SHIRE OF LEONORA

NOTICE OF AN
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA

DEAR COUNCIL MEMBER,

THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SHIRE OF LEONORA WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 2026 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEONORA AT 10:00 AM

TY MATSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING IS DETAILED OVER PAGE.

SHIRE OF LEONORA

INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE:-

THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA ARE OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE ACTED UPON UNTIL COUNCIL HAS RESOLVED TO ADOPT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY PERUSING THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONSIDERED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THEY ACT AT THEIR OWN RISK IF THEY ENACT ANY RESOLUTION PRIOR TO RECEIVING OFFICIAL WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL'S DECISION.

TY MATSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION NOTES

1. Your Council generally handles all business at Ordinary or Special Council Meetings.
2. From time to time Council may form a Committee to examine subjects and then report to Council.
3. Generally, all meetings are open to the public; however, from time to time Council will be required to deal with personal, legal and other sensitive matters. On those occasions Council will generally close that part of the meeting to the public. Every endeavour will be made to do this at the last item of business of the meeting.
4. Public Question Time. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1995 to allow at least fifteen (15) minutes for public question time following the opening and announcements at the beginning of the meeting. Should there be a series of questions the period can be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.

   Written notice of each question should be given to the Chief Executive Officer fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting. A summary of each question and response in included in the Minutes.

   When a question is not able to be answered at the Council Meeting a written answer will be provided after the necessary research has been carried out. Council staff will endeavour to provide the answer prior to the next meeting of Council.
5. **Councillors** may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter before Council. Councillors must declare an interest and the extent of the interest in the matter on the Agenda. However, the Councillor can request the meeting to declare the matter **trivial, insignificant or in common with a significant number of electors** or **ratepayers**. The Councillor must leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and cannot vote unless those present agree as above.

   Members of staff, who have delegated authority from Council to act on certain matters, may from time to time have financial interest in a matter in the Agenda. The member of staff must declare that interest and generally the Chairman of the meeting will advise the Officer if he/she is to leave the meeting.
6. Agendas including an Information Bulletin are delivered to the Councillors within the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, i.e. seventy-two (72) hours prior to the advertised commencement of the meeting. Whilst late items are generally not considered there is provision on the Agenda for items of an urgent nature to be considered.

   Should an elector wish to have a matter placed on the Agenda the relevant information should be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer in time to allow the matter to be fully researched by staff. An Agenda item including a recommendation will then be submitted to Council for consideration.

   The Agenda closes the Wednesday week prior to the Council Meeting (i.e. six (6) days prior to the meeting).

   The Information Bulletin produced as part of the Agenda includes items of interest and information, which does not require a decision of Council.
7. Agendas for Ordinary Meetings are available in the Leonora Shire office and Leonora library seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the public are invited to secure a copy.

8. Agenda items submitted to Council will include a recommendation for Council consideration. Electors should not interpret and/or act on the recommendation until after they have been considered by Council. Please note the Disclaimer in the Agenda (page 3).
9. Public Question Time – Statutory Provisions – Local Government Act 1995

   Time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to at:

   (a) Every ordinary meeting of Council; and
   (b) Such other meetings of Council or committees as may be prescribed

   Procedures and the minimum time to be allocated for asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at Council or committee meetings are to be in accordance with regulations.

9A. Question Time for the Public at the certain Meetings – s5.24 (1) (b)

Local Government (administration) Regulations 1996

Reg 5 For the purpose of section 5.24(1)(b), the meetings at which time is to be allocated for questions to be raised by members of the public and responded to are:

(a) Every special meeting of a Council; and
(b) Every meeting of a committee to which the local government has delegated a power or duty.

Minimum Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

Reg 6 (1) The minimum time to be allocated for asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at ordinary meetings of Council and meetings referred to in regulation 5 is fifteen (15) minutes.

(2) Once all the questions raised by members of the public have been asked and responded to at a meeting referred to in sub regulation (1), nothing in these regulations prevents the unused part of the minimum question time period from being used for other matters.

Procedures for Question Time for the Public – s5.24 (2)

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Reg 7 (1) Procedures for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6 (1) are to be determined:

(a) by the person presiding at the meeting; or
(b) in the case where the majority of the members of the Council or committee present at the meeting disagree with the person presiding, by the majority of the members, having regard to the requirements of sub regulations (2) and (3).

(2) The time allocated to the asking and responding to questions raised by members of the public at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to precede the discussion of any matter that requires a decision to be made by Council or committee, as the case may be.

(3) Each member of the public who wishes to ask a question at a meeting referred to in regulation 6(1) is to be given an equal and fair opportunity to ask a question and receive a response.

(4) Nothing in sub regulation (3) requires:

(a) A Council to answer a question that does not relate to a matter affecting the local government;

(b) A Council at a special meeting to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting; or

(c) A committee to answer a question that does not relate to a function of the committee.

10. **Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes (Reg 13)**

A copy of the unconfirmed Minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings will be available for public inspection in the Leonora Shire office and the Leonora library within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.

INTEREST DECLARATIONS

With regards to Direct Financial Interests, Indirect Financial Interests and Proximity Interests, please consider sections 5.60A, 5.60B, 5.61 and 5.63 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and associated regulations.

Financial Interests

For the purpose of the financial interest disclosure provisions you will be treated as having an interest in a matter, if either you (as a relevant person), or a person with whom you are closely associated, has:

- a direct or indirect financial interest in a matter; or
- a proximity interest in a matter.

Direct Financial Interest

Section 5.60A of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that:

A person has a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonable to expect that the matter will, if dealt with by the local government, or an employee or committee of the local government or member of the council of the local government, in a particular way, result in a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment for the person.

Indirect Financial Interest

Section 5.61 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides more detail in regards to this, however the existence of an indirect financial interest in a matter can be established by showing that you, or a person with whom you are closely associated, has a financial relationship with a person requiring a local government decision in relation to that matter. There is no requirement to establish a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment in this instance, the mere existence of a financial relationship and the requirement for a decision is sufficient for a breach of the provision to have occurred.

Proximity Interest

See Section 5.60B of the *Local Government act 1995 for further detail.*

The Act requires you to disclose a proximity interest that you, or a person with whom you are closely associated, has in a matter before a council or council committee meeting.

You (or a person with whom you are closely associated) have a proximity interest in any matter that concerns:

- a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land;
- a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or
- a proposed development of land that adjoins the person's land (development refers to the development, maintenance or management of the land or of services or facilities on the land).

The existence of a proximity interest is established purely by the location of land, a financial effect on the valuation of your land or on the profitability of your business does not have to be established. It is therefore important that you fully understand when a proximity interest exists.

The person's land referred to is both land in which you, or a person with whom you are closely associated, have any estate or interest.

Land that adjoins a person's land is defined by the Act as land that:

- not being a thoroughfare, has a common boundary with the person's land;
- is directly across a thoroughfare from the person's land; or
- is that part of a thoroughfare that has a common boundary with the person's land.

Impartiality Interest

Impartiality Interest For the purposes of requiring disclosure, an impartiality interest is addressed at Division 4 of the Shire of Leonora Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates as, *"an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association"*

The above definition includes examples of the type of relationships from which an interest could arise. However, a significant element is the likely public perception as to whether there may be an interest.

It is sometimes difficult to judge what a reasonable belief of another person is. Therefore, when deciding if such an interest should be disclosed, it is helpful to establish answers to the following questions:

- If you were to participate in assessment or decision making without disclosing, would you be comfortable if the public or your colleagues became aware of your association or connection with an individual or organisation?
- Do you think there would be a later criticism of perceived undisclosed partiality if you were not to disclose?

SHIRE OF LEONORA

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST, 2026.

10.0 REPORTS

10.1 REPORTS OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES

Nil

10.0 REPORTS
10.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS
10.2.(A) PROPOSED ROAD USER AGREEMENT WONGANOO AND DARLOT ROAD

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.2.(A) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Proposed Road User Agreement Wonganoo and Darlot Road
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Wonganoo and Darlot Road
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Emerald Resources
FILE REFERENCE:	Roads

AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT

NAME:	Ty Matson
OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	13th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	**1.** Road User Agreement - Emerald Resources (confidential)

REPORT PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into a Road User Agreement with Emerald Resources to allow the use of Wonganoo and Darlot associated roads within the Shire of Leonora for the transportation of project infrastructure required for mine development and essential operational logistics. Dingo Range Operations will not use these roads for ore haulage activities.

BACKGROUND

Road User Agreements are used by Local Governments throughout Western Australia to assist with the maintenance and restoration of the roads used for the haulage of mining products. The Shire has several roads that have Road User Agreements in place and is currently reviewing and updating these agreements.

The Council generally reviews Road User Agreements on a biannual basis.

A review of previous agreements indicated that it did not include a ‘make good’ clause at the end of the agreement where the road is reinstated to a standard road condition after the haulage of product is completed. It was also noted that the agreement was indefinite from the signing date, it is good practice for the Council to include a review timeframe on agreements. The current Road User Agreement has included these changes so that the Council has both a Review and Reinstatement process in the agreements.

Emerald Resources have requested a Road User Agreement on the Wonganoo Road from SLK 0.00 to SLK 70.00 and Darlot Road from SLK 0.00 to SLK 49.0.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The following were engaged in discussions regarding this agreement.

- Representatives from Emerald Resources
- Manager of Works and Services
- Chief Executive Officer

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Road User Agreements operate in the following:

• *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008 (Section 132)*
• *Local Government Act 1995 (Section 3.53)*
• *Main Roads Act 1930*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Road User Agreement should have no effect on Council's road budget as the recipient of the agreement is required to maintain the road for the period of the agreement then return the road to the Shire's gravel road standard at the end of the agreement.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The review and updating Road User Agreements will benefit the Shire as roads will be returned in a fit-for-purpose state than some roads that have previously required the Shire to reinstate after companies had completed their operations.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is risk associated with a Road User Agreement in which a company may default on the restoration of the road due to changing circumstances within the company. The Council administration conducts regular checks on the roads on a regular basis and are aware of the commercial environment that the company is operating under.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council:

   (a) approve the Road User Agreement for Emerald Resources; and

   (b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Road User Agreement.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Chief Executive Officer

10.0 REPORTS
10.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS
10.2.(B) CHANGE OF MEETING DATE - SEPTEMBER 2026

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.2.(B) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Change of Meeting Date - September 2026
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	N/A
NAME OF APPLICANT:	N/A
FILE REFERENCE:	Council and Committees / Council / Reporting Compliance
AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT	
NAME:	Kiara Lord
OFFICER:	Manager Business Services
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	5th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	Nil

REPORT PURPOSE

To seek Council's determination to change the dates of the September 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting from Tuesday, 15 September 2026 to Tuesday, 22 September 2026, with the commencement times and venue remaining unchanged.

BACKGROUND

Ordinary Council Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month, except January. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meetings are ordinarily held quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Shire's published 2026 meeting details presently provide for:

- The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 September 2026 at 9:30am; and
- The Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15 September, 2026 at 10:00am.

Both meetings are scheduled to be held in the Shire of Leonora Council Chambers, 16 Tower Street, Leonora.

The WALGA Local Government Convention is scheduled for Wednesday, 16 September to Friday, 18 September 2026 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The WALGA Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Convention on Thursday, 17 September 2026.

It is therefore proposed that both Shire meetings be moved by one week to Tuesday, 22 September 2026.

COMMENTS

The existing meeting date immediately precedes the commencement of the WALGA Local Government Convention and will conflict with the travel requirements of Council Members and the Chief Executive Officer attending the Convention and WALGA Annual General Meeting.

Moving the meetings to Tuesday, 22 September 2026 will avoid that conflict and support the attendance and participation of Council and Committee members. The change does not affect compliance with the requirement that ordinary Council meetings be held not more than three months apart.

The commencement times and venue will remain:

- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting: 9:30 am;
- Ordinary Council Meeting: 10:00 am; and
- venue: Shire of Leonora Council Chambers, 16 Tower Street, Leonora.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Shire President and Chief Executive Officer have been consulted and support the proposed change. Council and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee member availability has also been considered.

No community consultation is required before Council determines the revised dates. Following Council's decision, the changed meeting details must be published on the Shire's official website as soon as practicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.3 provides that a council deliberates and makes its decisions at meetings held in accordance with the Act; that a council is to hold ordinary meetings and may hold special meetings; and that ordinary meetings are to be held not more than three months apart.

Section 5.4 provides that an ordinary or special Council meeting is to be held if called by the President or at least one-third of the Councillors in a notice to the CEO setting out the date and purpose of the proposed meeting, or if so decided by Council.

Section 5.5(1) requires the CEO to convene an ordinary meeting by giving each Council Member at least 72 hours' notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and an agenda for the meeting.

Section 5.19(1) provides that the quorum for a Council or committee meeting is at least 50% of the number of offices, whether vacant or not, of members of the Council or committee.

Section 5.20(1) provides that a Council decision does not have effect unless made by a simple majority, unless another kind of majority is required by the Act, regulations or a local law.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

Regulation 12 defines "meeting details" as the date and time when, and the place where, a meeting is to be held. The CEO must publish the meeting details for ordinary Council meetings and committee meetings on the official website before the beginning of the relevant year. Any change to those meeting details must be published on the official website as soon as practicable after the change is made.

Regulation 10 applies where the proposed change would revoke an earlier Council or committee decision or make that decision substantially different. In that circumstance:

- notice of the motion must be signed by members numbering at least one-third of the offices, inclusive of the mover;
- the motion must have the required procedural support; and
- the decision to revoke or change the earlier decision must be made by Absolute Majority.

Regulation 10 does not apply unless the existing meeting details were fixed by a previous Council or committee decision and the effect of the proposed change would revoke that decision or make it substantially different.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation aligns directly with the Shire of Leonora Council Plan 2025–2035 (2026 Review):

Strategic Objective 4 – Leadership: An innovative and proactive local government.

Outcome 4.1 – An innovative, strategically focused Council leading our community.

- Strategy 4.1.1 – Effectively represent and promote the Shire of Leonora.
- Action 4.1.1.3 – Participate with key stakeholders and committees.
- Strategy 4.1.2 – Provide strategic leadership and governance.
- Action 4.1.2.4 – Provide appropriate governance and leadership to the Shire.

Outcome 4.2 – An effective organisation, providing strong leadership and services.

- Strategy 4.2.1 – Provide appropriate services to the community, professionally and efficiently.
- Action 4.2.1.3 – Seek high level of compliance in organisational practices.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is Low operational risk to the Shire of Leonora should the meeting date not be changed, primarily around the potential lack of a quorum which could cause a breach in legislative requirements, render resolutions invalid, or otherwise undermine the integrity of Council's decision-making processes.
Council's endorsement of the recommendation of this report will mitigate the likelihood of this risk coming into effect in a way that should minimally impact all those involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. changes the date of the September 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council from Tuesday 15 September 2026 to Tuesday 22 September 2026;
2. changes the date of the September 2026 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee from Tuesday 15 September 2026 to Tuesday 22 September 2026;
3. confirms no change to the commencement time or venue for both meetings
4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to publish the amended meeting details on the Shire's official website, and provide any additional public notice considered appropriate.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Chief Executive Officer

10.0 REPORTS
10.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS
10.2.(C) PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING FRAMEWORK REFORMS

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.2.(C) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Proposed Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Framework Reforms
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Shire of Leonora
NAME OF APPLICANT:	NA
FILE REFERENCE:	Emergency Managment

AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT

NAME:	Ty Matson
OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	13th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	**1.** Commonwealth DRFAWA Discussion Paper ⇩ **2.** Proposed Shire of Leonora Position Statement ⇩

REPORT PURPOSE

To seek Council's endorsement of the Shire of Leonora Position Statement regarding the Australian Government's proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework (DRFF) reforms and authorise advocacy on behalf of the Shire to relevant State and Commonwealth stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government has proposed significant reforms to national disaster recovery funding arrangements through the introduction of a new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework (DRFF), intended to replace the existing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The reforms seek to simplify recovery funding, improve resilience outcomes and streamline administrative processes. Proposed changes include increased activation thresholds, standardised recovery packages, a Resilient Infrastructure Scheme and a greater focus on disaster risk reduction funding.

The proposed reforms have the potential to significantly impact regional and remote local governments, particularly in relation to eligibility for disaster recovery funding and the financial capacity of smaller councils to absorb disaster-related expenditure.

To ensure the interests of the Shire of Leonora and its community are represented, a Position Statement has been prepared outlining Council's concerns and recommendations regarding the proposed framework (**attachment 2**).

COMMENTS

Officers recommend that Council general support the objective of improving disaster recovery arrangements and welcomes reforms that reduce administrative burden, increase investment in resilience and improve the timeliness of funding approvals and reimbursements.

Notwithstanding these positive aspects, significant concerns regarding the proposed disaster activation threshold are held. The proposed threshold, understood to be approximately $2.7 million for Western Australia, would substantially increase the level of damage required before Commonwealth assistance becomes available (up from $250,000).

The proposed threshold does not adequately recognise the unique circumstances faced by remote local governments. Leonora manages a large geographic area, extensive transport infrastructure and critical community assets with a limited rate base and modest financial reserves. Disaster events well below the proposed threshold can still have significant financial consequences and create substantial pressure on the Shire's ability to maintain services and infrastructure.

The proposed model focuses on aggregate disaster expenditure rather than the relative financial impact on individual local governments. As a result, smaller regional and remote local governments may be exposed to increased financial risk despite having the least capacity to absorb recovery costs.

While the reforms seek to streamline funding arrangements, experience under existing disaster recovery programs demonstrates that delays in approvals, assessments and funding reimbursement remain a significant issue.

The Shire is currently continuing to pursue disaster recovery funding arising from an event that occurred in January 2024. More than two and a half years after the event, the funding process remains unresolved. This experience demonstrates that improvements are required not only to funding arrangements but also to the administration and resourcing of recovery programs.

Any new framework should include:

- Mandatory service standards for activation, assessment, approval and reimbursement;
- Clear accountabilities for administering agencies;
- Dedicated support for regional and remote local governments;
- Practical and proportionate evidentiary requirements;
- Advance funding and timely reimbursement arrangements; and
- Transparent dispute resolution mechanisms.

The proposed Resilient Infrastructure Scheme and the principle of rebuilding damaged infrastructure to a more resilient standard where this provides long-term value and reduced exposure to future disaster events is a practical common sense approach. Likewise, the increased investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience planning should be supported.

Overall, it is recommended that the proposed activation threshold in its current form is not supported and that further consideration is required to ensure remote and regional local governments are not disadvantaged.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

No direct community consultation has been undertaken as the matter relates to Commonwealth policy reform and local government advocacy.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no specific statutory implications arising from this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the adoption of the Position Statement.

However, if implemented in their current form, the proposed reforms may increase the financial exposure of smaller regional and remote local governments by reducing access to Commonwealth disaster recovery assistance for events below the proposed threshold.

The Shire's ongoing experience with disaster recovery funding associated with the January 2024 event demonstrates the potential cashflow and financial sustainability impacts that can arise from delayed funding approvals and reimbursement processes.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This matter aligns with the Council Plan objectives relating to:

- Good Governance;
- Financial Sustainability;
- Asset Management;
- Regional Advocacy;
- Community Resilience; and
- Sustainable Infrastructure.

The Position Statement seeks to ensure the interests of the Shire and remote communities are considered during the development of future disaster recovery funding arrangements.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no risks associated with the submission of the position paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council
   (a) Notes the Australian Government's proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework reforms.
   (b) Endorses the Shire of Leonora Position Statement on the Proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework as attached.
   (c) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to provide Council's position to relevant State and Commonwealth stakeholders and continue advocacy on the matter.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Chief Executive Officer

OFFICIAL

Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

Disaster Management Reform

Discussion Paper

6 July 2026

OFFICIAL

Acknowledgement of Country

NEMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians across Australia. We pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging, and their deep knowledge of and connection to Country. We celebrate the diversity of First Nations people and their wisdom of disaster, recovery and renewal.

Table of Contents

1. Purpose

Introduction

The Australian Government is engaging with states, territories and local government on new disaster recovery funding arrangements which are designed to be simpler and fairer for all Australians.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework (DRFF) will ensure Commonwealth disaster recovery funding will flow to impacted communities faster and with less red tape, while building on the Government's record investment in risk reduction.

The Australian Government is also initiating engagement on strengthening future investment in risk reduction to inform the design of a potential new risk reduction program to follow the five-year Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) grant program.

Purpose of this reform

The Australian Government recognises that we have an opportunity to fundamentally reshape the disaster management system to be simpler, fairer, and fit-for-purpose.

The Government is drawing on findings and recommendations from the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding, led by Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM. The Colvin Review found the scale and impact of disasters are increasing. It also found Australia's disaster management system is complex and has not kept pace with the evolving nature of disasters. Compounding and cascading disaster events, exacerbated by climate change, are stretching people and communities across Australia.

A proposed new DRFF will improve our disaster recovery arrangements, ensuring the new arrangements can keep pace with the modern realities of disasters in Australia. The proposed new funding arrangements are designed to ensure communities across all states and territories can access more equitable support from the Australian Government, more quickly. The changes include nationally consistent measures, standardised assistance packages, streamlined eligibility processes and a simplified funding formula.

The reforms also make a deliberate shift toward reducing future risk, not just recovering from immediate damage. A new cost-shared Resilient Infrastructure Scheme will make it easier to rebuild damaged assets to a more resilient standard.

For people on the ground that means recovery support should do more than restore what was there before. Building back better will become part of the normal recovery approach, helping communities reduce repeat damage, protect critical and priority assets, and recover in ways that leave them stronger for the next event.

We want to hear from stakeholders about how to strengthen Australia's disaster funding arrangements. We want to understand how the current system works for your jurisdiction and how the Government's proposals could be implemented.

This discussion paper was developed to support engagement with states, territories and the local government sector, to inform more detailed policy design and implementation of the reforms.

A need for simpler, more equitable arrangements that reduce future risk

Communities are increasingly dealing with concurrent and compounding events, and the current system is not delivering the consistency, speed or equity that this new environment demands.

Today, people affected by the same disaster can receive different support depending on which side of a border they live on; the new approach will set a clearer and fairer baseline across the country.

Under the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the rate at which states and territories are reimbursed by the Australian Government varies significantly. We have also heard that the complexity of the current arrangements impede communities receiving recovery support in a timely manner in some parts of Australia. In addition, the current arrangements are often criticised for delivering only 'like-for-like' reconstruction of disaster-damaged public assets, with many jurisdictions finding access to betterment funding out of reach.

The proposed reforms seek to reshape the system to be simpler, to provide more equitable support from the Australian Government through states and territories, and to reduce future harm for communities across Australia.

