



**North Eastern Wheatbelt
Regional Organisation of Councils**

Council Meeting

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Bencubbin Recreation Centre

MINUTES

9.30am Morning Tea
10am Council Meeting

www.newroc.com.au

E caroline@newroc.com.au

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MONTH	ACTIVITY	MEETING
January		Executive
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 Council refreshes itself on NEWROC Vision, Mission, Values (review Vision and Mission every other year) 🔥 Council reviews NEWROC project priorities / strategic plan 	Council
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 WDC attendance to respond to NEWROC project priorities 🔥 Submit priority projects to WDC, Regional Development and WA Planning 	Executive
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC Budget Preparation 	Council
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC Draft Budget Presented 🔥 NEWROC Executive Officer Contract/Hourly Rate Review (current contract expires June 2027) 	Executive
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC Budget Adopted 	Council
July		Executive
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 Information for Councillors pre-election 🔥 NEWROC Audit 	Council
September		Executive
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC CEO and President Handover (every 2yrs) 🔥 NEWROC Dinner 	Council
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC Induction of new Council representatives (every other year) 🔥 Review NEWROC MoU (every other year) 	Executive
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 NEWROC Christmas / End of Year Drinks 	Council

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Compliance

Media Releases

NEWROC Rotation

Shire of Mt Marshall

Shire of Nungarin

Shire of Wyalkatchem

Shire of Koorda

Shire of Mukinbudin

Shire of Trayning

Shire of Dowerin (Oct 2025 – Oct 2027)

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NORTH EASTERN WHEATBELT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 November 2025 at the Bencubbin Recreation Centre commencing at 10am.

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cr Trepp, NEWROC Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10am

He thanked outgoing Chair Cr Brown.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1. Attendance

Cr Robert Trepp	NEWROC Chair, Deputy President, Shire of Dowerin
Cr Melanie Brown	President, Shire of Trayning
Cr Gary Shadbolt	President, Shire of Mukinbudin
Cr Jannah Stratford	President, Shire of Koorda
Cr Tony Sachse	President, Shire of Mt Marshall
Cr Rod Lawson Kerr	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Peter Naylor	CEO, Shire of Trayning
Tanika McLennan	CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Zac Donovan	CEO Shire of Koorda
Ben McKay	CEO, Shire of Mt Marshall
Ian McCabe	A/CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Caroline Robinson	Executive Officer, NEWROC

2.2. Apologies

Manisha Barthakur	NEWROC CEO, CEO Shire of Dowerin
Cr Pippa De Lacy	President, Shire of Nungarin
David Nayda	CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Cr Christy Petchell	President, Shire of Wyalkatchem

2.3. Guests

Nick Sloan	CEO, WALGA (10am – 11.20am)
Kirsty Martin	Executive Manager Member Services (10am – 11.20am)
Julie Love	Employee Relations Services Manager (10am – 11.20am)
Cr Darryl Hudson	President, Shire of Dowerin

2.4. Leave of Absence Approvals / Approved

Nil

3. Declarations of Interest and Delegations Register

3.1. Delegation Register

Please find below a delegations register as per the new policy adopted in March 2017:

Description of Delegations	Delegatee	Delegated to	Approval
Records Management	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council
NEWROC Financial Management	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council Dec 2017
Bendigo Bank Signatory (NEWROC)	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council Dec 2017
Bendigo Bank Signatory (Shire of Mukinbudin)	Council	CEO	Council Dec 2017
NEWROC Website	CEO	NEWROC EO	Council June 2017

RESOLUTION

Tanika McLennan be removed as a signatory for the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils: Account Number 153435557

Manisha Barthakur be added as a signatory for the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils: Account Number 153435557

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded G Shadbolt

CARRIED 6/0

4. Presentations

WALGA presented on their employee relations service as well as member priorities.

Actions: invitation extended to WALGA to joint ROC day, letter to Western Power shared with WALGA and feedback on rural health roundtable to be shared.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 15 September 2025 and 7 October 2025 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 15 September 2025 be received.

That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 7 October 2025 be received.

Moved Cr Brown

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 6/0

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 August 2025 have previously been circulated.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 August 2025 be received as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 6/0

5.1. Business Arising

5.1.1 RPPP Funding

NEWROC was unsuccessful for its waste project.

