



Minutes **Confirmed**

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 16 May 2023



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INDEX OF MINUTES

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	5
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	5
3.	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE.....	6
4.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME.....	6
5.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.....	6
6.	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	6
7.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	6
	7.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 18 APRIL 2023	6
8.	ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS BY ELECTED MEMBERS.....	6
9.	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION.....	7
10.	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS.....	7
11.	MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL	7
12.	REPORTS OF OFFICERS.....	8
12.1	EXECUTIVE SERVICES.....	8
	12.1.1 MINING INDUSTRY POLICY (AMENDED).....	8
	12.1.2 HOPETOUN YOUTH SPACE LEASE AND LICENCING APPROVALS.....	12
12.2	CORPORATE SERVICES	18
	12.2.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – APRIL 2023	18
	12.2.2 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNT PAYMENTS – APRIL 2023.....	20
	12.2.3 RATING STRATEGY AND DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2023-2024.....	23
12.3	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES.....	28
	12.3.1 LRCI PHASE 4 PROJECT NOMINATION – JERDACUTTUP RD.....	28
12.4	DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	32
13	ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.....	33
14	NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING	33
15	MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS	33
16	CLOSURE	33

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MINUTES

Mission Statement *To grow our community through the provision of leadership, services and infrastructure.*

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

The Shire President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, and paid respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members:

Cr Keith Dunlop (Shire President)
Cr Sue Leighton (Deputy Shire President) (via videolink)
Cr Julia Bell
Cr Thomas Major
Cr Mark Mudie
Cr Graham Richardson

Officers:

Matthew Bird (Chief Executive Officer)
Les Mainwaring (Executive Manager Corporate Services)
Paul Spencer (Executive Manager Infrastructure Services)
Natalie Bell (Acting Executive Manager Development and Community Services)

VISITORS

Mr Geoff Vivian (Editor, The Esperance Weekender)

PUBLIC GALLERY

Ken Norman

APOLOGIES

Meredith Lee-Curtis (Executive Assistant)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Rachel Livingston (on extended Leave of Absence)

3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME

In accordance with section 5.24 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a 15-minute public question time is made available to allow members of the public the opportunity of questioning Council on matters concerning them.

Mr Kenneth Norman
1090 Woodenup Road, Ravensthorpe

Question

Mr Norman queried an entry in the April 2023 Creditors List of Accounts Paid, EFT 16439 Reimbursement made to Cr Keith Dunlop in the amount of \$2,826.43.

Answer

The Chief Executive Officer took the question on notice.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 18 APRIL 2023

(Attachment YELLOW)

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that minutes of all meeting to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

Moved by Cr Richardson, seconded by Cr Mudie **Resolution: 37/23**
That the Minutes and associated attachments of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Ravensthorpe held on 18 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Motion put and CARRIED

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS BY ELECTED MEMBERS

Cr Sue Leighton (DSP)

Attended:

- ANZAC Day event in Hopetoun – catering very good
- FBN Awards Night – good to see small business winners

Queried when the Ravensthorpe Cultural Precinct building will be officially opened, and provided an update about the Munglinup School Teachers House.

Cr Keith Dunlop (SP)

Attended FQM Meeting.

Cr Julia Bell

Attended:

- ANZAC Day event.
- Hopetoun Markets – Shire Stall
- Ravensthorpe Historical Society Meeting
- Mount Madden ‘Magical Mystery Tour’ held on 13 May (27 people attended)
- Galaxy Mine light and noise issues being experienced

Queried the progress on the Cat Policy, Mr Bill Pike, the Aged Care Units (CEO to follow up), the Multi-Purpose Room (correspondence from CRC Ravensthorpe - Liz Utting), Enduro Club issue with Galaxy. Apologised for not being able to attend the FBN Awards Night.

Cr Rachel Livingston

Nil to report.

Cr Tom Major

Attended:

- ANZAC Day event in Hopetoun
- FBN Awards Night - well done
- Winter Sports Kick-off – thanks to the Shire for assistance for the the first winter sports day

Cr Mark Mudie

Attended Great Southern Regional Road Group Meeting in Kojonup. The following topics were discussed:-

- Shires are finding projects hard to finish with cost escalations. The Group recommended Shire’s re-cost projects scheduled over the next few years. In-house approach to project delivery has kept costs in check.
- Jerdacuttup Bridge
- MRWA contract with CBH Munglinup Bin
- Fulton Hogan changing to MRWA responsibility
- \$8M funding for new roadworks program (all work to be completed by June 2025)
- Auditor for Black Spots

Cr Graham Richardson

Attended:

- ANZAC Day event.
- FBN Awards Night – well done
- Hopetoun Markets – Shire Stall – very good engagement exercise
- Fitzgerald National Park Advisory Committee Meeting – really good meeting. FRNP and DBCA full staffed. ‘Walk with the Rangers’ during Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show, sealing the road of Point Anne and Hamersley Drives, joint management of Stirling and Fitzgerald National Parks, Dieback management of Desmond Track, thanked DBCA for the fire response efforts.

Queried the Emergency Services response (Dial 000) and Enduro Club issue with Galaxy.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

10. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

The Chief Executive Officer has approved deputations from the following:

Nil.

11. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Nil.

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.1 EXECUTIVE SERVICES

12.1.1 MINING INDUSTRY POLICY (AMENDED)

File Reference:	CM.PO.1
Location:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	A/Executive Manager Development and Community Services
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date:	10 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	N/A
Attachments: <u>YELLOW</u>	1. Draft Shire of Ravensthorpe Mining Industry Policy
Previous Reference:	CM.PO.1

PURPOSE

1. This report presents a draft Policy for consideration by Council and recommends that Council adopt the amended draft Policy, with no comments being received from the public consultation and comment period.

