Avon Midland Peri-Urban Partnership

AMP-UP Governance Group Meeting

14 September 2026

Commencing at 11am

MINUTES

Notice of Meeting

To: AMP-UP Members

The AMP-UP Governance Group (Presidents & CEOs) meeting was held on the abovementioned date and commencement time, in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Alan Hart

TEMPORARY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AMP-UP Secretariat

Preface

These Minutes will remain "Unconfirmed" until the next AMP-UP Meeting, where the Minutes will be tabled and confirmed subject to any amendments.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Chairperson.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into a separate attachment to these Minutes

Distribution

These minutes were approved for distribution on 2026.

Alan Hart
TEMPORARY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on

…… 2026.

Signed: ……..

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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ATTACHMENTS with separate index follows item 5.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The AMP-UP in-person meeting commenced at 11.08 am.

1.1. Announcement of visitors

1.2. Record of attendance and apologies

Cr M McKeown	Shire President, Shire of Toodyay
Mr A Hart	CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Cr P Bantock	Shire President, Shire of Victoria Plains (online)
Mr S Fletcher	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains (online)
Cr D Smythe	Deputy President, Shire of York
Cr C Antonio	Shire President, Shire of Northam (online from 11.47 am)
Ms D Terelinck	CEO, Shire of Northam
Cr D Dewar	Shire President, Shire of Chittering
Ms M Prinsloo	CEO, Shire of Chittering
Ms K Murray	Executive Officer, AMP-UP

Apologies

Mr S Bryce	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr J Chester	Shire President, Shire of Goomalling
Cr C Gibbs	Shire President, Shire of York
Ms A Behan	CEO, Shire of York

2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION/AMP-UP RES. NO. 01/09/2026

MOVED Cr Dewar **SECONDED** Cr McKeown

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Avon Midland Peri-Urban Partnerships meeting held on 20 July 2026 be accepted as a true and correct record.

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Review of status report

See attachment 2.2 Status Report.

Canberra Advocacy

Cr Smythe suggested AMP-UP make a complaint about the Census - that the data is unreliable as the number of households is undercounted and because a not insignificant number of households are still not receiving Census forms.

Local governments have continually raised these concerns, but they are not being heard or acted upon.

Sean – Raised the Census as an issue with Senator Dean Smith, who has Shadow ministry oversight for the Census and is introducing a bill to parliament to improve accountability of the agency responsible for the Census.

Alan – Suggested members each seek a Council resolution to refer the matter to the WALGA Avon Midland Zone meeting. Sean indicated this could be done by one member.

Action – Shire of York to submit a motion to the next Avon Midland Zone meeting to report significant concerns about the reliability of Census 2026 data, and request action to improve the accountability of the Census process.

Advocacy Strategy & Evidence Base Project

Kelly-Anne summarised discussions to date with the Wheatbelt Development Commission and potential consultant Geografia; reiterated the need for reliable population forecasts to inform the work and advised that the current budget is insufficient to undertake population forecasts, develop a regional growth plan and drive engagement with government.

Advocacy – WALGA motions

Melinda referred to the motions being progressed via WALGA advocating for introduction of a State Assistance Grant and for continuation of Community Water Supply Program funding.

Waste Facilities and Resource Recovery Plan –

Cr Smythe reported that York was disappointed with the content explored in the workshop. Kelly-Anne will follow-up with Alina to identify and address concerns.

2.3 Inward / outward correspondence

In - Nil

Out – AMP-UP Governance Group minutes 20 July 2026

2.3.1 Financial report

RECOMMENDATION/AMP-UP RES. NO. 02/09/2026

MOVED Cr Smythe **SECONDED** Cr Dewar

That the financial report to 31 August 2026 is received.

MOTION CARRIED

3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

3.1 Submissions, presentations or representations from third parties;

3.2 Matters referred by the Officer's Group for consideration or decision;

3.2.1 Members to identify priority local and regional projects

Kelly-Anne circulated a list of projects provided by members to date and acknowledged that the request to advise of projects sent on 11 September provided limited time to respond.

Cr Smythe advised of the following priority projects for York:

- Infill sewerage
- Remediation of former power site for housing
- York Bicentennial
- Pool project and Forrest Oval Precinct
- Trail master plan
- Others to be advised by Alina.

