

9th July 2005

Items of Interest

1. Meeting with Minister for Local Government

The President and the CEO, along with other Shire reps from around the district, met with the new Minister for Local Government, Hon John Bowler MLA.

It was a productive meeting with Councils taking the opportunity to raise some very practical concerns. The issue of local government reform was mentioned and the Town of Narrogin raised the issue of support for its regional infrastructure. The Mayor advocated strongly that the Town should be supported by surrounding Councils.

The Minister comes from a remote area, representing the electorate of Murchison Eyre

and he has an understanding of the difficulties faced by communities in rural areas.

2. Grants Commission

The WA Local Government Grants Commission has released indicative figures on grants for the 2005/06 year. Although they have to be signed off by the Federal Minister it appears that the Shire's General Purpose Grant will increase by 6.3% and the Road Funding component by 5.5%.

This is a positive result as it is anticipated that the Shire's general purpose grant will begin to plateau into the future.

3. Budget Meeting

There is a scheduled Council meeting to be held on the 21st July. It is anticipated that the

Budget Meeting will be held on the Thursday the 28th July in the afternoon. As this will be a special meeting of Council it will need to be advertised in the week before. If Council has no objection arrangements will be put in place for this to occur.

4. Highbury Public Toilets

The toilets in Highbury are almost complete. The Excavator has prepared the ground for installation of the septic tanks and leach drain. The installation of these will be done with help from the Highbury community. A costing has been obtained to concrete the surrounds in preference to brick paving. A decision on whether to proceed with this change will need to be made soon.

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Special points of interest:

? July Ordinary Meeting, 21st July at 9.30 am.

? Budget Meeting 28th July

? Local Government Week 6th—9th August.

Works Unit News

5. Current Roadworks

Maintenance grading and patching has occupied the works crew for the best part of the last month. A culvert will be installed in Whinbin Rock Road next week in the area where there has been drainage

problems opposite Porter's. New gable markers will be placed on the extremities of the sealed runway at the airport next week. These were purchased as part of the Regional Airport Development Scheme project last year.

6. Construction Jobs.

The Work Manager and Technical Officer are currently working on budget figures for the 2005/06 construction programme. Details will be available at the July Meeting