5.1.2 NEWTravel

Members would have liked input into the recommendation to NEWTravel and for it to be discussed at a NEWROC Council meeting.

6. NEWROC EO KPI Status Report

PROGRAM	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2025	STATUS REPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional shared engineering resource model presented to members 2. Continued advocacy on power, telecommunications and provision of GP services (demonstrated) 3. Community benefit framework (renewable energy) developed for the NEWROC (and individual Shire adoption) 4. Regional subsidiary application completed and submitted for one service in the NEWROC 5. Volunteer first responders (ambulance) report completed with associated action plan and presented to all branches, St Johns and key stakeholders. 	<p>1a. HR resource engaged</p> <p>2a. Attendance at AROC with Dr Chris Rodwell and Trish Cook. Ben McKay and NEWROC EO TEAMS meeting with Western Power 29/10/2025</p> <p>5a. Volunteer Emergency Service Policy sent to ABC Mornings and referenced on 28/10/2025, discussed with Lachlan Hunter with an invitation to present to the policy team of the WA National Party in a few weeks, policy sent to Derek Collins-Hughes at Curtin University, and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Volunteering.</p>
TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NEWTRAVEL Accommodation Strategy completed, adopted and funding avenues identified, with one application submitted in 2025 2. Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builder. 	
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wheatbelt Business Network presentation to members with one collaborative low cost project pitched 	
LOCAL COMMUNITY REVITALISATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued oversight of the NEWROC Town Team Builder with forward projects presented to Council 2. Regional waste site identified and endorsed by host Council 3. Funding received towards the waste project that assists with implementation 4. Community engagement and education completed across all Shires regarding changes to waste management 	<p>2a. ASK Waste Management quote for site in the Shire of Mt Marshall. Work commenced.</p> <p>4a. Waste Sorted grant application submitted (August)</p>

**REGIONAL BRAND
ESTABLISHMENT**

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brand guidelines adopted2. Website updated and current3. Regular communication across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn4. Presentation at Wheatbelt Futures Forum5. Attendance at ALGA.6. Advocacy plan implemented and reported against (during ALGA attendance).7. Demonstrated regular communication with Wheatbelt Development Commission and RDA Wheatbelt. Attendance annually at NEWROC Council (once). | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6a. Assistance to Cr Brown for Minister Winton Round Table7a. Phone call with Rob Cossart 22/10/25TEAMS meeting with Lachlan Hunter 28/10/2025 |
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Update from Cr Brown and Cr Sachse on the meeting with Minister Winton and the Director General of Premier and Cabinet (two separate meetings)

- Discussions centred on safer roads, housing, health and renewables.
- Future policies for headworks is needed.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS**7.1. Income, Expenditure and Profit and Loss**

FILE REFERENCE:	42-2 Finance Audit and Compliance
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

Account transactions for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025:

Date	Description	Reference	Credit	Debit	Running Balance
BB NEWROC Funds-5557					
Opening Balance			177,484.04	0.00	177,484.04
01 Jul 2025	Bendigo Bank		0.00	2.00	177,482.04
01 Jul 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	71.25	177,410.79
09 Jul 2025	Payment: Sally J Design	Website	0.00	1,661.00	175,749.79
09 Jul 2025	Payment: Constructive Visual	Website	0.00	222.00	175,527.79
09 Jul 2025	Payment: Alyce Smith	TTM	0.00	1,936.00	173,591.79
09 Jul 2025	Payment: JE Planning	Housing BC	0.00	17,424.00	156,167.79
09 Jul 2025	150Square	Travel reimbursement	0.00	2,060.30	154,107.49
09 Jul 2025	Payment: 150Square	EO	0.00	3,715.63	150,391.86
01 Aug 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	71.25	150,320.61
01 Aug 2025	Bendigo Bank		0.00	2.40	150,318.21
13 Aug 2025	Payment: 150Square	EO	0.00	3,898.38	146,419.83
13 Aug 2025	Payment: Sally J Design	Website	0.00	179.40	146,240.43
13 Aug 2025	Payment: Bonnie Rock Book Club	Book Lunch	0.00	600.00	145,640.43
01 Sep 2025	Xero Australia	XERO	0.00	71.25	145,569.18
01 Sep 2025	Bendigo Bank		0.00	1.20	145,567.98
03 Sep 2025	Payment: 150Square	EO	0.00	4,072.63	141,495.35
03 Sep 2025	Payment: Alyce Smith	TTM	0.00	2,420.00	139,075.35
19 Sep 2025	Payment: Shire of Mt Marshall	INV-0131	7,450.00	0.00	146,525.35
19 Sep 2025	Payment: Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	INV-0136	7,450.00	0.00	153,975.35
Total BB NEWROC Funds-5557			14,900.00	38,408.69	153,975.35
Closing Balance			153,975.35	0.00	153,975.35

