



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Photo Credit: Ben King

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

WELCOME!

Every year the Shire provides vital community services. The Annual Report is where we can highlight our achievements; and the progress we've made towards realising the strategic goals identified in our 2021 – 2031 Community Plan. The Annual Report is one of our key reporting devices, providing information to the Community on the work completed in the past financial year. The Report details our operational performance and outlines the achievements and challenges we experience throughout the year.

WHERE TO FIND THIS REPORT

The report can be obtained in hard copy from the Shire Administration Office and Libraries, or can be viewed Online:

<https://www.jerramungup.wa.gov.au>

Email: council@jerramungup.wa.gov.au

Feedback on the report can be provided at the Shire Administration Office or emailed to council@jerramungup.wa.gov.au





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND INDIGENOUS HISTORY

The Shire of Jerramungup acknowledges the Goreng people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land of the district. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing relationship with the land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

OUR VISION

“Progressive, Prosperous
and a Premium Place
to Live and Visit.”

OUR VALUES

Quality We ensure quality in everything we do

Trust We are trustworthy and act with honesty and integrity at all times

Respect We treat each other, all members of our community and visitors with respect

Unity We are a united team

Aspire We aspire to continuously improve our skills and the services we deliver for our community

OUR HISTORY

The Shire is located within the Great Southern region of Western Australia, 180 kilometres northeast of Albany and 440 kilometres southeast of the state capital, Perth. The Shire covers an area of 6,507 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 1,133. The area is recognised as a strong agricultural region for grain and livestock production, with high biodiversity values, strong tourism potential and various mining prospects. The Shire is recognised internationally for its biodiversity and human interaction with the landscape.

The town of Jerramungup was established in 1953 as a war service settlement area and gazetted in 1957. The Shire of Jerramungup was established as its own local authority on 1 July 1982 having been annexed from the Shire of Gnowangerup.

Although it is only a relatively young municipality, it is rich in history and proud of its heritage.

The town of Bremer Bay is developing rapidly with a growing aquaculture industry and is attracting increasing tourism activity. Bremer's unspoilt coastline invites fishing, beach combing, whale watching, surfing and swimming. Bremer Bay derives its name from the bay on which it is located. The bay is believed to have been named by John Septimus Roe, the Surveyor-General, who visited the area in 1831. The area was originally settled in the 1850s and Bremer Bay was originally named Wellstead in 1951 but locals petitioned to have the town renamed to what it was locally known as, this being Bremer Bay. The change of name was approved by the Minister for Lands and the new name gazetted in 1962.

The area is also synonymous with a unique and picturesque natural environment highlighted by the presence of the Fitzgerald River National Park and the Bremer Canyon. The Fitzgerald River National Park, located east of Jerramungup and Bremer Bay, and easily accessible from both towns, is one of the largest national parks in Australia. It contains 20 per cent of the State's described plant species. The park covers 329,039 hectares and is one of the most diverse botanical regions in the world, featuring more than 1,800 species of plants. The Fitzgerald River National Park (FRNP) forms the core of the Fitzgerald Biosphere, one of Western Australia's two internationally recognised Biosphere Reserves, designated under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program.

The Shire of Jerramungup lies within the Wagyl Kaip region which is acknowledged as being the traditional lands of the Noongar People who since time immemorial have inhabited the lands and are acknowledged to have a continuing living cultural, spiritual, familial and social relationship with Noongar boodja (Noongar earth) and the Shire pays its respect to elders past and present.

SHIRE PRESIDENT REPORT

Cr Joanne Iffla



As President of Jerramungup Shire, and on behalf of my fellow Councillors, I am pleased to present Jerramungup Shire Council's Annual Report for the 2022/23 financial year.

Each year the Shire of Jerramungup staff and Council work hard to deliver projects and services and this report reflects another very busy and productive year for Council. While the year presented some challenges, with significant workforce shortages along with escalating construction costs affecting capital projects, this will remain an area of focus in coming years for the Shire and businesses throughout our community.

Despite these challenges, Council remains in a strong financial position, and has delivered or significantly progressed the actions in our Strategic Community Plan and capital works program in 2022/23.

The Shire saw the completion of a number of large scale projects in 2022/23 with the highlight being the reopening of the Bremer Bay Boat Ramp.

As you will see throughout this report, when planning for the Shire's future Council continues to be guided by its Strategic Community Plan. This aspirational plan was created and developed through consultation with the people of the Jerramungup Shire and sets out the visions and priorities of the community and Council.

This year the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) recently released its whole of Local Government audit findings for the 2021-22 financial year.

This report to State Parliament summarises the final results of the OAG's annual audits of most local governments for the year ended 30 June 2022.

For the first time, this year's OAG report included a list of the top 20 of the 146 local government entities in WA achieving 'best practice' for 2021-22.

The Shire of Jerramungup was recognised in the top 20 for timeliness and quality of financial reporting and controls.

The performance of the Shire was acknowledged across a number of criteria including the timely preparation for audit, high quality financial and maintenance of good financial management controls.

This is fantastic recognition of the Shire of Jerramungup and in particular our Finance Team, who consistently strive for best practice in financial reporting. For a small, rural Shire such as ours to be listed in the top 20 local governments in the state is an amazing achievement, and our staff are to be congratulated for their efforts.

We look forward to continuing to use this document to guide Council's strategic planning over the next 10 years, to the benefit of the Shire and its residents.

As always it has been my privilege to attend various engagements, functions and meetings of the community and volunteer services throughout the past year. As Council, we are proud to celebrate the successes of 2022/23 and I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Jerramungup Shire Councillors for their time and dedication to serving the community.

On behalf of Council, I would also like to thank Chief Executive Officer Martin Cuthbert for his organisational leadership, and all staff members for their tireless work over the past year.

Most of all, however, I want to thank the Shire community for your unwavering resilience, determination and optimism. We have been honoured to serve you and we look forward to continuing to work together to build a brilliant future for our beautiful region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Iffla', written in a cursive style.

Cr Joanne Iffla
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Martin Cuthbert



Reflecting on the past 12 months, I am proud to present the 2022/2023 Shire of Jerramungup Annual Report. The Annual Report is a summary of the highlights, challenges, developments and achievements throughout the last financial year.

The 2022/23 financial year was a successful period for the organisation, as we continued our work to deliver on the aims and aspirations of the Strategic Community Plan. With serving the community the highest goal, Council's Elected Members and dedicated employees continued delivering quality programs, projects and services for the people of the Jerramungup Shire.

Highlights of the 2022/2023 year include:

- Completion of the \$1.9 million upgrade to the boat ramp and jetty at Fishery Beach Marina in Bremer Bay;
- \$210,000 in administrative and business support services for the medical services provider to ensure the communities in the Shire have access to first class health services;
- \$1.1 million in maintenance of roads, townsite streets, footpaths and traffic signs

Shire Events:

- Australia Day celebrations were held at the Skate Park in Bremer Bay and the Shire once again received a grant from the National Australia Day Council. This event was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the community.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service was once again hosted by the Shire at the Jerramungup War Memorial, followed by a gunfire breakfast in the Rootpickers Hall.

The Shire conducted two Citizenship Ceremonies during the year. The first ceremony welcomed a citizen from New Zealand and the second welcomed a citizen from Russia.

Following the success of the History Night in March 2022, the Jerramungup History Working Group continued to collect, collate and share Jerramungup's unique and interesting history, led by representatives from the Shire, Councillors and community members.

The Shire also continued to support a number of community and sporting events through donations and sponsorship.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement Western Australia (DRFAWA). In July 2021 the Shire received significant flood damage on various roads within the Shire. An application was lodged for DRFAWA funding to repair the damaged infrastructure. A tender was awarded for the works to River Hill WA Pty Ltd, and works commenced in early 2023. The Shire was pleased to announce the re-opening of the Boxwood-Ongerup Road in May 2023.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Administration staff, led by the Executive Management Team for their efforts over the past twelve months. I also take this the opportunities to acknowledge Council for their dedication and support over the past year and I look forward to another busy and exciting year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Cuthbert', written in a cursive style.

ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION



Shire President
Cr Joanne Iffla
Elected: 2008
Term Expires: 2025



Deputy Shire President
Cr Julie Leenhouders
Elected: 2013
Term Expires: 2025



Member
Cr Robert Lester
Elected: 2010
Term Expires: 2023



Member
Cr Rex Parsons
Elected: 2011
Term Expires: 2023



Member
Cr Neil Foreman
Elected: 2021
Term Expires: 2025



Member
Cr Andrew Price
Elected: 2017
Term Expires: 2023



Member
Cr Drew Dawson
Elected: 2019
Term Expires: 2023

Council Meetings:

Council decisions are made by resolution of Council either at Ordinary Council Meetings or at Special Council Meetings. Ordinary Meetings of Council are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Jerramungup Council Chambers or the Bremer Bay Emergency Services Shed. A schedule of Council meeting dates is available on our website and at the Shire Administration office.

