



## SHIRE OF MANJIMUP ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING 2022

**Minutes of the 2022 Annual Electors Meeting held Wednesday 13 January 2023 in the Shire of Manjimup JC Rose Room, corner Rose and Brockman Streets, Manjimup**

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### 1. Attendance

#### Councillors

Cr Paul Omodei (Chairperson)  
 Cr Denise Jenkins  
 Cr Susan Dawson Vidovich  
 Cr Murray Ventris  
 Cr Donelle Buegge

#### Electors

Nancy Giblett  
 David Giblett  
 Alan Lloyd  
 Mary Nixon  
 Ray Curo  
 Kathy Dawson

#### Staff

Andrew Campbell (Chief Executive Officer)  
 Jason Giadresco (Senior Governance Officer)

#### Apologies

Nil.

Cr Omodei opened the meeting at 6.00pm and acknowledged the attendance of electors and provided the background on the purpose of the Annual Electors Meeting. Cr Jenkins gave an acknowledgement to the Traditional Custodians.

### 2. Confirmation of previous minutes

**Moved: Cr D Buegge**

**Seconded: D Giblett**

**“That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held 12 January 2022 be confirmed as a true record.”**

**Carried**

### 3. Receipt of the Annual Report for year ended 30 June 2021

The Shire of Manjimup Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 was tabled with copies available to attendees.

The Chairperson noted that:

- The 2021/2022 financial year had been challenging; and
- Discussed Council's involvement in the current timber industry transition, and the nature of meetings with the Just Transition Group and other local governments.

The Chairperson invited the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide an overview of the Shire's performance for the year. The CEO proceeded to read to the gallery a report which summarised the Shire's activities over the 2021/22 financial year. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix A.

**Moved: A Lloyd**

**Seconded: Cr D Buegge**

**“Confirm receipt of the Shire of Manjimup Annual Report for the 2021-2022 financial year.”**

**Carried**

#### **4. Response to Questions with Notice**

Nil.

#### **5. General business**

Mr Alan Lloyd

- Noted that despite the increase in building permit approvals, and an increase in local population, the Annual Report highlights that the population of the Shire has dropped over time?

Chief Executive Officer Response: Advised Mr Lloyd that the Shire has been in discussions with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the validity of the 2021 Census. The new census population figure shows an increase to 9,351 people.

Shire President Response: Noted the collection of the 2021 Census was poor. A number of non-local people were used to collect it.

- Stated back in the 2021 Annual Electors Meeting they asked about the Manjimup Accommodation development and noted that a second payment had been made at the time. Now that construction has resumed, have payments by the developer been made?

Chief Executive Officer Response: My understanding is that the payments are being made.

Shire President Response: Noted the negative commentary on social media about the value and appearance of the project.

Mrs Mary Nixon: Did the developer receive a lease extension due to COVID? Is the 5 year lease still from the time they took the lease originally?

Chief Executive Officer Response: I believe it's a 5-year lease, with a 5-year option to extend. There is also an option to buy. The lease conditions are available online as a public record.

Cr Murray Ventris: If they don't exercise their right to purchase, they forfeit all land structure on the property?

Chief Executive Officer Response: That is correct.

Mrs Mary Nixon: At the CCI meeting, the CEO stated that they would have a few of the units available for viewing. Is that still the case?

Chief Executive Officer Response: Yes, I believe the developer is still on track to do that. But they also want to present a 'finished product', with landscaping and other finishes so it can be properly shown.

Mrs Mary Nixon: What is the name of the builder?

Chief Executive Officer Response: It's a registered builder. I can't recall their name off-hand. Its pertinent to note that the developer is here for the long term.

- Noted in the Annual Report that the Shire had assisted in the development of a number of economic initiatives across the district. What are they?

Chief Executive Officer Response: Some of them are still commercial in confidence. The ones that have progressed have received development approval, such as St. Hilda's in Pemberton, avocado production and the kiwi fruit developments in Wilgarrup and West Manjimup. Noted the Shire is now the largest horticultural producer in the State.

