



Shire of Victoria Plains

Minutes for an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held

On	Tuesday 18 th October 2005
At	Council Chambers, Calingiri
Commencing	1.02pm

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 1.02pm.

2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Cr Neil Smith was granted leave of absence for the October Ordinary Meeting of Council.

President:	Cr M Anspach	West Ward
Councillors:	Cr J Kelly	West Ward
	Cr D Lovelock	West Ward
	Cr D Holmes	South Ward
	Cr G Erickson	South Ward
	Cr J Young	East Ward
	Cr J Brennan	Central Ward
Apologies:	Cr S Woods	Central Ward
Chief Executive Officer:	Mr H Hawkins	
Finance and Administration Manager:	Mr N Hamilton	
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

Cr John Brennan applied for leave of absence to the January 2006 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Leave of absence was granted.

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATION'S/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution 312/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Kelly that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20th September 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Resolution 313/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Kelly that the minutes of the Plant and Works Committee Meeting held 18th October 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

8 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The President advised he will be attending a Small Town Survival forum in York on Wednesday 19th October with the Chief Executive Officer, Community Services Manager and Cr Lovelock.

The President will also be attending a meeting in Goomalling on Friday 21st October regarding AgLime Funding.

9 PRESIDENT AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cr Lovelock attended the VPTA meeting held recently and the workshop.

Cr Erickson attended NACC AGM and MCC AGM.

The President congratulated Cr Erickson on being elected to the Chair of the MCC.

10 BUSINESS PAPER

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

10.1 Finance Status Report

Recommendation

That the items in the Finance Status Report detailed below be noted.

Item No	Report Details	Finance Action Required	Status

10.1 FINANCE

F402 Accounts for Payment

A list of accounts paid for the month of September 2005 is attached to the Minutes. The payments made are within budget parameters. Payments made in the "90000" series of cheque numbers are direct payments via the Electronic Funds Transfer system and are for the payment of employee's wages.

Resolution 314/05

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Holmes that Municipal and Trust cheques numbered 3343 to 3455 and direct payments 90124 to 90128 totalling \$176,726.43 be passed for payment.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

F403 Sundry Debtors

A list of sundry debtors is attached to the Minutes.

Resolution 315/05

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

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

F404 Monthly Financial Statement

The Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30th September 2005 is attached to the Minutes.

Resolution 316/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Young that the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30th September 2005 be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

F405 Municipal and Trust Fund

The Municipal and Trust Fund on hand as at the 18th October 2005 was tabled at the meeting.

Resolution 317/05

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Young that the Municipal and Trust Fund on hand as at the 18th October 2005 as tabled be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

F406 Outstanding Rates Report

The Outstanding Rates Report for the period ending 30th September 2005 is attached to the Minutes.

Resolution 318/05

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Erickson that the Outstanding Rates Report for the period ending 30th September 2005 be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Finance and Administration Manager left the meeting at 1.26pm.

Finance and Administration Manager and Community Services Manager entered the meeting at 1.27pm.

10.2 Community Services Status Report

Recommendation

That the items in the Community Services Status Report detailed below be noted.

Item No	Report Details	Community Services Action Required	Status
CS279	Calingiri Caravan Park Ablutions	Nil	Recommendation not accepted
CS280	Homestead Lot - H & J Goudge	Council support	Letter written
CS281	Dog Attack	Nil	Report received
CS282	Cultural Mapping	Prepare Grant application	Grant application lodged

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Incorporating Health, Building and Community Services)

CS283 Reserves 17655 and 17138 Fordham Road

Location:

North of Wyening

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Not applicable

File Reference:

ES4.3

Attachments:

Area Map

Date Report Written:

10th October 2005-10-12

Author:

Community Services Manager - Trevor Walker

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

In 2002 Council requested control over Reserve 17655 Fordham Road Wyening. The reserve in question is the reserve on which the headworks for the Wyening Townsite water supply is located. Council was advised at the time of request what agreements were required to be put into place in order to be the recipient of a Management Order. There is no record as to why a Management Order was requested and the required agreements were not progressed.

