



# City of Rockingham

## MINUTES

### **Corporate and Community Development Committee**

Held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 5:00pm  
City of Rockingham Council Chamber



**City of Rockingham**  
**Corporate and Community Development**  
**Committee Minutes**  
**5:00pm Tuesday 18 March 2025**



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**City of Rockingham**  
**Corporate and Community Development**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 18 March 2025 - Council Chamber**



**1. Declaration of Opening**

The Chairperson declared the Corporate and Community Development Committee meeting open at **5:10pm** and welcomed all present.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Chairperson noted that the City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

**Recording and Live Streaming of proceedings**

In accordance with Council Policy this meeting is being live streamed on the City's website, with the exception of confidential items and periods of adjournment or as determined by the Presiding Member.

By being present at this meeting, members of the public consent to the possibility that their image and voice may be live streamed to the public. Recordings are also made available on the City's website following the meeting.

Please note that clause 8.5 of the City's *Standing Orders Local Law 2001* provides that "no person is to use any electronic, visual or audio recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of the Council or a committee without the written permission of the Council".

If anyone breaches this Standing Order they will be asked to leave the Council Chamber.

**2. Record of Attendance/Apologies/Approved Leave of Absence**

**2.1 Council Members**

Cr Craig Buchanan, JP	Chairperson
Cr Mike Crichton	
Cr Caroline Hume	
Cr Leigh Liley	
Cr Kelly Middlecoat (via MS Teams)	
Cr Robert Schmidt	

*Note: All Council Members attending by electronic means have endorsed declarations pursuant to Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, r14C(5) which are captured in the City's record management system. This Note is to reflect the requirements of r. 14C (7).*

**2.2 Executive**

Mr John Pearson	A/Chief Executive Officer
Mr Michael Holland	Director Community Development
Mr Jim Olynyk, JP	Manager Governance and Councillor Support
Mr Michael Yakas	Manager Customer and Corporate Support
Mr Alvin Santiago	Manager Financial Services
Ms Nollaig Baker	Manager Strategy and Corporate Communications
Mr Richard Hardy	A/Manager Community and Leisure Facilities

	<p>Mr Matthew Emmott Ms Mary-Jane Rigby Mr Paul Hayward Ms Alison Oliver Ms Melissa James Ms Katie MacLachlan Ms Helen Savage Ms Lauren Townsend Ms Sue Langley Ms Jennifer Weinman</p>	<p>Manager Community Infrastructure Planning Manager Community Safety and Support Services Manager, Community Capacity Building Manager Library and Information Services Manager Economic Development and Tourism Financial Controller Senior Projects Officer (Corporate Services) Governance Coordinator Governance Officer Governance Officer, Councillor Support and FOI</p>
	<b>2.3 Members of the Gallery:</b>	2
	<b>2.4 Apologies:</b>	
	Mr Michael Parker	Chief Executive Officer
	<b>2.5 Approved Leave of Absence:</b>	Nil
<b>3.</b>	<b>Responses to Previous Public Questions Taken on Notice</b>	
	Nil	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>	
	<p><b>5:13pm</b> The Chairperson opened Public Question Time and invited members of the Public Gallery to ask questions. The Chairperson noted that questions should relate to the business of the Committee and this is the only opportunity in the meeting for the public to ask questions.</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	
	<p><b>Moved Cr Hume, seconded Cr Liley:</b></p> <p>That Committee <b>CONFIRMS</b> the Minutes of the Corporate and Community Development Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2025, as a true and accurate record.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes</b>	
	Nil	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Announcement by the Person Presiding without Discussion</b>	
	<p><b>5:15pm</b> The Chairperson announced to all present that decisions made at Committees of Council are recommendations only and may be adopted in full, amended or deferred when presented for consideration at the next Council meeting.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Declarations of Members and Officers Interests</b>	
	<p><b>5:15pm</b> The Chairperson asked if there were any interests to declare.</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Petitions/Deputations/Presentations/Submissions</b>	
	Nil	

<b>10.</b>	<b>Matters for which the Meeting may be Closed</b>
	Nil
<b>11.</b>	<b>Bulletin Items</b>
	<p><b>Corporate and General Management Services Information Bulletin – March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Services</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corporate Services Team Overview</li> <li>2. Project Status Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Online Rostering</li> <li>2.2 Follow Me Printing</li> <li>2.3 Warnbro Library – Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)</li> <li>2.4 Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) Waste Collection and Processing Service</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Information Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 List of Payments February 2025</li> <li>3.2 Monthly Financial Management Report January 2025</li> <li>3.3 Amendment to Rate Record – Non-Rateable Land</li> <li>3.4 Amendment to Rate Record – Write Off</li> <li>3.5 Awarding of Tenders by CEO - Delegated Authority</li> <li>3.6 Lease Tenure Matters</li> <li>3.7 Leased Property Maintenance Grants</li> <li>3.8 Delegated Authority to Dispose of Property by way of Lease</li> <li>3.9 Development Contribution Scheme</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>General Management Services Directorate</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General Management Services Team Overview</li> <li>2. Project Status Reports</li> <li>3. Information Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Meetings and Events</li> <li>3.2 Use of the Common Seal</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Governance and Councillor Support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governance and Councillor Support Team Overview</li> <li>2. Project Status Reports</li> <li>3. Information Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests</li> <li>3.2 Council Member Requests</li> <li>3.3 Citizenships</li> <li>3.4 Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. Newsletter</li> <li>3.5 Coming Events</li> <li>3.6 Notice of Motion – Status Report</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Human Resources</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Human Resources Team Overview</li> <li>2. Project Status Reports</li> <li>3. Information Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Recruitment</li> <li>3.2 Workplace Health and Safety Statistics</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Strategy, Marketing and Communications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategy, Marketing and Communications Team Overview</li> <li>2. Project Status Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Resident Perception Survey 2024</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Team Plan</li><li>3.2 Community Engagement – Share your thoughts</li><li>3.3 Social Media</li><li>3.4 Media Tracking</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Legal Services &amp; General Counsel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Legal Services &amp; General Counsel Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports</li><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provision of Legal Advice<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Legal Advice – Local Government Operational Matters</li><li>3.2 Litigation</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
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### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Schmidt:**

That Council Members acknowledge having read the Corporate and General Management Services Information Bulletin – March 2025 and the content be accepted.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

	<p><b>Community Development Information Bulletin – March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Community Safety and Support Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community Safety and Support Services Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Alcohol Management Plan</li><li>2.2 Community Hub Feasibility Study</li><li>2.3 CCTV Plan</li><li>2.4 Assertive Outreach</li><li>2.5 Social Connection and Support Pilot Project</li><li>2.6 Crisis/Supported Accommodation</li></ul></li><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Community Support Services</li><li>3.2 Rockingham Connect Community Transport Project</li><li>3.3 Community Safety</li><li>3.4 Community Engagement</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Library Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Library Services Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports</li><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 January 2025 Library Services Statistics</li><li>3.2 Mary Davies Library and Community Centre</li><li>3.3 Baldivis South Community Centre</li><li>3.4 Rockingham Library</li><li>3.5 Safety Bay Library</li><li>3.6 Warnbro Community Library</li><li>3.7 Library Lovers' Week</li><li>3.8 January 2025 Library Facebook Statistics</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Community Infrastructure Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community Infrastructure Planning Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Aqua Jetty Stage 2</li><li>3.2 Baldivis District Sporting Complex</li><li>3.3 Safety Bay Foreshore Community Facility Development</li><li>3.4 Stan Twight Reserve Clubroom Redevelopment</li><li>3.5 Anniversary Park Clubroom Redevelopment</li><li>3.6 Baldivis Recreation Reserve Master Plan</li><li>3.7 Lark Hill Sportsplex Northern Expansion</li><li>3.8 Baldivis Men's Shed</li><li>3.9 Autumn Centre Redevelopment</li></ul></li></ul>
	<b>Community Capacity Building</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community Capacity Building Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Seniors Strategy</li><li>2.2 Cultural Development and the Arts Strategy</li></ul></li><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Grants</li><li>3.2 Disability Access and Inclusion</li><li>3.3 Reconciliation Action Plan</li><li>3.4 Seniors</li><li>3.5 City Volunteer Program</li><li>3.6 Rockingham Volunteer Centre (RVC)</li><li>3.7 Early Years, Children and Families</li><li>3.8 Sport and Recreation</li><li>3.9 Health and Wellbeing</li><li>3.10 Youth Development</li><li>3.11 Cultural Development and the Arts</li><li>3.12 Rockingham Arts Centre</li></ul></li></ul>
	<b>Community and Leisure Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community and Leisure Facilities Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Rockingham Lotteries House Relocation and Community Hub Development</li></ul></li><li>3. Information Items<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Aqua Jetty</li><li>3.2 Warnbro Community Recreation Centre</li><li>3.3 Mike Barnett Sports Complex</li><li>3.4 Rockingham Aquatic Centre</li><li>3.5 Gary Holland Community Centre</li><li>3.6 Autumn Centre</li><li>3.7 Baldivis Indoor Sports Complex</li></ul></li></ul>
	<b>Economic Development and Tourism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Economic Development and Tourism Team Overview</li><li>2. Project Status Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Local Business Development</li><li>2.2 Economic Development Strategy</li><li>2.3 Iconic Economic Development / Tourism Events</li><li>2.4 Rockingham Discovery Centre</li><li>2.5 Destination Marketing</li></ul></li></ul>

	2.6	Visitor Servicing Fee for Service
	2.7	Mobile Visitor Service Unit
3.		Information Items
	3.1	Stakeholder Engagement - Economic Development and Tourism

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Crichton, seconded Cr Hume:**

That Council Members acknowledge having read the Community Development Information Bulletin – March 2025 and the content be accepted.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

## 12. Agenda Items

### Corporate Services

Corporate Services Director and Support	
<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>CS-002/25      Annual Electors' Meeting, 6 February 2025 Resolution: Weekly Red Bin Collection</b>
<b>File number:</b>	CPM/168-12
<b>Proponent/s:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	Miss Helen Savage, Senior Projects Officer (Corporate Services)
<b>Other Contributor/s:</b>	Mr John Pearson, Director Corporate Services
<b>Date of Committee meeting:</b>	18 March 2025
<b>Previously before Council:</b>	28 January 2025 (CS-001/25), 17 December 2024 (CS-001/25), 23 July 2024 (CS-018/24), 26 March 2024 (CS-007/24), 25 July 2023 (CS-015/23), 27 June 2023 (CS-015/23), 27 January 2021 (CS-002/21), 27 September 2016 (EP-030/16).
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	
<b>Nature of Council's role:</b>	Executive
<b>Attachments:</b>	
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	
<b>Site:</b>	
<b>Lot Area:</b>	

### Purpose of Report

To consider the following resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

*That Council **CONTINUES** the red lid bin collection on a weekly basis.*

### Background

On the 27 September 2016 the City of Rockingham (**City**) committed to introducing a three-bin waste system involving the supply and delivery of the existing household bin system consisting of 140 litre general waste (red-lid), 240 litre green-waste (green-lid) and 360 litre recyclable waste bins.

At the time of this commitment the City's household two-bin system consisted of a 240 litre general waste bin that was collected weekly and a 240 litre recyclable waste bin collected fortnightly. The introduction of a third bin to the City's waste collection provision in June 2017 was in preparation for providing a Food Organics, Garden Organics (**FOGO**) collection and processing service that is in accordance with the Waste Authority's Better practise FOGO kerbside collection guidelines.

