GVROC Executive Officer
30 May 2025

Cr Malcolm Cullen
GVROC Chair
30 May 2025

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

A in person and video conference meeting of the GVROC Council was held Friday 28 March 2025 commencing at 8:30 am at the Esperance Civic Centre (Council Place, Esperance).

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	
Cr Glenn Wilson	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	(via Zoom)
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas	
Cr Sharon Warner	Councillor, Shire of Dundas	
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas	
Cr Ron Chambers	President Shire of Esperance	
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance	
Mr Shane Burge	CEO, Shire of Esperance	
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	
Cr Tim Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr Matt Macintyre	CEO, Shire of Wiluna	
Mr David Mosel	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku	(via Zoom) left at 11am.
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC	
Ms Niki Curtis	GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator	

3.2 Apologies

Mr Aaron Cook	A/CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Wayne Johnson	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Mr Andrew Brien	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Sudhir Sudhir	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Peter Grundy	President, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Jim Quadrio.	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku

3.3 Guest Speakers and Presenters

Guest Speakers

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
Ali Kent MLA	Member for Kalgoorlie
Hon Shelley Payne MLC	Member for the Agricultural Region

Presenters

Amanda Day	CEO - Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association – GNRBA
Rhiannon Bristow-Stagg	Lead - Strategy & Insights, BlueSalt Consulting
Haidee Vandenberghe	Senior Regional Development Officer, GEDC
Sophie Willsher	Regional Development Officer, GEDC

3.4 WALGA Representatives

Ian Duncan	Executive Manager Infrastructure
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3.5 DLGSC Representatives

Nil – apologies given from Kelly Waterhouse

3.6 GEDC Representatives

Kris Starcevich	CEO
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3.7 RDAGE Representatives

Sharon Henderson	Director	(via Zoom)
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3.8 Observers

Nil

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association

Amanda Day, CEO of the Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association (GNRBA) provided an update on what the GNRBA is undertaking in Pest Management on Pastoral Lands as well as areas they work with outside groups.

4.2 Shire of Esperance

CEO Shane Burge provided a presentation on current and planned activities within the Shire of Esperance.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Hon Stephen Dawson MLC - Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley.

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC - Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley attended the meeting between 9am-10:30am.

The Minister provided an overview of the reelected Labor Government's intentions, for the region his Minister for Regional Development portfolio and also the establishment of the new regional ministerial portfolios.

This was followed by a Q&A session with the Minister.

5.2 Ali Kent MLA

Ali Kent MLA spoke briefly about being retained as the Member of Kalgoorlie, the election commitments and continuing to work with the GVROC over the next four years.

5.3 Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Hon Shelley Payne spoke briefly and endorsed Minister Dawson's comments and encouraged the GVROC to continue to collectively work together to achieve outcomes for the region.

6. GVROC REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCE - PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Project – Project update and explanation on Framework developed

Presenters: Rhiannon Bristow-Stagg - Lead Strategy & Insights, BlueSalt Consulting

Attachments: BlueSalt GVROC Fact Sheet - Whole of Region (**Attachment 1**)

Background:

Led by the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) Regional Climate Alliance (RCA) Working Group, this project will assist GVROC local governments by establishing a framework and data to demonstrate and determine the most cost-effective and highest impact climate change adaptation measures to manage their assets.

It focuses on infrastructure associated with power, water, roads, local government owned buildings, community evacuation centres and public open space, that if damaged, would result in a significant negative impact to the community.

This project builds on studies undertaken in recent years by the Working Group, including a Carbon Emissions Baseline Study, a Renewable Energy Audit, and a Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan.

BlueSalt Consulting, who was engaged by the GVROC to undertake the project, will provide an explanation of the overarching Framework that has been developed as part of this presentation.

BlueSalt is hosting a further online meeting, including their consulting project partner Stantec Australia, on 2 April 2025 to provide a walkthrough with GVROC members and LGA Representatives of the CBA tool which has been developed to assess the cost versus benefits and practical guidance on how to use it in this presentation, followed by an open discussion.

Following the 2 April 2025 presentation to the GVROC, BlueSalt Consulting will also be conducting specific follow up one on one meetings with each LGA between 2 April to 16 April 2025 where you can get more detailed guidance for your individual local governments. This individual session can now be booked at the attached link <https://bluesalt.as.me/gvroc>.