Cr McKeown reported that Council is currently reviewing the Council Plan and that priority projects are being determined. Key issues include planning for population growth with a constrained town site; community infrastructure aged beyond its useful life; the lack of a town bypass for heavy vehicles and sufficient parking in town.

Kelly-Anne – Priority local and regional projects can be added to the list at any time.

3.2.2 Advocacy – Next steps

Discussion confirmed support for members to return to Canberra outside of the ALGA convention, to continue advocacy. Timing of the next visit to be determined. Potentially already too late to influence 2027 federal budget.

Sean – Victoria Plains will be returning to Canberra. The Federal government intention to limit working visas for backpackers could have significant consequences for regional communities who rely on the workforce.

Cr Smythe – Local government needs non-competitive funding processes.

3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;

3.3.1 Briefing Report - National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

Members noted the briefing report provided by Sean and acknowledged the implications of fuel reliability on regional communities.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

2026	Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings	Governance Group (President's) Meetings

	11.00am	**11.00am**
	Online Meetings	**Council Chambers**
AUG	10/08/2026	
SEPT		14/09/2026
OCT	12/10/2026	
NOV		16/11/2026
DEC	No meeting	No meeting

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 11.56 am.

AMP-UP Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – 14 September 2026

Minutes and additional information

2.2 Status report

2.3 Inward / outward correspondence

2.3.1 Financial report to 31 August 2026

Other business / new business of an urgent nature

3.2.1 AMP-UP member's priority local and regional projects list

3.3.1 Briefing report – National Roads, Transport and Regional Infrastructure Congress by Sean Flether, CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
2.1 Confirmation of Minutes	20/7/2026	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 20 July 2026 be accepted as a true and correct record.	20/7/2026	EO	14/9/2026	14.9.26: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the next Governance Group meeting on 14 September 2026.
Corella Management	13/03/2023	AROC RES. NO.02/03/23: That AROC members individually commit $5,000 per annum in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and commit $25,000 pa from AROC funds for three years, towards corella management activities.	31/12/2026	ALL	31/12/2026	14.9.26: Site not yet determined for trial of alphachloralose. Considering Toodyay Recreation Centre and Northam CBH site. The next steering group meeting will be held on 21 September.
Canberra Advocacy	22/7/2024	RES.04/07/24: That AROC members seek the support of their Council's for the Shire President and CEO to form an AROC delegation to lobby Ministers and Shadow Ministers regarding collective and individual priorities prior to the Federal Election.	30/9/24	ALL	Completed	14.9.26: The Officer's Group is considering a proposal from Jo Scard, of Fifty Acres, to support AMP-UP's advocacy engagement. The fee is outside of what AMP-UP had currently determined.
Advocacy Strategy & Evidence Base Projects	3/7/2026	RES. NO. 03/07/2026 and RES. NO. 04/07/2026		EO		14.9.26: Discussions are continuing with WDC and potential consultant, Geografia, to determine scope of works and an estimated cost for population forecasts and development of a regional growth plan.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
Advocacy Action – State Assistance Grants (SAG)	20/7/2026	RES. NO. 05/07/2026 That AMP-UP: 1. Obtain support from all non-minimum local governments and progress the matter through a letter to the Minister, and, 2. Add it to the WALGA conference as an agenda item for support through WALGA advocacy.		Melinda & EO		19.9.26: Will be considered at WALGA convention 16 & 17 September.
Advocacy Action - Continuation of Community Water Supplies Partnership and Agricultural Area Dams Program funding	20/7/2026	AMP-UP RES. NO. 06/07/2026 That AMP-UP: 1. Endorse the WALGA Member Motion – Continuation of Community Water Supplies Partnership and Agricultural Area Dams Program and submission for the 2026 WALGA Annual General Meeting. 2. Write to the relevant Minister(s) to request immediate funding continuity and engagement with the Rural Water Council on future program design.		Melinda & EO		19.9.26: Being progressed through WALGA.
Housing shortage	16/05/2022	AROC to advocate to relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers (Housing & Local Government) to address a critical shortage of housing in the Avon Region.	Ongoing	Sean & EO	Ongoing	14.8.26: Sean has prepared a policy brief and Ministerial placemat for the federal Minister for Housing and the Treasurer, to address barriers to LG in accessing Housing Australia Future

