

Shire of West Arthur Annual Report 2016-2017



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1. Shire President's Report

The large building program for the Shire of West Arthur continued into the 2016/17 year with completion of the Darkan Town Hall renovations, the commencement of the Health and Resource Centre expansion and the completion of the additional three aged persons units in Burrowes Street for West Arthur Cottages Homes. The units were part of a joint project with the 4WDL VROC and partially funded through the State Government's Royalties for Regions Southern Inland Investment Initiative. The Shire provided West Arthur Cottage Homes with a self-supporting loan for the unfunded expenditure on the units.

The landscaping works were completed at the Darkan Caravan Park and we continue to receive great reviews from park visitors. The Shire will consider the construction of one or more additional chalets in the future if demand continues.

Landcorp commenced the Darkan light industrial area extension in Growden Place and the Shire issued planning approval for the development of a 24 hour fuel service on two of the developed lots.

After the temporary closure of the Darkan Swimming Pool, due to cracked water pipes in the 2015/16 summer, the community welcomed the opportunity to be able to use the pool during the 2016/17 year. The synthetic lawn and additional shade provided through the Community Pools Revitalisation Program were greatly appreciated and the funding also assisted with the replacement of fencing and the pool blanket.

A number of plans were updated through the year including the Lake Towerrinning Management Plan, the Landcare Plan, Youth Friendly Plan, and Aged Friendly Plan. These plans and further community consultation fed into the major review of the Shire's Corporate and Community Plans which were completed in June 2017.

A few other minor infrastructure renewal projects happened through the year including a new water tank for the Darkan oval supply and new barbecues for the Lake. The nature play/youth area redevelopment commenced in the Darkan Railway Reserve with the support of West Arthur Lions, Wheatbelt Development Commission and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Stronger Communities programme. The new nature play area was used for the inaugural West Arthur Cultural Day which was also a great success

Development of concept plans and community consultation was undertaken for the museum project from the Estate of Betty Edith Brown. The museum will be opened in late 2018 after the opening of the Health and Resource Centre extension.

The annual Australia Day Breakfast was held at beautiful Lake Towerrinning. Congratulations to award recipients Pam Wales, Citizen of the Year; West Arthur Community Gym, Community Group Award; and Paige Nelson, Young Citizen of the Year.

I acknowledge my Deputy, Kevin King, and elected members, Chief Executive, Nicole Wasmann, and Shire staff for their support and commitment to the Shire through the year.

Ray Harrington OAM
Shire President

2. Councillors

Councillors	Roles
Cr Ray Harrington OAM (President) Elected to Office in 2007 Retiring 2019	Central Country Zone WALGA, Audit Committee, Local Emergency Management Committee, Roadwise Committee, Plant Committee, 4WDL Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils, Senior Staffing Committee, Aged Persons Housing Committee , and Sub Group of Regional Road Group..
Cr Kevin King (Deputy President) Elected to Office in 2005 Retiring 2017	Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Committee, Audit Committee, Local Emergency Management Committee, Roadwise Committee, Swimming Pool Committee, Senior Staffing Committee, and Sub Group of Regional Road Group.
Cr Rodney Hulse Elected to Office in 2009 Retiring 2017	Plant Committee, West Arthur Sports Advisory, Aged Persons Housing Committee, 4WDL Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils, Lake Towerrinning Strategic Planning Consultation, and West Arthur Community Resource Centre.
Cr Neil Manuel Elected to Office in 2009 Retiring 2017	Building Committee, Community Housing Panel and proxy to Central Country Zone WALGA.
Cr Michael Meredith Elected to Office in 2003 Retiring 2019	Bushfire Advisory Committee, Plant Committee, and Senior Staffing Committee.
Cr Karlene Goss Elected to Office in 2013 Retiring 2017	Building Committee, Audit Committee, West Arthur Cottage Homes, Aged Persons Housing Committee.
Cr Andrew Clarke Elected to Office in 2015 Retiring 2019	Building Committee, Arthur River Development Committee and proxy to Development Assessment Panel