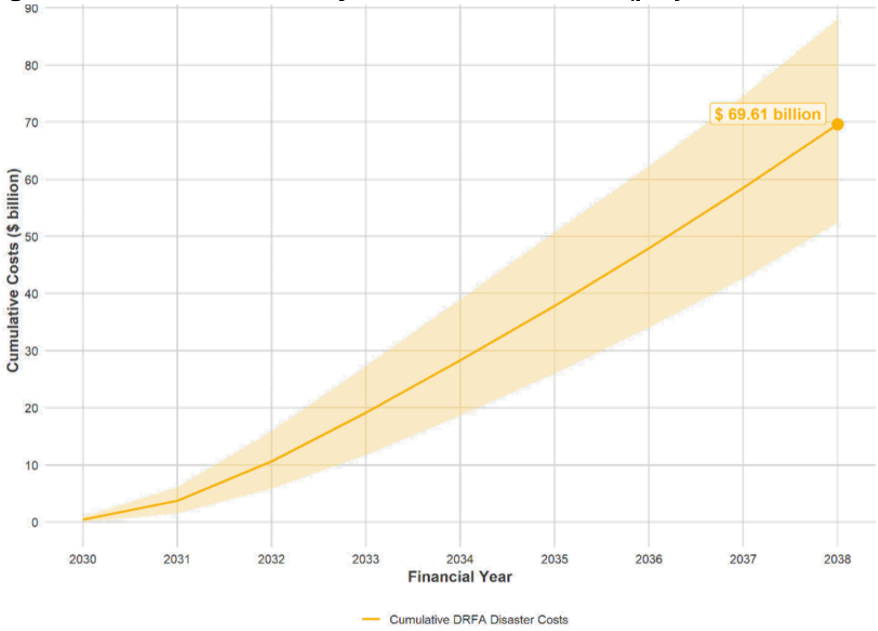
All governments will bear growing disaster recovery costs

The focus on reducing risk to prevent future harm is an important part of ensuring disaster recovery costs are more sustainable for all levels of government into the future.

The Australian Government Actuary (AGA) estimates that combined Australian Government, state and territory disaster recovery costs may total around $70 billion from 1 July 2028 to 30 June 2038. This is in addition to all governments' broader social support commitments that are available to be drawn on during times of disaster including health, infrastructure, childcare, housing, relief payments to individuals, municipal services, emergency services, and first responders.

To reflect changing disaster risk from climate change, population growth and increased asset exposure, AGA used an analytic probability model (the model) based on randomised sampling of past disaster events and costs.

Figure 1: Cumulative recovery costs under the DRFA (projections for FY29–FY38)



Beyond this reform, the Australian Government continues to invest directly in resilience, recovery, and our national disaster capabilities

Through the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund, the Government is investing up to $1 billion over five years to 2028 to build critical projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen community resilience. Across the first three rounds, approximately $600 million was invested in 450 projects, and Round Four opened on 29 May 2026. In addition, the Australian Government is seeking input from state, territory and local governments on strengthening future investment in risk reduction.

The Australian Government is also investing in core national capabilities to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, including through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, the National Bushfire Intelligence Capability, the Northern Australia Fire Information service and the AusAlert emergency warning system.

Beyond the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the Australian Government provides direct support to individuals, businesses and communities through income support payments such as the Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA), and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP). Bespoke payments, advice services and concessional loans also support primary producers, childcare centres, carers, and veterans affected by disaster events. The Commonwealth also enables continuity of essential services during disaster events, such as telecommunications and access to childcare services.

Engagement on this reform

We have been learning from what states, territories and local government have previously shared with us

The Colvin Review was released on 25 October 2024 following extensive consultation and engagement. Following the release, the Australian Government consulted broadly with states, territories and local government on the Review, and this has informed the development and design of the new DRFF.

The Commonwealth appreciates the ongoing collaboration and engagement of all Ministers and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President including through the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting on 5 June 2026, and of senior officials, through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee meetings on 12 and 19 June 2026.

We have invited all states, territories and ALGA to bilateral consultations to guide policy development

We will meet to deepen our collaboration and understand the implications of the reforms for each jurisdiction and local government. At the consultations, we will seek to understand:

1. your views on the implications of the Commonwealth's new DRFF reform, to guide further policy development and implementation; and
2. how you would prioritise proactive risk reduction activities in your jurisdiction to efficiently reduce natural hazard risks for your most exposed communities, to inform the design of a potential risk reduction program to follow the five-year DRF grant program.

To support effective collaboration, we have extended the period for written submissions until 19 August 2026. This will ensure the views of state, territory and local governments are able to inform further policy development and implementation.

This will not be the last chance for jurisdictions to comment on these issues. We look forward to continuing this collaboration as guidelines for the new DRFF are developed and implemented, and a potential risk reduction program is developed.

2. Australian Government role and priorities for disaster recovery funding

The Australian Government recognises that states and territories have constitutional responsibility for disaster recovery within their jurisdictions and have developed disaster management approaches that meet their specific needs and circumstances.

The current DRFA and proposed new DRFF are funding arrangements between the Australian Government and the states and territories. Through the funding arrangements, the Australian Government partners with states and territories to share the costs of providing recovery assistance for eligible events to disaster-affected communities.

Under the new arrangements, the Australian Government will establish a 50:50 cost-shared partnership model with states and territories. This will give states and territories more funding certainty and allow recovery planning to happen ahead of time, reducing the need for funding to be negotiated during each disaster.

The Australian Government's role in disaster recovery funding will be as an equal funding partner with states and territories. The Australian Government will equally share the costs of core recovery functions and targeted risk reduction for disasters that exceed, or are expected to exceed, the capacity of a state or territory, and where the costs are over and above what jurisdictions could be reasonably expected to bear. This reflects the primary role states and territories have for disaster recovery within their jurisdiction in line with constitutional arrangements.

The reforms are focussed on the funding arrangements between the Australian Government and the states and territories. These reforms are not directed at the funding arrangements jurisdictions have directly with their local governments.

The Colvin Review highlighted that there are issues in our current DRFA system that impact local government. Feedback from many local governments has indicated that the current disaster funding arrangements are too slow and complex – they find the current process for restoring essential public assets, as well as the audit process and the acquittal process, to be burdensome.

The Australian Government will continue to provide disaster recovery funding support for local government, in partnership with the states and territories, as it always has. The reforms intend to make the process for claiming disaster funding, and managing audit and acquittals, simpler and faster. The reforms also aim to incentivise betterment, allowing states, territories and local government to make their priority infrastructure more resilient to disaster.

The new DRFF 50:50 event-based cost-sharing arrangement will replace the DRFA financial year-based funding model, which sets two financial year expenditure thresholds for each jurisdiction to meet before certain recovery costs can be reimbursed. This means that funding for certain recovery costs, such as restoring damaged infrastructure, will be able to be accessed much earlier than under the current DRFA (more detail in section 3).

Australian Government priorities for disaster recovery funding

The proposed DRFF reflects the Australian Government's priorities for recovery funding:

- support for individuals and families who are experiencing hardship due to a disaster
- support for households and communities so they can safely return to their homes, reconnect utilities and have essential public services restored
- support for industry and not-for-profit organisations to help kickstart the local and regional economy, and improve resilience to future hazards, and
- support for the reconstruction of essential public assets, including local government assets, including to a more resilient standard.

The proposed arrangements are also intended to better target recovery assistance, drive national consistency, remove duplication, streamline administrative processes and reduce disaster risk. The Government proposes to:

- embed an equal partnership between the Australian, state and territory governments through a 50:50 cost-sharing funding model
- introduce a simpler event-based activation trigger point for accessing cost-shared financial support which allows smaller states to claim their reimbursements sooner
- introduce standardised packages of assistance for individuals and families, resilient infrastructure, community recovery, local economic support, and environmental recovery, and
- improve the system to allow states and territories, and local councils, to build back better after disaster.

Each aspect of these reforms is explained in greater detail below.

3. New event-based activation trigger points

Context – why is change needed?

Small disaster criterion

Under the DRFA, the small disaster criterion (SDC) of $240,000 is one of two criteria for a disaster to be considered eligible under the program. It is a financial and administrative barrier for states and territories to access financial assistance from the Australian Government for disaster recovery. Disasters that do not exceed the SDC are managed solely by the state or territory outside the DRFA program.

The SDC has not been adjusted since 2004. The 2015 Productivity Commission Inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements noted an SDC of $240,000 does not reflect the definition of 'large-scale expenditure' and allows for small and more routine weather events to be managed under the DRFA. Accordingly, the Productivity Commission suggested the Commonwealth should increase the SDC to $2.0 million ($2.7 million in today's dollars).

The Productivity Commission noted that while disasters costing between $240,000 and $2 million accounted for nearly half of all DRFA eligible events, their expenditure constituted only 1 per cent of total costs under the program. The Productivity Commission also saw the need to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of both levels of government with the intention that states and territories take greater ownership of natural disaster risk.

Financial year thresholds

In addition to the SDC, under the DRFA, the amount of financial assistance paid to a state or territory in relation to a financial year is based on a jurisdiction's expenditure in that financial year, including estimated reconstruction costs, and whether those costs exceed the first or second state/territory expenditure thresholds. The first and second thresholds vary each financial year by state and territory. The 2026-2027 first and second thresholds are:

1st and 2nd state/territory expenditure thresholds for 2026-27		
State/Territory	**1st Threshold**	**2nd Threshold**
Australian Capital Territory	$17,109,000	$29,940,750
New South Wales	$267,792,750	$468,637,313
Northern Territory	$18,150,750	$31,763,813
Queensland	$193,974,750	$339,455,813
South Australia	$61,218,000	$107,131,500
Tasmania	$18,967,500	$33,193,125
Victoria	$209,340,000	$366,345,000
Western Australia	$112,700,250	$197,225,438

These DRFA thresholds determine what percentage of eligible costs are reimbursed. Once a state or territory's total eligible spending passes the first expenditure threshold:

- spending between the first and second threshold is calculated at 50%, and
- spending above the second threshold is calculated at 75%.

These amounts are then combined to work out an overall reimbursement percentage for Category A and B expenditure.

- If the jurisdiction's expenditure does not exceed the first threshold, Category A measures are cost-shared 50:50 and Category B measures are not cost-shared.

Categories C and D are not affected by the thresholds — they are reimbursed separately based on fixed rates set at the time of Prime Minister approval of funding under these categories.

Jurisdictions which activate Category B but do not reach their first financial year threshold do not receive any financial reimbursement from the Commonwealth for this type of expenditure, which includes costs on restoring essential public assets.

The Colvin Review recommended that the Commonwealth should review the existing DRFA cost sharing arrangements with states and territories, taking into consideration simplicity, equity and the capacity of the individual state and territory governments. The Review also identified that consideration should be given to the appropriate thresholds, reimbursement rates, and whether insurance costs should be factored in when determining thresholds.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements also recommended that Australian, state and territory governments should examine the small disaster criterion, and financial thresholds generally.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed reforms will introduce new event-based financial trigger points for states and territories to access Australian Government financial support for disaster recovery. The new financial trigger points (which will replace the current DRFA SDC of $240,000) will be set at a level that:

- recognises the states and territories have responsibility for disaster recovery and should be able to manage the recovery effort from smaller scale disasters without financial support from the Australian Government
- recognises that 'larger' states have greater financial capacity to manage disaster recovery than 'smaller' states and territories, and
- represents a more appropriate financial threshold for the Australian Government to support the states and territories with disaster recovery costs.

Under the DRFF, the Australian Government will contribute 50 per cent towards eligible costs that are in excess of the following proposed event-based financial trigger points:

State/Territory	Event-based activation trigger points*
New South Wales	$2.70 million
Victoria	$2.70 million
Queensland	$2.70 million
Western Australia	$2.70 million
South Australia	$2.70 million
Tasmania	$1.65 million
Northern Territory	$1.65 million
Australian Capital Territory	$1.65 million
** The above trigger points will be indexed annually.*	

A new disaster notification process will be developed so that states and territories can inform the Australian Government of disasters that are expected to qualify under the DRFF.

Importantly, the proposed event-based activation trigger point applies at the **state or territory level**, not at the local government level. It is based on eligible disaster costs across all local government areas impacted by the event in a given state or territory.

We note that if, for illustrative purposes, the proposed event-based activation trigger points were in place from 2018-19 to 2024-25, there would have been a 0.2 per cent reduction in eligible costs, representing around $100 million out of around $35.9 billion total DRFA costs nation-wide. This is consistent with the Productivity Commission's recommendation that the SDC be high enough to exclude routine weather events from qualifying as disaster events. Importantly, a small number of large-scale events drive most DRFA costs and the proposed event-based activation trigger points ensure these high-cost events remain eligible while simultaneously limiting eligibility for smaller weather events.

Replacing the DRFA financial year thresholds with the proposed DRFF 50:50 cost-sharing arrangements will ensure every jurisdiction can access Commonwealth financial support for the broad range of assistance measures available under the new standardised packages (see below) once the new event-based activation triggers are exceeded.

Eligible expenditure

'Eligible expenditure' under the DRFF could have a similar meaning to the meaning under the current DRFA. Once a disaster occurs, the accumulated amount of state and territory expenditure on eligible DRFF recovery costs for that event could be used to establish whether the new event-based activation trigger points are reached and the disaster becomes eligible for financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Only eligible costs over the event-based activation trigger points will be cost-shared.

Financial claiming

Further work will be undertaken on the processes and timeframes for financial claiming under the DRFF, including applicable audit and assurance activities. Opportunities for states and territories to make regular claims for financial reimbursement from the Commonwealth, and how advance payments could be used, will be explored.

Grandfathering of existing arrangements

The DRFA would continue to apply to disasters that occur prior to the DRFF commencing. Further work will be undertaken to develop appropriate grandfathering arrangements, including to consider the financial implications of the transition from the DRFA to the DRFF (e.g. which could impact the level of financial reimbursement a state or territory receives under the DRFA's current financial year cost-sharing model).

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. How would the new event-based activation trigger points work with relevant state/territory legislation and/or requirements for declaring disaster events in your jurisdiction?
2. How could disaster recovery costs transition from state/territory-only recovery funding arrangements to the DRFF once the new event-based financial trigger points are exceeded?
3. What are the advantages and/or limitations of the proposed DRFF event-based activation trigger points model?
4. How could this model work alongside audit and assurance requirements to streamline claiming while still providing appropriate accountability for use of significant public resources?
5. What alternative models, such as a per capita model for event-based activation trigger points, could be explored and what is the underpinning policy logic or rationale of these alternatives?

4. Standardised packages: Introduction

Context – why is change needed?

A key policy principle of disaster recovery is to ensure those affected in the same way have access to the same types and levels of assistance, regardless of where they live or the scale and severity of disaster that has occurred. Under the DRFA, individual states and territories determine the types and levels of relief and recovery assistance to make available in their jurisdiction following a disaster. This means that disaster-affected communities in different jurisdictions receive different types and levels of assistance (even when affected by the same disaster).

The four DRFA categories of assistance (A, B, C and D) cover a broad range of recovery measures targeting different needs and cohorts (including individuals, communities, small businesses, primary producers, not-for-profit organisations, and state, territory and local governments). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has heard from stakeholders that the categories are difficult to understand, with assistance measures grouped in accordance with the applicable rate of financial reimbursement and approval process, rather than by recovery function or domain. Further, the different ways that states and territories approach the activation of DRFA assistance can also make it difficult for disaster-affected communities to clearly understand what forms of assistance are available following a disaster.

The capability and capacity of states and territories to deliver recovery assistance vary across Australia. Under a standardised approach for recovery assistance, jurisdictions would be better able to support each other by sharing resources and knowledge. This could significantly enhance Australia's national recovery capability and capacity.

The Colvin Review recommended that the Commonwealth should streamline nationally consistent standardised measures, focused on response and short-term recovery that can be delivered quickly following a disaster event. The standardised measures should:

- ensure a nationally consistent activation process/decision making framework that is based on impact, consequence and need
- create certainty and speed for pre-determined funding
- clearly state the eligible activities, their relevant domain/s and the conditions under which the measure can be activated, and
- adopt streamlined audit and assurance processes, and monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Work done to date to develop a more standardised approach to support

Following the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, the Commonwealth worked closely with the states and territories to develop a series of standardised ('off-the-shelf') recovery packages. These packages focused on assistance that was more commonly made available under DRFA

Category C and D in response to severe and catastrophic disasters. They covered infrastructure betterment, recovery grants for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, mental health and wellbeing support and legal assistance. The standardised packages have provided governments with a means to quickly and effectively address gaps in recovery support in response to severe disasters.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed reforms will introduce new recovery categories (replacing DRFA Categories A, B, C & D) and standardised packages of assistance that reflect the Australian Government's priorities for recovery funding.

The new categories will be described on a functional basis to ensure recovery assistance can be easily understood and communicated. They will include standardised assistance packages that can be made available by states and territories for eligible disasters. The proposed new categories will cover:

- **assistance for individuals and families** – a new nationally consistent personal hardship assistance scheme to support the short-term recovery needs of individuals and families
- **resilient infrastructure** – a new scheme to restore and reconstruct damaged essential public assets, including to a more resilient standard
- **community recovery** – standardised packages for short-term clean-up, disability services, mental health and wellbeing services, employment of a community recovery officer by impacted local governments, support for not-for-profit organisations
- **local economic support** – standardised packages to support affected small businesses and primary producers to resume operations and support economic recovery of the disaster affected area
- **environmental recovery** – to cover limited critical environmental initiatives that support holistic community recovery.

The DRFF will also include an exceptional circumstances package, which will provide flexibility and scalability for governments to address unexpected and unpredictable consequences of severe/catastrophic disasters that are not addressed through standardised packages.

The proposed starting points for eligible recovery costs within each assistance category are addressed in subsequent sections. The DRFA allows states and territories to use in-kind (non-monetary) recovery assistance, and the Commonwealth will explore eligibility of this cost under the proposed DRFF.

Moving to a more standardised and descriptive approach to the activation of assistance will make recovery assistance quicker to deliver and easier to communicate. It will also help to ensure more consistent support is available to disaster-affected communities on different sides of state and territory borders. Further work will be undertaken to determine the best approach for activating assistance, including by exploring whether specific pre-agreed criteria should be developed for certain forms of assistance and whether assistance is activated as a suite of measures or individual forms of assistance.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. How does your jurisdiction define your core recovery functions?
2. Do you think packages based on functional descriptions will assist with the administration and communication of recovery packages?
3. What support do states and territories, and local government provide that is currently funded by the DRFA and not addressed by these functional categories?
   - How are these issues currently managed within the jurisdiction?
   - What are the implications if further funding is not provided in future recovery arrangements?
4. What implementation/stakeholder issues does the proposed approach create?

5. Standardised packages: Individuals and families – Nationally consistent hardship payments

Context – why is change needed?

Under the DRFA, individual states and territories determine the types and levels (amounts/rates) of relief and recovery assistance to make available following a disaster. In practice, this means that disaster-affected communities in different jurisdictions are afforded different levels and types of recovery support, even when affected by the same disaster event. The processes for activating, delivering and accessing DRFA assistance (including eligibility criteria, application processes and assessment methodologies) are also different in each state and territory.

Under the current DRFA, no two states and territories offer the same relief and recovery assistance for individuals and families. For example, Category A personal hardship and distress payments currently range from $900 to $2,380 per family depending on the jurisdiction.

This difference is highlighted during cross-border disasters, leading to perceptions of inequity and unfairness within disaster-affected communities. Further, communities in the non-self-governing territories are excluded from accessing DRFA support, with alternative relief and recovery arrangements currently needed.

Despite recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and the Colvin Review that there be greater consistency, and commitments from emergency management ministers at all levels of government to prioritise national consistency under the DRFA, significant differences remain.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

Standardised hardship payments

The proposed DRFF could include a nationally consistent personal hardship payment scheme, comprising payments for:

- immediate emergency needs (e.g. water, food, clothing, personal items, and medication)
- short-term accommodation
- the loss of essential services (e.g. electricity, gas, water, or sewerage)
- reconnecting essential services (e.g. electricity, gas, water, and/or sewerage/septic systems)
- replacing essential household contents, and
- restoring damaged homes to a safe, habitable, and secure condition.

Further work will be undertaken to determine the appropriate level (amount) of financial assistance for each form of payment, including whether a remote area allowance (e.g. Services Australia's Remote Area Allowance) should apply to support people in remote and regional communities where the cost of accessing goods and services is higher.

The table below provides a possible option for potential payment types:

Proposed standardised hardship payments	
Payment type	**Purpose**
Emergency hardship	To help with urgent emergency water, food, clothing, personal items and medication
Emergency accommodation	To help with short-term accommodation of up to 3 months
Essential services hardship	To help with the loss of essential services (e.g. electricity, gas, water or sewerage) for more than 7 days
Essential household contents	To replace essential household contents
Essential services safety and reconnection	To help reconnect essential services such as electricity, gas, water and/or sewerage/septic systems
Structural household assistance	To restore damaged homes to a safe, habitable and secure condition

Appropriately targeted needs-based assistance

The proposed payments are intended to provide emergency assistance that is targeted to individuals and families in genuine need (rather than those who can support/fund their own relief and recovery). As such, eligibility criteria, including consideration of a nationally consistent means test for certain payments, would apply to ensure they are appropriately targeted, based on demonstrated need, and accessible (including to disproportionately disadvantaged cohorts). Further work will be undertaken to develop the eligibility criteria for each form of payment, including to explore the interaction of certain payments with home and contents insurance.

Simple and streamlined processes

As far as possible, access to the proposed payments should be simple and streamlined. Further work will be undertaken to develop application and assessment processes that ensure assistance can be accessed with minimal burden on disaster-affected individuals and families, and in a timely manner – for example, in the immediate aftermath of a disaster to support emergency needs. Nationally consistent application and assessment processes would apply, with options for streamlined delivery explored.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. What types/forms and levels of personal hardship assistance does your jurisdiction currently offer under the DRFA?

2. How is DRFA personal hardship assistance activated and delivered in your jurisdiction?
3. How should the appropriate level (amount) of financial assistance for each form of payment be determined?
    - Should some form of loading reflecting remoteness apply to support people in remote and regional communities, and if so, at what level?
4. How should the eligibility criteria for each form of payment be determined?
    - What could a proposed nationally consistent means test (including income and assets) look like?
5. How can application and assessment processes ensure assistance can be accessed with minimal burden on disaster-affected individuals and families, and in a timely manner?
6. What would be required to ensure that existing state/territory systems are capable of supporting standardised payments?
7. What would the impacts, risks, costs and benefits be for your jurisdiction by introducing standardised personal hardship payments?

6. Standardised packages: Community recovery

Context – why is change needed?

Under the current DRFA arrangements, community recovery measures are delivered across multiple categories, resulting in inconsistent treatment, administrative complexity and uncertainty regarding eligibility. Existing arrangements can also create duplication between funding streams and make it difficult for jurisdictions to clearly understand what assistance is available and when it can be activated.

The proposed DRFF provides an opportunity to consolidate community recovery assistance into a more clearly defined category that:

- encourages greater national consistency
- maintains flexibility for jurisdictions to respond to different disaster impacts with assistance packages that address a range of recovery needs
- simplifies administration
- better reflects contemporary recovery practice, and
- provides greater certainty regarding eligible assistance.

Key issues identified for further consideration include:

- defining the boundary, interaction, and potential overlap between community recovery assistance and other proposed standardised packages (e.g. how could mental health and wellbeing services and personal and financial counselling assistance work together?)
- differing jurisdictional capabilities and delivery models
- avoiding duplication with other existing Commonwealth and state/territory programs (e.g. in relation to health and disability services)
- appropriately managing the scope of assistance to support effective recovery without creating unintended cost escalation, and
- examining the interaction between government funded clean-up activities and private home and contents insurance.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed community recovery category is intended to cover a range of community focussed standardised packages including short-term clean-up, mental health and wellbeing services, disability services, employment of a community recovery officer by impacted local governments, and support for not-for-profit organisations.