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
						Fund (HAFF).
Regional Collaboration on Waste	13/11/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for a metropolitan waste levy to fund investment in alternative waste management locations and technologies in regional areas.	2025-2026	EO	Motion completed. Waste strategy continues.	14.9.26: Rawtec presented to the Governance Group on 24 August to determine priority options for further analysis. Following investigation of four options and stakeholder engagement, Rawtec will prepare a draft plan and implementation road map.
Branding & Promotions	2/9/2024	RES. NO.03/09/24: That the Officer's Group prepare a branding brief for AROC to be considered by the Governance Group.	18/11/2024	Officers		11.9.26: Logo and letterhead designs are complete. Does AMP-UP want to develop a website at this stage?
Actions on hold or for which action is not currently being undertaken						
Community Transport	17/3/2025	*ACTION: AROC members and WACHS representatives agreed for:* *i. WACHS to provide information about current community transport services in AROC member Shires, including data on usage and unmet demand for services.* *ii. WACHS to develop a discussion paper to present data quantifying the issues and outlining potential*				2.3.2026: Following the Wheatbelt Community Transport Workshop held in July 2025, WACHS prepared a draft options paper to improve access to community transport in the Wheatbelt. The draft paper was considered by the Wheatbelt Community Transport Network on 25 February 2026.. The network supported the paper's recommendations:

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
		solutions, including the development of a Wheatbelt Regional Community Transport Strategy to improve access to services. *iii. AROC members to invite current community transport providers and stakeholders to a discussion to identify:* • *What is working well?* • *What would be even better if?* • *What would help to expand current services?* • *What barriers limit the expansion of services?* *iv. Following consultation with community transport service providers, WACHS and AROC are to determine advocacy action to support improved access to community transport services in the region.*				1. The Wheatbelt District Leadership Group to advocate for a WA Regional Transport Strategy to ensure equitable access and guide coordinated investment. 2. Establish a Wheatbelt Community Transport Network to advocate and drive partnerships and new initiatives. 3. Prioritise models to progress and lead agencies. 4. Submit business cases and explore grant opportunities to improve community transport access where needed. 5. Implement immediate improvements, including updated provider lists and pilot more local transport partnerships. The recommendations are reliant on resourcing a senior project officer or similar to progress under the auspice of the District Leadership Group (DLG) and through identified agency leads. Following consideration by the DLG, AMP-UP and members may be requested to advocate via the Zone/State Council and local MPs.
Climate Change Initiative	12/07/2021	AROC CEOs to work together to identify a project we could apply for funding on a regional level.	Ongoing	ALL		17.11.25: WALGA states that the 2025-26 State Budget "lacks climate action commitment" and has seen a "noticeable shift away from broader

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
						climate action". Notes a lack of sufficient investment in climate adaptation and mitigation.
Road clearing permits and pre-funding for road projects.	08/05/2023	That AROC submit a motion to the WALGA Avon Zone meeting to advocate for specific changes to the native vegetation clearing permit system.	23/06/2023	EO		6.8.24: No further update to that provided 22.7.24: Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, met with DWER staff about the Native Vegetation Policy Implementation Roadmap and specifically the Action 4.1 Roadside Vegetation Advice.
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.	Ongoing	Northam, York & Toodyay		15.4.24: On hold. No recent action.

