



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

**Council Chambers
24-26 Richmond Street Nyabing**

Wednesday 17 December 2025

Commencement: 7:00pm

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

11 February 2026

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, **Cr Kate Johnston**, declared the Annual Electors Meeting held on 11 February 2026 open at 7:00pm.

2. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members Present

Cr Kate Johnston	President
Cr Scott Crosby	Deputy President
Cr Suma Reid	Councillor
Cr Greg Hobley	Councillor
Cr Darren Gray	Councillor
Cr Tim Borgward	Councillor

Staff Members Present

Christie Smith	Chief Executive Officer
David Bentley	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Gary Mathewson	Manager Infrastructure

Apologies

Darren Hams

Electors

Alyson Cooper
Michael Hams
Davina Hams

Leave of Absence

Nil.

Observers

David Fyfe

3. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIVING OF MINUTES

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting Held 12 February 2025

OFFICER / MEETING RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Gray

That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held at the Pingrup Sports Pavilion, Gaby Street Pingrup, on Wednesday 12 February 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9/0

4. 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OFFICER / MEETING RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Borgward / Seconded Cr Hobley

That the 2024/25 Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 be received.

CARRIED 9/0

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Alyson Cooper

Heads up for aged care in our area, we don't have aged care services here. We are really struggling with facts and figures in relation to what we have in the district, WA needs 6,000 new beds in the next three years and nothing is being done locally. There are no new aged care centres being built in WA and we need as many of our aged residents as possible in the area and we need to get an aged care provider.

Just to put it on your broader radar to do whatever you can do to get aged care help in the area. If aged residents sell their house here, they won't get in to aged care. There are long wait times for aged facilities and palliative care. CWA has been discussing this for a while around what happens with our aged population. If you don't have the backing of a farm, you are at risk of not being able to afford to move into aged care and can't afford to leave the town.

The Disability and Aged Care forum occurred in Katanning in January 2026 and October 2025 with good representation from Dumbleyung and it was noted how dire the situation is in the aged care space in the district.

The **President** advised that the biggest role we have in this space is advocacy through the WALGA Zone to the State Government. We are certainly aware that this is an issue in the community.

Alyson Cooper left the meeting at 7:12pm and did not return.

Davina Hams

If Council will be able to reconsider its allocation of maintenance funding to Ryans Road. It's been neglected for some time and it's becoming dangerous. It's getting to the point that we won't be able to use it.

Michael Hams

Ryans Road is 30km long and its sand based. We are struggling with the sand and it's getting worse. From Smarty's end it's clay for about 8km and then it starts going to sand. It is getting patched and the patches go over the top of the road surface. Trucks go slower and its getting to a point where it's dangerous. Over 100,000 tonnes of grain goes through that road during harvest. The road is struggling to keep up and we need some solution. I've spoken to farmers on the road and there is a consensus to do whatever they can to help with the road. Waiting five years isn't sustainable any more.

David Fyfe

Fyfe Transport has been carting on Ryans Road since 1988. It has always been a road that has had big traffic. It's never had a base it's just sand. After the first week of harvest, despite the Shire's best effort, it blows out. Fyfe Transport drivers are instructed to not drive over 60kmh and reduce loads. The road takes a lot of grain, fertiliser, sheep and is a school bus route. The local traffic is a worry for us because there are children of farmers and backpackers who have lower levels of awareness of gravel roads. We do a lot of damage to our gear driving on the road.

My hope is to reform the road at 8m and 350mm sheeting. \$35,000 to \$40,000 per kilometre is my estimate for what that would cost. Hattwell Road and Duncombe Road is also the same. Once it starts collapsing, we go out to East Road.

The **President** thanked them. As a Council, most have driven down that road and one drove a truck on it for the purpose of looking at it. As provided to Davina, it is one of the roads in the Shire that isn't eligible for funding so any works to that road have to be own source funded by the Shire. This limits how quickly we can do anything. We have 1,200km of road that we have to maintain. It is on our radar and we have spoken about it since the letter was sent. We can't commit to a date to schedule works on the road, but we will get data counters on the road so that we can make the decision on where the road strategically fits in the plan.

Michael Hams

So the State government option is not an option for us?

The **President** advised it was not.

