



MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

24 March 2026

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These Minutes have been CONFIRMED as the official record for the Shire of Gingin's Special Council Meeting held on 24 March 2026.

Councillor L Balcombe
SHIRE PRESIDENT

Date of Confirmation: _____

DISCLAIMER

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Applicants and other interested parties should refrain from taking any action until such time as written advice is received confirming Council's decision with respect to any particular issue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



The Shire of Gingin would like to acknowledge the Yued people who are the traditional custodians of this land. The Shire would like to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Yued Nation and extend this respect to all Aboriginal people. The Shire also recognises the living culture of the Yued people and the unique contribution they have made to the Gingin region.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors – L Balcombe, F Peczka, C Hyne, R Kestel, A Vis, J Weeks, D Wilkie and N Woods.

Staff – J Bayliss (Acting Chief Executive Office), R Wright (Executive Manager Corporate Services), R March (Executive Manager Operations and Assets), L Burt (Coordinator Governance) and Y Moorby (Governance Support Officer/Minute Officer).

Gallery – There were two members of the public present in the Gallery.

2.2 APOLOGIES

Cr L Stewart

2.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 RESPONSES TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Nil

5 PUBLIC STATEMENT TIME

Unlike Public Question Time, Public Statement Time is not a requirement under the *Local Government Act 1995* and is not listed in the Order of Business as set out in the Shire of Gingin Meeting Procedures Local Law 2014.

Public Statement Time was introduced at the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) on 20 February 2024 on a trial basis to provide an additional opportunity for the public to address Council. At its OCM on 15 October 2024 Council resolved that statements made during Public Question Time must relate to matters listed on the agenda for the meeting, and that practice has continued. No final decision has been made as to whether Public Statement Time will become a permanent part of Council's meeting procedures.

As part of ongoing local government reform measures, the State has previously flagged that model meeting procedures will be drafted which every local government in Western Australia will be required to adopt. There is currently no indication as to what the model procedures will require, and therefore there is no benefit to be gained by undertaking a formal amendment of the Shire's Meeting Procedures Local Law to include Public Statement Time as part of the Order of Business. In the interim, Council will continue to agree to include Public Statement Time at each council meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Councillor Vis **SECONDED:** Councillor Woods

That Council resolve to amend the order of business for the meeting to include Public Statement Time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
8 / 0

FOR: *Councillor Balcombe, Councillor Hyne, Councillor Kestel, Councillor Peczka, Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks, Councillor Wilkie and Councillor Woods*

AGAINST: *Nil*

There were no public statements made.

6 PETITIONS

Nil

7 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER

Nil

9 UNRESOLVED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Nil

10 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

11 REPORTS - OFFICE OF THE CEO

11.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

File	FIN/54
Author	Lee-Anne Burt - Coordinator Governance
Reporting Officer	James Bayliss - Acting Chief Executive Officer
Refer	Nil
Appendices	1. Terms of Reference - ARIC [11.1.1 - 3 pages]

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

PURPOSE

To:

1. Change the name of the Shire's Audit Committee to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee;
2. Approve the Terms of Reference proposed for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee; and
3. Confirm that the Councillors appointed as members of the existing Audit Committee following the October 2025 local government elections (at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 October 2025 Item 15.1) are the members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a term ending at the October 2027 local government elections.

BACKGROUND

General

Over the last year, the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) has undergone significant amendments.

Previously, under the Act local governments were required to have an audit committee and the Shire has an established Audit Committee made up of four Councillor representatives.

Changes

Following the commencement of the *Local Government Act Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025* from 1 January 2026, audit committees are set to become Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees (ARIC) during a six month transition period. Local governments have until 30 June 2026 to implement their ARIC.

Under legislative changes, there is a requirement to update references to the 'Audit Committee' to instead refer to the ARIC.

There is also an ability now for local governments to have a shared ARIC by agreement, however it is not currently recommended that the Shire of Gingin consider this option.

Importantly, other proposed changes include the requirement for ARICs to have an independent presiding member and an independent deputy of presiding member.

A list of reports required to be presented to the ARIC has also been legislated. These legislative requirements are listed below and have been included in the proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) (**see appendix**).

It is noted that most of these functions are broadly similar in nature to functions previously legislated for the Audit Committee with the exception of 11.e., which recognises the potential for Inquiry reports to be received from the Local Government Inspector.

The TOR also provide committee members with a clear understanding of the ARIC's objectives, areas of responsibility and structure and set out details relating to the payment of independent members.

COMMENT

Given the implementation of these legislative reforms, Council is required to:

- a. Amend the name of the Audit Committee to be the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee;
- b. Adopt a new Terms of Reference for the Committee; and
- c. Confirm the Councillor membership of the Committee.

Terms of Reference

A new Terms of Reference is required to align with legislative requirements and provide officers with guidance on the type of reports that are eligible to be submitted to the ARIC.

The functions of the ARIC, as specified in the Act, include:

- a. Receive and review reports related to local government compliance audits required under the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations and make recommendations to the council on actions to be taken in relation to those reports.
- b. Review reports regarding internal reviews under regulation 17 (which now incorporates regulation 5 audits under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*) and make recommendations to the council on actions that may be required to address any issues identified in the report.
- c. Receive and review reports on the effectiveness of the local government's systems and procedures in relation to financial management, legislative compliance and risk management, and make recommendations to the council on improvements to those systems and procedures.
- d. Receive and review reports on any actions the local government is required to take under the Act or has decided to take in relation to a compliance audit report or report into the effectiveness of the local government's systems and procedures.
- e. Receive and review reports relating to an Inquiry by a local government inspector on the things that the local government has done or proposes to do to give effect to the inspector's recommendations.
- f. Perform any function conferred on the ARIC prescribed in the regulations or another written law.

Payment of Independent Members

Under s.5.100 of the Act, committee members who are neither councillors or employees of a local government may be paid a fee for attending meetings and must be reimbursed for the actual travel and associated costs incurred in attending meetings.