6.2 Goldfields-Esperance Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Presenters: Haidee Vandenberghe, Senior Regional Development Officer, GEDC
Sophie Willsher, Regional Development Officer, GEDC

Attachments: GE-RDRP Draft Vision Thematic Outcomes & Actions (**Attachment 2**)

Background:

The GEDC has led the development of the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Drought Resilience Plan project through engagement with the consultant's, Aither.

Sub-regional workshops were held with the GVROC local councils in late November 2024 and early December 2024, to identify foundational and quick win actions that could be considered within the plan. In accordance with key program level milestones, the GEDC submitted a working draft of the plan and Drought Vulnerability Assessment for CSIRO feedback on the 18 December 2024.

Aither have continued to develop key elements of the plan over the past few months with a proposed vision, thematic outcomes and actions now developed. These were tested with the Goldfields Esperance Water Security Group (GEWSG) at its meeting on 11 March 2025 (see **Attachment 2**).

7. AGENCY REPORTS

7.1 WALGA

WALGA verbal update report by Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

7.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

No report.

7.3 Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

GEDC verbal update report by Kris Starcevich.

7.4 Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance

RDAGE verbal update report by Sharon Henderson. Also note that RDAGE has appointed a new Chair, Ross MacCulloch, who is also the Australia's Golden Outback Goldfields Development Manager.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the Agency Reports as provided.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

This change will be implemented for all WALGA-administered Zone Agendas for the upcoming April 2025 round of meetings.

The above information has been provided to the GVROC for your information only. WALGA recognise that each externally administered Zone considers State Council items in a different format.

If there are any questions about any of the above, please contact Kathy Robertson, Manager Association and Corporate Governance at WALGA on details below:

(p) (08) 9213 2036 | (m) 0418 949 134 | (e) krobertson@walga.asn.au

6. **WALGA Roadside Vegetation Management Field Days**

WALGA is hosting three Roadside Native Vegetation Management Field Days in April.

The City of Busselton (4 April), Shire of Corrigin (8 April) and Shire of Tammin (29 April) have generously offered to host.

The Roadside Vegetation Management Field Day provides an opportunity to:

- Learn about WALGA's new roadside vegetation training modules.
- Hear DWER present relevant case studies about types of information required to demonstrate avoidance, impact minimisation, mitigation and offsets.
- Learn from informative case studies.
- Network with other Local Governments in the region.

The Field Day also includes site visits and is perfect for Local Government officers involved in the management and/or clearing of native vegetation.

Register here if you are interested in attending:

<https://walga.asn.au/media-and-resources/upcoming-events>

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Carried

8.4 Correspondence for Noting

The following correspondence was sent and received since the last GVROC meeting and are all contained in **Attachment 7**

Correspondence received:

1. Letter dated 31 January 2025 from Hon Minister 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 in response to the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26.

Correspondence sent:

1. Email sent on 5 February 2025 with a copy of the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26 to WA Labor Party in response to letter received from Hon Minister 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 in response to the GVROC Investment Project Prospectus 2025-26.
2. Letter sent on 25 February 2025 to Bankwest Business Support Team requesting formal closure of the GVROC Business Banking Accounts.
3. Letter sent on 19 March 2025 to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum advising him of the GVROC decision from its meeting on 31 January 2025 regarding the GVROC's initial request for granting of concessions for LGAs wishing to utilise the mine waste rock for local road building.
4. Letter sent on 29 March 2025 to the Minister for Planning and Lands regarding GVROC concerns with the 2024 update of the Bushfire Planning – SPP 3.7 Guidelines and Explanatory note as released in November 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Paul Warner, Shire of Menzies

Seconded: Cr Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

8.5 GVROC CEOs Group Meetings

The GVROC CEOs held a meeting on 7 March 2025 and the Minutes of that meeting are presented at **Attachment 8** for noting by the GVROC.

As part of this meeting the GVROC CEOs Group have reviewed its Terms of Reference from 2017 and endorsed these for 2025 onwards as per **Attachment 9**. As per the ToR meetings of the CEOs Group will now occur 3 weeks prior to each in person scheduled GVROC meeting throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC CEOs Group Minutes from its meeting on 7 March 2025 and revised 2025 Terms of Reference be noted.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

9. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS FINANCE

9.1 Financial Statement to 31 March 2025

Reporting Officer: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: March 2025

Attachments: GVROC Financial Statements and accounts payable and receivable to 31 March 2025, Full Transaction Account history to 31 March 2025 and GVROC Bank Statement Snapshot, plus Account history full transaction to date for 2024/25 financial year, 2024/25 Budget update (**Attachment 10**).

