

# CEO

---

# UPDATE



14 April 2026

As we move through April, I would like to provide an update on several key matters affecting our community.

## **Fuel Supply and Community Impact**

I want to begin by acknowledging the ongoing fuel situation affecting not only Bruce Rock but the broader region. I am very appreciative of the way our community has responded, with patience, understanding and a strong sense of shared responsibility during what is a challenging time. The current conditions have seen increased fuel costs, supply pressures, and broader impacts on the cost of goods and services. I recognise in particular the impact this is having on our farming community during a critical seeding period. While there have been broader discussions around fuel levies and subsidies, the reality is that these have not translated into immediate relief for many of our local producers. The Shire continues to work closely with key agencies and stakeholders. I am liaising regularly with the relevant committees and groups including Jason, our OIC (WAPOL), to ensure that accurate, up-to-date information is being shared and reported through the appropriate channels. While fuel supply is continuing, uncertainty remains around pricing and longer-term stability. We will continue to keep the community informed as the situation evolves. Importantly, the fuel situation is also having a direct operational impact on the Shire. We are currently experiencing increased costs associated with service delivery, particularly in areas such as waste management, road sweeping, and contracted services, where suppliers are passing on unavoidable fuel-related cost increases. At this stage, the Shire is absorbing these additional costs and working hard to ensure continuity of essential services without disruption. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep the community informed as it develops.

## **Easter Period and Visitor Impacts**

The fuel situation, combined with the uncertainty around the forecast weather event over Easter, had a noticeable impact on visitation to Bruce Rock. Unfortunately, this resulted in a number of cancellations across the holiday period. The caravan park, which would normally see very strong occupancy over Easter, experienced significantly reduced numbers. This is understandably disappointing, but also a reflection of broader regional conditions beyond our control.

## **Aquatic Centre Season Wrap-Up**

The 2025–26 aquatic season has now concluded, and I am pleased to report that it has been a very successful one. This season saw a total of 8,127 patrons, including:

- Approximately 6,000 local residents;
- Over 1,500 visitors from across the Wheatbelt; and
- 572 visitors from other regions.

These figures represent a strong outcome and demonstrate the value of the facility to both our community and visitors. I would like to acknowledge Brett and the aquatic centre team for their excellent work throughout the season. Their commitment to safety, presentation and service delivery has ensured a high-quality experience for all

# CEO

---

# UPDATE



14 April 2026

users. Unfortunately, the E-Rotary WA Swimming Event scheduled for this period had to be cancelled due to the circumstances at the time, which was disappointing. We look forward to its return in the future.

## **Strategic Community Plan and Community Engagement**

The Shire continues to progress consultation on the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan, with strong engagement received to date.

We are now taking this consultation on the road as part of a second round of community Q&A sessions, to be held across, Babakin, Ardath and Shackleton. These sessions are intentionally informal; there is no set agenda. They are an opportunity for residents to ask questions, receive updates on current projects and provide feedback on the future direction of the Shire. As part of these sessions, we are also looking forward to sharing Concept Plan for the Community Precinct in Bruce Rock, including the proposed playground and community space developments. I strongly encourage community members to attend these sessions. Your input plays an important role in shaping the Shire's priorities moving forward.

## **Local Laws and Planning**

Several public notices have recently been issued in relation to governance matters. The Shire has commenced a review of its local laws, which will be undertaken over the next six months. This is an important process to ensure our local laws remain current, relevant, and aligned with legislative requirements. There will be opportunities for community members to provide feedback as part of this review, and I encourage residents to participate. In addition, the Shire will be commencing a review of the Town Planning Scheme, with public notices now issued. This is a significant piece of work that will help guide future land use and development across the Shire. Further details are available on the Shire's website, and I encourage residents to stay informed and engaged as these processes progress.

## **Customer Service and Library Improvements**

Residents visiting the Shire office may have noticed recent improvements to the front administration and customer service area, along with ongoing work within the library space. As part of this, the Shire will soon transition to a new library system, which will significantly enhance the service we can provide. While our physical collection is modest, the new system will allow residents to request and access a much broader range of materials, including books, films, and other resources.

I would also like to acknowledge that our Snap Send Solve reporting tool is currently not functioning as it should. We are aware of the issue and are actively working to resolve it. I apologise to anyone who has used this service recently and not received a response. It is intended to be a simple and effective way for community members to report issues, and we are committed to restoring full functionality as soon as possible.

# CEO

---

# UPDATE



14 April 2026

## **Water Infrastructure and Harvesting Projects**

Work continues on a number of water capture and harvesting initiatives across the Shire. This includes ongoing improvements associated with Turkey Nest Dam, as well as additional grant applications to expand our water harvesting capacity, particularly capturing water from the western side of town. We are also progressing improvements to water capture infrastructure at the hockey club, supporting sustainable water use across community facilities. These projects are important investments in long-term water security and resilience for our community.

## **Recreation Centre and Sporting Facilities**

Last month we held a sports club meeting, which provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with our local sporting groups. There is a clear recognition that as facilities age, there is a need to plan for upgrades and improvements. As part of the upcoming budget process, we are exploring a mini concept plan for the next phase of Recreation Centre development, which will help guide future investment and ensure the facility continues to meet community needs.

## **Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion – 25th Anniversary**

Planning is well underway for the 25th anniversary of the Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion. The main parade will take place on 31 October, with events running throughout the week. The organising committee continues to meet regularly and is working towards delivering a memorable program, including a major event at the amphitheatre. This event provides an important opportunity to honour the service and legacy of our veterans and first responders, and we look forward to sharing further details in the coming months.

## **Budget Process – Community Input**

The Shire is now well into planning for the 2026–2027 budget. Community members, clubs, and organisations are encouraged to submit capital project proposals for Council’s consideration. Submission forms are available on the Shire website and at the Shire office

If you have an idea or project that could benefit the community, I encourage you to put it forward.

Thank you to everyone in our community for your continued resilience, cooperation, and support during what has been a challenging period. Bruce Rock continues to demonstrate the strength of a community that works together.

Best wishes

Mark