



# Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

AROC Governance Group Meeting

**13 May 2024**

Commencing at 11 am

## MINUTES

To: AROC Members

Here within are the minutes of the AROC Governance Group (President's & CEO's) meeting held on the abovementioned date and commencement time, in Council Chambers at the Shire of Toodyay, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Tabitha Bateman

**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*AROC Secretariat*

15 May 2024

## Preface

These Minutes will remain "Unconfirmed" until the next AROC 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

2024.



Tabitha Bateman  
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on

22 JULY 2024.

Signed: MV M -KA

*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.**

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## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

*The AROC in-person meeting commenced at 11.00 am.*

### 1.1. Announcement of Visitors

Nil

### 1.2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Cr M McKeown	Shire of Toodyay
Ms T Bateman	A/CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Cr P Bantock	Shire of Victoria Plains
Mr S Fletcher	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Ms D Terelinck	CEO, Shire of Northam
Cr A Mencshelyi	Shire of Northam
Cr C Poulton	Shire of Northam
Mr S Bryce	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
Cr K Trent	Shire of York
Mr C Linnell	CEO, Shire of York
Mrs K Murray	Executive Officer, AROC

#### Apologies

Cr C Antonio	Shire of Northam
Cr J Chester	Shire of Goomalling

## 2. MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Confirmation of Minutes

<b>RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.01/05/24</b>	
<b>MOVED</b> Cr Mencshelyi	<b>SECONDED</b> Mr Bryce
That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held on 11 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.	
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

### 2.2 Review of Status Report

Review of actions and progress arising from previous meetings and decisions.

Points raised as follows:

Climate Change Initiatives – on hold.

Corella Management – Wheatbelt NRM will host a stakeholder meeting in Northam on Wednesday 15 May.

Water sustainability – no recent action.

Road clearing permit –

Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, will provide input into the Native Vegetation Policy implementation roadmap Action 4.1: *Establish new arrangements to advise the Minister for Environment on roadside vegetation management, including a new advisory group under section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.*

Housing shortage –

A draft report for the AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study is likely to be available by the end of May. A joint application has been submitted to the federal Housing Support Program stream 1 to fund planning works for a housing project in each of the six local government partners. Stream 2 is open for headworks and discussions are underway to confirm a partnership application to be prepared by Whitney Consulting.

SF – Narrogin and Lake Grace have confirmed their interest in joining a partnership application for stream 2, which will increase likely housing development to 140.

Regional Collaboration on Waste

Awaiting waste summit on 30 & 31 May and release of WA Government waste strategy to guide scope of works for an AROC waste management study.

Discussed current waste management arrangements, collection, recycling and e-waste; collectively negotiated agreements with Avon Waste (did not include Goomalling) which expire in June 2025, with an option to renew for a further four years.

## 2.3 Inward / Outward Correspondence

### 2.3.1 Financial Report

**RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.02/05/24**

**MOVED** Cr Bantock

**SECONDED** Cr Trent

That the financial report, as forwarded, be 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 AROC budget allocation 2024-2025.

The following information is provided to support AROC members to determine a budget for AROC initiatives in the 2024/25 financial year.

The annual membership fee is \$5,000 per annum, which currently covers the cost of employing an Executive Officer to support AROC's activities.

##### Existing commitments include:

- Executive Officer employment - \$25,000 per annum comprised of:
  - Wages & Superannuation - \$23,200 (400 hours)
  - Mobile phone - \$744 per annum
  - Administration (Zoom & Docusign subscriptions) - \$409 per annum
  - Travel allowance - \$200 per annum
  - Training / events - \$447 per annum
- Corella Management Project - \$50,000 per annum for a three-year term (from 2023/24 to 2025/26), comprised of:
  - \$25,000 from AROC accumulated funds per annum, and
  - \$5,000 from each member per annum.AROC has paid \$25,000 for January-June 2024, and was advised by Wheatbelt NRM at the March Governance Group meeting that there would be no further invoices this financial year. Given that member contributions were not required this year, contributions already paid can be carried over to the next financial year.

##### New allocations to consider:

- Proposal to allocate funds (\$30,000-\$40,000) to develop an AROC Waste Management Strategy in 2025.

AROC supports collaboration in the planning and operation of waste management infrastructure and services, where mutual benefits can be obtained.

It is recommended that AROC develop a scope of works to develop a strategy to guide planning and investment in waste management infrastructure and services for the region.