BACKGROUND

2. The Shire of Ravensthorpe has a strong history involving mining dating back to the discovery of gold, copper and other minerals in the Ravensthorpe Range at the end of 19th century.
3. Current activity includes two active mining tenements producing Nickel and Spodumene which is exported globally through Esperance port.
4. The area is well known for its mineralogy value and within the past 20 years the local communities within the Shire have experienced the severe impacts of boom bust cycles relating to mining activities.
5. The current resurgence in global demand for precious metals and the resulting increases to commodity prices has reignited interest in the region by mining proponents.
6. In addition to the currently producing local mining operations, most recently there has been a significant increase in applications for exploration licences within the region.
7. In recognition of this increased activity Shire officers have prepared a draft policy having regard for relevant legislation and state policy provisions.
8. The draft Mining Policy was endorsed for public comment in September 2022. Five (5) comments were received back, four of these from mining companies or associated organisations. These comments related to elements that were prescriptive in nature and conflicted with State department agreements already in place, for example dieback management through DBCA.
9. Amendments were made to the draft policy to better align this with agreements and legislation, whilst retaining the intention of the Shire in relation to community sentiment regarding mining in the Shire.

10. The draft policy was put out again for public comment on 11 April 2023. This period closed on Wednesday 03 May 2023 with no comments received.
11. The draft Shire of Ravensthorpe Mining Policy intends to provide guidelines for Council and Shire officers in dealing with mining resources activities within the region.

COMMENT

12. The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) is responsible for regulating mineral exploration and development activities in WA under the *Mining Act 1978*. DMIRS was formed on 1 July 2017, as a result of merging the Department of Commerce and Department of Mines and Petroleum.
13. DMIRS' operations are divided into 6 areas including the "Resource and Environmental Regulation Group". Its purpose is to regulate the mining industry sector and to ensure the State's resources are developed in a sustainable and responsible manner.
14. In terms of approval processes and areas of authority, local governments do not have any regulatory role to play in assessment or determination of any application made under the *Mining Act 1978* (Mining Act) and *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* (PGER Act) and planning approval is not required for these activities.
15. While there is no requirement under legislation for consultation and no statutory role for local government in approval of permits and enforcements, DMIRS does have Guidelines which are used in the assessment of proposals under the relevant Acts. These Guidelines recommend consultation with the local government and establish that a proponent is required to demonstrate the consultation undertaken when an application is submitted with DMIRS. Further, proponents undertaking such activities may also seek to engage with local government in any regard.
16. The draft Shire of Ravensthorpe Mining Policy is to guide the Shire's response and position in the event proponents or the State request comment or engagement with the Shire or Council, and to clearly outline to proponents the community expectations on environmental management, as well as social and economic benefits to be derived from these extractive activities.
17. The Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plans support diversification of local industries and employment including mining, however also require that the local natural environment is valued and protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The proposed Shire Mining Policy requests applicants to include measures to deliver positive economic benefits to the local economy but not at the expense of the natural environment.
18. The *Local Government Act 1995* establishes that the local government is responsible for provision of infrastructure to support a community. Projects approved under the Mining Act can often be of a scale, and involve activities, which impact upon local infrastructure which the local government is responsible for developing/maintaining. The most common impacts can include impacts on local roads. In larger projects, this can also extend to community facilities and townships that may be utilised to support the future workforce.

19. It is important that when the Shire is engaged in a consultation exercise with a mining proponent that the Shire requests the applicant to demonstrate potential impacts that are anticipated to Shire infrastructure and that the Shire is adequately compensated for any impacts.

CONSULTATION

Shire Executive Team
Public comment

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

20. As previously stated, local governments do not have any regulatory role to play in assessment or determination of any application made under the *Mining Act 1978* (Mining Act) and *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* (PGER Act) and planning approval is not required for these activities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

21. For Council to review a final policy. If approved, the policy will form part of the Council Policy Manual and provide guidance to Council and Shire officers with regards to Mining activities within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

22. Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT

23. The following risks were identified as part of this report:

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Performance; the lack of a Council position on mining activity within the shire does not provide clear direction to Shire officers when asked to respond to mining applications.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Shire considers adopting a Mining Policy to clearly outline community expectations to mining proponents and State.
Financial; mining projects may have significant impact to shire assets and infrastructure	Likely	Major	High	The Shire mining policy to request proponents consider impacts to the Shire and community.
Environmental; uncontrolled mining activity may impact areas of high biodiversity value and overall amenity of the region	Possible	Major	High	The Shire mining policy to request proponents consider impacts to the natural environment
Reputational; Council's endorsed Mining Policy does not accurately reflect community sentiment on the matter.	Possible	Major	High	2 public consultation periods have been undertaken

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

24. Council may not approve the amended draft Policy.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

25. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024.