1. Meeting Fees

Any meeting fee paid must be within the range set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (SAT) for independent ARIC members, which is between \$105.00 and \$1,215.00 per meeting. Whilst payment of meeting fees isn't mandatory, it is generally expected across the sector for independent ARIC presiding members and deputies.

Fees paid by individual local governments vary widely, however it is considered that, for a Level 3 peri-urban local government such as the Shire of Gingin, a mid-range fee would be adequate based on the responsibilities of the role and the number of meetings likely to be held each year.

Council has the option of setting either a specific figure or a percentage of the maximum rate set by SAT – based on the current determination this would result in a per meeting payment of \$608 or 50% of the maximum amount set by SAT.

Adoption of a percentage would mean that the payment would automatically increase if a new SAT determination is made. Administration recommends that a specific figure be adopted – this means that payments for independent committee members will be treated in the same manner as Councillor allowances and will only be varied when subjected to Council consideration (usually when setting the budget for the next financial year).

On that basis, a fee of \$608 per meeting attended is recommended.

2. Reimbursement of Travel and Associated Costs

As is the case for Councillors, independent committee members must be reimbursed for prescribed costs (travel and child care) associated with attending committee meetings. The current SAT determination is that committee members cannot be reimbursed for more than the actual cost incurred.

Common practice is for Council to adopt a per kilometre rate for private vehicle usage and to require any claim for reimbursement to be accompanied by either receipts or a signed statutory declaration. It is recommended that Council adopt the current Australian Tax Office rate for private vehicle usage which is \$0.88 per kilometre. This rate has been calculated to all running costs including fuel, maintenance, insurance and depreciation.

Support for the officer's recommendation will allow Administration to seek expressions of interest (EOI) for the positions of Presiding Member and Deputy of the Presiding Member. At the close of the public advertising period, any EOI received will be presented to Council for consideration (the Act requires appointments to both positions to be made by an absolute majority decision), enabling the Shire's ARIC to be implemented by the deadline of 30 June 2026.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Compliance Breach - Not adopting a name change for the committee will result in a breach of the *Local Government Amendment Act 2024*.

Reputation - Not having a Terms of Reference in place for the Committee would very likely be viewed as poor governance.

STATUTORY/LOCAL LAW IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

Part 5 Administration

Division 8 Local government payments and gifts to its members

s. 5.100 Fees paid and expenses reimbursed to committee members

Part 7 Audit

Division 1A Audit, risk and improvement committee

s.7.1A Establishment of audit, risk and improvement committee

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996

r.11 CEO to give audit reports to audit, risk and improvement committee

Local Government Amendment Act 2024

Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No.4) 2025

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this point. Council may wish to consider adopting a policy position in relation to payments for independent committee members when the current Policy 1.29 Councillors' Entitlements is reviewed.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil. Payments can be met from the current budget if it proves necessary to hold a committee meeting before 30 June.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Gingin Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034

Aspiration	4. Excellence & Accountability - Deliver Quality Leadership and Business Expertise
Strategic Objective	4.2 Effective Governance - Apply systems of compliance which assists Council to make informed decisions within a transparent, accountable, and principled environment.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS - ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Councillor Kestel

SECONDED: Councillor Vis

That Council:

1. Endorse the renaming of the existing Audit Committee as the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee;
2. Agree that the following members of the Audit Committee will hold the councillor positions on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:
 - a. Cr Balcombe;
 - b. Cr Peczka;
 - c. Cr Vis;
 - d. Cr Wilkie;
 - e. Cr Hyne (deputy); and
 - f. Cr Stewart (deputy).
3. Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as contained in the appendix to this report;
4. Agree that the meeting attendance fee for the independent presiding member and deputy of the presiding member of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee will be \$608 per meeting attended; and
5. Agree that a rate of \$0.88/kilometre as determined by the Australian Tax Office will be applied to claims by independent members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for reimbursement of costs associated with private vehicle usage to attend committee meetings.

**CARRIED
7 / 1**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
24 MARCH 2026**



FOR: *Councillor Balcombe, Councillor Hyne, Councillor Kestel, Councillor Peczka,
Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks and Councillor Woods*

AGAINST: *Councillor Wilkie*



TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

March 2026

Name:	
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)	
Purpose and Role:	
1.	The purpose of the ARIC is to support Council in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) financial reporting and external audit processes b) systems of risk management, internal control and legislative compliance c) internal audit functions and continuous improvement d) governance and ethical accountability e) monitoring and review of improvement strategies.
2.	The ARIC does not have any delegated authority.
Functions and Responsibilities:	
3.	The ARIC shall review and make recommendations to Council on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Financial Reporting and External Audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review annual financial statements and provide recommendations to Council; b) Consider the external auditor's findings, management letters and responses and provide recommendations to Council; c) Monitor actions in response to audit recommendations. 3.2 Risk Management and Internal Controls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management frameworks; b) Review reports on internal control systems and provide recommendations to Council; c) Monitor the implementation of risk treatment plans. 3.3 Internal Audit and Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop the internal audit schedule; b) Consider internal audit findings, management letters and responses and provide recommendations to Council; c) Review compliance audit returns and make recommendations to Council; d) Review reports issued under Local Government (Audit) Reg. 17 on financial management systems, risk management and legislative compliance. 3.4 Governance and Continuous Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review reports for legislative compliance and make recommendations to Council; b) Advise Council on continuous improvement strategies for systems and procedures; c) Receive and review reports relating to continuous improvement strategies make recommendations to Council.