Avon Midland Peri-Urban Partnership

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

	01.07.2026 31.08.2026 $	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024	2022/2023
Brought Forward	112,466	144,349	174,489	141,001.39	178061
Revenue					
Member Contributions	5,000	25000	25,000	25,000.00	25000
Grants					
WDC Contribution					
Fees & Charges					
Interest Earnings	863	5414	5,265	6,135.67	2,882
Workforce Housing				47,500.00	
AROC Corella Project			5,000	20,000.00	
GST refund		5972	4,894	7,177.23	
Total Revenue	5,863	36386	40,159	105,812.90	27,881.85
Expenses					
Insurance					
Recreation Plan					
Equipment Expenditure	-				2,959.90
Shire of Toodyay Administration	-				15,000.00
Corella Population Management			2,750		26,999.50
WB Infrastructure Conway Highbury					
WB Infrastructure refund to WDC					
AROC - DANDARAGAN Workforce Housing			23,650	28,600.00	
WHEATBELT Corella Project	27,500	44000	30,250	27,500.00	
Localise Aged Friendly Audit					
Strategic Waste Management Plan					
Travel		300	106	49.40	100.10
Mobile Phone	134	1479	576	791.40	580.00
Training					
Capacity and capability assessment					
Executive Office Wages	2,360	16040	11550	12,975.00	16,796.18
Executive Office Super	401	2599	2046	2,000.89	2,505.78
Administration expenses other	190	3851	399	408.70	
Other Expenditure Exit Dowerin					
Total Expenditure	30,586	68269	71327	72,325.39	64,941.46
Net Result	(24,723)	(31,883)	(30,138)	33,487.51	(37,060)
Accumulated Funds on hand	87,743	112,466	144349	174,488.90	141,001.39
31.08.2026					
Represented by Commonwealth Muni Account	87,743	112,466			

AMP-UP Member Priority Local and Regional Projects 2026/27

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS
Based on the Shire's Council Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Tourism Action Plan.

Local Projects (Shire of Victoria Plains)
These are projects where Victoria Plains is the direct lead or primary beneficiary:

- Renewable Energy Community Benefits Planning and Pilot Program
- ESA Visitor Precinct and ESA Education Centre
- Asset Management Framework Implementation
- Council Plan 2026-2036 Implementation and Strategic Priority Projects – September
- Workforce Plan Implementation - September
- Long Term Financial Plan Implementation
- Economic Development Strategy Implementation (Tourism destination development)
- Cocking Road Restoration Project
- Maximising Road Infrastructure improvements: RRSP, SLRIP, HV Program (Parking bays), Blackspot
- Caravel Copper Project (Calingiri Bypass, Freight Network and Gillingarra Borefield Impacts)
- Community and Recreation Infrastructure Projects based on the Sport and Recreation Management Plan
- Calingiri Caravan Park
- Strategic water projects
- Emergency Management improvements
- Regional Landfill (See Regional Projects below)
- Landfill transition project
- Yued collaborative projects
- Community Benefits Fund and Legacy Infrastructure Planning
- Telecommunications and Digital Connectivity Improvements
- Strategic Land Development (supply) and Settlement Growth (residential, commercial, industrial)
- Housing and Workforce Accommodation Initiatives (including Edmond Street Housing Development)

Regional Projects (AMP-UP / Multi-Shire)
These are projects involving multiple AMP-UP member local governments or broader Wheatbelt collaboration:

- Two cross-boundary wind farms
- SWIS Upgrade (North CEL)
- Caravel Minerals Copper Project
- AMP-UP Evidence Base and Regional Advocacy Program
- AMP-UP Waste Facilities and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Regional Energy Transition and Community Benefits Framework
- Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative
- Community Transport and Regional Connectivity Planning

- Corella Management Project Close-Out
- Regional Freight Infrastructure Advocacy (WSFN / Bindoon Bypass)
- Regional Economic Development and Investment Attraction
- Regional Growth Planning and Community Development Priorities

One observation I would make is that the above list(s) already provides strong coverage of:

1. Energy transition
2. Housing supply
3. Transport and freight
4. Waste infrastructure
5. Mining and major industry projects

However, it does not explicitly capture:

- Economic diversification and business growth
- Tourism development and investment attraction
- Workforce attraction and retention
- Population growth and liveability initiatives
- Long-term regional growth planning
- Community development outcomes linked to growth pressures

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Projects for Shire of Northam:

- Remediation and development of old Northam pool site for residential housing
- Northam Re-Use Water Scheme infrastructure upgrades
- Development of All Abilities Play Space at Bernard Park, Northam
- Expansion of services and facilities at Northam Regional Hospital
- Expansion and upgrades of CCTV capabilities
- Expansion and remediation of Old Quarry Landfill site
- Development of regional landfill site and/or upgrade to Northam Waste Transfer Station
- Northam CBD Streetscape Improvements
- Major upgrade of Wundowie Pool
- Development of residential aged care housing and facilities
- Development of Stages 3 and 4 of the Avon Industrial Park
- Service infrastructure upgrades for Yilgarn Avenue to support industrial and commercial development
- Expansion of Baker’s Hill Recreation Precinct

AMP-UP Member Priority Local and Regional Projects 2026/27

SHIRE OF CHITTERING

Based on the Shire's Council Plan 2026–2036, Corporate Business Plan 2026/27–2029/30, Annual Implementation Plan 2026/27 and Economic Development Implementation Plan 2026–2031, the Shire has identified the following priority projects and initiatives (not exhaustive).

