



July 2023

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

Please also see our user friendly website at <https://www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au>

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



From the Shire President: Pauline Bantock



TRAINING

On the last day of June, Council undertook a one-day training session regarding CEO Performance Reviews. The West Australian Local Government Association conducted the training here in Victoria Plains and this closes out Council's work with the Department on this matter of improvement.

A CEO performance review should facilitate a shared understanding between the council and CEO on achieving council priorities. It should be based on the principles of fairness, integrity and impartiality. The review must be evidence-based and measured against the agreed performance criteria.

Council will put this training into action, as we close out our CEO's probationary period. Then, together with our CEO Sean, we will set the performance criteria for the next period.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Shire's Management Team took council through an afternoon of budget preparations, setting the scene for the 23-24 budget adoption that will occur at the July Council Meeting. The Shire's strategic priorities were referred to and we can see how Council's rating strategy is inserted into the draft documents. Council has already adopted the Shire's fees and charges, elected member fees and allowances and we've set the financial reporting material variances. Once the budget has been adopted, the Shire will conduct a number of community presentations.

COUNCIL DELEGATIONS

Council has conducted their annual review of delegations to the CEO and Committees. A Delegation provides for administrative efficiencies and ensure Council passes on the administrative matters which we cannot perform ourselves under the Local Government Act.

Administration vs Council decision making is a topic the community has questioned over the last year, particularly regarding events. There are different requirements for events held on Shire land to events on private property. I encourage event holders to get in touch with the shire as early as possible, so our staff can pass on information regarding the requirements and work up a timeline for assessment.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Did you know the Shire offers digital copies of the Newsletter?

Simply email
reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au
to register for a digital copy.



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION CUTOFF

Newsletter submissions are due by
4:00pm on the last Friday of the month.

All submissions to be emailed to:
candice.watson@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Late submissions may not be accepted.

Kind Regards,

Cr. Pauline Bantock
Shire President

From the CEO: Sean Fletcher



Hello From The CEO

Here we are with the year halfway over. But, what a year it has been so far in terms of what the Shire has been able to achieve. On average, the Shire has completed 88% of the actions in the Corporate Business Plan (also known as the Implementation Plan) allocated for 2022/23. This is a very good result considering that we started using the draft implementation plan back in October 2022. The plan was formally adopted in April this year.

Some of the key achievements for 2022/23 include:

- Employing a community development officer. As a result, Kim has been able to secure \$419,388 in grants in addition to the traditional funding streams that Shire applies for. This has included confirmation of funding to upgrade the Piawaning Reverse Osmosis Plant and to install E-waste transfer stations at each of the three landfills;
- Completion of the 2022/23 Footpath Program;
- Successful events re Australia Day, Anzac Day and activities for both seniors and youth including a Christmas Lunch, implementation of the Be Connected Program and a Youth Dinner;
- Re-introduction of the Community Grants Program;
- The establishment of the Old Road Board Building in Calingiri as a community space;
- Continuation of the Local Emergency Management Committee;
- Completion of the Shire's 2022/23 Plant Replacement Program;
- Installation of additional hatches to the Yerecoin Sewerage Scheme;
- Commencement of the AROC Corella Management Program;
- Improvements to the fencing at the Mogumber and Calingiri landfills;
- Key vegetation control works;
- The re-introduction of Transport Licensing at the Shire Office;
- Implementation of the Bridges Maintenance Program;
- Completion of Roads to Recovery Road projects:
 - Reseals on Glentromie Yerecoin Rd and Golf Course Road;
 - Resheeting on Old Plains Road.
- Implementation of the Shire's key strategic plans including the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan;
- Reinvigorating the Shire newsletter as a key information source for the community;
- Councillors successfully completing compulsory training;
- Improving the Shire's cybersecurity measures.

A full break down on the key actions achieved and what is planned for the next 12 months will be submitted to the July Council meeting.

Continued on from Sean Fletcher....

Update On The Shire Elections - October 2023

Alternate Voting Day

Preparations are continuing regarding the Shire local government elections scheduled for Saturday, 21 October 2023. Please note though that the election may need to be held on a different date should the referendum on The Voice to Parliament is held on this day. This is because no other election can occur on the same day as a matter that involves voting on a Commonwealth matter or if a Federal election is being held.