Background:

Presenting the financial statement position and the accounts approved for payment for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025. Also providing a picture of the 2024/25 Budget outlook as of 31 March 2025.

Financial Statement:

The Officer provides the following comment:

Since the last GVROC meeting for the period of 31 January 2025 to 31 March 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.
- Payment to Up-to-Date Accounting – Preparation of Quarterly BAS
- Payments to XERO Accounting System – Monthly subscription for accounting software
- Payment made to BlueSalt Consulting – Milestone payment for GVROC RCA Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Project – completion of Stage 3
- Interest earned on Bankwest Saver account and Commonwealth Saver accounts
- Refund from Australian Tax Office of GST receipts from BAS

Officer Comment:

Regarding the change of GVROC Banking facilities, the GVROC Executive Officer in conjunction with the Shire of Coolgardie has now transferred all GVROC funds from Bankwest to new accounts at the Commonwealth Bank. The Bankwest Accounts are now officially closed.

The financial position of the GVROC is tracking according to 2024/25 budget and in a healthy position, with significant successful grant funding still to come into the account when invoiced against milestones. Also of note is the budgeted amount of \$100,000 towards new projects that at this stage is unallocated but could be used towards the replacement purchase of new shared regional equipment as per the suggestion in Agenda Item 11.1. There is also the \$40,000 remaining against the allocated RCA Tree Planting Project that is now covered through the Lotterywest grant received for the project. This additional \$140,000 unspent puts the budget in a strong position.

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 transfer of business banking services has now been completed with new accounts opened with the Commonwealth Bank and the closure of the Bankwest Accounts.

2. Note that the Statement of Financial Position for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 31 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 totalling \$71,438.77 and revenue received of \$6,616.30.
3. 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 Peter Craig, Shire of Leonora

Carried

10. GVROC REGIONAL CLIMATE ALLIANCE PROGRAM

10.1 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:	March 2025
Attachments:	Regional Climate Alliance Working Group Meeting Minutes on 27.02.25 (Attachment 11) Goldfields Esperance (GE) Urban Greening Working Group Meeting Minutes on 21.02.25 (Attachment 12) Request for Quote for a landscape design consultancy to develop the Martu Bush Walk at Wiluna (Attachment 13) GEWSG Meeting Minutes on 11 March 2025 (Attachment 14) GE-RDRP PRESENTATION by Aither to GEWSG Meeting 11 March (Attachment 16)

Background:

- The Regional Climate Alliance Working Group has met once since the last GVROC Council meeting in November. Minutes from the 27 February 2025 meeting are in **Attachment 11**.
- The Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study (National Disaster Risk Reduction Fund) began in July 2024 and is scheduled to end in March/April 2025 (\$235,000).
- The GE Urban Greening Program (Lotterywest) project began in December 2024 and will run for the next three years (\$573,396). At the end of December, GVROC was notified of its success in the application to Lotterywest for the full amount requested of \$573,000
- The RCA Coordinator recently applied for two Community Water Supply Partnerships program grants for the Shire of Menzies and Dundas (\$83,000 each) This program offers grants of up to \$100,000 for community water supply improvements in areas with an average annual rainfall of less than 600mm and will have further rounds this year.
- Grants were awarded in 2024 for the Shires of Menzies and Leonora to install EV charging stations through Energy Policy WA's Chargeup WA. The project has 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.
- 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. The program is governed through the Goldfields Esperance Water Security Working Group which was established by GVROC in 2023.

Officer Comment:

Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study

Blue Salt Consultants have finished Stage 3 of the **Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study**. They have now been paid \$175,032 and will hold a meeting on April 2 to provide an overview of the economic decision-making tool and how each GVROC LGA can use this going forward.

They will engage with each member separately to then go over the tool and address any specific questions.

GVROC will not be submitting any projects to the Disaster Ready Fund (Due April 2), but outcomes from this project can help support future grant applications such as this. The project is tracking on schedule.