All Council meetings are open to the public, except for matters raised by Council under “confidential items”. Community members are encouraged to attend and participate in the meetings.

ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION

TABLE 1: ATTENDANCE OF ELECTED MEMBERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Elected Members	Ordinary Council Meeting (11)	Special Council Meeting (0)	Electors Meeting (1)	Apologies	Leave of Absence
Cr Joanne Iffla	11	0	1		
Cr Julie Leenhouders	11	0	1		
Cr Robert Lester	11	0	1		
Cr Rex Parsons	10	0	1	1	
Cr Andrew Price	10	0	1		1
Cr Neil Foreman	8	0	1	2	1
Cr Drew Dawson	9	0	1		2

TABLE 2: ELECTED MEMBER GENDER AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Elected Members	Gender	Linguistic Background	Country of Birth	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
Cr Joanne Iffla	Female	English	Australia	No
Cr Julie Leenhouders	Female	English	Australia	No
Cr Robert Lester	Male	English	Australia	No
Cr Rex Parsons	Male	English	Australia	No
Cr Andrew Price	Male	English	Australia	No
Cr Neil Foreman	Male	English	Australia	No
Cr Drew Dawson	Male	English	Australia	No

TABLE 3: ELECTED MEMBER AGE RANGE

1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Age Range	Number
Between 18 years and 24 years	0
Between 25 years and 34 years	0
Between 35 years and 44 years	0
Between 45 years and 54 years	2
Between 55 years and 64 years	2
Over 65 years	3

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING REGISTER

1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Elected Members	Date in 2022/23	Training Course
Cr Joanne Iffla	Nil	Nil
Cr Julie Leenhouders	Nil	Nil
Cr Robert Lester	Nil	Nil
Cr Rex Parsons	Nil	Nil
Cr Andrew Price	Nil	Nil
Cr Neil Foreman	Nil	Nil
Cr Drew Dawson	Nil	Nil

ELECTED MEMBERS REMUNERATION

1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Elected Member	Cr Joanne Iffla (Shire President)	Cr Julie Leenhouders (Deputy President)	Cr Robert Lester	Cr Rex Parsons	Cr Neil Foreman	Cr Andrew Price	Cr Drew Dawson
President's allowance	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deputy President's allowance	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Meeting attendance fees	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Child care expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ICT expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Travel and accommodation expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual allowance for travel and accommodation expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Elected Member Remuneration	\$27,000	\$11,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000

CAPITAL GRANTS

CAPITAL GRANTS 2022/2023 - \$3,170,511

FUNDING	ACTIVITY	\$\$
Department Fire & Emergency Services	Installation of 2 water tanks - 1 x 150,000 Lt Gairdner BFB & 1 x 150,000Lt Jerramungup Airstrip	\$12,451
Department Fire & Emergency Services	Boxwood Bushfire Brigade - Heavy Duty Appliance TATRA	\$543,117
Building Better Regions Fund	Jerramungup Swimming Pool Project	\$994,080
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase 3	Bremer Bay Boat Ramp & Jetty	\$437,340
Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Round 25	Bremer Bay Boat Ramp & Jetty	\$375,000
Regional Road Group	Road Construction - Swamp Road, Swarbrick Road & Cuiss Road	\$408,000
Roads to Recovery	Road Construction - Doubtful Island & Bremer Bay Road	\$400,523

CAPITAL GRANTS

CAPITAL GRANTS 2021/2022 - \$4,302,456

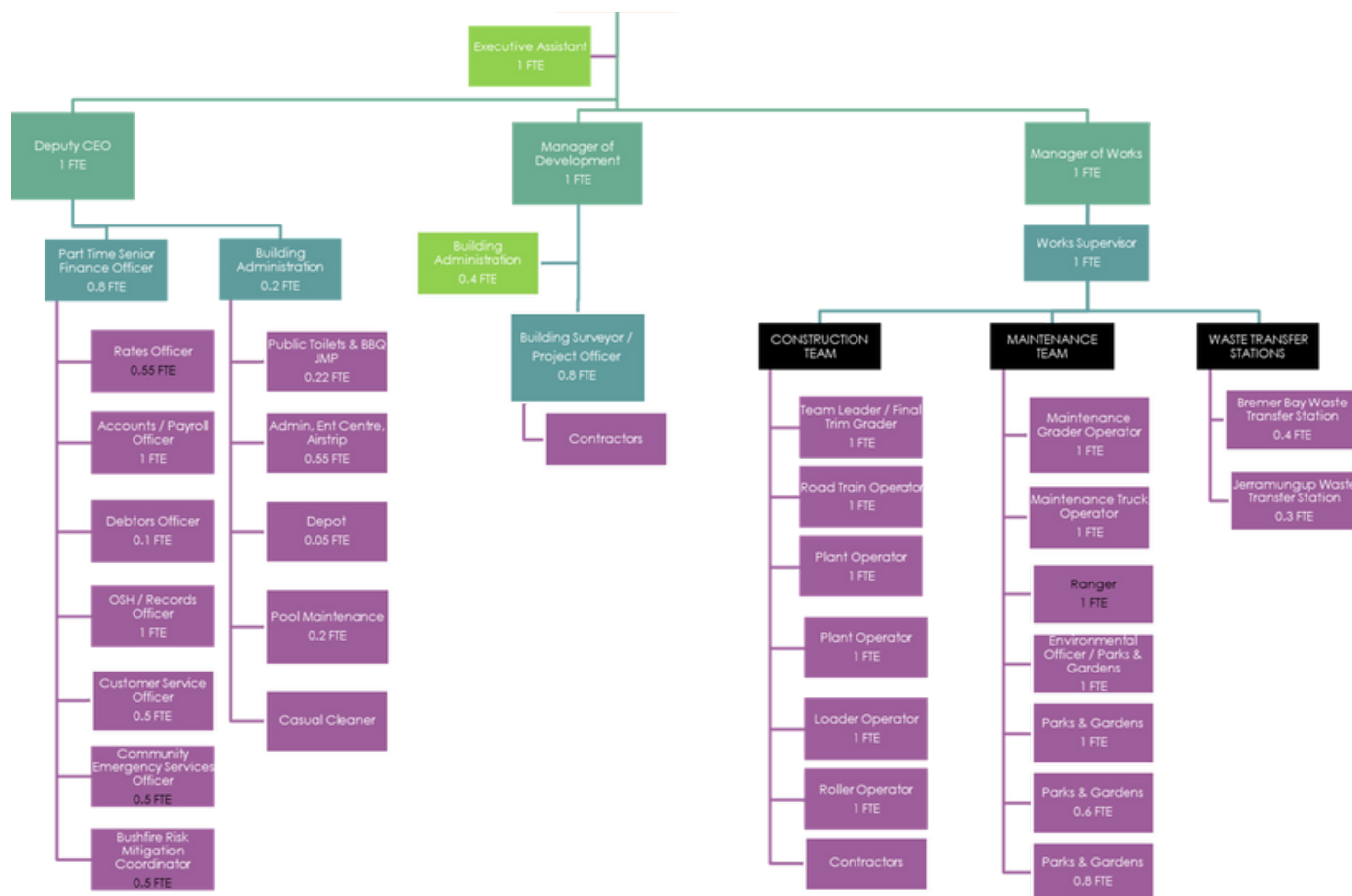
FUNDING	ACTIVITY	\$\$
Department of Fire & Emergency Services	Installation of 2 water tanks - 1 x 150,000 Lt Gairdner BFB & 1 x 150,000Lt Jerramungup Airstrip	\$33,623
Shire of Broomehill - Tambellup	BBRF Grant reimbursement of expenditure - Housing project	\$3,523
Department of Education	Jerramungup Swimming Pool project	\$1,309,091
Building Better Regions Fund	Jerramungup Swimming Pool project	\$1,105,920
Drought Communities Program	Various projects funded - Gairdner Community Dam, Boxwood Hill Community Dam upgrade, Bremer Bay Standpipe Access, Gairdner Community Hall upgrade, Needilup Pavilion upgrade, Dancing in the Dirt and preparation of an Adverse Event Plan	\$100,000
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase 2	Various projects - Supply & erect safety fencing Roe Park, Replacement and installation of new basketball backboards, net and pole at Pelican Park & Roe Park, installation of dump point Lions Park, replacement of playground equipment Pelican Park, Bremer Bay Skate Park, Roe Park, Soldier Settlement Mural Lions Park. Form & gravel resheet Rabbit Proof Fence Road	\$257,291
Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme - Round 25	Bremer Bay Boat Ramp & Jetty - First payment	\$375,000
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase 3	Bremer Bay Boat Ramp & Jetty - First payment	\$437,340
Regional Road Group	Road Construction works - Swamp, Cuiis, Swarbrick, Devils Creek, Borden Boxwood Roads	\$468,666
Roads to Recovery	Road Construction works - Moorshead Road & Bremer Bay Road	\$161,100
Community Water Supply Program	Boxwood Community Dam & Water tank project Boxwood Sports Club	\$50,902