The intention is that states and territories could choose which specific packages to make available based on the disaster impacts and identified community recovery needs.

Short-term clean-up

This package could provide funding to states, territories and local governments for immediate post-disaster clean-up activities.

A functional approach to clean-up could be applied, rather than the current DRFA model, which links eligibility to specific types of assets and the category of assistance they fall under.

The scheme could cover immediate clean-up activities on:

- residential properties
- public assets, including community and recreational assets, such as parks, playgrounds, sports fields, campsites and memorials, and
- environmental assets, such as rivers, catchment areas, nature strips, national parks and coastal zones.

Eligible activities could include (but are not limited to):

- clean-up activities inside and outside the home
- preparing residential blocks for rebuilding and structural repairs, and
- removing and disposing of fallen and dangerous trees, green waste, other disaster related debris (e.g. mud, rocks, damaged furniture and whitegoods), spoiled perishable food, and hazardous material.

As noted above, further work will be undertaken to understand the intersection between a government funded clean-up package and private insurance, including any policy implications.

Further work may also be required in relation to specific additional clean-up requirements which may apply in some circumstances (e.g. for primary producers with multiple non-residential buildings and other structures).

Mental health and wellbeing services

This package could build on the standardised ('off-the-shelf') mental health and wellbeing recovery package previously developed through the DRFA Review.

It could provide time-limited support for disaster-related mental health and wellbeing activities that complement, rather than duplicate, existing health services.

Flexible delivery models could be adopted in recognition of the different jurisdictional service arrangements and community providers that exist, including mental health services provided under other Commonwealth programs.

Disability services

This package could provide funding for disaster-related disability support services to address increased demand and needs that cannot be met through existing services.

Flexible delivery models could be adopted in recognition of different jurisdictional disability service arrangements.

We welcome input to help identify the specific types of activities that could be covered under the package (and embedded into DRFF assistance more broadly).

Further work will be undertaken to understand any potential intersection with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Employment of a community recovery officer by impacted local governments

This package could provide funding for impacted local governments to employ a community recovery officer for up to two years to identify, coordinate and support local recovery activities that help to reconnect disaster-affected communities and build resilience.

Support for not-for-profit organisations

This package could provide financial support for disaster-affected not-for-profit organisations (including grants, concessional loans and interest rates subsidies) for a range of recovery activities, such as:

- resuming operations
- repairing damaged premises and internal fittings
- repairing/replacing damaged equipment
- replacing lost/damaged stock, and
- essential working capital.

Counter Disaster Operations

The Australian Government remains committed to working in partnership with states, territories and local government to deliver response and recovery activities to communities impacted by disasters.

We continue to invest in capabilities to support jurisdictions respond to disasters, including through the funding of the nation's aerial firefighting fleet, delivery of the new AusAlert national messaging system and provision of practical support through the national emergency management stockpile.

Under the existing DRFA arrangements, Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) have received Australian Government reimbursement despite being primarily focussed on response. Through this consultation process, we are seeking feedback on elements of CDO and proposals for how it could be delivered in the future.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. Do the proposed packages appropriately cover the core community recovery functions currently provided by your jurisdiction following disasters?

- If not, what other forms of community recovery assistance would you like to see covered under the DRFF?

2. What disaster-related recovery supports do people with disability need that are not currently provided through existing arrangements (including the DRFA)?
3. What (if any) requirements/conditions should be placed on the activation of certain community recovery packages – for example, is the proposed 2-year timeframe for engaging a community recovery officer appropriate?
4. How do current jurisdictional delivery methods differ, and what level of national consistency should apply to the standardised community recovery packages?
5. What implementation challenges would jurisdictions face in transitioning to nationally standardised community recovery assistance?
6. What recovery elements of counter disaster operations are most important to states, territories, local government and communities, and how could these be delivered in the future to ensure support is provided seamlessly and for communities most in need?

7. Standardised packages: Local economic recovery

Context – why is change needed?

Economic recovery is central to how communities recover after a disaster.

Recent feedback from primary producers and small businesses includes:

- Primary producers and small businesses prefer recovery grants over concessional loans and interest rate subsidies.
- The definition of primary producers, with the requirement for 50 per cent of income to be derived from primary production, can be problematic as primary producers seek to diversify to supplement their income. This can be even more problematic with more frequent and compounding disaster events which may have impacted the income of primary producers over multiple growing seasons.
- Recovery grants to rural landholders under Category D have temporarily filled the gap for those with smaller land holdings who have incurred significant costs related to event damage.
- Indirect small business grants under Category D have supported businesses where significant losses are not related to direct damage from the disaster event but instead relate to an impact from an event that is outside their control (i.e. a landslip caused by the disaster cutting access to a community reliant on tourism for over six months). However, these grants have typically only been agreed in very specific conditions.
- Concessional loans and interest rate subsidies are available for both indirect and direct damage, creating multiple options for assistance which could be consolidated.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed DRFF could include standardised packages to support affected small businesses and primary producers to resume operations and support economic recovery of the disaster-affected area.

The proposed DRFF could include the following nationally consistent, standardised assistance measures to support **small business**:

- recovery grants
- interest rate subsidies
- recovery grants for indirectly impacted small businesses.

The proposed DRFF could include the following nationally consistent, standardised assistance measures to support **primary producers**:

- recovery grants
- interest rate subsidies

- freight subsidies
- emergency fodder distributed by the state or territory.

The intention is for recovery grants to offer a 'helping hand' and economic boost to affected small businesses and primary producers. As is the case with the current system, payments would not be intended as full compensation for losses or act as a deterrent for appropriate insurance where available.

The recovery grants could also support small businesses and primary producers to replace damaged assets to a more resilient standard (e.g. purchasing relocatable equipment and machinery) and developing resilience plans.

Further work will be undertaken to determine the appropriate upper limit of recovery grants, subsidies and emergency fodder and appropriate eligibility criteria.

The intent is that, as far as possible, qualification criteria, the types of eligible and ineligible activities, application and assessments processes for each payment would be nationally consistent.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. Would these standardised packages help to create clear, easy to navigate arrangements?
2. How could risk reduction be incorporated effectively into standard local economic recovery packages?
3. Are there any suggestions for changes to current definitions for primary producers and small business that should be considered?
4. What level of administrative changes would need to be undertaken by state or territory delivery agencies to support program delivery with nationally consistent criteria (qualification, eligible activities etc)?

8. Standardised packages: Environmental recovery

Context – why is change needed?

Disasters can have significant impacts on the natural environment. These impacts can also directly affect local/regional economies, agriculture, community safety, cultural values, public health and long-term resilience. Impacts may include air and water pollution, riverine damage, habitat destruction, coastal erosion, increased weed and pest management challenges, and fire damage to National Parks and World Heritage Areas.

Attributing environmental damage to a single disaster event can be difficult. Natural systems are inherently dynamic, so disturbance and recovery are always happening – however, recovery measures can sometimes expedite that recovery. If the ecosystem was already significantly degraded pre-disaster, restoration efforts may be ineffective unless underlying stressors are also addressed.

Despite the environment being one of the four core pillars of disaster recovery (alongside social, built and economic domains), funding for environmental recovery is generally considered through ad hoc or exceptional circumstances (DRFA Category D). This has led to uncertainty about when and how environmental recovery funding can be accessed.

While not explicitly covered under the DRFA, a limited range of environmental recovery initiatives have been funded under Category D. Examples include funding for weeds and pest management, riparian recovery, coastline rehabilitation, flood mapping and environmental protection.

The Colvin Review recommends that the Commonwealth should remove existing current DRFA categories A, B, C, and D and negotiate their replacement with a criteria framework that categorises measures into short- (or immediate), medium-, and long-term recovery initiatives, and groups initiatives according to their domain (natural, social, economic and built).

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed DRFF provides an opportunity to embed environmental recovery into Australia's disaster recovery funding arrangements. The introduction of a specific category for environmental recovery could also reduce the current reliance on exceptional assistance. The new environmental recovery category would cover a limited range of critical environmental initiatives that support economic and community recovery (e.g. the removal of contaminated waste from waterways to ensure public health and safety and the rehabilitation of key environmental assets such as National Parks and World Heritage Areas).

The category would not be intended to fund pre-existing environmental maintenance obligations, unrelated conservation programs, or long-term environmental investments that are not directly connected to the impacts of a DRFF eligible disaster.

Only a limited range of environmental recovery initiatives have been funded under the DRFA historically and there is limited information on the effectiveness of these measures.

Key issues we are seeking to discuss with states and territories include:

- evidencing the direct nexus between a disaster's impact and environmental recovery needs
- avoiding duplication with other existing Commonwealth and state/territory environmental programs
- appropriately managing the scope of environmental assistance to support effective recovery without creating unintended cost escalation
- utilising expertise and undertaking environmental impact assessments to understand disaster impacts and develop plans to address environmental recovery needs
- aligning environmental recovery initiatives to Australian Government recovery funding priorities and environmental policies

- aligning funding to state/territory, regional and local recovery plans – for example, linking funding to the pre-identification of key/important environmental assets
- establishing certain indicators or criteria to govern the activation of different types of environmental recovery assistance – for example, to distinguish between low-cost quick activities and higher-cost programs with longer delivery timeframes
- establishing appropriate timeframes for, and sequencing of different types of, environmental recovery activities
- ensuring appropriate use of public money – for example, for extremely degraded or collapsed environmental systems for which the cost of rehabilitation is high and the likelihood of successful recovery is low, investment may be difficult to justify
- monitoring and evaluation arrangements to understand the effectiveness of eligible environmental recovery initiatives.

Where environmental impacts are complex, severe or of national significance, additional support could be considered through the DRFF exceptional circumstances assistance category, supported by a detailed impact and needs assessment and clear evidence that assistance under the standard environmental recovery category is insufficient.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. What types of environmental recovery activities should be eligible under a DRFF standardised environmental recovery category?
2. How should the framework distinguish between disaster-caused environmental damage, ongoing environmental management and broader resilience or conservation activities?
3. How can First Nations knowledge, cultural heritage considerations and local environmental expertise be incorporated into assessment, prioritisation and delivery?
4. What delivery timeframes, reporting requirements and evaluation measures would be practical for environmental recovery activities?

9. Standardised packages: Resilient infrastructure

Context – why is change needed?

Investment in resilient infrastructure (“betterment”) during the post-disaster reconstruction phase can be an effective way to reduce the impacts of future events and make communities safer and more resilient. It can also generate significant cost savings for all levels of government through avoided damage from subsequent disasters, as well as a range of social and economic benefits for communities, and improved insurance outcomes.

The DRFA does not appropriately support resilient infrastructure. Existing Category B reconstruction provisions are often criticised for requiring states, territories and local governments to restore damaged assets to their pre-disaster standard (or on a ‘like-for-like’ basis).

The use of DRFA Category D to fund betterment has created opportunities for the states and territories to access Commonwealth funding for post-disaster investments in risk reduction and resilience under the DRFA. However, it has also increased the administrative complexity of the program, with delivery often requiring both Category B and Category D provisions to be applied. This has created confusion among stakeholders as each category has different eligibility, reporting, evidence and assurance requirements. There is also currently no clear guidance on the intersection between the Category B efficiencies framework and Category D betterment funding.

In addition, several implementation challenges exist for states, territories and local governments. These include:

- variability in the quality of asset management systems across states, territories and local governments, and a lack of reliable consistent data to make informed decisions
- some critical assets that would benefit from betterment are excluded from funding because they are not considered eligible essential public assets under the DRFA (e.g. certain water or sewerage infrastructure owned by state or territory water corporations and community/recreational assets)
- expectations creating pressure on governments to deliver works quickly (noting local government’s role to identify, assess, seek approval, and implement potential betterment projects, especially when they are also managing other relief and recovery efforts)
- funding uncertainty, with jurisdictions hesitant to make investment decisions when DRFA eligibility is unclear, as this can create significant financial risk should funding be determined ineligible through subsequent assurance processes
- funding variability, as cost of reconstructing an asset to a more resilient standard can vary depending on a range of factors, including the type of asset, level of damage, climatic and geological conditions, and the planning laws and building codes operating in each jurisdiction.

The Colvin Review calls for much greater focus on, and investment in, reducing disaster risk and building resilience. It recommends that *"wherever possible, recovery measures progressed under the DRFA should seek to reduce future risk (including betterment provisions) and build future resilience*". The Review's analysis of DRFA infrastructure betterment, found that over a 27-year period (under a mid-case scenario), an estimated betterment cost of $43.9 billion (in net present value terms) would generate total economic benefits of $194.5 billion (in net present value terms).

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed reforms will introduce a new scheme for restoring and rebuilding damaged essential public assets, including to a more resilient standard. Under the scheme, all states and territories will have access to funding for resilient infrastructure. This will support the restoration of infrastructure that is more resilient to future disasters in a more equitable way than existing arrangements, including for smaller jurisdictions with a significant natural hazard risk profile like the Northern Territory.

Where specific criteria are met, the proposed scheme could provide access to additional cost-shared (50:50) funding of up to 15 per cent to rebuild damaged assets to a more resilient standard. The Australian Government and the states and territories would each contribute up to 7.5 per cent. This funding would replace the existing efficiencies framework and ad hoc Category D betterment arrangements under the DRFA.

The 15 per cent risk reduction funding will be limited to treatments that have the primary purpose of increasing the disaster resilience of an asset. It will not be able to be used for other purposes – for example, improving the energy efficiency of a public infrastructure asset. Any difference between estimated and actual project costs would need to be returned to the Australian Government.

The 15 per cent figure represents a starting point for engagement. NEMA will work closely with the states and territories to understand what can be achieved with 15 per cent additional resilience funding. This work will inform NEMA's advice to the Australian Government on the appropriateness of the proposed scheme.

Eligibility for the 15 per cent risk reduction funding would be linked to criteria, such as:

- the importance of an asset to the functioning of a local community/region to ensure risk reduction funding targets high priority assets where resilience would deliver a substantive benefit for the community/region
- the level of disaster risk to an asset, including its history of being repeatedly damaged, to ensure infrastructure is rebuilt back to a more resilient standard in areas of highest disaster risk
- cost effectiveness, to ensure the outcomes delivered through increasing the resilience of an asset are commensurate with the overall cost of risk reduction funding and this represents value-for-money
- opportunities for value creation, including social and economic benefits, and

- the pre-disaster condition of an asset and level of damage caused by the disaster (which will need to be clearly demonstrated).

Design of the scheme will provide an opportunity to:

- review the existing DRFA definition of an essential public asset, including to consider whether community, recreational and cultural assets should be included as standard eligible assets
- encourage states, territories and local governments to proactively plan and manage their assets (including by identifying those that are important to communities) for resilient reconstruction (either pre- or post-disaster)
- develop new guidelines for practitioners that provide clarity regarding the application of modern design and construction standards, timeframes for reconstruction and reporting, repeat damage, eligible/ineligible project costs, resource sharing (both human and plant), and evidentiary requirements
- strengthen data sharing, including to better align infrastructure investment with disaster risk, and
- incorporate monitoring and evaluation into the scheme to build knowledge and ensure the arrangements, including the funding allocation for resilient reconstruction, are appropriate and delivering desired outcomes.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. What types of assets should be eligible for funding? For example:
   - Are there certain types or classifications of currently eligible assets that should be excluded?
   - Should community, recreational and cultural assets such as parks and playgrounds be included?
2. Should the scheme use a cost estimation methodology to determine eligible claimable costs, or move back to actuals, or utilise a combination of both?
3. What level of resilience/betterment can be achieved with the 15 per cent additional funding?
   - Should there be minimum resilience standards that are linked to disaster risk (e.g. requirements to rebuild to withstand a 1 in 100-year event)?
   - What level of resilience/betterment funding could your jurisdiction manage/deliver within existing capacity?
4. How could disaster risk information be used to inform resilient investment?
5. How could the new scheme align with normal state/territory infrastructure arrangements to create efficiencies?

6. Could pre-identification processes be used to speed up decision making? For example, by:
    - pre-identifying key assets for resilience funding
    - pre-identifying at risk or repeatedly damaged assets
    - pre-identifying potential resilience treatments
    - pre-assessing value-for-money.

10. Exceptional circumstances assistance

Context – why is change needed?

Australia is facing a rapid increase in the frequency, complexity and severity of disasters as the impact of climate change intensifies. There will be unexpected adverse consequences and recovery needs for individuals, communities and sectors. It may be necessary for governments to make available additional assistance to address unique circumstances presented by exceptionally severe and catastrophic disasters, which are not addressed by the standard categories of assistance.

Analysis of DRFA financial data shows that while the overall number of eligible DRFA disasters appears to have remained steady (although with expected yearly fluctuations), the demand for exceptional circumstances assistance has grown significantly. In 2018-19, state and territory expenditure on Category C and Category D measures was approximately $181 million, representing 15 per cent of the total financial year spend, whereas in 2025-26 it is forecast to be in the order of $2.5 billion, representing 34 per cent of the total financial year spend.

The increasing use of DRFA exceptional circumstances assistance appears to be in response to several factors, including the increase in scale and severity of disasters, growing community expectations, the demand-driven nature of certain forms of assistance, and the need to invest more in post-disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives. While the ability of the DRFA to fund new types of assistance demonstrates the flexibility of the program to address bespoke and unique recovery needs, the absence of clear parameters (or guardrails) governing exceptional circumstances assistance has seen funding approved for some projects that appears to depart from the primary objectives of the program.

Other examples of the expansion in DRFA exceptional circumstances assistance include grants for <u>indirect</u> consequential loss, support for businesses located outside the direct impact zone, and multi-million-dollar payments for big (‘anchor’) businesses. Category D has also been used to fund large-scale transformative risk reduction and resilience initiatives, including relocating homes, home retrofitting programs and infrastructure betterment, making the DRFA the Commonwealth’s largest co-funding mechanism for disaster resilience and risk reduction.

The Colvin Review recommends that the Commonwealth should clarify and more narrowly define an exceptional circumstances consideration (currently Category D).

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The proposed DRFF would include a new category for exceptional circumstances (non-standard) assistance replacing existing DRFA Category D arrangements. It would be available in response to exceptionally severe or catastrophic disasters to address recovery needs that cannot be met through the new standardised packages of assistance. The exceptional circumstances category would provide governments with the ability to meet recovery needs in more severe or catastrophic disasters where supports genuinely exceed the measures available in the standardised packages.

Exceptional circumstances assistance would be directly linked to the severity of disaster impact and demonstrated recovery needs of affected communities. Requests would need to be accompanied by a detailed impact assessment, with key criteria used to assess severity, for example:

- extent of loss of life or injury
- scale of impact on housing and level of displacement
- level of disaster risk
- characteristics of community profiles including vulnerability
- frequency of repeat disasters within affected communities
- scale of impact on public assets and critical infrastructure
- scale of impact on the regional and/or state/territory economy, including to essential industries – this could include analysis of the estimated financial impact of the disaster on a per-capita basis, and any cascading impacts (e.g. impacts on supply chains and broader economic impacts)
- complexity, including concurrent, compounding and consecutive crisis events
- capability and capacity of the impacted state or territory.

Further work could be undertaken to explore whether specific indicators could be established to assess the severity of impact, including to understand the capabilities that would be needed to capture and analyse impact data in a timely manner.

Requesting jurisdictions could also be required to demonstrate the need for the additional recovery assistance by developing a detailed recovery plan that includes:

- advice about the specific medium- to longer-term recovery needs facing affected communities
- evidence demonstrating the recovery needs (that the exceptional circumstances request seeks to address) are a direct result of the disaster
- confirmation that specific recovery needs cannot be addressed through the new standardised packages or other existing programs or resources and are not reasonably able to be addressed within existing state or territory capacity
- advice about who was consulted (e.g. state/territory agencies, local governments, community groups) during the development of the request that has occurred, and
- details about the non-standard assistance measures being requested, including the intended recovery (and resilience) outcomes and a detailed costings breakdown.

Other factors such as alignment to Australian Government priorities and state/territory, regional and local recovery and resilience planning could also be considered.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. Under what criteria should exceptional circumstances assistance be available?
2. What types of assistance should be funded under the new exceptional circumstances category?
3. What indicators are likely to be available in a timely manner to support an impact assessment in exceptional circumstances?
4. What requirements/conditions should be placed on exceptional circumstances assistance – for example, the development of a detailed recovery plan, pre-identification of recovery (and resilience) initiatives/projects, specific timeframes and reporting obligations?
5. What timeframes should apply to request for exceptional circumstances assistance (i.e. how long after the disaster has occurred should requests be able to be made)?

11. Impact of disaster on First Nations People

Context – why is change needed?

Disasters can disproportionately impact First Nations communities, deepening existing inequities and disrupting connection to Country, kin and culture. Since 2021, the average population of First Nations peoples living in local government areas impacted by two or more disasters is 15.57 per cent, almost four times higher than the national average of 3.8 per cent[1]. In addition, more than one in ten children impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires were First Nations children.

First Nations communities are also more exposed to disaster-related harm because of pre-existing social and health inequities. These impacts can be compounded by culturally insensitive policies, programs and service delivery.

At the same time, First Nations peoples have maintained knowledge systems, practices and cultural connections that have supported resilience to environmental change and disasters for more than 65,000 years. First Nations-led approaches – such as cultural burning, caring for Country, and community-centred responses that strengthen social and cultural connections – have been shown to reduce disaster risk and support recovery outcomes for all Australians.

Across Australia, we see recurring issues for disaster-impacted First Nations communities. These include issues related to housing, implications of being evacuated off-country, disaster payments and the practicalities of replacing damaged goods in remote communities. Addressing these challenges requires meaningful engagement with First Nations peoples to identify recovery needs and develop culturally appropriate supports that reflect local priorities, knowledge and circumstances.

Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, all governments have committed to change the way they work with First Nations people. Through Priority Reform 3, Clause 64 all governments have committed to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives before, during and after disasters. This commitment recognises that better outcomes are achieved when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are authentically engaged in the design, delivery and evaluation of disaster policies, programs and recovery supports.

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[1] Williamson B (2024) Submission to the Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience, Monash University, https://firetoflourish.monash/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/3723171/NIDRSubmission-Senate-Committee-on-Disaster-Resilience.docx.pdf

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

The Australian Government, through NEMA and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, will engage with First Nations people, as well as states and territories, to develop tailored support.

We recognise that this is not only about what is funded but also but also ensuring First Nations people are meaningfully involved in decisions affecting their communities, including the identification, design and delivery of recovery supports.

The National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework[2], due to be considered by the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee later in 2026, will be supported by implementation guidance for doing this effectively.

We will undertake further engagement with First Nations people following this initial state and territory engagement period.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. How are the recovery needs of disaster-impacted First Nations communities currently identified and prioritised in your jurisdiction?
2. What gaps exist in current governance, funding and delivery arrangements for supporting recovery in First Nations communities?
3. What opportunities, risks and implementation challenges should be considered when designing tailored recovery support for First Nations people?

[2] The National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Framework is being developed by Monash University's National Indigenous Disaster Resilience program, with funding support from the National Hazard Research Australia.