Composition and Membership:	
	4. The ARIC will comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an Independent Presiding Member (Chair) (not a councillor of any local government and not an employee); b) an Independent Deputy of Presiding Member (not a councillor of any local government and not an employee); c) elected members appointed by Council; d) other independent members if determined by Council.
	5. Independent Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will be appointed based on appropriate skills, expertise and absence of conflict; b) Will be subject to terms, remuneration and tenure determined by Council resolution; c) Are expected to bring impartial expertise to the ARIC.
	6. Members must comply with the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and Shire's <i>Code of Conduct</i> for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates.
	7. Membership shall be for a period of up to two years terminating on the day of the next ordinary Council elections, with retiring members eligible to re-nominate.
Remuneration:	
	8. The Chair and Deputy Chair are independent ARIC members and will be paid a meeting fee as determined by Council within the range of \$105 to \$1,215 set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal (WA).
	9. Reasonable travel and associated expenses will be reimbursed. The extent to which an independent committee member can be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending ARIC meetings is the actual travel and associated costs incurred by the independent member demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Shire. Where a member uses a private vehicle to attend committee or other approved meetings, reimbursement will be paid at the prescribed kilometre rate adopted by Council. All claims for reimbursement must be supported by either receipts or a signed statutory declaration.
Meetings and Operating Procedures:	
	10. The ARIC shall hold a minimum of four meetings per financial year.
	11. Meetings can be scheduled by the CEO, by a written request of the Presiding Member to the CEO, or by a decision of the Council or the ARIC.
	12. The CEO and Executive Manager Corporate Services will attend all meetings to provide technical advice and guidance to the ARIC. Other staff may attend as required by the CEO.
	13. Notice of Meeting, including an agenda, will be circulated to the ARIC members at least 72 hours prior to each meeting where possible.
	14. ARIC meetings are generally open to the public unless a decision is made by the ARIC to close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 5.23 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .
Quorum:	
	15. The quorum for a meeting shall be at least 50% of the number of appointed members and must include either the Presiding Member or Deputy of Presiding Member.

Review of Terms of Reference:	
	16. These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed at least once during each Council term and as required to ensure they remain aligned with legislative and governance requirements.

Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis
1.		Committee established and Terms of Reference adopted.

12 REPORTS - CORPORATE SERVICES

12.1 SECTOR CONSULTATION - ELECTORAL REFORM DISCUSSION PAPER

File	GOV/26
Author	Rachael Wright - Executive Manager Corporate Services
Reporting Officer	Rachael Wright - Executive Manager Corporate Services
Refer	Nil
Appendices	1. WALGA Discussion Paper - Electoral Reform [12.1.1 - 11 pages]

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

PURPOSE

To consider the WALGA Discussion Paper regarding local government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the state government, specifically:

1. Full spill elections every four years; and
2. Compulsory voting at local government elections.

BACKGROUND

This report was originally presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 March 2026, with Council resolving that consideration of the matter be deferred to this meeting to provide Council with more time to consider the Discussion Paper.

In June 2025, the Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Local Government, indicated support for transitioning to a four-year election cycle, noting concerns regarding voter participation levels and the financial implications of conducting elections every two years. Similar comments were made during the Minister's address at the WALGA 2025 Local Government Convention, where the option of introducing compulsory voting was also referenced.

WALGA is now seeking feedback from the local government sector to inform its position on these matters, with a series of questions posed to support timely and considered engagement with the state government in relation to the foreshadowed reform proposals.

COMMENT

WALGA has provided an Electoral Reform Discussion Paper for Council's consideration (**refer appendix**). While Council may choose to address the matters outlined in the Paper when preparing its submission, the document is not intended to be comprehensive or directive in scope.

Local governments are requested to provide Council-endorsed responses by 27 March 2026. Submissions received will inform a report to be presented to State Council.

WALGA has posed a series of questions for consideration as follows:

1. Does your local government support half spill elections every two years or full spill elections every four years?
2. What are the key considerations informing this view?
3. If full spill elections every four years were introduced, what transitional arrangements and consequential amendments may be required?
4. Does your local government support compulsory voting or voluntary voting in local government elections?
5. If the frequency of local government elections were changed to every four years, would your local government support compulsory or voluntary voting?
6. What are the key considerations informing this view?
7. Any other comments?

The following suggested responses have been prepared by Shire officers, reflecting the content of the WALGA paper and the unique context and circumstances of the Shire of Gingin.

- 1. Does your local government support half spill elections every two years or full spill elections every four years?**

The Shire of Gingin supports full spill elections every four years.

- 2. What are the key considerations informing this view?**

Key considerations include:

- a. Reduced cost to local government and the community, with elections conducted once every four years rather than every two years.

- b. Greater governance stability, enabling Councils to work cohesively across a full term to deliver strategic priorities and long-term projects.
- c. Improved strategic planning and implementation, particularly for initiatives aligned with four-year strategic and corporate planning cycles.
- d. Reduced voter fatigue, as frequent elections can lead to declining engagement and participation from the broader community.
- e. Clearer electoral mandate with all Council positions contested at the same time, allowing the community to determine the full composition and direction of Council.
- f. Reduced potential for factionalism or staged campaigning, which can emerge where elections are held every two years.
- g. Administrative efficiency, reducing the significant organisational burden required to prepare for elections on a biennial basis.

3. If full spill elections every four years were introduced, what transitional arrangements and consequential amendments may be required?

Transitional arrangements may include:

- a. Alignment of length of service, this may require extending or shortening the terms of some current Councillors to move to a single election cycle.
- b. Adjustment of local laws, policies and/or strategic documents, including the review cycles for community plans, corporate business plans and committee appointments.
- c. Clear communication to the community and prospective candidates regarding the transition arrangements and revised electoral structure.

4. Does your local government support compulsory voting or voluntary voting in local government elections?

The Shire of Gingin supports the introduction of compulsory voting for local government elections.

5. If the frequency of local government elections were changed to every four years, would your local government support compulsory or voluntary voting?

The Shire of Gingin would continue to support compulsory voting, particularly if elections were conducted every four years.