Local Projects – Shire of Chittering

These are projects where the Shire of Chittering is the direct lead or primary beneficiary:

- **Bindoon Town and Tourism Precinct Planning and Future Implementation** – flagship townsite, tourism and economic development project, including town centre and retail expansion, Bindoon Mountain Bike Park activation, future tourist park opportunities, mixed-use residential development, public realm improvements and traffic management associated with the future Bindoon Bypass. The Shire has secured $685,500 through the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program for the planning phase.
- **Lower Chittering Youth and Community Hub** – completion, commissioning and activation of the new multi-use community facility, together with associated public open space and future service/maintenance planning. The 2026/27 AIP provides approximately $1.046 million for the project.
- **Major Road Infrastructure and Road Safety Program** – North Road Upgrade, Chittering Road reconstruction/upgrade, Julimar Road renewal/upgrade and the broader annual road renewal, reconstruction and safety program. The three major roads are specifically identified as four-year strategic priorities. The Regional Road Safety Program has also provided significant external funding for Chittering Road and Julimar Road.
- **Bindoon Mountain Bike Park Stage 2 and Future Trail Network Expansion** – Stage 2 revegetation and infrastructure, viewing facilities, preparation of an updated Mountain Bike Trails Master Plan and planning for future expansion and tourism activation.
- **Lower Chittering Bridle Trail Network** – site assessment, planning feasibility and progression of an appropriate future trail network. This remains current, with the Lower Chittering Bridle Trail Network considered by Council in August 2026.
- **Public Open Space and Recreation Planning** – Public Open Space Audit and Strategy, future Sport and Recreation Plan, locality-based planning and planning for parks and recreation infrastructure required to accommodate population growth.
- **Brockman Centre Precinct Master Planning** – planning for the future use, renewal and investment requirements of the Brockman Centre precinct.

AMP-UP Member Priority Local and Regional Projects 2026/27

- **Bindoon Cemetery Capacity and Expansion Planning** – concept planning, future capacity, layout, service requirements and associated infrastructure.
- **Lower Chittering Community Infrastructure Planning** – future planning for the Lower Chittering Hall/community facilities and the longer-term infrastructure needs of one of the Shire's principal growth areas. The CBP specifically identifies Lower Chittering Hall investigations among future planning priorities.
- **Economic Development Strategy Implementation and Local Business Growth** – Tourism Action Plan, Investment Attraction Prospectus, investor guides, enhanced online business portal, Local Business Growth Program, Buy Local/procurement initiatives and workforce development partnerships.
- **Tourism Infrastructure, Accommodation and Place Activation** – Tourist Bureau upgrades, Lower Chittering camping facility, tourism hubs, wayfinding and visitor signage, signature events and attraction of private investment into farm stays, glamping and other visitor accommodation.
- **Housing and Workforce Accommodation Initiatives** – multi-purpose housing planning in Bindoon and Muchea, workforce accommodation opportunities and mixed-use residential development, including opportunities associated with the Great Northern Highway/Bindoon precinct.
- **Strategic Land Development and Growth Planning** – Local Planning Strategy and Scheme review, locality planning, commercial and light-industrial land rezoning and planning to ensure residential, commercial and community infrastructure can accommodate future growth.
- **Muchea Industrial Park Growth and Investment Facilitation** – supporting continued development of the Muchea Industrial Park as a major industrial, freight and logistics gateway, including planning, infrastructure coordination and investment attraction. The Shire's current plans identify the industrial park and improved freight connectivity as major economic advantages.
- **Waste Infrastructure and Landfill Transition Planning** – long-term masterplans for the Bindoon and Muchea landfill sites, Muchea landfill closure staging, compliance improvements, stormwater management and increased resource recovery.
- **Bushfire and Emergency Resilience Infrastructure** – Wandena Road and Sandown Park emergency water tanks, future static water-supply planning, Bushfire Risk Management Plan implementation and emergency preparedness improvements.