The additional bin and changes to bin capacity effectively increased the total current fortnightly service (for the three bins) to an 880 litre service providing an increase from the previous 720 litres two-bin service. The implementation of a FOGO kerbside collection and processing service increases the City's waste collection capacity further to a 980 litre services through the green-lid bin being collected weekly and the red-lid bin collection becoming a fortnightly service.

The City is not the first to implement FOGO with 23 other local governments in Perth, Peel and Southwest regions undertaking FOGO kerbside collection. It is our understanding all of these occur as per the Better Bin Plus: GO FOGO kerbside collection guidelines.

A timeline of decision points made by Council from 2016 are as follows:

27 September 2016 (EP-030/16)

That Council **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award WALGA Quote W16/17-26 - Supply, Assembly and Distribution of Mobile Garbage Bins (MGB's) for General Waste; Mobile Recycling Bin's (MRB's) for Recyclable Waste and Green Waste; and associated components, subject to the quotation being within the budget.

27 January 2021 (CS-002/21)

That Council **ADOPTS** the City of Rockingham Waste Plan 2020/2021.

\*Note this included the implementation of FOGO in the City of Rockingham by 2025

27 June 2023 (CS-015/23)

That Council **DEFERS** Item CS-015/23 Provision of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Waste Collection and Processing Service to be presented at a Councillor Engagement Session.

\*Note Councillor Engagement Session occurred on 17 July 2023 and included FOGO information as required by the resolution

25 July 2023 (CS-015/23)

That Council **APPROVES** the implementation of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection and processing service for residential properties in accordance with the City of Rockingham's Waste Plan 2020-2031 by the end of June 2025, as detailed in Option 1 of this report.

26 March 2024 (CS-007/24)

That Council **NOT SUPPORT** the following resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 8 February 2024:

1. direct the CEO conduct a thorough review into cost and environmental impact of the current FOGO Policy, as well as whether the current FOGO policy can be changed to adapt itself to be a better fit for all residents of the city of Rockingham
2. select parts of the current FOGO Policy remain, including but not limited to: The adaptation of food scraps to be disposed of in the green bins.
3. direct the CEO direct stakeholders to seriously consider a "switching of the lids" between the green and red bins in order to give a better balance of rubbish disposals to the people who are directly impacted by this policy, the residents, if they are to keep the current FOGO cycle in place
4. direct the CEO to consider application for the Better Bins Plus program in order to relieve the cost which as of now has gone up to 25 dollars per household as opposed to the previous 11 dollars per household that was quoted in CS-015/23 in the August OCM
5. force a motion that the policy be sent out for community consultation be made, not to discourage or sway in favour of FOGO, but gauge communities understanding of FOGO Policy as well as their opinions on what if any part of the FOGO Policy should be adapted.
6. direct the CEO, if no agreement can be made on implementation of these FOGO modifications, that the policy in its entirety be withdrawn and the previous motion CS-015/23 be revoked, citing implementation cost, lack of choice for residents and environmental issues associated with lack of proper information."

23 July 2024 (CS-018/24)

That Council **ACCEPTS** the tender submitted from Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd, Level 4, 65 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont NSW, for Tender T24/25-39 – Provision of services for the collection and processing of recyclable material and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) waste in accordance with the tender documentation with the service commencement date of 26 June 2025 for a period of 8 years.

17 December 2024 (CS-001/25)

That Council **DELEGATES** authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award Tender T24/25-87 and enter into a contract for the provision of services for the production and delivery of kitchen caddies to properties within the City of Rockingham subject to the consideration for payment being within the approved budget.

28 January 2025 (CS-001/25)

That Council **ACCEPTS** the tender submitted from Trident Plastics (SA) Pty Ltd, 589 Torrens Road, St Clair, South Australia for Tender T24/25-87 - Provision of services for the production and delivery of kitchen caddies to properties within the City of Rockingham for \$1,398,690 (excluding GST)

**Details**

The following resolution was passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

**Motion: Weekly red lid bin collection**

**Moved Mr Ryan Potsey, seconded Mr Jason Davies**

That Council **CONTINUES** the red bin collection on a weekly basis.

**Carried 36/7**

Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*"This is to the council members to reconsider their previous vote on changing the bin collection from weekly to fortnightly. Vote again to overrule the previous vote on bin collection frequency at this meeting and stop any actions to change the current arrangements. While we all want to reduce our waste generation reducing bin space is not a complete solution as it is an issue that requires a more holistic solution.*

- 1) Producers and manufacturers are increasing the amount of packaging that is created to sell products because it helps with automation and their own waste reduction such as bagged apples.*
- 2) Items manufactured these days are being made more disposable to reduce costs it can be argued changing bin collection from weekly to fortnightly discriminates against the poor.*
- 3) The current bin sizes mean a single large object that breaks now take up considerable bin space.*
- 4) Because of the current bin size if we go to fortnightly collections, the total amount of bin space will be approximately 25% of what it was only a few years ago.*
- 5) If a person were to accidentally miss a bin collection that means 4 weeks of rubbish will be in the next collection. That means they will need to survive with 12.5% of the bin space they would have had with weekly collections with the previous larger bins.*
- 6) FIFO workers who work a typical fortnight rotation may never be home to put their bins out.*
- 7) Fortnight collection will increase the amount of flies, maggots and bad smells especially since plastic shopping bags have been eliminated.*

City consideration

At the Annual Electors Meeting Mr Pearson, Director Corporate Services, advised that the City is implementing FOGO in accordance with the State Waste Strategy and the matter has been considered and resolved by Council.

'Figure 1 – Better Bin Plus: GO FOGO kerbside collection guidelines' (Figure 1) describes the recommended three-bin kerbside collection services that the Waste Authority supports through the provision of funding to local governments that deliver kerbside services that are consistent with the guidelines.




	 <b>Mobile Garbage Bins</b>		
	<b>Residual / General waste Red lid</b>	<b>Co-mingled recycling Yellow lid</b>	<b>FOGO Lime Green lid</b>
Preferred bin volume	80, 120 or 140 litres	240 or 360 litres	240 litres
Preferred collection frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly
Weekly collection volume	Maximum 70 litres	Minimum 120 litres	Minimum 240 litres
<b>Kitchen asset and consumables</b>			
Kitchen caddies	5 to 8 litres		
Kitchen caddy liners	AS4736-2006 for compostable and biodegradable plastics		

Figure 1 - Better Bin Plus: GO FOGO kerbside collection guidelines image from <https://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/programs/view/better-bins>

The City has been successful in securing a funding agreement for \$861,000 which is the equivalent to \$15 per household with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (**DWER**). The amount of funding received is conditional on the City providing kerbside services to households in accordance with the minimum requirements as set out Figure 1.

Moving the existing weekly general waste kerbside collection to fortnightly is a priority to achieving a high performing three bin system. This division is designed to maximise recovery and minimise waste going to landfill.

A once a week collection service of the 140L general waste (red-lid) bin, essentially the same service as what the City currently provides, is likely to result in the City over-servicing on general waste collection for the majority of households, whilst also not encouraging the use of the FOGO service. It is anticipated that FOGO will divert approximately 12,500 tonnes of general waste from landfill per annum. This will be impacted if the bin servicing schedule does not assist in driving community behaviour to change their habits around waste disposal.

Landfills are anaerobic environments and waste is broken down in an environment without oxygen which produces more methane gas than when waste is disposed of through a FOGO processing facility. By diverting waste that would have previously ended up at landfill through a FOGO processing facility, the waste is converted into a useful composting product that can be earth cycled back into the environment.

All of the above is in direct alignment with the State's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. The City, through its Waste Plan 2021 (**Waste Plan**), has the target of increasing its Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) material recovery to 67% by 2025 and 70% by 2030. To achieve this target the Waste Plan identifies a number of actions which includes the introduction of a FOGO collection and processing service.

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)

DWER endorsed the City's Waste Plan 2021-2031 on 27 May 2021. The Plan includes the introduction of FOGO.

The City has been in regular communication with DWER to facilitate the introduction of a FOGO waste collection and processing service at the City in mid-2025.

**c. Strategic**

Waste Plan 2021-2031

This item addresses Action 1.4 of the Waste Plan 2021-2031 to 'Introduce the Better Practice three-bin FOGO system' by 2025. The City's Waste Plan 2020-2031 identifies the target of making the FOGO system available to all properties that currently use the GO bin in 2025.

In accordance with Action 1.4 of the Waste Plan 2021-2031 various associated tasks and contract awards have been determined by Council as detailed in the background section of this report.

Community Plan

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:**                      **2. Natural Environment - A place of natural beauty where the environment is respected**

**Outcome/Objective:**    *Protection of natural environment - Minimise waste*

**Aspiration:**                      **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:**    *Quality Leadership - Ensure accountable and transparent governance*

**d. Policy**

Nil

**e. Financial**

Project Implementation Cost

The estimated project cost to implement the FOGO service at the City is \$1.56 million. The City has secured funding of \$861,000 through DWER's Better Bins Plus Grants – Complementary Measures program. This amount has been budgeted for and provides for an initial allocation of a kitchen caddy and two rolls of compostable caddy liners to households. It is a requirement of the funding deed for the bin collection services to be in alignment with Better Bin Plus: GO FOGO kerbside collection guidelines (See figure 1). This means should the City maintain a weekly bin collection service it would have to repay any funding that it receives as a result of the agreement.

Collecting the red-lid bin weekly rather than fortnightly will result in an increased cost of up to \$3.1 M in the first year and an additional \$2.2M each financial year following. This higher cost for year one of a weekly red-bin collection includes the loss of the one off \$861,000 Better Bins Plus grant funding that the City will be required to forfeit if it was to continue with a weekly general waste (red-lid) bin collection.

**f. Legal and Statutory**

Waste Plan 2021

Section 6.2(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires local governments to have regard to their plans for the future (which include waste plans made under section 40 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*).

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*  
*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Financial Risk – High

The City has budgeted to implement FOGO in accordance with the Better Bin Plus: GO FOGO kerbside collection guidelines. Should this not occur the City will lose the \$861,000 in funding already approved and will have to allocate extra funds to maintain a weekly service which have been planned to move to a fortnightly service in July 2025. The City will also need to ensure extra funding (approximately \$2.2 million) is available to retain a weekly service.

### Comments

Where funds are provided to the City under the funding agreement and the Waste Authority is not satisfied the City has used all reasonable endeavours to comply with the requirements, a request may be made to the City to repay all or a portion of the grant funds.

To continue a weekly general waste (red lid) bin collection will result in the City not meeting its obligations held under the funding agreement with DWER and making the City ineligible to receive any of the \$861,000 funding or having to repay any funding it receives as a result of the agreement. There will also be an increase in costs borne by the City to the value of \$3.1M in the first year and an additional \$2.2M each financial year to follow. These costs have not been budgeted for and may result in an increase to waste charges on the rates notice to cover the shortfall in the City's budget.

The City has been committed to the implementation of FOGO since 2016 and as such it has made substantial operational changes in preparation for the reduction of 12,500 per annum tonnes of kerbside general waste being collected and disposed of at the Miller Road Landfill (**MRLF**). These operational changes include but are not limited to;

- 1) adjustments to the number and type of operational waste fleet vehicles;
- 2) the modifications that have been made to MRLF staff rostering; and
- 3) The nature and type of services supplied by contractor for FOGO and Recycling services.

