



Shire President Update



Hi everyone. This is the 1st edition of a Shire President Community Update. Given the large number of projects and activities currently being progressed by the Shire, the aim of this advice is to provide a snapshot on each key initiative as each community member has different Shire interests. This advice is also timely given the recent Council Meeting. If you require more information, please visit the Shire website or email me, the CEO or any Councillor.

Dumbleyung Lake Trail Master Plan

A draft Dumbleyung Lake Trail Master Plan has been completed for Shire of Dumbleyung consideration. The aim of the master plan is to establish a full circumference walk and bike trail around Dumbleyung Lake, noting at present public access is restricted to 2 north and south sections. This project is a shortlisted priority identified in the Shire of Dumbleyung Destination Development Plan. The draft master plan provides a high level indication of where a full lake trail could be located, including specific areas recommended for earlier development and activation potentially as a staged process. The draft master plan is now available (click [HERE](#) to view) for public comment with feedback invited by no later than 4pm Friday 28th March 2025. Council will formally consider adoption of the Dumbleyung Lake Trail Master Plan at a following meeting.

Dumbleyung Swimming Pool Redevelopment Project

With the Federal Government recent announcement that the Shire of Dumbleyung had been successful in securing \$1.6M in Growing Regions Program funding, this brings the total State and Federal Government grant funding available for this important project to \$3.2M. Due to this funding announcement the Shire has delayed the tender until it has entered into and signed a formal Grant Agreement with the Federal Government. This could take anywhere from 2-3 months depending on when the designated Federal Government agency initiates contact with the Shire of Dumbleyung to commence Grant Agreement negotiations. As soon as a formal Grant Agreement has been executed with the Federal Government, the Shire will initiate a tender process, noting the estimated timeframe for construction could be in the order of 12 months. Council have decided to advertise for both conforming and non-conforming tenders. Once a preferred contractor has been appointed, the final concept design will be shared with the community.

Stubbs Park Evacuation Centre Redevelopment Project

Project working group efforts continue on reviewing and updating the Concept Design for this \$2.21M pavilion redevelopment (includes \$1.1M Federal Government Disaster Ready Program grant funding). This concept design review process is necessary due to the staging process with this project i.e. stage 1 pavilion redevelopment and (future) stage 2 new undercover multi sports stadium. Key challenge has been identifying an appropriate new main entry point for the redeveloped pavilion as a standalone building project access point in between the 2 stages. A new northern entry point has been tentatively identified as a preferred new building entrance together with southward facing landscaping and other outside design changes to transition (move) car parking to other areas west of the building. Stay tuned for further project updates. Final concept design will be shared with the community.



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Dumbleyung 5D Experience Project

Last week Council adopted a proposed Dumbleyung 5D Experience (Concept Design) Report. This is one of 5 shortlisted projects coming out from the Council adopted Destination Development Plan, aligned with the Shire of Dumbleyung Strategic Community Plan, which aims to turn the Shire of Dumbleyung into a must visit destination. This proposed project has been tentatively sited for development directly west of and adjoining the Dumbleyung CRC Building. The adopted Concept Design also includes a Quantity Surveyors (QS) estimate of circa \$1.295M for the development, noting that no Shire funding has yet been committed towards this project. At this stage, this proposal remains in a high level state of project readiness until sufficient outside (i.e. grant) funding sources have been identified.

Dumbleyung Short Stay Accommodation Project

Last week Council also adopted a proposed Short Stay Accommodation Project Development Plan for Lots 112 & 113 Harvey St Dumbleyung. This site is in direct proximity to existing Shire owned short stay accommodation units located diagonally opposite the Shire Administration Building. The Project Development Plan proposes the establishment of 3 additional 2 bedroom 1 bathroom self-contained modular design dwellings for an estimated capex cost of \$1M. Whilst a project plan has been adopted by Council, no Shire funding has yet been committed towards this project. External grant funding sources will need to be identified prior to any investment decision to commence with this project. Earlier key worker housing and short stay accommodation feasibility studies and reports completed by 4WDL underpins the need for additional dwellings across our region, including the Shire of Dumbleyung. Concept design is provided below.