The scope of works will be informed by the WA government's waste strategy which is due to be released in the first half of the year.

The Wheatbelt Waste & Environment Summit (30 & 31 May) will also provide opportunities to workshop local waste management issues and opportunities.

Following the preparation of an agreed scope of works and cost estimate, members may determine if the costs will be met using accumulated funds, or if an additional contribution by participating members is required.

- **Proposal to develop an AROC logo (\$1,000)**  
AROC currently uses five Shire logos on all correspondence. To develop AROC's identity as a collaboration of member local governments, it is recommended that AROC members approve the design and adoption of a logo which represents the Avon region and AROC's collaboration.

A logo will assist in building recognition of AROC. Examples of other ROC logos, for NEWROC and WEROC, are provided below.



**Discussion:**

Cr McKeown indicated a preference for the use of all five logos to clearly reflect the identities of each member, and expressed concern that an AROC logo would dilute this identification.

EO indicated that consultants and project partners have requested an AROC logo for use on reports or promotional materials, and that in such cases, an AROC logo is more suitable than use of all five local government logos. The intent is for the logo to reflect the collaboration between members.

After further discussion it was agreed that an AROC logo should, like the NEWROC logo above, use the AROC name and identify the member local governments.

In summary, the proposed budget allocation for 2024/25 is:

<b>Committed</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Executive Officer Role	\$25,000	\$25,000
Corella Management Project*	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Proposed</b>		

Waste Management Strategy	\$40,000	
Logo design	\$1,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,000</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

\*comprised of \$25,000 accumulated funds and \$25,000 in additional member contributions each year.

The expenditure of accumulated funds will be offset by member annual contributions (\$25,000) and Corella Project contributions (\$25,000) in that year.

**RECOMMENDATION/AROC RES. NO.03/05/24**

**MOVED** Cr Trent      **SECONDED** Cr Mencshelyi

That AROC approves the budget allocation as provided.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.3 Matters raised by individual member local governments for consideration;**  
**3.3.1 Advocacy for improved energy and communications infrastructure in the regions.**

See attached Farm Weekly article, 'Regional councils add up outage costs'. The Wheatbelt Business Network (WBN) is working with NEWROC and WEROC on advocacy regarding the impact of regular power and telecommunications outages. Wheatbelt Business Network CEO, Rik Soderland, was unable to attend this AROC Governance Group meeting to provide further advice about advocacy efforts. However, he said, it was a key topic at the recent Wheatbelt Futures Forum held at the Northam Town Hall at which both Horizon Power and Telstra representatives were speaking. WBN are in regular contact with the State Government as well as Telstra and Horizon Power.

**Discussion:**

SF – Victoria Plains made a submission to the WA parliamentary inquiry into regional telecommunications and provided a copy to the WBN.

Responses from Western Power and Telstra continue to be underwhelming.

There has been mention of a move to Starlink satellite service as a solution to providing reliable emergency communications during power outages. Questioned whether a move to satellite reduces the likelihood of Telstra maintaining or improving existing infrastructure?

Quantifying the costs of power and communication outages is difficult. However, the impacts can be identified, including inability

to attract investment due to unreliable power and communications infrastructure.

Action – EO to contact NEWROC and WEROC to determine current advocacy efforts.

### **3.3.2 Containment in Cat Local Laws.**

Cr Chester requested AROC consider a proposal from Cr Madacs, Shire of Toodyay (email provided as an attachment) to include a containment clause in Cat Local Laws. The email outlines that cat containment has not been approved for inclusion in local laws because the Cat Act of 2011 does not provide for it. However, the Shire of Northam recently had a local law accepted and gazetted which included a containment clause. Section 82 of the Cat Act 2011 enables provision for adoption from another local law. The proposal is for AROC members to adopt the Northam Cat Local Law in its entirety, or the containment provisions alone, to provide a united front on feral and domestic cat control in the Avon.

#### **Discussion:**

Acknowledged that it was surprising that the containment provision in the Northam cat local law had been accepted, given the Cat Act 2011 doesn't provide for it. It is possible that other attempts to include this provision may not be accepted. However, it may be possible to prohibit cats from certain public areas, e.g., nature reserves.

SF – suggested that advocacy be directed through the Avon Midland Zone.