12. Streamlining data and reporting

Context – why is change needed?

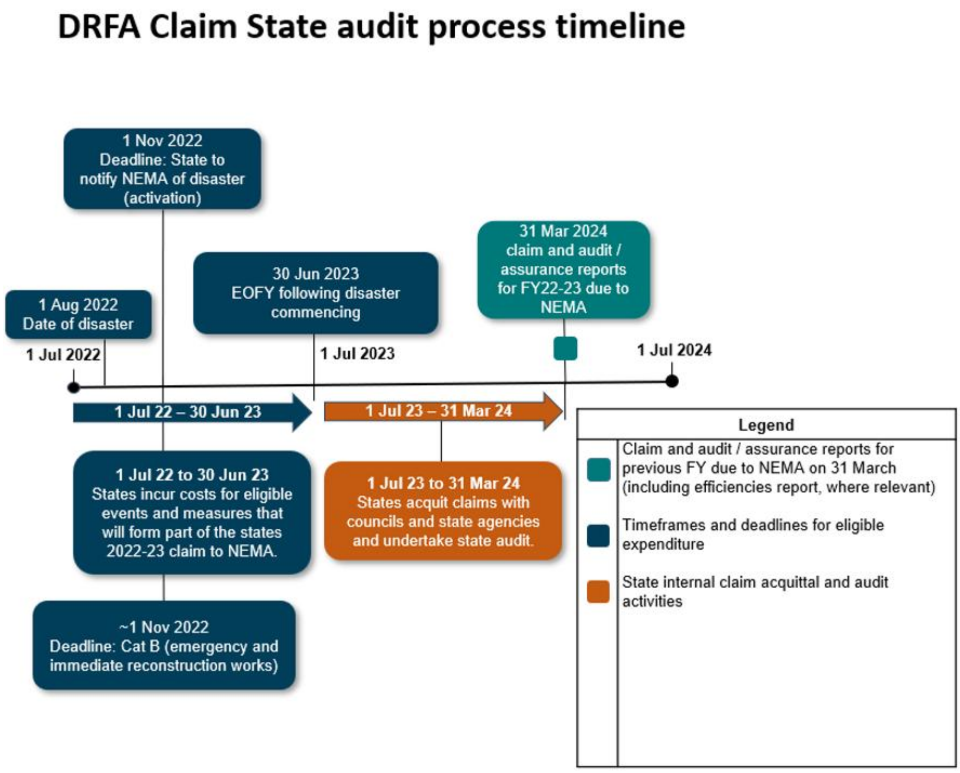
In line with more frequent and devastating events and larger spending on recovery at all levels of government, there has been an increased interest in understanding how recovery is unfolding on the ground. Significant events such as the Monsoonal Trough (2019), Black Summer bushfires (2019-20) and repeated flood events during 2022, saw large funding commitments and therefore more oversight in how funding was being allocated and the outcomes achieved.

It is important that recovery expenditure is appropriately monitored, especially given the size of the funding commitment to recovery from both the Commonwealth and state/territory levels of government.

NEMA acknowledges that the DRFA evidentiary and assurance requirements are comprehensive and may impose a material administrative burden on states and delivery agencies, including local governments. These requirements necessitate the retention of supporting documentation over extended periods, which we have heard can pose practical challenges. Under the DRFA, states and territories are required to subject all expenditure to an independent audit by a state-appointed auditor prior to submission to the Commonwealth, irrespective of claim size, to support confidence in reported expenditure.

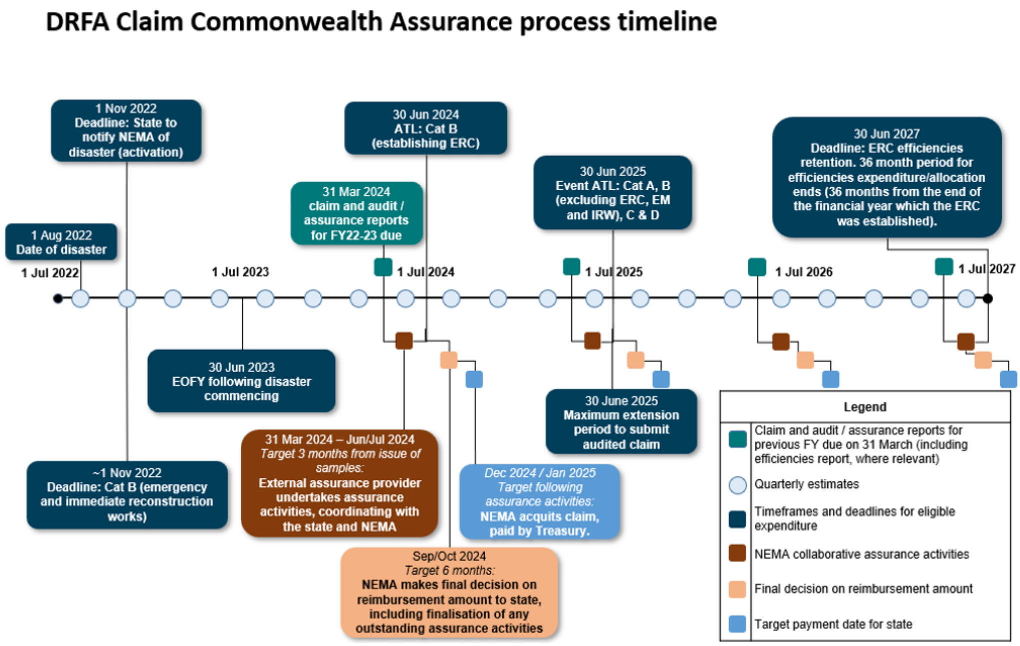
In addition to state-led audit processes, NEMA undertakes Commonwealth assurance over submitted claims to meet its obligations under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and to ensure the proper use of public resources. Notwithstanding that this represents an additional layer of review, the Commonwealth has nevertheless identified a significant number of ineligible or unsupported components in state and territory claims. These examples highlight the importance of assurance and the current limitations in the consistent application of DRFA requirements. We want to work with the states and territories to strike the right balance. The flow charts below outline the current audit and assurance process and indicative timelines for an example disaster event occurring on 1 August 2022.

Figure 1. Current DRFA claim state audit process timeline



OFFICIAL

Figure 2. Current DRFA claim Commonwealth assurance process timeline



The current DRFA audit and assurance framework is designed to provide the Commonwealth with confidence that claims comply with the requirements of the DRFA and represent an appropriate use of public money. Assurance activities focus on six key control domains:

- **disaster eligibility controls** – ensuring only eligible disasters are notified and claimed under the DRFA
- **asset and damage assessment controls** – ensuring claimed damage relates to eligible assets and can be directly attributed to an eligible disaster event
- **Estimated Reconstruction Cost (ERC) controls** – ensuring reconstruction estimates are developed using robust methodologies and supported by appropriate evidence
- **procurement and governance controls** – ensuring appropriate review, approval, procurement and oversight processes are in place
- **expenditure eligibility controls** – ensuring claimed expenditure meets DRFA requirements, is correctly classified and excludes ineligible costs, and
- **evidence, record keeping and fraud controls** – ensuring expenditure is supported by sufficient evidence, maintains an appropriate audit trail and excludes fraudulent or unsupported expenditure.

Collectively, these controls are intended to ensure that only eligible disasters, assets, measures and expenditure are funded, that reconstruction estimates are supportable and reasonable, and that claims meet both DRFA and broader Commonwealth accountability requirements.

Potential compliance challenges and recurring issues observed across the current audit and assurance model include:

- **ensuring expenditure aligns with DRFA requirements** such as expenditure outside program intent/limits, inclusion of ineligible components, and claims relating to events that do not meet eligibility thresholds
- **demonstrating a nexus to disaster and program intent**, including evidencing a clear link between expenditure and the disaster, alignment between expenditure and the approved program, and that costs are extraordinary or above 'business as usual'
- **financial management and claim integrity** including incorrect phasing of expenditure, duplication of transactions, reconciliation of issues between transaction listing and claim totals, removal or deferral of programs due to unresolved issues
- **control and governance maturity** with large variability in validation and review processes prior to claim submission, maturity of states' and territories' systems and data environments and standardisation of documentation and processes.

The current audit and assurance requirements provide robust oversight – however, a number of potential challenges are emerging as claims increase in scale and complexity, including:

- **duplication of testing** (by state/territory audit and assurance) which creates an administrative burden across all parties
- **length and complexity** of the assurance processes mean multiple stages of review, and iterative queries extend timeframes and increase resourcing requirements
- **timing and data maturity** mean assurance activities may commence on data that is not fully validated leading to adjustments, removal of expenditure and re-submission of claims
- **inconsistent interpretation of DRFA requirements** leads to differences in how eligibility and evidentiary requirements are applied
- relying on **transaction level testing** which increases audit effort for large claims, limits scalability and creates reliance on system and control environments
- while state audits provide a strong foundation, **differences in methodology and documentation** can limit our reliance on these audits.

Evaluation requirements

The current evaluation requirements for evaluating Category C and D programs have, in some cases, led to evaluations that are focussed on the delivery of individual programs, rather than the recovery outcomes delivered across the disaster event by multiple funded programs.

How could the proposed reforms work? A starting point for engagement

Simplify and systemise program data capture

Under the DRFF, progress reporting (as well as financial reporting) is attached to all categories of assistance including exceptional circumstances.

We see benefit in maintaining current quarterly reporting, including continuing to capture the core data fields of predominant project phase, estimated start date, estimated finish date, expenditure to date and estimated final cost.

For reconstruction of essential public assets, data fields could continue to include Estimated Reconstruction Cost (ERC) date, project start date, project finish date, total funding agreed and expenditure to date. However, efficiencies reporting would no longer be required as efficiencies are proposed to be removed from the DRFF. Reporting on the difference between actual and estimated expenditure on reconstruction costs would be captured via the claim process.

We recognise there is scope to strengthen the current IT portal to enable recovery reporting throughout the recovery program timeline continuum (i.e. activation, standard quarterly estimates reporting, and state/Commonwealth cost-share expenditure claiming).

We welcome feedback on the practical implications of this reporting approach, including steps jurisdictions may have already taken to strengthen existing systems and opportunities for further improvements.

Audit and assurance

The Australian Government is exploring options for a more streamlined and proportionate audit and assurance model that maintains confidence in the use of public money, while also reducing duplication and administrative burden.

We want to explore alternative models, including the possibility of a single, integrated audit approach, potentially commissioned at the Commonwealth level with shared funding arrangements. This approach could reduce duplication, improve consistency of methodology and documentation, and support more timely and transparent outcomes for states and delivery agencies.

NEMA recognises there is scope to strengthen underlying systems to streamline reporting and claims to support states/territories to provide input and claims, and for NEMA to develop reports, track program information and analyse progress and trends.

Evaluation

It is proposed that under the DRFF, evaluation will continue to be a shared responsibility between the Commonwealth and states/territories. It is proposed that the DRFF will be evaluated in accordance with the Commonwealth Evaluation Policy and Principles. Evaluations will be cost-shared equally between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions.

Commonwealth departments are expected to deliver support and services for Australians by setting clear objectives for major policies, projects and programs, and consistently measuring progress towards achieving these objectives.

Where an evaluation is undertaken, it should be conducted to a standard that ensures the information is credible and evidence-based. Data collection, evaluation practices and public use of evaluation findings should be taken into account.

A comprehensive DRFF evaluation strategy could set out what will be evaluated, when evaluations will occur, who will be responsible, and how findings will inform recovery policy, program design and future funding decisions. The strategy could include a consistent set of indicators linked to Australian Government priority outcomes in recovery.

Evaluation findings could be shared between jurisdictions to support future program design and funding requests. A summary of an illustrative evaluation approach is provided below at Table 1.

Table 1. Illustrative approach to evaluation under the DRFF

Evaluation Tier	Responsible Party	Timing / Frequency	Evaluation Type	Purpose	Key Value / Output
Event-level evaluation	Jurisdictions	After each disaster event	Event-level evaluation of funded measures	Assess effectiveness of the full suite of DRFF measures for a specific event	Provides grounded evidence on what worked in recovery for individual events
Meta-evaluations	Commonwealth	Every 2 years	Synthesis of multiple evaluations	Aggregate findings across events and programs	Supports continuous improvement and system-wide learning
System-level independent evaluation	Commonwealth (independent)	Every 5 years	Independent evaluation of DRFF evaluations	Assess overall effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and contribution to long-term recovery outcomes	Provides a strategic evidence base to inform policy settings and program reforms

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

Audit and assurance reform

1. What alternative models to the current two-step approach should be considered (e.g. a single Commonwealth-led audit, enhanced state audit with greater reliance, or hybrid approaches)? What are the advantages, risks and limitations of these models?
2. How could roles and responsibilities be structured under different models to reduce duplication while maintaining clear accountability (e.g. risk-based assurance)?
3. What changes would be required to data, systems and evidentiary practices in your jurisdiction to support alternative models?
4. What would be the key implementation challenges, transition considerations and impacts on delivery agencies, and how could these be managed?

Evaluation reform

5. What would be the benefits, risks or practical challenges of evaluating recovery outcomes at the event level rather than by individual measures?
6. What implementation support, guidance, templates or capability-building might jurisdictions need to transition to the proposed evaluation approach?
7. Are there any evaluation requirements under current DRFA arrangements that should be retained, removed or amended under the DRFF?

13. Risk reduction funding

Context – why is change needed?

Australia's climate is changing. We are seeing more floods, fires and storms – often with the same communities impacted by multiple events. These changes are already affecting our communities, economy, environment and way of life.

As the Colvin Review found, the scale and impact of disasters are already increasing. Compounding and cascading disaster events, exacerbated by climate change, are stretching people and communities across Australia. The Review recommends the Commonwealth should prioritise nation-wide investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives.

Further, practical action to adapt to climate change will help protect individuals, communities, organisations and natural systems. This means Australia must anticipate and manage climate risks and adapt to climate impacts, such as increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters.

Systemic prioritisation of risk reduction is needed

The DRF is currently the Australian Government's flagship initiative for disaster resilience and risk reduction. The Australian Government is providing up to one billion dollars through the DRF to support projects that help communities reduce risk from natural hazards and build resilience before disasters occur. The funding runs over five years from 1 July 2023.

This program is supporting critical projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen community resilience. Across the first three rounds, approximately $600 million has been invested in 450 projects, and Round Four opened on 29 May 2026.

However, we recognise that to reduce the impact of disasters on communities and the economy, and strengthen community resilience, we need to reduce natural hazard and disaster risk over time. We will do this by embedding systemic proactive risk reduction and 'building back better' through the Resilient Infrastructure stream of standardised packages (see relevant earlier section in this paper).

We want to learn from jurisdictions to inform a new approach

To inform the design of a potential climate-informed risk reduction program, the Australian Government seeks input on how the Commonwealth can strengthen future investment in risk reduction.

A new approach could prioritise particular types of investments, activities or cohorts. For example, priorities could include:

- large-scale projects which focus on reduction of particular natural hazard risks
- projects with the main goal of improving insurance affordability
- investments which strengthen community resilience

- development of local government capability or capacity.

Another important consideration in the development of new risk reduction is the funding mechanism. Funding can be provided through a variety of arrangements including competitive grant processes, a Federation Funding Agreement or multi-jurisdictional agreements. We would like to understand how existing arrangements are working and how future arrangements could be designed to maximise the effective and efficient management of public money.

We are keen to understand from states and territories how you would prioritise systemic proactive risk reduction activities in your jurisdiction to efficiently reduce natural hazard risks for your most exposed communities.

We have previously heard from stakeholders that they value Australian Government investment in risk reduction, particularly in high-cost high-impact infrastructure projects. Beyond the scale of available funds, we have also heard that jurisdictions can find that some aspects of existing programs present challenges to accessing funds and delivering projects – for example, funding uncertainty associated with participating in a competitive grants program, difficulties raising co-contributions and administratively burdensome application and post-award processes.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. How do you currently evaluate or measure the impact of your existing investments in natural hazard risk reduction?
2. How would you prioritise proactive risk reduction activities in your jurisdiction to efficiently reduce natural hazard risks for your most exposed communities? Do you have existing processes to do this?
3. What are your views on specific areas of investment or cohorts which could be prioritised in a future funding approach, and types of funding processes (e.g. competitive grants or other alternatives) which would be most appropriate in your jurisdiction?

14. Implementation timeline

The Australian Government recognises that implementing recovery funding reform arrangements is an ambitious task. Through this engagement period, we are keen to understand the implications for implementation, and what may be required to ensure as smooth and orderly a transition as possible. This will help inform an initial view of what the implementation timeline could be.

While there is currently no set date for the new DRFF to be in place, we will continue to work with states and territories as a priority to advance our policy development and implementation advice to government.

Several states have already suggested the reforms could be implemented in stages – for example, changes to the administration of grants (such as audit and assurance) could be made early.

The interconnected nature of the reforms has also been highlighted, including the relationship between the implementation of the Resilient Infrastructure Scheme and any potential disaster risk reduction fund which could follow the five-year DRF grant program which ends 30 June 2028.

The DRFA will continue to apply to new disaster events until the new arrangements begin.

Key questions for engagement with states and territories

1. What practical considerations will be important to factor into the implementation timelines and transitional arrangements for both DRFF and any potential future risk reduction fund?
2. What timeframes do you estimate may be required (e.g. system changes, training, legislation, etc) to support the implementation of these reforms?
3. Do you have any suggestions from a jurisdictional perspective on sequencing implementation or managing transition risk?

SHIRE OF LEONORA POSITION STATEMENT

PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING FRAMEWORK

1. Purpose

This position statement sets out the Shire of Leonora's response to the Australian Government's proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Framework (DRFF).

The proposed DRFF would replace the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and make significant changes to disaster activation thresholds, Commonwealth-State cost sharing, recovery assistance packages, resilient reconstruction, reporting and assurance requirements, and disaster risk reduction funding.

The Shire supports reform where it results in faster, simpler and more equitable access to disaster recovery assistance. However, the Shire is concerned that key elements of the proposed framework do not adequately recognise the financial capacity, geographic scale, infrastructure responsibilities and operating conditions of smaller regional and remote local governments.

2. Shire's Overall Position

The Shire of Leonora supports reforms that:

- reduce the administrative burden associated with disaster recovery funding;
- provide timely activation, assessment, approval and reimbursement;
- give local governments greater certainty about eligible expenditure;
- recognise the full cost of coordinating and delivering recovery;
- support infrastructure betterment and resilient reconstruction;
- increase investment in disaster preparedness, mitigation and risk reduction; and
- recognise the different costs and operating conditions experienced by regional and remote communities.

However, the Shire does not support the proposed substantial increase in the activation threshold for Commonwealth assistance.

The proposed event-based threshold for Western Australia is understood to be approximately $2.7 million, replacing the existing Small Disaster Criterion of $240,000. Once the threshold is exceeded, the Commonwealth would contribute 50 per cent of eligible recovery costs above the threshold.

Irrespective of whether the final threshold is set at $2 million, $2.7 million or another similar amount, the Shire considers that a threshold of this magnitude would be inequitable for smaller regional and remote local governments.

The proposed framework should not transfer additional disaster recovery costs or financial risk to local governments that have the least capacity to absorb them.

3. Proposed Activation Threshold

Shire Position

The Shire of Leonora strongly opposes the proposed increase in the disaster activation threshold.

The Commonwealth's assessment that events between $240,000 and $2 million represent a relatively small proportion of total national disaster expenditure does not adequately recognise the significance of those events to individual communities and local governments. The Commonwealth proposal notes that events in this range account for almost half of DRFA activations but only around 1 per cent of total eligible expenditure.

A disaster may represent a relatively small proportion of national expenditure while still creating an unmanageable financial impact for an individual remote local government.

The proposed threshold focuses on the aggregate cost of an event rather than:

- the financial capacity of the affected local government;
- the size of the local government's rate base;
- its geographic area;
- the extent and strategic importance of the infrastructure affected;
- the cost of undertaking works in remote locations;
- the effect of the event on essential access and community connectivity; and
- the broader social and economic consequences for the affected community.

For a small regional or remote local government, infrastructure damage substantially below the proposed threshold can place significant pressure on cash reserves, disrupt planned capital works, delay ordinary maintenance and affect the continued delivery of essential services.

The Shire therefore considers that a single event-based expenditure threshold is an inadequate measure of disaster impact and local recovery need.

Shire Recommendation

The Commonwealth should not introduce the proposed threshold unless complementary arrangements are established to ensure that local governments and communities affected by events below the threshold continue to receive appropriate recovery assistance.

Activation arrangements should incorporate consideration of:

1. the demonstrated impact of the event on the affected community;
2. the financial capacity of the affected local government;
3. the proportion of the local government's annual revenue or expenditure represented by the recovery cost;
4. geographic size and infrastructure responsibilities;
5. remoteness and regional construction costs;
6. the importance of affected infrastructure to community access, safety and economic activity; and
7. cumulative impacts from repeated, overlapping or consecutive events.

A local government capacity test, hardship mechanism or lower secondary threshold should be included so that smaller local governments are not required to absorb costs that are unreasonable relative to their financial capacity.

Any transition to the DRFF should be conditional on a clear, adequately funded and enforceable mechanism being in place for events that do not reach the Commonwealth threshold.

4. Remote and Regional Local Government Impacts

Shire Position

The Shire is concerned that the proposed framework does not sufficiently account for the practical realities of disaster recovery in remote Western Australia.

The Shire manages infrastructure across a very large geographic area with a comparatively small population and rate base. Roads and other public assets provide essential access for residents, Aboriginal communities, pastoral operations, mining activities, visitors and emergency services.

Recovery works in remote areas can be affected by:

- long travel distances;
- limited availability of contractors and specialist personnel;
- contractor mobilisation and demobilisation costs;
- freight and material transport costs;
- limited local accommodation;
- workforce shortages;
- access constraints following severe weather;
- limited availability of plant and equipment; and
- the need to maintain essential access across extensive road networks.

These factors mean that apparently comparable works can cost substantially more and take longer to deliver in remote locations than in metropolitan or more densely populated areas.

A nationally consistent framework must not assume that equivalent dollar amounts will deliver equivalent recovery outcomes in every community.

Shire Recommendation

The DRFF should expressly recognise remote and regional operating conditions through:

- remoteness loadings or regional cost adjustments;
- acceptance of reasonable mobilisation, accommodation and travel costs;
- flexibility in procurement and delivery arrangements where local markets are limited;
- recognition of longer delivery periods caused by isolation, seasonal conditions and contractor availability;
- support for technical and project management resources; and
- assessment of recovery need based on local circumstances rather than uniform national assumptions.

The objective should be equitable recovery outcomes, not simply nationally consistent funding amounts.

---

5. Local Experience of Existing Recovery Arrangements

The Shire has direct experience of the complexity and delay associated with existing disaster recovery funding arrangements.

As at August 2026, the Shire is still pursuing funding arising from a disaster event that occurred in January 2024. More than two and a half years after the event, the associated funding process has not been finalised.

This is a significant practical example of the problems that must be addressed through reform.