6. What are the key considerations informing this view?

Key considerations include:

- a. Improved democratic representation, ensuring that election outcomes better reflect the views of the broader community rather than a small proportion of voters.
- b. Increased participation rates, particularly in smaller regional or rural local governments where population is low and therefore voter turnout can be very low.
- c. Reduction in disproportionate influence, where small numbers of motivated voters may determine outcomes that do not reflect the broader community sentiment.
- d. Balanced electoral outcomes, as voluntary voting can sometimes result in higher participation from individuals motivated by dissatisfaction, while residents who are generally satisfied with local services may be less likely to vote.
- e. Strengthening the legitimacy of councils, ensuring elected members represent a broader cross-section of the community.
- f. Improved community engagement and awareness of local government, reinforcing the importance of local decision-making.
- g. Greater alignment with state and federal electoral systems, where compulsory voting is well established and widely accepted.

7. Any other comments?

Many local governments, particularly smaller regional shires, experience very low voter participation rates. This can lead to situations where candidates are elected on a very small number of votes which may not accurately reflect the views or priorities of the broader community.

Low participation can undermine confidence in the local government system and contribute to governance challenges where councils do not fully represent the community they serve. Introducing compulsory voting would strengthen the democratic legitimacy of local government and ensure that a broader cross-section of the community participates in shaping local leadership.

Improving participation is particularly important given the significant responsibilities local governments hold in planning, community development and service delivery. A

more representative electoral process would contribute to stronger governance, improved decision-making and greater community confidence.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is Administration's view that maintaining the current system of voluntary voting and frequent election cycles presents a number of risks as highlighted in the Discussion Paper, particularly for smaller regional local governments, such as Gingin, with limited voter participation.

Key risks include:

- Low voter turnout;
- Unrepresentative Council composition;
- Governance instability;
- Reputational risk where perceptions arise that Council is not a true reflection of its communities;
- Reduced community confidence in local decision-making; and
- Increased potential for divisive or issue-driven campaigns.

STATUTORY/LOCAL LAW IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995
Part 4 Elections and other polls
Division 3 Ordinary elections
s.4.5 Frequency of ordinary elections
s.4.65 Right to vote

Implementing the proposed changes would require amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* and associated regulations to align election cycles, enforce compulsory voting and manage transitional arrangements for current Councillor terms.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Moving to full spill elections every four years would be more cost-effective for the Shire.

As local government postal elections are administered by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), the Shire currently incurs significant costs every two years for their services including providing a Returning Officer and staff, preparation and posting of voting packages and logistics. Reducing the frequency of elections to once every four years would substantially lower these expenses, freeing up resources and funds to be redirected toward strategic priorities and community services.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Gingin Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034

Aspiration	4. Excellence & Accountability - Deliver Quality Leadership and Business Expertise
Strategic Objective	4.2 Effective Governance - Apply systems of compliance which assists Council to make informed decisions within a transparent, accountable, and principled environment.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS - SIMPLE MAJORITY

MOTION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Councillor Wilkie SECONDED: Councillor Vis

That Council:

1. Agree that it supports the proposed legislative reforms to introduce:
 - a. Full spill elections every four years; and
 - b. Compulsory voting at local government elections; and
2. Endorse the responses to questions posed in WALGA's Discussion Paper as detailed in the Officer's report.

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Councillor Balcombe SECONDED: Councillor Peczka

That Council amend the substantive motion by:

1. Deleting the word *and* from the end of Part 1a; and
2. Inserting the following Part 1c:

A return to the First Past the Post voting system for rural local government band 3-4 elections; and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
8 / 0

FOR: *Councillor Balcombe, Councillor Hyne, Councillor Kestel, Councillor Peczka, Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks, Councillor Wilkie and Councillor Woods*

AGAINST: *Nil*

Reason for Amendment

With the introduction of full-spill elections, it is likely that an increased number of candidates will nominate for local government elections. In this context, a First Past the Post voting system would provide a simpler and more accessible process for voters, reducing informal voting and confusion. Further, this system is considered to be more supportive of community-based candidates who are not aligned to political factions, enabling them to nominate and campaign on local issues without the complexity associated with preferential voting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Wilkie **SECONDED:** Councillor Vis

That Council:

1. Agree that it supports the proposed legislative reforms to introduce:
 - a. Full spill elections every four years;
 - b. Compulsory voting at local government elections; and
 - c. A return to the First Past the Post voting system for rural local government band 3-4 elections; and
2. Endorse the responses to questions posed in WALGA's Discussion Paper as detailed in the Officer's report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
8 / 0**

FOR: *Councillor Balcombe, Councillor Hyne, Councillor Kestel, Councillor Peczka, Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks, Councillor Wilkie and Councillor Woods*

AGAINST: *Nil*



Electoral Reform Discussion Paper

1. Background

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this discussion paper is to request Council-endorsed Local Government feedback to inform WALGA's advocacy on Local Government electoral reforms expected to be proposed by the State Government, specifically:

- full spill elections every 4 years; and
- compulsory voting at Local Government elections

These options have been raised in statements by the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, but no formal proposals have yet been provided for consultation. While WALGA has relevant advocacy positions (discussed further below), the purpose of this discussion paper is to undertake early sector engagement to ensure WALGA's positions reflect the sector's current views and enable timely, well-informed and effective engagement with the anticipated State Government reform proposals.

1.2. WALGA existing advocacy positions

1.2.1. Elections

WALGA has established advocacy positions reflecting the sector's support of voluntary voting and elections of half the offices on Council every two years. These advocacy positions are provided in Appendix 1.

In late 2024 WALGA conducted a review of its Elections Advocacy Positions to ensure they reflected the sector's contemporary view.

Local Government responses at that time indicated strong (98%) support for half spills every two years, which was reflected in the adopted Advocacy Position [2.5.16 Elections](#).

While voluntary voting was supported by an overall majority of responses (74%), compulsory voting was supported by a majority (64%) of metropolitan respondents and a majority (61%) of Class 1 and 2 respondents.

State Council requested that the WALGA secretariat undertake further investigation of the implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections before reporting back to State Council.

In the interim, Advocacy Position [2.5.15 Participation in Local Government Elections](#) was retained, expressing support for voluntary voting with a note that further work was being undertaken.