Outcome 1: Economy - The population is growing, in tandem with a thriving, resilient local economy

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.1	To grow business and employment

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.2	The right resources and infrastructure are in place to support local commerce and industry

Outcome 2: Community - This is a safe and family-friendly community where people of all ages have access to services and facilities, and there is plenty to blow your socks off

Item	Objectives and Strategies
2.4	People have access to attractive community facilities, activities and events which support activity and health, community involvement and enjoyment of life

Outcome 3: Built Environment - The built environment is accessible, honours history and provides for the economic and social needs of residents, industry and visitors

Item	Objectives and Strategies
3.1	The Shire of Ravensthorpe has appropriate housing choice available to the community
3.2	New development (including commercial) is of a high quality and contributes positively to the character and appearance of the town
3.3	The towns of the Shire have attractive streetscapes in keeping with local character

Outcome 4: Natural Environment - Our unique world class biosphere is valued and protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations

Item	Objectives and Strategies
4.3	The Shire's valued natural areas and systems are protected and enhanced

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.1	The Shire's community is engaged and involved
5.2	The Council ensures its decisions are well informed and considered
5.3	The Council, with the support of the community, is an effective advocate for resources and facilities which support the vision for the future

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

26. Absolute Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Leighton, seconded by Cr Bell

Resolution 38/23

That Council ADOPT BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, the amended draft Shire of Ravensthorpe Mining Policy as per Attachment.

Motion put and CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12.1 EXECUTIVE SERVICES

12.1.2 HOPETOUN YOUTH SPACE LEASE AND LICENCING APPROVALS

File Reference:

Location:	Unit 5, 99 Tamar St Hopetoun
Applicant:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Author:	Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Date:	8 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	<u>Confidential</u> Attachment 1 – Draft Lease Attachment 2 – Draft License
Previous Reference:	N/A

Confidential Attachments:

Reference Local Government Act 1995 s.5.23:

(2) If a meeting is being held by a council or by a committee referred to in subsection (1)(b), the council or committee may close to members of the public the meeting, or part of the meeting, if the meeting or the part of the meeting deals with any of the following —

(e) a matter that if disclosed, would reveal —

(ii) information that has a commercial value to a person; or

(iii) information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person.

PURPOSE

1. That Council approve the Shire to enter into the lease, including allocating required budget, for premises Unit 5, 99 Tamar Road, Hopetoun for the establishment of a proposed Youth Community Development space, and for Council to approve the Shire to enter into licence arrangements with local community groups to enable activation.

BACKGROUND

2. The Shire has identified an opportunity to lease a commercial space for the purpose of delivery of community development and support programs to engage local youth residing in and around Hopetoun.
3. There is strong support for the delivery of youth focused engagement activities within the Shire with both the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe and RAVE About Arts groups offering youth focused programs.
4. The Hopetoun CRC has been a strong advocate for a dedicated youth space in Hopetoun and has previously presented to Council on this need. The Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts groups currently use their existing spaces, hire the Hopetoun Community Hall or deliver programs at other locations. The lack of a dedicated space results in significant time spent setting up and packing away plus lack of a consistent location for youth.
5. The ABS 2021 Census reported some 292 people aged between 5 and 19 years living within the Shire of Ravensthorpe total resident population of 2,087, or just under 14%. A large and growing proportion of this age group reside in and around Hopetoun.

6. When compared to state and national average age distributions, Ravensthorpe records above average representation in the 0-9 year age groups, however representation declines in the 10-14 year age range, and is significantly under-represented in the 15-19 year range.
7. In terms of education, the same ABS data detailed 43 preschool, 168 primary, and 65 secondary students. Other Shire information sources detail that Hopetoun Primary School includes around 120 students and Ravensthorpe District High School 129 students (including the 65 secondary many of which live in Hopetoun).
8. This data reinforces the anecdotal observation that families tend to either leave the district or send children to boarding school when reaching secondary school age due to perceptions of lack of quality education and youth activity opportunities – “things for kids to do”. Retaining families in the district as children grow older is considered an essential ingredient to achieving a successful, balanced and vibrant community.

Table 1 – Shire of Ravensthorpe Age Statistics – ABS 2021 Census

Age	Ravensthorpe numbers	% of total local Ravensthorpe resident population	WA %	Australia %
0-4 years	155	7.4	6.1	5.8
5-9 years	141	6.8	6.5	6.2
10-14 years	93	4.5	6.4	6.2
15-19 years	58	2.8	5.8	5.7
20-24 years	84	4.0	6.0	6.2
25-29 years	145	6.9	6.6	7.0
30-34 years	156	7.5	7.4	7.3
35-39 years	136	6.5	7.6	7.2
40-44 years	123	5.9	6.7	6.5
45-49 years	133	6.4	6.6	6.4
50-54 years	158	7.6	6.5	6.3
55-59 years	145	6.9	6.1	6.1
60-64 years	178	8.5	5.7	5.8
65-69 years	119	5.7	5.0	5.1
70-74 years	103	4.9	4.3	4.6
75-79 years	84	4.0	2.9	3.2
80-84 years	44	2.1	2.0	2.2
85 years and over	32	1.5	1.9	2.1
Total	2,087	100%		

Source: ABS 2021 Census

9. The Shire is proposing to enter into a lease agreement with Roselea Trading, owner of Unit 5, 99 Tamar St Hopetoun as per the terms and conditions outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 – draft lease including seeking Council approval for approved budget for the term of the lease.

10. If approved, Shire is then seeking Council approval to enter into licence agreements with the Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts groups for delivery of youth focused activities and programs at these premises.

COMMENT

11. The Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts are two established and well managed local community groups and are supportive of the Shire securing the nominated space for delivery and expansion of youth activation activities and programs.
12. If approved by Council and subject to finalisation, Rave About Arts would deliver their Hopetoun 'Artitude' programs, vocals and visual arts at the new dedicated location Mondays and Tuesdays. Monday Vocals would include 2 classes and 20 students. Tuesday Visual Arts 2 classes and 26 students. Hopetoun CRC would expand its current one afternoon per week Youth Space program to 3 afternoons per week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). The new youth space could also be booked for additional events or programs on weekends.
13. A dedicated youth space and associated programming will work to increase engagement with the youth residing in Hopetoun. This is considered an important approach to counter increased graffiti and vandalism of Shire facilities experienced in recent times and to ensure our local youth are provided a range of opportunities that achieve a balanced, responsible and well developed age sector within the community.
14. The proposed premises is located immediately adjacent to the Shire managed Hopetoun Gym and is a similar tenancy in terms of size and layout – approximately 280sqm and includes a reception office area. The Shire entered into a lease with similar terms and conditions for the gym with the same owner Roselea Trading in July 2022.