Comment

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) has recently advised that it intends to amalgamate the smaller school site Reserve No. 17138 with the 244.5060ha water and flora Reserve No. 17655.

CALM has advised DPI that it requires the Management of the resultant reserve.

The DPI asks whether Council wishes to object to CALM controlling the new combined reserve.

Statutory Environment

Land Administration Act
Local Government Act

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Resolution 319/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Holmes that Council advise the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that it no longer has an interest in Reserves 17655 and 17138.

MOTION PUT & LOST 3/4

Resolution 320/05

Moved Cr Lovelock seconded Cr Kelly that Council advise the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that Council object to the proposed amalgamation of Reserves 17655 and 17138 and that Council wish to have control of reserve 17138.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

CS284 Atlas Composting Facility

Location:

Lot M2043 on plan 6168 - Old Plains Road Calingiri

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Not applicable

File Reference:

p-oldpl

Attachments:

Nil

Date Report Written:

11th October 2005

Author:

Community Services Manager - Trevor Walker

Disclosure of Interest:

Not applicable

Background

The Atlas Composting Facility receives putrescible waste from the City of Stirling depot. The City of Stirling operates a one bin system with recyclables and inert waste being separated from putrescible waste manually. The putrescible waste is processed into compost and then applied to the land at Atlas Farms Calingiri. The process has been in operation for a number of years. Efforts to ensure regular sampling of the compost product have been unsuccessful.

Comment

The current operating licence includes sampling parameters for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, zinc and chemicals such as dieldrin, heptachlor and a number of other chemicals, but there is only a requirement for the licensee to sample "prior to any compost being taken off the premises". There is no requirement to undertake regular sampling of the finished product and report the results to either the Department of Environment (DoE) or Council.

It is of concern that Atlas Farms is permitted to produce and incorporate compost from a municipal waste stream of unknown contaminants, without the requirement to regularly sample the finished product for heavy metals, chemicals and other contaminants.

The current application for renewal of Atlas Farms annual operating licence requests that the licence be renewed for five years.

If a five year operating licence is to be issued to Atlas Farms it is considered appropriate that a minimum of annual sampling of the finished product be carried out by an independent body with the result reported to the DoE, to ensure that long term application of municipal waste compost is sustainable.

Statutory Environment

Environmental Protection Act

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Recommendation

That Council request the Department of the Environment to condition the Atlas Composting Facility's Operating Licence to require regular testing of the finished compost for heavy metal and chemical contaminants by an independent body with the results reported to the Department of the Environment.

Resolution 321/05

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Young that Council request the Department of the Environment to condition the Atlas Composting Facility's Operating Licence to require regular testing of the finished compost for heavy metal and chemical contaminants by an independent body with the results reported to the Department of the Environment and the Shire of Victoria Plains.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

CS285

Reserve 39103

Location:

Forrest Street Bolgart

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Not applicable

File Reference:

ES4.3

Attachments:

Plan or portion of road traversing Reserve 39103

Date Report Written:

13th October 2005

Author:

Community Services Manager - Trevor Walker

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

On 2002 Council noted that a portion of Forrest Street Bolgart is constructed outside of the surveyed boundaries and requested the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) (then DOLA) to have the portion of constructed road outside the actual road reserve dedicated.

A letter has been received from DPI enquiring if Council is still interested in having the portion of road dedicated.

Comment

The sketch attached to this report shows the section of road in question. It is actually constructed on part of the Reserve No 39103. The DPI will arrange and pay for the cost of the survey. The DPI letter also enquires about the future development of lots contained in Reserve No 39103. The lots have been determined as unsuitable for development as residential lots.

In order to clarify Council's intention in respect of Reserve No 39103 a Council resolution is required.

Statutory Environment

Land Administration Act 1997

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Recommendation

1. That Council requests the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to dedicate the portion of Forrest Street that has been constructed on part of Reserve 39103 and provide indemnification against claims for compensation.
2. That Council advises Landcorp and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that Council has determined the Lots contained in Reserve No 39103 are unsuitable for development as residential lots and will not consider future development for that purpose.