The City has maintained a consistent position for many years to implement FOGO in line with best practice and this is identical to most other local governments. To shift this position now will create significant operational issues including budget implications, communication planning, fleet management, staffing, route collection and education resources. Importantly a waste collection service that continues with a weekly general waste (red-lid) collection does not align with the philosophy or promotion of the three-bin best practice FOGO waste collection system and is not in alignment with a state-wide consistent waste collection and management practices.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 to continue the red lid bin collection on a weekly basis.

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Schmidt, seconded Cr Liley:**

That Council **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 to continue the red lid bin collection on a weekly basis.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 5/1

#### Council Members voting for the motion:

Cr Schmidt                      Cr Liley  
Cr Hume                         Cr Crichton  
Cr Buchanan

#### Council Members voting against the motion:

Cr Middlecoat

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## Corporate Services Financial Services



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>CS-003/25</b>	<b>Annual Electors' Meeting, 6 February 2025 Resolution: Rates Smoothing Option Fees and Interest on Late Payments</b>
File number:	GVR/60-4	
Proponent/s:		
Author:	Mr Alvin Santiago, Manager Financial Services	
Other Contributor/s:		
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:		
Maps/Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

### Purpose of Report

To consider the following resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

*That Council:*

- 1. Removes the cost of option fees for rates smoothing*
- 2. Considers either removing interest on late payments or changing them to a flat fee setup.*

### Background

The *Local Government Act 1995 (Act)*, section 5.33, requires Council to consider any decisions arising from the Annual Electors' Meeting and, in deciding on a response, also provide a reason for its decision.

At the Annual Electors Meeting 2023/2024 held on 6 February 2025, the floor carried Motion 4.9, "Rates smoothing/late payments".

The City of Rockingham (**City**) implemented Rates Smoothing in 2015/2016. It is an agreement between the rate payer and the local government which allows a ratepayer to pay their rates weekly, fortnightly or monthly inclusive of costs. It is implemented in accordance with Section 6.49 of the Act.

A Ratepayer may choose to pay their rates in full, by 4 equal or nearly equal instalments or by such other method of instalments as is set forth in the local government's annual budget. Beyond the 4 instalment option the City also offers a 2 instalment option. This occurs pursuant to Section 6.45 of the Act. It also provides a local government to impose as additional charge (including an amount by way of interest) where payment of a rate or service charge is made by instalment.

A 5.5% interest is applied to all instalments. An administrative fee (additional charge) of \$4.50 is charged for each instalment to cover the cost of managing the instalment plan.

When a Rate Smoothing agreement is formed the City applies an interest rate of 5.5% in accordance with Section 6.51 of the Act.

Section 6.51 of the Act allows local governments to impose interest on overdue rates amounts owed to it. A local government is not to impose interest unless the money is owed for not less than 35 days and the interest rate charged is not to exceed the rate prescribed by the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 (Regulations)*. The City charges interest on late payments of 10%, which is less than the maximum interest of 11% prescribed by the Regulations.

### Details

The following resolution was passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

#### **Motion: Rates smoothing / late payments**

**Moved Mr Jason Davies, seconded Ms Marissa Davies**

*That Council:*

1. *Removes the cost of option fees for rates smoothing*
2. *Considers either removing interest on late payments or changing them to a flat fee setup.*

**Carried 18/6**

#### Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*"With the cost-of-living crisis still not showing any sign of easing up, people continue to find ways to pinch pennies in an ever-going struggle to ensure an acceptable lifestyle for themselves and their families. Whilst I understand that a level of service is needed for the City to remain profitable, I believe these two fees surmount to gauging ratepayers.*

*Now I must remind all before I hear the argument of it being just a small fee for the ratepayer's convenience, that it doesn't matter how small or big the fee is. This should be about allowing ratepayers to pay their rates in a timely manner to reduce the manpower chasing late payments.*

*The highest option for rates smoothing, which is \$32 for the quarterly setup, is the most expensive option could be the difference for a family paying a bill, some well needed groceries in the pantry or fridge, maybe even some fuel for them to get to work.*

*Its mind boggling to think that if this was, in a hypothetical situation, having the quarterly setup being the only option, in a city of 56000 properties approximately, that the City could be collecting \$1.79 million in just the option fee alone. That's just a cost option fee.*

*Ratepayers are already pre-paying for services from the City in advance for the upcoming financial year. The imposition of additional fees for payment plan options, especially when ratepayers are already paying in advance, seems unjust and financially penalises the residents who cannot afford to pay in full."*

#### City consideration

At the Annual Electors Meeting, Mr Pearson, Director Corporate Services, advised that there is no charge for setting up rate smoothing. There is, however, an interest amount of 5.5% for the outstanding amounts. For the people who choose to pay by instalment, the cost is \$13.50, not \$32. Rates are due and payable by the 35<sup>th</sup> day after the rates notice is issued, and for those who pay in full, there is no charge. The 5.5% covers the cost of the foregone revenue the City would've received should the rates have been paid in full by the due date and other incidental charges. Should it not be charged, then the cost would be borne by all, not just those choosing that payment option.

Mr Pearson further explained that regarding point 2, the City needs to follow legislation regarding the application of interest and overdue fees. Consequently, a flat fee cannot be applied. Instead, an interest charge is applied in line with legislation. This method is reflective of what other statutory authorities do.

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

c. **Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:**                      **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:**    *Sustainable Local Government - Optimise City resources*

d. **Policy**

Nil

e. **Financial**

As discussed above, no fee is charged to ratepayers who enter a rates smoothing agreement. Contrary to the rationale for the motion, the City does not collect \$1.79M from a rates smoothing option fee.

Removing the 10% interest on late payments could result in lost revenue of \$470,000. Removing the 5.5% instalment and rates smoothing interest could result in a further \$650,000 in lost interest revenue or \$1.12M altogether.

Interest revenue on rates smoothing, instalments and late payments reduce the budget deficiency funded through rates. Foregoing these revenue items will increase the required rates to balance the budget. All interest and fees are applied in accordance with legislation and borne by those who use the service.

The financial implication of changing the charge for late payments to a flat fee is not possible as section 6.13 of the Act only allows interest to be charged on money owing to local government authorities.

It is important the City applied interest on outstanding rates. Failure to do so will likely result in increases in unpaid rates eventually resulting in greater sums being held on the balance sheet unpaid. This eventually impacts cash flow and the ability for the City to meet its debts when due and payable.

f. **Legal and Statutory**

Regulation 5(1a) of the Regulations requires the Chief Executive Officer to establish systems and procedures for properly collecting all money owing to the local government.

Section 6.51 of the Act grants local governments the ability to impose interest on overdue rates and service charges owed to them. A local government is not to impose interest unless the money is owed for not less than 35 days. The interest rate charged should also not exceed the rate prescribed by the Regulations.

Regulation 19A of the Regulations states that the maximum interest rate to be imposed under section 6.13 of the Act is prescribed at 11%.

Section 6.45(1) of the Act states that rates or service charges are ordinarily payable to a local government in a single, full payment but also allows a local government to offer payment options, including:

- four (4) equal or nearly equal instalments, or
- such other methods of payment by instalments as outlined in the annual budget

Section 6.41(2) of the Act requires local governments to issue a rates notice to ratepayers who elected to pay in instalments 28 days before each instalment is due.

Section 6.45(3) of the Act allows local governments to impose an additional charge and interest where payment of a rate or service charge is made by instalment.

Section 6.49 of the Act allows local governments to accept payment of a rate or service charge due and payable by a person in accordance with an agreement made with the person.

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*

*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Financial Risk – High

Interest revenue on rate smoothing, instalments, and late payments totalling \$1.12M reduces the budget deficiency funded through rates. Foregoing these revenue items will increase the required rates to balance the budget. This has not been planned for in future years.

### Comments

A response to each of Mr Jason Davies's requests has been provided below.

**1. Remove the cost of option fees for rates smoothing**

No setup fee is charged to ratepayers who opt to enter into rates smoothing. Contrary to the rationale for the motion, the City does not collect \$1.79M from rates smoothing. The resolution to remove the cost of option fees for rate smoothing is a moot point.

It is important to note, the City offers ratepayers flexible payment options, including weekly, fortnightly, monthly, by two and four instalment options. These options provide convenience and may make payments more manageable for residents. Notwithstanding the motion, proposing removing associated fees based on an incorrect understanding of the rates notice and incorrect distinction between rates smoothing vs instalment options, the motion overlooked the operating costs incidental to the service and ignored the importance of cost recovery based on an equitable 'user-pays' principle. The motion also disregarded the broader financial implication of such a decision and is a departure from the good business judgement of a responsible steward of public funds. The charging of interest, or fees for unpaid funds is in alignment with most statutory authorities. To not charge it would likely cause increases in uncollected rates.

**2. Consider either removing interest on late payments or changing them to a flat fee setup.**

Through the Chief Executive Officer, local government authorities are required to establish systems and procedures for properly collecting all money owing to the local government. Unlike other service companies that can discontinue services in the event of non-payment, local governments have no other option but to continue to deliver essential services such as waste collection, road maintenance, and public safety and community programs.

The requirement that payment of rates is due and payable within 35 days of issue is so that local governments can have cash flow early in the financial year to meet its commitments, help reduce the need of overdraft fees and payments of associated costs, encourage people to pay upfront and earn investment revenue and reduce debt recovery costs. The overall impact of this provides a benefit to all rate payers and helps to keep rates down.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 to remove the cost of option fees for rates smoothing and removing interest on late payments or changing them to a flat fee setup.

**Note:** The Officer Recommendation lapsed for want of a mover and seconder.

## Corporate Services Customer and Corporate Support



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>CS-004/25</b>	<b>Annual Electors' Meeting, 6 February 2025</b> <b>Resolution: Website Graphics</b>
File number:	IFT/67-2	
Proponent/s:		
Author:	Mr Michael Yakas, Manager Customer and Corporate Support	
Other Contributor/s:		
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:		
Maps / Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

### Purpose of Report

To consider the following resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

*That Council CONSIDERS options for speeding up its website using modern graphics formats such as AVIF and WEBP instead of JPG and PNG files, and other techniques.*

### Background

The *Local Government Act 1995*, section 5.33 requires Council to consider any decisions arising from the Annual Electors' Meeting, and in making a decision in response, to also provide a reason for its decision.

At the Annual Electors Meeting 2024/2025 held on 6 February 2025 Motion 4.12 "For council to speed up its website using modern graphics formats such as AVIF and WEBP instead of JPG and PNG files, and other techniques" was carried by the floor.

The City of Rockingham's (**City**) current website has been operational since September 2019. When the scope of works was developed both accessibility and responsiveness were considered. At the time the City wanted to rejuvenate its existing website by incorporating a new look and feel, a refreshed layout and new page structure. The design incorporated current trends pertaining to user experience and overall accessibility including but not limited to; improved usability, increased accessibility and interactions from users on both mobile and desktop devices.

## Details

The following motion was passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

### **Motion: Website Graphics**

#### **Moved Mr Clive Galletly, seconded Mr Sunny Millar**

That Council **CONSIDERS** options for speeding up its website using modern graphics formats such as AVIF and WEBP instead of JPG and PNG files, and other techniques

**Carried – 19/1**

#### Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*Mr Galletly circulated two graphics, one from the City's home page, and one which he optimised which saves almost one megabyte, along with the results of two speed tests he did of the council's website - one for mobile phones, the other desktops. Either way, the performance is lamentable, one is 25%, the other 21%. Ratepayers deserve better.*

#### City consideration

The City's current website is five years old and is built on aging technologies which are nearing end of life. The City acknowledges there are some latency issues when viewing its website. It should be noted that accessibility and search engine optimisation (SEO) still perform well.