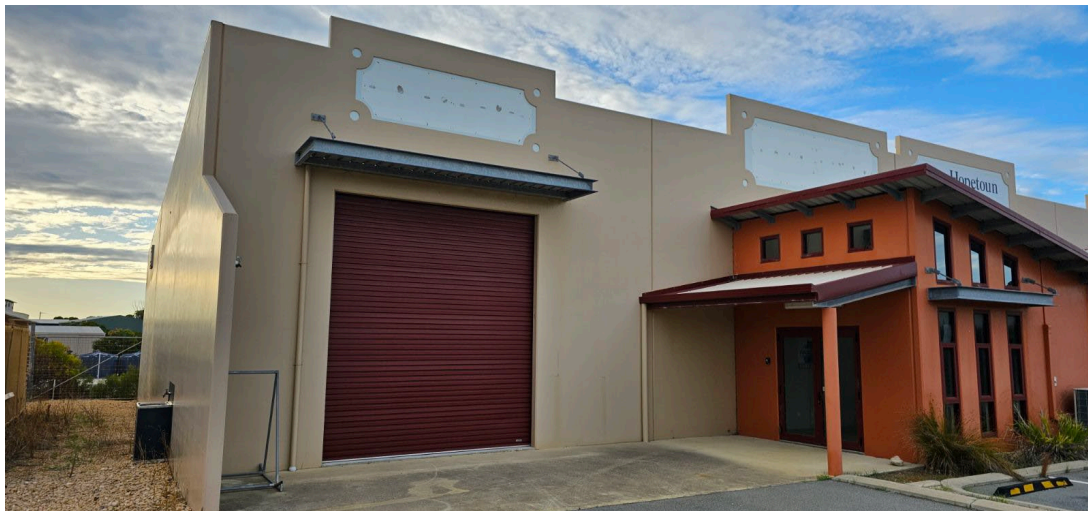


Figure 1 - proposed unit for lease

15. Leasing the 2 adjoining premises will enable enhanced Shire and community focused branding of these facilities.



Figure 2 - Units 5 and 6, 99 Tamar Rd Hopetoun

16. The successful operation of the Hopetoun Youth space will also work to achieve a number of the Shire's key Strategic Community Plan objectives and outcomes as detailed in below "strategic Alignment" section.
17. There are significant socio-economic benefits to be directly generated for the community via the successful operation of the Hopetoun Youth Space.
18. The Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts groups will be responsible for the fitout of the proposed space and are currently seeking third party including local resource company approval for this additional expenditure.

CONSULTATION

19. Local community groups including Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* section 3.58 (3) (a) if approved by Council the Shire will advertise via public notice these licence proposals.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

20. The leasing of Shire property is governed by the *Local Government Act 1995*, Section 3.58. The proposed lease schedule document is marked confidential regarding the key terms and conditions of the lease.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

21. Council approval is being sought to enter into licence agreements between the Shire and nominated community groups as per Policy LPP12 Leases and Licences.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no financial implications to Council for the current 2022/23 budget period however, if endorsed Council will be committing to future lease payments for the proposed space as per Confidential [Attachment 1](#) as well as recognising appropriate licence payments and recovery of any outgoings. As per the draft lease agreement the Shire will be responsible for maintaining the external areas of the tenancy, initial fitout costs including signage and security. The Lessor has committed to painting the interior (walls and floors). A budget allocation will be made for these activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

23. The following risks have been identified as part of this report;

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Performance (operational) The community groups do not deliver increased programming as agreed	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Licence terms and conditions include requirement to deliver minimum levels of youth programming activities.
Reputational The Shire does not respond to the increased need for a dedicated youth space.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	The Shire enters into a lease for proposed space to provide a dedicated area for delivery of youth programs

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

24. Alternate options include but not limited to;
- a) Council not support the Shire entering into lease for the space and/or granting of a licence agreement to the nominated community groups, or
 - b) Council to change the terms and conditions of the lease and/or licence agreements.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

25. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024.

Outcome 1: Economy - The population is growing, in tandem with a thriving, resilient local economy

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.2	The right resources and infrastructure are in place to support local commerce and industry

Outcome 2: Community - This is a safe and family-friendly community where people of all ages have access to services and facilities, and there is plenty to blow your socks off

Item	Objectives and Strategies
2.1	Social services and facilities are designed and delivered in a way that fits community needs and aspirations
2.2	Community groups function well with strong volunteer effort and feel supported by the community
2.3	People feel that their community is safe for all, free of nuisance and protected from risk of damage
2.4	People have access to attractive community facilities, activities and events which support activity and health, community involvement and enjoyment of life
2.5	Young people, older people and people with disability feel valued and have access to resources which provide opportunities for their development and enjoyment

Outcome 3: Built Environment - The built environment is accessible, honours history and provides for the economic and social needs of residents, industry and visitors

Item	Objectives and Strategies
3.5	The Shire's heritage structures, heritage and cultural places are valued and protected, and are integrated into community life and economic activity.

