

Shire of Bruce Rock

# Newsletter

November 2022



*Where friends become **family***

# CEO Report



## Supermarket Progressing

It's exciting to see the supermarket construction is now well under way. The first component of earthworks was completed by the 19th November 2022 and works have now commenced on the pre-lay of plumbing and electrics, this will shortly be followed by the pouring of the footings.

It is asked that the public be mindful around the worksite and follow signage and detours, especially on the footpaths. Please do not enter the fenced area under any circumstance as it is a registered construction site managed by Devlyn Construction. Your cooperation and patience during the construction period is appreciated.

Like the community, Council looks forward to the seeing the progress of the construction of the new supermarket.

## Aquatic Centre Ready for Summer

The weather is finally warming up and as we fast approach summer the pool is already open. Our new Aquatic Centre Manager, Gary, has already met quite a few locals and looks forward to welcoming you this season. Opening hours may vary including early morning and extended hours, so please check out the new times on Council's website or on the pool noticeboard. Season passes are available through the normal method at the Shire Office or at the Pool Kiosk.



*Darren Mollenoyux*

# CEO Report

## Councillor Numbers Being Reviewed

On the 20th September 2022 the Minister for Local Government wrote to Local Governments regarding the impending Local Government Reforms and in particular the reduction in Councillor numbers in line with the reforms, in which Local Governments with populations of less than 5,000 are required to have between 5 - 7 Councillors. At the October 2022 Ordinary Meeting Council resolved to undertake a review of its Councillor representation numbers in compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and as part of the Voluntary Pathway offered by the Minister for Local Government.

Council's preference is for seven Councillors as it strongly believes that any further reduction would create too great a workload for the remaining Councillors and be detrimental to the diversity on Council. Seven Councillors provides for a good diversity of representation from our communities, remembering we have four towns, in a predominately agricultural sector covering an area of 2,772 sq km and road network of 1259 kms.

Council deems that further reduction in numbers is not a viable option as it would significantly impact Council's ability to adequately represent the community. All current Councillors have full time work or are self employed, therefore it would be unreasonable to expect a reduction to five Councillors, as this would significantly impact the ability to have adequate distribution and representation to attend the various regional meetings, be a committee member or local community delegate. This may also have significant future impact in people nominating for Council.

There is also concern that when a Councillor is absent during either illness, conflicting commitment or away on holiday this would leave Council vulnerable to an inadequate level of good and fair governance with potentially four or less Councillors making important decisions for Council and the community.

To view the full Discussion Paper on Council Representation Review please go to Council's website, or a hard copy can be obtained from the Shire Office. If you wish to discuss the review please contact one of our Shire Councillors or the CEO. Written submissions will be received up until the 9th December 2022.

*Darren Mollenoyux*

# CEO Report

**ARE YOU FIRE READY?**

**Important Date**  
By 29th October:  
Shire Staff will be conducting inspections of the town and rural properties to assess compliance with the Firebreaks Policy. Failure to comply can result in penalties.  
As per Council's Firebreak Policy, and pursuant to powers contained in S33 of the Bushfires Act 1964, all properties in townsites and rural land are to be clear of all flammable material as detailed below:

**Rural Lands**  
**Firebreaks must be:**  
- Minimum of 3m wide for each 400Ha area inside, and within 10m of the external boundaries.  
- Minimum of 3m wide within 3m of the perimeter of all boundaries and/or haystacks, or groups of buildings

**Townsites**  
All land within the Bruce Rock, Shaakleton, Ardath and Babakin townsites  
**For properties with 2,000sqm or less:**  
- All vegetation fire hazard must be 10cm or less  
- Any slashed vegetation must be removed  
**For properties with more than 2,000sqm:**  
- Firebreaks of no less than three metres required  
- Firebreak must be within two metres of the external property boundary  
- Footpaths, road verges and roads are not accepted as firebreaks

**Fuel Pumps**  
- Remove all inflammable material from all land where fuel drum ramps or dumps are located.  
- Fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored to a distance of at least five metres outside the perimeter of any drum, ramp or stack of drums.

## Fire Season is Here

Are you ready for this fire season? With the introduction of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System and change of fire weather district to Lockwood, the public are reminded to make themselves familiar with the changes. These have been well publicized by DFES at a wider level and also locally through the Shire's social media and the Rock Review. Do you have a Bushfire Plan? It is vital that we consider what we will do in the event of a bushfire occurring near where you live or stay. A Bushfire Plan can assist in keeping you and your family safe. DFES have developed a step by step guide to assist you in being prepared, this can be found at [www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au](http://www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au).

## Staffing Levels

Like most employers in Western Australia the Shire continues to struggle filling vacancies with the record low unemployment rate. Council and management are continuing to ensure that there is a good balance of attraction and retention strategies and incentives to assist in having the workforce required. However, the current staffing shortages have impacted some areas of our organisation and therefore we have not always been able to meet the expectations or planned works and roads programs. We ask for your patience during these times and please be assured that staff are working hard to ensure we deliver for the community.