The City has budgeted for a website redesign project. The project has been allocated and actions have already commenced on developing a scope of works. Speed and performance will form part of the scope.

While AVIF and WEBP file formats may allow for faster website loading times, the City also needs to consider web browser compatibility, image quality, software compatibility and processing requirements.

## Implications to Consider

### **a. Consultation with the Community**

Nil

### **b. Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

### **c. Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Quality Leadership - Ensure accountable and transparent governance*

### **d. Policy**

Nil

### **e. Financial**

The 2024/2025 Budget includes an allocation of \$160,000 for the implementation of a replacement website.

### **f. Legal and Statutory**

Nil

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*

*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

**Comments**

The introduction of AVIF and WEBP file formats cannot be implemented at this time. The change or introduction of new image file formats need to be considered as a component of the replacement website project. Speed and performance requirements will form part of the scope of works which may result in the introduction of either more efficient image file formats or image compression techniques.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025
2. **SUPPORTS** the implementation of a new website which is to consider matters such as web browser compatibility, image quality, software compatibility and processing requirements.

**Committee Recommendation**

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Schmidt:**

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025
2. **SUPPORTS** the implementation of a new website which is to consider matters such as web browser compatibility, image quality, software compatibility and processing requirements.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

**The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation**

Not Applicable

## Corporate Services Waste Services



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>CS-005/25</b>	<b>Tender T24/25-92 – Provision of Services for Bulk Waste Verge Collection Services</b>
File number:	T24/25-92	
Proponent/s		
Author:	Mr Lee Katnich, Acting Manager Waste Services	
Other Contributors:	Ms Kellie Johnson, Project Officer (Waste Services)	
Date of Committee Meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's Role :	Executive	
Attachments:		
Maps/Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

### Purpose of Report

To provide Council with details of the tender submissions received for Tender T24/25-92 – Provision of services for bulk waste verge collection services, document the results of the tender assessment and make recommendations regarding award of the contract.

### Background

The existing contract for the provision of bulk waste collection services ends in May 2025, following the completion of the current bulk green waste collection.

Tender T24/25-92 – Provision of services for bulk waste verge collection services was advertised in the West Australian on Saturday, 18 January 2025. The Tender closed at 2.00pm, Wednesday, 5 February 2025 and was publicly opened immediately after the closing time. The tender was only advertised for a 12 month period as the City of Rockingham (**City**) is currently undertaking a review of its Bulk Waste Collection Service for future consideration by Council.

Two companies have submitted tenders, being TC Waste (WA) Pty Ltd trading as D & M Waste Management, current contractor, and Western Maze WA trading as WA Recycling Services. D & M Waste Management was previously awarded the contract for the provision of bulk waste collection services for the City from 1 September 2023 to 30 June 2025 at the cost of \$1,425,000.

### Details

The scope of the Tender for the provision of bulk waste collection services is the same as the existing contract and the type of works to be undertaken includes one general waste verge collection and two green waste collections per year.

The period of the contract shall be from the 14 July 2025 until the completion of the final green waste collection in June 2026.

A panel, as approved by the Director Corporate Services in compliance with Executive Standard – Purchasing of Goods and Services, undertook tender evaluations.

Evaluation of the tender, in accordance with the advertised tender assessment criteria, produced the following weighted scores:

Tenderer	Level of Service	Understanding Tender Requirements	Price Considerations	Total Score	Rank
	25 Pts	25 Pts	50 Pts	100 Pts	
TC Waste (WA) Pty Ltd trading as D & M Waste Management	21.7	17.1	50.0	88.8	1
Western Maze WA trading as WA Recycling Services	16.7	11.7	44.7	73.0	2

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

c. **Strategic**

Community Plan

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2019-2029:

**Aspiration 2:** *Grow and Nurture Community Connectedness and Wellbeing*

**Strategic Objective:** *Accessibility – Ensure that the City's infrastructure and services are accessible to seniors and to people with a disability.*

*Services and facilities – Provide cost effective services and facilities which meet community needs.*

**Aspiration 3:** *Plan for Future Generation*

**Strategic Objective:** *Sustainable waste solutions – Incorporate new opportunities that support responsible and sustainable disposal of waste.*

d. **Policy**

In accordance with Executive Standard - Purchasing of Goods and Services, for purchases above \$250,000, a public tender process is to be conducted in accordance with the provision of section 3.57 of the *Local Government Act 1995*; and *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, Part 4, Division 2, regulation 11A(1).

The expected cost is above the value of the current Chief Executive Officer delegation to approve a Tender.

e. **Financial**

The Tender relates to the bulk waste verge collection for the next financial year. Therefore, there is no financial impact in the current year's budget. If the Tender is accepted, this will require an allocation of \$1,605,000 and disposal costs in the 2025-2026 annual budget.

Annual allocation to fund the bulk waste verge collection service is included in the current Business Plan.

**f. Legal and Statutory**

In accordance with section 3.57 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, Part 4, Division 2, regulation 11(1).

*'Tenders are to be publicly invited according to the requirements of this Division before a local government enters into a contract for another person to supply goods or services if the consideration under the contract is, or is expected to be, more, or worth more, than \$250,000 unless sub regulation (2) states otherwise'.*

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment: High and Extreme Risks  
Financial / Health and Safety: Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

**Comments**

TC Waste (WA) trading as D & M Waste Management is the current contractor for the City of Rockingham.

Following consideration of the submission in accordance with the tender assessment criteria, TC Waste (WA) Pty Ltd trading as D & M Waste Management represents best value to the City and is therefore recommended as the preferred tenderer.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council **ACCEPTS** the tender submitted from TC Waste (WA) Pty Ltd trading as D & M Waste Management of 12 Butcher Street Kwinana for Tender T24/25-92 – Provision of services for bulk waste verge collection services in accordance with the tender documentation for the lump sum value of \$1,605,000 excluding GST.

**Committee Recommendation**

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Hume:**

That Council **ACCEPTS** the tender submitted from TC Waste (WA) Pty Ltd trading as D & M Waste Management of 12 Butcher Street Kwinana for Tender T24/25-92 – Provision of services for bulk waste verge collection services in accordance with the tender documentation for the lump sum value of \$1,605,000 excluding GST.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

**The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation**

Not Applicable

## Corporate Services Financial Services



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>CS-006/25</b>	<b>Budget Review – February 2025 (Absolute Majority)</b>
File number:	FLM/17-5	
Proponent/s:		
Author:	Mrs Katie MacLachlan, Financial Controller	
Other Contributor/s:		
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:	1. February 2025 Budget Review	
Maps / Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

### Purpose of Report

For Council to adopt the February 2025 Budget Review.

### Background

The City of Rockingham (**City**) undertakes three budget reviews during the year to monitor its financial performance against the annual budget and to review projections to the end of the financial year. Any variations of the annual budget arising from the review process are presented for Council's consideration and authorisation.

This budget review is mandatory and must be undertaken between 31 December 2024 and 28 February 2025 and presented to Council on or before 31 March 2025. The City must provide a copy of the budget review and the budget review item from the unconfirmed Council minutes to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries within 14 days of the Council meeting.

### Details

The February 2025 Budget Review includes transactions during the July 2024 – February 2025 period and adjustments required to the annual budget due to the completion of the annual audit. The document includes the following information:

1. Summary of Budget Position
2. Summary of Major Amendments over \$250,000
3. Detailed Statement of Operating and Non-Operating Revenue and Expenditure

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

c. **Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Quality Leadership - Ensure accountable and transparent governance*

d. **Policy**

Nil

e. **Financial**

The overall effect of this budget review is an anticipated closing surplus for 30 June 2025 of \$36K after considering the adjustment to the opening surplus based on the annual audit and other budget amendments arising from the review.

f. **Legal and Statutory**

Regulation 33A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations* requires local governments to undertake a review of their annual budget between 1 January and the last day of February. The review must be submitted to Council on or before 31 March. Council should then determine (by absolute majority) whether to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendations made in the review. Within 14 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.

Section 6.8(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires a local government not to incur expenditure from municipal funds until it has been approved by an absolute majority in advance by the Council.

g. **Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*

*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

### Comments

In addition to forecasting the estimated budget position at 30 June 2025, the February Budget Review also aims to identify savings or additional costs for completed and ongoing projects.

Below is an explanation of the proposed amendments more than \$250K. The other proposed amendments, including expenditure offset by additional revenues, internal allocations and other budget changes that are less than \$250K individually, are detailed in the February 2025 Budget Review attachment.

1. **Opening Position**

The opening position is \$82.6M as per the Audited Annual Financial Statements of the last financial year.

## 2. Operating Revenue

Operating revenue has increased by \$1.6M and includes the following significant amendments:

- 2.1 \$1.2M increase in grant funding from Main Roads for Road Improvement Project - Mundijong Road (refer point 5.3 below).
- 2.2 \$359k decrease in Main Roads State Black Spot grant due to withdrawal of Baldivis Road / Rivergums Blvd – Install roundabout project (refer point 5.4 below).
- 2.3 \$250k decrease in Department of Transport grant due to the Port Kennedy Boat Ramp project no longer proceeding (See point 5.6 below).

## 3. Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditure has increased by \$1.5M, which is less than 1% of the current operating expenditure budget. There were no individual amendments exceeding \$250K. Proposed amendments that are individually immaterial are detailed in the attachment.

## 4. Non-Operating Income

Non-operating income has nil budget amendments.

## 5. Non-Operating Expenditure

Non-operating expenditure has reduced by \$132K and includes the following significant amendments:

- 5.1 \$1.4M increase to align budgets with actual expected spend for Road projects.
- 5.2 \$978k decrease for Willmott Drive – Construct traffic treatments.
- 5.3 \$902K increase for MRRG Road Improvement Project – Mundijong Road. (Refer point 2.1 above).
- 5.4 \$800k increase due to proposed allocation of surplus funds to the Aqua Jetty Reserve to fund the Aqua Jetty Stage 2 project.
- 5.5 \$539K decrease for Baldivis Road and Rivergums Boulevard – Install Roundabout project. (Refer 2.2 above).
- 5.6 \$358k decrease as the Port Kennedy Boat Ramp project is no longer proceeding. (Refer point 2.3 above).
- 5.7 \$292k decrease for Churcher Road – Drainage Upgrade, the project will be reprioritised in a future year.
- 5.8 \$259K reduction in Rae Road – WA Bicycle Network Path Construction project.
- 5.9 \$250k increase in Depot – Urgent Accommodation Works project.

The other proposed amendments, including expenditure offset by additional revenues, internal allocations and other minor changes, are detailed in the February 2025 Budget Review document.

## 6. Conclusion

The quarterly budget review is prepared to address the changes encountered during a financial year and makes modifications to address these changes. It is important to continuously monitor annual budgets and update forecasts, and the quarterly budget review is viewed as the most appropriate tool to address this.

This approach is crucial in ensuring the City remains in a sound financial position to meet its planned operating and capital projects and importantly pay its liabilities when due and payable. The annual budget and the budget reviews aim to strike a balance between sustainability and affordability of services.

### Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council **ADOPTS** the February 2025 Budget Review as detailed in Attachment 1.