Resolution 322/05

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Erickson that the recommendation for Item CS285 remain on the table until the November 2005 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

10.3 Town Planning Status Report

Recommendation

That the items in the Town Planning Status Report detailed below be noted.

Item No	Report Details	Town Planning Action Required	Status
TP43	Draft Local Strategy	Ongoing	Strategy and report received
TP44	Notice of Motion - Moratorium on Land Application of Biosolids	Nil	Motion lapsed
TP45	Planning approval application - S L Woods	Issue planning approval with conditions	Planning approval sent

10.3 TOWN PLANNING

There are no items for discussion under the Town Planning section this month.

Community Services Manager left the meeting at 1.55pm.

10.4 Administration Status Report

Recommendation

That the items in the Administration Status Report detailed below be noted.

Item No	Report Details	Administration Action Required	Status
A804	CWA Building Calingiri	Motion amended and carried	Complete
A805	Councillor Vision Statements	CEO to facilitate a series of meetings with Councillors and senior staff	Ongoing
A806	Declared Rare Flora	Information received	Complete
A807	Common Seal	Common Seal affixed to Transfer of Land from Water Corp to Shire	Complete
A808	Community Safety and Crime Prevention	Letter to Office of Crime Prevention to accept grant of \$5000	Complete
A809	Regional Road Group Funding Submission	Contribution of \$3000 to be made to WNRRG	Ongoing
A810	Christmas Shutdown	Shutdown from 23/12/05 to 3/1/06 - motion carried	Complete
A811	NRM Officer Positions	CEO to negotiate with MCC for two Landcare Officers.	Ongoing
A812	Council Support	Donation to Chenaye Davidson of \$200 to assist travel	Complete

10.4 ADMINISTRATION

A813 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Location:

Shire of Victoria Plains

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Chief Executive Officer - Harry Hawkins

File Reference:

A1.2.1

Attachments:

CEO Report

Date Report Written:

12th October 2005

Author:

Chief Executive Officer - Harry Hawkins

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Nil

Background

See report.

Comment

See report

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Resolution 323/05

Moved Cr Lovelock seconded Cr Young that the Chief Executive Officer's report as presented be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

A814 Broadband Internet Access

Location:

Shire of Victoria Plains

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Not applicable

File Reference:

CA5.2.1

Attachments:

Nil

Date Report Written:

10th October 2005

Author:

Chief Executive Officer - Harry Hawkins

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

Until recently access to broadband internet was only available to people living within a three kilometre radius of the telephone exchange and the size of towns in the shire meant that we could not get enough people on the demand register for our exchanges to be upgraded. A new wireless broadband service that provides coverage within a forty kilometre radius of the exchange is now available and is being installed in several Wheatbelt shires.

Comment

This new wireless broadband internet technology requires a suitable mast, antenna or tower site and if a suitable site could be found in central location broadband internet coverage would be available to the whole shire. With support from the Federal Government's HiBIS scheme monthly broadband plans from \$29.95 per month with no sign up, installation or equipment costs could be connected to farms, homes and businesses throughout the shire.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil, investigation only at this stage

Strategic Implications

Broadband internet coverage available to whole shire

Voting Requirement

Nil

Resolution 324/05

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Lovelock that

- 1. Council authorise the CEO to continue negotiations with service provider BroadbandNet, and to report back to Council in relation to costs and any other support required from the shire for BroadbandNet to install a wireless broadband internet service to the Shire of Victoria Plains; and**
- 2. Council authorise the CEO to investigate the availability of a suitable mast, antenna or tower site in the New Norcia area suitable for the installation of a wireless broadband internet service.**

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

A815 Townsite Development Projects

Location:

Shire of Victoria Plains

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Not applicable

File Reference:

D7.1

Attachments:

Nil

Date Report Written:

10th October 2005

Author:

Chief Executive Officer - Harry Hawkins

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

At local government week in August the Shire President and CEO attended a meeting with Landcorp's Townsite Development Team which resulted in a visit to the shire by one of their property consultants on the 29th September 2005. During the visit the consultant was taken on a tour of Bolgart, Calingiri and Yerecoin and was given information on the proposed Bolgart industrial subdivision and the proposed subdivision of lot 42 Edmonds in Calingiri together with details of the problems faced in the Yerecoin area caused by the lack of residential land available for development.