CAPITAL GRANTS

CAPITAL GRANTS 2020/2021 - \$2,555,587

FUNDING	ACTIVITY	\$\$
Building Better Regions Fund Great Southern Housing Initiative	Key Worker Accommodation Construction Project - 19 McGlade Close, 18 Lancaster Road, Unit 1 & 2 Collins Street	\$337,464
Royalties for Regions Regional Aged Accommodation Program	Great Southern Aged Accommodation Construction Project Construction of 5 x Bremer Bay Independent Living Units	\$82,697
Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund	Regional Strategic Waste Project	\$23,217
Drought Communities Program	Various projects funded - Gairdner Community Dam, Boxwood Hill Community Dam upgrade, Bremer Bay Standpipe Access, Gairdner Community Hall upgrade, Needilup Pavilion upgrade, Jerramungup Swimming Pool, Dancing in the Dirt and preparation of an Adverse Event Plan	\$872,000
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase 2	Replacement and installation of new basketball backboards Pelican Park & Roe Park	\$6,075
Regional Road Group	Road Construction - Devils Creek Road, Borden- Boxwood Road, Needilup North Road	\$360,000
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase 1	Various projects funded - Purchase Variable Message Display Board, Reseals of roads Point Henry Peninsula including Wellstead Road, footpath maintenance on Roderick Street & Mary Road Bremer Bay	\$437,340
Roads to Recovery	Road Construction - Bremer Bay Road, Swamp Road, Frantom Way	\$400,523
Community Water Supply Program	Boxwood Community Dam & Water tank project Boxwood Sports Club	\$36,271

WORKFORCE STRUCTURE



EMPLOYEES	CASUAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL
FEMALE	7	5	7	19
MALE	0	15	1	16
TOTAL	7	20	8	35

DIRECTORATE	CASUAL	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL
CEO Team	0	4	0	4
Corporate Services Team	1	2	4	7
Development Team	0	0	2	2
Infrastructure Services	5	11	3	19
TOTAL	6	17	9	32





STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

2021–2031

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: COMMUNITY

- How do we adapt to changes in the way people live?
- How do we ensure fair and equal access to services across the community?
- How do we ensure that people feel valued and part of our community?
- How do we protect, manage and preserve our heritage?

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: ECONOMY

- How do we grow our economy sustainably in the jobs of the future?
- How do we improve local technology and communication platforms?
- How do we reduce the number of people leaving the region for work or study opportunities?
- How do we capitalise on our location, assets and people to encourage business investment?
- How do we attract more people to our region and get them to stay longer?

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: ENVIRONMENT BUILT

- How do we increase investment in infrastructure from all levels of Government? How do we improve our transport network?

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: ENVIRONMENT NATURAL

- How do we sustainably manage the maintenance and renewal of Shire assets?
- How do we reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable sources?
- How do we balance providing access to our pristine natural environment while protecting it?
- How do we reduce waste going to landfill and increase reuse and recycling?

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- How do we balance the differing views and priorities within our community?
- How do we ensure best value for money in everything we do?
- How do we continually improve customer service?
- How do we ensure that leaders and decision makers have the information they need?
- How do we connect with people to explain decisions and the reasons for them?

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: COMMUNITY

Deliver programs and services that bring people together and support community health and wellbeing.

For the third consecutive year the Shire was fortunate to receive a grant from the National Australia Day Council to host the Shire's annual Australia Day event. On 26 January 2023 around 350+ people joined celebrations held at the Skate Park (Town Square) in Bremer Bay where a delicious BBQ breakfast was served by Councillors. A jumping castle, bucking bull, soft serve ice-creams, free coffees and live music kept the crowd entertained before the presentation of the Australia Day awards commenced.

A business case and design has been completed for the replacement of the Medical Centre in Bremer Bay which has reached the end of its useful life. Council continues to lobby the State Government for its replacement and along with the GSDC presented the case to the Health Minister.

The Shire of Jerramungup approved a donation request from the Jerramungup Occasional Childcare to purchase new costumes for Santa and Mrs Clause for the Annual Christmas Tree held in Roe Park on 10 December 2022. This event was attended by approximately 250+ children.



On Tuesday morning, 25 April, around 90 people gathered in very cold conditions at the Jerramungup War Memorial to pay their respects to those who have served and continue to serve our nation.

The Shire has long supported the annual Recfishwest Fishing Clinic that is coordinated by the Bremer Bay Community Resource Centre. The primary purpose of Recfishwest Fishing Clinics is to introduce children and families to fishing, getting people outdoors, promoting sustainable, safe fishing practices and connecting families to the fish they catch – making them better stewards of the marine environment. In January 2023, approximately 50 children joined the RecFish West Fishing Clinic ranging in ages from 4-15 with all equipment and instructions provided by RecFish West staff all attendees received a sausage sizzle and afternoon tea.



Above: Recfishwest Clinic
Photo Credit: Bremer Bay CRC

Deliver programs and services that bring people together and support community health and wellbeing.

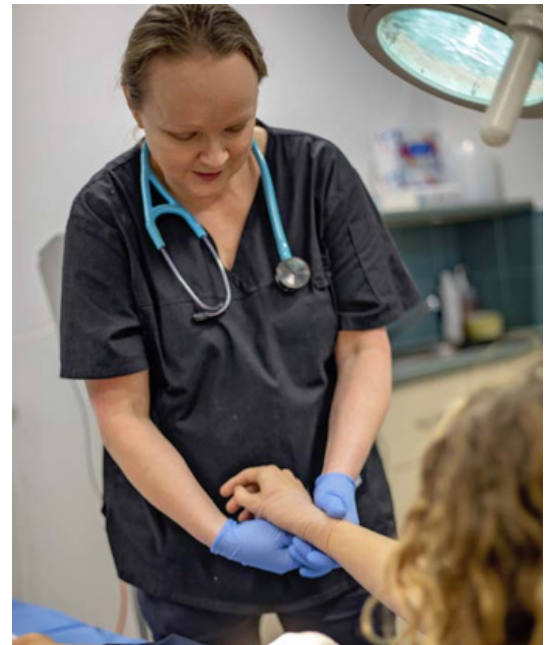
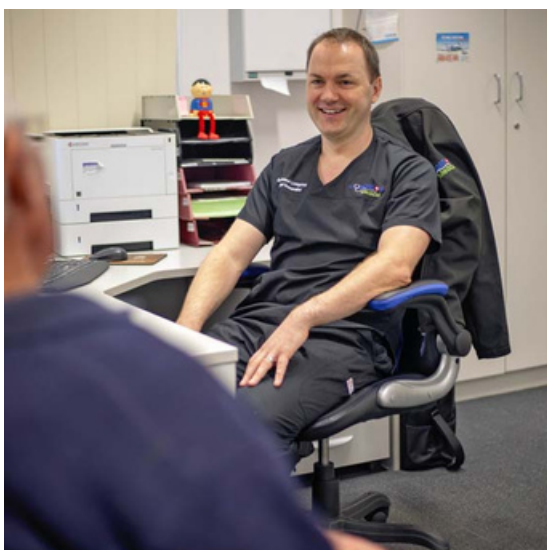
GENERAL PRACTICE (GP) SERVICES – PROVIDED AND SUPPORTED BY THE SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

In order to facilitate economic and population growth in the Shire, the provision of General Practice (GP) services within our community is critically important. Although the Department of Health has primary jurisdiction for health services, the Shire of Jerramungup facilitates a number of initiatives financially and administratively to support the provision of GP services to our community.

In July 2021, the Shire was excited to announce that Livingston Medical would be taking on GP Services for the Shire of Jerramungup with their highly qualified team of Doctors and Business Director, Rachel Livingston leading the charge Livingston Medical took over the Practice in Jerramungup and Bremer Bay from Wednesday 21 July 2021.

Dr Livingston is a fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and has advanced emergency medicine qualifications and a number of esteemed skin cancer and surgical and procedural qualifications including the professional diploma of skin cancer medicine. Dr Livingston also has a dedicated team of caring, experienced nurses and administration staff.

This Shire is extremely fortunate to partner with Livingston Medical, Dr Livingston is a recipient of an Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) 2021 Distinguished Service Award for his significant contribution to rural and remote medicine and general service to the community. This passion for rural GP services is clearly something he has in-shrined into his team of Doctors.



Dr. Felicity Paget provides weekly GP Services to the Jerramungup and surrounding communities on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and then is based in Bremer Bay on Mondays and Thursdays. Dr Felicity Paget qualified in 2015 and has had a varied career in many spheres of medicine.

Dr Paget loves everything about Rural Generalism and has focused her skills on Emergency Medicine, Women's health and mental health as well as procedures. Her career to date has taken her to Geraldton, Perth, Hopetoun, Albany and Katanning before settling in Bremer Bay, where she now calls home.