Action – EO to contact WALGA to determine if advocacy to include a containment provision in the Cat Act 2011 is underway.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The proposed 2024 meeting schedule is:

2024	<b>Officer's Group (CEO) Meetings</b>	<b>Governance Group (President's) Meetings</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
	<b>Zoom Meetings</b>	<b>Council Chambers</b>
<b>JAN</b>	No meeting	No meeting
<b>FEB</b>	19/02/2024	
<b>MAR</b>		11/03/2024

**MINUTES – AROC GOVERNANCE GROUP**  
**AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS**

13 MAY 2024

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<b>APR</b>	15/04/2024	
<b>MAY</b>		13/05/2024
<b>JUNE</b>	10/06/2024	
<b>JULY</b>		22/07/2024
<b>AUG</b>	12/08/2024	
<b>SEPT</b>		9/09/2024
<b>OCT</b>	14/10/2024	
<b>NOV</b>		18/11/2024
<b>DEC</b>	No meeting	No meeting

**5. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 11.44 am



# AROC Governance Group Meeting

Attachments to Minutes – Monday 13 May 2024

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## **Minutes and additional information**

- 2.2 Status report
- 2.3 Inward / outward correspondence
  - 2.3.1 Financial report to 30 April 2024

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## **Other business / new business of an urgent nature**

- 3.3.1 Advocacy for improved energy and communications infrastructure in the regions.  
Farm Weekly article, 'Regional councils add up outage costs.'
- 3.3.2 Containment provision in Cat Local Laws  
Email from Cr Madacs to Cr Chester.

**AROC STATUS REPORT**  
**Avon Regional Organisation of Councils**

*Secretariat*  
*CEO - Shire of Toodyay*

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
2.1 Confirmation of Minutes	13/11/2023	That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils Governance Group meeting held on 11 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.	March 2024	EO	May 2024	15.5.24: Minutes to be confirmed and signed at the July 2024 Governance Group meeting.
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	November 2023	15.5.24: On hold.
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.	2025	ALL	2025	15.5.24: Wheatbelt NRM will host a Corella Stakeholder meeting on 15 May.
Water sustainability	10/05/2021	Avon River health & access to funding.		Northam, York & Toodyay		15.5.24: No recent action.

Purpose	Meeting Date	Resolution	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary
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	Ongoing	15.5.24: Rebecca Palumbo, Shire of York, will provide input into the Native Vegetation Policy implementation roadmap Action 4.1: Establish new arrangements to advise the Minister for Environment on roadside vegetation management, including a new advisory group under section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
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	EO	May 2024	15.5.24: A draft AROC-Dandaragan Workforce Housing Study report will be available end of May.  A joint application has been submitted to the federal Housing Support Program stream 1 to fund planning works for a housing project in each of the six LG partners.  Stream 2 (infrastructure) funding opens for applications in May 2024.
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.	2024	EO	Ongoing	15.5.24: Awaiting Wheatbelt Waste & Environment Summit on 30 & 31 May; and release of WA government waste strategy, to guide scope of works for AROC Waste Management Strategy.

# AVON REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

Administered by Shire of Northam

# Regional councils add up outage costs



The NEWROC team has been advocating for better power and telecommunications infrastructure for several years, but now it has a report which can quantify what a week-long power outage does to small towns.

By PERRI POLSON

THE North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) has finalised an economic analysis of the damage caused by a six-day power outage in the Wheatbelt in January.

Economic consulting company, Econisis, estimated there were at least \$11.1 million in financial losses over the seven NEWROC councils (Koorda, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Trayning, Wyalkatchem and Dowerin) during the power outage starting on January 19.

At least \$800,000 of this was lost due to an internet outage which lasted three days.

This figure is the sum of commercial business losses, as well as private and residential losses, however does not include onfarm losses.

It also doesn't include social and community losses, which is difficult to quantify.

The report highlights that \$240 in compensation was given to each affected household, however there was no compensation for businesses.

NEWROC executive officer Caroline Robinson said the figure leaned on the conservative side.

She said the seven councils have listed power and telecommunications as a priority for several years.

Ms Robinson said NEWROC had previously put up two market-led applications to the State government with potential solutions to townsit power, including a microgrid, and a community battery, which were knocked back.

"We commissioned an economic impact report because we felt like we needed the hard data to help us in our discussions with

government and private industry," Ms Robinson said.

"Our argument is that power is a fundamental piece of infrastructure that we need for regional development.

"We have to start arguing it from an economic point of view."