Election Timetable

The Shire election is a postal election. This means that the WA Electoral Commission has responsibility for the election. Some key dates to keep in mind are:

57	Fri	25/08/2023	Roll Close Close roll 5.00 pm.	LGA 4.39(1)
52	Wed	30/08/2023	Last day for advertisement to be placed calling for nominations.	LGA 4.47(1)
51	Thu	31/08/2023	Nominations Open First day for candidates to lodge completed nomination paper, in the prescribed form, with the Returning Officer. Nominations period is open for 8 days.	LGA 4.49(a)
44	Thu	7/09/2023	Close of Nominations 4.00 pm on the 44th day before election day.	LGA 4.49(a)

A full version of the election timetable can be found in the Newsletter. There is also a link to it on the Shire's website under the Local Government Ordinary Election 2023 webpage.

Governor's Order to Abolish Wards and Reduce Councillor Numbers

The Local Government Advisory Board has recently written to the Shire of Victoria Plains advising that the Governor has made an order on the recommendation of the Minister for Local Government to abolish wards at the Shire of Victoria Plains and to reduce the number of offices of councillor from seven to five. This follows the submission of the Shire's ward and representation review to the Local Government Advisory Board in October 2022.

This change will be implemented at the 2023 local government elections.

Notice to this effect was published in the [Government Gazette](#) on 30 June 2023. The publication of the order in the Gazette now finalises the review process. The Western Australian Electoral Commission will now commence their statutory and administrative requirements ahead of the next local government elections.

Owner Occupiers Register and Roll

Please note that if you are an owner/occupier, there is still time to submit a request to the CEO for consideration to be included in the register. Details regarding eligibility are set out on the Shire's website including the relevant enrolment eligibility forms. The claim to be on the roll closes 5PM, Friday 24 August 2023.

Candidate Information Sessions

We have requested that there is at least one candidate information session held in Victoria Plains. This will be conducted by the Western Australian Local Government Association. However, in case this event cannot be held, there will be a series of webinars available that potential candidates will be able to log into and watch.

Kind Regards,

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer

Confidential Matters

When sending confidential matters to the Shire,
please ensure emails are
forwarded to

reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

Labelled 'Private and Confidential'

From the Community Development Officer: Kim Stripe



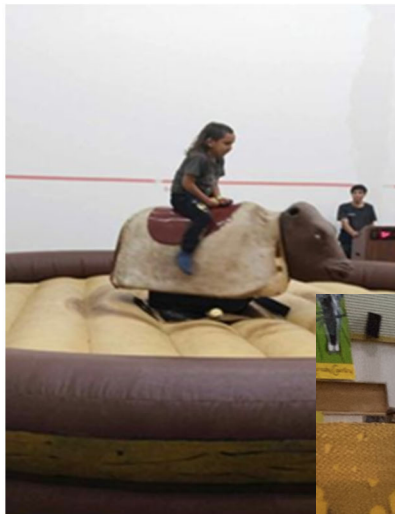
June and July have been good to us on the grant front with the Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and the Arts providing funding for the Live Music Program to the tune of \$23,100.00, the WA Youth Engagement Grants Program 2023 providing funding for the Youth 4 Youth Event on the 10th July \$5,390.00 followed by the Department of Water and Environment providing funding \$253,874.50 for the E-Waste facility Infrastructure.

On the Events side we had the “Youth 4 Youth Laser Tag and Bucking Bull” on the 10th of July which was very successful with 50 children participating and over 20 adults attending to watch. Thank you to the Yued Apical Elders Group Patrick Moody, Donna Moody and Durran Moody for their contribution to the event.

Coming up we have a “Christmas in July Seniors Luncheon” brought to you by Holyoake and the Shire of Victoria Plains on the 21st July. Then an “Arts Trail from Goomalling to Yerecoin” for the whole month of September and a few more lined up in the pipeline so watch this space.

Proposed events depending on grant success include but are not limited to a Sip and Paint night for SoVP women, Monthly activities for the Seniors, a “Thank a Volunteer” morning tea and some “Virtual Reality” Equipment for the Youth.