Dr Paget was successful in gaining fellowship with RACGP in 2023 and has advanced skills in rural generalism, recognised by her FARGP status. Dr Paget also has plenty of experience working in emergency departments in Perth and the Great Southern. Dr Paget is constantly expanding her knowledge with courses and workshops to bring more services to the Shire of Jerramungup and hopes to call Bremer Bay home for a long time to come.

Maintain facilities that connect people and promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

Swimming Pool Opening

The new 25m main pool, toddler's pool, pump shed with accessories, male/female/accessible toilets, change rooms and first aid room at the Jerramungup pool precinct began in May 2021, and was officially opened on 23 September 2022 with a community BBQ and free entry to the pool. The residents of Jerramungup and surrounding areas have embraced the new facilities, with 260 members in 2022/23. Many more community members of all ages accessed the pool in the company of a key holder. The Jerramungup District High School enjoyed hosting their swimming carnival and the inter-school swimming carnival in the upgraded pool complex, and VacSwim conducted swimming lessons there too. Having safe learn to swim facilities assists with reducing the likelihood of drowning or near drowning incidents. The redevelopment of this facility encourages a healthy and active community and aligns to supporting economic growth through retaining skilled employees and attracting people and families to live, work and contribute in the region.

This \$4.5 million project was made possible by funding from the Australian Government, Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources through the Drought Communities Programme, Department of Education and the Shire of Jerramungup.



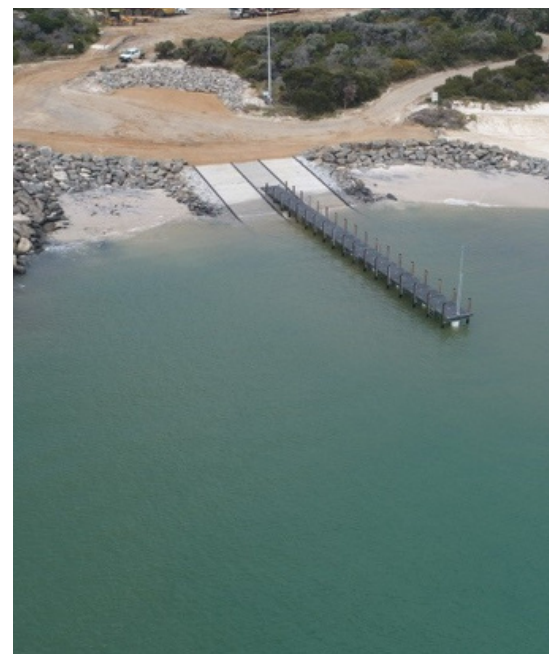
New Boat Ramp and Jetty at Fishery Beach

Works to replace the existing boat launching facilities at Fishery Beach Bremer Bay were undertaken with the new Boat Ramp and Jetty being officially opened in October 2022.

The project consisted of construction of a new 2-lane public boat ramp and a wider finger jetty. This provides safer access for the Volunteer Marine Rescue Service and universal access for the public.

The predominant benefit of this project is ensuring that Bremer Bay continues to have recreational boat access to its waters. Bremer Bay's attractiveness both as a holiday destination and as a place to live is largely attributed to the marine environment: a reliable recreational boat launching facility is a fundamental part of this.

This project was made possible through funding received from the Department of Transport Recreational Boating Facility Round 25 grant and The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.



Maintain facilities that connect people and promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

Bremer Tennis Court Resurfacing Project

The resurfacing of the Bremer Bay Tennis Courts project demonstrated a high level of planning and club member involvement and was strongly supported by the Bremer Bay Sports Club and Council. The replacement will continue to allow volunteers at the club to spend more time enjoying their sport of choice. The Shire also envisages this project as having longer term outcomes by expanding recreation opportunities to the wider public and visitors to Bremer Bay. The Bremer Bay Sports Club and Tennis Club Committee worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life, and many volunteers spent countless hours demolishing and assisting with the upgrades. This project was funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries CSRFF program, the Shire, Bremer Bay Tennis Club and Tennis West. The Bremer Bay Tennis Courts were officially opened on Saturday 1 October 2022.



Contributions to Sporting Clubs

The 2022/2023 budget included the contribution of \$10,000 each to Bremer Bay, Jerramungup and Boxwood Hill sporting clubs. The contribution is to go towards operational and maintenance costs associated with the grounds and facilities. The contribution is on the condition that each Sporting Club provide their audited annual financial statements and a copy of their Sport and Recreation Plan to the Shire each year.

Irrigation of the Jerramungup Motorcross Track

The Jerramungup District Motorcycle Club completed Phase 1 of the project in 2021 which involved installing an irrigation system, sprinklers, pump and pipe to the first half of the motorcross track in early 2021. The total cost of this project was fully funded by the Club through fundraising, canteen sales, memberships and sponsorship.

The Club submitted a request for financial support of \$4,000 in 22/23 to complete Phase 2 which involved irrigating the remaining half of the track and installing a hose system to water the new mini track for the young 50cc riders. The irrigation of the track ensures that the Club can water the track to settle the dust and improve the safety of the riders and officials involved on race day.



Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base.

2022 Senior Sports Person of the Year

The 2022 Senior Sports Person award was presented to Rosemary Lester not only for her outstanding achievements in hockey, but also for her dedication to the clubs and sports she is a part of and her willingness to go above and beyond and step up to lend a hand whenever needed. Rosie is a dedicated member of a number of sporting clubs and has taken on many roles that contribute to a busy club life including catering, co-captain of the hockey team, and coaching junior hockey. Her investment in the continuation of local sports and her endless support for her clubs, teammates, peers and beyond deserves our acknowledgement and recognition.

2022 Junior Sports Star of the Year

The 2022 Junior Sports Person award was presented to Lara Lester who was nominated for her outstanding achievements as a member of the Jerramungup Sports Club, Netball Club, Hockey Club and Basketball Club. Not only did Lara perform at a high standard in all these sports but she also regularly volunteered her time to assist with club responsibilities such as taking up kitchen rosters, selling raffle tickets, and training to become an umpire. Lara is an outstanding young citizen in our community and is a role model for other younger community members.

2022 Community Group/Event Award

The 2022 Community Group/Event award went to the Bremer Bay Primary School Parents and Citizens Committee for their dedication and incredible fundraising efforts to the school as well as the community. Over two years the P&C's 'Containers for Cash' collection grew into an outstanding and notable achievement, raising the tremendous amount of \$16,647. Their efforts also gained a State level Change Maker Award. The P&C has also helped to keep Bremer Bay town and beaches clean, and saved over 250,000 containers from landfill.



Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base.

2022 Citizen of the Year award - Mr Graham Carthew

The 2022 Citizen of the Year award went to Graham 'Crow' Carthew, who over the last 50 years has dedicated himself to his community and often goes above and beyond his various roles, showing initiative, leadership and dedication.

Graham volunteers his time to a great variety of community groups, and also supports these groups financially through sponsorships, donations and fundraising activities. He is also integral in achieving continuous improvements and upgrades to local community services, buildings, sporting and other facilities.

Graham is an inspirational role model that gives to his community in the most selfless way and shows an always present 'can-do' attitude. He truly is an outstanding citizen.

Boxwood Volunteer Bushfire Brigade NEW appliance

The Boxwood Tatra was delivered to the brigade in November 2022 after some of the members went through some specific training on the new truck. The new truck has twice the capacity of the old truck, can hold 4000 litres of water and is capable of operating in rough and boggy terrain. It is a considerable improvement on the brigade's old 2.4 appliance.

The Tatra's capabilities were tested at a fire in rough terrain near the Pallinup River on the South Coast Highway in March this year. Initial reports from the brigade indicate that they are happy with the new acquisition.



Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base.

**WATER TANKS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES –
GAIRDNER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE AND
JERRAMUNGUP AIRSTRIP**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) was allocated \$2 million through the WA Recovery Plan to provide water tanks to eligible Bushfire Brigades without tanks, to support bush fire response throughout the State. Funding was spread over two financial years commencing 2020/21 with the first round completed in June 2021.

In February 2021, the second round of funding application eligibility was extended to strategically located water tanks for firefighting purposes. The criteria applied to the second round requests were that the water tank must be located on Local Government owned or managed land.

On 26 March 2021, the Shires application for two (2) x 150,000Lt water tanks to be located at the Gairdner Bushfire Brigade Co-location building and the Jerramungup Airstrip were presented to the Bushfire Operations Committee (BOC) for consideration. The BOC endorsed the Shires application and promoted us to the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) Bush Fire Service Capital Grants Committee for approval on 4 August 2021. The funding amount approved was \$46,074.

Both water tanks have now been installed and are operational at both locations.

Jerramungup Airstrip



Gairdner Bushfire Co-location





Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base.