Extended funding processes create uncertainty regarding:

- eligibility of works and expenditure;
- the amount and timing of reimbursement;
- the Shire’s cashflow position;
- the treatment of expenditure in budgets and financial reports;
- the allocation of staff and contractor resources;
- the scheduling of recovery works; and
- the Shire’s capacity to progress other services and infrastructure priorities.

The Shire’s experience demonstrates that access to disaster funding cannot be assessed solely by whether funding is theoretically available. Funding must also be accessible, timely, predictable and capable of being administered without placing an unreasonable burden on the affected local government.

Introducing a substantially higher threshold without first addressing the existing delays, administrative complexity and agency capacity issues risks compounding the disadvantage experienced by remote councils.

Shire Recommendation

Before the DRFF commences, the Commonwealth and State should demonstrate that the administrative model can deliver:

- timely activation decisions;
- early confirmation of eligibility;
- consistent and authoritative advice;
- reasonable evidence requirements;
- prompt approval of scopes and estimates;
- regular progress payments;

- timely reimbursement; and
- clear escalation and dispute resolution processes.

Legacy claims and unresolved events under the current arrangements should not be delayed or disadvantaged by transition to the new framework.

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6. Governance, Administration and Agency Resourcing

Shire Position

The effectiveness of the DRFF will ultimately depend on the capability and resourcing of the agencies responsible for administering it.

The Shire is concerned that insufficient detail has been provided about who will manage the program in Western Australia and how the respective responsibilities of the Commonwealth, State agencies and local governments will operate in practice.

The Shire has already experienced challenges associated with the administration of disaster recovery funding, including the availability of appropriately resourced agency personnel to provide timely advice and progress matters.

The Shire is particularly concerned about the capacity of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to administer additional or revised responsibilities without adequate staffing, technical expertise, systems and regional support.

A redesigned funding framework will not improve recovery outcomes if the agencies responsible for implementation do not have sufficient resources to assess damage, confirm eligibility, approve scopes, process claims and resolve disputes within reasonable periods.

Shire Recommendation

The Commonwealth should require implementation arrangements to include:

1. clearly documented roles and responsibilities for each level of government;
2. a single point of contact for each affected local government;
3. dedicated officers with experience in regional and remote infrastructure;
4. mandatory service standards for assessments, approvals and payments;
5. published timeframes for each stage of the funding process;
6. transparent reporting against those service standards;
7. clear escalation and dispute resolution mechanisms;

8. sufficient technical resources to assess road and infrastructure claims;
9. continuity of case officers wherever possible; and
10. adequate resourcing of the administering State agency before the new framework commences.

Where an administering agency does not meet a prescribed timeframe, the framework should require the agency to advise the affected local government of the reason for the delay, the outstanding information and the date by which the matter will be determined.

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7. Standardised Recovery Packages

Shire Position

The Shire supports, in principle, the introduction of standardised recovery packages covering individuals and families, community recovery, local economic recovery, environmental recovery and exceptional circumstances assistance.

Standardised packages have the potential to:

- improve certainty about available assistance;
- simplify activation;
- reduce negotiations after an event;
- enable faster access to support; and
- provide communities with clearer expectations.

However, standardisation must not result in rigid funding caps, narrow eligibility rules or uniform delivery models that fail to account for local circumstances.

Remote communities can experience higher service delivery costs, limited access to specialist support, disrupted supply chains and greater difficulty replacing essential services. Social, economic and environmental recovery needs may also arise even where eligible infrastructure expenditure does not exceed the Commonwealth activation threshold.

Shire Recommendation

Standardised recovery packages should:

- incorporate flexibility for remoteness, isolation and higher delivery costs;
- be indexed and reviewed regularly;
- allow assistance to be scaled according to demonstrated recovery need;

- be capable of activation independently of the infrastructure expenditure threshold where appropriate;
- retain exceptional circumstances assistance;
- recognise social, economic, environmental and community impacts;
- allow locally appropriate delivery models; and
- involve affected local governments in impact assessment, recovery planning and package design.

Standardisation should establish a minimum level of support, not a ceiling that prevents a government from responding appropriately to local needs.

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8. Resilient Infrastructure and Betterment

Shire Position

The Shire strongly supports the proposed Resilient Infrastructure Scheme and the principle that damaged infrastructure should be reconstructed to a more resilient standard where this provides a demonstrable long-term benefit.

The proposed scheme would allow additional funding of up to 15 per cent for resilience improvements, with the Commonwealth and State each contributing up to 7.5 per cent.

Reconstructing assets solely to their pre-disaster condition can perpetuate vulnerability and lead to repeated damage, disruption and recovery expenditure.

This is particularly relevant to remote road networks, floodways, drainage infrastructure and other assets exposed to recurring weather events.

However, a fixed 15 per cent allowance may not be sufficient to deliver meaningful resilience improvements in all circumstances. The cost of betterment will vary depending on the asset, location, hazard exposure, site conditions and proposed engineering solution.

Shire Recommendation

The Resilient Infrastructure Scheme should:

- make consideration of betterment a standard part of every eligible reconstruction project;
- permit funding above 15 per cent where supported by a demonstrated risk reduction and value-for-money case;
- assess projects individually rather than applying inflexible program-wide limits;

- cover the full reasonable cost of approved resilience measures;
- avoid additional compulsory local government contributions;
- recognise regional construction and mobilisation costs;
- include critical community, recreational and cultural infrastructure where its loss affects community recovery;
- support investigation, design and technical assessment costs; and
- prioritise long-term risk reduction rather than lowest initial reconstruction cost.

The Shire supports the use of whole-of-life cost and risk reduction analysis when determining whether betterment represents value for money.

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9. Administrative Burden, Evidence and Reimbursement

Shire Position

A demonstrable reduction in administrative burden should be a core measure of whether the DRFF succeeds.

Smaller local governments have limited specialist resources and may be required to manage emergency response, community recovery, asset inspections, procurement, contractor supervision, financial reporting and funding claims concurrently.

Complex evidence requirements and prolonged assessment processes divert staff from recovery delivery and ordinary local government services.

The Commonwealth proposal includes further consideration of advance payments, more regular reimbursement, alternative assurance models and improvements to reporting and claiming systems.

The Shire supports these directions but considers that they must be translated into binding and practical implementation requirements.

Shire Recommendation

The DRFF should:

- provide advance payments following preliminary damage assessment;
- permit regular progress claims rather than requiring local governments to carry costs for extended periods;
- establish maximum reimbursement timeframes;
- use a single digital system for assessment, approval, reporting and payment;

- eliminate duplicate Commonwealth and State information requests;
- provide clear guidance at the commencement of an activated event;
- apply evidence requirements proportionate to the scale and risk of the works;
- recognise asset registers, maintenance records, inspection records and asset management information as appropriate evidence;
- allow post-event validation where immediate response priorities prevent contemporaneous documentation;
- recognise reasonable internal labour, administration and project management costs;
- maintain eligibility for backfill, temporary staff, contractors and surge capacity;
- provide simplified processes for overlapping or consecutive events; and
- recognise existing local government procurement, financial management and audit controls.

Local governments should not be financially disadvantaged because they have used their own workforce or plant where that represents the most practical and cost-effective response in a remote location.

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10. Cashflow and Financial Risk

Shire Position

Delayed reimbursement can expose small local governments to significant cashflow and budget pressures.

Remote councils may need to commit substantial expenditure to restore essential access before receiving final confirmation of eligibility or reimbursement. This can require the redirection of reserves, deferral of other projects or changes to adopted works programs.

Higher activation thresholds would increase this exposure by potentially leaving councils responsible for a greater proportion of recovery costs.

Shire Recommendation

The DRFF should include financial safeguards for smaller local governments, including:

- prompt advance payments;
- regular reimbursement;

- hardship provisions;
- the ability to escalate claims that create material cashflow pressure;
- recognition of financing costs caused by unreasonable reimbursement delays; and
- protection from adverse funding decisions where works were reasonably required to restore safety or essential access.

No local government should be required to defer essential recovery works because it cannot carry the cost while waiting for an extended assessment or approval process.

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11. Disaster Risk Reduction Funding

Shire Position

The Shire strongly supports increased investment in disaster mitigation, preparedness and risk reduction.

The proposed Risk Reduction Stream would consolidate existing Commonwealth programs and support a more strategic, evidence-based approach to resilience investment.

However, smaller regional and remote local governments may be disadvantaged if access depends on sophisticated risk data, specialist studies or grant-ready business cases that they do not have the capacity to prepare.

A lack of technical documentation should not be interpreted as a lack of risk.

Shire Recommendation

Risk reduction funding should:

- be accessible to smaller regional and remote local governments;
- fund hazard assessments, mapping, asset vulnerability analysis and resilience planning;
- support business case and project development;
- fund both infrastructure and community resilience initiatives;
- provide technical assistance to councils with limited internal capability;
- avoid unreasonable co-contribution requirements;
- recognise in-kind local government contributions where appropriate;
- prioritise locally identified risks as well as national priorities; and

- support projects that reduce repeat damage and future recovery expenditure.

Funding should reflect actual risk and community consequence rather than the affected local government's capacity to prepare a technically complex application.

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12. Aboriginal Communities and Place-Based Recovery

The Shire supports recovery arrangements that recognise that the impacts of disasters can extend beyond physical infrastructure.

In remote areas, disasters may disrupt access to Country, community connections, cultural activities, essential services and the social and economic functioning of Aboriginal communities.

Shire Recommendation

The DRFF should:

- support genuine engagement with affected Aboriginal communities;
- enable Aboriginal communities to participate in identifying recovery priorities;
- recognise cultural, social and community wellbeing impacts;
- support place-based and locally led recovery responses; and
- ensure funding is available for recovery needs that extend beyond reconstruction of physical assets.

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13. Summary of the Shire's Recommendations

The Shire of Leonora recommends that the Australian Government:

1. Not proceed with the proposed higher activation threshold in its current form.
2. Introduce activation criteria that consider local government financial capacity, remoteness, geographic scale, infrastructure responsibilities and community impact.
3. Guarantee assistance for smaller events where the recovery cost is unreasonable relative to the capacity of the affected local government.
4. Ensure that no local government or community is disadvantaged by the transition from the existing arrangements to the DRFF.
5. Clarify who will administer the framework in Western Australia and adequately resource the responsible agency.

6. Establish mandatory service standards and timeframes for activation, assessment, approval, reimbursement and dispute resolution.
7. Provide a dedicated point of contact and regional support for affected local governments.
8. Ensure standardised recovery packages include flexibility for remote costs and local circumstances.
9. Enable recovery packages addressing social, economic, environmental and community impacts to be activated according to demonstrated need and not solely infrastructure expenditure.
10. Embed betterment and resilient reconstruction as standard elements of recovery funding.
11. Allow resilience funding above 15 per cent where justified by risk reduction and long-term value.
12. Introduce advance payments and regular reimbursement to reduce local government cashflow exposure.
13. Recognise internal labour, project management, asset information and proportionate evidence arrangements.
14. Establish a fit-for-purpose digital claims and reporting system that eliminates unnecessary duplication.
15. Fund the technical studies, planning and project development required for disaster risk reduction.
16. Ensure legacy claims and unresolved events under current arrangements are not delayed or disadvantaged during transition.

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14. Conclusion

The Shire of Leonora supports the objective of creating a disaster recovery funding system that is simpler, faster, more resilient and focused on community outcomes.

However, the Shire strongly opposes a substantial increase in the disaster activation threshold without effective safeguards for smaller regional and remote local governments.

The proposed threshold does not adequately recognise the limited financial capacity of small councils, the extensive infrastructure networks managed across remote areas, the higher cost of undertaking recovery works and the consequences of losing critical access infrastructure.

The Shire's continuing efforts to secure and finalise funding arising from a January 2024 event demonstrate the need for fundamental improvement in the administration, timeliness and accountability of disaster recovery programs. More than two and a half years after that event, the funding process remains unresolved.

This experience raises a central concern about the proposed reforms: increasing the threshold will not solve the existing problems of delay, complexity, uncertainty and inadequate administrative capacity.

Before imposing a higher threshold, the Commonwealth and State Governments must ensure that the recovery funding system can make timely decisions, provide consistent advice, process claims efficiently and reimburse affected local governments without unreasonable delay.

Reform should reduce financial and administrative risk for affected communities. It should not shift that risk onto the local governments least able to carry it.

The Shire of Leonora therefore calls for a DRFF that:

- recognises the financial capacity of individual local governments;
- accounts for remoteness and geographic scale;
- provides assistance according to demonstrated community need;
- delivers equitable rather than merely uniform outcomes;
- properly resources the agencies responsible for administration; and
- ensures that remote communities are not disadvantaged because the cost of their disaster is small when viewed nationally but substantial when borne locally.

10.0 REPORTS
10.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS
10.2.(D) PROPOSED INCLUSION OF LOT 74 INTO STURT MEADOWS PASTORAL LEASE N050635

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.2.(D) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Proposed Inclusion of Lot 74 into Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Lot 74 on Deposited Plan 28496 (LR 3089/348)
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)
FILE REFERENCE:	Developments / Land Developments / DPLH Leases

AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT

NAME:	Kiara Lord
OFFICER:	Manager Business Services
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	11th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	**1.** Aerial Map of Lot 74 into PL N050635 ⇩ **2.** Tenure Map of Lot 74 into PL N050635 ⇩

REPORT PURPOSE

To consider the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's request for the Shire's comments on the proposed inclusion of Lot 74 on Deposited Plan 28496 into Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635, instead of granting a replacement grazing lease.

BACKGROUND

On 7 July 2025, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage referred a proposal to renew Grazing Lease P777502 over Lot 74 on Deposited Plan 28496, Land Record 3089/348.

DPLH's referral identified Peter Dean Axford and William Paul Axford in connection with the proposed renewal and advised that:

- the lease purpose was "Grazing";
- the proposed renewal term was five years without a further option;
- Lease P777502 had expired on 30 June 2025; and
- the lease was then holding over until 30 June 2026.

On 9 July 2025, the Chief Executive Officer advised DPLH that the Shire did not object to the proposed five-year renewal.

On 21 July 2026, DPLH provided an updated referral. DPLH advised that, following the Darlot Native Title Determination WAD142/2018, it was now possible to formally include Lot 74 in Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635 under section 87 of the Land Administration Act 1997, instead of granting a replacement grazing lease under section 79.

DPLH has advised that, should the inclusion proceed, Lot 74 would be held under the same pastoral lease and its tenure would align with the term of Pastoral Lease N050635, which expires on 20 January 2056.

DPLH invited the Shire to provide comments within 42 days of the referral. Based on the referral date of 21 July 2026, the comment period expires on 1 September 2026.

COMMENTS

Council is being asked to provide comments as part of DPLH's statutory consultation process. Council is not granting, amending or becoming a party to the pastoral lease. The ultimate decision whether to proceed rests with the Minister administering the Land Administration Act 1997.

The aerial and tenure maps supplied by DPLH indicate that Lot 74 adjoins the eastern boundary of Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635. It should not be described as already being within the pastoral lease boundary.

If the proposal proceeds, section 87 provides for Lot 74 to become part of the adjoining Crown land and to be held under the same lease. Any encumbrances affecting the adjoining land would also extend to the incorporated land.

The proposal concerns the administration of Crown land tenure. It does not itself constitute development approval, authorise ground disturbance or remove the requirement for any other approvals applying to future activities on the land.

From the information provided, no material Shire road, access, infrastructure or local planning concern has been identified. This should be confirmed through the Shire's internal planning, works, property and rating checks before the response is issued.

The longer tenure differs materially from the five-year replacement grazing lease considered in 2025. It is therefore appropriate that Council determine the Shire's response to the revised proposal.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

DPLH has formally consulted the Shire under section 14 of the Land Administration Act 1997.

The Chief Executive Officer previously responded to DPLH's 2025 referral. No separate public consultation has been undertaken by the Shire.

DPLH remains responsible for consultation with the adjoining leaseholder and for satisfying any applicable Crown land, native title and other State approval requirements.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Land Administration Act 1997

Section 14 requires the Minister, before exercising a power relating to Crown land other than a power under Part 5, to consult the local government for the district unless it is impracticable to do so.

For this purpose, the Minister consults the local government by:

- giving written notice of the proposed exercise of power;
- inviting comments within 42 days after the date of the notice; and

- considering comments received within that period or any longer period allowed by the Minister.

The Minister may, on application by the local government, allow a longer period for comments.

Section 87(2) provides that where the Minister considers a Crown land parcel unsuitable for retention as a separate lot but suitable for leasing to the holder of adjoining Crown leased land, the Minister may, with the adjoining holder's consent and upon payment of the agreed initial rent, lease and amalgamate the parcel with the adjoining land.

Section 87(5) provides that, following amalgamation with adjoining Crown land held under lease, the incorporated parcel becomes part of the adjoining land and is held under the same lease. Existing encumbrances over the adjoining land extend to the incorporated parcel, and the Registrar must alter the relevant Crown land title and Register.

Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.20(1) provides that a Council decision does not have effect unless made by a simple majority, unless another kind of majority is required under the Act, regulations or a local law. No special majority is prescribed for Council's response to a consultation under section 14 of the Land Administration Act 1997.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation aligns directly with the Shire of Leonora Council Plan 2025–2035 (2026 Review):

Strategic Objective 4 – Leadership: An innovative and proactive local government.

- Outcome 4.1 – An innovative, strategically focused Council leading our community.
- Outcome 4.2 – An effective organisation, providing strong leadership and services.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Overall a low risk, however a slight risk of DPLH assuming no objection if no response is received. A Council Resolution gives a clear determination as to its position and leaves no room for misinterpretation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to provide Council's response that it has no objection to the proposed inclusion of Lot 74 on Deposited Plan 28496 (LR 3089/348) into Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635 under section 87 of the Land Administration Act 1997, with the incorporated land to align with the pastoral lease term expiring on 20 January 2056.

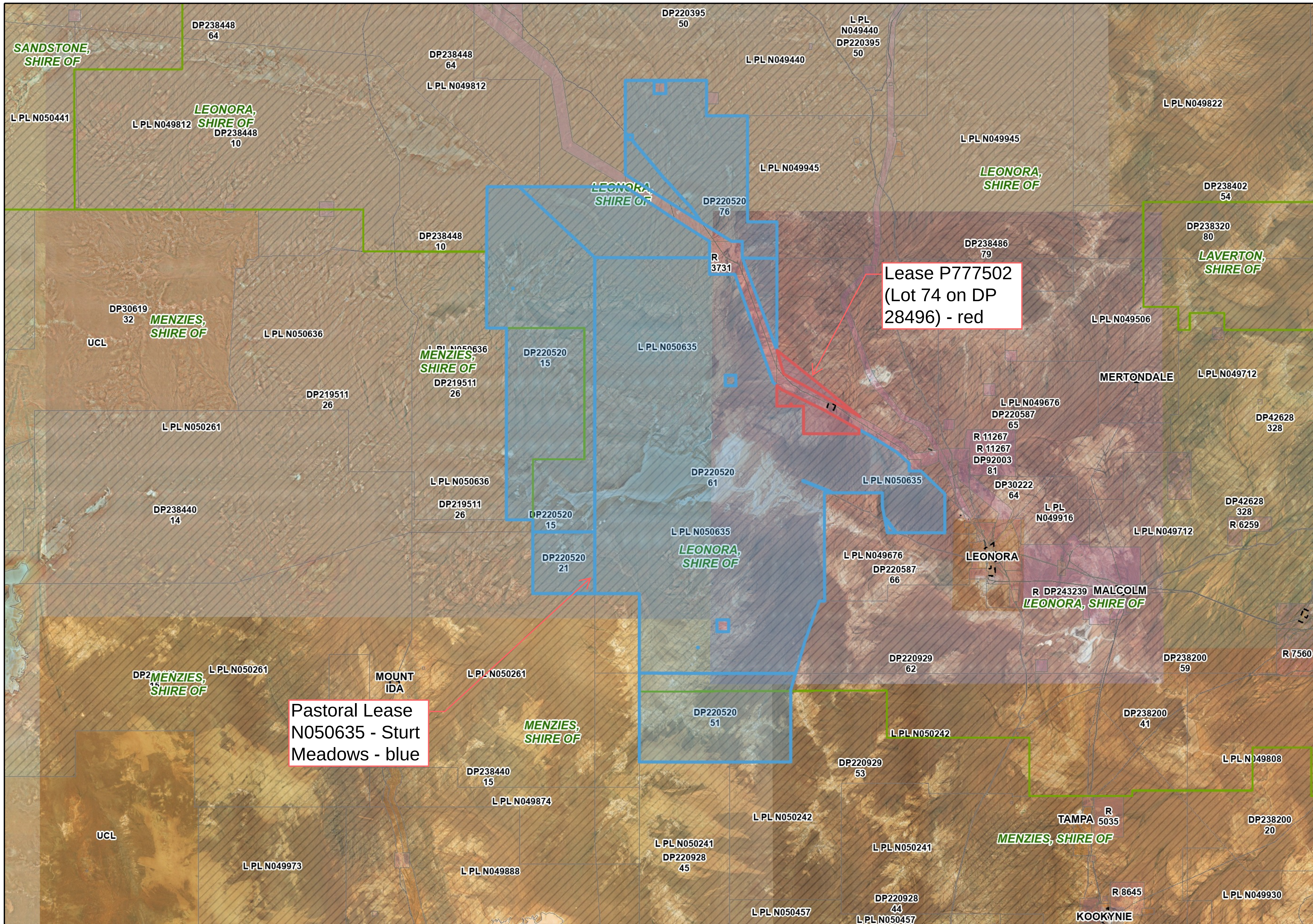
VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

____

Chief Executive Officer



Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Legend

- Local Government Area
- Townsites
- Cadastre (View 4)

Land Tenure Small Scale ALL

- Easements
- Other Interests
- Crown Lease
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest; Timber Reserve
- Marine Park
- Water Isolation
- Public Road
- Unallocated Crown Land; Closed Road
- Miscellaneous (Type 3)
- Crown Allotment (Type 2)
- Building, Survey Strata Lots
- Lot on Survey (Type 1)

Land Tenure Small Scale 256K

- Easements
- Other Interests
- Crown Lease
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest; Timber Reserve
- Marine Park
- Water Isolation
- Public Road
- Unallocated Crown Land; Closed Road
- Miscellaneous (Type 3)
- Crown Allotment (Type 2)
- Building, Survey Strata Lots
- Lot on Survey (Type 1)

Land Tenure Small Scale 64K

- Easements
- Other Interests
- Crown Lease
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest; Timber Reserve
- Marine Park
- Water Isolation
- Public Road

Notes:

* The data that appears on the map may be out of date, not intended to be used at the scale displayed, or subject to license agreements. The map should only be used in matters related to Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage business.

* This map is not intended to be used for measurement purposes.

Map was produced using DPLH's InQuiry.