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.1	The Shire's community is engaged and involved
5.2	The Council ensures its decisions are well informed and considered
5.3	The Council, with the support of the community, is an effective advocate for resources and facilities which support the vision for the future

VOTING REQUIREMENT

26. Absolute Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Bell, seconded by Cr Leighton

Resolution 39/23

That Council BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY:

1. **APPROVE** the Shire to lease Unit 5, 99 Tamar St Hopetoun from Roselea Trading as per the terms and conditions included in Confidential Attachment 1 and allocate the required budget for the length of the agreement term;
2. **APPROVE** the Hopetoun CRC and Rave About Arts community groups to licence use of the proposed premises as per terms and conditions detailed within Attachment 2;
3. **ENDORSE** publicly advertising the above proposed licences in accordance with Council Policy; and
4. **AUTHORISE** the Chief Executive Officer to execute a licence document upon closure of advertising period subject to no adverse submissions being received and licensing conditions being to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.

Motion put and CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

12.2.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS – April 2023

File Reference:	N/A
Location:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Applicant:	Nil
Author:	Senior Finance Officer
Authorising Officer	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Date:	10 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment: <u>RED</u>	Monthly Financial Reports for April 2023
Previous Reference:	Nil

PURPOSE

1. In accordance with the Local Government Financial Management Regulations (1996), Regulation 34, a local government is to prepare a monthly Statement of Financial Activity for approval by Council.

BACKGROUND

2. Council is requested to review the April 2023 Monthly Financial Reports.

COMMENT

3. The April 2023 Monthly Financial Reports are presented for review.

CONSULTATION

4. Executive Team

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

5. Section 6.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 apply.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6. Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. All expenditure has been approved via adoption of the 2022/23 Annual Budget, or resulting from a Council Motion for a budget amendment.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

8. The following risks have been identified as part of this report;

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Reputational – That Council does not receive the financial activity statements as required by S6.4 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .	Rare	Insignificant	Very Low	That Council receives the financial activity statements as required by legislation.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

9. Nil.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

10. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024.

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.5	The value of community owned assets is maintained
5.5.1	Assets renewals and upgrades are funded to the level required to maintain asset value and agreed service levels
5.5.2	Projects are well-planned planned and delivered on time and on budget, with effective and thorough risk management and reporting
5.6	Financial systems are effectively managed
5.6.1	Financial management and reporting systems are able to deliver on all administrative and management functions (including reporting), and long-term financial planning requirements

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

11. Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Major, seconded by Cr Mudie

Resolution 40/23

That Council RECEIVE the April 2023 Monthly Financial Reports as presented.

Motion put and CARRIED

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

12.2.2 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNT PAYMENTS – April 2023

File Reference:	GR.ME.8
Location:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Applicant:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Author:	Finance Officer
Authorising Officer	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
Date:	10 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment: <u>RED</u>	Schedule of Payments to 30 April 2023 Credit Card Transactions 01 April 2023 Creditors List of Accounts Paid April 2023
Previous Reference:	Nil

PURPOSE

- This item presents the schedule of payments for Council approval in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

BACKGROUND

- Period 01/04/2023 – 30/04/2023

Month	Cheques	EFT Pymts	Direct Debits	Credit Card	Trust	Total Creditors	Payroll
Jul	9,412	1,344,302	67,653	5,967	0	1,427,333	309,447
Aug	13,186	1,135,858	130,685	3,466	0	1,283,195	302,671
Sep	7,250	996,136	43,399	7,971	0	1,054,756	302,386
Oct	9,643	769,594	76,558	7,747	0	863,543	337,295
Nov	6,218	870,407	59,909	6,864	0	943,397	455,624
Dec	10,270	1,866,819	71,121	6,537	0	1,954,748	314,391
Jan	8,802	287,567	43,935	6,337		346,641	304,371
Feb	10,798	822,870	123,746	12,870	0	970,284	345,470
Mar	6,299	982,560	133,501	3,670	0	1,126,031	306,943
Apr	10,134	771,671	59,820	6,726	0	848,351	332,900
May					0	0	
Jun					0	0	
Total	92,012	9,847,784	810,329	68,154	0	10,818,279	3,311,497
21/22	109,610	11,455,728	1,217,128	101,107	0	12,883,572	4,057,812
20/21	219,357	8,442,181	965,406	135,103	0	9,762,047	3,790,863
19/20	197,977	8,450,678	997,212	102,791	6,319	9,754,977	3,174,082
18/19	147,967	21,298,438	1,329,904	70,241	13,590	22,860,140	2,219,053
17/18	327,905	18,507,404	209,587	65,010	317,445	19,427,351	2,601,283

COMMENT

2. These schedules of accounts as presented, submitted to each member of the Council, has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which are submitted herewith and which have been duly certified as to the receipt of goods and the rendition of services and as to prices computation, and costing's and the amounts shown have been paid.

CONSULTATION

3. Accountant

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

4. Regulation 13 (1) – (3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5. Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. This item discloses Council's expenditure from Trust and Municipal funds which have been paid under delegated authority.

RISK MANAGEMENT

7. The following risks have been identified;

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Reputational; That Council does not receive the list of payments.	Rare	Insignificant	Very Low	That Council receives the list of payments as required by legislation

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

8. Nil.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

9. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024.

Outcome 1: Economy - The population is growing, in tandem with a thriving, resilient local economy

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.2	The right resources and infrastructure are in place to support local commerce and industry

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.2	The Council ensures its decisions are well informed and considered
5.3	The Council, with the support of the community, is an effective advocate for resources and facilities which support the vision for the future
5.6	Financial systems are effectively managed
5.7	Customer service and other corporate systems are of high quality

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

10. Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Richardson, seconded by Cr Mudie

Resolution 41/23

That Council pursuant to Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, the payment of accounts for the month of April 2023 be noted.