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 PAID
Stage 4 (Project Recommendations & Communication) Completion	15%	\$28,080	\$30,888
Total Project Fee	100%	\$187,200	\$175,032 Paid

Urban Greening Program for the Goldfields Esperance Region.

The program is tracking on schedule. 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)	

The Goldfields Esperance (GE) Urban Greening Working Group has convened once on 21 February 2025, and its Minutes are included in **Attachment 12**. The group comprises representatives from GVROC (EO and RCA Coordinator), Water Corporation, WALGA, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA), and Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC). The group will provide input and expertise to the GE Urban Greening Project, which will serve as a pilot for other remote Local Governments in Western Australia.

Training Days are planned for Leonora, Kalgoorlie, and Esperance by BGPA, which can be combined with community planting events. These workshops are aimed at LGA managers and employees who will be planting and maintaining the trees.

Dates proposed:

On 21st or 28th July - satellite trip to Esperance for 2 days, across 2 days of your preference. Possibly fly in late afternoon/early evening the day before training, carry out the training day the following day, hold the community planting day on day 2 and then fly out late afternoon/early evening of day 2.

On 11th or 18th August - Kalgoorlie and on to Leonora. Schedule could be:

- Monday travel to Kalgoorlie
- Tuesday Kalgoorlie training day
- Wednesday Kalgoorlie Community planting day
- Thursday Drive to Leonora
- Friday Leonora training day
- Saturday Community planting day

A Request for Quote (see **Attachment 13**) was sent out on the 4th of March 2025 and closed on the 19th of March for landscape design consultancy expertise to develop the Martu Bush Walk at Wiluna. Three applications have been submitted, and a meeting will be held next week to assess the proposals.

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

The grants are pending a quote from Horizon Power to upgrade power at Leonora Recreation Centre, the site of the charging station.

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

There has been no response from DWER on the two applications submitted on behalf of the Shire of Dundas and Menzies. Further applications will be submitted this year for Dundas.

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

A meeting was held by the GEWSG on 11th March 2025 and the minutes can be found in **Attachment 14** and the presentation provided to the GEWSG by Aither Consulting regarding the development of the GE RDRP can be found at **Attachment 15**.

GEDC CEO, Kris Starcevich will provide an overview at this meeting on the Drought Vulnerability Assessment and Regional Drought Resilience Plan. He is seeking feedback on the appropriate governance structure to oversee the implementation of the final Regional Drought Resilience Plan and future funding opportunities within this program.

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 the *Adapting Community Assets for Climate Change Impacts: Feasibility Study*.
2. The \$573,000 Urban Greening project is on track.
3. The Charge Up grants for EV Charging stations in Menzies and Leonora are still awaiting a quote for power upgrades at Leonora from Horizon Power.

4. The Shires of Dundas and Menzies are still waiting to hear the outcome of the applications submitted by the RCA Coordinator for the Community Water Supply Partnership Program Rounds 3 and 4.
5. GEDC is reviewing an appropriate governance structure to oversee the implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

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

Carried

11. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS BUSINESS

11.1 GVROC Shared Regional Event Equipment Pool - Update

Reporting Officers:	Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	March 2025
Attachments:	Costing for Accessible Mobile Disabled Toilet (Attachment 16)

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 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

Officer Comment:

The Shire of Esperance has provided a costing for the disabled toilet trailer they have recently purchased which was approximately \$21,000 (**Attachment 17**). Given the other quotations received for the 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 the total cost to replace and provide these new facilities will be approximately \$196,000 exc GST.

The GVROC Executive Officer has also investigated avenues for potential grant funding that could be applied to assist the GVROC with the replacement costs. From this there appears two possible options for funding being Lotterywest or BHP's WA Nickel Community Fund.

The GVROC has had preliminary discussions with Lotterywest and they have stated that they would be happy to receive an application on this for consideration. However, they have requested that in the application the GVROC would need to also provide a financial commitment towards the cost, show the need for the assets, the governance model for the ownership and use and an asset plan of how the GVROC will replace these assets again once they meet their end of life.

Looking at BHP's guidelines for the WA Nickel Community Fund if the GVROC apply it would need to come from one of the Local Governments eligible to apply and this could result in limiting its future use of the facilities to only those LGAs that are within its operations e.g. Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Leonora and Wiluna.