This investigation was ongoing when the Minister for Local Government raised the prospect of further Local Government election reform.

A State by State comparison of electoral statistics is provided in Appendix 2.



1.2.2. Election costs

In 2024, WALGA conducted a review of five Local Government biennial election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government elections. The review demonstrated significant cost increases and concerns about the lack of transparency in costings provided by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC).

In September 2024, State Council adopted Advocacy Position [2.5.18 Local Government Elections Analysis 2015-2023](#), calling for an independent audit of the WAEC's cost allocation methods and the introduction of Service Level Agreements to ensure transparency of costing methodology.

Cost implications are a relevant consideration in assessing the appropriateness of any proposed electoral reform. However, the current lack of transparency in costing methodology makes it impossible to confidently forecast cost impacts.

This discussion paper seeks to identify the factors associated with each reform proposal that may affect election costs. This is further complicated by the interaction of possible reform options and external economic factors.

WALGA has requested that the Department of Local Government, Regulation and Industry Safety (LGIRS) and the Western Australian Electoral Commission, undertake modelling to identify the cost implications of any proposed reforms.

A comparison of available electoral costs data, State by State, is included as Table 4 in Appendix 2.

WALGA has contacted other Local Government associations to ask if they have experienced changes in costs associated with [compulsory four-year, all-in all-out](#), local government elections. As this has been the approach in most jurisdictions for some time, responses were largely unable to address changes in cost.

2. Election Frequency

Current situation

Western Australia holds biennial elections, with half of the offices on Council elected every two years for four-year terms. All other Australian jurisdictions hold full spill elections every four years (four-year terms).

Considerations

Considerations include:

- Voter participation and fatigue
- Continuity, knowledge retention and mentorship for new Council Members
- Stable whole-of-Council mandate and collective accountability
- Capacity for candidate recruitment
- Administrative requirements
- Extraordinary vacancies and backfilling
- Timing and transitional arrangements

Re-election rates



WALGA has analysed the composition of Councils following the last two Local Government elections in other Australian jurisdictions, all of which have full spill elections. A comparison of available data on re-election rates is included as Table 2 in Appendix 2.

This data suggests that on average, re-elected Council Members make up between 47% and 57% of Council following full spill elections.

By comparing over 700 consecutive ordinary election results, the review identified nine occasions when the membership of Council following an ordinary election was 100% different from the Council following the previous ordinary election. However, four of these local governments held mid-term extraordinary elections, meaning the changes in membership occurred over two or more elections within a four-year period.

Costs

In one respect, a change to a four-year cycle would reduce costs by reducing the number of elections. However, the cost of each election may increase. The WAEC uses the number of vacancies to inform quotations for the conduct of elections. Full spill elections would double the number of vacancies, with possible increased costs associated with printing and postage and increased staffing for the count.

WALGA cannot definitively determine an overall cost impact to Local Government without the requisite cost-modelling from the WAEC. WALGA has requested that the WAEC provide this modelling to LGIRS. The cost impact of a change in election frequency may also vary between Local Governments.

Questions

1. Does your Local Government support half spill elections every two years or full spill elections every four years?
2. What are the key considerations informing this view?
3. If full spill elections every four years were introduced, what transitional arrangements and consequential amendments may be required?
4. Any other comments?

3. Compulsory or Voluntary Voting

Current situation

Voting in Local Government elections is voluntary in Western Australia and South Australia. All other Australian jurisdictions have compulsory voting.

Considerations

Considerations include:

- Voter participation and democratic legitimacy
- Voter engagement, awareness and/or fatigue
- Administrative and enforcement requirements
- Application to owner and occupier rolls

Participation rates

A comparison of available participation data is included as Table 3 in Appendix 1.

Costs



The WAEC uses expected participation rates to inform quotations for the conduct of elections. It is likely that an increased participation rate would increase election costs through higher reply-paid charges and increased staffing for the count. However, in-person elections become more cost effective than postal elections at higher participation rates.

WALGA cannot definitively determine an overall cost impact to Local Government without the requisite cost-modelling from the WAEC. WALGA has requested that the WAEC provide this modelling to LGIRS. The cost impact of compulsory voting may also be different for each Local Government depending on their current participation rates and methods for holding elections, and whether these would change significantly.

Tasmania implemented compulsory voting in Local Government elections in 2022. Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT) advised that this resulted in reasonably significant cost increases. The Tasmanian Electoral Commission reported a \$9.32 per elector cost for the first compulsory Local Government elections in 2022, a 35% increase from \$6.92 in 2018. An analysis of the factors contributing to this increase is not available and it may be challenging to draw direct comparisons between Tasmania and WA.

It is likely that the cost impact of compulsory voting would be moderated if elections also transition to a 4 yearly cycle.

DRAFT



Questions

5. Does your Local Government support compulsory voting or voluntary voting in Local Government elections?
6. If the frequency of Local Government elections were changed to every 4 years, would your Local Government support compulsory or voluntary voting?
7. What are the key considerations informing this view?
8. Any other comments?

DRAFT



Appendix 1- WALGA Elections Advocacy Positions

2.5.15 Participation in Local Government Elections

Position Statement	<p>The Local Government sector supports voluntary participation in Local Government elections.</p> <p><i>Noting that State Council at its 6 December 2024 State Council meeting resolved that the WALGA Secretariat further investigate implications of compulsory and voluntary participation in Local Government elections and report back to State Council.</i></p>
Background	<p>Voluntary participation in Local Government elections is a long-established position of the Local Government sector, and was confirmed as a result of sector feedback received during the Local Government reform process.</p>
State Council Resolution	<p>December 2024 - 090.5/2024</p> <p>February 2022 – 312.1/2022</p> <p>December 2020 – 142.6/2020</p> <p>March 2019 – 06.3/2019</p> <p>December 2017 – 121.6/2017</p> <p>October 2008 – 427.5/2008</p>
Supporting Documents	<p>Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act</p> <p>WALGA submission: Local Government Reform Proposal (February 2022)</p>

2.5.16 Elections

Position Statement	<p>The Local Government sector supports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Councillors serve four-year terms with elections every two years and half of the Council positions spilled at each election.2. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for Local Government elections. If Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) remains as the primary method of voting, the sector supports the removal of the 'proportional' part of the voting method for general elections.3. First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system for internal Council elections.
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4. Councils holding elections by means of in-person, postal and/or electronic voting.
5. Current legislative provisions of Mayor/President of Class 1 and Class 2 Local Governments being directly elected by the community and Class 3 and Class 4 Local Governments determining whether its Mayor or President is elected by the Council or by the community.