Comment

The consultant from Landcorp was non committal but positive in his comments about the prospect of these developments progressing and left expression of interest forms for us to fill in and lodge with respect to the projects. The one criteria that must be addressed is to show that there is a demand for the land to be developed, this demand is shown for the Bolgart industrial land by the letters of interest received from the five local businesses that want blocks. We were told that the usual way of obtaining demand data where none is on file is to advertise for expressions of interest in blocks in the areas under consideration for development.

If Landcorp were to take on the development and marketing of shire owned land they would require Council to transfer the title of the land to them.

Statutory Environment

None

Policy Implications

None

Financial Implications

Advertising costs to ascertain demand

Strategic Implications

Development of additional residential and industrial land

Voting Requirement

None

Resolution 325/05

Moved Cr Young seconded Cr Erickson that

1. Council authorise the CEO to work with Landcorp's Townsite Development team to complete expressions of interest for development of industrial land in Bolgart and residential land in Bolgart, Calingiri and Yerecoin including advertising to gauge demand; and
2. Council agree in principal as a part of the expression of interest to transfer title of land lot 42 Edmonds Street in Calingiri and Lot 23 Emmanuel Street Bolgart to Landcorp to enable them to develop and market the land.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Cr Young left the meeting at 2.17pm.

Cr Young entered the meeting at 2.18pm.

A816 Purchase of Land

Location:

Calingiri - Lot 22

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

DS & PL McDonald

File Reference:

p-moff

Attachments:

Letter of offer

Date Report Written:

11th October 2005

Author:

Chief Executive Officer - Harry Hawkins

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

The shire has in the past eighteen months purchased two blocks in Mofflin Street Calingiri for \$300 and \$250 plus all costs. A neighbouring block in Mofflin Street has now been offered to the shire for \$1,515 plus all costs.

Comment

The shire owns five serviced residential building blocks in Calingiri and at this time doesn't need anymore. Staff have taken some telephone enquires as to the availability of residential land in Calingiri and these potential buyers could be encouraged to contact the private land owners direct with shire owned land being retained for staff housing and investment incentives.

Statutory Environment

None

Policy Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Strategic Implications

None

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Resolution 326/05

Moved Cr Kelly seconded Cr Erickson that Council advises the McDonalds that the shire has no need for additional land at this time and that shire staff be directed to advise prospective buyers of the availability of this block.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 6/1

Finance and Administration Manager left the meeting at 2.20pm.

Finance and Administration Manager and Works Manager entered the meeting at 2.22pm.

Chief Executive Officer left the meeting at 2.23pm.

Chief Executive Officer and Landcare Officer Elizabeth Tierney entered the meeting at 2.24pm.

10.5 Plant and Works Status Report

Recommendation

That the items in the Plant and Works Status Report detailed below be noted.

Item No	Report Details	Plant and Works Action Required	Status

10.5 PLANT AND WORKS

All Plant and Works Committee items and reports were placed on the Plant and Works Committee Agenda.

Resolution 327/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Kelly that Plant and Works Committee Resolutions 309/05 to 311/05 from the meeting held 18th October 2005 be carried En Bloc.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

10.6 LANDCARE

L28 Landcare Officers Report

Location:

Shire of Victoria Plains

**Name of Applicant/
Respondent:**

Elizabeth Tierney and Georgie Gardner

File Reference:

A1.2.1

Attachments:

Landcare Officers report

Date Report Written:

12th October 2005

Author:

Elizabeth Tierney and Georgie Gardner

**Disclosure of
Interest:**

Not applicable

Background

See report.

Comment

See report

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Nil

Voting Requirement

Not applicable

Resolution 328/05

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Holmes that the Landcare Officers report as presented be received.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Landcare Officer Elizabeth Tierney left the meeting at 2.34pm.