A big thank you to the Calingiri Progress Association for the fantastic job catering, Josh Saltner for his supervising the Bucking Bull. Also Katrina Humphries, Alexia and Eleni Zaharopoulos on the door and supervising the young ones.



Kind Regards,
Kim Stripe
Community Development Officer

From the Manager of Finance and Administration: Colin Ashe



This time of the year is always particularly challenging to myself and the team as we juggle the concurrent priorities of formulating the coming budget 23-24, ensuring alignment to the Strategic Plans, continue with day to day operations and start preparing for end of financial year including financial statements and audit requirements. Whilst the workload and at times stress continues to be high, the team continues to deliver the outcomes and support needed which the management team very much appreciates.

Finance:

The budget 23-24 continues to be much of the focus for myself capturing capital expenditure in the form of road construction, plant replacement and grant expenditure with supporting documentation whilst the team supported in the day to day operations. Council were provided detail on a number of aspects including alignment with strategic planning and rationale behind recommendations during the briefing session in June 23. This is now culminating with the final touches being applied to Statutory Budget 23-24 format with the intent to have it adopted during the Jul 23 ordinary council meeting.

There has also been guidance from the Department of templates for Financial Statements which has differed slightly from the current format.

Some brakes in expenditure were applied in both May and June which is normal as the financial year winds down to ensure strong fiscal discipline of the shires finances. Whilst this year has been challenging on a number of fronts, it has also been exciting to close long standing issues, stabilise the workforce and manage the finances with more confidence.

In terms of progress, below is a snapshot of the capital activities completed or in progress for the month:

Activity	Cost (\$)	Status
Bolgart Bridge - repair Bridge abutments	31,637	In Progress
Culvert Upgrades	84,177	In Progress
Bolgart Ablution Block	103,006	In Progress

The shire intends to impose differential rating in 2023/24 specifically for mining but this will be extended in future years for other land uses in accordance with the rating strategy. The purpose is primarily to ensure a fair and equitable rate base and where the cost impost can be shared. Submissions close on the 12 Jul 23.

As part of rating for 2023-24 you could win \$200 off your rates bill simply signing up to receive your rates notices electronically in the future. Details will be included in your rates notice pack in due course.

Administration:

We now have four team members that have completed Department of Transport training so hours will now be extended to five days a week, but customers still need to be patient as the team learns the processes and various requirements and noting there is still only one terminal that can actually process licencing. In the future the shire may review to see if demand warrants a request for an addition one.

The shire has engaged contract cleaning for the majority of public toilets within the shire itself which will provide a more consistent cleaning tempo to ratepayers and visitors. The shire does need your help however to monitor facilities for vandalism or users deciding not to practice cleanliness – ultimately it is all of our responsibility which if left in a state will cost you the ratepayer more.

Continued on from Colin Ashe....

The old saying of 'the standard you walk past is the standard you accept' is very much applicable.

A new MOU has been drafted for library services at Bolgart with the Bolgart Progress Association and is just waiting final comment from the BPA before final sign off.

Strategic Plans:

The ICT Strategic Plan is currently being formulated which will provide a future roadmap on the shires requirements of ICT, ensuring we keep at least abreast of current trends in cybersecurity and that ICT hardware and Software continues to be up to date, fit for purpose and integrated into enterprise wide systems. The request for quote on the new computer system has closed and management is currently in the process of finalising this for implementation in 2023-24. This will also see a number of other software programs implemented including agendas and minutes, after hours enquiries tracking, vendor payment verification payment and on the hardware side, possible implementation of fibre cabling to the Emergency Services building. The latter being particularly important in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Kind Regards,

Colin Ashe

Manager - Finance and Administration



REVEGETATION PROJECT

Remember this revegetation project near Calingiri? Its romping along! Anne Marie cut a chunk out of her cropping paddock to put back natives. A lovely mix of Eucalypt trees and shrubs - Hakeas, Grevilleas and Banksias. Great Stuff! Funded through State Natural Resource Management Program WA. #dosomething #landcare



2021



2023

From the Manager—Works and Services: Silvio Brenzi



The main construction project this month has been the Bolgart Caravan Park ablution block. MODUS has now completed the construction and only the external finishing touches remain prior to the re-opening.