Background

The sector positions on Local Government elections have been long-established. This was confirmed as a result of sector feedback received during the Local Government reform process.

Following the 2023 Local Government Elections where legislative reforms to Local Government elections processes were first implemented, sector wide consultation was conducted on key elements of the elections advocacy positions to determine if they accurately reflected the sector's contemporary view.

State Council Resolution

- December 2024 - 091.5/2024
- February 2022 – 312.1/2022
- December 2020 – 142.6/2020
- March 2019 – 06.3/2019
- December 2017 – 121.6/2017
- October 2008 – 427.5/2008

2.5.18 Local Government Elections Analysis 2015-2023

Position Statement

That WALGA advocate to the State Government:

1. For an independent Local Government election audit, focusing on the Western Australia Electoral Commission's (WAEC) service delivery and cost allocation methods and costing applications used, to confirm that marginal cost recovery principles are applied and that the costing program is being effectively managed.
2. For the requirement for the WAEC to develop and implement Service Level Agreements with Local Governments, similar to those agreements currently used in New South Wales and Victorian Local Government elections and that includes:
 - a. transparency of costing methodology,
 - b. direct engagement with Local Governments pre and post elections, and
 - c. the roles and responsibilities of the WAEC and Local Governments in the conduct of elections.



3. For a review of the legislative framework that would allow for more than one election services provider to conduct Local Government elections.
4. For a mandated WAEC Report to Parliament specific to Local Government elections post each election cycle, outlining costs, results, voter turnout and matters for improvement both in the conduct of elections and the legislation, if relevant.

Background

A comprehensive review and analysis of five election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government election against the backdrop of legislative reforms to the Local Government electoral process in Western Australia was carried out by WALGA.

With a focus on postal elections conducted exclusively by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), the analysis has found evidence of the rising cost and reduced service level of conducting Local Government elections in Western Australia.

Elected Member feedback, costs vs service comparisons and engagement by the sector with WALGA's governance services over the 2023 Local Government election period, are the basis for the position outlined above.

State Council Resolution September 2024 - 065.4/2024



Appendix 2 - Election Statistics

The data in the following tables is derived from publicly available reports issued by the respective State Electoral Commissions for the elections they conducted. The different content and format of reporting in each jurisdiction can make direct comparisons challenging.

Table 1: Comparative overview

Jurisdiction	Compulsory/optional voting	Frequency	Postal/In Person
Western Australia	Optional	Half spill every 2 years	Postal or in person
South Australia	Optional	Full spill every 4 years.	Postal.
Northern Territory	Compulsory	Full spill every 4 years	Postal or in person.
Queensland	Compulsory	Full spill every 4 years.	Postal or in person.
New South Wales	Compulsory	Full spill every 4 years.	In person.
Victoria	Compulsory	Full spill every 4 years.	Postal
Tasmania	Compulsory	Full spill every 4 years.	Postal

Table 2: Average percentage of returning Council Members (at individual Council level)

States with full spills only. Calculated using publicly reported ordinary election results including elections conducted by private providers.

State	Most recent election year Average % of Council Members who were Council Members the previous term	Previous election year Average % of Council Members who were Council Members the previous term
Queensland	2024 47%	2021 49%
New South Wales	2024 54%	2021 49%
Victoria	2024 46%	2020 47%
South Australia	2022 57%	2018 48%
Tasmania	2022 53%	2018 54%



Table 3: Percentage of all elected candidates who were returning Council Members (at State level)

States with full spills only. Official state level percentage reported by electoral commissions for elections they conducted.

State	Most recent election year % of returning Council Members	Previous election year % of returning Council Members
Queensland	2024 43.2%	2021 46.0%
New South Wales	2021 56.8%	2016/17 (amalgamations) 60.6%
Victoria	2024 43.0%	2020 51.9%
South Australia	2022 50.0%	2018 55.3%
Tasmania	2022 46.0%	2018 48.0%

Table 4: Election participation rates

State	Election Year	Election Year	Election Year
WA	2023 31.2%	2021 30.2%	2019 29.1%
NSW	2024 84.54%	2021 (2020 postponed) 83.56%	2016/2017 (amalgamations) 2017: 79.58% 2016: 79.27%
NT	2025 <i>Official report not yet available.</i>	2021 61.3%	2017 58.5%
QLD	2024 82.31%	2020 (COVID impacted) 77.71%	2016 83.04%
SA	2022 32.9%	2018 31.6%	2014 31.99%
TAS	2022 (First election with compulsory voting) 84.79%	2018 58.72%	2014 54.58%
VIC	2024 81.46%	2020 81.47%	2016 72.15%



Table 5: Election costs

Election costs invoiced to Local Governments.