Motion put and CARRIED

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

12.2.3 RATING STRATEGY AND DIFFERENTIAL RATES 2023-2024

File Reference:	RV.RC.001
Location:	Not Applicable
Applicant:	Not Applicable
Author:	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date:	10 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments: <u>RED</u>	1. Rating Objects and Reasons 2. Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2033
Previous Reference:	Nil

PURPOSE

1. This report recommends that Council adopt the 2023/2024 differential rates for the purpose of advertising

BACKGROUND

2. Council adopted a system of differential rating for the first time in the 2015/2016 financial year.
3. As part of the budget setting process for 2023/2024 Council will consider a continuation of differential rating, noting that as part of the differential rating process as it stands, ministerial approval will be required prior to rates being struck for the year.

COMMENT

4. Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995* allows Council to implement a system of differential rating subject to public advertising, adoption by Council, and approval from the Minister for Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, before being applied.
5. The Act allows for differential rates to be applied to help overcome an issue where the land use within the rating category has a differing contributory cost to Council and therefore rates in the dollar applied are varied. The use of differential rating helps to ensure equity of contribution within the rating system.
6. In recent years the Shire has worked extensively to consider present and longer term budget efficiencies firstly through the first time introduction of an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) 2020 in an effort to give certainty to wage increases and allow for better financial controls. Notwithstanding this initial success an EBA 2023 is currently under negotiation with two unions and staff at a time of higher inflationary expectations and an increasing demand for employee conditions. Secondly the Shire has just completed a review of its long term financial plan (LTFP) that sets an agreed rates strategy, that was last reviewed by Council in May 2021 based on integrated Planning documents to achieve a community consensus of key community service strategies. This latest LTFP has taken into account the changed economic circumstances and Council input from community expectations.

7. The budget process uses a zero based budget approach where every line item is examined for the content of last years' experience to provide a predictive analysis together with the effect of any new initiatives proposed for the coming year. It is not a case of simply adding a percentage to last year's budget, however cost pressures in some areas have moved significantly.
8. The objects and reasons for the differential rating model remains relatively consistent from 2022/2023 where Ministerial Approval was last granted, with the exception of more clarity to the reason for UV categories. The UV Rural rate objective is to reflect the provision of rural services mainly involving additional fire services and high cost transportation infrastructure. The UV Mining rate is to recognise the ongoing costs involved in maintaining the Shire's substantial road network that services this land use, especially large scale equipment and constant heavy haulage operations of Mining which result in the Shire's road network requiring increased ongoing maintenance to service these users at a far greater scale than other rural uses. This aspect of increased road network costs has caused Council to consider increasing the Mining UV rate to a similar level as the rates used last year by the shires of Cue, Shark Bay, Carnarvon and Wiluna. The proposed rate of 27.000 in the dollar would still be less than the rates of 13 shires used last year, so in the context of being at the 40% percentile mark compared to other shires that rate for mining is not a historical high rate in the current climate. Notwithstanding we propose to set the minimum rate for Mining UV to 50% of the Minimum UV General rate thus maintaining a concession to exploratory leases.
9. Other than Mining UV, the proposed model attached delivers an overall increase in rate income for 2023/2024 of approximately 4.75% (an increase of 1.25% from last year's 3.50%). This percentage increase is in line with that projected in the long term financial plan rating strategy in order to maintain relatively balanced budget positions.
10. In the budget structure of 2022/2023 employee costs accounted for 99% of rates raised, therefore the outcome of EBA 2023 wage demands will have a direct effect on the percentage increase in rates revenue in order to maintain a balanced position. The timing of the conclusion of wage demands is uncertain and may not neatly fall within the required budget preparation timetable, therefore late adjustments may be required in line with final negotiations, if they can be considered within a reasonable timeframe.
11. Changes in valuation attributed to the UV categories at the time of preparing this report are still subject to the Valuer General providing revaluations for UV Rural and Mining tenements, therefore these rates in the dollar will change accordingly to achieve the same dollar yield from the proposed rating model.
12. Key elements of the 2023/2024 Rating Strategy are that rate increases have been aligned in consideration of the revised LTFP, together with the adopted Integrated Planning Suite of documents for 2020-2030. The Shire will be using this suite of documents to deliver on the clear priorities, processes, plans, budget resource priorities, direction on land use, infrastructure, services, asset management, operations, planning and workforce requirements.

13. The Shires' last comprehensive community consultative approach to corporate planning was commended on 14 April 2021 by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Executive Director Local Government, Tim Fraser, in a pilot project to develop tools and resources for Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) for smaller local governments. In this regard Tim acknowledged, with appreciation, the Shire's willingness to adopt and share a leading approach to IPR.
14. The proposed rates in the dollar for 2023/2024 are outlined below and in the attached model:

RATING CATEGORY	2022/23 RATE Cent in \$	2023/24 RATE Cent in \$
GRV Residential	11.2618	11.7967
GRV Commercial	16.8599	14.4823
GRV Industrial	13.8256	14.4823
GRV Transient Workforce / Short Stay	28.9034	30.2765
Unimproved Valuation	0.006149	0.006441
UV Mining Tenements	0.081471	0.270000
<u>Minimum Rates</u>		
GRV Residential/Commercial/Industrial	\$937	\$982
GRV Transient Workforce / Short Stay	\$915	\$982
Unimproved Valuation	\$915	\$958
UV Mining Tenements	\$345	\$479

CONSULTATION

15. Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

16. *Local Government Act 1995* - Sections 6.33, 6.35 and 6.36.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

17. Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. It is estimated the overall rate yield, based on the proposed rates in the dollar, in 2023/2024 will be \$5.7 million

RISK MANAGEMENT

19. The following risks have been identified as part of this report;

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Financial	Likely	Major	High	Set a sufficient rate to meet budget deficit
Reputational	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Insufficient rate increase will cause future rating shocks

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

20. 1% of rates is worth about \$57,000 for additional project initiatives.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

21. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024.