Proposed inclusion of Lot 74 on DP 28496 (LR3089/348) into the Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease N050635

DPLH BUSINESS USE ONLY

Internal Spatial Viewer

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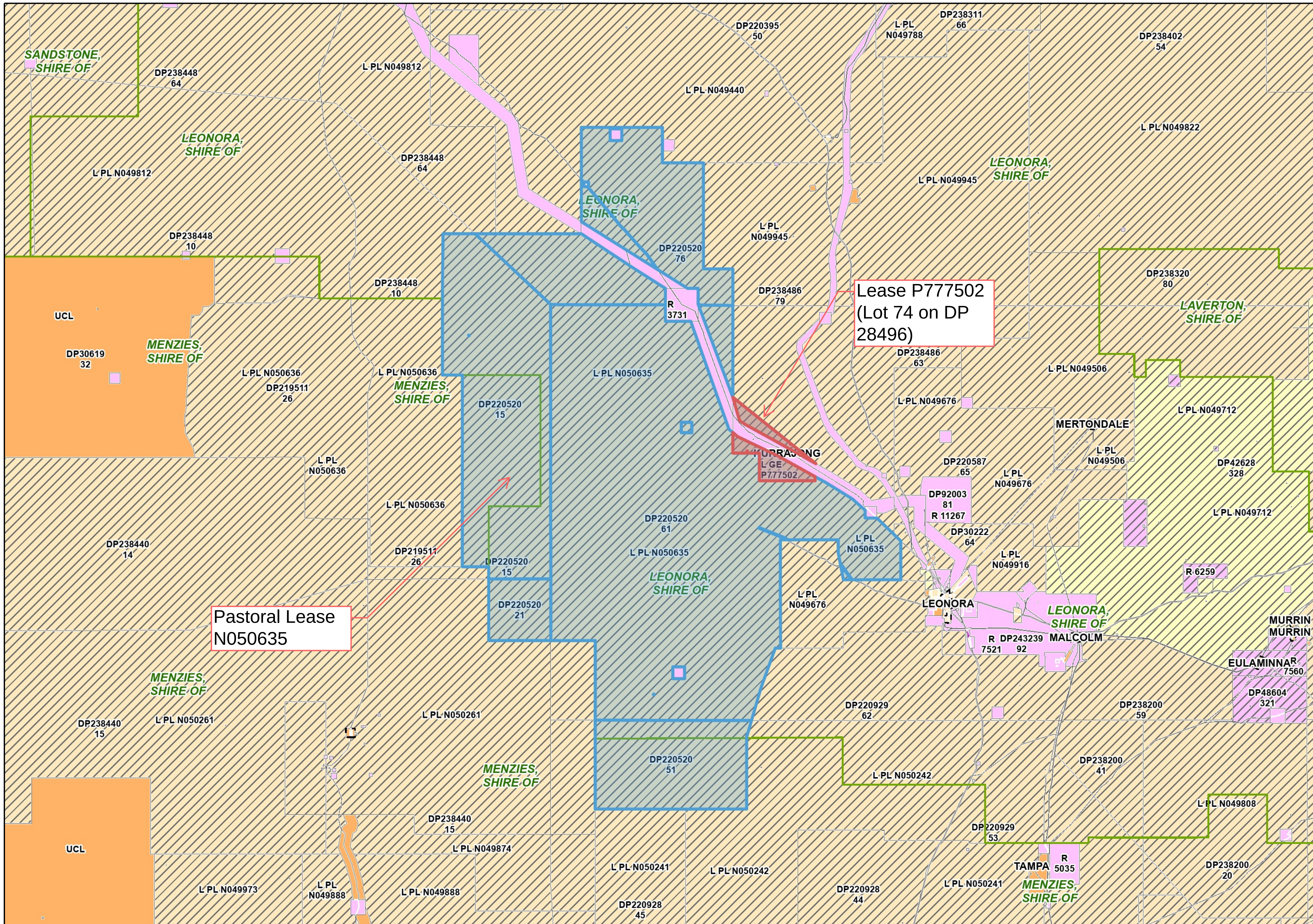
1: 577,791 at A3

Projection: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

Graticules (if visible): GDA 1994 Latitude/Longitude

Date produced: 21-Jul-2026



Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Legend

- Local Government Area
- Townsites
- Cadastre (View 4)

Land Tenure Small Scale ALL

- Easements
- Other Interests
- Crown Lease
- Crown Reserve
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Date produced: 21-Jul-2026

10.0 REPORTS
10.3 MANAGER OF BUSINESS SERVICES
10.3.(A) CHANGING METHODS OF VALUATION OF LAND

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.3.(A) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Changing Methods of Valuation of Land
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Leinster (M 37/1309)
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Shire of Leonora
FILE REFERENCE:	14.10

AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT

NAME:	Glenn Bone
OFFICER:	Project Officer
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	7th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	Nil

BACKGROUND

In the past, Council has agreed to the principle of applying 'spot rating' to the accommodation villages of various mining sites.

In the near future a further opportunity will arise to apply GRV rating to the 244-person mining village operated by Emerald Resources (WA) Pty Ltd for their Dingo Range Gold Project. The mining village is located on M 37/1309 and is 33km north-east of Leinster.

Currently the land on which the Dingo Range Accommodation Village is located, is rated on unimproved valuations. This takes no account of the infrastructure sitting on the land. A change to GRV will provide an increase in rate revenue when the infrastructure is brought to account.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

On the basis Council will accept the recommendation, it is then the intent to notify the company of the proposed valuation method and to seek their comment.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.28 – Stipulates that the Minister for Local Government is responsible for determining the method of valuation of land to be used by a local government as the basis for a rate.

In determining the method of valuation, the Minister is to have regard to the general principle that the basis for a rate is to be:

- Where the land is used predominately for rural purposes, the UV of the land; and
- Where the land is used predominately for non-rural purposes, the GRV of the land.

Section 6.31 – Enables a local government to phase-in valuations in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 6.1.

Schedule 6.1(2) – Deals with phasing-in of valuations where a determination is made by the Minister under section 6.28 to change the method of valuing land from UV to GRV. A local government may phase-in the impact (cost) of the change over a three-year period.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council has no policies in respect to this matter.

Minister for Local Government – Valuation of Land - Mining

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An indicative valuation for the new Dingo Range site is now to hand and would realise the following if it were rated in 2026/27:

- Indicative GRV $1,125,000 @ 0.084525 = $95,090.63

This compares very favourably with rates generated by existing mine site villages:

Mine Site	Assessment No	2026/27 Rates $
Bronzewing	7884	3,761.36
Darlot	7768	25,357.50
Cosmos	7917	26,625.38
Thunderbox	7886	78,185.63
Gwalia	7244	722.73
Agnew	7967	177,502.50
King of the Hills	7986	88,751.25
Bellevue	4028	24,071.25

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The change in method of valuation for the new mining village will enable the Shire to maintain consistency in its rating approach of similar ventures.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The delay in action of this agenda item can create risk to both financial and reputational factors for the Shire of Leonora. By not applying a consistent approach across all ratepayers, including where development improvements have been raised, we risk a high level of distrust from the community, however applying a fair, consistent approach reduces this risk to nil. As far as financial risk, by not seeking a change in valuation, we set a precedent for not raising rates on developed properties which can impact on future rates revenue. Again, the consistency of the approach will reduce this risk to low.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council commence formalities for changing the method of valuation for the accommodation village and associated infrastructure located on the following tenement:

- M 37/1309 – Emerald Resources (WA) Pty Ltd (Dingo Range Gold Mine)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Manager of Business Services

10.0 REPORTS

10.3 MANAGER OF BUSINESS SERVICES

10.3.(B) MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - JUNE 2026

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.3.(B) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Monthly Financial Statements - June 2026
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Nil
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE REFERENCE:	1.6 - Current Budget
AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT	
NAME:	Kiara Lord
OFFICER:	Manager Business Services
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	14th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	**1.** Monthly Financial Statements - June 2026 ⇩

BACKGROUND

In complying with the Local Government *Financial Management Regulations 1996*, a monthly statement of financial activity must be submitted to an Ordinary Council meeting within 2 months after the end of the month to which the statement relates. The statement of financial activity is a complex document but gives a complete overview of the "cash" financial position as at the end of each month. The statement of financial activity for each month must be adopted by Council and form part of the minutes.

It is understood that parts of the statement of financial activity have been submitted to Ordinary Council meetings previously. In reviewing the Regulations, the complete statement of financial activity is to be submitted, along with the following reports that are not included in the statement.

Monthly Financial Statements for the month ended 30 June 2026 consisting of:

a) Compilation Report
b) Statement of Financial Activity – 30 June 2026
c) Material Variances – 30 June 2026

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Shire staff work collaboratively with external accountants and internal budget managers in the preparation of the Monthly Financial Statements. No external stakeholder engagement is undertaken in relation to this item, with the report provided to Council for oversight and compliance purposes.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Part 4 — Financial reports— s. 6.4

34. Financial activity statement report – s. 6.4

(1A) In this regulation —

***committed assets** means revenue unspent but set aside under the annual budget for a specific purpose.*

34. (1) A local government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d), for that month in the following detail —

(a) annual budget estimates, taking into account any expenditure incurred for an additional purpose under section 6.8(1)(b) or (c);

(b) budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates;

(c) actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates;

(d) material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c); and

(e) the net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.

34. (2) Each statement of financial activity is to be accompanied by documents containing —

(a) an explanation of the composition of the net current assets of the month to which the statement relates, less committed assets and restricted assets;

(b) an explanation of each of the material variances referred to in subregulation (1)(d); and

(c) such other supporting information as is considered relevant by the local government.

34. (3) The information in a statement of financial activity may be shown —

(a) according to nature and type classification; or

(b) by program; or

(c) by business unit.

34. (4) A statement of financial activity, and the accompanying documents referred to in subregulation (2), are to be —

(a) presented at an ordinary meeting of the council within 2 months after the end of the month to which the statement relates; and

(b) recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented.

34. (5) Each financial year, a local government is to adopt a percentage or value, calculated in accordance with the AAS, to be used in statements of financial activity for reporting material variances.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Non-compliance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 may result in governance and reputational risk to the Shire. Additionally, inadequate review of the Monthly Financial Statements may reduce Council's ability to effectively monitor the Shire's financial position and performance against the adopted budget.

The regular preparation and presentation of Monthly Financial Statements to Council supports informed decision-making and reduces financial, governance and compliance risks to an acceptable level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accept the Monthly Financial Statements for the month ended 30 June 2026 consisting of:

a) Compilation Report
b) Statement of Financial Activity – 30 June 2026
c) Material Variances – 30 June 2026

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Manager Business Services

SHIRE OF LEONORA

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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BASIS OF PREPARATION - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary information is presented for information purposes. The information does not comply with the disclosure requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards.

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

1 KEY INFORMATION

Funding Surplus or Deficit Components

Funding surplus / (deficit)

	Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. $ (b)-(a)
Opening	$5.06 M	$5.06 M	$5.06 M	$0.00 M
Closing	$0.00 M	$0.00 M	$4.29 M	$4.29 M

Refer to Statement of Financial Activity

Cash and cash equivalents

	$14.13 M	% of total
Unrestricted Cash	$3.78 M	26.7%
Restricted Cash	$10.35 M	73.3%

Refer to 3 - Cash and Financial Assets

Payables

	$0.63 M	% Outstanding
Trade Payables	$0.24 M	
0 to 30 Days		77.2%
Over 30 Days		22.8%
Over 90 Days		0.0%

Refer to 9 - Payables

Receivables

	$0.89 M	% Collected
Rates Receivable	$0.67 M	94.1%
Trade Receivable	$0.89 M	% Outstanding
Over 30 Days		86.1%
Over 90 Days		37.2%

Refer to 7 - Receivables

Key Operating Activities

Amount attributable to operating activities

Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. $ (b)-(a)
$3.45 M	$3.45 M	$3.82 M	$0.36 M

Refer to Statement of Financial Activity

Rates Revenue

		% Variance
YTD Actual	$10.66 M	(0.5%)
YTD Budget	$10.71 M	

Grants and Contributions

		% Variance
YTD Actual	$3.36 M	12.5%
YTD Budget	$2.98 M	

Refer to 11 - Grants and Contributions

Fees and Charges

		% Variance
YTD Actual	$3.29 M	2.8%
YTD Budget	$3.20 M	

Refer to Statement of Financial Activity

Key Investing Activities

Amount attributable to investing activities

Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. $ (b)-(a)
($4.22 M)	($4.22 M)	($0.26 M)	$3.96 M

Refer to Statement of Financial Activity

Proceeds on sale

		%
YTD Actual	$0.00 M	
Amended Budget	$0.81 M	(100.0%)

Refer to 6 - Disposal of Assets

Asset Acquisition

		% Spent
YTD Actual	$2.62 M	
Amended Budget	$4.21 M	(37.8%)

Refer to 5 - Capital Acquisitions

Capital Grants

		% Received
YTD Actual	$3.14 M	
Amended Budget	$2.99 M	4.9%

Refer to 5 - Capital Acquisitions

Key Financing Activities

Amount attributable to financing activities

Amended Budget	YTD Budget (a)	YTD Actual (b)	Var. $ (b)-(a)
($4.29 M)	($4.29 M)	($4.33 M)	($0.03 M)

Refer to Statement of Financial Activity

Borrowings

Principal repayments	$0.00 M
Interest expense	$0.00 M
Principal due	$0.00 M

Reserves

Reserves balance	$10.35 M
Net Movement	$4.33 M

Refer to 4 - Cash Reserves

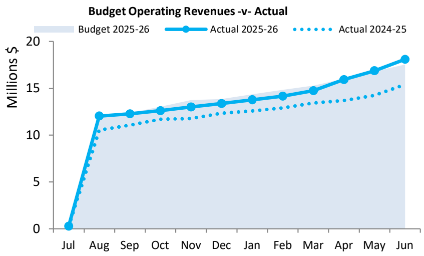
This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and notes.

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

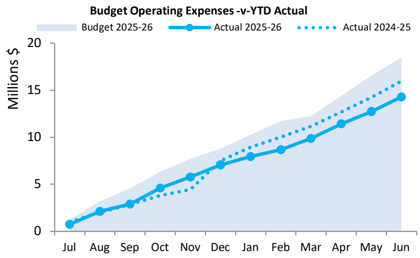
2 KEY INFORMATION - GRAPHICAL

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

OPERATING REVENUE

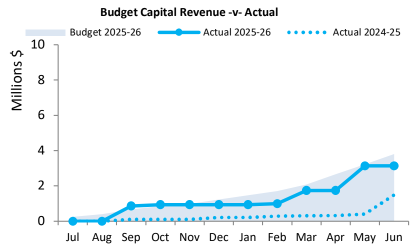


OPERATING EXPENSES

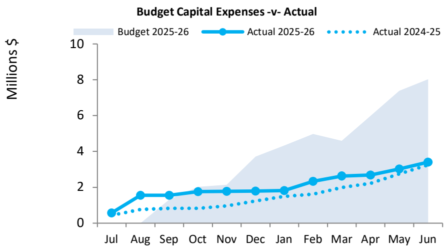


INVESTING ACTIVITIES

CAPITAL REVENUE

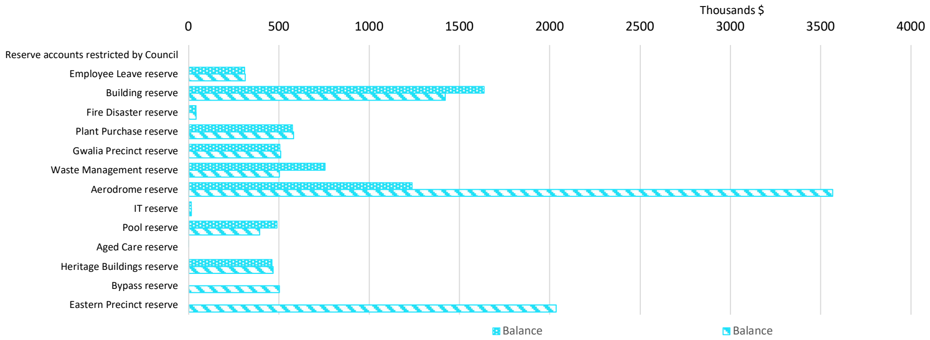


CAPITAL EXPENSES

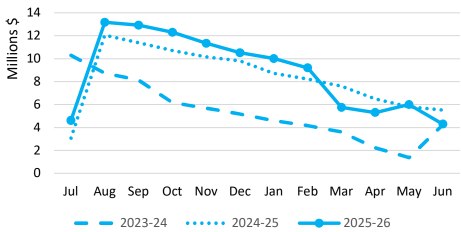


FINANCING ACTIVITIES

RESERVES



Closing funding surplus / (deficit)



This information is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Financial Statements and Notes.

Please refer to the compilation report

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

3 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Description	Classification	Unrestricted	Reserve Accounts	Total	Institution	Interest Rate	Maturity Date
		$	$				
Municipal account	Cash and cash equivalents	3,777,983	0	3,777,983	NAB	Variable	NA
Trust account	Cash and cash equivalents	10	0	10	NAB	NA	NA
Cash on hand	Cash and cash equivalents	1,270	0	1,270	Cash on hand	NA	NA
Reserve account	Cash and cash equivalents	0	10,353,106	10,353,106	NAB	Variable	NA
Total		**3,779,263**	**10,353,106**	**14,132,369**			
Comprising							
Cash and cash equivalents		3,779,263	10,353,106	14,132,369			
		3,779,263	**10,353,106**	**14,132,369**			

KEY INFORMATION

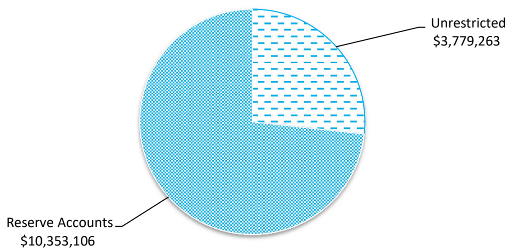
Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of net current assets.

The local government classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

Financial assets at amortised cost held with registered financial institutions are listed in this note other financial assets at amortised cost are provided in Note 8 - Other assets.



SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

4 RESERVE ACCOUNTS

	Budget				Actual			
Reserve account name	Opening Balance	Transfers In (+)	Transfers Out (-)	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Transfers In (+)	Transfers Out (-)	Closing Balance
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Reserve accounts restricted by Council								
Employee Leave reserve	309,818	3,052	0	312,870	309,819	3,499	0	313,318
Building reserve	1,635,736	15,029	(231,653)	1,419,112	1,635,725	17,135	(231,653)	1,421,207
Fire Disaster reserve	41,241	383	0	41,624	41,241	466	0	41,707
Plant Purchase reserve	575,745	5,251	0	580,996	575,745	6,502	0	582,247
Gwalia Precinct reserve	504,805	4,683	0	509,488	504,804	5,702	0	510,506
Waste Management reserve	755,752	6,930	(260,000)	502,682	755,752	7,020	(260,000)	502,772
Aerodrome reserve	1,237,895	2,312,685	0	3,550,580	1,237,895	2,328,055	0	3,565,950
IT reserve	15,000	90	0	15,090	15,000	106	0	15,106
Pool reserve	489,482	4,474	(100,000)	393,956	489,482	4,945	(100,000)	394,427
Aged Care reserve	0	0	0	0	11	0	(11)	0
Heritage Buildings reserve	462,370	4,109	0	466,479	462,370	5,222	0	467,592
Bypass reserve	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	502,745	0	502,745
Eastern Precinct reserve	0	2,027,661	0	2,027,661	0	2,035,529	0	2,035,529
	6,027,844	**4,884,347**	**(591,653)**	**10,320,538**	**6,027,844**	**4,916,926**	**(591,664)**	**10,353,106**

Please refer to the compilation report

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

5 CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS

Capital acquisitions	Amended Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance
	$	$	$	$
Land	21,689	21,689	21,689	0
Buildings	1,988,575	1,988,575	90,643	(1,897,932)
Plant & Equipment	1,811,272	1,811,272	669,406	(1,141,866)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	**3,821,536**	**3,821,536**	**781,738**	**(3,039,798)**
Infrastructure Roads	1,777,231	1,777,231	1,147,983	(629,248)
Infrastructure Other	2,429,722	2,429,722	1,468,731	(960,991)
Acquisition of infrastructure	**4,206,953**	**4,206,953**	**2,616,714**	**(1,590,239)**
Total capital acquisitions	**8,028,489**	**8,028,489**	**3,398,452**	**(4,630,037)**
Capital Acquisitions Funded By:				
Capital grants and contributions	2,990,737	2,990,737	3,138,381	147,644
Other (disposals & C/Fwd)	814,969	814,969	0	(814,969)
Reserve accounts				
Building reserve	231,653	231,653	231,653	0
Waste Management reserve	260,000	260,000	260,000	0
Pool reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
Contribution - operations	3,631,130	3,631,130	(331,582)	(3,962,712)
Capital funding total	**8,028,489**	**8,028,489**	**3,398,452**	**(4,630,037)**

KEY INFORMATION

Initial recognition

An item of property, plant and equipment or infrastructure that qualifies for recognition as an asset is measured at its cost.

Upon initial recognition, cost is determined as the amount paid (or other consideration given) to acquire the assets, plus costs incidental to the acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Shire includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads. For assets acquired at zero cost or otherwise significantly less than fair value, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

Assets for which the fair value as at the date of acquisition is under $5,000 are not recognised as an asset in accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(5).* These assets are expensed immediately.

Where multiple individual low value assets are purchased together as part of a larger asset or collectively forming a larger asset exceeding the threshold, the individual assets are recognised as one asset and capitalised.

Individual assets that are land, buildings and infrastructure acquired between scheduled revaluation dates of the asset class in accordance with the Shire's revaluation policy, are recognised at cost and disclosed as being at reportable value.

Measurement after recognition

Plant and equipment including furniture and equipment and right-of-use assets (other than vested improvements) are measured using the cost model as required under *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(2).* Assets held under the cost model are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses being their reportable value.

Reportable Value

In accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(2),* the carrying amount of non-financial assets that are land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment, investment properties, infrastructure or vested improvements that the local government controls.

Reportable value is for the purpose of *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(4)* is the fair value of the asset at its last valuation date minus (to the extent applicable) the accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses in respect of the non-financial asset subsequent to its last valuation date.

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

5 CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS (CONTINUED) - DETAILED

Capital expenditure total
Level of completion indicators

0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
Over 100%

Percentage Year to Date Actual to Annual Budget expenditure where the expenditure over budget highlighted in red.