Michael Hams

I've spoken to everyone who lives on the road, if we can get it to the point where there was some Shire work being undertaken such as sheeting 2km, we would be happy to join in and get a truck to push up gravel. We get that there are other roads around the Shire. I have seen Ryans Road sheet gravelled once in 25 years. Surely it's starting to get to that point now. I understand it's a money issue, but it is very important.

The **President** said that the data you have given to me is very important because we don't have any data to support our decision making so thank you for that.

David Fyfe

What is the criteria for grants?

The **Manager Infrastructure** advised that it has to be a road of "regional significance". It has to go through to another regional area to be on the 2040 funding.

David Fyfe

Lockhart Road is used for Gypsum and the recent fires. Does that count?

The **Deputy President** said that because a bitumen road is connected to it, you'll struggle to get funding and there has to be a gap between funded roads.

The **Manager Infrastructure** added that the Shire can do some research to see if there is any funding but 2040 isn't possible.

The **Deputy President** added that we have grants for other roads in and we haven't heard those back and we can't apply for more until they get announced.

The **Chief Executive Officer** added that Council has a draft 5 year Roads Program and this document will be expanded. It doesn't set projects in stone, but it allows conversations and data gathering. The Manager Infrastructure will put counters on Ryans Road.

Michael Hams

Grain goes all the way along the road.

The **Manager Infrastructure** said that this count data is needed to be able to apply for funding. We will do it just after seeding and harvest for a low and a high count.

Cr Greg Hobley added that the Shire have only just in the last few years put solid traffic count data practices in place, which wasn't happening very well before. Ryans Road is just one we haven't got to yet.

Davina Hams

Timing wise, we have the data given to us. You may not get harvest data for the next budget, are we looking at two years' time for work?

The **President** advised that we have an amount in our budget to try and commit to our own source funded roads. We have a five-year plan on what that looks like right now and we have the ability to change that timeline.

Davina Hams

Between that data and the road this year, if it shows that the road is getting way more traffic than others, are you able to change it?

The **President** advised that it could potentially be changed.

The **Chief Executive Officer** added that we have a Road Maintenance Management Plan and it categorises roads. Ryans is on the highest category as a Local Distributor Road A.

The **Deputy President** added that this was only adopted less than 12 months ago and we are only just changing our approach to decision making as this plan is in its infancy.

The **President** added that we can get money from other places for some roads so it might look like some jump the queue.

David Fyfe

What can we do to supply information to help with funding?

The **Manager Infrastructure** advised that letters of support from business like Fyfe Transport would be ideal to help get it on the radar.

David Fyfe

One of the things I've noticed is that the grain production has increased so much. We do a corporate in Pingrup and livestock number are coming down. The volumes of grain are five times higher than they were when I started in 1988.

The **President** said that we are putting a lot more truck movements in a shorter time which is exacerbating the issue.

Michael Hams

They won't put money into rail so more grain is on the road.

The **Deputy President** said that the State Treasurer has cut funding for the secondary freight network funding which is making the funding situation worse.

David Fyfe

I would be willing to supply a side tipper and people free of charge in an effort to decrease cost if the time did come.

Davina Hams

It is clear that nothing major is going to get done anytime soon. To get us by, how do the little bits that do get done prioritised? The time spent on bits that did get done this year could have been better spent somewhere else in a more dangerous spot. Could the Shire not make the patches a few metres longer and shorter? It'll last longer and be less dangerous.

The **Manager Infrastructure** advised that he hears their frustrations. One bit is patched and it blows out on the other end of the road. The road does need reforming and re-sheeting. We will try to make the patches better next season.

Davina Hams

It might be good to consult people like David Fyfe to get some further information when maintenance does occur.

The **Deputy President** asked **Davina Hams** when the road does get graded, how long does it last before it is no longer palatable?

Michael Hams said that it lasts two days. When you run a truck over it, it just pushes the sand away. Clay corrugates, but it holds up a bit better.

The **President** thanked attendees for advocating for their business and families. The Shire appreciates when people come along and try and find solutions to utilise our limited rate base.

6. MEETING CLOSED

The Presiding Member, **Cr Kate Johnston**, declared the meeting closed at 7:41pm.