External exposed concrete paths, clothes lines, reinstatement and refurbishment of the BBQ area and roll on turf will come over the next 4 weeks. Upgrades to the electrical outlets will also be completed and installation of an RV Dump point in the draft annual budget in the new financial year.

Work on Old Plains Rd has been completed for this financial year with tree clearance work making a big difference for access for agricultural machinery on this road. Further works are planned in the draft annual budget for 23/24. Please feel free to utilize the mulch still stockpiled around the place for your home gardens over winter/spring ready for summer.

I will be off for a few weeks on sick leave, but Mick and Shelly will still be available by calling the Depot on 9628 7232 or the Admin Office Reception for any Customer Requests on 9628 7004.



Kind regards,
Silvio Brenzi
Manager - Works and Services



Notice to Residents

Local Government Reform and the October 2023 Local Government Elections

Dear Resident,

As the new Local Government Minister, I am honoured to oversee the implementation of the Government's major reforms of the local government sector, the most significant in 25 years. At the heart of these reforms is our aim of increasing the transparency, accountability and efficiency of local government in WA.

Some changes will be introduced at the upcoming October local government elections which will give ratepayers a greater say on who they elect to represent them on council. All electors will need to be aware of these changes when casting their vote.

One important change is the switch to Optional Preferential Voting (OPV). This will bring local government elections in line with state and federal government elections. Under OPV you will be able to choose one or more candidates by numbering them in order of your preference.

For many smaller councils, reforms will also see changes to council representation, with the removal of wards and standardisation of the number of councillors aligned to the population of the districts they serve.

These changes will strengthen local democracy and give ratepayers a greater choice of candidates. As a result, the reforms will increase community confidence in local government and make councils more representative and responsive to ratepayers' needs.

For 12 years, I served as a councillor and later as Deputy Mayor at the City of Stirling so I have first-hand experience and an appreciation of the importance of local government and how it impacts the lives of residents in many ways. So it is vital that people get involved in their local government, either by nominating to be a community representative or by voting to have a say on who represents you on council.

You can find more information on the reforms to the local government sector on the DLGSC website at www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform or use the QR code.

David Michael

Local Government Minister





Local Government Reform

Stronger local democracy

The State Government is introducing the most **significant reforms of local government** in 25 years.

These reforms will strengthen the transparency, accountability, and efficiency of local governments, enabling stronger local democracy while ensuring a better response to the needs of ratepayers and residents.

Some of these reforms will have a direct impact on voting in the October 2023 local government elections.

You will find details of the reforms on the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries website at www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform or use this QR code.



Optional Preferential Voting (OPV)
Bringing local government elections in line with state and federal elections will result in making council more representative and responsive to ratepayers.

Direct election of Mayors and Presidents by residents in larger local governments
Strengthening local democracy by giving rate payers the choice to elect the council leader.

Changes to council representation
Council representation to be aligned to the population of the district and the removal of wards for smaller councils.



Local Government Reform

Voting in the October 2023 Local Government Elections

The State Government is putting into action the most significant reforms to the local government sector in 25 years. The reforms will increase the transparency, accountability and efficiency of local government in WA.

One of the key reforms is the change from 'first past the post' system of voting to optional preferential voting (OPV).

This change will be introduced for the October 2023 local government elections which will now be in line with state and federal elections.

OPV will strengthen democracy by giving ratepayers a greater choice of candidates.

You can find more information about the reforms to the local government sector on the DLGSC website at www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/lg-act-reform or use this QR code.



How to vote under the optional preferential voting system

It is really easy and it is all about choices – your choices. Just imagine there are three candidates. You can:

1 Vote for just one candidate

Just put a number 1 next to the name of that candidate.

- SMITH, John
- 1 DOE, Jane
- CITIZEN, Neville

2 Vote for some

Just put a 1 next to the name of the candidate you like best and a 2 next to your second choice.

- SMITH, John
- 1 DOE, Jane
- 2 CITIZEN, Neville

3 Vote for all

Put a 1 in the box for the candidate you like best and then a 2 for your second choice and a 3 for your third choice. If there are more candidates you just keep numbering if you want.