Based on the above it is recommended that initially the GVROC first look to applying just to Lotterywest and based on their advice that the GVROC also agree on an allocation of funds from its budget. The GVROC budget currently has an allocation of \$100,000 in this year's budget towards projects that is unallocated, and this could be used for that purpose. An application to Lotterywest could be that GVROC is prepared to commit 50% of the cost and seeks 50% in grant funding.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
CoKB

Financial Implications: up to \$100,000 contribution

Strategic Implications: Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Notes the cost received from the Shire of Esperance for an Accessible disabled Toilet of \$21,000 and the potential avenues to source grant funding (including the Changing Places Facilities funding mentioned by Mayor Wilson) to meet the total expected replacement cost for all new facilities of \$196,000 exc GST.
2. Endorses the GVROC Executive Officer to work with the CoKB as lead LGA for GVROC to develop and submit a grant application to Lotterywest.
3. Approve a GVROC contribution required for the replacement facilities out of the GVROC Project budget of up to \$100,000 as allocated in the 2024/25 budget for projects, depending on what level of grant funding can be attracted.
4. If grant funding is secured and a replacement found, the GVROC Executive Officer will collaborate with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to sell the existing toilet block. Surplus funds, minus selling costs, will return to GVROC.

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

Carried

11.2 A Digital Plan for the Goldfields Esperance Region

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
Sharon Henderson, RDAGE Director

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: March 2025

Attachments: Nil

Background:

Regional Development Australia Goldfields-Esperance & nbn local have held its first stakeholder round table to commence the design of a Digital Plan for the Goldfields-Esperance region on 25 March 2025.

This collaborative session brings together local governments, business networks, and key stakeholders to identify digital priorities, opportunities for innovation, and strategies to enhance connectivity across the region.

RDAGE have agreed to take a lead on this based mainly on Shire of Esperance and Shire of Ravensthorpe request last year. There are a number local government areas in the Eastern States that are covered by a regional digital plan that is undertaken by their RDA. Eg. <https://www.rdasna.org.au/digital-connectivity>

Once completed, it will be an extremely useful advocacy document to understand the current state of digital infrastructure, including mobile blackspots, broadband coverage, speeds, and gaps. It will also identify and prioritise areas of limited access and slow connectivity and develop an advocacy plan for new or improved infrastructure. And finally, we see this as a way to collaborate and be prepared for co-investment opportunities (grant processes, shelf ready opportunities).

Officer Comment:

The purpose of the round table meeting held on 25 March 2025 is really to provide an overview of the plan and how it will be developed. Bethany Findlay from NBN went through the stakeholder and community consultation surveys for input as sharing this will be the initial action out of the meeting. Regarding visioning, RDAGE and nbn local want to kick this off through an interactive activity as part of the agenda – it also gives some initial insights and data to start assessing.

The key to an effective plan is input from community/stakeholders, especially each LGA who can support by distributing the survey to their community and local businesses. (Mobile providers will provide the snapshot of their connectivity across the region)

Why do we need a Digital Plan for our region?



Empowered communities keep pace with change. Digital connectivity empowers individuals, stimulates economic growth, and enhances the quality of life for all community members



Using a digital connectivity plan, regions can amplify their competitive strengths, and advocate for a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous future.



Advances in digital technology have transformed the way we live, work and experience the world around us. Digital connectivity extends far beyond wires and signals.



Digital connectivity planning provides an opportunity for you to understand the connectivity needs of your region and enables you to articulate priorities so that you can advocate for the needs of your region.

Sharon Henderson is happy to provide further insights gathered from the round table on the Tuesday 25 March at this meeting and talk through the next steps and importance of developing this digital plan for the region.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note that the Regional Development Australia Goldfields-Esperance & nbn local have held its first stakeholder round table to commence the design of a Digital Plan for the Goldfields-Esperance region on 25 March 2025.
2. Request each GVROC LGA to support RDAGE by distributing the stakeholder and community consultation surveys with their community and local businesses.

RESOLUTION:

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

Carried

11.3 GVROC Housing and Land Update

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: March 2025

Attachments: BuildSkills Australia - Skills capacity study (**Attachment 17**)

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 31 January 2025 the following related housing activities have taken place in line with the above plans and strategy.