Balance Sheet

North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils
As at 30 September 2025

30 SEPT 2025

Assets

Bank

BB NEWROC Funds-5557	153,975.35
BB Term Deposit Account-1388	318,021.55
Total Bank	471,996.90

Total Assets	471,996.90
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

ATO Integrated Client Account	3,876.00
GST	(3,555.23)
Rounding	0.21
Sundry Creditors Control	1,170.00
Total Current Liabilities	1,490.98

Total Liabilities	1,490.98
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Net Assets	470,505.92
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	(13,358.11)
Retained Earnings	483,864.03
Total Equity	470,505.92

RESOLUTION

That the income and expenditure from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 and the balance sheet be received.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Sachse

CARRIED 6/0

8. MATTERS FOR DECISION

8.1. Provision of Rural GP Services

FILE REFERENCE:	Provision of Rural GP Services
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	150Square is engaged by the Alliance for professional services
DATE:	29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#1 Alliance Communique #2 Preferred GP Services Model
CONSULTATION:	Alliance
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

The Rural Health Funding Alliance continues to advocate for a preferred GP services model and funding for local governments that contribute cash to attract and retain GPs.

The Alliance website is www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au

A preferred GP Service Model (and funding) paper has been developed. It has been distributed to:

- WA Primary Health Alliance
- Department of Health and Aged Care – Thin Markets team
- WA Country Health Service (Samir Heble)
- Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride

The Alliance has been represented at the following meetings:

13/08/2025	National Rural Health Alliance Virtual Round Table – Federal Government Taskforce on Primary Care and Workforce Reviews
26/08/2025	Clare Mullen – Health Consumer Council
26/08/2025	Minister Reece Whitby – Minister for Great Southern
02/09/2025	Health Services Round Virtual Table
2 October	Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride (Federal)
7 October	Samir Heble A/Executive Director Medical Services WA Country Health Service

PROFILE:

- ✓ Case study inclusion in the Regional Australia Institute's Ambition Report. The Ambition is a 10 year plan for regional Australia. It is a set of 25 targets for regional Australia across six pillars – Population, Jobs & Skills, Liveability, Productivity & Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience and now Health. Health is a new pillar for 2025 and includes targets and measures for medical practitioners, allied health professionals, Medicare service access, potential years of life lost and accessing NDIS.
- ✓ www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au – with a new page on the supporters of the campaign, WALGA logo also added
- ✓ ABC Great Southern Radio – interview with Cr O'Keeffe
- ✓ Attendance at the CEDA lunch (health topic)
- ✓ Opinion piece by Curtin University: <https://ruralhealth.org.au/partyline/opinion-piece-should-local-government-be-responsible-for-funding-delivering-health-services/>
- ✓ Melissa Price article in The West newspaper addressing access to GPs in rural areas

- ✓ Minister for Health media release: [Rural generalists recognised as medical specialists | Health, Disability and Ageing Ministers | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)

RESOLUTION

NEWROC recommends to each member Council to:

Move a motion at their November council meeting that; The [Local Government Name] supports the policy positions of the Local Government Rural Health Funding Alliance; and calls on ALGA to commit to an impact assessment and call for action in response to local governments providing GP services in remote and very remote areas.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Lawson Kerr

CARRIED 6/0

8.2. HOUSING

FILE REFERENCE: 091-1 Housing
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: Nil
CONSULTATION: Grant Arthur, WDC
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

COMMENT

The Regional Housing Support Fund is a \$25 million commitment from the Western Australian Government to provide grants to support new housing and residential lot supply projects across regional Western Australia.