Mrs Mary Nixon

- I'd like to move a motion about the possibility of mining in the Shire. It has come to my attention that the Shire is informed when there is an application for permits to explore for minerals. By way of background, this only ever came to my attention as I received a letter from a mining company informing me of their intention to fly over our property with their survey equipment. No longer do applicants have to inform landowners of heir intent to explore. However, I do know that Shire Councils are informed when an application to explore goes in. I would like to move the following Motion:

#### **MOTION**

**Moved: M Nixon**

**Seconded: A Lloyd**

**“When the Manjimup Shire is informed of any application for exploration, renewal of an exploration permit, application for extraction or any application pertaining to mining in the Shire of Manjimup that the CEO at that time see to it that residents and ratepayers in the immediate vicinity of those applications is advised via Australia Post and at the same time the electors**

of the Shire are informed via the Shire website, Antenno and the Shire Facebook page.”

Carried

Mr Keith Liddelow

- What the dollar value of 1% of rates?

Shire President Response: Approximately \$100,000.

- What the current debt level of the Shire?

Chief Executive Officer Response: The debt level is currently at 8% as a percentage of rates. This largely due to the loaning of money for the Collier Street/Rea Park redevelopment. Debt is capped at 18%. Noted that the Shire has considerable debt being retired over the next few years.

- Noted that across the wider community that there is a perception that there are too many Shire workers.

Chief Executive Officer Response: Noted that during his tenure as CEO since 2014, the Shire has not had any increase in full time equivalent employees (FTE's) in non-grant funded positions.

- Discussed the poor condition of Shire roads, and the access to suitable gravel for road maintenance/construction purposes. Noted the high cost in freight.

Chief Executive Officer Response: The Shire on average has a budget of around \$4 million dollars for road construction/maintenance each year. Currently, the Shire's roads are depreciating at a rate of around \$6 million dollars are year. This makes the maintenance of our road infrastructure increasingly difficult. With regards to gravel, it needs to be at a Main Roads specification to be of use. If we don't use Main Roads specification gravel in our projects, it may jeopardise the Shire's ability to receive further funding for local roads projects.

Ms Kathy Dawson

- Noted the funding of weed and pest control initiatives, and queried whether the Shire had a drought policy? Could be useful in securing future funding as a proactive measure.

Chief Executive Officer Response: The Shire doesn't currently have a policy on drought, but it could be a matter for the proposed Sustainability Advisory Committee to consider.

No further questions or statements were received from electors.

## 6. Close

The Chairperson thanked those in attendance for their ongoing interest in Council matters before closing the meeting at 6.58pm.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul P. Omodei". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a period after the first name.

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Paul Omodei  
Shire President

## APPENDIX A

### Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Annual Electors Meeting 2022

Please note that the Annual Report is a review of past performance finalised at 30 June 2022. Obviously a number of matters have developed since then (such as the Native Timber Industry Transition decision) and these matters will be reported in the next Annual Report.

#### Key Achievements

- Continued progression of the development of the Hotel Accommodation site within Manjimup;
- Continued the progression of the land transaction to facilitate a future High Dependency Aged Care Facility at the old Warren District Hospital site;
- Encouraged significant investment in several large economic development initiatives across the district;
- Continued to build on relationships established with the State Government and promote the needs of the Shire of Manjimup district;
- Maintained a “business as usual” organisation performance during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
- Continued working within the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils to progress regional initiatives;
- Purchased land for the Manjimup Trailbike Hub and progressed the project to construction phase, with a tenderer appointed to build new facility;
- Reviewed the Shire's Corporate Business Plan;
- Worked with State Government and local stakeholders regarding the local timber industry and future plans for timber mills in the Shire;
- Continued provision of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts for the organisation:
  - Incident Support Group;
  - Local Emergency Management Committee;
  - Leadership Group meetings;
  - Business continuity planning;
  - Communications;
  - Information gathering; and
  - Regular liaison with the Warren Health Service;
- Continued working with RAC to further the electric charge station as part of the RAC Electric Highway;
- Commenced discussions with the State Government over the electric highway initiative;
- Continued pursuing regional investment opportunities through South West Development Commission; and
- Continued advocacy for the Shire in light of the proposed reforms to local government.