Resolution 329/05

Moved Cr Lovelock seconded Cr Erickson that the meeting adjourn for afternoon tea.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

The meeting adjourned at 3.10pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.25pm. All present at adjournment were present at resumption.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

12 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolution 330/05

Moved Cr Brennan seconded Cr Lovelock that the meeting go behind closed doors to discuss confidential item A817 and that the meeting be closed to the public.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

The meeting was closed to the public at 3.27pm.

Pages 4783 and 4784 are not available to the public due to their confidential nature.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 3.45pm

**13 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Resolution 333/05

**Moved Cr Lovelock seconded Cr Young that new business be
introduced to Council.**

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 7/0

Late Item as presented by Cr Young

**A818 Voluntary Resource Sharing Shire of Victoria Plains and the
Shire of Wongan Ballidu**

Location:

Shire of Victoria Plains

Name of Applicant:

Cr John Young - East Ward

File Reference:

A1.17.1

Attachments:

Nil

Date Written:

21st September

Disclosure of Interest:

Not applicable

Back Ground

In the face of rising costs and continuing reduction in the number of ratepayers and business entities in the Shire of Victoria Plains, continuing to operate "as is" is no longer an option.

Leadership, maturity and foresight from Council is important, they are to provide effective quality of service and infrastructure to their rate payers whilst maintaining a rate base that is affordable for business to grow and family units to have a quality of life.

Both Federal and State governments are looking to Local Governments to undertake voluntary structural reforms as a means to lower costs and improve services.

These voluntary arrangements are generally between councils that share existing boundaries. The sharing of some employees and provision of services usually occurs in such arrangements.

Recommendation

That the Shire of Victoria Plains initiate negotiations with the Shire of Wongan Ballidu to design a Voluntary Resource Sharing model with the aim of reducing costs and improving the level of service delivery to both Councils.

Amendment to Recommendation

Resolution 334/05

Moved Cr Erickson seconded Cr Holmes that the Shire of Victoria Plains initiate negotiations with all shires who share common boundaries to design a Voluntary Resource Sharing model with the aim of reducing costs and improving the level of service delivery to both Councils.

MOTION PUT & CARRIED 4/3

14 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 4.05pm

Signed this day of 2005

Presiding Member

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Chief Executive Officer

1. Meetings Attended

- SAT Directions Hearing Perth on 23rd September 2005
- Meeting with Gary Snook and John Castrilli in Calingiri on 27th September 2005
- Fire Brigades meeting in Calingiri on 27th September 2005
- WELL Training meeting at Wongan Hills 6th October 2005
- Mandurah Nissan re supply of vehicles in Calingiri on 12th October 2005
- Biosolids Workshop at New Norcia 12th October 2005
- Water Corporation Stakeholders Meeting Jurien 12th October 2005

2. SAT - Michael Stock

The SAT hearing on the 23rd September 2005 relating to the planning approval conditions was adjourned until the 21st October 2005 when a final decision should be made. The hearing due on the 11th October 2005 regarding the illegal relocation of part of the house at Lot 183 George Street was adjourned until 29th November 2005 to allow the planning conditions to be sorted out first.

The application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision in the Midland Magistrates Court on the 20th May 2005 will be heard on the 2nd November 2005. The Court has ruled that the leave to appeal and the appeal itself be heard on the same day meaning that Minter Ellison have to prepare for both the leave to appeal and the appeal increasing our legal fees yet again.

3. LGMA Annual State Conference

The Local Government Managers Australia annual state conference is on from the 25th to the 28th of October 2005, Neil Hamilton and I will be out of the office during that time.

4. Staff

Gordon Wood has submitted his resignation to take effect on the 27th October 2005. I have asked Allen and John Watson-Bates to arrange a gift and small send off for Gordon as he is a long term employee who is retiring from full time employment.

Harry Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer

Landcare Officers

Perennial Project Update

Georgie organised a Spring Perennials Field Walk in the west VP area on 22nd September. About 30 landholders and industry people attended, and were taken on a bus tour to view lucerne/balansa pastures at Glentromie, Peter Kelly's SGSL site, and Nixon's Rhodes grass and future rotational grazing trial. The day was deemed a success.