2022/2023 Contributions to Community Groups and Committees:

\$15,461 allocated to South Coast Alliance. The City of Albany, Shire of Denmark, Shire of Plantagenet and Shire of Jerramungup formed an alliance focused on economic development and future prosperity. The four local governments continue to work together to collaborate on initiatives to improve the economic prosperity and wellbeing of their communities;

\$15,000 allocated to Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (FBG) to go towards administrative and running costs to continue to work with the farming community within the Shire and deliver projects and services that encourage sustainable agriculture, healthy ecosystems and vibrant enterprises;

\$11,000 allocated to Great Southern Treasures to build brand awareness of the tourism assets within Great Southern Treasures locally, nationally and worldwide with the stated mission being to collectively plan and promote the tourism assets, experiences and events across member local governments.

\$7,000 allocated to the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective (FBCC) group to assist with administrative and project costs to ensure the Fitzgerald Biosphere is meeting its obligations to remain UNESCO listed and is internationally recognised for achieving outstanding biodiversity conservation outcomes;

\$5,000 allocated to the Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence Limited (GSCORE) to support the implementation of the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan;

\$3,000 annual contribution to the Jerramungup Occasional Childcare to assist with insurance and running costs;

\$3,000 annual contribution to the Bremer Bay Occasional Childcare to assist with insurance and running costs;

Encourage and support volunteers and community groups to grow an active volunteer base.

MENS SHED – BREMER BAY

The Shire has been proactive in the establishment of a Men’s Shed within Bremer Bay over the past 12 month reporting period. The Men’s Shed is regarded as being a positive outcome that will contribute to the livability and wellbeing of the community.

The proposal to establish the Men’s Shed at the Bremer Bay Sports Club has been arrived at after a comprehensive review of alternative options and is, considered to be well suited to the purpose.

Council approved to grant a Sub-Lease between the Bremer Bay Sports Club and the Bremer Bay Men’s Shed on a portion of Reserve No.511 Lot 3000 on DP46739 142 Frantom Way, Bremer Bay for a period to coincide with the expiry of the Sports Club lease being the 14th April 2036 and that the Rent for the proposed Lease be for a nominal (peppercorn) amount.

Caldwell Surveys were engaged by the Shire to have the proposed lease area (as pegged out by members of the group) surveyed. The survey has been completed in preparation for inclusion into the new Sub Lease document. Costs for the survey are being met by the Shire.

Instruction has been sent to the Shire’s solicitors to prepare the draft sub lease document. Upon receipt the draft lease will be provided to both the Sports Club and the Men’s Shed for review and comment. All costs for the preparation and registration of the document will be met by the Shire.

The Shire typically assumes costs associated with the preparation of leases for community groups. In this instance costs are estimated at \$2500 and the Shire is supportive of absorbing these costs given the long term benefit to the community.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: ECONOMY

Work with the business community to attract investment, create jobs and support small business growth.

Blueback Movie Premiere Screening

Bremer Bay laid out the red carpet for the premiere of 'Blueback', a film adapted from Tim Winton's acclaimed novel of the same title written in 1997. Blueback is a story of friendship, family and the power of one young girl to make a difference, the film tells the story of Abby a young girl who befriends a wild blue groper whilst diving in the breathtaking waters of Western Australia.

The story takes place in the fictitious town of Longboat Bay, with most of the filming done in Bremer Bay. The movie was directed and produced by Robert Connolly and starred Mia Wasikowska, Eric Bana and Radha Mitchell.



As well as being accommodated in Bremer Bay the film company invested as much as possible into community businesses. A total of 287 locals were also involved in the film with many taking roles as extras and support jobs such as caterers, set location providers and general staff.



The Shire coordinated and contributed financially to the planning of the Premiere which took place at the Bremer Bay Resort on 23 November 2022, with an audience of more than 500 people. Blueback was released nationally on the big screen in cinemas on 1 January 2023.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: ECONOMY

Work with the business community to attract investment, create jobs and support small business growth.

WA POLICE Presence BREMER BAY

The Shire Staff and Elected Members have been consulting with WA Police on multiple occasions in particular over the past 12 months to provide support and advice on securing a permanent Police presence in Bremer Bay.

The Shire currently provides three (3) residential properties to the WA Police to house the Police Officers in Jerramungup.

The Shire regularly meets with the WA Police Executive Team and local Officers to discuss local matters and how we can work together on various projects. During this annual reporting period the local Sargeant raised concerns of constant speeding vehicles past the Bremer Bay Caravan Park heading towards Bremer Beach. The Sargeant had confirmed that multiple traffic infringements were issued regularly for that particular section of Bremer Bay Road.

To alleviate the risk the Shire consulted with Main Roads WA on the most appropriate option to try and restrict the speed of vehicles in this location. Based on the advice received from Main Roads WA, the Shire installed speed cushions along a section of Bremer Bay Road as a measure to reduce speed and to provide public safety to pedestrians utilising the footpath by restricting speeding vehicles.



Elected Members supported the proposal to purchase and install the speed cushions and caterpillar along Bremer Bay Road. The works were completed by December 2023. Reports so far from WA Police have been positive and it appears that the speed cushions seem to have the desired affect.

Furthermore, the Shire assisted the Jerramungup Police by project managing and coordinating the installation of a path and crossover for the Jerramungup station in October 2022. The cost of the works undertaken once completed was then then directly invoiced by the Shire to WA Police.



Use the natural beauty and the heritage of the region to promote the Shire as a great place to visit.

Bremer Bay Marina

The capacity of the Fisheries Beach Marina is a major constraint for the future of Bremer Bay's aquatic industry expansion. At present fishing boats and whale tour charter boats are fully utilising the available moorings. Further expansion demand is expected as offshore abalone farming develops and there is a strong likelihood that further entities will be established to capitalise on the Bremer Canyon and its opportunities. The Department of Transport have completed a Business Case for the proposed development with the Shire of Jerramungup being closely involved as a key stakeholder.

Respect Bremer Bay

The Shire has continued the Respect Bremer Bay marketing campaign in 2/23 to continue to raise awareness of the impacts associated with the increased population over the holiday season. The key messages of the campaign are:

- Keep Bremer Bay beautiful for future generations
- Leave your camp site as you found it
- Take your rubbish with you, or put it in the additional bins supplied
- Don't pollute our home (wildlife)
- Respect the built environment, please don't vandalise our town
- Please do not graffiti our public facilities
- Please don't steal the street signs
- Our beautiful community is yours for a short time, treat it like your home
- Don't cut it fine, arrange accommodation in advance and ensure you have a legal campsite

We are pleased to report that damage and vandalism remained minimal over the 2022/2023 holiday season.



Advocate for improved road and communication connectivity to support rural and agricultural businesses and environmental tourism

The Shire continues to lobby the State Government for much needed improvements to South Coast Highway. The upgrade of South Coast Highway is also heavily supported by the South Coast Alliance which consists of the City of Albany and Shire of Denmark, Shire of Plantagenet and the Shire of Jerramungup.

The South Coast Highway requires significant upgrades along its entire length. Long sections do not meet the minimum design standard set by both Main Roads and Austroads for the level of heavy vehicle traffic, with regular heavy vehicle accidents occurring.

Upgrades to the South Coast Highway between Albany and Jacup, for some years noted as a high to medium priority, are not yet funded to even the 'low cost' standard, let alone the desired '2031 cross section' standard. A submission to Infrastructure Australia, ultimately accepted onto the Priority List, for a full upgrade from Albany to Jerramungup for around \$650million has not yet proceeded.

For the east/west route of the South Coast Highway, there is no other freight transport option other than by road. Heavy vehicle traffic as a proportion of total traffic has grown by 12% between 2019/20 and 2022/23, and now accounts for 33% of all weekday traffic.

Along the South Coast Highway between Albany and Esperance heavy vehicle combinations have increased substantially in number, dimensions, and mass over the last decade; however, the physical road network has not kept pace. This has a significant impact on passenger vehicles, with more than 75% of all passenger vehicles required to travel below the allocated speed.

The mix of tourism traffic and heavy haulage traffic is a concern due to the increasing demand on the region's road network by both types of traffic on shared routes.

Deaths on Great Southern roads are well above the regional average for Western Australia. For the South Coast Highway, cropping transport represents approximately 80% of the total freight task. In the past 12 months 3.9 million tonnes of grain (the largest commodity) was exported through the Albany Port – an increase of almost 50% on the 2020 volume of 2.62 million tonnes. The Great Southern is already the second largest producer of agricultural produce in Western Australia, and changing rainfall patterns are expected to see proportionately higher growth in grain yields in the Great Southern.

Improvements on South Coast Highway is a high priority the improvements are urgently required to ensure road user safety and to be able to maintain global competitiveness as well.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: ENVIRONMENT BUILT

Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community

St John Ambulance Bremer Bay Sub Centre Build Project

The Bremer Bay SJA Ambulance Depot is presently located within the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Shed (VFES) which they cohabit with the Bremer Bay Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Volunteer Road Crash Rescue unit and Volunteer Marine Rescue group. The current ambulance depot consists of one isolated garage bay, holding the ambulance vehicle, some stock and equipment and multiple lockers for volunteers.

The local St John Ambulance volunteer group has not only outgrown this space but is also restricted in their operations by co-sharing the facility.