	Account Description	Amended Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance (Under)/Over
		$	$	$	$
Land	84 Tower Street	21,689	21,689	21,689	0
Buildings	Accommodation Units	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Buildings	Ageing in Place Final	161,195	161,195	3,555	157,640
Buildings	Childcare Centre Toilets	31,197	31,197	31,197	0
Buildings	CRC Privacy Cubicals	16,183	16,183	16,183	0
Buildings	Masonic Lodge Refurbishment	25,000	25,000	7,135	17,865
Buildings	Rec Centre Lockers	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
Buildings	Rec Centre Painting	150,000	150,000	0	150,000
Buildings	Replace Doctors Pool	80,000	80,000	32,573	47,427
Plant & Equipment	Admin Vehicle	56,700	56,700	56,575	125
Plant & Equipment	Building Maintenance Truck	60,119	60,119	59,850	269
Plant & Equipment	Cleaner Van	46,313	46,313	46,765	(452)
Plant & Equipment	Doctor's Vehicle	50,000	50,000	56,575	(6,575)
Plant & Equipment	Mini Excavator	91,000	91,000	95,910	(4,910)
Plant & Equipment	POS & Booking System	50,000	50,000	0	50,000
Plant & Equipment	Ride-on Mower	47,050	47,050	47,050	0
Plant & Equipment	Rubbish Truck	550,000	550,000	3,280	546,720
Plant & Equipment	Singlecab Ute Museum	47,627	47,627	47,277	350
Plant & Equipment	Street Sweeper	550,000	550,000	2,740	547,260
Plant & Equipment	Watercart & Trailer	151,000	151,000	194,318	(43,318)
Plant & Equipment	Youth Centre Refurbishment (Equipment)	6,463	6,463	6,463	0
Plant & Equipment	Trailer - general works	25,000	25,000	33,446	(8,446)
Plant & Equipment	Trailer - brake back car trailer	25,000	25,000	19,157	5,843
Plant & Equipment	Excavator trailer	40,000	40,000	0	40,000
Plant & Equipment	Slasher	15,000	15,000	0	15,000
Infrastructure Roads	Bypass Road	200,000	200,000	166,533	33,467
Infrastructure Roads	R2R 2025/2026	645,744	645,744	84,724	561,020
Infrastructure Roads	Street Reseal Program (R2R)	931,487	931,487	896,726	34,761
Infrastructure Other	26 Queen Vic Retaining Wall	55,000	55,000	14,795	40,205
Infrastructure Other	40A Hoover Fence & Gate	6,072	6,072	6,072	0
Infrastructure Other	40B Hoover Fence & Gate	6,072	6,072	6,072	0
Infrastructure Other	Airport Upgrade	200,000	200,000	55,935	144,065
Infrastructure Other	CCTV Security System Upgrade	150,000	150,000	185,835	(35,835)
Infrastructure Other	CCTV Towers	260,000	260,000	24,057	235,943
Infrastructure Other	Emergency Washdown WWTP	35,000	35,000	28,178	6,822
Infrastructure Other	EV Fast Chargers	156,000	156,000	80,469	75,531
Infrastructure Other	Gwalia Dump Point	44,948	44,948	44,949	(1)
Infrastructure Other	Hoover House Fence	110,000	110,000	38,097	71,903
Infrastructure Other	LELC Playground	48,700	48,700	48,700	0
Infrastructure Other	Pool Heating	300,000	300,000	89,117	210,883
Infrastructure Other	Security Gate - Depot	91,400	91,400	91,400	0
Infrastructure Other	Security Gate - Museum	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
Infrastructure Other	Security Gate - Office	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
Infrastructure Other	Standpipe Payment System	80,000	80,000	0	80,000
Infrastructure Other	Swimming Pool Retiling	260,000	260,000	326,130	(66,130)
Infrastructure Other	Oval Resurface & Retic	180,000	180,000	0	180,000
Infrastructure Other	Transformer (Rec Centre)	350,000	350,000	398,925	(48,925)
Infrastructure Other	Gwalia Trail	46,530	46,530	30,000	16,530
		8,028,489	**8,028,489**	**3,398,452**	**4,630,037**

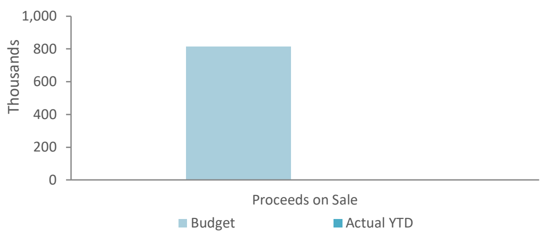
Please refer to the compilation report

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

6 DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

		Budget				YTD Actual			
Asset Ref.	Asset description	Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)	Net Book Value	Proceeds	Profit	(Loss)
		$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
	Plant and equipment								
PE00001	Admin Vehicle	18,450	15,000	0	(3,450)	0	0	0	0
PE00004	Doctor's Vehicle	17,686	15,000	0	(2,686)	0	0	0	0
PE00008	Rubbish Truck	24,610	35,000	10,390	0	0	0	0	0
PE00014	Grader Sale 1	237,956	260,000	22,044	0	0	0	0	0
PE00015	Grader Sale 2	163,764	200,000	36,236	0	0	0	0	0
PE00016	Old CEO Vehicle Sale	86,284	65,469	0	(20,815)	0	0	0	0
PE00017	Grader Camp Sale	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0	0
PE00018	Grader Caravan Sale	0	27,500	27,500	0	0	0	0	0
PE00021	Tri Axle Drop Deck (P786)	20,686	70,000	49,314	0	0	0	0	0
PE00022	Grader Caravan (2)	0	27,500	27,500	0	0	0	0	0
PE00023	Water Tank (P334)	21,548	20,000	0	(1,548)	0	0	0	0
PE00024	Petrol Hilux Ute - P304	16,353	17,000	647	0	0	0	0	0
PE00025	SN 3NR00234 332B Machine	52,081	15,000	0	(37,081)	0	0	0	0
PE00026	Tandem Axle Dolly 1TTO410	0	13,000	13,000	0	0	0	0	0
PE00027	Tandem Axel Flat Top Trailer (L901)	13,205	3,500	0	(9,705)	0	0	0	0
PE00028	Tandem Axel Plant Trailer (L793)	9,050	3,000	0	(6,050)	0	0	0	0
PE00029	Tandem Axle Car Trailer (1TLT912)	40,845	3,000	0	(37,845)	0	0	0	0
PE00030	4500ltr water tank on skid	0	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0
PE00031	Custom Aluminium Performance Stag	0	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	0
PE00032	3000Ltr water tank, pump & hose on s	0	2,500	2,500	0	0	0	0	0
PE00033	Steel Fuel / Oil Tank	0	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	0	0
		722,518	**814,969**	**211,631**	**(119,180)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

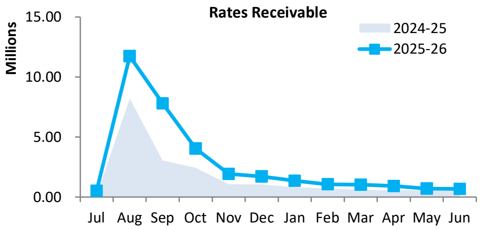


SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

7 RECEIVABLES

Rates receivable	30 June 2025	30 Jun 2026
	$	$
Opening arrears previous year	1,309,642	550,963
Levied this year	9,516,217	10,866,576
Less - collections to date	(10,274,896)	(10,743,067)
Net rates collectable	**550,963**	**674,472**
% Collected	94.9%	94.1%



Receivables - general	Credit	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Receivables - general	0	112,675	267,058	130,081	302,573	812,387
Percentage	0.0%	13.9%	32.9%	16.0%	37.2%	
Balance per trial balance						
Trade receivables						812,387
GST receivable						79,263
Total receivables general outstanding						**891,650**

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)

KEY INFORMATION

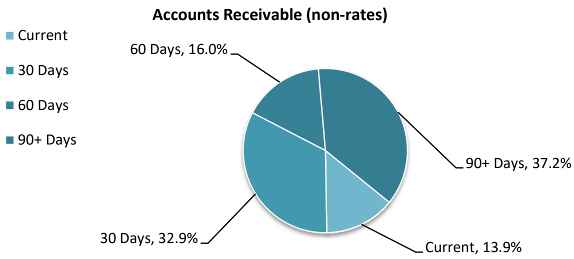
Trade and other receivables include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other amounts due from third parties for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less any allowances for uncollectable amounts (i.e. impairment). The carrying amount of net trade receivables is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Receivables which are generally due for settlement within 30 days except rates receivables which are expected to be collected within 12 months are classified as current assets. All other receivables such as, deferred pensioner rates receivable after the end of the reporting period are classified as non-current assets.

Trade and other receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cashflows and therefore the Shire measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.



SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

8 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Other current assets	Opening Balance 1 July 2025	Asset Increase	Asset Reduction	Closing Balance 30 Jun 2026
	$	$	$	$
Inventory				
Fuel	12,090	124,850	(108,010)	28,930
Avgas	57,363	31,920	0	89,283
Materials - roadworks	6,231	0	0	6,231
Total other current assets	**75,684**	**156,770**	**(108,010)**	**124,444**

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)

KEY INFORMATION

Inventory
Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

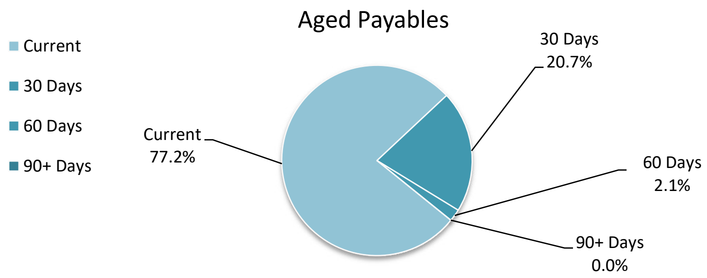
OPERATING ACTIVITIES

9 PAYABLES

Payables - general	Credit	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Payables - general	0	182,040	48,797	4,928	0	235,765
Percentage	0.0%	77.2%	20.7%	2.1%	0.0%	
Balance per trial balance						
Sundry creditors						235,765
ATO liabilities						(22,235)
Other payables						46,593
Prepaid rates						366,026
Total payables general outstanding						**626,149**
Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable)						

KEY INFORMATION

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Shire prior to the end of the period that are unpaid and arise when the Shire becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are normally paid within 30 days of recognition.
The carrying amounts of trade and other payables are considered to be the same as their fair values, due to their short-term nature.



SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

10 OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Other current liabilities	Note	Opening Balance 1 July 2025	Liability transferred from/(to) non current	Liability Increase	Liability Reduction	Closing Balance 30 June 2026
		$	$	$	$	$
Other liabilities						
Contract liabilities		976,194	0	1,026,981	(1,453,767)	549,408
Capital grant/contributions liabilities		943,650	0	0	(943,650)	0
Total other liabilities		1,919,844	0	1,026,981	(2,397,417)	549,408
Employee Related Provisions						
Provision for annual leave		184,794	0	0	0	184,794
Provision for long service leave		82,184	0	0	0	82,184
Total Provisions		266,978	0	0	0	266,978
Total other current liabilities		**2,186,822**	**0**	**1,026,981**	**(2,397,417)**	**816,386**

Amounts shown above include GST (where applicable

A breakdown of contract liabilities and associated movements is provided on the following pages at Note 11 and 12

KEY INFORMATION
Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Shire has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.
Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Employee Related Provisions
Short-term employee benefits
Provision is made for the Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.
The Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the calculation of net current assets.

Other long-term employee benefits
The Shire's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as employee related provisions in the statement of financial position.

Long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur. The Shire's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Shire does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

Contract liabilities
An entity's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the entity has received consideration (or the amount is due) from the customer.

Capital grant/contribution liabilities
Grants to acquire or construct recognisable non-financial assets to identified specifications be constructed to be controlled by the Shire are recognised as a liability until such time as the Shire satisfies its obligations under the agreement.

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

11 GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	Unspent grant, subsidies and contributions liability					Grants, subsidies and contributions revenue		
Provider	Liability 1 July 2025	Increase in Liability	Decrease in Liability (As revenue)	Liability 30 Jun 2026	Current Liability 30 Jun 2026	Amended Budget Revenue	YTD Budget	YTD Revenue Actual
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Grants and subsidies								
Financial Assistance Grants	0	0	0	0	0	495,727	495,727	1,447,836
Operational Grant - Bush Fire	0	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,200	0
ESL Admin Fee	0	0	0	0	0	4,400	4,400	5,132
Childcare Grants (Misc)	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0
Youth Support DCP Grant	0	83,521	(83,521)	0	0	76,141	76,141	85,706
Driver Access & Equity Grant	110,475	0	(4,881)	105,594	105,594	112,913	112,913	13,321
Other Grants Various	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	1,818
National Australia Day Grant	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
Community-led Job Support Hub	152,988	635,059	(630,067)	157,980	157,980	837,519	837,519	630,067
Local Partners 2021-9085 CRC	222,897	174,290	(111,353)	285,834	285,834	360,834	360,834	70,452
Grant CRC Services	0	134,111	(134,111)	0	0	118,362	118,362	134,111
Contrib. - Street Lights	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	10,435
Grants - MRWA Direct	0	0	0	0	0	257,750	257,750	263,441
Youth program	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0
Cashless Debit Card Services	445,103	0	(445,103)	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution - Genesis Community Development Fund	0	0	0	0	0	250,000	250,000	250,000
Safe House	44,731	0	(44,731)	0	0	100,000	100,000	144,731
Golden Gift grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000
	976,194	**1,026,981**	**(1,453,767)**	**549,408**	**549,408**	**2,699,846**	**2,699,846**	**3,082,050**
Contributions								
Traineeship Course Incentive	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	0
CRC Other	0	0	0	0	0	11,000	11,000	17,155
Other Grant Funding	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0
Gwalia Precinct Donations	0	0	0	0	0	22,000	22,000	18,160
Raffle Proceeds	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	14,885
Sponsorship	0	0	0	0	0	150,000	150,000	194,455
NAIDOC Week	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	24,545
Tourism Publication	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0
CRC Services Other	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	5,000
Contribution Xmas Festival	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0
	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**282,500**	**282,500**	**274,200**
TOTALS	**976,194**	**1,026,981**	**(1,453,767)**	**549,408**	**549,408**	**2,982,346**	**2,982,346**	**3,356,250**

Please refer to the compilation report

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

12 CAPITAL GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Provider	Capital grant/contribution liabilities					Capital grants, subsidies and contributions revenue		
	Liability 1 July 2025	Increase in Liability	Decrease in Liability (As revenue)	Liability 30 Jun 2026	Current Liability 30 Jun 2026	Amended Budget Revenue	YTD Budget	YTD Revenue Actual
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Capital grants and subsidies								
Grant - LRCI Phase 4A	52,168	0	(52,168)	0	0	0	0	151,826
Grant - Roads to Recovery	891,482	0	(891,482)	0	0	1,577,230	1,577,230	1,591,483
RRG Funding	0	0	0	0	0	438,507	438,507	645,072
Charge Up Workplace - Horizon Power	0	0	0	0	0	225,000	225,000	0
Infrastructure Development Fund - Genesis	0	0	0	0	0	750,000	750,000	750,000
	943,650	**0**	**(943,650)**	**0**	**0**	**2,990,737**	**2,990,737**	**3,138,381**

SHIRE OF LEONORA
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

13 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Amendments to original budget since budget adoption. Surplus/(Deficit)

Description	Council Resolution	Classification	Non Cash Adjustment	Increase in Available Cash	Decrease in Available Cash	Amended Budget Running Balance
			$	$	$	$
Budget adoption						0
Grants, subsidies and contributions	10.2 (a)	Operating revenue	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Infrastructure upgrades operating in nature	10.2 (a)	Operating expenses	0	0	(750,000)	250,000
Community development incentives	10.2 (a)	Operating expenses	0	0	(250,000)	0
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	10.4(B) - 19/08/2025	Capital expenses	0	0	(100,000)	(100,000)
Materials and contracts	10.3(D) - 17/02/2026	Operating expenses	0	50,000	0	(50,000)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	10.3(D) - 17/02/2026	Capital expenses	0	0	(50,000)	(100,000)
Rates excluding general rates	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating revenue	0	22,000	0	(78,000)
Grants, subsidies and contributions	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating revenue	0	0	(325,814)	(403,814)
Fees and charges	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating revenue	0	0	(6,880)	(410,694)
Interest revenue	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating revenue	0	0	(60,000)	(470,694)
Other revenue	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating revenue	0	0	(15,000)	(485,694)
Profit on asset disposals	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Non cash item	109,670	0	0	(485,694)
Employee costs	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating expenses	0	0	(161,768)	(647,462)
Materials and contracts	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating expenses	0	0	(706,799)	(1,354,261)
Utility charges	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating expenses	0	0	(302,723)	(1,656,984)
Insurance	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating expenses	0	0	(11,936)	(1,668,920)
Other expenditure	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Operating expenses	0	798,238	0	(870,682)
Loss on asset disposals	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Non cash item	(25,078)	0	0	(870,682)
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital revenue	0	650,000	0	(220,682)
Proceeds from disposal of assets	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital revenue	0	200,969	0	(19,713)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital expenses	0	0	(1,162,488)	(1,182,201)
Construction of infrastructure	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital expenses	0	0	(734,490)	(1,916,691)
Transfers from reserve accounts	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital revenue	0	591,653	0	(1,325,038)
Transfers to reserve accounts	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	Capital expenses	0	1,775,974	0	450,936
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year	10.3(C) - 17/03/2026	pening surplus(deficit)	0	0	(450,936)	0
Transfers to reserve accounts	10.3(E) - 16/06/2026	Capital expenses	0	0	(977,661)	(977,661)
Materials and contracts	10.3(E) - 16/06/2026	Operating expenses	0	227,661	0	(750,000)
Construction of infrastructure	10.3(E) - 16/06/2026	Capital expenses	0	750,000	0	0
				6,066,495	**(6,066,495)**	**0**

10.0 REPORTS
10.3 MANAGER OF BUSINESS SERVICES
10.3.(C) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT JULY 2026

SUBMISSION TO:	Ordinary Council Meeting Meeting Date: 18th August 2026
AGENDA REFERENCE:	10.3.(C) AUG 26
SUBJECT:	Accounts for Payment July 2026
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Nil
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Nil
FILE REFERENCE:	1.8 - Financial Statements

AUTHOR, DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST AND DATE OF REPORT

NAME:	Kiara Lord
OFFICER:	Manager Business Services
INTEREST DISCLOSURE:	Nil
DATE:	14th August 2026
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:	**1.** Credit Cards July 2026 ⇩ **2.** Accounts for Payment - July 2026 ⇩

BACKGROUND

Attached statements consist of accounts paid by Delegated Authority totalling **$1,405,302.29*** since the previous council meeting consisting of:

(1) Credit Card Transactions July 2026 totalling **$18,916.13;**
(2) Direct Bank Transactions totalling **$98,887.68**;
(3) Batch Payments totalling **$2,590,694.94**; and
(4) Payroll Payments from **Pay Periods Ending 05/07/2026 & 19/07/2026** totalling **$321,956.67**

Note: Due to the timing difference between when credit card transactions are incurred and when those transactions are settled through the Shire's bank account, amounts included within *Direct Bank Transactions* may include payments relating to *Credit Card Transactions* for the current and/or prior reporting periods.

The totals presented above are accurate for the purpose of this payment listing at the time the report is prepared. However, caution should be exercised if aggregating payment categories across multiple months, as doing so may result in the same expenditure being counted more than once.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Suppliers, Shire staff, delegated purchasing authorities, credit card holders and the Finance Team contribute to the transactions recorded within this report. No stakeholder engagement occurs in relation to the report outside of its presentation to Council for review and authorisation.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 S6.10 & *Financial Management (1996)* Regulation 12 & 13 apply to how the information is to be presented within this report for authorisation by Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The payments listed in this report represent transactions processed since the previous Council meeting and provide oversight of expenditure made under delegated authority.

Due to timing differences between the incurrence of credit card transactions and their settlement through the Shire's bank account, individual payment categories within this report may include expenditure that has been reflected in prior or subsequent reporting periods under different payment types.

Accordingly, the totals presented in this report should not be used to assess cumulative expenditure across multiple months. The Monthly Financial Statements and the Annual Financial Report provide the most accurate and comprehensive view of the Shire's overall financial performance and expenditure for monitoring against the adopted budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no strategic implications resulting from the recommendation of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Failure to report and review payments made under delegated authority may result in non-compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 and may limit Council's oversight of expenditure against the adopted budget.

The presentation of the Accounts Paid Listing enables Council to monitor expenditure, confirm that payments are made in accordance with delegation, budget and legislative requirements, and reduces financial and governance risk to an acceptable level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council accepts the accounts for payment, as detailed:

(5) Credit Card Transactions July 2026 totalling **$18,916.13;**
(6) Direct Bank Transactions totalling **$98,887.68**;
(7) Batch Payments totalling **$2,590,694.94**; and
(8) Payroll Payments from **Pay Periods Ending 05/07/2026 & 19/07/2026** totalling **$321,956.67**

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

SIGNATURE

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Manager Business Services

6/08/2026 Credit Card Charges Card 5772 - 2607 MBS

Date	Supplier	Description	GL	Job No	Task	DEP	PRO	ACT	LOC	Total	GST
1/07/2026	Terry Truck Rentals	Vehicle hire	22533			1001	PR14	0143	B1003	92.17	Yes
2/07/2026	ASIC Sydney	ASIC membership/card	21302			4001	PR14	0144	B1004	34.00	Yes
3/07/2026	Microsoft	Emails	23504			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	19.80	Yes
14/07/2026	Scribe	Srcibe subscription	23504			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	55.76	Yes
20/07/2026	Microsoft	Emails	23504			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	1,444.19	Yes
21/07/2026	Kmart	Manchester for transit house	22313			4001	PR09	0144	H1025	227.00	Yes
28/07/2026	NAB	Card Fee	22519			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	9.00	No
			Total							**1,881.92**	

CEO Signature:

Employee Declaration

I Declare that the above changes are a true and correct record in accordance with company policy

MBS Signature:

6/08/2026 Credit Card Charges Card 5772 - 2607 CEO

Date	Supplier	Description	GL	Job No	Task	DEP	PRO	ACT	LOC	Total	GST
1/07/2026	Shire of Wiluna	Accommodation P.Craig	22539			1001	PR04	0143	B1003	60.99	Yes
1/07/2026	Kalgoorlie Urban Landcare	Plants for the main street	22312			4001	PR10	0144	R1083	1,136.95	Yes
3/07/2026	Starlink	St Johns Internet	23505			1001	PR11	0109	B1003	320.00	Yes
6/07/2026	Butson Group Pty Ltd	Meeting refreshments	22511			1001	PR13	0101	B1003	30.00	Yes
6/07/2026	Butson Group Pty Ltd	Consultant refreshments	22511			1001	PR13	0101	B1036	129.00	Yes
13/07/2026	LiveSign	eSignatures	20203			1001	PR04	0101	B1036	34.00	Yes
13/07/2026	Booktopia	Library Books	22502			3001	PR14	0144	B1016	159.90	Yes
14/07/2026	LiveSign	eSignatures - PCraig	22534			1001	PR04	0101	B1003	34.00	Yes
14/07/2026	Starlink	Depot Internet	23505			4001	PR11	0109	B1008	43.69	Yes
24/07/2026	Brayco Commercial	Naidoc Events	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	1,782.00	Yes
27/07/2026	Starlink	CEO Internet	23505			1001	PR09	0109	H1011	210.00	Yes
28/07/2026	NAB	Card fee	22519			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	9.00	No
30/07/2026	Butson Group Pty Ltd	Meeting refreshments	22511			1001	PR13	0101	B1003	30.00	Yes
30/07/2026	Butson Group Pty Ltd	Meeting refreshments	22511			1001	PR13	0101	B1003	32.00	Yes
30/07/2026	Butson Group Pty Ltd	Meeting refreshments	22511			1001	PR13	0101	B1003	140.00	Yes
30/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation G.Gafney	21303			1001	PR13	0101	B1037	228.35	Yes
30/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation K.Mills	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	258.79	Yes
30/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation G.Marriot	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	258.79	Yes
31/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation K.Mills - REFUND	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	-258.79	Yes
31/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation G.Marriot - REFUND	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	-258.79	Yes
31/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation K.Mills - Correct rate	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	228.39	Yes
31/07/2026	Plaza Hotel	Accommodation G.Marriot - Correct rate	22533			1001	PR13	0143	B1037	228.39	Yes
31/07/2026	Tudor House	Flags for admin	22305			1001	PR14	0144	B1003	2,169.00	Yes
			Total							**7,005.66**	

