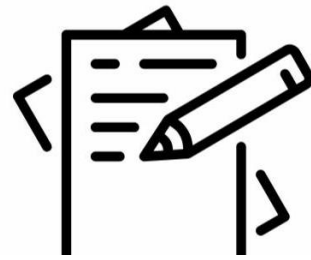


CEO UPDATE



August 2026

It has certainly been a busy period at the Shire, and although I did not provide a CEO Update last month, there has been a significant amount of work progressing across the organisation.

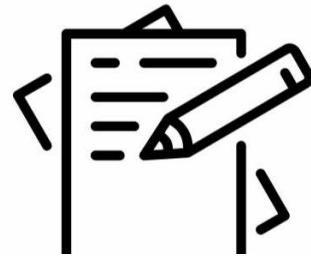
A major focus during recent months has been the preparation of the Shire's 2026/27 Annual Budget, which was adopted by Council at the end of July. Considerable work goes into developing the annual budget, and I would like to acknowledge our elected members, senior management team and administration staff for the time and effort involved. The adopted budget provides a strong platform for what we anticipate will be another productive year. It includes a range of projects, services and initiatives that will continue to support our community and position the Shire positively for the future. Next week, Shire President Ram, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Melissa Haythornthwaite and I will be hosting community information sessions at the Bruce Rock Shire Hall and the Shackleton Club. These sessions will provide interested community members with an overview of the budget and, importantly, some of the context behind the figures, priorities, and decisions. We look forward to having those conversations and providing further information about what is planned for the coming financial year.

Emergency Services and Bushfire Preparedness

Work is progressing well towards the establishment of the Bruce Rock North Bush Fire Brigade, which will become the Shire's fourth bush fire brigade. The new brigade is being established to strengthen the Shire's firefighting capacity and provide additional support to properties and communities north of the Bruce Rock townsite. The brigade will operate under the leadership of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Cr Tony Crooks, with Stephen Dolton taking on the important role of Brigade Captain. We are currently seeking volunteers to join Bruce Rock North. Information and recruitment flyers are available through the Shire's social media pages and on community noticeboards. I encourage anyone interested in supporting their community and becoming involved in the brigade to contact the Shire.

Training has been scheduled for 23 September 2026 for new volunteers, together with refresher training for existing bush fire brigade members. The evening will also provide an opportunity for volunteers to come together for a sundowner and for the presentation of service medals to eligible volunteers who have demonstrated longstanding commitment to protecting the Shire and its community. In addition to establishing the new brigade, the Shire has submitted a business case seeking a broadacre firefighting vehicle for Bruce Rock North. Securing an appropriate vehicle will be an important component of ensuring the brigade is properly equipped to respond during the coming seasons. We have also held several productive meetings with the DFES and DBCA regarding the potential establishment of a water-bomber resupply facility at the Bruce Rock airstrip. Bruce Rock and Merredin are currently being considered as potential locations. While we await a final decision, the response from prospective local volunteers has been outstanding, with more than 16 people expressing an interest in participating in the program. Subject to Bruce Rock being selected as the preferred facility, we hope to undertake volunteer training during September.

CEO UPDATE



Community Emergency Services Manager

There was also some very positive news recently, with the State Government announcing funding for a Community Emergency Services Manager, commonly referred to as a CESM, to work across the Shires of Bruce Rock, Merredin, and Narembeen. The funding submission was led by the Shire of Bruce Rock in partnership with the other participating Shires. The CESM will help coordinate emergency management activities across the three local governments, including volunteer support, training, preparedness, response planning, and liaison with emergency services agencies. The successful candidate will be based in Bruce Rock and will work throughout the three Shires. Recruitment is currently underway, and we have received a strong level of interest in the position. We look forward to appointing the successful candidate in the coming months.

Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion

Planning is also progressing for the 25th anniversary of the Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion, culminating in the commemorative march on 31 October 2026. This is an extremely important event for Bruce Rock and continues our community's proud tradition of recognising Vietnam veterans, other veterans and all those who have served, or continue to serve, our country. The organising committee is working hard to put together an engaging program of activities across the reunion period. In addition to the traditional events, we are planning a veterans' expo and a special music event at the Bruce Rock Amphitheatre. This will be the first major event held at the amphitheatre following its recent upgrade. We are delighted to have secured grant funding from CBH Group and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to support the 25th anniversary program. Further information about the event program will be released as arrangements are finalised. Our new Community Engagement and Events Officer, Kalani Rice-Fazey, is undertaking a significant amount of work in support of the reunion and our broader community events program. Kalani has made a very positive start with the Shire and is also supporting the Community Resource Centre while Daphne and Rochelle are travelling in Europe.