In support of the project, Council instigated and successfully finalised the amalgamation of Lots 802 and 803 on DP47189 to create one consolidated lot forming Reserve No. 48293 to provide sufficient area on which to establish an Emergency Services Precinct whereby SJA WA, DFES and WA Police could all locate their buildings and operations.



Above: Louise Gadsby & Danielle Wisewould

The Shire facilitated a meeting with Department Fire and Emergency Services, WA Police and St John Ambulance to foster a consolidated approach to use of the reserve and to establish all current and future occupants of the site's requirements for space. Through this process, an overall concept plan for the site was developed, identifying area allocations for all agencies involved. Following on from this process, not only St John Ambulance but also WA Police have substantially progressed with their development intent. Subject to funding, St John Ambulance could potentially commence their project after May 2024 and WA Police anticipate the delivery of their facility by November 2024. Department Fire and Emergency Services is awaiting the outcome of the St John Ambulance project before scheduling their construction works.

A quantity survey was done, pricing the project at \$2,100,000. This started the local volunteer's fundraising journey consisting of grain drives, grand raffles, a go-fund-me page and frequent sausage sizzles etc. Together with contributions from the Shire of \$150,000 in 22/23 and fellow St John Ambulance sub centres, the local volunteers procured a budget of \$746,000 towards the construction of their new facility. The Shire of Jerramungup continues to work closely with St John Ambulance Australia to seek funding opportunities to bring this much needed community project to fruition.

Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community.

Significant Local Roads with Regional Importance Roads 2040 - Meechi Road Roads 2040 Submission

The Shire completed a detailed submission to seek approval from the Great Southern Regional Road Group Technical Advisory Group to include Meechi Road on the Roads 2040 document. The Roads 2040 document is a strategic document of regionally significant Local Government Roads and the development strategies for them. Only projects on local roads included in Roads 2040 will be eligible for Road Project Grant funding under the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement.

Meechi Rd provides northwest-southeast connectivity between the key agricultural and tourism areas within the Shire of Jerramungup, specifically Gairdner, Jerramungup, Bremer Bay and the Fitzgerald River National Park. Specifically, given the upgrades from gravel to seal of Devils Creek Rd and significant segments of Swamp Rd, Meechi Rd is now part of a popular direct route between the South Coast Hwy and Bremer Bay Rd.

The road experiences high volumes of light vehicle and caravan traffic during peak tourist periods and is also servicing numerous large agricultural properties in the district. Significant volumes of heavy vehicles access this road during harvest exporting grains and during seeding for grain import, fertiliser and other deliveries. Ensuring the road is of a consistent minimum Type 5 standard for the full length of the road is regionally important to local businesses and industry.

The Shire plans to upgrade and then maintain Meechi Rd from an unsealed standard to a 7.2m wide sealed standard using Regional Road Group funding. Given the relatively high standard of the road, particularly the northern portion, the work will generally comprise shaping and preparation of the existing road formation and pavement and construction of a two coat seal.

The Technical Working Group approved the submission for Meechi Road to be included on the Roads 2040 document. A submission for funding in 24/25 to commence the sealing works on the first 5km of Meechi Road was submitted for consideration and approval from the Regional Road Group.



Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community

Cuiss Road Sealing Works Submission Roads 2040

A submission was prepared in 22/23 and submitted to the Regional Road Group for endorsement to construct and seal progressively from Cuiss Road to the entry of the Fitzgerald River National Park from 24/25. This road is used for the transport of grain, fertiliser and other agricultural produce.

Cuiss Road is on the school bus network and provides a direct route to tourists from South Coast Highway to the Fitzgerald River National Park which is a major site for tourists with its rugged coastline, whale watching and rare flora. Proposed sealing works will benefit tourists being able to access the Park from both the north and west, to attractions including Point Anne, West Mt Barren and heritage accommodation at Quaalup Homestead.

The Shire continues to work with Department Biodiversity Conservation to lobby the State and Federal Government to seal the road to Point Anne. This works would provide significant economic opportunities in Bremer Bay and Jerramungup.

At present all businesses which have attempted to leverage this opportunity have been set back by the implications of road closures after rain and the uncertainty as to whether reliable access to the area can be achieved. There has also been heavy criticism from travellers who have had their vehicles damaged or experienced such rough conditions that it has ruined their experience of the park.

Design, construct and maintain infrastructure in a manner that maximise its life, capacity and function.

Road reserves are an integral component of the Shire road network, providing space for the road surface, road shoulder and drainage network. In addition to providing a transport service, rural road reserves are an environmental asset, they are often covered with native vegetation providing an attractive, natural space and a habitat for animals.

Finding a balance of developing and maintaining road infrastructure while maintaining the natural environment has been problematic at times and has led to the Shire investing heavily in training and environmental assessments over the past 5 years.

The 2022/23 construction program saw upgrade works undertaken on the following roads:

- Complete formation widening upgrades and gravel resheeting work was carried out on Cowalleup Road, Jacup North Road, Marnigarup Road East and Stock Road.
- The taxiway of the RFDS Bremer Bay Airstrip was formed and sealed, and the Jerramungup swimming pool carpark resealed.
- The road surface of Moorshead Road had asphalt laid, and Swarbrick Road (including the carpark) received a reseal and pavement repairs.
- Swamp Road had upgrades to drainage and floodways, and was gravel sheeted and sealed.
- Cuiss Road and Doubtful Island Road were widened, formed and had drainage upgraded.
- Bremer Bay Road received works to widen the shoulders and seal, to install white line marking, signage and RPM's for barrier for the path.

Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community

BREMER BAY AIRSTRIP CROSS RUNWAY PROJECT

Bremer Bay has faced serious threats from large bushfires in recent years, with air resources playing a critical role in combating the bushfire threats the Bremer Bay Airstrip Cross Runway Project funding will further strengthen the capacity of fire and emergency services to manage fire incidents in the region.

Due to the significant capital costs associated with the Bremer Bay Airstrip Cross Runway project the Shire submitted a funding application under the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program Round 9. On the 9 August 2022, it was announced by Assistant Minister for Regional Development Anthony Chisholm that the Shire was successful in securing funding for the amount of \$815,564 ex GST for the construction of a new cross runway, two taxiways and installation of lighting and fencing.

On the 13 February 2023, the Hon Shelley Payne MLC announced the Bremer Bay Airstrip grant application had also been successful in receiving \$729,00 in funding towards upgrades.

The Shire of Jerramungup received the largest grant of \$729,000 under the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) 2023-25, contributing to a \$2.5 million upgrade of the Bremer Bay Airstrip.

Comments Attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC

"The Regional Airports Development Scheme helps to ensure the sustainability of airport infrastructure in regional areas and is critical to improving safety," she said.

"It is great to know that the Shire of Jerramungup will be receiving this funding for the significant upgrades needed at Bremer Bay airstrip."

Comments attributed to Transport Minister Rita Saffioti:

"The Regional Airports Development Scheme continues to play an important role in supporting the growth and sustainability of regional airports, and this year more than \$3 million in grants will support 17 critical projects throughout regional and remote Western Australia.

"Bremer Bay Airport has received the largest grant for major upgrades to construct a cross runway and two taxiways, including markers, lighting, and installation of fencing - this will improve air operations at Bremer Bay, particularly for firefighting purposes.

"The McGowan Government has a strong focus on regional aviation, with the RADS grants complementing the Government's introduction of capped airfares last year, making airfares more affordable for regional residents.

"These RADS grants will upgrade regional airport infrastructure that is critical to supporting Regular Public Transport air services across WA, helping regional residents connect to Perth."

On the 29 May 2023, the Shire submitted an application for additional funding under the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDDR) Program for the amount of \$450,724 the Shire is awaiting on the outcome of this grant application.

Project works will commence in the 24/25 financial year.

Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community

LOBBYING FOR IMPROVED MEDICAL CENTRES - BREMER BAY & JERRAMUNGUP

Bremer Bay and the Jerramungup sub-region consistently attracts a large tourist population throughout the year. Our medical centres were constructed over 30 years ago with the capacity to cater for a small local population of less than 1,000. In order, to facilitate economic and population growth within the Shire, the provision of medical services within our community is critically important.

Although the Department of Health has primary jurisdiction for health services, the Shire of Jerramungup facilitates a number of initiatives financially and administratively to support the provision of General Practice services to the Shire of Jerramungup residents and wider community. Through the rates raised each year the Shire of Jerramungup 'Ratepayers' contribute \$210k towards the provision of GP and Business Practice Services on an annual basis.

In an effort, to cater for these visitors and permanent residents, the Shire feels that it is essential to upgrade the existing medical facilities in Bremer Bay. The upgraded facilities would allow for a greater level of patient care locally during peak holiday periods and would also provide our older population with a renewed confidence that will translate into ongoing independent and healthy living.