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Dumbleyung Aged Persons Accommodation Project

There is a significant lack of housing at many levels in the Shire of Dumbleyung (and across most areas of regional WA). The Shire of Dumbleyung currently owns and operates five (5) aged persons units located in McIntyre St Dumbleyung, adjacent to Dumbleyung Hospital. A Project Development Plan proposal to construct eight (8) new modular dwellings onto the existing freehold aged person's site is aimed to address current unmet need, noting all existing units are fully occupied. The project capex cost has been estimated to be \$4M and will be dependent on outside sources of external funding to be made available to assist in underwriting the development. Concept design is provided below:



Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative (Dumbleyung Project)

The Federal Government recently announced a \$32.8M grant funding package to support the Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative. The Shire of Dumbleyung is one of 10 Local Government Authorities involved in this project development initiative. The Shire of Dumbleyung's notional share of this total grant funding pool is \$3.6M. Approved funding activities including site earthworks, roadworks & drainage, headworks and connections, site works and internal services. The aim is to turn unserviced vacant blocks in Dumbleyung into housing development ready sites. The block sites earmarked for headworks development include the eastern ends of McIntyre St, Taylor St and Harvey St. Further project scoping work is required including the receipt and signing of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Government before any on ground works can be initiated.



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Stubbs Park & Nenke Park Ovals

The current condition of Stubbs Park and Nenke Park Ovals has been a major topic of concern for both the Shire and our community. A lack of local dam water supply in Dumbleyung has been a significant factor impacting the condition of Stubbs Park Oval. As part of the recent 2024/25 mid-year budget review process, Council has authorised the use of scheme water for reticulation use on Stubbs Park Oval. As a result of a pump failure issue, the condition of Nenke Park Oval also deteriorated causing damage. This pump has since been replaced and the condition of Nenke Park Oval is improving. Together with expert turf management support through BGL Solutions, the Shire is aiming to substantially improve the condition of Stubbs Park and Nenke Park Ovals in readiness for the forthcoming Winter sports season. Long term water security solutions are also being investigated to ensure both our facilities and roads can be maintained well into the future.

Dumbleyung Desalination Project

Another 3 water storage tanks are currently being installed at Stubbs Park to double the existing storage capacity of desalination produced water. The Dumbleyung Desalination Project is a 2 year trial in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development, Murdoch University and Water Corporation to test the viability of desalination plants in community environments, as part of the State Government sponsored Smart Farms Program. Similar desalination trials have been set up in Esperance, Merredin and Katanning. A pipeline connection will be installed to enable stored desalination water to be accessed and deployed for Stubbs Park Oval irrigation use, supplementing scheme water supply.

Annual Electors Meeting (AEM)

After last week's Ordinary Council meeting we held our AEM to go through the 2023/24 Annual Report. Thank you to those that attended and participated in constructive discussions with Council and Shire staff about the many projects and budget allocations we have had and also going forward. The minutes for this meeting will be uploaded soon.

Central Country Zone (CCZ) Meeting

On Friday 14 February, myself and the CEO attended the bimonthly CCZ meeting this one held in Darkan. The 139 local governments of Western Australia are divided into 17 zones to facilitate representation and governance for local councils across the State. Agenda items and discussion included the closure of Telstra's 3G services, South West Native Title Settlement, water security, Main Roads updates and waste management legislation changes.

Isolated Children's Parent's Association (ICPA) Lakes District Meeting

On Tuesday 18 February, myself and the CEO attended the IPCA Lakes District AGM at Kukerin Sporting Pavilion. This allowed us to learn more about the organisations capabilities and the support they offer to rural children from Early Childhood through to tertiary including school bus services and boarding houses.