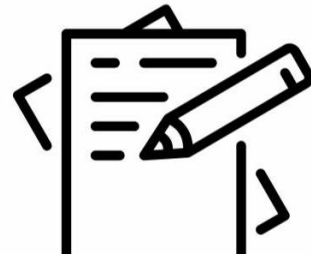
Community Precinct and Playground Project

The Shire's funding application for the proposed community precinct and playground project has now been submitted to Lotterywest. This is a significant project for Bruce Rock and one that has the potential to deliver substantial long-term recreational, social and community benefits. We expect the project, including its development and delivery phases, to extend over approximately 18 months. We now await Lotterywest's consideration of the application and hope to receive further information over the next few months. The Shire also intends to pursue other funding opportunities to support this important project and reduce the financial impact on the local community.

Council Plan and Public Health Plan

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the community engagement process for the Shire's new Council Plan. The Council Plan will bring together the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan into a combined planning document. The comments, ideas and feedback provided

CEO UPDATE



by residents, businesses and community organisations will help shape the priorities and future direction of the Shire.

The consultation information is currently being compiled, and we look forward to presenting and publishing the completed Council Plan once that work has been finalised.

I would also like to thank everyone who completed the recent surveys associated with the review of the Shire's Public Health Plan. The updated plan is expected to be published in September. We recognise that members of the community are regularly asked to participate in surveys and consultation processes, and we are conscious of not placing excessive demands on people's time. However, community feedback—both positive and constructive—is extremely valuable and assists the Shire in making informed decisions.

Bruce Rock Medical Centre

I would also like to acknowledge the considerable work being undertaken by the team at the Bruce Rock Medical Centre, led by Practice Manager Sam Aurisch. The team has been working extremely hard as the Medical Centre undertakes its accreditation process. This is a detailed and demanding process involving a significant amount of preparation, documentation, review and coordination, and I sincerely thank the entire medical services team for their commitment and professionalism. A range of improvement works has also been undertaken at the Medical Centre, including painting and general presentation improvements. Further projects are planned during the new financial year, including improved car-parking arrangements and accessibility for patients and visitors with reduced mobility. These improvements will help ensure that the Medical Centre continues to provide a welcoming, accessible, and high-quality environment for the community.

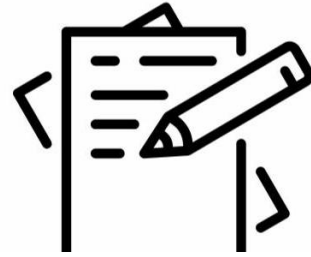
Aquatic Centre Improvements

Improvement works are also planned for the Bruce Rock Aquatic Centre ahead of the coming swimming season. The waterslide will be resurfaced, with the aim of completing the work before the facility reopens at the end of October. Additional soft-fall rubber surfacing will also be installed in selected areas to improve safety, presentation, and the overall condition of the facility. The Aquatic Centre is a highly valued community asset and is always maintained to a very high standard. These works will help ensure the facility continues to look its best and provides a safe and enjoyable environment for residents and visitors throughout the summer season.

Water Harvesting and Sustainability

Work on the Shire's water harvesting and water sustainability projects continues, supported by funding secured through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Community members may have noticed the work undertaken at Turkey Nest Dam, which is currently holding a considerable amount of water. Some further work may still be required, but we are very pleased with the outcome achieved so far. These water harvesting projects form part of the Shire's broader strategy to improve local water security and ensure

CEO UPDATE



that water is available for community facilities, parks, gardens, and operational requirements during increasingly dry conditions.

Bruce Rock Café

I would also like to reassure the community that the intention is for the Bruce Rock Café to remain open throughout the transition to a new operator. The Shire is working closely with Kim and Merredith to help ensure that the handover to the successful new leaseholder occurs as seamlessly as possible. Our aim is to avoid, or at least minimise, any interruption to the café's operations. The tender process is currently underway, and several interested parties have expressed an interest in applying. We recognise how important the café is to both residents and visitors and will continue working towards a positive and sustainable outcome.

Thank You to our Team

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Shire's administration, works and services teams for their commitment and hard work throughout the previous financial year. There has been a significant amount of change, development, and additional activity across the organisation. Our employees have continued to work hard to deliver essential services, complete projects and respond to the needs of the community. We look forward to continuing that work during 2026/27 and maintaining a high standard of service to the Bruce Rock community.

On a personal note, I will be taking five weeks of annual leave from mid-August until the third week of September. During that period, the Shire will be in the very capable hands of Deputy Chief Executive Officer Melissa Haythornthwaite, who will serve as Acting Chief Executive Officer.

There is certainly a great deal happening across the Shire, and I look forward to providing further updates on these projects and initiatives over the coming months.

Best wishes

Mark