

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

Did you know the Shire has a COVID-19 page on our website? This page contains lots of information, useful links, copies of our COVID-19 Community Newsletters and more. Visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx.

This edition of the Shire of Gingin's 'Council to Community' is brought to you by:



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Thank you to Anspach Ag for sponsoring the 2019 Rates Incentive Prize Night.

Our Community News

Council to Enact Rates Relief and more for the Community

On Tuesday, 7 April 2020 Council held a Special Meeting to address the COVID-19 Pandemic and measures that will need to be implemented for our Shire and its residents. Council agreed to the following:

1. Budget for a zero rate increase for the 2020/21 Financial Year, recognising that this will result in a reduction in revenue of \$215,000.
2. Make provision in the 2020/21 Budget for a reduced instalment interest rate of 2% and instalment charge of \$0 for 2020/21 rates, and a reduced penalty interest of 5.5% on outstanding rates.
3. Budget for a zero increase to Council's Fees and Charges for the 2020/21 Financial Year, recognising that this will result in a reduction in revenue of \$5,000.
4. Reduce rental payments by 50% to commercial tenants of Council properties as detailed in Confidential Appendix 1 for a three month period (April, May and June 2020), recognising that the estimated loss of revenue during this period will be \$24,000 for the three months. The reduction in rental payments by commercial properties will be reviewed by Council during the period and may be terminated earlier than 30 June 2020 if changes occur to current travel restrictions and/or social distancing requirements.
5. Grant retrospective approval to close the Shire's Gingin Administration Centre and Lancelin Office to the public for an initial period of three months whilst maintaining services to the community via alternative means.
6. Remove foliage and construct a roof over the front entry to the Gingin Administration Centre at an estimated cost of \$6,000.
7. Hood the parking meters at the Guilderton foreshore car park and remove the requirement for payment of parking fees, recognising that this will result in an estimated loss (under normal conditions) of \$52,000 if hooded until December 2020.
8. Require the Chief Executive Officer to present a further report to Council at its Ordinary meeting on 21 July 2020 meeting, providing an update on the arrangements made to address Covid-19 implications, including any proposed extension or lifting of Parts 4, 5, and 7 above.

Our Community News

These measures should alleviate some of the pressure being faced by Rate Payers in these uncertain times. Council and staff will continue to service the community to the best of our abilities and we will endeavour to continue to look for other ways in which we can help our community.

New Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installed in Lancelin

Today (9 April 2020) the Shire of Gingin can announce the successful installation of an Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging station at Wangaree Park, Lancelin. It is a 22kw fast charge station and most EV models will be fully charged within 3-4 hours.

This facility is now open for public use and it is free of charge for the first year of its trial period. EV owners are welcome to utilise this facility with their own charging cables.

There are many councils in WA who have already installed EV charging points and in 2019, the Federal Government put forth \$15 million of funding for a national EV charging network spanning the country.

The Shire's aim for installing this EV charging station is to benefit both local residents and tourists in addition to complimenting several existing EV charging stations already installed around the Shire at other locations.



The Shire takes great pleasure in having installed this new technology and trusts the community will enjoy the additional energy option.

Further queries may be directed to Yvette Cheng, Civil & Engineering Associate, on (08) 9575 5100.

APRIL

#WeAreInThisTogether

Our Community News

Fire Permits – Limited to Agricultural Purposes

Many of the Shire's Fire Control Offices (FCOs) who volunteer their time to undertake this role are currently being inundated with requests from community members for fire permits to burn.

The Shire has stated on several occasions recently via various channels that fire permits are limited at the moment and in fact, are only being issued to farmers for agricultural purposes. There are a number of reasons for this but predominantly the main reason is due to high fuel loads in our Shire (our native vegetation is generally much more dense than other areas of vegetation in the Wheatbelt) in addition to the still very dry conditions (currently consistent with mid-summer readings) and continuing warm weather. The second primary reason is due to the COVID-19 pandemic because any fire a volunteer firefighter has to attend means it is difficult for them to maintain appropriate social distancing from their fellow volunteers and members of the public who often start fires accidentally when a controlled burn gets away from them.

Winter will come and when it does, community members will be allowed to burn. Until then however, please be patient and please treat your local FCO with a little more kindness. They're volunteers and take on this role alongside full time work, family schedules, etc. If you are refused a permit by your local FCO, please do not take it personally. By not issuing permits until it is considered safe to do so, FCOs are protecting the permit holder from the risk of prosecution should a controlled burn escape from them.

Queries regarding the above may be directed to Phil Barrett, Chief Bush Fire Control Office, on 0408 943 576 during office hours.

Current Home Delivery Services and Shopping for Groceries

The Shire has observed lately that many of our community members are highly concerned about getting groceries now that the new regional travel restrictions are in place. We do understand that for those of you who formally did most of your shopping in Perth, it has been a bit of a tough adjustment.

If you've been struggling to source groceries, the Shire has compiled a list of local sources, many of whom also do deliveries. Please visit our website to view this list - www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx.

Our Community News

Weekly Covid-19 Community Newsletter

The Shire has commenced producing a newsletter which contains information relating to what activities the Shire of Gingin is undertaking to combat the spread of COVID-19, how it may affect our dealings with the community, useful links for further information, plus plenty more.

To subscribe, visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx and scroll down the page to submit your subscription request. Alternatively, please contact the Shire's Communications & Marketing Officer on (08) 9575 5150 during office hours.

WA Region Travel Restrictions and Exemptions

The new travel restrictions came into effect from midnight on 31 March. Whilst the vast majority of our Shire's residents have adhered to these new travel restrictions and have been doing the right thing, unfortunately the Shire has observed that there are some of you that are not.

Please, do the right thing. Using a backtrack to circumnavigate the Police and Military check points for the Wheatbelt region is not appropriate and you risk incurring a fine of up to \$50,000 if you are apprehended.

The community should note that if you have a question about WA's new travel restrictions then you need to contact the State Government and not the Shire. The Shire cannot answer most of the queries we are receiving. Also, **there is no application process for an Exemption**. You just need to have appropriate documentation to prove where you are going and why to Police.

Visit the State Government's website first for further details on this - www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-regional-travel-restrictions.

If you still have not found a satisfactory answer to your query on their website then please contact the **NEW COVID-19 Hotline for WA** which is **132 68 43**.

Save the Dates!

- **25 April – ANZAC Day – RSLWA's Driveway Dawn Service.** At 6am at the hour of the traditional ANZAC Day Dawn Service head to the end of your driveway, gate or balcony, tune in to ABC Radio and stand united but apart to remember the fallen, those who served and those who continue to serve. **#LestWeForget.**
- **19 May – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm, Shire Administration Centre, Gingin.** Physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public has been cancelled until further notice as part of COVID-19 measures implemented by the Shire. However, questions for consideration during Public Question Time may be submitted prior to the meeting using the Public Question Time form available from the Shire's website.