Housing Workforce Planning Roundtable Webinar Session hosted by BuildSkills Australia (BSA)

The GVROC Executive Officer attended a Housing Workforce Planning Roundtable Webinar Session hosted by BuildSkills Australia (BSA) on 12 March 2025.

The session revolved around the Housing Capacity Study (see **Attachment 17**) being undertaken which is looking to explore key strategies which can inform policy recommendations to address the workforce challenges of increasing housing supply. The study was commissioned by the Federal Government.

As part of this BSA have modelled the impact of increasing key labour supply channels on residential construction workforce numbers in four focussed areas as follows:

- Increasing apprenticeships,
- Recruiting more women,
- Making better use of migration, and
- Increasing productivity.

The outcomes from consultations including the webinar, along with BSA's research, analysis, and modelling, will be used to inform a final report with recommendations for potential policy interventions.

State Election – Housing Commitments

Under the Cook Government's - [WA Labor's Vision for Goldfields](#) it election commitments related to housing and land included:

- Invest \$20 million towards the Pringle Village stage two project in Kalgoorlie, to build up to 40 additional two-bedroom units for seniors who are independently living in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and looking to downsize their housing.
- Establish a new \$25 million Regional Housing Support Fund that will provide grants of up to \$5 million to support new housing and land supply across regional WA, assisting with a wide range of costs, with local government projects and regional subdivisions eligible.
- Double the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) construction program with over 100 new builds across regional WA, to support more key government workers such as police and teachers to live in the regions and boost housing supply, including new homes in Kalgoorlie.
- Deliver additional stamp duty relief for first home buyers in regional WA by raising stamp duty thresholds for both established homes and vacant land.

Now that Labor has been re-elected it is up to the GVROC to advocate and ensure that these housing commitments are implemented by the Government and that the Goldfields gets its fair share of the funds allocated across the regions.

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 Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas

Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Carried

11.4 Public Consultation - Review of State Recovery Arrangements

Reporting Officers:	Peter Fitchat, CEO Shire of Dundas
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	March 2025
Attachments:	DFES Letter to Shire of Dundas (Attachment 18) Factsheet - EM Framework Recovery Overview (Attachment 19) Factsheet - Proposed New Model for State Involvement in Recovery (Attachment 20) Shire of Dundas Draft response letter to the Minister for Emergency Services (Attachment 21)

Background:

In February 2025 the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has written to all Local Governments regarding its review of State Recovery Arrangements (refer to Shire of Dundas letter at **Attachment 18**).

DFES advise that since 2020, WA has faced an increasing number of large and complex disasters requiring higher levels of State Government support for recovery. Our current recovery practices have evolved and the recovery arrangements in the existing State Emergency Management (EM) Framework no longer reflect the needs of WA communities or our recovery capabilities.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) asked the DFES to review the recovery arrangements in the EM Framework. As a result of this review, DFES has recommended comprehensive amendments to contemporise the recovery chapters in the EM Policy, Plan and Procedure.

The proposed amendments will clarify when and how the State Government will provide recovery coordination support to local governments.

The key amendments are summarised in the attached factsheets (**Attachments 19 & 20**). The amendments:

- introduce a four-tiered (R1-R4) model where State involvement in recovery increases depending on the complexity of recovery and capacity and capability of local government;
- enable the State Government to appoint a recovery coordinator for a R3 recovery, and a controller for a R4 recovery;
- establish a mechanism for the State to provide support to a local government where a recovery coordinator or controller is not appointed but the local government needs some additional support (an R2 recovery);
- clarify the role of Hazard Management Agencies to initiate and coordinate early recovery activities during the response and early recovery phase;
- require the transition of recovery coordination from Hazard Management Agency to local (or State) government to be agreed and planned, with reduced emphasis on the Impact Statement as a 'trigger for handover';
- require local and State government to engage communities to understand community needs and priorities, and in the planning, design and governance of recovery; and
- require the de-escalation of State involvement and transition back to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements to be planned and agreed between State and local government.

The proposed amendments do not alter the roles and responsibilities of local government under the Emergency Management Act 2005 or the arrangements for funding provided by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA).

You can find out more details and download the draft recovery chapters from the SEMC Engage WA webpage at www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery .

The proposed amendments will be advertised for public comment between 3rd February and 2 May 2025.