- **Telecommunications and Digital Connectivity Improvements** – advocacy and partnership with telecommunications providers and government to improve mobile and high-speed internet coverage, supporting residents, businesses, tourism and emergency resilience.
- **Council Plan and Four-Year Delivery Program Implementation** – implementation of *Chittering 2036: Our Place, Our Future*, the Corporate Business Plan and Annual Implementation Plan, supported by ongoing asset management, long-term financial planning and workforce planning.

The Corporate Business Plan identifies the Bindoon Town and Tourism Precinct, North Road, Chittering Road, Julimar Road, Lower Chittering Youth and Community Hub and Bindoon Mountain Bike Park Stage 2 among Council's highest-priority strategic investments. The Shire's economic development program also includes housing, business growth, investment attraction, tourism and Bindoon Bypass advocacy.

Regional Projects – AMP-UP / Multi-Shire

These are projects with cross-boundary impacts, regional collaboration opportunities or a strong case for coordinated advocacy:

- **Bindoon Bypass and Great Northern Highway Regional Freight Corridor Advocacy** – continued advocacy for the Bindoon Bypass and associated network improvements to improve freight efficiency and road safety, support the Muchea Industrial Park and regional economy, and manage the significant future implications for Bindoon's town centre and tourism economy. The AIP identifies Bypass advocacy as a high-priority strategic infrastructure activity.
- **Regional Freight Network and Road Safety Investment** – coordinated advocacy around the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, Regional Road Safety Program, regional road funding and freight routes connecting Chittering, AMP-UP communities, the Great Northern Highway and Muchea industrial/logistics precinct.
- **AMP-UP Evidence Base and Regional Advocacy Program** – coordinated evidence, economic analysis and advocacy to strengthen funding submissions and regional representations across AMP-UP member local governments. This is already identified as an AMP-UP regional priority in the Victoria Plains submission.
- **Northern Valleys Tourism and Regional Marketing Partnership** – collaboration with Gingin, Victoria Plains, Northern Valleys Business and Tourism, Tourism WA and Destination Perth on regional branding, visitor itineraries, trails, cross-promotion, events and destination development.

AMP-UP Member Priority Local and Regional Projects 2026/27

- **Regional Economic Development and Investment Attraction** – joint advocacy and investment promotion around freight and logistics, agribusiness, tourism, emerging industries, local supply chains and the opportunities associated with the Muchea Industrial Park and northern growth corridor.
- **Regional Housing and Workforce Accommodation** – collaboration on housing supply, diverse accommodation, workforce attraction and retention, including alignment between Chittering's multi-purpose housing work and broader Wheatbelt/AMP-UP housing initiatives.
- **Regional Waste Facilities and Resource Recovery** – participation in regional waste and resource-recovery planning, particularly where AMP-UP cooperation can reduce infrastructure costs, improve recovery outcomes and complement Chittering's landfill transition and long-term waste planning.
- **Community Transport and Regional Connectivity Planning** – advocacy for improved community and public transport connections between Chittering, neighbouring communities and regional/metropolitan service centres. Improved connectivity is specifically identified as a Council Plan objective.
- **Regional Telecommunications and Digital Connectivity** – coordinated advocacy for improved mobile, broadband and digital infrastructure across peri-urban and Wheatbelt communities, including transport corridors, tourism areas and emergency-prone locations.
- **Regional Emergency Management and Bushfire Resilience** – cross-boundary emergency planning, bushfire mitigation, water supply infrastructure, evacuation and recovery planning and coordination with neighbouring local governments and State agencies.
- **Regional Growth Planning and Community Infrastructure** – coordinated planning for the impacts of peri-urban population growth, regional economic activity and infrastructure demand, including roads, housing, services, recreation and community facilities. The Council Plan explicitly recognises the importance of working with neighbouring councils on roads, emergency services and regional development.
- **Strategic Regional Partnerships and Funding Advocacy** – formalised partnerships with neighbouring local governments, RDA Wheatbelt, State and Federal agencies and industry to pursue joint funding and project delivery opportunities.
- **Regional Tourism Trails, Wayfinding and Self-Drive Corridors** – coordinated trails, visitor signage, digital visitor information and self-drive itineraries connecting Chittering with the broader Northern Valleys and AMP-UP region.