Work is continuing on the Case Studies information booklet that is to be completed and distributed to local farmers after September. This project will end in the next month or so, so Georgie is trying to finalise everything and will then complete the final report by the end of December. There are a few more sites she needs to visit.

At this stage she then plans to work part-time/casual for the WA Lucerne Growers' Association and be their Northern/Central Extension and Research Officer.

Wildflower Walk

This year's wildflower walk was held in the Drummond Reserve, west of Bolgart, to showcase the landcare work that is being carried out in the area through CALM's Drummond Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment Project. Approximately 160 people attended.

Project Development

- Development of Project Plan and Project Schedule for successful EOI included in NACC's Investment Plan continuing– involving revegetation and protection of remnant vegetation in the East Moore Catchment (GG)
- Development of Project Plan and Project Schedule for successful EOI included in NACC's Investment Plan - "Control of rising groundwater in the Koojan-Gillingarra region" (ET)
- General site visits to provide advice (ET and GG)
- Numerous site visits for perennials project – trying to see all 62 sites for the second time so then final funding can be paid (GG)
- Assist local farmers with 'Healthy Soils' Grant (ET)
- Liaison with Greening Australia for helping with Flora Surveys in East Moore EOI
- Organised whole-day tour for UWA 3rd year NRM students in the Moore Region - (GG)
- Assisted with UWA tour – (ET)

Meetings/Workshops/Training

- Moore Catchment Council Human Resources Meeting (Moora) - (ET & GG)
- NACC Investment Plan Incentives Meeting (Geraldton) – (ET & GG)
- Broombush Field Day (Northam) – (ET)
- Sandalwood Field Day (Cunderdin) – (GG)
- Dandaragan Women's Field Day - (GG)
- NRMO budget meeting (Moora) – (ET & GG)

- State NRM Conference (Denmark) – (ET & GG)
- UWA 3rd Year NRM tour of Moore Region - (GG & ET)

Promotion

- Landcare section in VP newsletter- (ET)
- Radio advertising of Perennials Field Walk - (GG)

State NRM Conference Report

Georgie and Elizabeth both attended the State NRM Conference in Denmark from 3rd to 6th October. It was an excellent opportunity to network with other NRM professionals.

Some issues discussed at the conference:

- There is a perception that the engagement of local government during the development of regional NRM strategies was ineffective. Most regions are now specifically targeting local governments to increase their involvement in delivering natural resource management. This role could include strategic planning and regulation, taking advantage of local government's statutory powers, or involvement in on-ground delivery. It was noted that WA and QLD are the only states where the regional NRM groups (eg. NACC) do not have statutory powers. However, the role that individual shires can play is constrained by their small size and rate base. NEWROC was given as an example of shires working together to deliver effective natural resource management at a regional scale. NACC (Northern Ag Catchments Council) is currently working on a plan to better engage local governments in the Northern Ag Region, including Victoria Plains.
- There was a strong focus on economic solutions to salinity. Currently the economics of salt-land pastures aren't sufficiently compelling to drive adoption. Farmers currently do not have enough choice when it comes to perennials – research into species selection and plant breeding is increasing.
- Currently there is a strong reliance on incentives and extension to drive adoption of sustainable practices. This is not having the desired effect and we need to look at alternatives for increasing adoption of sustainable practices, such as market drivers and regulations. A number of presenters noted the importance of providing one-on-one, on-site advice to landholders.
- Several presentations dealt with Environmental Management Systems. Currently there is little market incentive for landholders to adopt an EMS. The dairy industry has developed a self-assessment tool to help landholders quantify how well they are managing their business to reduce impact on the environment. The feedback they have had shows that this has been particularly useful for people entering the industry. I think a similar kind of program could be developed for people taking up small landholdings or entering the horticultural industry in our region.

- The shift to a regional delivery model for NRM has included the identification of priority areas for funding in each region. However, the funding is limited and it was argued that investment needs to be even more targeted towards a few very high priorities.

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