Meeting Attendance

COUNCILLOR	ORDINARY MEETING	SPECIAL MEETING	ANNUAL ELECTORS
Cr R Harrington	8	0	1
Cr K King	10	1	1
Cr R Hulse	11	1	1
Cr N Manuel	9	1	1
Cr M O Meredith	11	1	1
Cr K Goss	11	1	1
Cr A Clarke	6	1	1

3. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Shire commenced the 2016/17 financial with a carried forward surplus of \$1,206,058, of which \$719,401 was carried forward grants. Income of \$6,949,808 was received, including \$1,566,941 rates (an increase of 3% on the previous year). The Shire's total operating expenditure was \$5,323,375 and the capital expenditure was \$2,764,568. Capital expenditure included \$1,586,866 spent on roads and bridges, \$485,166 on the expansion of the Health and Resource Centre, \$54,111 on the Darkan Town Hall, and \$548,136 on plant purchases.

At the end of the financial year, the Shire had a surplus of \$1,785,817 which included \$727,541 unspent grants, \$493,715 grants received in advance, \$248,500 budgeted works not completed, and \$316,061 of savings from budgeted materials and employee costs. The \$316,061 savings were transferred to the building reserve in the 2017/18 budget to assist with future building projects.

A flooding event in the upper catchment in February caused minor damage to some of the Shire's infrastructure including Glenorchy Bridge, Quill Road, Rutherford Road and Eulin Crossing. WANDRA funding is anticipated to help with repair costs.

For the past three years, the Shire has shared a Community Emergency Services Manager with Wagin and Woodanilling. Wagin decided to withdraw from the shared arrangement towards the end of the agreement and, as we were unable to find an additional partner within our region to share the cost, West Arthur withdrew from the program in June 2017. The Shire adopted a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan which will be used to assist with bush fire mitigation measures moving forward.

Funding from the Department of Local Government was received for a planning trainee and a scholarship for one of Kids Central staff.

The Blackwood Basin Group was engaged to deliver landcare in the Shire and manage our Groundworks project funded by the South West Catchment Council. We were fortunate to attract additional landcare funding for the Darkan Primary School and a private land owner adjacent to Lake Towerrinning.

The Shire assisted a number of local groups with support and funding including a donation towards the water tank for Classic Motocross at Hillman Track, funding for a water tank for the Moodiarrup Bowling Club and a contribution towards a submersible pump for the Football Club septic system.