#### Key Outcomes

- Building Permits for 31 new dwellings were approved included in a total of 256 total building permits with a total value of \$17M.
- Community grants were provided to a total value of \$192,924 with \$72,000 distributed to 20 events, \$33,000 distributed for youth and chaplaincy services, and \$87,924 to 37 community based organisations as general grants.
- From an environmental perspective the Shire was an active participant in the Warren Blackwood Climate Change Impact Reference Group in addition to undertaking other localised activities including Windy Harbour Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan, Weed Management, threatened species project at Windy Harbour, as well as financially supporting Southern Forests Community Landcare and various feral pig eradication groups.
- Financial performance remains very sound with some issues experienced due to severe construction and infrastructure market conditions. Further information can be found on pages 34 to 43 of the Annual Report with detailed information contained in the attached Annual Financial Report.
- The Shire continues with a large investment into marketing and tourism with \$175,998 provided to the 4 visitor centres, \$25,000 provided to the southern Forests Food Council and \$59,778 provided to the Southern Forests and Valleys Tourism Association.
- In a very promising sign resulting from significant education of the community, fire infringements decreased from 61 in 2020/21 to 42 in 2021/22. The Shire still plays a very important role in managing 20 bush fire brigades across the Shire district.
- 93ha of land under the responsibility of the Shire had bush fire mitigation works completed (slashing or mulching) in addition to the maintenance of 28km of strategic firebreak maintenance.
- Infrastructure works continue to be a large cost centre with 6.4km of reconstruction / widening works, 1km of reseal works, 9.4km of gravel re-sheeting works and just under 600m of footpath works completed. A total of \$5.25M was spent of infrastructure improvements excluding bridge construction work which is done by MRWA.
- 169 development applications were processed in 2021/22 with a total value of \$22.1M. This is slightly down from the previous reporting year when the Shire saw a significant spike in new dwelling approvals. During the period the Shire was asked to comment on 14 subdivision applications by WAPC.
- Total waste received at the Manjimup Rubbish and Recycling Centre decreased by 15% from the previous year most likely attributed to the downscaling of large construction based projects in the Shire. 15,520 tonnes of waste were received for disposal representing 33,000m<sup>3</sup> of uncompacted waste, however this was reduced to 8,244m<sup>3</sup> with compaction which allows the preservation of space at the site for the future.
- 978 tonnes of recycled material was collected and processed across the Shire which equates to around 70kg per person living in the district.
- The Shire currently has 126.7 FTE's with 107.1FTE's not tied directly to grant funding. During my tenure as CEO since 2014 this FTE figure has not increased which is a testament to the ability of staff to do more with less, create efficiency in processes and to use innovation to overcome obstacles.
- Staff turnover was 14.2% during the period up from 9.6% from the previous year. The main reason for this was a number of terminations resulting from Covid mandates of the State Government.

- Councillors had a total attendance rate of 91% and considered a total of 329 items averaging 20.5 items considered per meeting.
- No complaints were made against Councillors in 2021/22.

Covid continued to be a major consideration for the Shire in 2021/22 and the organisation successfully navigated the consequences with very little disruption. The Shire continues to have very robust, transparent and accountable financial systems and funds continue to be spent rationally in accordance with strategy to benefit the community as a whole. Strong governance arrangements underpin the operations and this has guided the organisation to the strong and stable position it is in.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillors, the Senior Management Team and all employees for their dedication and commitment over the reporting period.



**Andrew Campbell**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

12 January 2022