State	Election Year	Election Year	Election Year
WA	2023 <i>postal elections only</i> \$5.17 per elector 1,763,392 electors (115 districts)	2021 <i>postal elections only</i> \$4.06 per elector 1,727,712 electors (92 districts)	2019 <i>postal elections only</i> \$3.70 per elector 1,619,431 electors (86 districts)
NSW	2024 \$55.67million 5,242,086 electors (125 councils)	2021 \$46million (<i>budgeted</i>) 4,838,137 electors (122 councils)	2016/2017 2017 \$19.17 million 2.73 million electors (45 councils) 2016 \$14.11 million 1.97million electors (76 councils)
NT	2025 NA	2021 \$1,864,193 142,546 electors	2017 \$1,593,775 133,927 electors
SA	2022 \$8.93million (ex GST) \$6.93 per elector (ex GST)	2018 \$6.57million (ex GST) \$5.41 per elector (ex GST)	2014 \$4.36million (ex GST) \$3.77 per elector (ex GST)
TAS	2022 <i>voting became compulsory</i> \$9.32 per elector 410,975 electors	2018 \$6.92 per elector 356,810 electors	2014 <i>first all-in all-out</i> \$5.59 per elector 375,355 electors

Note: Data in this table is taken from reports published by the relevant Electoral Commissions. Due to differences in the ways electoral costs are apportioned, a per elector cost is only provided if it was reported. Data for QLD and VIC is not clearly discernible in Election Reports, and therefore not presented in this table.

13 REPORTS - REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Nil

14 REPORTS - OPERATIONS AND ASSETS

Nil

14.1 LANCELIN COASTAL EROSION

File	ENV/17
Author	Becky Dorloff - EA to Executive Manager Operations and Assets
Reporting Officer	Ruth March - Executive Manager Operations and Assets
Refer	Nil
Appendices	Nil

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval to fund an additional sand renourishment campaign at North Lancelin and to defer the formal design process in relation to a temporary rock bag mitigation measure.

BACKGROUND

During 2025, the north end of Lancelin near the Lancelin Sands Hotel experienced an acceleration of coastal erosion leading to the loss of 30+ metres of foredune.

Between August and October 2025, the Shire undertook works in the area to protect against further erosion impacts. Initially the Shire utilised rock bags to offer a protective barrier for a couple of weeks to prevent the erosion from reaching the Hotel's foundations before undertaking grant-funded sand renourishment works.

The rock bag installations were implemented under short-term conditions and constrained by timing, tidal cycles and limited scope. These measures provided only brief protection and, in some instances, contributed to localised scour and erosion around the installation.

The renourishment process involved moving 7,000 cubic metres (around three Olympic swimming pools) of beach sand from north of the Lancelin Lookout carpark to the area immediately in front of the Hotel/Caravan Park using moxy trucks. Here it was compacted and shaped to a dune with sloping sides. The dune is specifically designed to minimise erosion scarping, but some redistribution of dune sand is inevitable as the beach profile readjusts to a more natural shape. This sand is not lost and continues to act as a buffer during storms.

The solution is designed to provide a sacrificial buffer during late storm events, but its lifetime is uncertain and it is likely to need renourishing within 6-12 months. The lifespan of sand nourishment depends on the actual weather and coastal processes experienced, however it should be noted that the works are temporary and sacrificial in nature. The coastal erosion at the Hotel/Caravan Park site is being monitored on a regular basis by the Shire and in conjunction with the Department of Transport (DoT).

Additionally, coastal surveys at six key locations along the coastline have also commenced which will provide key data for future coastal adaptation measures. The first survey was undertaken in October 2025, and the next survey is planned for April 2026.

COMMENT

Coastal erosion continues to impact the foreshore area adjacent to the Lancelin Sands Hotel, with storm events and elevated tidal conditions contributing to dune instability and a reduced buffer between the coastline and existing development.

The nourishment work is performing as expected, however the current rate of erosion may have a lifespan of six months instead of twelve months or more as was hoped, which will again put the built infrastructure foundations at risk.

The 2026-27 CoastWA Grants opened in February 2026 and close in early April 2026, which will likely mean funding won't be available until at least late August 2026. Assuming that grant applications are successful, Coastal Adaptation and Protection (CAP) grant funding can be used for sand renourishment with a 50% co-contribution. This year the funding has been modified and the funding body will consider 25% co-contribution from small-capacity coastal managers. The administration plans to apply for funding in this area as opposed to Grace Darling as part of the 2026-2027 process, given Grace Darling has remained stable compared to the northern areas.

However, the administration recognises that at the current rate of erosion there is a high probability that the existing dune will erode before grant funds are received for additional renourishment. Whilst the Shire was able to implement a very short-term solution with rock bags in 2025, this was not designed with clear parameters and objectives or clear technical specifications.

The extent of erosion is such that an urgent campaign of sand renourishment is required now as the rate of erosion has increased and the trigger point for action is within a couple of metres.

If the Shire is considering further utilising the rock bags as a short-term protection measure should the erosion speed surpass the renourishment speed, then it is recommended that a formal design and construct document is developed prior to any further use being considered.

Rock bag wall systems can provide dune toe stabilisation and wave energy dissipation when appropriately designed and located. An investigation would assess whether such a solution could be suitable at this site and for how long, having regard to local coastal processes and the intent of the Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan (CHRMAP). The current indication is that there is insufficient time to implement the design and construct drawings, and that a sand renourishment campaign is the best course of action.

Initial discussions have been held with the CoastWA funding body regarding potential funding options for next financial year and outlining a two-year strategy. The strategy has two parts. Part one is to continue with the temporary solutions including a temporary rock bag solution (design only while the CHRMAP goes through the approval process) and part two will involve undertaking a geomorphological and coastal processes investigation to improve understanding of sediment dynamics, refine hazard projections and support adaptation planning.

At its meeting on 17 February 2026 Council granted approval for the CEO to undertake a detailed design and documentation process for a temporary rock bag wall solution that could be utilised should an emergency need arise in the future. It is proposed to defer this action until next financial year, with the aim that it will be included in the CAP grant package of works. Instead, a sand re-nourishment campaign similar to the last one is proposed to be undertaken as soon as possible. Given the short timeframe and the increase in fuel costs it is likely that this campaign will be a reduced campaign compared to that undertaken last year.

Community engagement

A representative from the adjacent affected businesses has been contacted and is aware of the proposed works.