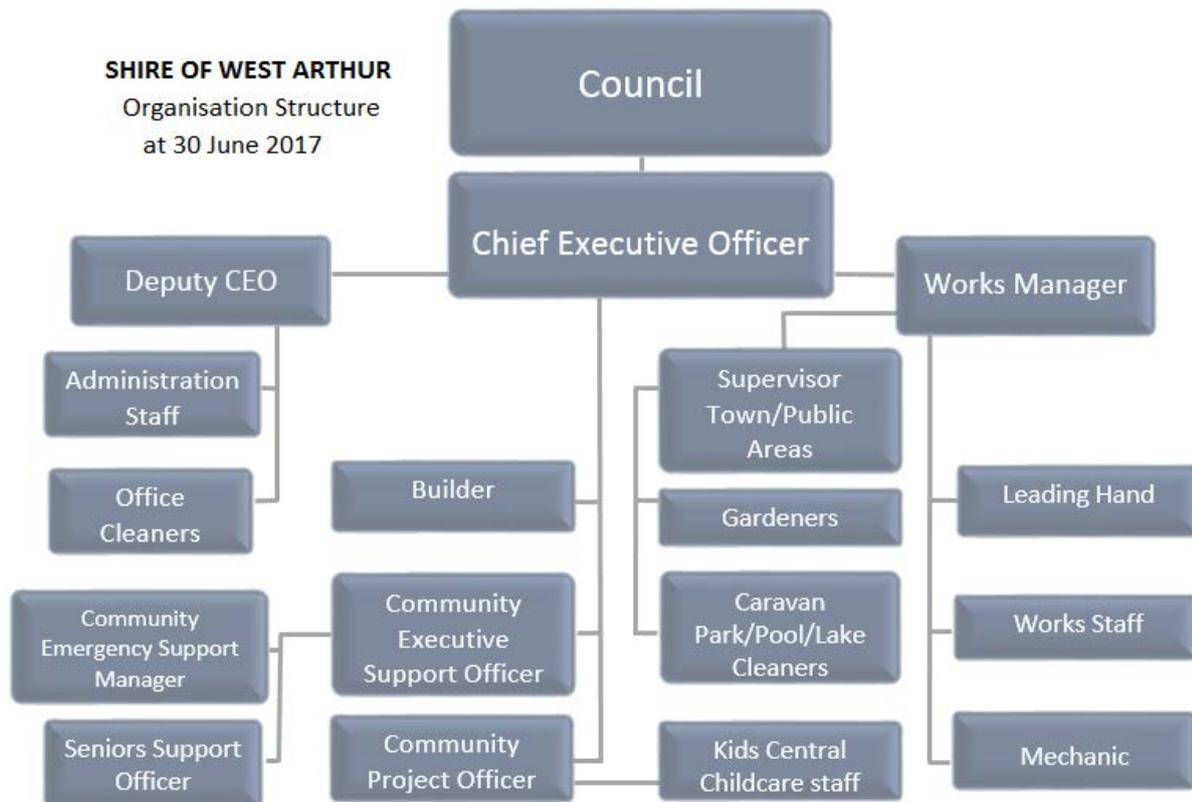
Shire staff are congratulated on their achievements over what has been an extremely busy and productive year. Thank you to the Shire President, Ray Harrington, and councillors for your ongoing support to staff and myself.

Nicole Wasmann
Chief Executive Officer

4. Principal Officers and Council Information

Chief Executive Officer	Nicole Wasmann
Deputy Chief Executive Officer (job shared)	Maxine McKenzie Melinda King
Works Manager:	Bill Owen
Administration Office:	Cnr Burrowes and Butler Street DARKAN WA 6392
Postal Address:	31 Burrowes Street DARKAN WA 6392
Telephone:	(08) 9736 2222
Facsimile:	(08) 9736 2212
Email:	shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au
Web:	www.westarthur.wa.gov.au

5. Organisation Structure



6. Strategic Plan

The Shire of West Arthur completed a major review of the Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027 and Corporate Business Plan in 2017-2021 in June 2017.

Our Corporate Vision is “In 2027 the Shire of West Arthur will be a sustainable local government supporting a vibrant community”.

Our Corporate Mission is “To value and enhance our community lifestyle and environment through strong local leadership, community involvement and effective service delivery”.

The Strategic Community Plan is the Shire’s long-term strategic planning document outlining the Shire’s commitment to achieving the vision and aspirations of the community. It is subject to a minor review every two years and a major review every four years.

The Corporate Business Plan document translates the strategic direction of the Shire into specific priorities and actions as well as drawing together actions from the Shire’s informing strategies. It informs the annual planning and budgeting process.

The Plans are broken down into five areas. Below is an outline of the Plans goals and major initiatives that are proposed to commence or continue in the 2017/18 financial year.

Community Well Being: A safe and enabling place to live with a strong sense of identity and a thriving, active culture.