Outcome 1: Economy - The population is growing, in tandem with a thriving, resilient local economy

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.2	The right resources and infrastructure are in place to support local commerce and industry

Outcome 2: Community - This is a safe and family-friendly community where people of all ages have access to services and facilities, and there is plenty to blow your socks off

Item	Objectives and Strategies
2.4	People have access to attractive community facilities, activities and events which support activity and health, community involvement and enjoyment of life

Outcome 3: Built Environment - The built environment is accessible, honours history and provides for the economic and social needs of residents, industry and visitors

Item	Objectives and Strategies
3.3	The towns of the Shire have attractive streetscapes in keeping with local character

Outcome 4: Natural Environment - Our unique world class biosphere is valued and protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations

Item	Objectives and Strategies
4.4	Energy is used efficiently and there is an increased use of renewable energy in the Shire

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.2	The Council ensures its decisions are well informed and considered
5.4	The Shire of Ravensthorpe is known as a good employer, and staff have the capacity and skills to deliver identified services and strategies
5.5	The value of community owned assets is maintained
5.6	Financial systems are effectively managed

VOTING REQUIREMENT

22. Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Major, seconded by Cr Mudie

Resolution 42/23

That Council

1. **ENDORSE the following differential rates across all categories to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2023/2024 budget.**

	Cost in \$	Minimum
GRV Residential	0.117967	\$982.00
GRV Commercial	0.144823	\$982.00
GRV Industrial	0.144823	\$982.00

	Cost in \$	Minimum
GRV – Transient Workforce Camps / Short Stay Accommodation	0.302765	\$982.00
UV - Rural	0.006441	\$958.00
UV – Mining	0.270000	\$479.00

2. **ADOPT the Objectives and Reasons for the Proposed Differential rates for 2023/2024;**
3. **AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the differential rates and call for public submissions in accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995* for a minimum of 21 days;**
4. **AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to make application to seek Ministerial approval under Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to impose differential rates that are more than twice the lowest differential rate being imposed; and**
5. **ADOPT the revised Long Term Financial Plan 2023-2033 as the current rating strategy.**

Motion put and CARRIED

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.3 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

12.3.1 LRCI PHASE 4 PROJECT NOMINATION – JERDACUTTUP RD

File Reference:

Location:	Shire of Ravensthorpe
Applicant:	Nil
Author:	Executive Manager Infrastructure Services
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Date:	10 May 2023
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachment:	
Previous Reference:	Nil

PURPOSE

- To obtain Council’s approval to nominate a road improvement project on Jerdacuttup Rd for grant funding under 2023-2024 Local Roads Community Infrastructure Programme Phase 4 (LRCI Phase 4)

BACKGROUND

- The LRCI Phase 4 has allocated the following funds to the Shire of Ravensthorpe:

**Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program - Phase 4
Nominal Funding Allocations**

Part A - \$500 million allocation for roads and community infrastructure projects – all councils

Part B - \$250 million allocation for road only projects (for eligible non-urban areas)

State	Council/Eligible Funding Recipient	Nominal Funding Allocation (\$) Phase 4 - Part A \$500m*	Nominal Funding Allocation (\$) Phase 4 - Part B \$250m**	Total Nominal Funding Allocation Phase 4 \$750m
WA	Shire of Ravensthorpe	\$513,120	\$295,979	\$809,099

- Funds from earlier phases of the LRCI Program have been focussed on Community Infrastructure and the intent is to use Phase 4 funds for Road Infrastructure
- Jerdacuttup Road is a key road in the Shire, it is listed as regionally significant by the Great Southern Road Group in their Roads 2040 Plan, it provides a vital connection between Hopetoun and Esperance, particularly for the tourism and agricultural industries.
- Traffic Counts in the area taken during the period 16-1-2023 to 19-02-2023 show significant usage as shown below:

Location	Total Usage	Daily Average
Jerdacuttup Rd SLK11.800 – 100m West of Tamarine	1492	298
Jerdacuttup Rd SLK12.000 – 100m East of Tamarine	1655	331
Jerdacuttup Rd SLK28.000 – 100m West of Fence Rd	860	172
Jerdacuttup Rd SLK28.300 – 100m East of Fence Rd	887	177
Tamarine Rd SLK0.100 – 100m South of Jerdacuttup Rd	345	69

