SHIRE OF SANDSTONE
OASIS OF THE MURCHISON

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2026
Commencing at 1:00 PM

Held in the Council Chambers, 23 Hack St Sandstone

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2026
MINUTES SUMMARY and TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

MINUTES and STAFF REPORTS				**5**
1	*DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY VISITORS*			*5*
2	*ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND/OR COUNCILLORS*			*5*
3	*ATTENDANCES*			*5*
3.1	Present			5
3.2	Apologies			5
4	*RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE*			*6*
5	*APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE*			*6*
6	*DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST*			*6*
6.1	Declarations of Financial Interest			6
6.2	Declarations of Proximity Interest			6
6.3	Declarations of Indirect Financial Interest			6
6.4	Declarations of Impartiality Interest			6
7	*PUBLIC QUESTION TIME*			*6*
8	*CONFIRMATIONS OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS*			*6*
8.1	Special Meeting of Council Held on 6th August 2026	85/26		6
8.2	Special Meeting of Council Held on 13th August 2026	86/26		7
9	*PRESENTATIONS*			*7*
9.1	Petitions			7
9.2	Presentations			7
9.3	Deputations			7
9.4	Delegates/Councillor's Reports			7
10	*OFFICERS REPORTS*			*8*
10.1	*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS*			*8*
10.1.1	Status Report Update – August 2026		87/26	8
10.1.2	Amendments to Rate Notices 2026/2027		88/26	15
10.1.3	Amend Fuel Administration Fee – Percentage to Cents Per Litre 2026/2027		89/26	18
10.1.4	Proposal to Reduce the Number of Elected Members 2026/2027		90/26	20
10.2	*DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS*			*23*
10.2.1	Write-Off of Rates – A2041		91/26	23
10.3	*FINANCIAL REPORTS*			*26*
10.3.1	Financial Statement for the Month of July 2026		92/26	26
10.3.2	Accounts update for the Month of July 2026		93/26	28
10.4	*WORKS AND SERVICES*			*30*
10.4.1	Works Manager Activity Report for August 2026		94/26	30

Table of Contents

11	*MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN*		*33*
12	*QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE*		*33*
13	*NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING*		*33*
13.1	LATE ITEM - Reticulated Water Quality – Sandstone Townsite (August 2026 Sampling)		33
		95/26	33
14	*MEETING ITEMS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC*		*37*
15	*CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS*		*37*
16	*ADOPTION OF MINUTES*		*37*
16.1	Ordinary Meeting of Council Held on 27th August 2026	96/26	37
17	*TIME and DATE of NEXT MEETING*		*37*
18	*CLOSURE OF MEETING*		*37*
19	***CERTIFICATIONS***		*38*

SHIRE OF SANDSTONE
SERVE THE PEOPLE

MINUTES and STAFF REPORTS

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SANDSTONE ON THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2026

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY VISITORS

The Presiding Member, Cr Bethel Walton (Shire President) declared the meeting open at 1:00 pm.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND/OR COUNCILLORS

Without discussion unless otherwise determined.

3 ATTENDANCES

3.1 Present

Elected Members

Cr B (Bethel) Walton	President
Cr V (Vicki) McQuie	Deputy President
Cr J (James) Allison	
Cr J (Jamie) Turner	
Cr S (Stephanie) Brown	Via Teams online
Cr M (Margaret) Duhig	

Staff Members

Mr Peter Money	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Helen St George Cooper	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Patrick O'Brien	Works Manager
Ms Tegan Brown	Customer Service Officer

Visitors

Nil

3.2 Apologies

Nil

3.3 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

4 RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6.1 Declarations of Financial Interest

Nil

6.2 Declarations of Proximity Interest

Nil

6.3 Declarations of Indirect Financial Interest

Nil

6.4 Declarations of Impartiality Interest

Nil

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 CONFIRMATIONS OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Meeting of Council Held on 6th August 2026 **85/26**

Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 6th August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Resolution No. 85/26

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 6th August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

MOVED: Cr. Turner **SECONDED: Cr. Allison**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

8.2 Special Meeting of Council Held on 13th August 2026 **86/26**

Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 13th August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Resolution No. 86/26

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 13th August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

MOVED: Cr. Duhig **SECONDED: Cr. Brown**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

9 PRESENTATIONS

9.1 Petitions

Nil

9.2 Presentations

Nil

9.3 Deputations

Nil

9.4 Delegates/Councillor's Reports

Cr. McQuie reported on the MRVC Meeting of 12/08/2026
Attended by Cr. McQuie and Cr. Walton.

10 OFFICERS REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

10.1.1 Status Report Update – August 2026 87/26

Agenda Reference:	CEO 08/26 - 01
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	19 August 2026
Previous References:	Various
Author:	Peter Money, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the status of its decisions from previous Council meetings.

Attachments

Nil

Background

It is important that Council receives an update on the outcome of its resolutions on a regular basis.

Comment

Document has been updated to include Progress made on Council decisions.

Status Update

Resolution No	53/24
Item No	13.1
Action	Land Acquisition/Allocation Application

That Council approves an application to the Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage to seek acquisition / allocation of the following properties as identified in the mapping at attachment 1:

- Portions of Reserve for Town Common (Lot 302) including:

- the old Main Roads site (3km east of town),
- other land to the west of town (Reserve 11714 – includes old borrow pit area),
- Portion of the Town Common on the western side of the entry to the Tip Site,
- Portion of Town Common zoned for Rural Townsite SCA2 east of town.
- Portion reserve 12100 (Lot 300), Portion Reserve 13902, and Portion of Vacant Crown Land zoned Industrial west of town
- Reserve for Explosives Magazine (Reserve 11441) currently vested Dept Mines Industry Regulation and Safety
- Lot 405 Mt Magnet-Leinster Road (UCL) (south of caravan park
- Old Hospital Site (Reserve 10897) – currently vested with Dept of Health
- Portion Lot 402 UCL southeast of the Mt Magnet Leinster Road and telephone tower

Responses/ Updates

01/06/2024 Contacted Town Planner Marc Halsall to advise Council's decision and asked for him to arrange a meeting with DPLH.

17/06/202 Marc Halsall advised he is arranging a meeting with DPLH for October 2024 to coincide with the WALGA AGM.

28/08/2024 Correspondence has been sent to Department of Health asking for relinquishing of Lot 10897, the Hospital Reserve.

22/10/2024 Follow-up correspondence has been sent to Department of Health asking for relinquishing of Lot 10897, the Hospital Reserve.

13/10/2024 Shire President, consultant planner Marc Halsall and I attended a meeting in Perth with officers of the Lands Department and held discussions on the processes of acquiring land we identified as essential for any future developments in and around Sandstone. The meeting was fruitful, and a great level of cooperation was shown to the Shire and our needs.

11/12/2024 At this time our applications are proceeding but it will be some months before any further progress is likely.

31/01/2025 The Department of Health has agreed to relinquish the vesting of the Old Hospital Reserve, and they require a Council resolution to effect the transfer.

27/02/2025 Council resolved to accept a Management order for the Crown reserve 10897 and seek vesting from the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage. Council resolved to advise the department of Health and Department of Planning, lands & Heritage accordingly. Resolution 8/25.

07/03/2025 Council planning consult advised of Council decision and asked to advise the DLPH accordingly.

17/06/2025 The Shire planning consultant was advised by the Department of Heath that this matter was in the hands of the Midwest Executive Director. A further request has been sent asking for a progress report.

22/08/2025 No change since last meeting.

26/09/2025 In reference to a proposed land acquisition of the former Main Roads site East of Sandstone, I have been advised that it is (in part at least) referred to as Miscellaneous Licence 57/73 and is currently subject of a =n objection which is due to be heard in the Wardens Court on 28 January 2026. However, I have also been advised that its very unlikely that the Shire will be able to acquire that land as Section 16(3) the Mining Act reads *No Crown land that is in a mineral field shall be leased, transferred in fee simple, or otherwise disposed of under the provisions of the Land Administration Act 1997, without the approval of the Minister.*

19/01/2026 **Following the meeting between planning consultant Marc Halsall and the DPLH the following is advised:**

Old Hospital Reserve 10897

Apparently, we are about to receive some written confirmation in respect to this Reserve and the fact that the Department may consider that Native Title is not extinguished even given transfer of the Reserve from the WA Country Health Service to the Shire is intended. This is apparently because when the land was transferred to the WA Country Health Service, Native Title processes may not have been followed and so, there could be a problem with this parcel. It looks like native title query is still outstanding. It looks likely this could be no longer worth pursuing.

Reserve 12100 – Safety Zone

This is a large Reserve west of town which has a vesting order with the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration. Apparently, this Reserve is likely to be less problematic in respect to Native Title and so we have been encouraged to pursue the Department of Mines & Petroleum & Exploration harder in respect to this Reserve. This is a large parcel of land immediately west of town with lots of access tracks and roads to it including along the old Black Hill Road, the old road alignment through the gymkhana ground area and other tracks. We are encouraged to pursue this further and so far, we have not had any feedback from the Department after numerous enquiries. Dean Crothers is to provide me with a contact in this department that we could pursue and so I think we should do this and I am happy to put forward a case to the Department to acquire some of the land. I understand the contact is Patrick Dawson.

This looks like possibly the best opportunity to get hold of some useful areas of land west of town.

Lot 302

Lot 302 to the south west of town, is the subject of an old vesting order which the Department is going to investigate further because dependent on how this was gazetted, this could potentially extinguish Native Title and be an option. Dave Foster advised that he was going to look into this and advise us. If the advice is that this Reserve is worth pursuing again, we could engage further with the Department of Lands on this.

This is a substantial area of land with excellent access to the Mt Magnet – Leinster Road.

Other sites that we identified may be too difficult to acquire and its suggested we concentrate our resources on what is likely achievable.

07/03/2026 Correspondence has been occurring between our planners (Halsall & Associates) and the Department of Mines Petroleum and Exploration (DPME) in reference to the acquisition of Reserve 12100. DPME have referred the Shire to the Dangerous Goods Branch of WorkSafe for some unknown reason.

11/06/2026 At this time the only remaining site that may be available for the future use by the Council, is Reserve 12100 as Native Title is making the other proposed sites extremely difficult to acquire.

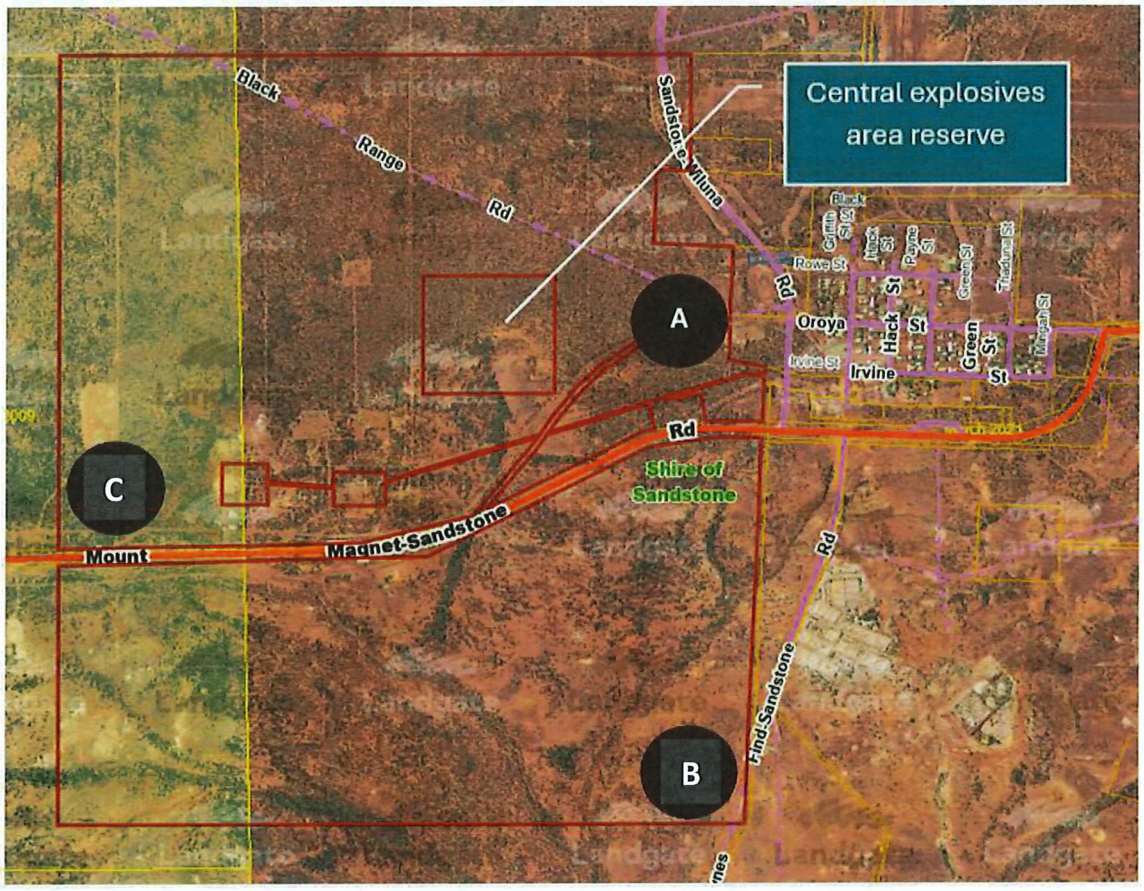
Consultant Marc Halsall has been in contact with the Lands Department and is seeking their support to acquire a portion of Reserve 12100.
In relation to options for management of land by the Shire it would be better for the Shire to acquire a section of land that was abutting the town because this is where there is access to reticulated water supply and power might even be able to be extended and also there is a previous road alignment in this section.

The plan below shows where the explosives section is (square section) and three areas where land that could be set aside as a different reserve, for the Shire objectives. This includes:

- (a) Immediate to the townsite, effectively the western oval and laydown areas near the Gymkhana grounds (10ha or 25 acres)

- (b) To the south of the safety zone, along Paynes Find Road, approximately 1.2 km south of the Mount Magnet Road intersection (on the western side of the Paynes Find Road) (10ha or 25acres) or;
- (c) A section in the western extent of the safety reserve where there appears to have been a previously established gravel pit or the like, approximately 2.2 kms westward from town along the Mount Magnet Road, accessible directly from the Mount Magnet Road (13ha or 33acres)

The reserve 12100 is surrounded in magenta line below and sections A, B and C are indicated below.



10.08.2026 The Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety has supported our request for the land options above. They ruled out option A and we had to choose between option B or C. Option B is more practical being off the much busier Leinster Road. Following an inspection by the Works Manager option B is a site well located and with no physical barriers. Our preference will now be forwarded to the Department of Lands seeking an excision of the larger Reserve and have this site allocated to the Shire.

Resolution No. 69/25

Agenda Reference: CEO 08/25 - 03

Action: Land Acquisition/Allocation Application

That Council authorises the CEO to seek acquisition of Reserve 13123 currently in the custody of the WA Police.

That Council seeks the purposes of Reserve 13123 preferably to be for transport depot, workers accommodation or similar uses and with the power to lease.

2/09/2025 Council resolution conveyed to Planning Consultant Marc Halsall for forwarding to DPLH and WA Police.

03/09/2025 This proposal is now in the hands of the Midwest Gascoyne Land Management Team Case number 2502131.

With the request for access to land, consideration is given to the status of Native Title and other interests that may exist. In order for the State to grant land tenure, it needs to comply with provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA) and other legislative requirements.

If the Department supports your request, and the applicant chooses to proceed, the applicant is responsible for the payment of all costs and disbursements associated with the grant.

These costs may include, but not be limited to:

- costs of negotiating and compensating native title parties and other existing land holders
- applying for and approval of other statutory requirements
- purchase price, lease rental, easement, or licence fees
- survey and plan preparation costs
- advertising and gazettal costs
- registration and document preparation fees
- GST on any of the above.

02/12/2025 This matter is still progressing

19/01/2026 Planning Consultant Marc Halsall advises that the DPLH is going to look into the status of this Reserve especially as WAPOL have asked the Shire to take over management of the lease. RXL have applied for a mining lease which encompasses the Youanmi townsite other than C Class Reserve 13123 which leaves this Reserve open for the Shire and this is one site the DPLH believes Native Title could be extinguished.

11/06/2026 There is no further news on this proposed transfer at this time.

O6/08/2026 DPLH asked the Shire if it will accept this Reserve on an as is basis and if we would like the power to lease. The response to both was yes we accept as is and we would like the power to lease.

Resolution No.	**77/25**
Agenda Reference:	**CEO 09/25 - 02**
Action:	**Request for Change of Purpose – Portions of Caravan Park Reserve**

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to seek approval from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to amend the purpose of Reserve 14178 with the land ID 334534 and 30158347 Reserve 13123 to the use of Caravan Park, Workforce Accommodation and Holiday Accommodation.

02/10/2025	Council's planning consultant Marc Halsall has been contracted to proceed with a formal application to the Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage with this proposal.
01/12/2025	A meeting with Department of Lands, Planning and Heritage proposed for mid November was cancelled. The meeting has been rescheduled to January 19, 2026.
19/01/2026	This Reserve is vested with the Shire with power to lease. At a meeting with Planning Consultant Marc Halsall the DPLH feedback is that this is likely to be well received by the Department and we should receive some advice shortly in respect to this. This will be a prize win if we are able to accommodate any future village or holiday accommodation.
11/06/2026	There is no further news on this proposed additional use at this time.
10/07/2026	We received notice that this Reserve is approved for an amendment of use from Caravan Park to be 'Caravan Park, Workforce Accommodation and Holiday Accommodation'
03/08/2026	Documents are being prepared for the lodgement and registration with Landgate for the additional uses for this Reserve.

Consultation

Various

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council accepts the Status Update for the month of August 2026.

Resolution No. 87/26

That Council accepts the Status Update for the months of August 2026.

MOVED: Cr. Turner **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

10.1.2 Amendments to Rate Notices 2026/2027 — 88/26

Agenda Reference:	CEO 08/26 - 02
Location/Address:	Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	16 August 2026
Author:	Peter Money, Chief Executive Officer

Summary
That Council confirms the change in the rate payments from 2 payment options to 4 payment options, confirms the correct Minimums and confirms the advertised Mining UV rate in the dollar as $0.30072.

Attachments
10.1.2 Annual Budget

Background

In adopting the 2026/2027 budget Council chose a two-payment option for the payment of rates in accordance with the Local Government Act s6.45 (1) (b). The two-payment option was chosen to enable the payment of rates to be made much sooner than the six months that applies to the four-payment option.

Comment

1. The contractors who are managing the Shire's rates were of the belief that a two-payment option is not permitted without also offering a four-payment option. After some debate the contractors admitted they were unaware of the correct legislation. They queried IT Vision the owners of the Synergy Software who advised that they also were not aware of a two payment only option and as such they don't have the program set up to run with a two-payment option.

Reluctantly it was agreed that due the constrained timelines there was not time to return the matter to Council and so an executive decision was made by me to run with the four-payment option. A new payment schedule was agreed in accordance with legislation, as follows:

Option 1 – Full Payment
Single full payment — Due 30 September 2026
Option 2 – Two Instalments
First Payment — Due 30 September 2026
Second Payment — Due 3 December 2026
Option 3 – Four Instalments
First Payment — Due 30 September 2026
Second Payment — Due 3 December 2026
Third Payment — Due 4 February 2027
Fourth Payment — Due 5 April 2027

2. There were two errors made in the budget item that did not match the advertised information. To ensure there was no delay in processing and issuing the rates I approved the changes below and seek Council confirmation of the changes.

The Minimums and mining UV will be as advertised in the media and online:
GRV all $210
UV Pastoral $420
UV Mining $414
The UV mining Rate in the Dollar will be $0.30072 not $0.3072

This resulted in circa $35,000 less in the reported rate income which has been absorbed by a reduction of the operational road maintenance budget. This reduced income is countered in part by an increase in the rate income following the finalisation of the valuations which resulted in an increase of $12,986. The final reduced income is circa $22,000.

Consultation

Accountant
DCEO
LG Best Practises

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act s6.45

Policy Implications
Nil

Financial Implication
Nil

Strategic Implications
Good governance of the Shire

Voting Requirements
Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

1. That Council confirms the rate payment for 2026/2027 as below:

   Option 1 – Full Payment
   Single full payment Due 30 September 2026

   Option 2 – Two Instalments
   First Payment Due 30 September 2026
   Second Payment Due 3 December 2026

   Option 3 – Four Instalments
   First Payment Due 30 September 2026
   Second Payment Due 3 December 2026
   Third Payment Due 4 February 2027
   Fourth Payment Due 5 April 2027

2. That Council confirms the rate minimums as below:
   The Minimums and mining UV will be as advertised in the media and online:
   GRV all $210
   UV Pastoral $420
   UV Mining $414
   And the UV mining Rate in the Dollar will be as advertised at $0.30072 and the budget adjusted accordingly.

Resolution No. 88/26

1. That Council confirms the rate payment for 2026/2027 as below:
   Option 1 – Full Payment
   Single full payment Due 30 September 2026

   Option 2 – Two Instalments
   First Payment Due 30 September 2026
   Second Payment Due 3 December 2026

   Option 3 – Four Instalments
   First Payment Due 30 September 2026
   Second Payment Due 3 December 2026
   Third Payment Due 4 February 2027
   Fourth Payment Due 5 April 2027

2. That Council confirms the rate minimums as below:
   The Minimums and mining UV will be as advertised in the media and online:
   GRV all $210
   UV Pastoral $420
   UV Mining $414
   And the UV mining Rate in the Dollar will be as advertised at $0.30072 and the budget adjusted accordingly.

MOVED: Cr. Allison **SECONDED: Cr. Duhig**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

10.1.3 Amend Fuel Administration Fee – Percentage to Cents Per Litre 2026/2027 89/26

Agenda Reference:	CEO 08/26 - 03
Location/Address:	Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	16 August 2026
Author:	Peter Money, Chief Executive Officer

Summary
That Council amend the fuel administration fee from a percentage of cost to a fixed 15 cents per litre.

Attachments
Nil

Background

Council has applied changes to the fuel administration from 15% to 10% then back to 15% per litre. The President and CEO have discussed the increasing costs of fuel and the impact of percentage basis of the administration fee.

Comment

As the purchase cost of fuel rises applying a percentage administration fee increases the sale price of fuel exponentially. Twelve months ago, the purchase price of diesel was $1.80 and the administration fee was 15% or $0.27 cents and a bowser price of $2.07.

As fuel prices rise and a percentage is applied the following examples could eventuate:

Purchase price	**15%**	**Selling price**	**$0.15**
$2.75	$0.41	$3.16	$2.90
$3.00	$0.45	$3.45	$3.15
$3.10	$0.46.5	$3.57	$3.25

The government works its fuel levy on a percentage which brings greater profits as the price rises.

I suggest the Shire not follow the same path as the government in profiteering but sets a fixed administration fee of $0.15 cents per litre. The fixed $0.15 cents will cover the administration costs regardless of the purchase cost of the fuel.

The change of the administration fee from 15% to 15 cents per litre applies to both Diesel and ULP.

Consultation

Shire President

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act
S5.41

Policy Implications
Nil

Financial Implication
Nil

Strategic Implications
Good governance of the local government

Voting Requirements
Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council agrees to set the administration fee to a fixed $0.15 cents per litre of diesel and ULP fuels regardless of the purchase price.

Resolution No. 89/26

That Council agrees to set the administration fee to a fixed $0.15 cents per litre of diesel and ULP fuels regardless of the purchase price.

MOVED: Cr. Turner **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

Item 10.1.4 Brought to the Table

MOVED: Cr. Allison SECONDED: Cr. McQuie

10.1.4 Proposal to Reduce the Number of Elected Members 2026/2027	**90/26**

Agenda Reference:	CEO 08/26 - 04
Location/Address:	Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	17 August 2026
Author:	Peter Money, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

That Council considers commencing the process to reduce elected member numbers from six (6) to five (5).

Attachments

Nil

Background

In 2022/2023 the Council resolved to seek a reduction in the number of elected members by one, from 6 to 5 members. Local governments with populations less than 5,000 may have between 5 – 7 members.

At the time, delays in commencing the process resulted in the proposal's refusal as it was too close to the next election cycle.

At the Ordinary Meeting of June 2026, Council agreed to commence the process of public advertising to seek community input for this proposal.

Comment

In the process of seeking public input to the consideration of reducing Council member numbers from six to five, public advertising was carried for a period of 6 weeks commencing on 30th June 2026 and closing on 13th August 2026.

There was one submission made for which the support is to retain the 6 members of Council. The submission summary is as follows:

As residents and ratepayers, we appreciate the fact that there is a good balance of local perspectives at the table.

Six Council members allow residents the available representatives to talk to about local issues. Having six council members also provides a good buffer to meet quorum requirements if someone is unable to attend a meeting, dropping to five could lead to meeting cancelation or delayed decision making if conflicts or absence arise.

Five members may finish a meeting faster but six will ensure a wider amount of questions are asked and more ideas are considered before making a decision.

- If only five members and you have one absent you would have 4 votes, if it is a tie the Shire President then still has to use their vote.

We would like to see the council protect the local community's voice and retain the six dedicated councillor positions.

Even though there has been only one submission, Council needs to consider that submission and then make one of two decisions – retain the existing six members or alternatively resolve to reduce the number to five.

If Council resolves to retain the six members, then there will be no further action required by Council. I will write to the Department advising that after a public consultation process on considering a change of numbers, Council resolved to retain the status quo.

If Council resolves to reduce the numbers to five members, then a comprehensive review report will be forwarded to the Local Government Advisory Board, for consideration

If the Board agrees with the Council decision to reduce numbers, the Board will forward their recommendation to the Minister for local government.

The Minister is not obligated to accept the Board's recommendation, but should the Minister accept the Board's recommendation advice to that effect will be forwarded to the Governor in Executive Council for a final decision.

The process would then be formally concluded by publication in the Government Gazette.

Where possible, the change would take place in time for the next available election being October 2027.

Consultation

Shire President
Public Consultation

Statutory Environment

Local Government Advisory Board

Local Government Act
2.17A(4)
2.18A

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implication

There would be the saving of the elected member fees currently $3,500 per annum plus various compulsory training costs and some other incidentals.

Strategic Implications

Plan For the Future

Key Objective 2: Economic
prosperous, diverse and thriving local economy
Key Objective 4: Leadership Strong governance and leadership

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council decides on the consideration of reducing the number of elected members from six to five.

Resolution No. 90/26

That following a vote of 3 against and 3 for, the proposal to reduce numbers is not an absolute majority therefore the status quo remains.

Item 10.1.4 Brought to the Table

MOVED: Cr. Allison **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

LOST (3/3)

FOR: Cr. Brown, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Walton
AGAINST: Cr. Turner, Cr. Allison, Cr. Duhig

10.2 DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

10.2.1 Write-Off of Rates – A2041 91/26

Agenda Reference:	DCEO 08/26 - 01
Location/Address:	Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	30 July 2026
Author:	Helen St George Cooper - DCEO

Summary

That Council consider that following notification from the Valuer General on MT2026.08, an adjustment was processed in December 2025 in relation to the surrendered tenement. Prior to this adjustment, payment had been received in November 2025 and the account was considered paid based on the information available at that time.

However, when the surrender was finalized, a recalculation was undertaken to reflect the portion of the assessment applicable up to the date of surrender. This adjustment resulted in a residual balance of $28.95 remaining on the account. The outstanding amount was therefore not the result of a missed payment but rather arose from the timing of the surrender adjustment and the subsequent reassessment of the charges.

As the balance remained outstanding, interest charges accrued in accordance with the applicable account terms and legislative requirements, causing the debt to increase over time. The original outstanding amount of $28.95 can be directly attributed to the adjustment processed following the surrender of the tenement, and all additional charges represent interest accumulated on that unpaid balance.

Accordingly, the account history demonstrates that:

1. Payment was received in November 2025.
2. The tenement was subsequently surrendered.
3. Following advice from the Valuer General, an adjustment was raised in December 2025 to reflect the revised liability.
4. The adjustment created an outstanding balance of $28.95.
5. Interest has accrued on the unpaid balance since that time, resulting in the current amount owing.

The outstanding debt is therefore valid and traceable to the post-surrender adjustment rather than any failure to make the original payment when due.

Attachments

Nil

Background

Given staff turnover and previous third party rating contractors, the exploration licence remained unchallenged for payment until further investigation by administration.

Assessment Number	License Number	Amount Outstanding as at 30 July 2026	Assessment Status
A2041	E 59/2937	$29.39	Surrendered 22.12.2025

Comment

Given the relatively small original balance of $28.95, the significant passage of time since the adjustment was raised, and changes in staffing and administrative processes over the intervening period, it is reasonable to conclude that the outstanding amount was not actively brought to attention in a timely manner. The debt arose as a result of a post-payment adjustment rather than an initial failure to pay, and the majority of the current amount consists of accumulated interest rather than the principal balance. These circumstances may warrant consideration of remission of some or all interest charges, particularly where administrative delays and staff changes have contributed to the matter remaining unresolved for an extended period.

Consultation

CEO

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995 6.12 Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
Rates and Charges (Rates and Deferments) Act 1992

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The reduction in rate income will be taken into account.

Strategic Implications

Plan for the Future 2021 – 2031

Key Objective Four - Strong governance and leadership

An efficient and effective organisation

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council write off the outstanding assessment balance of $28.95 together with all associated penalties and interest charges, on the basis that the debt arose from a post-surrender adjustment following payment, a considerable period of time has passed since the adjustment was raised, and the costs of continued administration and recovery are likely to outweigh the value of the debt.

Resolution No. 91/26

That Council write off the outstanding assessment balance of $28.95 together with all associated penalties and interest charges, on the basis that the debt arose from a post-surrender adjustment following payment, a considerable period of time has passed since the adjustment was raised, and the costs of continued administration and recovery are likely to outweigh the value of the debt.

MOVED: Cr. Allison **SECONDED: Cr. Duhig**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

10.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

10.3.1 Financial Statement for the Month of July 2026 92/26

Agenda Reference:	F 08/26 - 01
Location:	Shire of Sandstone
Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	19 August 2026
Author:	Debby Barndon, Accountant

Summary

The Statement of Financial Activity report for the month ending 31st July 2026 is presented to Council in accordance with *Regulations 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.*

Attachments

10.3.1 Financial Reports

Comments

Due to the budget not being adopted as at reporting period ended 31st July supplementary reports are submitted for Council's review.

Capital Expenditure

A capital expenditure report is not presented for the month ended 31st July due to the budget being contained within the format of the financial statement document. A total amount of $209,000.00 was the total of capital works for the month of July. This comprised of the majority of expenditure being for road construction and a small amount for capital with regards to housing.

Summary of Cash Held – Shire of Sandstone as of 31st July 2026

Municipal Cheque Account - On-line (CommBiz)	$890,130.34
Municipal Term Deposit Account (CommBiz)	$1,800,000.00
Trust Bank Term Deposit	$259,720.40
Cash on Hand	$450 .00
Reserve Term Investment Account (CommBiz)	$5,292,186.52

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 - Regulations 34 (1A) and 17.

The Regulations require a Local Government to prepare each month a statement of financial activity, accompanied by relevant documents and that this information must be presented to Council at an Ordinary Meeting within 2 months after the end of the month.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Risk Implications

The Financial Activity report is presented monthly and provides a retrospective picture of the activities at the Shire. Contained within the report is information pertaining to the financial cost and delivery of strategic initiatives and key projects.

To mitigate the risk of budget over-runs or non-delivery of projects, the Chief Executive Officer has implemented internal control measures such as regular Council and management reporting and a quarterly process to monitor financial performance against budget estimates. Materiality reporting thresholds have been established at half the adopted Council levels, which equate to $10,000 for operating budget line items and $10,000 for capital items, to alert management prior to there being irreversible impacts.

It should also be noted that there is an inherent level of risk of misrepresentation of the financials through either human error or potential fraud. The establishment of control measures through a series of efficient systems, policies, and procedures, which fall under the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer as laid out in the ***Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996*** regulation 5, seek to mitigate the possibility of this occurring. These controls are set in place to provide daily, weekly, and monthly checks to ensure that the integrity of the data provided is reasonably assured.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That in accordance with Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31st July 2026, be received, and all other statements noted.

Resolution No. 92/26

That in accordance with Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31st July 2026, be received, and all other statements noted.

MOVED: Cr. Turner **SECONDED: Cr. Allison**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

10.3.2 Accounts update for the Month of July 2026 93/26

Agenda Reference:	F 08/26 - 02
Location:	Shire of Sandstone
Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	19 August 2026
Author:	Debby Barndon, Accountant
Senior Officer:	Peter Money, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

Presented for Council's information is the list of accounts paid in July 2026 from the Municipal Fund in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Attachments

10.3.2 (A) List of Accounts paid via EFT, Direct Debit & Cheque
10.3.2 (B) Corporate Credit Card
10.3.2 (C) Fuel Card Payments

Background

Council has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power under Financial Management Regulation 12 to make payments from Municipal Fund.