Bremer Bay is a regionally significant location from a holiday and recreation perspective. Historically, during Christmas and Easter periods, the population of Bremer Bay would swell from 500+ permanent residents to between 6,000 and 10,000 people. A majority, of these visitors are from surrounding towns and the central wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

In recent years the increase in tourists numbers to the Bremer Bay area has increased significantly and the low tourist season is now non-existent. The statistics provided to the WA Police over the Christmas/New Year period for 21/22 & 22/23 season based on traffic count data and stats provided by local accommodation providers was between 15,800 – 27,382 visitors/residents within Bremer Bay townsite over this period.

To cater for these visitors and permanent residents, the Shire feels that it is essential to upgrade the existing medical facilities in Bremer Bay in particular, as well as Jerramungup. The upgraded facilities would allow for a greater level of health care locally and would also provide our older population with a renewed confidence that will translate into ongoing independent and healthy living.

A new facility in Bremer Bay would facilitate a greater level of patient care locally, reducing the pressure on the larger regional centres such as Albany, Katanning and Perth.

The Shire has received continual feedback from the community that the health facility in Bremer Bay is inadequate. This feedback culminated in a community survey administered by the Lower Great Southern District Health Advisory Committee. This survey again reinforced the inadequacies of the existing facility.

The Shire has received letters of support from St Johns, Great Southern Development Commission and the Lower Great Southern District Health Advisory Committee supporting the construction of new health facilities. To facilitate the ambition to improve the health care facilities in Bremer Bay and Jerramungup (including accommodation in Bremer Bay), the Shire of Jerramungup takes every opportunity to convey its strong support for the proposed construction of new facilities.

Despite numerous representations and undertakings construction or formal planning for the new health centre in Bremer Bay has not progressed albeit Shire is aware of the proposed design for the building.

**Progressive, Prosperous
and a Premium Place
to Live and Visit.**

Deliver sustainable long-term planning for the built environment that meets the needs of the community

BUSHFIRE MITIGATION WORKS 222/23

28 bushfire mitigation treatments have been delivered under the Mitigation Activity Fund across the Shire vested Crown reserves over the last 12 months each with a specific focus of reducing the potential for impact on life and property values from bushfires. 8 prescribed burns over an area of around 170 ha have been undertaken around the Bremer Bay, Needilup and Boxwood Hills town sites over the last 12 months. In addition to the prescribed burns a considerable focus of this year’s program was to continue with an expanded program of parkland clearing along the Wellstead, Point Henry and Black Rocks road reserves to achieve a radiant heat and flamelength reduced safe access alignment for members of the public to move off of Point Henry Peninsula in the event of a major bushfire incident as per the 2002 bushfire.


The Shire of Jerramungup received \$329 000 in their Grant agreement with Bushfire Risk Management Branch of DFES and spent \$327 000 of the Grant implementing these treatments.

This has been largely achieved with fantastic support from Shire staff in particular the Shires Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator, Malcom Grant and Volunteer Bushfire Brigade members from across the whole Shire and once again attention to detail in the implementation of these treatments by the Shires successful contractor Indiji Flora.

This grant program managed by the Shires Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator has contributed significant outcomes for improved protection of assets around the Shires' town sites and is an extremely important program to maintain in the future.

The visit and audit by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management in winter 2023 confirmed that the treatments being delivered across the Shire are indeed strategic in nature and have contributed to marked reductions of threats to people’s lives and assets with the Shire receiving positive confirmation from this visit in the form of a congratulatory letter following their visit. To this end the Shire are going to be included in a three year pilot program of guaranteed funding for the ongoing delivery of high priority mitigation treatments in recognition of our strategic approach to these treatments.





Advocate for strategic projects that will benefit residents, workers and visitors to the Shire.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: ENVIRONMENT NATURAL

Work with relevant stakeholders to promote and manage sustainable tourism within the Fitzgerald Biosphere.

The Shire is a member of the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective (FBCC) committing \$7,000 in the 22/23 budget. The priority for the last 12 months was to source funding to allow communications and extension activities to be undertaken in the Biosphere and to ensure that some of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan can start to come to fruition.

In June 2022, it was announced that FBCC had been successful in obtaining a grant of \$178,906. The majority of this funding was used to fund a full time project coordinator tasked with developing a website, banners and showcasing the Biosphere locally and further afield.

Fitzgerald Biosphere Group continues to be the auspicing body for FBCC. Chair Nathan McQuoid continues to be a driving force behind the Collective locally, and also as a representative with the wider Biosphere community.



Support and Promote the conservation values and the unique attractions in the Shire

In April 2022, Council agreed to accept an invitation to become a member of the Great Southern Treasures. The Great Southern Treasures is a collective of member local governments working under an MoU with a resourced Executive Officer and was established in 2004. One of the key premises in the Marketing Strategy of the GST is to develop a series of interconnected attractions that create a 'loop' across the region and both Jerramungup and Bremer Bay are integral to being able to achieve that objective.

In February 2023, Council supported continuing participation with Great Southern Treasures for a further three (3) years. Great Southern Treasures deliver the Bloom Festival which attracts many visitors to the region each year.

Celebrating the renewal of spring, focusing on wildflower tapestries and town cultures.

The 2022 WCP Civil Bloom Festival was a great success with over 50 events/activities held across the Great Southern Treasures Region which included Bremer Bay. A total of 8,515 people were recorded attending Bloom Events in the Great Southern Treasures Region.



Support and promote the conservation values and the unique attractions in the Shire.



Wellstead Estuary

2022/2023 saw changes to the environmental conditions near the mouth of the Wellstead Estuary which meant that vehicular access was restricted to the sandbar due to the area being vulnerable to inundation and coastal processes during high tides. Access points to and from the beach remain restricted in the 22/23 financial year. New bollards were installed to restrict vehicle access to the waterfront from the car park.

The Shire has actively engaged with local environmental groups to collectively work on a number of contentious projects involving habitat protection and rehabilitation within both our townsites and extensive rural road reserves.

Training of Staff in Certificate II – Conservation and Ecosystem Management

To ensure we continue to have all of our works crew trained in conservation and land management, Steve Elson, in consultation with Albany TAFE, undertook training with Works employees. The Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management is now replaced with the Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Due to time constraints and distances, Steve Elson has arranged with Albany TAFE to follow the same training regime as done previously with the works crew as this will minimise the time away from work activities and training can be carried out on the work site and at the Depot. Once the course is completed all the current works department employees will have their Certificate II.



Deliver a sustainable and progressive approach to natural resource and waste management

Regional Strategic Waste Project

The Regional and Strategic Waste Management Approach Funding Assistance Agreement (FAA) was executed in March 2015. \$3.11 million was allocated through the Royalties for Regions Southern Investment Initiative (with co-funding stated in the FAA of \$2.27 million allocated through the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund). The Shire of Jerramungup is the lead agency to undertake the Strategic Waste Management Approach project.

The purpose of the project was to alleviate capacity and compliance issues in delivering waste management services in the Shires of Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Gnowangerup, Kent and Katanning (the Shires). The work completed under the Waste project has delivered:

- new and upgraded regional landfill facilities;
- new and upgraded transfer stations; and
- closure of non-compliant landfills and transfer stations.

The project has significantly improved the performance and compliance of waste management infrastructure throughout the Shires, which contributes to the safe functioning of the communities in each local government area.

Permission was granted in 2022 for the Shires to use interest generated on the grant funds for the construction of a waste equipment shed at the Katanning transfer station and the installation of a weighbridge at the Ravensthorpe landfill which will assist with providing accurate tonnage recordings of waste being delivered from the Shire of Jerramungup to Ravensthorpe.

The purpose of the project is to achieve improvements in compliance and capacity to waste facilities across the Shires of Jerramungup, Kent, Katanning, Gnowangerup and Ravensthorpe.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Work cohesively with groups from across the community to improve engagement and to promote community participation

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Shire commenced works on developing a Reconciliation Action Plan to recognise the contribution of First Nations people within our Shire and to partner with them to deliver positive and mutually beneficial outcomes.

We have started this journey by reaching out to families with a historical or traditional connection to the Shire and based on their feedback have registered with Reconciliation Australia and formed a working group consisting of representatives from families who wish to be involved along with the Shire President and Senior Executives to demonstrate our commitment to the process.



Provide informed and transparent decision making that meets our legal obligation and the needs of our diverse community.

The Shire is committed to updating, developing and implementing framework which guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term. The following plans and policies have been updated in 2022/2023 to enable forward planning to better support our community in times of need and foster better community preparedness.

- Review of Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025
- Review of Delegations of Authority
- Desktop Review of Strategic Community Plan 2021–2031
- Review of 11 Finance Policies
- Adoption of the Child Safe Awareness Policy

Implement systems and processes that meet our legal and audit obligations.

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released its whole of Local Government audit findings for the 2021-2022 financial year. This report to State Parliament summarises the final results of the OAG's annual audits of most local governments for the year ended 30 June 2022. For the first time, this year's OAG report included a list of the top 20 of the 146 local government entities in WA achieving 'best practice' for 2021-2022.