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Hume:**

That Council **ADOPTS** the February 2025 Budget Review as detailed in Attachment 1.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 4/2

**Council Members voting for the motion:**

Cr Liley

Cr Hume

Cr Crichton

Cr Buchanan

**Council Members voting against the motion:**

Cr Middlecoat

Cr Schmidt

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## General Management Services

### General Management Services Governance and Councillor Support



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>GM-003/25</b>	<b>Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held 6 February 2025</b>
File number:	GVR/60	
Proponent/s:		
Author:	Mr Jim Olynyk, Manager Governance and Councillor Support	
Other Contributor/s:	Ms Lauren Townsend, Governance Coordinator Ms Sue Langley, Governance Officer	
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:	1. Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held 6 February 2025	
Maps / Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

## Purpose of Report

To receive the minutes and consider any decisions of the Annual Electors' Meeting held 6 February 2025.

## Background

Council resolved at its 17 December 2024 meeting to hold the Annual Electors' Meeting on Thursday 6 February 2025 commencing at 6:00pm. The meeting was held and the minutes are included as an attachment.

## Details

The Annual Electors' Meeting was held on 6 February 2025 and in accordance with section 5.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995 (Act)* all decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary meeting of Council, or, if that is not practicable at the first ordinary council meeting after that meeting.

With the exception of the decision to receive the 2023-2024 Annual Report (and any procedural motions), there were 12 motions initiated at the meeting that were carried. These are as follows –

**Motion – Weekly red lid bin collection**

Moved Mr Ryan Potsey, seconded Mr Jason Davies

That Council *CONTINUES* the red lid bin collection on a weekly basis.

Carried – 36/7

**Motion – Safety Bay Road speed limit/pedestrian crossings**

Moved Mr Craig Ey, seconded Mr Jason Davies

That Council *CONSIDERS* reducing the speed limit and installing pedestrian crossings on Safety Bay Road between Berry Street and Hawker Street.

Carried – 31/0

**Motion – Nuclear substances on roads**

Moved Ms Mary-Ann Rath, seconded Mr David Rudman

That Council *REFUSES* any nuclear substances coming from the Stirling Naval Base on roads controlled by the Rockingham City Council.

Carried – 32/2

**Motion – Alternate method of removing weeds**

Moved Ms Mary-Ann Rath, seconded Mr David Rudman

That Council *INVESTIGATES* and *IMPLEMENTS* an alternative method of removing weeds.

Carried – 36/1

**Motion – Preservation of tree canopy**

Moved Ms Mary-Ann Rath, seconded Ms Stacey Graham

That Council *ASSESSES* any new housing or general infrastructure in the Rockingham shire to keep as many trees as possible to further the preservation of tree canopy.

Carried – 38/0

**Motion – Temporary closure of Penguin Island**

Moved Ms Stacey Graham, seconded Mr Greg Wheare

That the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal government to close Penguin Island to the general public effective immediately for a sufficient amount of time (not less than two years) to allow the Little Penguins uninterrupted breeding, moulting and other periods for revival and re-growth.

Carried – 38/1

**Motion – Discovery Centre**

Moved Ms Stacey Graham, seconded Mr Sunny Miller

That the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal government to reconsider and re-assess the preferred location of a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point and investigate the location being established at the current Naragebup Environmental Centre on Safety Bay Road.

Carried – 25/5

**Motion – AUKUS**

Moved Ms Latoya Voogt, seconded Mr James Mumme

That Council *ORGANISES* a public meeting to address the need for community information and consultation regarding AUKUS with the following requirements:

- a) Includes attendance of qualified representatives from the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and ARPANSA, and the relevant local MP and/or Government Defence spokesperson;

- b) Includes panel participation of a First Nations spokesperson and representatives from Stop AUKUS WA, Nuclear Free WA (NF-WA), Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) and Conservation Council of WA (CCWA);
- c) Allows for substantial Q&A. Questions may be submitted in advance to the ASA and ARPANSA to ensure they are answered at the event, questions will also be allowed from the floor;
- d) Be moderated by an impartial member of the community, wider media or the public;
- e) Is widely advertised through traditional and digital media, including (but not limited to) the council's Rockport online information and mailed newsletter and calendar.
- f) The meeting is to be held within the next three months, with a view to hold quarterly town-hall meetings, to improve and maintain community engagement through honest, transparent discussion.

Carried – 30/1

**Motion – Rates smoothing / late payments.**

Moved Mr Jason Davies, seconded Ms Marissa Davies

That Council:

- a) *REMOVES* the cost of option fees for rates smoothing
- b) *CONSIDERS* either removing interest on late payments or changing them to a flat fee setup.

Carried – 18/6

**Motion – Speed calming devices on roads**

Moved Mr Jason Davies, seconded Ms Jacqueline Longa

That Council *ADVOCATES* to the State Government and Main Roads for further funding to increase the installation of speed calming devices on roads in urban areas within the City of Rockingham where the speed limit is 50 or below to:

- a) Reduce risk of hooning and anti-social behaviour
- b) Speeding within urban areas
- c) Further accidents on suburban roads.

Carried – 18/0

**Motion – Discovery Centre Community Involvement**

Moved Ms Fleur Sampson, seconded Ms Mary-Ann Rath

That Council:

- 1. *INVESTIGATES* the reason why there was no community involvement into selecting the location of the proposed discovery centre.
- 2. *SUPPORTS* a second community involvement meeting to openly discuss all locations and any additional suggest at the meeting.

Carried – 22/1

**Motion – Website graphics**

Moved Mr Clive Galletly, seconded Mr Sunny Miller

That Council *CONSIDERS* options for speeding up its website using modern graphics formats such as AVIF and WEBP instead of JPG and PNG files, and other techniques.

Carried – 19/1

## Implications to Consider

**a. Consultation with the Community**

Advertising was carried out in the Sound Telegraph, the City's Website and Facebook, Library and Administration notice boards advising the community of the date and time of the Annual Electors' Meeting. Members of the public were invited to attend and submit motions and questions on the Annual Report and for General Business. There were 49 members of the public present.

**b. Consultation with Government Agencies**

Not Applicable

**c. Strategic**

Community Plan

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** 1. **Social - A family-friendly, safe and connected community**

**Outcome/Objective:** Connected community - Provide opportunities for community engagement and participation

**Aspiration:** 5. **Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:** Quality Leadership - Ensure accountable and transparent governance

**d. Policy**

Nil

**e. Financial**

Nil

**f. Legal and Statutory**

Section 5.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* specifies the following in respect to decisions made at Electors Meetings:

(1) *All decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting or, if that is not practicable -*

(a) *at the first ordinary council meeting after that date; or*

(b) *at a special meeting called for that purpose, whichever happens first.*

(2) *If at a meeting of the council a local government makes a decision in response to a decision made at an electors' meeting, the reasons for the decision are to be recorded in the minutes of the council meeting.*

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*

*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

### Comments

In accordance with section 5.33 of the Act, all decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting where practical.

Officer reports as a result of the Annual Electors' Meeting will be presented as part of the March 2025 meeting cycle addressing the 12 motions that were passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council **RECEIVES** the minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2025.

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Hume:**

That Council **RECEIVES** the minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2025.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## General Management Services General Management Services



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>GM-004/25</b> <b>Annual Electors' Meeting, 6 February 2025 Resolution – AUKUS Community Consultation</b>
File number:	GVR/60
Proponent/s:	
Author:	Mr Michael Parker, Chief Executive Officer
Other Contributor/s:	Ms Nollaig Baker, Manager Strategy, Marketing and Communications
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025
Previously before Council:	
Disclosure of Interest:	
Nature of Council's role:	Executive
Attachments:	1. Letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Honourable Richard Marles by the Mayors of the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance
Maps / Diagrams:	
Site:	
Lot Area:	

### Purpose of Report

To consider a motion from the Annual Electors' Meeting (**AEM**) held on 6 February 2025 seeking the convening of a public meeting to provide the opportunity for information and consultation regarding the Australian Government's AUKUS initiative.

### Background

The *Local Government Act 1995*, section 5.33, requires Council to consider any decisions arising from the Annual Electors' Meeting, and in making a decision in response, to also provide the reason for its decision.

### Details

The following motion was passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

#### **Moved Ms Latoya Voogt, seconded Mr James Mumme**

That Council **ORGANISES** a public meeting to address the need for community information and consultation regarding AUKUS with the following requirements:

- Includes attendance of qualified representatives from the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and ARPANSA, and the relevant local MP and/or Government Defence spokesperson;

- b) Includes panel participation of a First Nations spokesperson and representatives from Stop AUKUS WA, Nuclear Free WA (NF-WA), Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) and Conservation Council of WA (CCWA);
- c) Allows for substantial Q&A. Questions may be submitted in advance to the ASA and ARPANSA to ensure they are answered at the event, questions will also be allowed from the floor;
- d) Be moderated by an impartial member of the community, wider media or the public;
- e) Is widely advertised through traditional and digital media, including (but not limited to) the council's Rockport online information and mailed newsletter and calendar.
- f) The meeting is to be held within the next three months, with a view to hold quarterly town-hall meetings, to improve and maintain community engagement through honest, transparent discussion.

**Carried – 30/1**

Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*Highlighted in the building defence social license report, which the Council was a part of, is a need for defence and the federal government to rebuild social license with local residents. The community is far from viewing the expensive and dangerous pursuit of nuclear submarines as trustworthy or credible. We don't want nuclear waste dumped or handled in Rockingham and washing into Rockingham Beach and contaminating our precious marine parks and we don't want nuclear waste transported through residential areas. We don't want houses built for the US while our own people go homeless and we also don't want the endangered and protected species around Lake Richmond destroyed by a highway because these things are irreplaceable. I request the motion for the City to organise a public meeting to address the need for community information and consultation relating to AUKUS.*

City consideration

The AUKUS initiative is a tripartite defence agreement between the Governments of Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America. Decisions in relation to AUKUS fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and have received bi-partisan support of both major political parties in Australia.

The AUKUS arrangements have seen major funding commitments made in terms of infrastructure development at HMAS Stirling Naval Base at Garden Island and the establishment of a Defence Precinct at Henderson, for ship building and submarine maintenance.

In 2024 the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance (**PSWMA**) conducted research through visits to San Diego in California and the Hampton Roads region in Virginia, to examine how significant US Navy bases approach social licence and community engagement. This resulted in the release of the report, Building Defence Social Licence in the Perth South West Region explaining the implementation of the AUKUS agreement and its impact on the local region, particularly in relation to the rotational deployment of nuclear powered submarines on HMAS Stirling.

The report highlights the importance of communication with local communities and this is a key element that has been put to Defence personnel, the Australian Submarine Agency (**ASA**), other government agencies and government ministers by the City of Rockingham and PSWMA representing the region.

**Implications to Consider**

**a. Consultation with the Community**

This item was supported at the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 and is similar to other motions presented at some of the other Local Governments in the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance (PSWMA).

**b. Consultation with Government Agencies**

The City of Rockingham and PSWMA have both previously requested the Australian Government provide more information about the AUKUS project to the community. Recently PSWMA has arranged for a letter signed by all PSWMA member Mayors urging the Australian

Government to take responsibility for coordinating a regional public briefing – see Attachment 1. A regional briefing is considered to be more achievable than a series of separate local briefings.

**c. Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Quality Leadership - Active advocacy for the community*

**d. Policy**

Nil

**e. Financial**

Should Council decide to convene a public meeting, there would likely be staff and logistic costs involved.

