



Shire of Victoria Plains

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council
18th May 2004

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Shire of Victoria Plains

Minutes

FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18th MAY 2004
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS CALINGIRI COMMENCING AT 1.08PM.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting opened at 1.08pm.

2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

President:	Cr M Anspach	West Ward
Councillors:	Cr J Kelly	West Ward
	Cr J Young	East Ward
	Cr N Smith	East Ward
	Cr D Holmes	South Ward
	Cr G Erickson	South Ward
	Cr S Woods	Central Ward (from 1.39pm)
	Cr R Thorpe	Central Ward
Acting Chief Executive Officer:	Mr H Hawkins	
Works Manager:	Mr A Kent	
Community Services Manager:	Mr T Walker	

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATION'S/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation

Resolution 158/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr J Kelly that the revised minutes of the Plant and Works Committee Meeting held April 20th 2004 as circulated be confirmed.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Resolution 159/04

Moved Cr J Kelly seconded Cr Holmes that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held April 20th 2004 be confirmed.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

7.2 Business Arising

That the Gillingarra School Item A649 from the April 2004 Ordinary Meeting be lifted from the table and put on the Agenda for the June 2004 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

8 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

9 PRESIDENT AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cr Erickson

Attended NRM Meeting in Geraldton and Three Springs, and an Avon Catchment Council Meeting where concerns were raised over funding for LCDC.

Cr J Kelly

Attended Gillingarra LCDC meeting. Gillingarra LCDC would like to purchase Gillingarra School. The sport and recreation group would like to retain the building and LCDC would like to lease it long term.

Cr Smith

Attended Rural Towns meeting with CALM and Department of Agriculture regarding Drains.

10 BUSINESS PAPER

- 10.1 Finance
- 10.2 Community Services
- 10.3 Town Planning
- 10.4 Administration
- 10.5 Works
- 10.6 Landcare

10.1 FINANCE

F279 Accounts for Payment

A list of accounts for payment is attached to the Minutes. Outstanding creditors at the date of this report were \$10,867.71

Resolution 160/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Holmes that Municipal and Trust cheques and direct payments totalling \$252,040.86 be passed for payment.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Ms Penny Townley NRM Coordinator from WALGA and Mr Duncan Peter NACC Regional Facilitator made a NRM/Regional Strategy presentation to Council at 1.30pm.

Ms Townley spoke on the National Heritage Trust (NHT) which has funding of \$1B and National Action Plan (NAP) on salinity and water quality which has funding of \$1.8B and the need for Local Government to be brought into Natural Resource Management (NRM) and to be recognised as a key player in regional strategies.

Mr Peter reiterated Ms Townley's comments that Local Government needs to be recognised and congratulated the Shire of Victoria Plains on their land care projects. He went on to talk about the NRM Strategy and his role as the link between NACC and the Community.

Cr Woods left the meeting at 2.26pm.

Cr Woods entered the meeting at 2.28pm.

F280 Sundry Debtors

A list of sundry debtors is attached to the Minutes.

Resolution 161/04

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Thorpe that the sundry debtors report be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

F281 Monthly Financial Statement

The Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30th April 2004 is attached under separate cover to the Minutes.

Resolution 162/04

Moved Cr Thorpe seconded Cr Holmes that the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30th April 2004 be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

F282 Municipal and Trust Fund

The Municipal and Trust Fund on hand as at the 18th May 2004 was tabled at the meeting.

Resolution 163/04

Moved Cr Thorpe seconded Cr Young that the Municipal and Trust Fund on hand as at the 18th May 2004 as tabled be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

F283 Outstanding Rates Report

A list of outstanding rates is attached to the Minutes.

Resolution 164/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Thorpe that the outstanding rates report be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Incorporating Health, Building and Community Services)

Community Services Manager - Trevor Walker entered the meeting at 2.52pm.

CS225 Community Services Manager's Report

Location	Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant	Community Services Manager
File Reference	A1.2.1
Attachment/s	Community Services Manager's Report
Date	11 th May 2004
Author	Community Services Manager

Background

Comment

Statutory Environment	Nil
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Recommendation

That the Community Services Manager's Report be received.

CS226 Bolgart Aged Persons Units

Location	George Street, Bolgart
Name of Applicant	n/a
File Reference	HS1.4.1
Attachment/s	Nil
Date	11 th May 2004
Author	Community Services Manager

Background

The joint venture aged persons accommodation comprising 2 x 2 bedroom brick units at Lots 184 and 191 George Street Bolgart have proceeded to the stage that plans have been prepared and tenders for the construction of the units are to be called in the near future.

Copies of the plans will be tabled at the Council meeting for information.

Comment

In order to expedite the progress to construction planning approval has been issued to Homeswest in order that tenders could be called. Planning approval was issued on authority

delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. Council is requested to endorse the actions of issuing planning approvals.

Statutory Environment	Town Planning Scheme No. 4 and Local Government Act 1995
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 165/04

Moved Cr Woods seconded Cr Erickson that Council endorses the issue of planning approval to Homeswest to proceed with the construction of 2 x 2 bedroom aged persons units on Lots 184 and 191 George Street Bolgart.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

CS227 Environmental (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulation 2004

Location	Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant	n/a
File Reference	CA3.5
Attachment/s	Nil
Date	11 th May 2004
Author	Community Services Manager

Background

The Environmental (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004 were gazetted on 12th March 2004.

The Regulations are designed to be “user friendly” to Local Government’s for relatively minor environmental pollution matters. The regulations exclude residential activities. Infringement notices can be issued under the regulations and the proceeds from infringement notices remain with the local government concerned.

Comment

In order to upgrade the existing inspector authorisation it will be necessary to undertake a one day training course on the new legislation.

Statutory Environment	Environmental Protection Act 1986
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 166/04

Moved Cr J Kelly seconded Cr Young that Council authorises additional training to enable the Environmental Health Officer to implement the Environmental (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

CS228 Recycling Used Oil and Filters

Location Shire Depot – Calingiri
Name of Applicant Wren Oil
File Reference CA1.3.3
Attachment/s Nil
Date 11th May 2004
Author Community Services Manager

Background

Wren Oil seeks to obtain the exclusive rights to collect use old from the Council depot at no cost and used oil filters at a rate of \$80/200 litre drum, also from the Council depot.

The services will be provided on demand.

Comment

Wren Oil assisted Council in obtaining a \$20,000 grant to purchase an oil recycling station. The grant was obtained from Environment Australia.

The recycling station is to be installed at the Council depot when time permits.

Wren Oil seeks a three year contract to provide oil and filter recycling services.

Statutory Environment Environmental Protection Act
Policy Implications Protects the Environment
Financial Implications \$80/200 litre Drum
Strategic Implications Nil

Resolution 167/04

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Holmes that Council enters into a contract with Wren Oil of Lot 4/37 Harris Road Picton to provide oil recycling services for a period of three years commencing 1st June 2004. Removal of used oil to be at no cost to Council and used filters to be disposed of at a cost of \$80/200 litre drum.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

CS229 Request to Comply with Town Planning Scheme

Location Cavell Street Calingiri
Name of Applicant Mr M Cullen
File Reference D6.1
Attachment/s Letter to Mr Cullen and Letter from Mr Cullen
Date 11th May 2004
Author Community Services Manager

Background

Council sent a letter of request to the owners of properties in the Cavell Street Industrial area to comply with the provisions of District Town Planning Scheme with respect to vehicle parts, vehicle bodies, timber, steel products or any other products or wastes associated with

commercial or industrial use. The owners were requested to remove the above items or screen them from view from any public street by a closed wall or fence of not less than 1.8 metres.

Comment

A copy of Council's letter to Mr Cullen and Mrs Cullen's reply is attached to the agenda.

With respect to the points raised in Mr Cullen's letter the following comments are made:-

- The penalties which may be incurred are listed in the Town Planning and Development Act 1928 were included in the letter for information. That information can not be reasonably interpreted as a threat.
- The items stored on the property have not been described as "rubbish" in fact the word rubbish does not appear in Council's letter of request.
- Paragraph four of Mr Cullen's letter describes the Yulgering Road development as Commercial. The zoning is Light Industrial.
A 1.8m chainmesh fence is a sufficient fence until motor vehicle bodies, vehicle parts, timber, steel products or wastes associated with industrial use are to be stored on an industrial lot. When storage of those items is proposed the Town Planning Scheme requires that screen fencing be erected.
- Mr Cullen intends to erect a chainmesh fence and rely on the vegetation which has been planted along the Cavell Street boundary of the lot. The vegetation along Cavell Street is not considered adequate to screen the items stored on the lot and the stored items can be seen from Young Street.

A decision needs to be made whether Council is prepared to enforce the provisions of the Town Planning Scheme with respect to the three offending properties in Cavell Street.

Statutory Environment	Town Planning and Development Act 1976 District Town Planning Scheme No 4
Policy Implications	Administration of the Scheme
Financial Implications	Possible Legal costs
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 168/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Woods that Council advises Mr Cullen that a chainmesh fence and the vegetation which exists along the Cavell Street boundary of his property are not considered satisfactory to the requirements of District Town Planning Scheme No. 4.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/1

CS230 Wheatbelt Youth Services

Location	44 Wheatbelt Local Governments
Name of Applicant	Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee (WACC)
File Reference	A1.18.2
Attachment/s	letter from WACC
Date	17 th May 2004

Author Community Services Manager

Background

The WACC has written to Council seeking financial support for a region wide “Wheatbelt Youth Services” Model to operate as an independent body with a management committee made up of key stakeholders.

Comment

The full substance of the letter appears as an attachment to this item.

Staff are of the view that the Shire of Victoria Plains is not a key stakeholder in the delivery of youth services in the region and the requested annual subscription of \$3,025 can not be justified.

Statutory Environment	Local Government Act
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 169/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Erickson that Council decline the Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee’s request to support a “Wheatbelt Services” Model for the Wheatbelt Region.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

10.3 TOWN PLANNING

There are no items for discussion under the Town Planning Section for this meeting.

Resolution 170/04

Moved Cr Woods seconded Cr J Kelly that the meeting adjourn for afternoon tea.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

The meeting adjourned at 3.21pm

The meeting resumed at 3.45pm

Trevor Walker left the meeting at 4.09pm

10.4 ADMINISTRATION

A651 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant Acting Chief Executive Officer
File Reference A1.2.1
Attachment/s Acting CEO Report
Date 12th May 2004
Author

Background

See report

Comment

See report

Statutory Environment Nil
Policy Implications Nil
Financial Implications Nil
Strategic Implications Nil

Resolution 171/04

Moved Cr Woods seconded Cr J Kelly that the Acting Chief Executive Officer's report be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

A652 Common Seal

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant n/a
File Reference D6.1
Attachment/s Nil
Date 12th May 2004
Author Harry Hawkins – Acting CEO

Background

Council is required to authorise the use of the common seal on documents being signed by officers.

Comment

The common seal was placed on the Transfer of Land document signed by the Acting CEO in relation to lot 304 Yulgering Road Calingiri (Shire of Victoria Plains to G B Jones) in the industrial sub division.

Statutory Environment	Nil
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 172/04

Moved Cr Woods seconded Cr Young that Council endorse the use of the common seal on the transfer of land document in relation to lot 304 Yulgering Road Calingiri.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 8/0

A653 Community Resource Centre Dissent

Location	Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant	None
File Reference	CA5.7
Attachment/s	Nil
Date	12 th May 2004
Author	Harry Hawkins – Acting CEO

Background

The process to build a community resource centre in Calingiri began some years ago and since then there has been many plans and proposals put forward by the committees involved and the community or at least sections of it appear to be confused about the details of the centre and its cost and impact on rates and this is causing dissent among parts of the community. It is thought that this confusion has been caused by misinformation being circulated possibly due to the 'Chinese whisper effect' on details discussed in Council and Committee meetings.

Comment

Since the original Community Resource Centre Committee first released details of the proposed building there has been several revisions of the project and it is considered that not all sections of the community are up to date with the current proposals and the impact it will have on their rates and this is contributing to dissent in the community.

Now that architects have been appointed and the final design is nearing completion it is recommended that an information bulletin be prepared and sent to each household in the shire setting out the final design of the project, Councils contribution and the details and impact on their rates of the loan repayments and ongoing running costs.

Statutory Environment	Local Government Act 1995
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	The community would be fully informed in writing of the final proposal.

Resolution 173/04

Moved Cr Anspach seconded Cr J Kelly that

- 1. the CEO is to prepare a current business plan as required in Local Government Act to cover the Community Resource Centre Project;**

2. a Business Plan to include a copy of updated firm costings similar as supplied by Nick Whishaw, Quantity Surveyor, for plan "F" reference 3192-2 dated 6th June 2003;
3. detail list of contingencies and costings;
4. detail list of profession fee charges including travel;
5. detail upgrade and costings to toilets, change rooms, foyer, kitchen in existing hall as per preliminary plans submitted by Louise Young in option "F";
6. detail costings of all security, safe and video surveillance etc as to meet Banking and Licensing requirements;
7. detail costings of the Shire intent of In Kind support for the Shire of Victoria Plains Resource Centre to the value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) Ref: Allen Kent's letter of 17th October 2002;
8. new complex to be of a similar standard, materials and size as stated by Louise Young 19th August 2002 reference 1451;
9. complete business plan to be presented to Council for endorsement before being advertised as required by the Local Government Act;
10. business plan and costing details to be displayed in all towns in the Shire and on the Shire Website;
11. all public submissions to be presented to the next Council meeting after closing date.

**MOTION PUT & CARRIED 4/4
on the Casting Vote of the President**

Votes For: Cr Anspach, Cr J Kelly, Cr Holmes, Cr Erickson
Votes Against: Cr Smith, Cr Young, Cr Thorpe, Cr Woods

Cr Young and Cr Woods left the meeting at 4.55pm.

Cr Thorpe left the meeting at 4.57pm

Cr Woods and Cr Thorpe entered the meeting at 5.00pm.

Recommendation

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Thorpe that Council authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer and the Community Services Manager to prepare and distribute to each household an information bulletin on the final design, Council contribution and impact on rates of the Community Resource Centre to be built in Calingiri.

MOTION PUT & LOST 3/2

Votes For: Cr Smith, Cr Anspach
Votes Against: Cr Holmes, Cr Erickson, Cr J Kelly

Resolution 174/04

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Holmes that in view of previous motion the architectural costs be put on hold until such time as a business plan is submitted to Council.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 4/3

Votes For: Cr Erickson, Cr Holmes, Cr J Kelly, Cr Anspach
 Votes Against: Cr Thorpe, Cr Woods, Cr Smith

A654 Extraordinary Election West Ward

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant n/a
File Reference A1.7.1
Attachment/s Nil
Date 12th May 2004
Author Harry Hawkins – Acting CEO

Background

Councillor Shane Kelly tendered his resignation from Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on the 20th April 2004 creating the need to hold an extraordinary election as per section 4.8 of the Local Government Act 1995 for the West Ward for a Councillor to be elected until May 2005 when Councillor Kelly's term would have expired.

Comment

Section 4.9 of the Local Government Act 1995 states that the date of the extraordinary election must be fixed within one month of the vacancy occurring and the election must be held within 4 months of the vacancy occurring. The date may be fixed by the President or by Council at a meeting held within one month of the vacancy occurring.

The date for the extraordinary election has been set by the President in conjunction with the Acting CEO as the 24th July 2004 and Council is asked to endorse that date.

Statutory Environment Local Government Act Division 4
Policy Implications Nil
Financial Implications Advertising and wages costs will be incurred.
Strategic Implications Nil

Resolution 175/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr J Kelly that Council endorse the date of the West Ward Extraordinary Election of 24th July 2004 as set by the President.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

A655 New Policy

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant Phil Anning – Chief Executive Officer
File Reference A1.1.7
Attachment/s Nil
Date 12 May 2004
Author Harry Hawkins – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Background

A draft policy in respect to Gratuities and Redundancies was presented to Council at the April meeting for consideration, and a notice of motion for the May meeting was adopted.

Comment

Council is required under the Local Government act to have a policy on Gratuities and Redundancies and the lack of this policy as identified in the compliance audit is being rectified by the adoption of this policy.

Statutory Environment	Local Government Act
Policy Implications	New Policy
Financial Implications	As per Policy
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 176/04

Moved Cr J Kelly seconded Cr Smith that the policy in respect to “Gratuities and Redundancies” be adopted for inclusion in Council’s Policy Manual.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

A656 Moore Catchment Council

Location	Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant	n/a
File Reference	CA3.4
Attachment/s	Nil
Date	18 th May 2004
Author	Harry Hawkins – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Background

A letter has been received from Moore Catchment Council wanting confirmation of our Council representative at their meetings as well as a proxy.

Comment

The Moore Catchment Council records show our representative as Councillor Michael Anspach with no proxy. They are concerned that Councillor Anspach has missed the last few meetings and our shire has not been represented.

Statutory Environment	Nil
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 177/04

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr J Kelly that Council nominate Cr Erickson as the Shire representative and Cr Smith as his proxy to attend meetings of the Moore Catchment Council.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

A657 Election – Wheatbelt Development Commission Board Members

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant n/a
File Reference A1.18.1
Attachment/s Ballot Papers
Date 18th May 2004
Author Harry Hawkins – Acting Chief Executive Officer

Background

Due to the passing of Michael Bates and the expiry of the term of Cr Phil Nolan, WALGA is conducting an election for two positions on the board of the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Comment

The Shire of Victoria Plains is eligible to cast one ballot in this election and the ballot paper is attached and candidate profiles are with the Chief Executive Officer for your perusal should you wish.

Statutory Environment Nil
Policy Implications Nil
Financial Implications Nil
Strategic Implications Nil

Resolution 178/04

Moved Cr J Kelly seconded Cr Erickson that Council cast votes for Joy Craven and Duncan Holmes in the ballot for two representatives for the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

10.5 WORKS

W187 Works Manager’s Report

Location Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant Works Manager
File Reference A1.2.1
Attachment/s Works Manager’s Report
Date 12th May 2004
Author Allen Kent – Works Manager

Background

See report

Comment

See report

Statutory Environment	Nil
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 179/04

**Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Woods that the Works Manager’s report be received.
MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0**

It was discussed by members present that Council revisit the Road Hierarchy for grading at the next Plant and Works Committee Meeting.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Ian Osboine with best wishes and good health for his upcoming operation and pass on thanks for a good job on Road Construction this year.

10.6 LANDCARE

L13 Landcare Officer’s Report

Location	Shire of Victoria Plains
Name of Applicant	Landcare Officer
File Reference	A1.2.1
Attachment/s	Landcare Officer’s Report
Date	12 th May 2004
Author	Elizabeth Tierney – Landcare Officer

Background

See report

Comment

See report

Statutory Environment	Nil
Policy Implications	Nil
Financial Implications	Nil
Strategic Implications	Nil

Resolution 180/04

**Moved Cr Woods seconded Cr J Kelly that the Landcare Officer’s report be received.
MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0**

11 NOTICE OF MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

13 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Nil

14 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.02pm

Signed this day of 2004.

Presiding Member

Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report to Ordinary Meeting of Council

This will only be a short report as Phil cleared most things before going on leave.

Extraordinary Election

The date for the Extraordinary Election has been set as 24th July 2004 and enrolment to vote advertising has been done. Nominations open on the 9th June 2004 for 15 days. Term will expire May 2005.

Staff Movements

Interviews were conducted on 9th and 10th May for the Finance Officer/Rates position.

Meetings Attended

30 th April 2004	Regional Road Group
3 rd May 2004	Financial Reporting Workshop

Harry Hawkins
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Works Manager's Report to Ordinary Meeting of Council

Construction Programme

AgLime Route 2 – Calingiri Goomalling

Construction of 1.70km of Calingiri Goomalling Road is almost completed, the primer seal has been laid at 7m in width on the through section, and the intersections have not been primer sealed at this stage as there is a crossover pipe to be installed at the Edmonds Road intersection.

The intersection will be primer sealed in conjunction with some Reinstatement works this financial year on Toodyay Bindi Bindi Road with the Regional Roads project which we have been successful in the latter part of the year an additional \$17,000 was granted to our Shire as part of the 20% allocation of which Council has to contribute \$1.00 in every \$2.00. This money will be spent on Reinstatement works before the end of June 2004. This work will commence in the next two weeks depending on weather conditions.

AgLime Route 2 – Calingiri New Norcia

This project is complete with the exception of a few minor jobs to be done, i.e.: Road Name Signs – Chevron Boards – Fence repairs, and a small area of kerbing to be done in a deep fill area to stop the scouring of road shoulders etc.

I have spoken to Peter Osboine the Farm Manager from the Benedictine Community and told him that the new fence that is to be erected on the Carani Corner will not be completed this financial year, the works will be completed and re-surveyed in 2004-05.

Capital Works Programme

Old Plains Road

The tree lopping; drainage and gravel re-sheeting has been completed on Old Plains Road. The 2000m x 9m formation of road works, starting 800 meters north of Pither Road. The treatment has improved this section of road no end and areas that had rock and very little gravel on the road surface. Works have greatly improved the safety and running surface of the road.

Bolgart West Road

This project is a State Blackspot project; the works were scheduled because of a dangerous "S" bend where some accidents had been reported previously, visibility on the inside of the curves was always a major concern.

The treatment included the widening of 2 culverts and headwalls to obtain the extra width required for the completion of the road works, guide posts and road signage to alert the travelling public. The work is now completed and a recoup has now been sent to Main Roads for the allocation of monies.

Nicholas Street

This project is completed to the primer seal stage. Kerbing is programmed to be laid on the 17th May 2004. There has been a slight delay with the kerbing as the contractor Glenview Kerbing has been busy with other Councils programmes.

Yulgering Road Sub-Division- Calingiri

Kerbing will be completed on the 17th May 2004 on both sections of road when the contractor arrives. The kerbing will then be backfilled and levelled off; this project will then be completed. Tree lines will be ripped for tree planting this month.

Carani East Road

Gravel has been pushed up on Troy McDonalds property for this project. This is the only project yet to be completed this financial year. I will be leaving this job until June 2004 to find out exactly what monies we have in the Budget as Blowouts have occurred in Telegraph Road. Telegraph Road had to be re-sheeted this has cost Council approximately \$10,000 to repair.

Woods Road

Woods Road has 6-7 Blowouts on it as well and will need to be repaired. These sections are 800m North of Carani Road. If the work is carried out now, it will save money if it is left for any period, the road will fail beyond repair. This is the main reason for not progressing with the Carani East Project, and if we have enough money to carry out some gravel re-sheeting on Carani East it will be completed early in June 2004.

Maintenance Grading

Now that we have had some rain, I propose to have the 3 Council Grader operators engaged in Maintenance Grading until the end of May and beyond. The gravel roads will need to be pulled in with a heavy grade to obtain shape and compaction on the road surface. The roads will be prioritised depending on the complaints received and normal grading practices will continue, depending on monies available within Budget this financial year.

Drainage Maintenance

The checking and cleaning of culverts throughout the Shire will continue progressively whenever manpower is available. Since the rain, drains have built up with leaves and tree limbs. A huge amount of rubbish always collects around culvert entrances.

Parks and Gardens

This work is on a continual basis when manpower is available. Towns will be tidied up in conjunction with the Drainage Maintenance Programme.

Yenart Springs – Calingiri Drought Proofing Scheme

The pump pressure side of the line is working very well, however we are experiencing some problems with the gravitational line, we believe the problem is caused through too much air getting into the line causing a friction problem, which is restricting the flow. I have spoken to Len Legge who is the design engineer for the project and he thinks that they may have over designed the air valve system, which in turn is designed to force the air from the line, and what appears to be happening is that the air valves are staying open when the pipe line is flowing, this is causing air to enter the system. We are at present waiting on him to report back. His idea is to remove some of the valves altogether. The problem is not major, and can be rectified; however we are experiencing lower flow rates than expected. This will not cost Council any additional money, it is merely a matter of turning the air valves off completely until we find the ones letting in the air.

Report on the condition of Councils Mitsubishi Water Truck

The brakes on this vehicle were causing some concern. The handbrake would not hold and after further inspection by Bob Hogg we were notified that the brake shoes had worn down almost to the metal. We arranged to have the brake shoes renewed and the brake drums skimmed, this process has cost around \$2,500.

Plant Report

All other Council owned plant is operating effectively.

Allen Kent
Works Manager

Landcare Officer's Report to Ordinary Meeting of Council

Envirofunds

The three Envirofund project applications that were submitted in January have all been funded. The project details are as follows:

Protection of the Moore river at Gillingarra	\$7272.73
Protecting feeding habitat of Carnaby's Cockatoos, Gillingarra	\$3381.82
Fencing and revegetation of land at risk from salinity, Calingiri	\$6854.55

The next deadline for submission of new projects is 9th July 2004.

Regional Strategy: Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

Five major community meetings were held in the Moore region during April, run by myself and Penny Keenan from the Moore Catchments Council. The purpose of these meetings was to find out what local communities see as priorities for landcare work in coming years. Information from all the meetings across the Northern Ag Region was compiled at workshops in Jurien and Geraldton and fed into the regional strategy. A further series of meetings will be held in the next fortnight to decide which of the possible actions listed in the strategy should be focused on first.

Funding for Landcare Positions

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council intends to extend existing contracts (including mine) beyond the 30th of June 2004. Once the regional strategy is accredited, they hope to offer three-year contracts. It is possible for my time with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council to increase from three days a week to four days a week, leaving one day a week to be funded by the Shire.

A second full-time position can be funded for at least one year (half time with the National Landcare Program and half-time with Grain and Graze).

Training /Workshops/ Attended

Information from Geospatial Data for Natural Resource Management, Perth.

Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land training day, Northam.

Department of Agriculture Landscape Analysis workshop, Moora.

Avon Sandalwood Network Field Day

Meetings Attended

Coorow Regional Strategy meeting

Pithara Regional Strategy meeting

Pithara-Dalwallinu LCDC meeting

Biosolids information day at Cocking's

SGSL site meetings at Bolgart – 2

Moora Miling Pasture Improvement Group AGM

Gingin Regional Strategy meeting

Moore Catchment Council meetings – 3

Moora Regional Strategy meetings – 2

Gingin Primary School strategy consultation
Neergabby Catchment Group meeting
Meeting with Avon Catchment Council Indigenous Support Officer to develop project at
Mogumber Mission – 2
Calingiri-New Norcia LCDC meeting
Red Gully Catchment Group meeting
Northern Ag Catchments Council strategy workshops, Jurien and Geraldton.

Elizabeth Tierney
Landcare Officer