The Shire of Jerramungup was recognised in the top 20 for timeliness and quality of financial reporting and controls.

The performance of the Shire was acknowledged across a number of criteria including the timely preparation for audit, high quality financial and maintenance of good financial management controls.

Information Statement

The Shire of Jerramungup's Information Statement was reviewed in July 2022 as per the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1992, with a copy forwarded to the Commissioner. The Shire is required to submit a statistical return annually, reporting any access applications and allowing the Office of the Information Commissioner to be appraised of where the Shire stands in relation to its obligations under sections 94 through to 97 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

Environmental Health:

The Shire engages the services of the City of Albany Environmental Health Unit to deliver its responsibilities in respect to public health education, enforcement and compliance across various areas of the health discipline and fulfilled statutory obligations pursuant to various legislation.

Asset Management:

Budget preparation for annual asset maintenance and replacement is completed each year. In 22-23 the Shire engaged H&H Architects to carry out building inspections of the Shires assets located across 42 locations including preparing a written report and cataloguing a photographic record of existing conditions. The Architects consulted with mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and quantity surveyors. The report will be compiled in an excel spreadsheet format to form the basis of a building asset register that forecasts maintenance requirements and allows the Shire to budget accordingly into the future.

STATUTORY STATEMENTS

Record Keeping Policy

The Shire of Jerramungup and all of its employees are committed to efficient and compliant record keeping practices. Internal review and training strategies have been developed and implemented to ensure that all are aware of their compliance responsibilities and that the Information Management System is operating in accordance with the Shire's 2019 Record Keeping Plan.

As part of staff induction, the role and responsibilities of every employee, in relation to compliance with the record-keeping plan, are addressed. Ongoing training sessions are conducted where appropriate and additional training is provided to ensure the operation of our Information Management System is effective and compliant.

The Shire's Record Keeping Plan was reviewed by Executive Staff and adopted by Council in July 2021 as per the State Records Act 2000 requirements and was submitted to the State Records Office.

Employee Information

The number of employees of the Local Government entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more is 3.

There was no remuneration and allowances paid by the Local Government under Schedule 5.1 clause 9 during the financial year.

There was no amount ordered under section 5.110(6)(b)(iv) to be paid by a person against whom a complaint was made under section 5.107(1), 5.109(1) or 5.114(1) to the Local Government during the financial year.

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal determines the maximum remuneration to be provided to Local Government Chief Executive Officers. The Shire of Jerramungup is classified as a Band 4 and due to location the CEO is eligible for regional/Isolation Allowance in recognition of the regional factors and isolation factors which may affect the attraction and retention of a CEO.

As of April 2023 the allowed Total Reward Package for the Chief Executive Officer for Band 4 is \$136,023 to \$213,356 and a regional allowance of up to \$32,200. The total reward package is comprised of Base salary, Superannuation (Compulsory and non-mandatory), Fringe benefits tax, professional membership fees and utilities. As the shire is eligible for the Regional/Isolation allowance the personal use of motor vehicles is included in the Total Reward Package. The Shire of Jerramungup, Chief Executive Officer was paid a Total Reward Package of \$190,850 and a regional allowance of \$11,050 in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Employee Remuneration Over \$130,000

Set out below, in bands of \$10,000 is the number of Shire employees entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more.

Salary Range	Number
\$130,001—\$140,000	1
\$140,001—\$150,000	0
\$150,001—\$160,000	1
\$160,001—\$170,000	0
\$170,001—\$180,000	1
\$180,001—\$190,000	0
\$190,001—\$200,000	0
\$200,001—\$210,000	0

Significance of Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants

The Shire Financial Assistance Grant allocation in 2022/23 was \$1,549,407 which contributes to annual maintenance of the community's infrastructure and general operations of the local government.

Register of Financial Interests for Elected Members and Senior Staff

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, this register is held in the Administration office and is available for viewing by the public.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Shire of Jerramungup Disability Access and Inclusion Plan was reviewed in 2019. The purpose of the DAIP is to set out strategies that a local government will undertake to ensure that people with disability can access its services, and that the services provided will facilitate increased independence, opportunities and inclusion for people with disability in the community.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2024 will continue to guide the Shire's efforts to make the Shire of Jerramungup community a more friendly and inclusive place for people with disabilities and has resulted in a number of improvements being made throughout the Shire. As our community infrastructure develops we will continue to design for disabled access.

Public Interest Disclosure

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, the Shire of Jerramungup has established procedures to facilitate the making of disclosures under the Act. These procedures set out the processes in place in respect to protected disclosures generally, to protect people from reprisal for making protected disclosures, and to provide guidance on investigations. No disclosures relating to improper conduct were made to the Shire during the 2022/2023 financial year, therefore no disclosures were referred to the ombudsman.

Freedom of Information Act 1992

The Shire of Jerramungup is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1992, which gives individuals and organisations a general right of access to information held by the Shire. The Act also provides the right of appeal in relation to decisions made by the Shire to refuse access to information applied for under the Act. The Shire received no requests for information during 2022/2023.

Sewerage Scheme and Customer Service Charter

This charter sets out the broad philosophy of the Shire in supplying sewerage services to the Jerramungup town site in accordance with the License issued to the Shire by the Economic Regulation Authority under the Water Services Licensing Act 1995. Copies of the charter are available at the Shire of Jerramungup administration office.

The charter informs the customers of the Shire of their rights in accordance with the provisions of the license, including service interruptions, levels of service and complaints procedures. The Shire will provide its sewerage services in a manner that is fair, courteous and, timely with a focus on consultation with our customers, respecting their rights, and meeting their reasonable expectations.

Building and Development Applications:

There was a continued high demand for new Development Applications and Building Permits within the reporting period and processing those applications and enquiries regarding development proposals has been a major focus over the current and past reporting periods.

A total of 61 Planning approvals, 60 Building approvals, and 6 crossover permits were issued during 2022/23.

Register of Minor Complaints

Section 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995 (Register of Certain Complaints of Minor Breaches) requires the Complaints Officer for each local government to maintain a Register of Complaints which records all complaints that result in action under Section 5.110(6) (b) or (c) of the Act (Conduct of Certain Officials).

Section 5.53 (2) (hb) of the Local Government Act 1995 requires disclosure in the Annual Report of details of entries made under Section 5.121 during the financial year in the Register of Complaints, including:

1. The number of complaints recorded in the register of complaints;
2. How the recorded complaint was dealt with; and
3. Any other details that the Regulations may require.

In accordance with these requirements, it is advised that no complaints or minor breaches under the Local Government Act 1995 were received during 2022-2023.

Competition Reform

National Competition Policy (NCP) is designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector agencies and lead to more efficient use of all economic resources. There are a number of specific requirements placed on Local Government in the areas of competitive neutrality, legislation review and structural reform.

Each Local Government is required to report its progress in achieving NCP reforms in its annual report.

Competitive Neutrality

The principle of competitive neutrality is that government businesses should not enjoy a competitive advantage, or disadvantage, simply as a result of their public sector ownership. Measures should be introduced to effectively neutralise any net competitive advantage flowing from government ownership.

Competitive neutrality should apply to all business activities, which generate a user-pays income of over \$200,000, unless it can be shown it is not in the public interest.

A public benefit test is used to determine if competitive neutrality is in the public interest.

This involves assessing the benefits of implementing competitive neutrality against the costs. If the benefits exceed the costs, competitive neutrality should be implemented.

Annual Reports must show that a public benefit test has been conducted for all significant business activities. They should also provide information on how a decision was reached to implement or not implement competitive neutrality in each case.

If competitive neutrality has been found to be in the public interest, the Annual Report must show the schedule for implementing it over the coming year.

As the Shire of Jerramungup does not have any 'Significant Business Activities' with an annual user-pays income exceeding \$200,000 pa this negates further action or reporting obligation.





LEGISLATION REVIEW

All Local Governments are required to assess which of their local laws might impact on competition and conduct a review of each to determine how any restrictive practices might be overcome.

There are specific reporting requirements which must be included in the Annual Report, including:

A statement of which local laws have been reviewed, the conclusions of those reviews, and an implementation schedule for any resultant recommendations;

Council did not undertake a review of any Local Laws during the 2022-2023 year.

STRUCTURAL REFORM

Before Local Governments privatise a monopoly business activity or introduce competition into a sector dominated by a monopoly or near monopoly, the regulatory and commercial activities must be separated and a review undertaken.

Where applicable, all Local Governments in Australia must report their adherence to structural reform principles. At present, this requirement has a very limited impact on Local Government in Western Australia, and most will not need to provide this information.

AUDIT REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following pages contain the Shire of Jerramungup annual audit report and financial report. The Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government Financial Management Regulations 1996 for the 2022/2023 financial year.

These statements provide an insight into the financial position of the Shire of Jerramungup and are audited by Lincolns Accountants and Business Advisors. Clarification and further information on the annual financial statements can be obtained by contacting the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at dceo@jerramungup.wa.gov.au.