Delivering new housing in regional Western Australia can be challenging due to additional costs often associated in bringing land and housing to market. These costs include site preparation, provision of enabling infrastructure, construction and civil works – all of which impact the feasibility and affordability of projects. The extent of feasibility gaps vary across regions, depending on factors such as location, availability of local expertise, materials and labour.

The Fund is open to local governments, community housing providers and landowners/ developers to support key worker, community housing and residential subdivision projects in regional Western Australia. Grants from this Fund are to assist with addressing identified and quantified feasibility gaps, subject to eligibility requirements, and bring projects sooner to fruition.

A competitive assessment process applies to applications. The Fund is administered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (the Department).

Key workers include, but are not limited to, skilled and semi-skilled workers employed in the following industries: Childcare– Education– Emergency Services– Government employees– Healthcare– Hospitality– Retail– Tourism– Trades and Manufacturing– Transport and Logistics.

<p>Projects must be located within, or in the vicinity of, an existing regional centre, townsite or community within regional WA, excluding the Perth and Peel metropolitan region.</p>	<p>Members need to determine whether they wish to apply at an individual local government level or as the NEWROC.</p> <p>The grant is for a maximum of \$5m. Members need to determine whether this amount is enough for the NEWROC, if it is a collective application.</p>
<p>Projects must propose the delivery of three or more dwellings and/or the delivery of three or more residential lots. For dwellings, this can be across multiple lots if the delivery is undertaken as a single package. For subdivision, the proposed lots must be on a single contiguous site.</p>	

Projects must demonstrate the timely delivery of one or more of the following outcomes (Applications must demonstrate that the projects are capable, if funded, of timely delivery (i.e. at the stage where contractors can be engaged and construction begins).	Town Action Plans are focused on immediate activation. Identified lots need to be within the Shire's name and connections available (sewerage / no sewerage, water and power) – except for the development of lots.
New self-contained housing for affordable purchase or lease by key workers, located within a reasonable vicinity to employment locations, amenities and services.	NEWROC's Business Case is focused on key worker accommodation
Community housing accommodation situated within regional centres or townsites.	

Eligible costs:

- Site preparation, including earthworks, drainage infrastructure and decontamination (if relevant).
- Contribution and connection costs relating to the supply of water, wastewater, electricity or telecommunications connections to lots or dwellings, including site preparation and earthworks required as part of the delivery of these connections.
 - On-site standalone systems may be considered where they represent the most appropriate option for the provision of essential services.
 - Gas connection costs may be considered where the development includes a commercial component. Gas connections for residential uses are excluded.
- Construction of roads and/or upgrades.
- Construction of dwellings for key workers or community housing.

What's required as part of the application:

Detailed project description including copies of plans, costs, location and timing	Town Action Plans (to be completed) Each location needs site specific costs, approvals and plans (we can use example from the 4 sites as base costs) Each location needs plans / designs. **note each location must be the delivery of three or more dwellings and/or the delivery of three or more residential lots.
A schedule / project management plan	To be created
Maintenance plan for dwellings	Asset Management Policy (each Shire) Life cycle costing (can be replicated in each Shire using a common template) Forward capital budget at each Shire Resolution at each Council
Detailed project budget	To be created

	Requires finalized Business Case and costs from the WDC
Confirmed co-contribution	Council resolutions
Proof of shovel ready	Proof of land ownership for each location QS costs for each location Connections (water, power, sewerage) costs or forward plan for each location
Where appropriate, technical studies and/or evidence of discussions with relevant agencies and authorities, which may include but not be limited to planning and servicing bodies.	Business Case Town Action Plans Quotes for head works (connections)
Whether the project requires any planning, environmental approval or any other related licenses, permits or approvals to allow the project to proceed, and whether they have been obtained or estimated timeframes for obtaining.	
Applicant experience	Profile of CEO's and supporting team members (skills, experience, qualifications etc) Profile of the NEWROC Description of prior projects at individual Shire level and NEWROC Project Management Plan
Financial track records	Annual Budget of each Shire Forward financials of each Shire
Risk Minimisation	Risk Policies at each Shire Risk Management Plan to be completed
Demonstration of under supply	Business Case Case studies Letters of support
Value for money demonstration	Business Case Case studies Letters of support
Demonstration of viability and requirement for public funding	Consultation Report Business Case

The NEWROC EO has the capacity to write the grant application and would seek support from Grants Empire to review the application (est \$600).

