



From the CEO

April Community Update

Welcome to the first of what will be monthly updates for the community, summarising decisions made at our Ordinary Council Meetings, as well as general updates from the Shire. Ordinary Meetings of Council are normally held on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30am, and we will endeavour to have these updates posted in the following week.

As always, members of the public are welcome to attend Council Meetings with the opportunity to ask questions during Public Question Time. Please reach out to the Shire if you would like further information on attending or submitting questions. Agendas are posted on the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting and can be found at [here](#).

Summary of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 April 2024

At this month's meeting, the primary topic was a scheduled minor review of the Plan for the Future. This document incorporates the Shire's Strategic Community Plan (SCP) and Corporate Business Plan (CBP). The SCP is a document that is prepared in consultation with the Community and spells out what you want your community to be over the next 10 years, while the Corporate Business Plan is how the Shire will deliver on the SCP.

The Shire of Leonora's Plan for the Future can be found [here](#). Our next major review will be conducted in 2025, and we will notify the community when the review date has been confirmed. I would encourage everyone to be involved in this to better inform the Shire of the needs of the community.

Additionally, the following resolutions were passed:

- Acceptance of a tender to re-sheet the Leinster Downs Road that connects Leinster to the Goldfields Highway in the North. Works will commence shortly.
- Monthly Financials and Accounts paid since the previous meeting. These documents outline spending by the Shire Administration and where the Shire is sitting financially, i.e. how we are spending community funds for the betterment of the community.



General updates

Road closures

Many of the Shire's unsealed roads remain either closed or restricted. Staff are working to repair and reopen roads as quickly as we can, however, some roads remain impassable due to flooding. By all accounts we haven't experienced this level of flooding or road closures since Cyclone Bobby back in 1995. Road conditions can be found [here](#).

I would like to remind everyone that there is no automatic right of access on a road that has been closed, and this includes any person that may live on the road or have a lease or other business interest on that road. Knowledge of the area or skill at driving are not relevant. It is my experience having worked for many years in remote WA that the vast majority of people that get stuck after driving on a closed road are locals that thought they knew better. Please also remember that it is very unlikely that your insurance will cover driving on a closed road, and you may even be liable for costs associated with a recovery or damage caused to the road.

The decision to close a road is not taken lightly and the Shire fully appreciates the disruption it causes. The overriding consideration is safety for both road users and Shire staff. A secondary consideration is damage that may be caused to the road particularly by heavy traffic. Damage may take some months to repair and impacts other road users. If you need to access a closed road for any reason, please contact the Shire to discuss your situation. If possible, we will issue a permit. A condition of the permit will be to take an agreed route (the shortest possible) and also to notify the Shire when starting the journey and at the completion of the journey. We can then make sure you have reached your destination safely or send out a search party if needed.

If for whatever reason a permit is unable to be issued, we will try to accommodate any other needs such as food or water drops. During the recent flooding the Shire worked closely with State agencies such as DFES who arranged many supplies to be dropped by air to people who were stranded or needed to be evacuated.

Community consultation

Thank you to everyone that participated in the recent community consultation. We had some great feedback, and the level of participation was well above what is normally experienced for a town our size. We are drafting a report for Council and looking at how to best progress these ideas.



Hoover House

If you haven't seen some of the great things coming out of Hoover House have a look at some of our FB posts. We have replaced a lot of the outside furniture to make it a better dining experience. The couches are still there, just around the corner (with a better view!).

Grant funding

The Shire has received a commitment to grant funding from the Federal Government. The purpose of the grant is to fund the refurbishment of a local house to create a Family and Domestic Violence Refuge, the second project is the refurbishment of the Youth Centre. Both great projects and we are just finalising the grant agreements.

Ageing In Place Units

Applications for the Ageing In Place units closed on 29th March 2024. The applications are currently under review and we expect their recommendations by week ending 26th April. Once received, the Shire will review the recommendations within five working days, and applicants will then be notified of the outcome. We expect to see tenants in residence by the end of May.

Free to air TV

The replacement equipment for our free to air TV services is now on shore and with our contractor. Once configured it will be shipped to us for installation by qualified technician.

If you have any questions, please reach out to either one of our Councillors or me. I'm happy to catch up with anyone and will do so if available, otherwise you can ring the Shire office on (08) 9037 6044 and book in a time.

Ty Matson
CEO

Document links:

Council meeting documents	www.leonora.wa.gov.au/council-meetings
Shire of Leonora's Plan for the Future	www.leonora.wa.gov.au/documents/public-documents
Road conditions	www.leonora.wa.gov.au/roadreport