AMP-UP BRIEFING REPORT

National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026

Fuel Security and Supply Chain Resilience

Presenter: Dr Hermione Parsons, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council

Congress: Cairns, Queensland, 25-26 August 2026

Prepared for: Avon Midlands Peri-Urban Partnership (AMP-UP)

Executive Summary

At the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress held in Cairns on 25-26 August 2026, Dr Hermione Parsons, CEO and Managing Director of the Australian Logistics Council (ALC), presented on the critical relationship between fuel security, freight resilience and Australia's supply chain performance. The presentation highlighted that while fuel supply is often viewed as a national issue, fuel security ultimately depends on the ability to transport and distribute fuel through local and regional transport networks. Local governments therefore play a vital role in maintaining the infrastructure that underpins the movement of fuel, freight, food, agricultural products and essential services across Australia.

Dr Parsons emphasised that local roads, freight corridors, industrial land and transport connections are integral parts of Australia's national supply chain. Disruptions to any element of the network can have significant impacts on communities, businesses and regional economies. The presentation also highlighted Australia's ongoing reliance on imported fuel and the importance of resilient transport and logistics systems in supporting economic productivity, emergency response capability and community wellbeing.

For AMP-UP, the presentation reinforces the importance of continued advocacy for investment in strategic transport infrastructure, freight productivity and regional connectivity. The themes discussed align closely with AMP-UP's priorities relating to growth management, freight efficiency, road funding, renewable energy development and community resilience. The presentation also highlighted opportunities for local governments to play a greater role in energy transition planning, freight resilience and national supply chain policy discussions.

Overall, the session provided a strong policy basis for AMP-UP's ongoing advocacy efforts by demonstrating that local government infrastructure is not only a community asset but a critical component of Australia's economic resilience, freight capability and future energy security.

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Victoria Plains

AMP-UP Briefing Report

National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026

Fuel Security and Supply Chain Resilience

Presenter: Dr Hermione Parsons, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council (ALC)

Congress: National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress, Cairns, Queensland, 25-26 August 2026.

Purpose

To brief AMP-UP member councils on emerging national issues relating to fuel security, freight resilience and supply chain infrastructure, and to consider their relevance to peri-urban and regional local governments experiencing significant population growth, freight movements and renewable energy development.

Key Messages

The presentation highlighted that fuel security is not simply a Commonwealth responsibility but a practical issue that directly affects local governments, communities and regional economies. The Australian Logistics Council's central message was that while Australia generally maintains fuel supply, it does not necessarily possess fuel security because fuel must still move through complex freight networks, storage facilities, depots, local roads and distribution systems before reaching businesses and communities.

Local government therefore sits at a critical "operational interface" within the supply chain and plays a significant role in ensuring freight resilience, emergency response capability and future energy transition planning.

Key Issues Raised

1. Freight Underpins Community Resilience

The presentation noted that road transport carries almost 80% of Australia's non-bulk freight task. Fuel, food, medical supplies, construction materials, agricultural inputs and consumer goods all depend on functioning freight corridors and local distribution networks. When freight movement slows or is disrupted, communities experience impacts quickly through delayed deliveries, increased costs and reduced access to essential services.

For AMP-UP councils, this reinforces the importance of maintaining strategic freight routes between metropolitan Perth and regional centres, particularly routes carrying agricultural produce, construction materials and consumer goods.

2. Local Roads Form Part of National Supply Chains

A key theme was that local roads are often viewed as community assets but are in fact essential components of national supply chains. While major highways and freight rail attract significant investment, the effectiveness of the broader freight system ultimately depends on local connections between businesses, industrial precincts, storage facilities and transport hubs.

The presentation emphasised that supply chain performance is determined at multiple interfaces including ports, freight rail, intermodal facilities, road freight networks and local roads. A failure at any one point can affect the wider system.

This has direct relevance to AMP-UP's advocacy regarding freight efficiency, heavy vehicle access and regional road funding priorities.

