

CEO

UPDATE



11 May 2026

I would like to provide the community with a brief update on a number of matters that have progressed over the past month.

Anzac Day

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended this year's Anzac Day service. It was a very poignant and respectful service, held on a beautiful Saturday morning, beginning with the march, followed by the service at the War Memorial and then the gathering at the Shire Hall.

It was pleasing to see such a good turnout, particularly given it was also an away sporting weekend for many families. Anzac Day remains one of the most important days on our community calendar, and it was once again marked with dignity, reflection, and respect. We are aware that catering was a little lighter than in previous years, and we will make sure that next year there is plenty of food available for everyone who attends.

Old BP Intersection Safety Improvements

Community members may have noticed recent line marking activity near the old BP service station intersection. Main Roads WA and its contractors have been working on improved road markings for this location, with the aim of making the intersection clearer, safer and easier to navigate.

The Shire has continued to advocate for improvements to this junction. While we were not successful in receiving Black Spot funding for this project, improvements to line marking and signage are being progressed through regional Main Roads funding. We also have representatives from Main Roads visiting shortly to finalise further safety initiatives for this area. These improvements should become increasingly visible over the coming weeks and will hopefully contribute to a safer and clearer road environment for all road users.

Roads

Our Works and Services crew have also been busy across the Shire's road network. Sections of Hines Hill Road and Old Beverley Road have also recently been resealed as part of our ongoing road maintenance program. With the change in season, the Shire is now preparing for its winter grading and spraying program, with works to commence shortly across the district. The multi-patcher has also been out and about most days, and is continuing to patch and improve sections of the road network. Maintaining our roads remains a key priority for the Shire, and we appreciate the community's patience as these important works continue.

Community Q&A Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent community Q&A sessions held across Bruce Rock, Babakin, Ardath and Shackleton. These sessions are an important opportunity for the Shire to hear directly from community members, answer questions, and provide updates on current and future projects. During these sessions, we also had the opportunity to share the concept design for the proposed community precinct. The feedback received was very positive, and it was encouraging to hear strong community interest in the project and its potential benefits. The

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concept design will be placed on the Shire website shortly, and we look forward to keeping the community informed as the project progresses. The grant application and supporting business case are now close to being finalised and are expected to be submitted in the coming months. Projects of this scale take considerable planning, consultation, and time to progress, but they also represent exciting opportunities for the future of Bruce Rock. The Shire has also continued community engagement as part of the review of our Strategic Community Plan. These sessions form part of the broader process to develop the new integrated Council Plan, which brings together the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan into one coordinated document. This plan will help guide Council's priorities, projects, and service delivery over the coming years. Thank you to those who took the time to attend sessions, complete surveys, and contribute their ideas.

2026–27 Budget Preparation

The Shire is now well into preparation for the 2026–27 annual budget. This is one of the most significant pieces of work undertaken each year and includes consideration of fees and charges, operating costs, capital projects, plant and equipment, roads, buildings, community infrastructure, and long-term financial planning. Over the coming months, Council will review a range of budget priorities before considering formal adoption of the annual budget. The Shire has received a number of applications through the Community Grants Assistance program. These will now be assessed in accordance with the program guidelines and presented through the appropriate process. Community groups play an incredibly important role in the life of the Shire, and Council values the contribution they make across sport, recreation, culture, volunteering, and community development.

Fuel Costs

While fuel prices have started to reduce slightly, they remain significantly higher than they were before the current fuel crisis. This continues to impact the Shire directly, particularly across roadworks, plant operations, waste services, freight, contractor costs, and other transport-related services. The Shire is continuing to monitor fuel costs closely and work with contractors where fuel-related cost pressures affect service delivery. In some cases, this requires regular review of fuel-related adjustments under relevant contracts. We are hopeful that fuel prices will continue to ease and return to a more stable and sustainable level as soon as possible.

Closing

As always, thank you to the community for your continued interest, support, and involvement. There is a lot happening across the Shire, and we will continue to keep residents informed as key projects, plans and services progress.

Best wishes

Mark