**f. Legal and Statutory**

Nil

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks  
Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

### Comments

The City agrees with the intent of the motion put forward at the AEM which is in line with its advocacy for greater communication and consultation with the community. This was also specifically emphasised in the PSWMA report Building Defence Social Licence in Perth South West Region.

Whilst repeated requests have been made for enhanced communication and some actions have been undertaken, including establishment of an ASA website with specific AUKUS information, pop-up information sessions at shopping centres and events, a Navy Open Day held on 7 March 2025 and planning for a one-stop shop engagement centre in Rockingham, the lack of timelines of and access to information being provided, has drawn some frustrations and criticism.

This has been acknowledged by Defence, the ASA and the Minister for Defence. The findings in the PSWMA report have also been acknowledged by the ASA.

An opportunity for the community to hear first-hand about the AUKUS program, its impacts and to have their questions addressed has previously been sought and more recently requested directly in a letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Honourable Richard Marles by the Mayors of the PSWMA (Attachment 1).

Rather than pursuing separate meetings within each local government, it is considered more efficient and effective (as well as more likely to attain agreement from the Commonwealth Government) to hold a regional briefing. As a result it is recommended that Council, in responding to the decision from the AEM seek a regional meeting. This should be arranged as soon as practicable noting however that the calling of a federal election is imminent which is likely to impact any date.

Given the focus and impacts in the Rockingham Area due to the proximity of HMAS Stirling Naval Base, it is suggested such a meeting be arranged in the local area.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the motion carried at the 6 February 2025 Annual Electors Meeting.
2. **NOTES** the letter referred to in Attachment 1 dated 9 February 2025 sent by Perth South West Metro Alliance (PSWMA) to the Australian Government urging it to take responsibility for coordinating a regional public briefing.
3. **DETERMINES** if no response to the letter dated 9 February 2025 referred to in Attachment 1 is received by the end of May 2025, collaboration at a regional level to facilitate a briefing is to be pursued, with the location as a preference to be within the City Rockingham.

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Schmidt, seconded Cr Hume:**

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the motion carried at the 6 February 2025 Annual Electors Meeting.
2. **NOTES** the letter referred to in Attachment 1 dated 9 February 2025 sent by Perth South West Metro Alliance (PSWMA) to the Australian Government urging it to take responsibility for coordinating a regional public briefing.
3. **DETERMINES** if no response to the letter dated 9 February 2025 referred to in Attachment 1 is received by the end of May 2025, collaboration at a regional level to facilitate a briefing is to be pursued, with the location as a preference to be within the City Rockingham.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## General Management Services General Management Services Directorate



<b>Report number / title:</b>	<b>GM-005/25</b>	<b>Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance Governance Charter 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2031 and Memorandum of Understanding.</b>
File number:	GV/7	
Proponent/s:		
Author:	Ms Nollaig Baker, Manager Strategy, Marketing and Communications	
Other Contributor/s:	Mr Michael Holland, Director Community Development, Miss Melissa James, Manager Economic Development and Tourism	
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:	1. Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance Corporate Governance Charter 2025 - 2031	
Maps / Diagrams:		
Site:		
Lot Area:		

### Purpose of Report

To consider approving the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance (**PSWMA**) Corporate Governance Charter from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2031 and entering into a new Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) for the Period as per Attachment 1.

### Background

Created in 1983 the PSWMA (formerly the South West Group) is a strategic alliance of six local governments of the region, advancing regional priorities in a coordinated manner. The City of Rockingham is currently one of the six member local governments along with Cockburn, Kwinana, Fremantle, East Fremantle and Melville.

The Board comprises the Mayors and CEOs of the six members and meets four to six times per year to consider regional issues, projects and priorities.

The PSWMA is managed through a Corporate Governance Charter (**Charter**) and Memorandum of Understanding. All participating local governments contribute funding in line with the MOU.

Council, by resolution in February 2020, agreed to the current Charter and MOU. These agreements expire on 30 June 2025.

## Details

The Alliance operates under a Governance Charter and MOU which require periodic endorsement to ensure the continuation of its operations. Attached is a copy of the updated Governance Charter and MOU, which were endorsed by the Alliance's Board at its December 2024 meeting. The agreement remains largely consistent with the previous version, with the following key updates:

- References to the South West Group have been replaced with the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance.
- The agreement term has been extended from five years to six years, allowing each council to chair the Alliance at least once within the term.
- The prescribed post-council reimbursements have been adjusted to a flat 5% of income to account for inflation.
- Provisions covering conflicts of interest and disclosures have been removed, recognising that the Alliance Board and staff are already bound by the Local Government Act.

Being part of a recognised regional Alliance helps each member local government to gain traction on issues and to retain a focus on the area greater than what might be achieved on a purely individual basis.

The Director of PSWMA presented to a Councillor Engagement Session on 16 December 2024, and provided an overview of the PSWMA organisation and structure including the proposed updated Governance Charter and MOU which have both been endorsed by the PSWMA Board. The presentation also outlined the key projects and advocacy priorities.

The Alliance's Strategic Plan – *A united regional vision for 2036* incorporates major regional initiatives including many projects within the City of Rockingham such as:

- Implementation of Rockingham Beach Foreshore Master Plan and Safety Bay Shoalwater Foreshore Master Plan
- Advocate for the State Government to build the Karnup Train Station
- Advocate for the feasibility of the Garden Island Highway to be resolved
- Investigate the feasibility of upgrading of Mundijong and Kulija Roads
- Advocate for the Rockingham Loop Railway connection (Ennis Avenue alignment)
- Rockingham City Centre Transit System.

The PSWMA publication *Unlocking Perth's South West Election Priorities 2025* includes Rockingham-specific projects such as

- the construction of Karnup Train Station
- a government study to measure the impacts of planned defence programs on the local housing market
- the immediate widening of Kwinana Freeway from Russell Road to Safety Bay Road
- Long term access to Garden Island
- Funding the Catalpa Bike Path or coastal pathway connecting Fremantle to Rockingham
- Establishment of a pilot Defence Community Infrastructure Fund to support communities in accessing opportunities from AUKUS
- Climate adaption funding to support the regeneration of river and coastal environs.

Other publications produced by the Alliance include *Building Defence Social Licence in the Perth South West Region and insights from the PSWMA US delegation in September 2024*.

The regional nature of the PSWMA has provided a strong avenue for advocacy, with the Alliance having access to meetings with WA Premier Roger Cook and Liberal Party Leader Libby Mettam to highlight infrastructure needs and concerns about housing, transport corridors, education requirements and emergency management issues.

The AUKUS program and Westport proposals have highlighted the need for and advantages of, working together as a region to obtain access to key stakeholders. This has been demonstrated with access to the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Infrastructure meeting with PSWMA representatives, meetings with the Australian Submarine Agency and Defence personnel, and the Alliance's ability to meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Hon. Richard Marles. Furthermore the Alliance Director has been invited to sit on the Defence West – WA - ASA Social Licence and Community Engagement Subordinate Working Group Meeting and the WA Defence Advisory Forum.

The Alliance also facilitates regional cooperation through a number of committees and sub committees including the operation of the Planning and Technical Directors Group, the Economic Development and Advocacy Group and the Environment and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Group.

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

c. **Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** **4. Economic - A vibrant economy creating opportunities**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Growing the business economy - Actively support and develop local business growth*

**Outcome/Objective:** *Growing the business economy - Attract and promote new businesses and investment opportunities*

**Outcome/Objective:** *Local employment - Support existing and new businesses to increase local employment opportunities*

**Aspiration:** **5. Leadership Aspiration - Transparent and accountable leadership and governance**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Quality Leadership - Active advocacy for the community*

**Outcome/Objective:** *Quality Leadership - Optimise City Resources*

Further, the current Economic Development Strategy 2020 – 2025, adopted by Council in March 2020 specifically contains ongoing actions stating:

7.2.3 Maintain City of Rockingham membership of South West Group and input into strategic advocacy and promotional documents and reports;

7.2.5 Enhance economic development collaboration with other local governments in the South West Group and other regional local governments for specific projects.

d. **Policy**

Nil

e. **Financial**

Member local governments will be levied according to the annual budget adopted by the PSWMA Board. The fee is based on a formula adopted by the PSWMA Board in 2017, based on the following:

- \$25,000 minimum fee, and
- 22.95 cents per head of population, and
- 22.95 cents per \$1,000 of operating revenue( from the most recent audited financial year statements) and funding of work plan projects

The base member contribution for the City of Rockingham in 2024/2025 is \$126,724. A budget allocation for this amount is included in the City's annual budget.

MEMBER COUNCIL	(a + b + c) BASE CONTRIBUTION TOTAL	Equivalent member contribution % split	Contribution to project funding	MEMBERSHIP TOTAL 2024/25
City of Cockburn	\$95,547	23.47%	\$30,516	\$126,063
Town of East Fremantle	\$29,638	7.28%	\$9,466	\$39,104
City of Fremantle	\$53,195	13.07%	\$16,989	\$70,184
City of Kwinana	\$52,694	12.95%	\$16,830	\$69,524
City of Melville	\$79,913	19.63%	\$25,523	\$105,435
City of Rockingham	\$96,048	23.60%	\$30,676	\$126,724
<b>TOTAL - Base member contribution</b>	<b>\$407,035</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$537,035</b>

**f. Legal and Statutory**

Section 3.72 (2) (b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* permits local governments to provide a service or carryout an activity jointly without forming a regional subsidiary. Under the Corporate Governance Charter of the PSWMA, the administrative arrangements and officer support are provided by the host Council which currently is the City of Kwinana. This includes governance, financial, employment and procurement activities to be undertaken in line with the host Council's frameworks.

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks*  
*Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

**Comments**

The PSWMA has existed since 1983 to provide a forum and a structure for member councils to unite and collaborate for the benefit of the broader region. By presenting a united, strategic and long-term regional perspective, it delivers better funding, policy, sustainability and collaborative outcomes for the region.

A key benefit for the City and its community is being part of a united regional organisation that facilitates a more strategic approach to advocacy, funding, cross government collaboration and interagency strategic planning. Over the years, the Alliance has demonstrated its value in addressing environment, economic and social priorities. Leveraging the resources of the Alliance and its regional focus adds weight to the impact achieved for the City of Rockingham community. As part of its advocacy on election priorities, the region has benefitted from major funding commitments. The Alliance's submission on to the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill resulted in the inclusion of increased provisions for engagement with local government.

Maintaining this collaborative model has never been more important given that between now and 2036 the region is expected to benefit from significant public and private investment. A major focus of the Alliance has been and will continue to be highlighting infrastructure and social needs arising from the AUKUS and Westport developments.

The City of Rockingham is the local government closest to the very heart of AUKUS. This national defence project will impact the local community, bringing a range of economic benefits, but also some challenges - particularly in the areas of housing and transport.