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CEO Signature:

MBS Signature:

Employee Declaration

I Declare that the above changes are a true and correct record in accordance with company policy

6/08/2026 Credit Card Charges Card 5772 - 2607 MWS

Date	Supplier	Description	GL	Job No	Task	DEP	PRO	ACT	LOC	Total	GST
2/07/2026	Office National Kalgoorlie	Phone charger	22305			4001	PR14	0144	B1008	46.34	Yes
3/07/2026	Bunnings	Depot supplies	22305			4001	PR12	0260	B1004	397.64	Yes
9/07/2026	Apple Account	iphone storeage	23504			4001	PR14	0149	B1008	1.49	Yes
9/07/2026	Local Government Pro	Annual LG Pro membership	22536			4001	PR14	0144	B1008	560.00	Yes
10/07/2026	Apple Account	iphone storage	23504			4001	PR14	0149	B1008	1.99	Yes
10/07/2026	Blackwoods	Safety Boots	20206			4001	PR14	0129	B1008	201.30	Yes
13/07/2026	Bunnings	Building Maintenance supplies	22305			4001	PR14	0260	b1008	122.70	Yes
28/07/2026	NAB	Card Fee	22519			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	9.00	No
25/07/2026	Bunnings	Floc Pool 30 Queen Vic	22313			4001	PR14	0284	H1011	87.42	Yes
25/07/2026	Bunnings	Tools for Sound wall	CAPOR00001			4001	PR12	0144	R1098	1,541.74	Yes
27/07/2026	Locks Galore	Lockable key Cabinet	22305			4001	PR14	0260	B1008	273.00	Yes
28/07/2026	Office National Kalgoorlie	Calculator	22305			4001	PR14	0144	B1008	21.26	Yes
28/07/2026	Bunnings	Galvanised Strapping	22314			4001	PR16	0206	B1008	49.00	Yes
28/07/2026	Projecta	Solar panel x 3	23305			4001	PR16	0144	B1004	240.00	Yes
28/07/2026	Kings	Deep Cycle Battery, solar regulator, wiring Kit	23305			4001	PR16	0144	B1004	627.83	Yes
28/07/2026	Statewide Bearings	Vee Belt for mower	23305			4001	PR16	0144	P1044	22.00	Yes
			Total							**4,202.71**	

CEO Signature: ____________________

Employee Declaration

I Declare that the above changes are a true and correct record in accordance with company policy

MWS Signature: ____________________

6/08/2026 Credit Card Charges Card 5772 - 2607 CRC

Date	Supplier	Description	GL	Job No	Task	DEP	PRO	ACT	LOC	Total	GST
28/07/2026	NAB	Card Fee	22519			2001	PR14	144	B1003	$ 9.00	No
			Total							**9.00**	

CEO Signature:

Employee Declaration
I Declare that the above changes are a true and correct record in accordance with company policy

MCS Signature:

6/08/2026 Credit Card Charges Card 5772 - 2607 MCS

Date	Supplier	Description	GL	Job No	Task	DEP	PRO	ACT	LOC	Total	GST
1/07/2026	Yilay Carina	NAIDOC Week	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	1,270.50	Yes
6/07/2026	Kmart	Transit House	22313			1001	PR09	0144	H1025	78.00	Yes
14/07/2026	Siteminder	Lightspeed monthly fee	22519			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	166.93	Yes
21/07/2026	Kitchen Warehouse	NAIDOC Week - Bingo	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	1,628.30	Yes
22/07/2026	Yarn	NAIDOC Week	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	1,303.95	Yes
28/07/2026	Virgin Australia	Flights for JSH trainer	22546			3001	PR10	0143	B1015	849.93	Yes
28/07/2026	NAB	Card fee	22519			2001	PR14	0144	B1003	9.00	No
30/07/2026	Party Source	NAIDOC Week - Cocktail Party Decoration	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	252.68	Yes
30/07/2026	Coles Online	NAIDOC Week - Cocktail Party	22548			3001	PR10	0144	B1041	115.60	Yes
			Total							**5,674.89**	

CEO Signature: ______________________

Employee Declaration

I Declare that the above changes are a true and correct record in accordance with company policy

MCS Signature: ______________________

SHIRE OF LEONORA

Accounts for Payment Presented to Council

18th August 2026

Accounts for Payment - July 2026

Shire of Leonora

Monthly Report – List of Direct Bank Transactions Paid by Delegated Authority

Submitted to Council on the 18th August 2026

The following list of accounts relate to Direct Bank Transactions paid under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer, since the previous list of accounts. Transactions are dated from 1st July 2026 to 31st July 2026 and total **$98,887.68**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date	Transaction	Name	Item	Payment by Delegated Authority	Balance
1/07/2026	BR00315	FDMA	Monthly AVGAS merchant fees June 2026	79.91	$ 79.91
6/07/2026	BR00320	Quest	Monthly Quest Merchant Fee - June 2026	11.00	$ 90.91
6/07/2026	53	National Australia Bank	Credit Card Transactions June 2026	21,381.64	$ 21,472.55
8/07/2026	BR00323	National Australia Bank	NAB Connect Fee May 2026	53.73	$ 21,526.28
8/07/2026	54	Click Super	Superannuation PPE050726	26,346.18	$ 47,872.46
10/07/2026	BR00325	Alex Taylor	Rent 23 Queen Victoria St - July 2026	2,166.67	$ 50,039.13
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - Admin	2,814.87	$ 52,854.00
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - Depot	126.19	$ 52,980.19
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - Library	37.00	$ 53,017.19
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - Museum	254.31	$ 53,271.50
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - Doctor	312.03	$ 53,583.53
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - CRC	542.65	$ 54,126.18
15/07/2026	BR00333	3E Advantage	Monthly Photocopier Fees June 26 - LELC	286.76	$ 54,412.94
20/07/2026	55	Click Super	Superannuation N.Scott	314.98	$ 54,727.92
22/07/2026	56	Click Super	Superannuation PPE190726	26,466.39	$ 81,194.31
23/07/2026	BR00342	LightSpeed	Monthly LightSpeed Hospitality Fee - July 2026	120.00	$ 81,314.31
29/07/2026	BR00348	Click Super	Monthly Click Super fees - July 2026	30.03	$ 81,344.34
30/07/2026	BR00350	National Australia Bank	Monthly NAB Connect Fee - July 2026	75.73	$ 81,420.07
31/07/2026	BR00351	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #471 - July 2026 - CRC	25.00	$ 81,445.07
31/07/2026	BR00352	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #395- July 2026 - Airport	25.00	$ 81,470.07
31/07/2026	BR00353	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #314 - July 2026 - Rec	25.00	$ 81,495.07
31/07/2026	BR00354	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #513 - July 2026 - Depot Events	25.00	$ 81,520.07
31/07/2026	BR00355	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #463 - July 2026 - Info/Library	25.00	$ 81,545.07
31/07/2026	BR00356	National Australia Bank	Account Keeping Fees - July 2026	28.00	$ 81,573.07
31/07/2026	BR00358	National Australia Bank	Merchant Fees #393 - July 2026 - Admin/Museum	72.01	$ 81,645.08
31/07/2026	BPAY	Department of Transport	Fleet Licencing 2026/27	17,242.60	$ 98,887.68
			GRAND TOTAL	**$ 98,887.68**	

Accounts for Payment - July, 2026

Shire of Leonora

Monthly Report – List of Accounts Paid by Delegated Authority

Submitted to Council on the 18th August 2026

Batch Payments totalling **$2,590,694.94** have been paid by delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer and has been checked and are fully supported by remittances and duly certified invoices with checks being carried out as to prices, computations and costing. Bank Details are reconciled against those invoices by two officers.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Batch Ref	ID	Date	Name	Item		Payment by delegated Authority	*Balance*
EFTA00008	01	10/07/2026	Brown's Party Hire	Stage hire for Leonora Golden Gift 2026	$	5,210.70	*5,210.70*
EFTA00008	02	10/07/2026	Denese Mahoney	Nurses incentive 25/26	$	2,000.00	*7,210.70*
EFTA00008	03	10/07/2026	Leonora Motel Pty Ltd	P Craig Accommodation - JSC Meeting	$	150.00	*7,360.70*
EFTA00008	04	10/07/2026	BOC Limited	Monthly container fees	$	144.76	*7,505.46*
EFTA00008	05	10/07/2026	Council First Pty Ltd	Microsoft Azure May 2026	$	9.93	*7,515.39*
EFTA00008	06	10/07/2026	Landgate	GRV Interim Valuations	$	25.84	*7,541.23*
EFTA00008	07	10/07/2026	Avdata Australia	WLEM invoice fees	$	4,667.08	*12,208.31*
EFTA00008	08	10/07/2026	Fiesta Canvas	Depot Shade Sail for green house area	$	10,604.00	*22,812.31*
EFTA00008	09	10/07/2026	Debbie Jordan	Reimbursement for flights	$	403.98	*23,216.29*
EFTA00008	10	10/07/2026	Bunnings Building Supplies Pty Ltd	Facility supplies for LGG26	$	331.47	*23,547.76*
EFTA00008	11	10/07/2026	Esri Australia	ArcGIS - Annual Subscription	$	1,152.14	*24,699.90*
EFTA00008	12	10/07/2026	Marindust Sales	New Flag Poles for Main Street	$	3,110.80	*27,810.70*
EFTA00008	13	10/07/2026	Signarama Burswood and Perth CBD	Event signage LGG26	$	3,455.10	*31,265.80*
EFTA00008	14	10/07/2026	Mister Signs	Signs for tip	$	1,995.40	*33,261.20*
EFTA00008	15	10/07/2026	Harvey Norman AV/IT Kalgoorlie	Youth Centre fridge	$	712.00	*33,973.20*
EFTA00008	16	10/07/2026	Fairy Face Painting	Face painting for Leonora Golden Gift 2026	$	5,678.31	*39,651.51*
EFTA00008	17	10/07/2026	St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd	First aid training and GG staff	$	9,077.00	*48,728.51*
EFTA00008	18	10/07/2026	Team Global Express Pty Ltd	Freight for signs	$	231.03	*48,959.54*
EFTA00008	19	10/07/2026	Workmate Trailers	Remaining balance for trailer	$	100.00	*49,059.54*
EFTA00008	20	10/07/2026	Europcar WA	Vehicle Hire for Project Management	$	1,098.80	*50,158.34*
EFTA00008	21	10/07/2026	LG Professionals WA	Gold Local Government Subscription FY 2026/27	$	3,960.00	*54,118.34*
EFTA00008	22	10/07/2026	Leonora Mining + Civil	Welding and repairs to plant equipment and waste pond	$	2,249.50	*56,367.84*
EFTA00008	23	10/07/2026	Nomad Plumbing	Plumbing work for shire facilities and houses	$	5,774.12	*62,141.96*
EFTA00008	24	10/07/2026	Northern Goldfields Electrical Pty Ltd	Repair fault in DCP office at J.G. Epis Centre	$	214.50	*62,356.46*
EFTA00008	25	10/07/2026	Moore Australia	Professional services and account support	$	20,487.50	*82,843.96*
EFTA00008	26	10/07/2026	Air Liquide W.A. Ltd	Monthly container fee for medical centre	$	25.22	*82,869.18*

Accounts for Payment - July, 2026

Batch Ref	ID	Date	Name	Item	Payment by delegated Authority	Balance
EFTA00008	27	10/07/2026	Leonora Art Prize	Art purchase for admin	$ 1,500.00	84,369.18
EFTA00008	28	10/07/2026	PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	Catering and consumables for Hoover House July 2026	$ 2,388.20	86,757.38
EFTA00008	29	10/07/2026	Likihwa Ntuliki	NURSES INCENTIVE 2025/26	$ 4,000.00	90,757.38
EFTA00008	30	10/07/2026	Leonora Post Office	Postage and supplies for admin - June 2026	$ 222.39	90,979.77
EFTA00008	31	10/07/2026	Northern Goldfields Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Shire Maintenance Grading May & June	$ 92,068.99	183,048.76
EFTA00008	32	10/07/2026	Terry Sargent	EHO on and offsite assistance June 2026	$ 14,176.80	197,225.56
EFTA00008	33	10/07/2026	Coyle's Mower & Chainsaw Centre	Repairs for small engine petrol blower	$ 123.00	197,348.56
EFTA00008	34	10/07/2026	Central Hotel	Accommodation - Kate Mills	$ 660.00	198,008.56
EFTA00008	35	10/07/2026	GTN Services	Install New trackers for 1IUI668 Transit Van	$ 276.50	198,285.06
EFTA00008	36	10/07/2026	E. Fire and Safety	12 month routine Fire Detection System monitoring	$ 3,339.60	201,624.66
EFTA00008	37	10/07/2026	Trans Tasman Media	Advertising Gwalia in Skippers inflight magazines	$ 687.51	202,312.17
EFTA00009	38	16/07/2026	Documentary Services Pty Ltd	Purchase of 45 Tower Street	$ 1,471,462.24	1,673,774.41
EFTA00010	39	17/07/2026	Leonora Motor Inn	Barista Trainer-Accommodation	$ 1,485.00	1,675,259.41
EFTA00010	40	17/07/2026	Southern Cross Austereo	Radio advertising for Leonora Golden Gift 2026	$ 4,065.60	1,679,325.01
EFTA00010	41	17/07/2026	Market Creations	CouncilConnect Subscription FY26/27	$ 16,654.00	1,695,979.01
EFTA00010	42	17/07/2026	Seven Network Operations Ltd	Gwalia advertising on 7 network	$ 1,113.20	1,697,092.21
EFTA00010	43	17/07/2026	Coates Hire	GG - Lighting and Power Supply	$ 11,938.12	1,709,030.33
EFTA00010	44	17/07/2026	City Building Supplies	Building materials for Depot Store room	$ 4,958.30	1,713,988.63
EFTA00010	45	17/07/2026	Goldfields Engraving	Recognition gift for 20 years Dedication	$ 228.90	1,714,217.53
EFTA00010	46	17/07/2026	GTN Services	Suspension Upgrade on P507 and tyres for community bus	$ 6,039.99	1,720,257.52
EFTA00010	47	17/07/2026	Hersey's Safety Pty Ltd	Parts for side tipper P012	$ 218.35	1,720,475.87
EFTA00010	48	17/07/2026	Team Global Express Pty Ltd	Freight for depot	$ 1,164.53	1,721,640.40
EFTA00010	49	17/07/2026	Motor Pass	Motor Pass Fuel Transactions June 2026	$ 2,100.52	1,723,740.92
EFTA00010	50	17/07/2026	Leonora Airside Pty Ltd	Cleaning of Leonora Airport 01/05/26-31/05/25	$ 5,505.50	1,729,246.42
EFTA00010	51	17/07/2026	BHP Nickel West Pty Ltd	Athlete accommodation for 2026 Leonora Golden Gift	$ 6,006.00	1,735,252.42
EFTA00010	52	17/07/2026	BOC Limited	ARGON Welding Gas	$ 189.86	1,735,442.28
EFTA00010	53	17/07/2026	Cleverpatch	Daycare activity supplies	$ 206.41	1,735,648.69
EFTA00010	54	17/07/2026	Win - Nine Life Channel	Advertising Gwalia on Channel 9	$ 200.00	1,735,848.69
EFTA00010	55	17/07/2026	Lightspeed	Lightspeed X- Series - Yearly Financial Billing 2026/27	$ 16,791.77	1,752,640.46
EFTA00010	56	17/07/2026	Paragon Construction Solutions Pty Ltd	Pool repairs as of report - 50% Progress Payment	$ 124,575.00	1,877,215.46
EFTA00010	57	17/07/2026	Department of Water and Environmental Reg	Annual Fees for Liquid Waste Facility - L8815/2014/1	$ 1,303.50	1,878,518.96

Accounts for Payment - July, 2026

Batch Ref	ID	Date	Name	Item	Payment by delegated Authority	Balance
EFTA00010	58	17/07/2026	Canine Control	Ranger services 2026/27 05/07/26 - 08/07/26	$ 5,445.00	1,883,963.96
EFTA00010	59	17/07/2026	Telstra	Phone and internet for shire facilities	$ 768.48	1,884,732.44
EFTA00010	60	17/07/2026	Dress for Success Western Australia	Styling Services - JSH	$ 5,280.00	1,890,012.44
EFTA00010	61	17/07/2026	Leonora Village.	Accommodation for JSH trainers and ranger	$ 2,207.00	1,892,219.44
EFTA00010	62	17/07/2026	Netlogic Information Technology	PC & Server monitoring and 365 subscriptions	$ 228.65	1,892,448.09
EFTA00010	63	17/07/2026	PWT Electrical Pty Ltd	Replace Starlink unit and connect to ethernet	$ 1,656.57	1,894,104.66
EFTA00010	64	17/07/2026	Australian Airport Association	Australian Airports Association Annual Membership	$ 3,355.00	1,897,459.66
EFT00049	65	24/07/2026	Northern Goldfields Electrical Pty Ltd	Fix sparking power pole Airport	$ 1,314.50	1,898,774.16
EFT00049	66	24/07/2026	PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	Catering and consumables for Hoover House	$ 2,566.35	1,901,340.51
EFT00049	67	24/07/2026	Tennant Australia	Latch cab depot supplies	$ 86.63	1,901,427.14
EFT00049	68	24/07/2026	Vanguard Print	Printing & Handling of Northern Goldfields maps and brochures	$ 184.64	1,901,611.78
EFT00049	69	24/07/2026	ESB Consultancy	JSH Training - Microsoft and directory work	$ 8,422.70	1,910,034.48
EFT00049	70	24/07/2026	Nomad Plumbing	Plumbing for shire various facilities	$ 34,901.50	1,944,935.98
EFT00049	71	24/07/2026	Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage	Special Lease 116 & 117 Agnew	$ 400.00	1,945,335.98
EFT00049	72	24/07/2026	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Road repair supplies	$ 2,391.40	1,947,727.38
EFT00049	73	24/07/2026	Office National Kalgoorlie	A4 copy paper	$ 412.50	1,948,139.88
EFT00049	74	24/07/2026	Luck Thai Cleaning	Cleaning of shire facilities June 2026	$ 17,267.26	1,965,407.14
EFT00049	75	24/07/2026	West Australian Newspapers Ltd	Public Notice advertising in newspapers	$ 1,298.49	1,966,705.63
EFT00049	76	24/07/2026	Kalgoorlie Retravision	Appliances for MCS and Hoover House	$ 2,481.00	1,969,186.63
EFT00049	77	24/07/2026	Raheja Projects Pty Ltd	50% deposit for Old Agnew technical assessment	$ 11,990.00	1,981,176.63
EFT00049	78	24/07/2026	Marie Pointon	Reimbursement of fuel 28/06/26	$ 163.56	1,981,340.19
EFT00049	79	24/07/2026	Landgate	interim Valuations - Mining Tenements M2026/10 - 12	$ 595.20	1,981,935.39
EFT00049	80	24/07/2026	Horizon Power	Street lights - June 2026	$ 6,653.03	1,988,588.42
EFT00049	81	24/07/2026	On Call ECT	LELC Communications 01/07/26 - 30/12/26	$ 10,010.00	1,998,598.42
EFT00049	82	24/07/2026	Bluepen Collective Pty Ltd	Project Management Services	$ 9,132.49	2,007,730.91
EFT00049	83	24/07/2026	LGIS Broking WA	Shire Insurance 2026/27	$ 69,982.55	2,077,713.46
EFT00049	84	24/07/2026	Pier Street Medical	Medical Services and Admin Support 01/07/26 - 30/09/26	$ 81,329.74	2,159,043.20
EFT00049	85	24/07/2026	Canine Control	Ranger site visit 18/06/26 - 20/06/26	$ 4,670.20	2,163,713.40

Accounts for Payment - July, 2026

Batch Ref	ID	Date	Name	Item	Payment by delegated Authority	*Balance*
EFT00049	86	24/07/2026	Infocouncil Pty Ltd	InfoCouncil Subscription 01/07/26 - 30/06/27	$ 13,577.47	*2,177,290.87*
EFT00049	87	24/07/2026	Altus Planning	Remote Town Planning Services June 2026	$ 1,691.25	*2,178,982.12*
EFT00049	88	24/07/2026	Transaction Network Services	AVGAS transaction fees	$ 72.89	*2,179,055.01*
EFT00049	89	24/07/2026	Mantmac	Repair font reception ceiling REC Centre	$ 3,080.00	*2,182,135.01*
EFT00049	90	24/07/2026	Terry Sargent	HO Services 2026/27 - July 2026	$ 14,535.40	*2,196,670.41*
EFT00049	91	24/07/2026	Catalytic IT	IT Services July 2026	$ 13,321.00	*2,209,991.41*
EFT00049	92	24/07/2026	Kalgoorlie Demolition Pty Ltd	Landfill Excavator Work	$ 15,125.00	*2,225,116.41*
EFT00049	93	24/07/2026	LGISWA	Insurance 2026/27	$ 365,578.53	*2,590,694.94*
				GRAND TOTAL	**$2,590,694.94**	

Accounts for Payment - July, 2026

Shire of Leonora

Monthly Report – List of Accounts Paid by Delegated Authority

Submitted to Council on the 18th August 2026

The following list of accounts has been paid under delegation by the Chief Executive Officer, since the previous list of accounts. Transactions contain Wages & Payroll Liability payments since the previous list of accounts paid by Delegated Authority totalling **$321,956.67**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Cheque	Date	Name	Item	Payment by Delegated Authority	*Balance*
PJ000064	7/07/2026	Shire of Leonora - Wages	Salaries & Wages PPE 05/07/2026	$ 118,211.05	*118,211.05*
PJ000065	9/07/2026	Shire of Leonora	Pay Liabilities - 05/07/2026	$ 44,760.48	*162,971.53*
PJ000066	21/07/2026	Shire of Leonora - Wages	Salaries & Wages PPE19/07/26	$ 115,082.78	*278,054.31*
PJ000067	23/07/2026	Shire of Leonora	Pay Liabilities - 19/07/2026	$ 43,516.51	*321,570.82*
PJ000068	23/07/2026	Shire of Leonora - Wages	Salaries & Wages PPE 19/07/26 (Additional)	$ 385.85	*321,956.67*
			GRAND TOTAL	**$321,956.67**	

18th August 2026

10.0 REPORTS
10.4 MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
Nil

10.0 REPORTS
10.5 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER REPORTS
Nil

10.0 REPORTS
10.6 ELECTED MEMBERS REPORTS
Nil

11.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN
Nil

12.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE
Nil

13.0 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING
13.1 ELECTED MEMBERS
Nil

13.0 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING
13.2 OFFICERS
Nil

14.0 MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC
14.1 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED
Nil

14.0 MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC
14.2 PUBLIC READING OF RESOLUTIONS THAT MAY BE MADE PUBLIC

15.0 STATE COUNCIL AGENDA
Nil

16.0 NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 15th September 2026

17.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING