

21st January 2005

Items of Interest

1. Regional Road Group Funding

In November 2004 the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure announced that an additional \$23.4 million would be made available to local governments this financial year. This was to make up for reductions in funding over the last two financial years.

The Wheatbelt South Region was to receive approximately \$1.9 million. Work commenced immediately to arrange for the distribution of these funds on projects to be done in the first half of 2005.

Unfortunately the Minister recently announced that \$2 million will be removed from the Wheatbelt South and Wheatbelt North Regions to be spent

on plantation timber roads in the South West and Great Southern. Obviously there have been many objections raised by Wheatbelt councils to this move and there will be a campaign launching soon seeking a reversal of the Minister's decision.

2. Australia Day Function

This year's Australia Day function will be held at the John Higgins Centre on Wednesday 26th January. It will be a breakfast commencing at 8.00am. Any Councillor who is available on the day and would like to get involved is encouraged to come along.

3. Finance & Accounting Software

The Admin Staff have been in discussion with Council's

computer support company about new developments in the finance and accounting programmes it supplies. The present system has been in operation for over fifteen years. The new programmes will provide a more comprehensive reporting system, which hopefully will save time when doing quarterly and annual financial reports.

4. Fire Briefing Session

Following a number of fires in our Shire and nearby Shires in the last few months, it is planned to have a briefing session in February to go over some of the actions that can be taken to improve our management. Issues have arisen from those incidents that need to be discussed by our Fire Control Officers. Further information will follow.

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Special points of interest:

? Council Meeting,
17th Feb at 9.30am.

Works Unit News

5. Current Roadworks

After the staff returned from a break for Christmas and New Year, work recommenced on the Nomans Lake Siding widening project. This road is being prepared for seal in a couple of weeks.

6. Clayton Road Culvert

The Contractor has completed the headwalls and wingwalls on the culvert east of the Airport. The Works Unit will return shortly to import the gravel topping and prepare it for seal.

7. Reseals

A meeting has occurred with the Contractor regarding remedial works on reseals where stripping has been a problem and where they have gone "fatty". It is hoped to have this work done in February.