Should NEWROC seek to apply as a collective, it is recommended the member local governments participating form a Housing sub committee to assist in the preparation of the grant application and share workloads to create and collect evidence.

This sub committee should meet as soon as possible to go through the grant application with the NEWROC EO and determine outstanding items, evidence and quotes that need to be collected.

Applications close 19 December 2025. Funding is up to \$5m.

Discussion: some LGs are ready, some are not

\$5m split is tight

We might need additional funds at each individual

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

NEWROC prepare an application to the Regional Housing Support Fund.

NEWROC make a co-contribution towards the project from its financial reserves to the value of \$XX.

Individual members, participating in the project, prepare supporting documentation and a financial co-contribution.

Housing Sub Committee (CEOs) for the purposes of preparing the application be formed, inclusive of the NEWROC EO.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC prepares an application to the Regional Housing Support Fund.

Housing Sub Committee (CEOs) be formed for the purposes of preparing the application, inclusive of the NEWROC EO.

Moved Cr Sachse

Seconded Cr Stratford

CARRIED 6/0

Meeting was suspended 11.55am – 12.10pm

8.3. MAJOR EASTERN WHEATBELT PROJECTS UPDATE EVENT

FILE REFERENCE:	130-1 Economic Services General
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#3 Draft Joint ROC Agenda
CONSULTATION:	Lachlan Hunter WEROC and ROEROC Executive Officers
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

The joint ROC day: Made in the Eastern Wheatbelt will be hosted by Lachlan Hunter MP. The day will be an apolitical and invitation only event.

The event will be targeted at Heads of Department and regional Executives and Managers of State Government as well as key not for profit/ industry associations and private industry leaders.

A list of invites is currently being developed by the EO's of NEWROC, WEROC and ROEROC. Lachlan Hunter has offered to also assist in providing additional invites/contacts.

The day will be held on Monday 16 February 2026 at Beaumonde on the Point.

The costs of the day will be equally split between the three ROCs – estimated at \$2,000 each.

The Presidents and CEO's of each of the local government members of the three ROCs will be invited to attend.

The NEWROC will reach out to the Wheatbelt Development Commission and RDA Wheatbelt to attend and support the day.

Noted

Discussion:

- Pitch the longer term vision.
- Apolitical event, consider media invite, invite all parties.
- Where is the gap?
- Articulate our region's economic contribution.

9. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

9.1. NEWTRAVEL

FILE REFERENCE:	132-1 NEWTRAVEL
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	150Square is completing the Strategic Plan refresh
DATE:	29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#4 NEWTRAVEL governance discussion paper #5 NEWTRAVEL second governance discussion paper
CONSULTATION:	Linda Vernon
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

At the NEWROC September Executive meeting, the following actions were requested:

ACTION

NEWROC CEOs in principle, support an amendment to the membership classes of NEWTRAVEL. NEWROC EO to circulate a discussion paper.

NEWROC EO continue to work with the NEWTRAVEL EO and present amendments to the constitution.

A strategic plan has been developed for NEWTRAVEL and will be presented on 30/10/2025 at the AGM in Koorda.

Additionally two NEWTRAVEL governance discussion papers have been circulated to NEWTRAVEL members (and NEWROC).

The following resolution was agreed to at the NEWROC Executive Meeting in October. As NEWTRAVEL is a separate entity the following resolution by the NEWROC is for noting.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC Executive recommends to NEWTRAVEL:

Ordinary members are local governments and businesses (one delegate).

Ordinary members are on the Committee.

Ordinary membership fee recommended at \$15K annually.

Three general meetings a year with all ordinary and associate members invited and held in conjunction with NEWROC meeting dates.

Moved I McCabe

Seconded D Nayda

CARRIED 6/0

Noted

9.2. BENCUBBIN MICROGRID FEASIBILITY

FILE REFERENCE:	107-1 Power
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
DATE:	29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	#6 Correspondence to Western Power #7 Correspondence to DEED #8 Presentation to ARENA
CONSULTATION:	
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

At the July Council meeting the following was resolved:

RESOLUTION

NEWROC Council receives the Bencubbin Microgrid Feasibility Study.