DFES has encouraged local governments to consider these proposals and submit feedback by 5pm on 2 May 2025 using the survey link on the consultation page: www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery . If your local government would like more information or have any questions, please contact the DFES Recovery Strategy and Policy Team at recoverypolicy@dfes.wa.gov.au .

Officer Comment:

The Shire of Dundas has prepared a draft response regarding this matter that can be found at **Attachment 21**.

The Shire of Dundas would like to seek the support of GVROC to its response which urges the State Government to immediately review and amend emergency response policies to address critical gaps. The current system disproportionately disadvantages remote communities, increasing disaster vulnerability due to limited recognition of mining-related risks, unnecessary emergency response delays, and inadequate disaster mitigation funding.

The Shire is also requesting a formal meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services to discuss these amendments and ensure a revised emergency response framework that prioritises the safety and resilience of remote Western Australian communities.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note DFES has reviewed the recovery arrangements in the EM Framework and as a result of this review, DFES has recommended comprehensive amendments to contemporise the recovery chapters in the EM Policy, Plan and Procedure.
2. Note that DFES has encouraged all local governments to consider these proposals and submit feedback by 5pm on 2 May 2025 using the survey link on the consultation page: www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery.
3. Support the Shire of Dundas response and letter requesting a meeting with the Minister of Emergency Services to discuss these amendments.

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

Carried

11.5 State Election Outcome, New Cabinet Announced and Election commitments

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: March 2025

Attachments: [Premier announces new WA Labor Government Ministry portfolios](#)
[WA Labor's Vision for Goldfields](#)

Background:

The State Election was held on 8 March 2025 with the Labor Government being elected for a third term of government.

Labor's election commitments for the Goldfields region can be found in the attached link [WA Labor's Vision for Goldfields](#).

Officer Comment:

Goldfields Esperance Election Results

Regarding the results for the Legislative Assembly seats held in the Goldfields Esperance Region:

- the seat of Kalgoorlie has been retained by Labor's, Ali Kent.
- the seat of Roe has been retained by the Nationals Party's, Peter Rundle.

In the Legislative Council, while counting and preferences are still be finalised, Labor has lost its majority in this house and will now need to work with other parties to pass through its legislation in both houses of Parliament.

New State Cabinet and Ministries

On the 18 March 2025 the Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA announced his new State Cabinet with new portfolios created as follows:

Cabinet Member	Ministry Portfolio
Hon Roger Cook MLA	Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Transport; Sport and Recreation
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Ports; Science and Innovation; Medical Research; Kimberley
Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC	Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; Mid West
Hon Paul Papalia MLA	Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Defence Industries; Veterans; Racing and Gaming
Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA	Attorney General; Minister for Commerce; Tertiary and International Education; Multicultural Interests
Hon Simone McGurk MLA	Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women
Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA	Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara
Hon John Carey MLA	Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure
Hon Don Punch MLA	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Water; Climate Resilience; South West
Hon Reece Whitby MLA	Minister for Police; Road Safety; Tourism; Great Southern
Hon Sabine Winton MLA	Minister for Education; Early Childhood; Preventative Health; Wheatbelt

Cabinet Member	Ministry Portfolio
Hon David Michael MLA	Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Finance; Electoral Affairs; Goldfields-Esperance; Leader of the House
Hon Hannah Beazley MLA	Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne
Hon Jessica Stojkovski MLA	Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Assisting the Minister for Transport; Peel
Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC	Minister for the Environment; Community Services; Homelessness
Hon Meredith Hammat MLA	Minister for Health; Mental Health

While the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA has retained her role, the Goldfields Esperance Region has two new Ministers of note, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC who now takes on the role of Minister for Regional Development and Hon David Michael MLA who is the Minister for the Goldfields-Esperance. This new Goldfields-Esperance portfolio is a result of the Premier announcing that regional communities are a key focus of the new Cook Cabinet, with the introduction of a dedicated Minister for each region. The primary responsibility of each Minister will be to ensure regional communities have access to local job opportunities, as well as the services and infrastructure they need.

With these new portfolios, the Premier has also indicated that there will be some restructuring of the current State Government Departments to better align with these Portfolio and Ministries. It is expected that announcements on these will be made in the next month.