Ongoing actions and initiatives include:

- Safety, emergency preparedness and bushfire brigade support including harvest and vehicle movement bans, managing emergency services levy, employment of a Community Emergency Services Manager (not to be continued in 2017/18 but will reconsider in future if there is an option available), review and management of Local Emergency Management Arrangements and Local Recovery Plans, coordinate Local Emergency Management Committee, bush fire risk management planning with the support of the DFES, and regular communication with local police.
- Health and aged services including employment of a senior’s support officer, supporting West Arthur Cottage homes, subsidising and supporting medical services to be provided locally, seniors outings and activities, review of Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, supporting HACC,
- Kids central childcare, Youth Week activities and events for young people and children.
- Organising and supporting community events including the annual Australia Day breakfast, cultural event focussing on Australian and New Zealand indigenous cultures, and funding available to support other activities.
- Six community housing units specifically for employees of local industry and people on low incomes.
- Community financial assistance program to assist sporting and community groups, and the use of shire staff at cost for community works.
- Supporting the Community Resource Centre(CRC) including the provision of free rent in the Health and Resource Centre building and funding for the CRC to manage the library and to support medical services.
- Operating the Darkan Swimming Pool.

- Providing and maintaining playgrounds, parks and recreation facilities including the Darkan football oval, playgrounds and public open space in Darkan and Duranillin and facilities at Lake Towerrinning.
- Assisting our community to look after our historical assets including 6 Mil Cottage, Duranillin School, Glenorchy School, Arthur River precinct, and Bowelling and Darkan railway precincts.

Major initiatives:

- Completion of the aged persons units.
- Completion of renovations to the Darkan Town Hall to house the Community Gym.
- Development of a museum which will be incorporated into the Health and Resource building extensions/renovations and be housed in the Roads Board building.
- Expansion of the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre – completed in 2017/18.
- Darkan Nature Play and youth area redevelopment – commenced and ongoing.
- Darkan cemetery – unmarked graves project to be completed in 2017/18.
- Improvements to paths and water outlet at Lake planned for 2017/18 and subject to funding.

Built Environment: The Shire of West Arthur will have well maintained infrastructure that supports the community and the economy.

Ongoing actions and initiatives include:

- Regular review of the plant replacement program. In 2016/17 the Shire purchase a new and a second hand truck and a loader. In 2017/18 planned purchases are a second hand pad foot roller and a grader.
- Ongoing maintenance of the Shire's road network.
- Advocacy with Main Roads regarding the impact on infrastructure and road safety of increased grain cartage on our roads.
- Road funding submissions to Main Roads Regional Road Group and the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program.
- Maintenance of buildings and facilities.

Major initiatives:

- Road construction program – 2016/17 was \$1.59 million.

Natural Environment: The Shire of West Arthur will maintain its biodiversity and natural heritage and ensure responsible land and water use to preserve the environment for future generations.

Ongoing actions and initiatives include:

- Operation of the Darkan and Duranillin (key access only) Refuse Sites, providing a recycling collection service to kerbside and at strategic locations, providing a waste collection service, providing a drummuster collection service is available on request.
- Supporting the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Committee including provision of an elected member and Shire officer to the Committee.

- Monitoring of weeds on Shire managed lands and eradication where required.
- Supporting the provision of landcare support through the Blackwood Basin Group (BBG).

Major initiatives:

- Audit of the Shire to determine the immediate water requirements. This outlined several areas where water could be harvested. The redevelopment of the Kylie Dam was seen as the most feasible project in the short term and therefore a grant application was submitted to Department of Water. If this grant gets accepted it will enable water to be gravity fed from a redeveloped railway dam to a 250,000L tank at Kylie Siding. The water would then be available for fire fighting supplies and emergency stock water supplies. The dam can hold up to 22 million litres of water so will provide a significant water supply to the eastern part of the Shire.

Local Economy: The Shire of West Arthur will be a vibrant, sustainable and growing community with active business and agriculture sectors.

Ongoing actions and initiatives include:

- Ongoing management and improvements to Darkan Caravan Park.
- Maintaining the appearance of the townsites.

Major initiatives:

- Development of the light industrial area with Landcorp.
- Completion of the Darkan Information Bay is planned for 2017/18
- Completion of signage for the Collie Darkan Rail Trail
- Enterprising communities workshops and planning with the support of Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt.