The *Financial Management Regulations (Regulation 13 (3))* requires a schedule of payments made through the Shire's bank accounts to be presented to Council.

The lists include details for each payment made incorporating the payee's name, amount of payment, date of payment and a brief transaction description.

Comment

Invoices supporting all payments are available for inspection. Queries regarding any payment should be made through the Chief Executive Officer to the staff member who handles the financial transactions prior to this meeting.

All invoices and vouchers presented to Council have been certified as to receipt of the goods or services and that the amounts shown were due for payment.

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Table of Payments					
Month	**EFT's**	**Direct Debits**	**Credit Card**	**Payroll**	**Total Payments**
July	$ 339,636.07	$ 58,785.40	$ 7,344.79	$ 127,911.00	$ 533,677.26
August					$ -
September					$ -
October					$ -
November					$ -
December					$ -
January					$ -
February					$ -
March					$ -
April					$ -
May					$ -
June					$ -
Totals	**$ 339,636.07**	**$ 58,785.40**	**$ 7,344.79**	**$ 127,911.00**	**$ 533,677.26**

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995

Financial Management (Local Government) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 12

Policy Implications

Payments have been made under Council delegation.

Financial Implications

None, funds were available to meet the expenditure.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple majority

Officer Recommendation

That the schedule of accounts paid for the month of July 2026 as listed, covering EFTs, directly debited payments and wages as numbered from Councils Municipal Fund Bank be endorsed by Council.

Resolution No. 93/26

That the schedule of accounts paid for the month of July 2026 as listed, covering EFTs, directly debited payments and wages as numbered from Councils Municipal Fund Bank be endorsed by Council.

MOVED: Cr. Duhig **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

10.4 WORKS AND SERVICES

10.4.1 Works Manager Activity Report for August 2026 94/26

Agenda Reference:	WM 08/26 - 01
Location/Address:	Various - Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	19 August 2026
Previous References:	Nil
Author:	Paddy O'Brien, Works Manager

Summary

To provide Council with an Activity Report on the operations of Council's Infrastructure Division since the last meeting.

Attachments

Nil

Background

Below is a summarised activity report relating to the operations of the works department since the last meeting.

Comment

Construction
Road works on the Sandstone to Paynes Find Road:
Crew is currently working on SLK 33.00 to 38.00, reform and sheeting.
Dozer is currently pushing gravel in pit SLK 32 on the Paynes Find Road.
There is currently one Bore Boss set up and running at the SLK 60 bore.

In the process of seeking quotes for drilling of water bores and analysing – ongoing.

Maintenance Grading
The Council grader is currently maintenance grading on the Wiluna Road towards the boundary.

The contract grader has completed Lake Barlee Road and is doing some patches on the Paynes Find Road, then it will progress onto the Meekatharra Road.

Town Works/Gardens/Council Projects
Have sourced more emulsion for pothole bitumen patching being carried out on the Wiluna Road – ongoing, near completion.

Solar light footing installed for second light; awaiting new extension cables - ongoing.

Recycling of cans and bottles with Containers for Change scheme number - ongoing.

Installation of some replacement signage on the Yeelirrie Road is in progress.

Weed slashing of roadside verges on the four entry roads into town and on both sides of the town bypass road with the Bobcat has been carried out.

Weed spraying around town is ongoing with recent rainfall.

New signage has arrived - installation scheduled and ongoing with the trucks dusting of wheels and tourist replacement signage currently being installed.

Replacement Anodes for council hot water systems have been sourced – awaiting plumber.

The old existing leach drain at the caravan park was only connected to one leach; we have now connected into the second existing leach drain. It appears to be working ok and will investigate further in the off season.

Plant Maintenance/ workshop.
The contract mechanic is carrying out servicing of plant and repairs as required.

Caravan Genset – repairs to the old genset alternator have been completed and returned.

The new crew cab Isuzu service truck is in use.

The forklift is having electrical problems with the forward / reverse switch – a new switch has been ordered.

Cr. Brown left the meeting at 1:49 and returned at 1:51

Consultation

Not applicable

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

No financial impost is associated with the activity report as it is retrospective.

Strategic Implications

Long-term objectives may be developed from time to time.

Voting Requirements

Simple majority

Officer Recommendation

That the contents of the Works Managers Report be accepted by Council.

Resolution No. 94/26

That the contents of the Works Managers Report be accepted by Council.

MOVED: Cr. Turner **SECONDED: Cr. Allison**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

11 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

13 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

13.1 Brought to the Table:

MOVED: Cr. Allison **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

13.1 LATE ITEM - Reticulated Water Quality – Sandstone Townsite (August 2026 Sampling) 95/26

Agenda Reference:	CEO 08/26 - 05
Location/Address:	Shire of Sandstone
Name of Applicant:	Shire of Sandstone
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date of Report:	24 August 2026
Author:	Bill Atyeo - EHO

Summary

Council is asked to accept the comprehensive report and results from the testing of the town's scheme water supply.

Attachments

See additional information below

Background

Six samples were collected from the townsite reticulation network on 5 August 2026 and analysed by Eurofins ARL, a NATA-accredited laboratory. Parameters tested included microbiological quality, physical characteristics, inorganic chemicals, metals, and aesthetic indicators.

Comment

Summary of Findings Laboratory results show:

- Microbiological safety: *E. coli* and total coliforms were not detected in any sample, meeting ADWG health requirements.
- Chemical and physical quality: All health-based parameters—including nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, lead, chromium, manganese, selenium, and uranium—were well within ADWG limits.
- Aesthetic parameters: Turbidity, colour, hardness, TDS, chloride, and pH were within guideline ranges. Boron was measured at ~1.0–1.1 mg/L, which is below the health guideline (4 mg/L) but above the aesthetic guideline (~0.3 mg/L). This may cause minor taste effects but poses no health concern.

