

**SHIRE OF BRUCE ROCK**  
**Minutes**  
**Annual Elector Meeting held in the Shire Hall Meeting Room**  
**Thursday 12 February 2026 at 3pm**

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## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President, Cr Ram Rajagopalan declared the meeting open at 3.00 pm, welcoming everyone present.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### In Attendance:

Cr R Rajagopalan	Shire President
Cr A Buegge	
Cr P Hodgkiss	
Cr S Strange	
Cr J Verhoogt	

### Staff:

Mr M Furr	Chief Executive Officer
Ms M Haythornthwaite	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Darby	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Mr G Stephens	Executive Manager Technical Services
Mrs V Ward	Executive Services Manager

### Electors:

Mr Graeme Currie  
Mr Les Kilminster  
Mrs Jan Kilminster  
Mrs Maureen Chapman  
Mr Chris Chapman

### Apologies:

Cr T Crooks	Deputy Shire President
Cr K Foss	
Mrs Margaret Foss	
Mr John McGillan	
Mrs Karen Strange	
Mrs Amanda Rajagopalan	

## 3. SHIRE PRESIDENT SPEECH

At Council, we're focused on more than just making commitments — we're focused on delivering results. By aligning our processes, planning, and decision-making, we ensure that what we promise our community is matched by what we achieve.

This alignment allows us to work smarter, use ratepayer funds responsibly, and respond more effectively to local needs. Most importantly, it helps us go beyond expectations — delivering not only what we set out to do, but striving to deliver more wherever we can.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a stronger community.

## 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

### 4.1 Annual Meeting of Electors February 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION/DECISION

Moved: Cr S Strange

Seconded: Mr G Currie

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 20 February 2025 be noted.

**CARRIED**

## **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE SPEECH**

Good Afternoon, President, Councillors, staff, and members of our community.

Thank you for attending the Annual Electors' Meeting of the Shire of Bruce Rock. This meeting is an important part of local government transparency, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide a clear and practical update on how your Shire has performed over the 2024/25 financial year.

The Annual Report before you reflects a year of transition, consolidation, and steady progress.

### **A Year of Transition and Engagement**

The past year marked a period of leadership transition and organisational change. Throughout this time, Council and administration placed strong emphasis on reconnecting with the community.

Open Question and Answer sessions were held across Bruce Rock, Shackleton, Babakin, and Ardath. These were valuable, constructive conversations that helped shape priorities and ensured decisions were grounded in community expectations. This approach to listening and engagement will continue.

### **Financial Performance and Stability**

From a financial perspective, the Shire finished the 2024/25 year in a sound and responsible position. Council recorded a net operating result of \$1.56 million, supported by operating and capital revenue of \$7.5 million, \$5.8 million in operating revenue along with grant funding for roads and infrastructure for approximately \$1.7 million.

The annual audit process returned positive outcomes, with a restatement on the balance sheet of properties associated with Joint Ventures and other minor matters raised. Overall feedback from the auditors reflected improvements in financial controls, reporting accuracy, and governance maturity.

### **Roads, Infrastructure, and Assets**

Roads remain a core focus for Council, recognising their importance to safety, agriculture, and economic activity.

During the year, significant works were delivered through Roads to Recovery and Regional Road Group funding, including reseals, reconstructions, and intersection upgrades across the Shire. Council also progressed the procurement of a Multi-Patcher, a major investment that will improve the efficiency and quality of road maintenance once operational.

Within the townsite, several key community assets were improved. Aquatic Centre upgrades, including shade sails and the heat-mat system, were completed, enhancing comfort and accessibility. The Town Hall and Amphitheatre upgrades are nearing completion and will significantly improve our capacity to host community events and gatherings.

### **Governance and Organisational Capability**

Behind the scenes, substantial work occurred to strengthen governance, compliance, and resilience.

Council progressed policy reviews, implemented a compliance calendar, developed risk registers, and advanced cyber security initiatives, including an IT Disaster Recovery Plan. These are not always visible projects, but they are critical to protecting services, public funds, and business continuity in an increasingly complex operating environment.

### **People and Community**

Bruce Rock's greatest strength is its people.

Our volunteers continue to play an extraordinary role—whether through emergency services, community events, heritage, sport, or local organisations. Their contribution is central to the safety, identity, and cohesion of our community.

I also wish to acknowledge Shire staff across all departments. In a year of change, they demonstrated professionalism, adaptability, and a strong commitment to service. Their work underpins every outcome outlined in the Annual Report.

### **Looking Ahead**

The year ahead will focus on delivery and discipline.

Council's 2025/26 budget continues investment in roads, plant, water harnessing and security, community facilities, and strategic planning, while maintaining a strong focus on financial sustainability. Key priorities include progressing the Main Street Revitalisation business case, completing outstanding infrastructure works, and continuing to strengthen governance and organisational capability.

### **Closing**

In closing, the 2024/25 Annual Report demonstrates that the Shire of Bruce Rock is financially responsible, operationally capable, and well positioned for the future.

Thank you to Council for its leadership, to staff for their dedication, to volunteers for their service, and to the community for its trust and engagement.

I commend the Annual Report and Financial Statements to the meeting and welcome your questions.

Thank you.

## **6. ANNUAL REPORT**

### **6.1 Annual Report – Year Ending 30 June 2025**

Section 5.27(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 15 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 require that the matters to be discussed at a general electors' meeting are, firstly, the contents of the annual report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/DECISION**

**Moved: Mrs J Kilminster**

**Seconded: Cr J Verhoogt**

That the 2024/2025 Annual Report and Financial Statement, as presented, be received.

**CARRIED**

## **7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr Graeme Currie has been informed that the Geographic Names and Address Committee (Landgate) have confirmed that the correct spelling is *Bedell Road*. No further action is required at this time.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Council reaffirmed its commitment to excellence, ensuring ratepayer funds are managed responsibly and deliver value to the community.
- Council highlighted the importance of being strongly focused on community engagement.
- It was noted that community and business consultation meetings will inform the development of the Strategic Plan.

**9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The Shire President, Cr Ram Rajagopalan, thanked the electors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3.10pm.

**These minutes were confirmed at a meeting on ..... /...../.....**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signed**

**Cr R Rajagopalan**

Dated ..... /...../.....