It is recommended that the City of Rockingham continues to be a member of the Alliance to ensure that the City and its community reap the benefits from the expected significant long term investment in the region, in particular from the major projects of AUKUS program and Westport. By being part of a regional alliance, the member local governments can work together to shape strategic actions and initiatives to benefit their communities.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **ACCEPTS** the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance Corporate Governance Charter from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2031.
2. **AUTHORISES** the Mayor and the CEO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

### Committee Recommendation

Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Hume:

That Council:

1. **ACCEPTS** the Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance Corporate Governance Charter from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2031.
2. **AUTHORISES** the Mayor and the CEO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## Community Development

### Community Development Community Infrastructure Planning



Report number / title:	CD-004/25	Club Night Lights Program February 2025 Small Grants 2025/2026 Application Assessment and Ranking
File number:	GRS/8-12	
Proponent/s:	Safety Bay Tennis Club	
Author:	Ms Chanel Young, Community Infrastructure Business and Project Support Officer	
Other Contributor/s:	Mr Matthew Emmott, Manager Community Infrastructure Planning	
Date of Committee meeting:	18 March 2025	
Previously before Council:		
Disclosure of Interest:		
Nature of Council's role:	Executive	
Attachments:		
Maps / Diagrams:		
Site:	1. Lot 10, Royal Road, Safety Bay (Reserve No. 42707)	
Lot Area:		

## Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval to submit the funding application in a prioritised order to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Club Night Lights Program, 2025/2026 February 2025 Small Grants Round.

## Background

The Club Night Lights Program (**CNLP**) is a funding program offered by State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (**DLGSC**). The program provides financial assistance to community groups and local governments to develop lighting infrastructure for sport and recreation. The program aims to maintain or increase participation in sport and recreation, with an emphasis on physical activity through the rational development of good quality, well-designed and well-utilised facilities.

Applicants must be an incorporated, not for profit sporting, recreation or community organisation, or a local government entity. Projects must be developed on land which is a Crown reserve, land owned by a public authority, or municipal property.

Applications for the small grant rounds are accepted twice per calendar year.

Projects with a total cost that does not exceed \$500,000 are eligible to apply in the small grant rounds for up to 50% of the total project cost, to a maximum grant amount of \$200,000.

All applications are required to be submitted to the relevant local government authority for initial review, assessment and prioritisation using the criteria developed by the DLGSC.

Subject to Council approval, applications are then submitted to DLGSC for assessment. Applications for the 2025/2026 February small grants close on Monday 31 March 2025.

### Details

One CNLP application has been received for submission to the DLGSC from the Safety Bay Tennis Club.

A summary of the application is provided below.

#### 1. Safety Bay Tennis Club – Floodlighting upgrades to LED lighting on courts 1 to 7

Safety Bay Tennis Club (**SBTC**) was incorporated in 1980. SBTC holds a lease with the City of Rockingham (**City**) on Lot 10, Royal Road, Safety Bay (Reserve No. 42707). The SBTC currently has 200 active members.

The proposed project is for an upgrade of the existing halogen lights to new energy efficient LED lights on courts one to seven. The project will improve the lighting levels of the courts to meet the Australian Standards for Tennis, as well as reduce the current operational and maintenance costs of the lights.

SBTC has undertaken a structural report on the floodlighting poles with findings revealing that the poles are in good condition to proceed with the project.

The current lighting is costly for the club to operate and maintain. Conversion to LED lighting will enable the club to increase its nightly tennis programmes and will reduce lighting operational costs. The project is cost effective and sustainable for current and future members and visitors.

The lighting designs completed comply with the relevant Australian Standards which includes obtrusive lighting. The compliance report completed for obtrusive lighting includes a pass for all areas of the courts.

The estimated total cost for this project is \$60,885.00.



Aerial of Safety Bay Tennis Club courts 1 to 7

### Implications to Consider

#### a. Consultation with the Community

City Officers have liaised with the Safety Bay Tennis Club through the preparation of the Club Night Lights application.

The applicant has discussed the project with representatives from the following State Sporting Association during the preparation of their application:

- Tennis West

**b. Consultation with Government Agencies**

As required by CNLP guidelines, applicants have liaised with representatives of the DLGSC. Applications will be forwarded to the DLGSC for assessment subject to Council approval.

**c. Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** 1. **Social - A family-friendly, safe and connected community**

**Outcome/Objective:** Connected community - Provide opportunities for community engagement and participation

**Aspiration:** 3. **Built Environment - A built environment carefully planned for today and tomorrow**

**Outcome/Objective:** Built infrastructure meets current and future community needs - Plan build and maintain current and future assets

**d. Policy**

As per the City's Leasing Policy, Consent for Addition or Alteration of Leased Premises has been requested and approved by the City Properties team for the Safety Bay Tennis Club project.

**e. Financial**

The total project cost is \$60,885.00, with the SBTC seeking grant funding of \$30,442.50 through the CNLP. The SBTC identified that they are planning to submit an application for the City's Community Infrastructure Capital Grant (**CICG**) for the amount of \$23,722.00 to also assist with the costs of the project. The SBTC proposes to fund the remainder of the project as well as any cost escalations through cash contributions as per the below table.

Contributor	Amount (inc. GST)	Confirmed
Safety Bay Tennis Club (cash contribution)	\$6,720.50	Yes
City of Rockingham (CICG)	\$23,722.00	No
Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation (CNLP)	\$30,442.50	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,885.00</b>	

**f. Legal and Statutory**

Nil

**g. Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment : High and Extreme Risks  
Financial / Health and Safety : Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

## Comments

As part of the Grant Assessment, City Officers provide assessment and comment on each CNLP application. The application received has been assessed and ranked using the prescribed assessment criteria. A summary of the assessment is detailed below.

### 1. Safety Bay Tennis Club – Floodlighting upgrades to LED lighting on courts 1 to 7

Criteria	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Not relevant
Project justification	X		
Planned approach	X		
Community input			X
Management planning	X		
Access and opportunity	X		
Design	X		
Financial viability	X		
Coordination	X		
Potential to increase physical activity	X		
Sustainability	X		

The proposed project has been discussed with Tennis West who have indicated their support for the project.

The SBTC have consulted with the City's Properties team and received a Consent for Alteration and Addition approval letter on 9 September 2024 for the proposed lighting upgrade project.

Community consultation and input is not relevant as it is an internal club project, however the SBTC has engaged and received support for the project from the SBTC Executive Committee and its members.

This project is reliant on grant funding and the SBTC has advised that should the CNLP funding be reduced the SBTC has a sinking fund account that they will access if extra funds are required. The SBTC has identified that if funding support is unsuccessful from the DLGSC the project would not proceed.

This is a well-planned project that is supported by Tennis West and subject to Council approval will be submitted by the City's for the CNLP 2025/2026 February 2025 Small Grants Round.

## Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

## Officer Recommendation

That Council **APPROVES** the submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for the Club Night Lights Program, 2025/2026 February 2025 Small Grants Round of \$30,422.50 for Safety Bay Tennis Club – Floodlighting upgrades to LED lighting on courts 1 to 7.

### Committee Recommendation

**Moved Cr Liley, seconded Cr Schmidt:**

That Council **APPROVES** the submission to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for the Club Night Lights Program, 2025/2026 February 2025 Small Grants Round of \$30,422.50 for Safety Bay Tennis Club – Floodlighting upgrades to LED lighting on courts 1 to 7.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

## Community Development Economic Development and Tourism



<b>Report number / title:</b>	CD-005/25	<b>Annual Electors' Meeting, 6 February 2025 Resolution – Rockingham Discovery Centre</b>
<b>File number:</b>	LUP/2236	
<b>Proponent/s:</b>		
<b>Author:</b>	Ms Melissa James, Manager Economic Development and Tourism	
<b>Other Contributor/s:</b>	Ms Tamsin Furr, Senior Tourism Development Officer Mr Michael Holland, Director Community Development	
<b>Date of Committee meeting:</b>	18 March 2025	
<b>Previously before Council:</b>	June 2024 (CD-018/24)	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>		
<b>Nature of Council's role:</b>	Executive	
<b>Attachments:</b>		
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>		
<b>Site:</b>		
<b>Lot Area:</b>		

### Purpose of Report

To consider the following motions from the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

*'That the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal government to reconsider and re-assess the preferred location of a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point and investigate the location being established at the current Naragebup Environmental Centre on Safety Bay Road.'*

and

*'That Council:*

**INVESTIGATES** the reason there was no community involvement into selecting the location of the proposed discovery centre.

**SUPPORTS** a second community involvement meeting to openly discuss all locations and any additional suggestions at the meeting.'

### Background

The *Local Government Act 1995 (Act)*, section 5.33, requires Council to consider any decisions arising from the Annual Electors' Meeting, and in making a decision in response, to also provide the reason for its decision.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting in March 2022, Council resolved the following in relation to the development of a new Discovery Centre on Penguin Island:

*That Council:*

1. *NOT SUPPORT the application seeking Development Approval for the proposed new Penguin Information Centre on Penguin Island, for the following reasons:*
  - i. *Inadequate information provided to evaluate the full impact on the Little Penguin colony from the construction of the new Penguin Information Centre and boardwalks, the demolition of boardwalks and the existing Penguin Information Centre and the island visitation;*
  - ii. *The Assessment of Impacts on Little Penguins of the Proposed Construction of the Penguin Island Discovery Centre and Associated Demolition and Visitation 2022 confirming that the proposal for the new Penguin Information Centre is likely to impact the population of the Little Penguin colony on Penguin Island;*
  - iii. *Formal public consultation was not undertaken on the proposal by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and*
  - iv. *A Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan assessment was not undertaken in accordance with State Planning Policy 2.6 for the proposed development, including demolition and/or construction works.*
2. *DIRECTS the Chief Executive Officer to advocate that the State Government delay the construction of a new facility until the DBCA conducts a thorough and transparent options analysis, involving all stakeholders and including industry experts, which establishes the optimum location for a new Penguin Information Centre that balances the ongoing sustainability of the Little Penguin colony with the regional tourism value of Penguin Island.*

In line with the Council resolution, the City of Rockingham (**City**) wrote to former Premier McGowan, former Deputy Premier Roger Cook, and Minister for Environment Mr Whitby MLA on 1 April 2022. On 11 April 2022, the WA Planning Commission approved the proposed Discovery Centre on the island. Following this, the State Government through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (**DBCA**) decided not to proceed with the approval but fund a feasibility study for a mainland Discovery Centre instead.

The State Government, through Tourism WA, engaged Urban Enterprise, a professional tourism consultant, to undertake a Feasibility Study for a new mainland Rockingham Discovery Centre experience. A workshop was held with stakeholders and industry experts on 24 May, 2023 in order to inform the Feasibility Study.

The aims and objectives of the Feasibility Study were:

- Increase the value of the Rockingham visitor economy
- Improve the Rockingham visitor experience
- Protect and celebrate the unique marine and coastal environment
- Ensure return on investment and deliver a financially sustainable operating model

Following receipt of the final Feasibility Study, the following correspondence was also received:

- A letter from Tourism WA (received 21 March 2024) advising that the State Government, through the newly established Tourism Investment Committee of Cabinet, has approved progressing a Business Case and detailed concept design for a proposed discovery centre at Mersey Point, subject to the agreement of the City of Rockingham Council that it would support and operate a facility at the location if a facility is progressed.
- A letter from Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Tourism (received 6 May 2024) stating that the WA Government is eager to progress the development of a detailed concept proposal and business case for the Discovery Centre. As preconditions to progressing further, the Government is seeking the City of Rockingham's agreement to:
  - The location of the facility at Mersey Point, and

- The ongoing management and/or operation of the facility and associated costs, either directly or through contracted service providers.