- 3 SMITH, John
- 1 DOE, Jane
- 2 CITIZEN, Neville

POSTAL ELECTION TIMETABLE 2023 Local Government Ordinary Election *

Days to Polling Day	Day	Date	Election Events	References to Act / Regs
80	Wed	2/08/2023	Last day for declaration to have the Electoral Commissioner conduct a postal election. A decision made to conduct the election as a postal election cannot be rescinded after the 80th day.	LGA 4.20(2)(3)(4) LGA 4.61(5)
77	Sat	5/08/2023	Electoral Commissioner to appoint a person to be the Returning Officer of the Local Government for the election.	LGA 4.20(4)
77 to 63	Sat to Sat	5/08/2023 to 19/08/2023	Between the 77th / 63rd day the CEO is to give Statewide public notice of the time and date of close of enrolments.	LGA 4.39(2)
63	Sat	19/08/2023	* Preferred date: Wednesday 9 August 2023	
63	Sat	19/08/2023	Last day for the CEO to advise the Electoral Commissioner of the need to prepare a residents roll. Advertising may begin for nominations from 63 days and no later than 52 days before election day. * Preferred date: Wednesday 23 August 2023	LGA 4.40(1) LGA 4.47(1)
57	Fri	25/08/2023	Roll Close Close roll 5.00 pm.	LGA 4.39(1)
52	Wed	30/08/2023	Last day for advertisement to be placed calling for nominations.	LGA 4.47(1)
51	Thu	31/08/2023	Nominations Open First day for candidates to lodge completed nomination paper, in the prescribed form, with the Returning Officer. Nominations period is open for 8 days.	LGA 4.49(a)
44	Thu	7/09/2023	Close of Nominations 4.00 pm on the 44th day before election day.	LGA 4.49(a)
43	Fri	8/09/2023	Last day for the CEO to prepare and certify an owners and occupiers roll for the election. Last day for the Electoral Commissioner to prepare and certify a residents roll.	LGA 4.41(1) LGA 4.40(2)
36	Fri	15/09/2023	Commencement of lodgement of Country Local Government District election packages with Australia Post. Delivery dependent on normal Australia Post standards.	
31	Wed	20/09/2023	* Preferred date for Notice of Election Commencement of lodgement of Metropolitan Local Government District election packages with Australia Post. Delivery dependent on normal Australia Post standards.	LGA 4.64(1)
29	Fri	22/09/2023	The preparation of any consolidated roll under subregulation (1) be completed on or before 29th day before election day.	Reg. 18(2)
26	Mon	25/09/2023	Public Holiday Last day for the Returning Officer to give Statewide public notice of the election. * Preferred date: Wednesday 20 September 2023	LGA 4.64(1)
19	Mon	2/10/2023	Commence processing returned election packages.	
0	Sat	21/10/2023	ELECTION DAY - Close of poll 6.00 pm	LGA 4.7
		<i>As soon as practicable</i>	Declaration and Notice of Election Result by the Returning Officer	LGA 4.77
Post Declaration of Results Events				References to Act / Regs
Within 14 days			Report to Minister. The report relating to an election under section 4.79 is to be provided to the Minister within 14 days after the declaration of the result of the election.	Reg. 81
Within 28 days			An invalidity complaint is to be made to a Court of Disputed Returns, constituted by a magistrate, but can only be made within 28 days after notice is given of the result of the election.	LGA 4.81(1)

* Dates subject to change

179643

JULY 2023

Important Dates:

21st July - Christmas in July Luncheon

26th July - Ordinary Council Meeting

28th July - Newsletter Submission Cutoff

Shire Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday 9am-4:00pm

Alternate Wednesday 10am-4:00pm

Shire of Victoria Plains
PO Box 21
Calingiri WA 6569



www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au

reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au



Phone: 08 96287004

Fax: 08 96287008

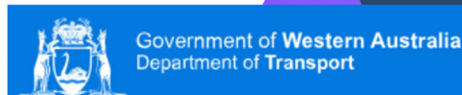
Ordinary Council Meeting

26th July 2023
Commencing at
2:00pm in the
Calingiri Council
Chambers

Department of Transport

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Alternate Wednesday
10am-3:00pm





united we inspire

LEARN, THRIVE & CONNECT
IN THE WHEATBELT

Wheatbelt Early Childhood Educator Conference

29 July 2023 | Wongan Hills WA

The Wheatbelt conference is an opportunity not to be missed! Tailored for people working with children including volunteers in community groups, early years educators and teachers, plus anyone interested in joining the early childhood education and care profession. Hear from renowned industry experts and gain inspiration from the extensive choice of workshops on offer.