A post has been put on the Shire's website and social media channels stating:

The Shire is aware of the erosion at Lancelin and we are working together with the State Departments and local stakeholders to develop an interim solution. The aim is to develop a 12-24 month plan whilst the CHRMAP gets approved and investigations are undertaken to understand what is happening and develop some options for a longer term solution. It is understood that an interim sand nourishment campaign may be required in the short term to enable solutions to be developed.

A flyer will be developed and distributed at the Lancelin CRC and local businesses outlining what works will be happening and why to learn from the issues experienced during the last works. As the scope of works is the same as the previous campaign it is hoped that this will reduce the angst in the community experienced during the last campaign.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The rock bag design, while worthwhile, does not help the erosion happening on site now. There is financial benefit in including in the CAP grant funding particularly considering that a smaller shire like the Shire of Gingin has the potential to obtain a 75% contribution instead of 50% contribution.

Not undertaking an additional sand renourishment campaign now that the trigger point is close to being met could mean reputational damage to the Shire and also loss of property and potential inundation for the Lancelin North End Caravan Park.

Alternative rock or geotextile bag solutions have been considered and discussed with funding bodies but aren't supported even though they provide a cost-effective solution. Should the Shire choose to go down this route it is likely to impact future funding options.

If the Shire continues to fund mitigation measures to protect private land it could be perceived that the Shire has an obligation to do so, which it doesn't.

STATUTORY/LOCAL LAW IMPLICATIONS

Any coastal protection works would require assessment and approval from relevant State agencies, including the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), the Department of Transport (DoT) and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). All investigations and any subsequent works must comply with State Coastal Planning Policy and relevant environmental legislation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The adopted CHRMAP (2019) is currently undergoing a review and update process. Generally, the CHRMAP recognises that, where retreat or avoidance is not immediately feasible, interim protection measures may be considered to manage erosion risk while other adaptation pathways are explored. In this context, sand renourishment is consistent with the current CHRMAP.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

With the works on Hinchcliffe Hill and the dune management works in this area, the Shire has expended around \$322,000 of its \$420,555 budget for works in this area, with a further \$35,000 committed. It is expected that more maintenance works will occur over the next few months. However, there is about \$40,000 remaining to cover any additional maintenance works plus design works.

It is proposed that the approximately \$20,000 that was going to be used for the rock bag design solution is best used for the urgent sand renourishment campaign.

A Benefit Distribution Analysis (BDA) has been undertaken, which is a structured approach used to identify who gains, how much they benefit and when they benefit from projects. A BDA ensures that funding models are equitable by applying the “beneficiary pays” principle. This should be considered for future projects.

The table below outlines the budget implications of this proposal.

Account	Project	Description	Current Budget	Revised Budget	Surplus /Deficit
2100556		ENVIRON - Projects Coastal Erosion Works	420,555	520,555	100,000
5100581		Transfer from Coastal Management Reserve	(228,734)	(328,734)	(100,000)
			191,821	191,821	0

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Gingin Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034

Aspiration	3. Planning & Sustainability - Plan for Future Generations
Strategic Objective	3.2 Preservation & Management of Endangered Habitats and Coastal and Inland Reserves - Sustainable policy/actions supporting preservation activities.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS - ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

MOTION/OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Councillor Vis **SECONDED:** Councillor Woods

That Council:

1. Agree to defer the detailed design and documentation process for a temporary rock bag wall solution that may be able to be utilised by the Shire should an emergency need arise in the future until next financial year;
2. Authorise the CEO to authorise and execute the necessary contract documents for the urgent sand renourishment works at Lancelin North; and
3. Amend the 2025/26 budget in accordance with the following table:

Account	Project	Description	Current Budget	Revised Budget	Surplus /Deficit
2100556		ENVIRON - Projects Coastal Erosion Works	420,555	520,555	100,000
5100581		Transfer from Coastal Management Reserve	(228,734)	(328,734)	(100,000)
			191,821	191,821	0

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Councillor Vis **SECONDED:** Councillor Weeks

That Council amend the substantive motion:

1. In part 1. by replacing the word "defer" with "continue"; and
2. In Part 3. amend ENVIRON - Projects Coastal Erosion Works revised budget from \$520,555 to \$560,555 and Surplus/Deficit from \$100,000 to \$140,000 and amend Coastal Management Reserve revised budget from (\$328,734) to (\$368,734) and Surplus/Deficit from (\$100,000) to (\$140,000).

**CARRIED
6 / 2**

FOR: *Councillor Hyne, Councillor Peczka, Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks, Councillor Wilkie and Councillor Woods*
AGAINST: *Councillor Balcombe and Councillor Kestel*

Reason for Amendment

Notwithstanding the many agencies and requirements of the Shire with this project, this amendment will demonstrate and support the beneficiaries, as well as the wider community, that the Shire is being proactive in its approach to address this issue.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Vis **SECONDED:** Councillor Woods

That Council:

1. Agree to continue the detailed design and documentation process for a temporary rock bag wall solution that may be able to be utilised by the Shire should an emergency need arise in the future until next financial year;
2. Authorise the CEO to authorise and execute the necessary contract documents for the urgent sand renourishment works at Lancelin North; and
3. Amend the 2025/26 budget in accordance with the following table:

Account	Project	Description	Current Budget	Revised Budget	Surplus /Deficit
2100556		ENVIRON - Projects Coastal Erosion Works	420,555	560,555	140,000
5100581		Transfer from Coastal Management Reserve	(228,734)	(368,734)	(140,000)
			191,821	191,821	0

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY
7 / 1**

FOR: *Councillor Balcombe, Councillor Hyne, Councillor Peczka, Councillor Vis, Councillor Weeks, Councillor Wilkie and Councillor Woods*
AGAINST: *Councillor Kestel*

15 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

16 COUNCILLORS' OFFICIAL REPORTS

Nil

17 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Nil

18 MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING IS TO BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

19 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6:03 pm.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held in Council Chambers at the Shire of Gingin Administration Centre, 7 Brockman Street, Gingin on 21 April 2026, commencing at 3:00pm.