A Councillor Engagement Session was held to present the findings of the Feasibility Study and seek feedback on the following options:

- Option 1: Support the State Government to progress as requested.
- Option 2: Support the State Government to progress as requested, subject to specific components being included within the scope of works, including a wildlife experience such as a live penguin display.
- Option 3: As per option 2, not including a wildlife experience.
- Option 4: Support the State Government to progress to Business Case and detailed concept design, subject to the State Government owning and operating the facility if progressed.
- Option 5: Not support the State Government to progress as requested, and continue with the current status quo.

The final Feasibility Study and above-mentioned letters of correspondence were attached to the June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting where Council unanimously resolved the following:

*That Council:*

1. *SUPPORTS the State Government progressing a Business Case and detailed concept design for a proposed Discovery Centre on the mainland at Mersey Point, subject to the following components and associated outcomes being included within the scope of works:*
  - a. *Inclusion of a wildlife experience such as a live penguin display, incorporating a research, rehabilitation, and a breed and release program focussed on the sustainability of the little penguin population, owned and operated by DBCA or a licensed operator*
  - b. *Financial analysis, including:*
    - i. *Capital and operating expenditure associated with the development and operations of the facility*
    - ii. *Modelling for the building to be externally managed by a third party*
  - c. *Land tenure and management (including current and future leasing considerations)*
  - d. *Community and key stakeholder consultation*
  - e. *Planning and environmental considerations including cultural/aboriginal heritage, impacts on adjacent residential properties, coastal protection (in accordance with the CHRMAP), Bush Forever constraints, and parking provision.*
2. *NOT SUPPORT the ongoing management and/or operation of the facility and associated costs, either directly or through contracted service providers, until the Business Case and detailed concept design has been completed in full and given due consideration by Council.*

The State Government, through Tourism WA, have subsequently been working to finalise a Business Case and detailed concept design for a mainland discovery centre at Mersey Point.

## Details

The following motions were passed at the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 6 February 2025:

**Motion: Discovery Centre – Ms Stacey Graham, Karnup**

**Moved Ms Stacey Graham, seconded Mr Sunny Miller**

That the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal Government to reconsider and re-assess the preferred location of a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point and investigate the location being established at the current Naragebup Environmental Centre on Safety Bay Road.

**Carried – 25/5**

Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*The latest recommendation from State Cabinet to locate a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point has caused confusion and consternation. A letter from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Tourism states that the study that they did regarding a discovery centre included an assessment of multiple locations best suited to a mainland centre with tourism and environmental criteria. Mersey Point was recommended as the most feasible site. The Naragebup Environmental Centre was discounted as a potential location mainly due to the lack of connection to Penguin Island, the Shoalwater Marine Park and its ability to support broader tourism outcomes.*

**Motion: Discovery Centre Community Involvement - Ms Fleur Sampson**

**Moved Ms Fleur Sampson, seconded Ms Mary-Ann Rath**

That Council:

1. **INVESTIGATES** the reason why there was no community involvement into selecting the location of the proposed discovery centre.
2. **SUPPORTS** a second community involvement meeting to openly discuss all locations and any additional suggestions at the meeting.

**Carried – 22/1**

Reasons provided by the mover of the motion

*At a recent meeting we were presented with Mersey Point as the site, we were given no information about why the other sites were not selected. There is land south of Naragebup, the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, that's an A Class reserve where the discovery centre could go.*

City consideration

In line with the Council resolution at its March 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to former Premier McGowan, former Deputy Premier Roger Cook, and Minister for Environment Mr Whitby MLA on 1 April 2022 objecting the proposed Penguin Island Discovery Centre. Despite being approved by the WA Planning Commission, the Minister announced in August 2022 that the proposed replacement of the Penguin Island Discovery Centre would not be proceeding as initially planned, and the State Government would fund a study to determine the preferred location of the Centre on the mainland (the Feasibility Study).

As part of this process, and in line with the Council resolution, a workshop was held with key stakeholders on Wednesday 24 May 2023 to inform the Feasibility Study.

The following stakeholders were engaged by Urban Enterprise as part of this project:

- City of Rockingham
- DBCA
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Destination Perth
- Tourism Rockingham
- WA Wildlife
- Rockingham Regional Environment Centre – Naragebup
- Perth Wildlife Encounters
- Capricorn Seakayaking
- River gods Kayaking
- Safety Bay Yacht Club
- Private accommodation operators
- Community members

In order to inform the site analysis section of the study, a constraints analysis exercise was undertaken to narrow the scope of areas that may be considered for the identification of sites. This exercise was based on criteria such as land ownership, region scheme special areas, site contamination, state coastal planning areas, heritage areas and existing leaseholds.

The Naragebup site was not shortlisted as one of the four potential sites through this process, and the following reasons were provided by Tourism WA:

- The location has little amenity or connection with the coast, and doesn't present as a location that would be suited to international or interstate visitors.
- The concept of the Discovery Centre is a broader coastal experience, with connection to Penguin Island, ferry service, boat trip, canoe etc.
- The site is designated bush forever, though it is noted that there is a currently developed footprint at the site.
- The site is not connected to mains sewerage, and is in proximity to a conservation category wetland/sewerage sensitive area which may present problems with effluent disposal should increased usage require further upgrades.
- The site is in a bushfire prone area as designated by the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.
- The site would require Section 18 approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act to demonstrate it doesn't impact Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Four sites were identified based on the constraints analysis:

- Mersey Point – the existing site of the Mersey Point leased facility, ferry terminal and car park
- Northern Shoalwater Bay – located to the north of the intersection between Boundary Road and Arcadia Drive at the southern perimeter of Cape Peron, overlooking Shoalwater Islands Marine Park
- Cape Peron West – located on the southern point of Cape Peron, along Point Peron Road. This site overlooks Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and is located nearby the Cape Peron lookout
- Rockingham Beach North – located north of the Rockingham Beach Foreshore precinct along Rockingham Beach Road, overlooking Rockingham Beach.

Following this, a specific set of site analysis criteria was established, relating to three categories – Tourism, Infrastructure and Access, and Environment.

Tourism related criteria assessed each site's ability to capture existing and new visitor markets, ability to leverage the City's nature based assets, co-location opportunities for additional tourism uses and product, and high amenity landscape. Mersey Point scored the highest in all tourism related criteria.

Infrastructure related criteria reviewed each site's size, land tenure, zoning and current land use, parking considerations, access to water based activities, transport accessibility, and need for supporting infrastructure. Mersey Point was awarded the highest overall score as part of this assessment.

Environment related criteria considered each site's cultural heritage, the potential impact on community, and the level of disturbance to native vegetation and wildlife. While Mersey Point did not obtain the highest score in this category, the site was deemed favourable due to the land already being cleared.

Based on the overall site analysis criteria, Mersey Point was identified as the preferred site for the proposed Rockingham Discovery Centre, with key strengths linked predominantly to its coastal views and existing reputation as a tourist destination. The location also has several advantages over other sites, in that it already has transport, sewer, electricity and water-based enabling infrastructure (since there is an existing leased facility at this location).

The full Feasibility Study was presented to Council at its June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting. Council unanimously resolved to support the State Government progressing a Business Case and detailed concept design for a mainland discovery centre at Mersey Point, subject to a number of conditions being included in the scope. One specific condition stipulated by Council was community and key stakeholder consultation. A community engagement session was held at the Gary Holland Community Centre on Thursday 12 December 2024, in addition to an online survey which was available for public input from 3 – 20 December 2024.

### Implications to Consider

a. **Consultation with the Community**

Nil

b. **Consultation with Government Agencies**

Nil

c. **Strategic**

This item addresses the Community's Vision for the future and specifically the following Aspiration and Strategic Objective(s) contained in the Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033:

**Aspiration:** 1. **Social - A family-friendly, safe and connected community**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Connected community - Provide opportunities for community engagement and participation*

**Aspiration:** 2. **Natural Environment - A place of natural beauty where the environment is respected**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Sustainable natural green spaces - Improve community open spaces*

**Aspiration:** 3. **Built Environment - A built environment carefully planned for today and tomorrow**

**Outcome/Objective:** *Built infrastructure meets current and future community needs - Plan build and maintain current and future assets*

**Aspiration:** 4. **Economic - A vibrant economy creating opportunities**

**Outcome/Objective:** *A visitor destination - Promote the City as a place to visit*

d. **Policy**

Nil

e. **Financial**

Nil

f. **Legal and Statutory**

Nil

g. **Risk**

**All Council decisions are subject to risk assessment according to the City's Risk Framework.**

Implications and comment will only be provided for the following assessed risks.

*Customer Service / Program/Project management / Natural Environment: High and Extreme Risks*

*Financial / Health and Safety: Medium, High and Extreme Risks*

Nil

### Comments

In response to the Chief Executive Officer implementing the Council resolution at its March 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting, the Minister for Environment announced in August 2022 that the State Government would fund a study (Feasibility Study) to determine the preferred location for a Discovery Centre on the mainland. This study was led by the State Government, through Tourism WA, and a professional consultant was engaged to undertake the body of work.

The following actions were delivered by the consultant to inform the Feasibility Study:

- A workshop was held with key stakeholders on Wednesday 24 May 2023.
- A constraints analysis was undertaken to narrow down the scope of areas that would be considered (the site of the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environmental Centre was ruled out as a potential site due to a number of constraints).

- Four sites were identified and assessed against a specific set of site analysis criteria.

In line with the Council resolution at the June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting, a community consultation session was held on Thursday 12 December 2024, in addition to an online survey being made available from 3-20 December 2024 for local residents to provide comment.

Given there is a current Council position, and community and key stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform the Business Case and detailed concept design, Officers are satisfied that the State Government have adhered to the Council resolution.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 that the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal government to reconsider and re-assess the preferred location of a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point and investigate the location being established at the current Naragebup Environmental Centre on Safety Bay Road.
2. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 that Council investigates the reason there was no community involvement into selecting the location of the proposed discovery centre.
3. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 to support a second community involvement meeting to openly discuss all locations and any additional suggestions at the meeting.

### Committee Recommendation

Moved Cr Hume, seconded Cr Crichton:

That Council:

1. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 that the City of Rockingham, immediately and urgently, lobbies the WA and Federal government to reconsider and re-assess the preferred location of a Discovery/Interpretative Centre at Mersey Point and investigate the location being established at the current Naragebup Environmental Centre on Safety Bay Road.
2. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 that Council investigates the reason there was no community involvement into selecting the location of the proposed discovery centre.
3. **NOT SUPPORT** the resolution from the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2025 to support a second community involvement meeting to openly discuss all locations and any additional suggestions at the meeting.

Committee Voting (Carried) – 6/0

### The Committee's Reason for Varying the Officer's Recommendation

Not Applicable

<b>13.</b>	<b>Reports of Council Members</b>
	Nil
<b>14.</b>	<b>Addendum Agenda</b>
	Nil
<b>15.</b>	<b>Motions of which Previous Notice has been given</b>
	Nil
<b>16.</b>	<b>Notices of motion for Consideration at the Following Meeting</b>
	Nil
<b>17.</b>	<b>Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision of the Committee</b>
	Nil
<b>18.</b>	<b>Matters Behind Closed Doors</b>
	Nil
<b>19.</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
	The next Corporate and Community Development Committee meeting will be held on <b>Tuesday 18 March 2025</b> in the Council Boardroom, Council Administration Building, Civic Boulevard, Rockingham. The meeting will commence at 5:00pm.
<b>20.</b>	<b>Closure</b>
	There being no further business, the Chairperson thanked those persons present for attending the Corporate and Community Development Committee meeting, and declared the meeting closed at <b>6:23pm</b> .