Conclusion

The Sandstone reticulated water supply complies with all ADWG health-based criteria and is considered safe for drinking. Aesthetic quality is generally good, with only minor exceedance for boron that does not impact safety.

Consultation

EHO
Eurofins ARL

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Plan for the Future 2021 – 2031

Key Objective Four - Strong governance and leadership

An efficient and effective organisation

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives the report and notes that the August 2026 water sampling results confirm the reticulated supply meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for health parameters.

Council Resolution. 95/26

That Council receives the report and notes that the August 2026 water sampling results confirm the reticulated supply meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for health parameters.

MOVED: Cr. Duhig **SECONDED: Cr. Brown**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED AND RESEARCHED BY THE EHO:

BORON:

What "aesthetic exceedance" actually means

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) set two types of guideline values:

- Health-based GV: 4 mg/L for boron
- Aesthetic GV: ~0.3 mg/L (taste threshold)

Sandstone's supply sits around 1.0–1.1 mg/L, which is:

- Well below the health guideline
- Above the aesthetic guideline

This means the water is safe, but some people may notice a slightly mineral or bitter taste.

NITRATES:

At ~4 mg/L nitrate (as N), your supply is well below the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) health guideline of 10 mg/L. There are no health implications, no operational restrictions, and no requirement for public notification.

The ADWG health guideline value (GV) for nitrate is:

- 10 mg/L (as N) – health-based
- No aesthetic guideline (nitrate has no taste/smell issues at typical levels)

Sandstone's supply sits at 3.9–4.5 mg/L, which is:

- Less than half the health GV
- Not a concern for infants, pregnant women, or bottle-fed babies
- Not associated with methemoglobinemia at these levels

Health-based concerns

Against the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG):

- Nitrate (as N): 3.9–4.5 mg/L → below 10 mg/L health GV.
- Boron: 1.0–1.1 mg/L → below 4 mg/L health GV.
- Metals (As, Pb, Cd, Cr, Ni, Se, U, etc.): all at or below reporting limits → no health concern.
- Microbiology: Total coliforms and E. coli both <1 CFU/100 mL → microbiologically safe.

From a public health perspective: no concerns.

Aesthetic/operational concerns

- TDS: 350–380 mg/L (GV 500 mg/L) → minor mineral residue/film after evaporation, but within guideline.
- Hardness: ~78–80 mg/L (GV 200 mg/L) → soft–moderately hard; light spotting only.
- Chloride (130–140 mg/L) & Sodium (100–110 mg/L): within aesthetic GVs; contribute a bit to taste and residue but not problematic.

So:

- Yes, residents may notice slight mineral spots/film on plants, pots, and surfaces.

- No, there is nothing in these results that warrants restriction, alternative supply, or formal health warning.

Further Information from the EHO

Over the past decade, the quality of the reticulated water supply in Sandstone has improved significantly. Independent laboratory testing (Eurofins, Aug 2026) shows major reductions in hardness, salinity, and nitrate levels compared with historical Water Corporation results from 2015–2016 and 2023–2024.

Sandstone's current water quality (2026), it seems, is the best recorded in at least a decade. The supply is:

- Softer
- Less salty
- Lower in TDS
- Fully compliant for nitrate
- Low in metals
- Microbiologically safe

Residents may still notice minor mineral spotting due to moderate TDS and hardness, but this is normal for inland groundwater and significantly reduced compared with historical levels.

Key Improvements

1. **Hardness**
    - 2015–2016: 300–310 mg/L (very hard)
    - 2026: 76–80 mg/L (soft–moderately hard) Outcome: Water is now far less likely to leave chalky deposits on fixtures, plants, and irrigation equipment.

2. **Chloride (saltiness)**
    - 2015–2016: 325–330 mg/L
    - 2026: 130–140 mg/L Outcome: Reduced saltiness, improved taste, and less mineral residue.

3. **Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)**
    - 2015–2016: ~800–1000 mg/L (inferred from hardness + chloride)
    - 2026: 350–380 mg/L Outcome: Water is significantly less mineralised, reducing spotting and film formation.

4. **Nitrate (as Nitrogen)**
    - 2015–2016: 12–13.6 mg/L (exemption required)
    - 2023–2024: 19.4–27.7 mg/L (still exempt)
    - 2026: 3.9–4.5 mg/L (fully compliant with ADWG) Outcome: Nitrate levels have dropped from non-compliant to fully safe for all consumers, including infants.

5. Metals

Across all years:

- Iron, manganese, copper, zinc, lead, arsenic, chromium, nickel → very low or below reporting limits Outcome: No staining, no health concerns.

6. Microbiological Safety

- All datasets show E. coli = 0 Outcome: Consistently safe supply.

14 MEETING ITEMS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

15 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

16 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

16.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council Held on 27th August 2026 **96/26**

Officer Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Resolution No. 96/26

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

MOVED: Cr. Allison **SECONDED: Cr. McQuie**

CARRIED (6/0)

FOR: Cr. Walton, Cr. McQuie, Cr. Allison, Cr. Turner, Cr. Brown, Cr. Duhig
AGAINST: Nil

17 TIME and DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th September 2026 commencing at 1:00 PM.

18 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Shire President closed the meeting at 2:05pm.

19 CERTIFICATIONS

I, Bethel Walters certify that the Minutes of the August Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27th August 2026 as shown, were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Meeting held on 27th August 2026.

(Presiding Member)

27/8/26

(Date)