3. Australia's Structural Fuel Vulnerability

Australia remains heavily reliant on imported fuel. The presentation noted:

- Australia relies on imported crude oil and refined fuel products.
- Approximately 80% of Australia's refined fuel supply is imported.
- Diesel remains fundamental to freight transport, agriculture, construction and regional industries.
- Fuel security depends not only on supply but on storage, transport, distribution and local access.

Recent fuel price volatility demonstrated the vulnerability of national supply chains to global disruptions. The presentation highlighted the spike in diesel prices experienced during 2026, reinforcing the economic impacts transport costs can have on regional communities and local government operations.

4. Councils Have a Direct Role in Freight Resilience

The Australian Logistics Council identified several areas where councils influence freight resilience:

- Protecting freight routes and industrial land.
- Supporting heavy vehicle access.
- Maintaining first and last-mile connectivity.
- Supporting emergency access and disaster recovery routes.
- Facilitating future energy infrastructure requirements.
- Ensuring planning frameworks recognise freight and logistics needs.

The presentation stressed that freight resilience depends on local access, industrial land availability, heavy vehicle routes and continuity of critical infrastructure.

Relevance to AMP-UP

Strategic Freight Corridors

AMP-UP councils manage significant road networks connecting agricultural producers, residents and businesses with the Perth metropolitan area. The presentation reinforces the need for continued investment in freight corridors and local road infrastructure that support regional productivity and growth.

Renewable Energy Development

A notable aspect of the presentation was the recognition that renewable energy can strengthen freight and supply chain capability. Distribution centres, depots and freight terminals are increasingly utilising renewable energy sources, while low-emission transport technologies continue to develop.

This aligns closely with AMP-UP's current work on renewable energy development, energy transition planning and community benefit frameworks.

Emergency Management and Community Resilience

The presentation highlighted the importance of maintaining freight access during emergencies and disaster recovery events. For AMP-UP councils, maintaining operational road networks remains critical to supporting emergency services, communities and economic activity during major incidents.

Potential AMP-UP Advocacy Implications

The presentation helps strengthen AMP-UP’s advocacy regarding road infrastructure and fuel reliability issues by clearly linking local road investment, freight efficiency, fuel distribution, emergency response and national supply chain resilience as follows:

1. Increased recognition of local roads as nationally significant freight, fuel distribution and supply chain assets, particularly where they support agricultural freight, regional growth, emergency

access and connections into broader networks such as the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.
2. Additional Commonwealth and State investment in freight corridors serving growth areas, including continued support for WSFN priorities, the Bindoon Bypass, and key AMP-UP road corridors that support population growth, freight productivity and regional economic development.
3. Protection of industrial land, logistics precincts, freight routes and future transport corridors within regional and peri-urban planning frameworks, so that growth, housing, renewable energy projects and industrial development do not compromise long-term freight efficiency.
4. Improved heavy vehicle route planning, first and last-mile freight connectivity and investment in the local road interfaces that connect farms, industry, logistics operators and regional communities to major freight corridors, including routes advocated through the Shire, AMP-UP, the Zone and neighbouring local governments.
5. Integration of freight resilience considerations into renewable energy, energy transition and major infrastructure planning, including recognition that wind, solar, transmission, construction and community benefit projects all rely on safe, resilient and adequately funded road networks.
6. Greater recognition of local government's role in fuel security, emergency response and national supply chain resilience, supported by more predictable infrastructure funding programs that allow councils to plan, upgrade and maintain the road assets that underpin freight movement, disaster recovery, regional connectivity and economic growth.

Conclusion

The presentation highlighted that local governments play a far more significant role in Australia's freight and fuel security systems than is commonly recognised. While fuel supply is often viewed as a national issue, the resilience of supply chains ultimately depends on local roads, industrial land, freight access and community infrastructure.

For AMP-UP, the presentation reinforces the importance of continued advocacy for freight infrastructure, strategic transport planning and integrated energy transition initiatives. It also provides a useful policy framework for future discussions around regional freight resilience, economic development and community benefits arising from major infrastructure investment.

Source

Dr Hermione Parsons, CEO and Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council, Fuel Security and Supply Chain Resilience presentation, National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress 2026, Cairns. Presentation attached.