Governance and Organisation: Through strong leadership and responsible, ethical management the best outcomes will be achieved in partnership with the people of the Shire.

Ongoing actions and initiatives include:

- Continuing to work towards the improvement of the Shire's Integrated Planning and Reporting. A full review of the Community and Corporate plans was undertaken.
- Continuing to provide a flexible workplace and staff housing, and encourage and support learning and development opportunities.
- Involvement in the 4WDL Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils.
- Provision of information to the public through the Bleat, Shire's website, Facebook and the CRC's Community Newsletter.
- Encouraging local sporting groups to plan for asset renewal and upgrade through reserve funds matched dollar for dollar by the Shire. Arthur River Country Club and the Darkan Sport and Community Centre continued to utilise this program. The Moodiarrup Sports Complex Inc. joined the program in 2016/17.

7. Statutory Reporting Requirements

National Competition Policy

The application of national competition policy in Western Australian local governments is guided by the Clause 7 Statement which requires annual reporting of the implementation, application and effects of NCP principles as well as structural reform of public monopolies and legislative review.

(a) Competitive Neutrality

The objective of competitive neutrality involves the introduction of measures effectively to remove any **net** competitive advantages arising simply as a result of local government ownership of business entity. Local government is only required to implement the principles of competitive neutrality to the extent that the benefits to be realised from implementation outweigh the costs in respect of individual business activities exceeding \$500,000 annual income.

The Shire did not undertake any activities or functions in 2016/2017 year that met the financial benchmark.

(b) Structural Reform of Public Monopolies

The Shire does not have any activities or functions that are considered to be public monopolies and did not privatise any of its activities or functions in 2016/2017.

(c) Legislative Review

All local laws have been reviewed for compliance with NCP and all amendments to existing and all future local laws are monitored to ensure no anti-competitive practices are included.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

In accordance with legislation, the Shire of West Arthur must report on the implementation of the Disability Services Plan each year in its Annual Report. The plan ensures that people with disabilities can access Council facilities, functions and services.

A new plan must be prepared every five years.

Council adopted the Shire of West Arthur Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2017 at the December 2012 Ordinary Council meeting which was then submitted to the Disability Services Commission in December 2012. Research and consultation for the 2017-2022 Plan has commenced.

Status of outcomes in the 2016/2017 report period:

- **Consultation-** The community is encouraged participate in consultation regarding council's future plans for services and facilities by methods including the survey made available in various formats.
- **Library services** - Overdrive and Borrow Box are now available at the library enabling free and easy access to audio books.
- **Customer Service** – Customer service and awareness are a continual process and are addressed in inductions when new staff commence.
- **Alternative Format** - All publications are available in larger print or an alternative format on request.

- **Public Facilities-** The Health and Resource Centre expansion plans meet the legal requirements for access, including planning for carparks as part of the redevelopment, construction has commenced.

Complaints Register

Section 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires the Annual Report to contain details of the entries made in the Complaints Register regarding complaints about elected members. There were no complaints recorded in the register of complaints in the year under review.

State Records Act

The Shire of West Arthur record keeping plan has been prepared to ensure compliance with Section 19 of the State Records Act 2000. A review of the Shire of West Arthur's Recordkeeping Plan was undertaken in 2016.

Freedom of Information Statement

In complying with the Freedom of Information Act 1992, the 2016/17 Shire of West Arthur is required to prepare and publish an information statement. The Shire's Information Statement was updated in December 2015 and a copy is available from the Shire Office and Shire website. The Shire had no Freedom of Information requests in the 2016/17 year.

Employee Remuneration

The number of employees of the Shire entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more:
\$110,000-\$120,000 One employee.

8. Annual Financial Report Including Independent Audit Report

A full copy of the audited Annual Financial Statements for the Shire of West Arthur is included in this Report on the following pages.