6. It is interesting to note the effects of mine traffic:
 - a) 331 daily road users east of Tamarine Rd and 172 daily road users west of Fence Rd, indicating a large number of vehicles leave the road at the mine gate, including trucks and staff; and
 - b) 331 daily road users east of Tamarine Rd and 298 daily road users west of Fence Rd, this difference includes the two road trains transporting limestone from Tamarine Rd to the mine.
7. It is also interesting to compare this daily usage to the MRWA South Coast Highway (taken from: <https://trafficmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/map>) running almost parallel and slightly to the north of Jerdacuttup Rd:
 - 860 vehicles per day (just east of Ravensthorpe)
 - 688 vehicles per day (just west of Munglinup)
8. These results show that Jerdacuttup Rd is relatively busy road, running at around 25-40% of MRWA levels.
9. Road Group Projects on Jerdacuttup Rd include :
 - a) 2022-2023 rehabilitation of a 500m section in front of the Jerdacuttup School, this work included lime stabilisation of the existing pavement, a 200mm lift with new gravel and cement stabilization of this new layer, followed by a two coat emulsion seal with 14 / 7mm aggregate, this work was completed in early May, costs have not yet been finalized, but are expected to be in the order of \$200,000, slightly less than the original budget of \$250,000
 - b) 2023-2023 : real-sealing of 5km between SLK9.74-4.74km just east of Tamarine Rd intersection (approved for next year)
 - c) Future 3yr plan includes some nominated projects, which are not approved yet:
 - i. 5km of re-sealing per year
 - ii. and
 - iii. stabilization works between Mine Gate and Fence Road
10. The condition of Jerdacuttup Road deteriorated significantly in late 2022 following two wet winters, requiring significant patching works (at selected locations) done east of the southern entrance to the FQM mine site at SLK 21.400 to Fence Rd and from Fence Road to the South Coast Highway. This work included cement stabilization of a 200mm layer of existing pavement and 50mm gravel topping supplied to enable workability (not a substantial lift like the works done at the school), this is because the patches need to match the level of the surrounding pavement. Followed by a 14/7mm emulsion reseal. The intent of this work was to re-establish a safe running surface and keep the road open, but these improvements would not address underlying deficiencies in the road structure.
11. Construction history indicates that sections of Jerdacuttup Rd were built separately as follows:
 - a) Tamarine Road to Mine Gate: was built by contractors under BHP Mine supervision to carry significant traffic, including limestone from Tamarine Rd.

- b) Mine Gate to Fence Road: was built by Shire staff possibly to a lower standard than the BHP/Contractor section, this may have been budget or time related. It is visibly obvious that the road in this section has very shallow table drains, implying that the pavement layer is much thinner than the BHP section. This results in two related problems, firstly the thinner pavement layer has a lower strength and secondly the pavement is more likely to get wet, which further reduces its strength.
12. It is not surprising that a high percentage of the patching work currently underway is in this section between the Mine Gate and Fence Rd that was built to a lower standard, even though it has lower traffic usage than the section west of the Mine Gate.
13. This paper proposes using the LRCI Phase 4 funds to conduct works that both repair and strengthen the road for the long term, similar to those done near the Jerdacuttup School (which includes lime stabilization, a 200mm lift, cement stabilization and a 14/7mm seal), but this time in the area between the SLK21.400 Mine Gate and SLK28.100 Fence Road. With \$809,099 in funds available and an approximate cost of \$200,000 per 500m, it is expected that 2km of the road can be improved significantly, reducing the chances of the numerous road failures experienced in late 2022.
14. The 2km section to be improved is nominated to be in the section from SLK21.400-28.100km, the entire 6.7km section will be monitored over the winter months to ensure the most deserving section or sections of the road are addressed to optimize the benefits of the works.

COMMENT

15. This project proposal will improve 2km of Jerdacuttup Rd, however there are 6.7km of road in similar condition and will require strengthening in the future, it is hoped that additional funds can be obtained from other grant sources including Road Group and the Secondary Freight Network, a new 2 year program commencing in 2023-24.

CONSULTATION

16. Executive Team and Works Supervisor

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

17. Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

18. Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. Use LRCI Phase 4 funds to support other road and/or community projects and apply for 2024-25 Regional Road Group Project funding and/or other grants if such opportunities arise.

RISK MANAGEMENT

20. The works will require the use of private contractors, recent experience has shown that the industry is busy, contractors are hard to find and prices are escalating, however, it is expected to be manageable, as a last resort the scope of work could be reduced to match the funds available under the grant, or increased if quotations are lower than expected.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

21. That the Jerdacuttup Road deterioration rate slows enough to enable the Shire of Ravensthorpe to apply for and secure Road Group Project grants in 2024-25 (and beyond) to fund the necessary repairs.
22. That Council consider other road or community projects for endorsement.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

23. This item is relevant to the Councils approved Strategic Community Plan 2030 and Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022

Outcome 1: Economy - The population is growing, in tandem with a thriving, resilient local economy

Item	Objectives and Strategies
1.2	The right resources and infrastructure are in place to support local commerce and industry

Outcome 5: Governance and Leadership - The Shire of Ravensthorpe partners the community, and is an effective advocate and responsible steward

Item	Objectives and Strategies
5.3	The Council, with the support of the community, is an effective advocate for resources and facilities which support the vision for the future

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

24. Absolute Majority

COUNCIL DECISION

Moved by Cr Richardson, seconded by Cr Leighton

Resolution 43/23

That Council ENDORSES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY the CEO to propose 2km of road improvement works on Jerdacuttup Road between SLK21.400-28.100 to be the preferred project nomination for the 2023-2024 LRCI Programme Phase 4 for \$809,099, (the full amount available), subject to the grant guidelines and agreements to be finalised by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Motion put and CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

6/0

Cr Rachel Livingston absent for the vote

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12.4 DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil.

13 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

14 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING

Nil.

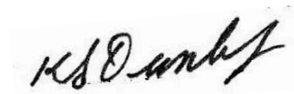
15 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

16 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.31pm.

These minutes to be confirmed at the meeting of 20 June 2023.



Signed by the Shire President:

(Presiding Person at the meeting of which the minutes were confirmed.)

Date: 20 June 2023