Conference Stalls

- Lumen
- Central Regional TAFE
- Carewest
- Enhancing Learning
- Trumpet & ELF
- REED Inc
- MTA & many more

Topics

- Child protection
- Wellbeing
- Professional development
- Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Special needs & more

What's Included

- Yerecoin Traders will be providing homemade morning and afternoon tea and lunch
- Freebies/conference bags
- Door prizes
- Travel assistance available
- Free barista coffee

Speakers



Toni Christie M.Ed & Robin Christie
Childspace New Zealand



Hans Boehm
Founder
ecpd team



Dr Paul Armishaw
CEO
REmida Perth



Rosemary Power
Department of Education
Road Safety &
Drug Education



Leanne Crawford
Inclusion Leader
Autism Association of WA



Kendra Bell-Hayes & Anthea Abbott
Enhancing Learning



Anne Pettit
Little Green Steps WA



Rebecca Wahlisten
Positive Partnership



Debi Taylor
Principal
Cloverdale Education
Support Centre



Tayla Noble & Alysha Curran
Early Start Australia

Tickets

Tickets only \$85 with group discounts available. Check out our socials and website to purchase tickets and for up-to-date information.

www.wheatbeltconference2023.com.au @uwiwheatbelt



Families & Children Expo

Friday 28th July 10am-2pm

Wongan Hills Civic Centre

Come and connect and be inspired by professionals, groups and resources that are available to all families and children in the Wheatbelt region. The expo is targeted at anyone involved with young children, who is interested in learning about what is on offer to help children to learn, develop and thrive.

Free family event



- Over 35 stalls expected • Morning tea and lunch for sale
- Activities for both children and parents • Cuddly animal farm • Prizes to be won • Workshops and live demos for families • Free showbag on entry and much more!



  @uwiwheatbelt
 www.wheatbeltconference2023.com.au



united we inspire
LEARN, THRIVE & CONNECT
IN THE WHEATBELT

2023 **PIAWANING** **expo**

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

**TRACTOR PULL
LAWN MOWER RACING**

WALTER WHIP & THE FLAMES

RODEO WORKSHOPS

FIREWORKS

**TRADE EXHIBITORS ~ MARKET STALLS
COMMUNITY DISPLAYS ~ SHOW & SHINE**

FREE KIDS RIDES ~ FREE CAMPING

WHIP CRACKING WORKSHOPS

LIVE MUSIC ~ VINTAGE MACHINERY

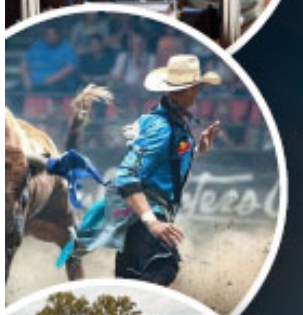
DANCERS ~ FOOD TRUCKS

ATM ONSITE & SO MUCH MORE !

PIAWANING OVAL

Adults \$15 • Seniors \$10 • Kids (age 6-16) \$5

Tickets at the gate. Gate opens at 10am.



piawaningexpo.com.au





SHOW & SHINE

PIAWANING
 expo

2ND SEPT
2023



10AM - 4PM

DISPLAY YOUR PRIDE AND JOY

OPEN TO ALL CARS - TRUCKS - BIKES

TROPHIES FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD

SHOW & SHINE COMPETITION ENTRY IS FREE - EXPO ENTRY FEES APPLY

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



YERECOIN TRADERS

Little Country Store & Café

-  Licensed café with alfresco dining
-  Country inspired gifts & homewares
-  Plants & plant care products
-  Catering & event hosting
-  Wholefood & fresh produce



Make the trip to Yerecoin today and experience our warm, friendly, country hospitality.

 38 Miling Road Yerecoin  (08) 9654 6015

Open Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm | Saturday 8am to 1pm

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