NEWROC EO seek additional information on stage 2 of the project and costs involved.

NEWROC presents the project to the Wheatbelt Development Commission and seeks assistance in engaging with Western Power.

NEWROC EO contact the City of Geraldton Greenough (Mullewa) to discuss ways to collaborate.

NEWROC President and Executive Officer meet with ARENA when in Canberra for ALGA.

NEWROC Executive recommends to Council to engage with DLGSC and Sunrise Energy to further investigations on a regional subsidiary for the ownership and management of a microgrid.

Moved Cr Shadbolt

Seconded Cr De Lacy

CARRIED 6/0

An update:

The pitch to ARENA was made by Ben McKay and the NEWROC EO. It included the following key points:

- Community led submission (not private developer)
- Opportunity for ARENA to invest in a pilot project for the SWIS
- NEWROC requested \$10m for a two stage project -\$200K start up funding and just over 50% capital cost of the project that essentially reduces the risks of the project, reduces hurdles for additional investment and will activate additional funding

ARENA requested the project be submitted for grant funding however they required a letter of support from Western Power. NEWROC sent correspondence to Western Power as well as the feasibility study.

Ben McKay and the NEWROC EO met with Western Power via TEAMS on 29 October 2025 and have requested a letter of support which Western Power will consider for stage one of the project (technical assessment, how the microgrid interfaces with the Western Power network etc).

NEWROC EO also presented to the Electricity Network Regulation team, Powering WA and Energy Policy WA on 19 August. Each of these stakeholders have received the feasibility study.

Noted

Regional Subsidiary

Letter to WP – what we want / timeline

9.3. STAFF AND ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

FILE REFERENCE:	041-9 Training - Councillors & Staff
REPORTING OFFICER:	Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	150Square is offering a training workshop
DATE:	29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER:	
CONSULTATION:	Incredible People MINT
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:	Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT:	Simple Majority

COMMENT

At the October Executive meeting the following resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION

Separate sessions for psycho/social training (Elected members / employees)

Supervisor / manager training with Incredible People.

To be held in Bencubbin in February 2026.

Cost recovery for the training day.

Moved B McKay

Seconded Z Donovan

CARRIED 6/0

An invitation will be distributed to all members in November.

Noted

Discussion:

- 5 February training date to be moved in light of Zone training

9.4. LIVE SHEEP TRANSITION

FILE REFERENCE: 130-1 Economic Services General
REPORTING OFFICER: Caroline Robinson
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil
DATE: 29 October 2025
ATTACHMENT NUMBER: #4 Correspondence to Trish Cook MP
#5 Correspondence to Dr Chris Rodwell
CONSULTATION:
STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT: Nil
VOTING REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

COMMENT

Following attendance at the AROC meeting in Northam, where Dr Chris Rodwell presented, the NEWROC EO has corresponded with Dr Rodwell and Trish Cook MP (attached).

NEWROC has written to AROC to thank them for their invitation.

NEWROC will promote the transition grants.

Crisp Wireless is holding an online grant information session and this has been shared with members.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Information is received.

RESOLUTION

NEWROC writes and engages with the Minister for Agriculture and DAFF to request funds from the Live Sheep Transition Package in the event of the grant being undersubscribed, for the purposes of the NEWROC Live Sheep Policy.

Moved Cr Stratford

Seconded Cr Shadbolt

CARRIED 6/0

GENERAL UPDATES

- Members discussed education in the district and agreed we need to clearly identify where NEWROC supports advocacy in this area.
- **Action:** NEWROC EO enquire about participation in the rural health immersion program
- Economic Development Sub Committee to meet in the near future
- Portfolio advocacy brief discussion. EO to do further work.
- Discussion on the railway line Dowerin to Northam.
- Feedback being sought on rural road speeds (110km/hr to 70km/hr). Members to respond individually.

10. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

2 December Council Shire of Mukinbudin
(morning meeting with lunch at the Mukinbudin Hotel afterwards)

Forward dates

16 February Joint ROC day; Made in the Eastern Wheatbelt (Perth)

11. CLOSURE

Cr Trepp thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 1.17pm.