Labor's Election Commitments of the Goldfields Esperance region

As highlighted in the above links to Labor's vision for the Goldfields, this document contains a substantial pipeline of infrastructure projects under construction and future projects as part of election commitments made if re-elected. These include:

- New Vanadium Battery
- Outback Way upgrades - \$678m
- Great Eastern Highway upgrades – \$250m
- Laverton Hospital Redevelopment - \$35.7m
- Yilkari Industrial Park - \$30.8m
- Pringle Village Stage 2 new homes for seniors - \$20m
- GreenView at Karlkurla Stage 5 new residential lots - \$16.8m
- O'Connor Primary School upgrades - \$12m
- Coolgardie Main Street upgrades - \$7.7m
- Water Bank Project - \$5m
- Kingsbury Park youth precinct - \$4.2m
- Kalgoorlie Sporting Facilities lighting - \$2.6m
- Kalgoorlie LED streetlights - \$2.5m
- Kambalda West District High School oval upgrades - \$1.8m
- Kalgoorlie Health Campus Redevelopment planning - \$1 million
- Leonora District High School air conditioning - \$1 million
- Norseman District High School upgrades - \$850,000
- Kalgoorlie Primary School air conditioning - \$800,000

Other areas of commitments made by Labor include:

- Cost of Living Measures
- WA Jobs and Economy
- Housing
- Health
- Education and Training
- Community Safety -
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Sport and Recreation

It is now up to the GVROC and individual LGAs to ensure that the Labor Government delivers on these commitments over the next four years to hold them to account.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the outcome of the 8 March 2025 State Election and the results as presented.
2. Note the new State Cabinet and Ministerial Portfolios as announced by the Premier on 18 March 2025, including a new Minister for the Goldfields-Esperance Region.
3. Note that with the new Ministry Portfolios there may be a restructuring of the current State Government Departments to better align with these Portfolio and Ministries.
4. Request all GVROC LGAs review and know the election commitments made by the Labor Government for the region and work with the Government to ensure that these are implemented over the next four years to benefit the region and its communities.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill, Shire of Laverton

Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

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

GVROC Chair called motion to accept Late Item 12.1 to the meeting.

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

12.1 Appointment of GVROC Representative on DEMC Remote Hazards Working Group

Reporting Officers: Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer
 Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: March 2025

Attachments: Goldfields-Esperance DEMC Business Plan 2024-25 FY Final
(Attachment 22)

Background:

The Goldfields-Esperance District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) has developed a Strategic Business Plan for 2024-25 (refer to **Attachment 22**).

The DEMC is now seeking a representative from the GVROC to join a working group of the DEMC to begin addressing two priorities in the Plan – risk assessment of the hazards in remote areas of the Goldfields-Esperance District and capability assessment and planning to ensure emergency management agencies have capabilities appropriate for the risks of these remote hazards.

These objectives may change naturally as the working group forms. The intent of the initial meeting of the working group will be to create a terms-of-reference and a shared aims/objectives of what the working group wishes to achieve.

DEMC advise it is likely that it will have representation from DFES, WAPOL, MRWA, WACHS/SJA, Department of Communities and GVROC on the working group initially, and it will then expand membership as the group sees fit. A Chair for the working group will also be determined at the initial meeting.

Officer Comment:

The DEMC has formally put this request through our GVROC representative on the DEMC, Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie, seeking a GVROC nomination for the working group.

It now requires the GVROC to call for interest from the GVROC membership and to vote on a nomination as the GVROC representative to sit on the DEMC Remote Hazards Working Group.

Consultation: GVROC Chair, DEMC

Financial Implications: N/A

Strategic Implications: Improved Liveability, social and community wellbeing.

Voting: Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Goldfields-Esperance DEMC Business Plan 2024-25 FY and the formal request from the DEMC for a GVROC representative to join the DEMC Remote Hazards Working Group.
2. Endorse Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas President to be the GVROC representative to join the DEMC Remote Hazards Working Group.

3. Request the GVROC Executive Officer and GVROC DEMC Representative to advise the District Emergency Management Advisor of the GVROC nominated GVROC Representative on DEMC Remote Hazards Working Group.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone, Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Cr Sharon Warner, Shire of Dundas

Carried

13. FUTURE GVROC COUNCIL MEETINGS/FUNCTIONS

Next Meetings

The following suggested dates in 2025 have been set for the GVROC meetings.

- **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:

- 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**

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12:15pm.