*If you are looking for a career or work in Local Government please keep an eye out in the Rock Review or on Social Media for vacancies or email your resume to the Shire Office.*

*In next month's newsletter there will be an update on the current staffing changes that are occurring over the coming months.*

Darren Mollenoyux

# *Update from the CDO*

## **Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion**

The 21st Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion was held from the 31st October - 6th November 2022. It was fantastic to once again see so many familiar faces come back to our community for a week of comradery and memories.

The week kicked off with the Melbourne Cup, followed by card making, a tour of the Bruce Rock Museum as well as the Nungarin Museum, sporting activities, live music, a quiz night and much more.

On Saturday the Main Street was bustling with market stalls, kids entertainment and food vans. Many attendees took the time to wander through the Bruce Rock Remembrance Park, to reflect and commemorate. Following the markets, the annual Veterans march began, followed by a service and memorial window dedication at the Anglican Church. Thank you to the Navy Cadets, Kelmscott/Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Troop, and the Military Section of the Veteran & Classic Car Club of WA for making this a success and your ongoing support.

The community and veterans enjoyed a great night out under the stars listening to Tobacco Road Band, thanks to Collgar Wind Farm, and a community BBQ.

Long time supporter of the reunion, and usual Friday night performer, Lionel sadly passed away the week before the reunion. The BBVR committee pass on their deepest condolences to Lionel's family and friends. He will be greatly missed.



## **Funding Available**

There are a number of grants currently available that your community group may be eligible for. If you have any projects in mind and would like to know what funds you may be able to apply for, please contact Community Development Officer Caris Negri on [caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au](mailto:caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au).

## **Contacts for Community Groups and Sporting Organisations**

If the committee for your community group or sporting organisation has recently changed, please to let the Shire Administration know. This ensures that we are able to get information to the correct people, and that the Community Directory on our website is up to date.

*Caris Negri*

# From the Works

## Construction Crew

The budgeted construction works on the Old Beverley road, has commenced. Works on Totadgin road will commence in the new year. Sealing works on the Shackleton/Kellerberrin road. Other works being undertaken in early 2023 include the Doodlakine road.

## Maintenance & Patching

As well as being called for traffic management and rolling duties for the construction crew Works the maintenance & patching crew have continued to complete patching jobs throughout Shire.

## Town Gardens & Recreation Centre

The Town Gardeners have been busy , working hard to keep the town parks, garden beds and public areas tidy. If you see any breaks in the reticulation or water leaks please let the administration office know so the issue can be rectified at the earliest possible convenience.



## Town Crew

The Town Crew have been busy working on the bridge replacement program along with works around town. The crew are currently in the final phases of completing the kerb and footpath program, with an estimated completion before Christmas.

## From the Crews

We would like to remind motorists to practice caution when travelling through roadworks. It is important to remember that every effort is taken to minimise the impact to traffic flow during roadworks; please follow the directions of the signage and be patient. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## From the Works Manager

As we move into the summer break period, please be reminded there will be road users who don't usually travel on country roads. Please look out and be on guard, and slow down and drive to the conditions. Please have a safe journey wherever you travel around the area or state.

**BE SAFE.  
DRIVE SMART.**

# Council Meeting Outcomes

The October and November Council meetings saw a variety of items considered and addressed by Council. Below is a brief overview of some of the items and Council decisions from these recent meetings.

## **Council Representation Review**

Following a recent letter from the Minister for Local Government to all Councils, advising of the requirement to reduce Councillor numbers, Bruce Rock Council resolved to participate in the voluntary pathway and to meet the maximum Councillor number requirements for a Council of our size. Council has indicated a preference to reduce from nine to seven Councillors at the October 2023 Elections. A discussion paper is currently out for public comment and can be found on Council's website. Public submissions are to be the CEO in writing by the 9th December 2022.

## **Sale of Residential Land**

Following an offer to the Shire, Council has resolved to sell a residential lot in Butcher Street, Bruce Rock for the construction of a new residence. Council still has seven other residential lots for sale in Bruce Rock, any enquiries should be in writing, via post or email addressed to the CEO.

## **CBH Temporary Storage**

Over the past couple of months Council had received two planning applications from CBH for the construction of temporary bulkheads to cope with the forecast grain storage requirements for 2022 and future years. Assessments were undertaken on a site in Bruce Rock, which was approved by Council and approval was granted (following required consultation) for the bulk storage facility in Shackleton. Council processed these requests as soon as practical and works have commenced.

## **Equestrian Land Lease**

Council had cleaned up and refenced the recently vacated equestrian land that is on the corner of the Doodlakine Road and Mitchell Street, sought expressions of interest for the lease of this land for its designated land use, being for equestrian purposes. One application was received and Council accepted the offer to lease the land for a five year period.

## **Purchase of New Loader**

In line with Council's plant replacement program and adopted 2022/2023 budget, Council called for quotes for the replacement of a loader. All quotes received were assessed against qualitative criteria and following consideration of the assessment Council resolved to award the quote to Westrac Equipment for the supply and delivery of a CAT 950GC Loader.

## **Bitumen Quotes**

Council staff recently called for bitumen sealing quotes for the 2022/2023 sealing program. Five quotes were received and following assessment of the quotes received against the criteria Council awarded the contract to Bitutek.





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