With this data, NEWROC is looking to present the findings to WA Energy Minister Reece Whitby, Regional Development Minister Don Punch, Western Power and former government minister Alannah MacTiernan, who is now the chairwoman of the Federal government's 2024 Regional Telecommunications review.

"We're trying to overcome those barriers to investment and demonstrate our importance," Ms Robinson said.

The report said NEWROC councils produced a total economic output of \$605m last year, agriculture accounting for the largest part of this.

NEWROC councils are on the edge of the South West Interconnected System, better known as SWIS, which is an electricity grid between Kalbarri and Kalgoorlie, managed by Horizon Power.

Ms Robinson said this infrastructure was ageing and outdated.

"You've got long powerlines trying to push a lot of energy, and it's really fragile," she said.

"We need a different solution because you have one break along that line and everyone else after it goes out."

"We need to find a tailored solution."

"We want to work with the government on some solutions but we just cannot get through their criteria," Ms Robinson said.



## FIREWORKS AT 7PM

# Williams Gateway Expo

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

10am til late at Williams Sportsground

ENTRY GOLD COIN DONATION  
A SMOKE/VAPE FREE EVENT

**EXHIBITIONS INCLUDE:**

- Merino & Poll Merino  
Ann Rintoul 0407 851 031
- British & Australasian Breeds  
Grant Bingham 0429 851 028
- Spearwood Wool Expo Shears  
Shearing Competition  
Gavin Fowler 9885 1037
- Things with Wheels Show  
Robert Rose 0427 352 000
- Market Stalls  
Kirby Dickson 0405 367 664

**MAJOR SPONSORS:**








## **Kelly Anne Murray**

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**From:** Cr Chester <cr.chester@goomalling.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 12 May 2024 4:07 PM  
**To:** Toodyay AROC  
**Subject:** [External]-Fwd: Containment in Cat Local Laws

Hi Kelly Anne  
FYI

**Cr Julie Chester**  
Shire of Goomalling  
0427291223

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Councillor Madacsi <cr.madacsi@toodyay.wa.gov.au>  
**Date:** 6 May 2024 at 12:24:47 pm AWST  
**To:** Samuel Bryce <ceo@goomalling.wa.gov.au>, Cr Chester <cr.chester@goomalling.wa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Records Officer <records@toodyay.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject: Containment in Cat Local Laws**

Good afternoon, Julie and Samuel,

I am following through from my message to Julie today about the successful cat containment clause in the Shire of Northam' Cat Local Law. Cat containment has not been able to be captured before in local laws due to the lack of provision in the Cat Act 2011. Northam successfully circumvented this with the following provision (3.2) which was accepted and gazetted.

## **PART 3—CONTROL OF CATS**

### **3.1 Cat nuisance**

The owner or occupier of premises on which a cat is ordinarily kept must take prevent the cat from creating a nuisance on other premises, to another person to health and/or safety risk.

### **3.2 Cats in other places**

- (1) A cat shall not be in a public place unless the cat is, in the opinion of an effective control.
  - (2) If a cat is at any time in contravention of clause 3.2(1)—
    - (a) the keeper of the cat commits an offence; and
    - (b) an Authorised Person may seize and impound the cat and deal with the Act.
  - (3) A cat shall not be in a place that is not a public place unless—
    - (a) consent to its being there has been given by the occupier, or a person to consent on behalf of the occupier; and
    - (b) it is under effective control.
  - (4) If a cat is at any time, in a place in contravention of the *Shire of Northam Cat Act 2011*
    - (a) The keeper of the cat commits an offence; and
    - (b) In any premises lawfully entered by an Authorised Person, they may seize the cat and deal with the cat pursuant to the Act.

Fortunately, section 82 of the Cat Act 2011 made provision for adoption from another local law.

**82. Local laws may adopt codes etc.**

- (1) A local law made under this Act may adopt the text of—
  - (a) any model local law, or amendment to it, published under section 83; or
  - (b) a local law of any other local government; or
  - (c) any code, rules, specifications, or standard issued by Standards Australia or by such other body as is specified in the local law.
- (2) The text may be adopted—
  - (a) wholly or in part; or
  - (b) as modified by the local law; or
  - (c) as it exists at a particular date or, except if the text of a model local law is being adopted, as amended from time to time.
- (3) The adoption may be direct, by reference made in the local law, or indirect, by reference made in any text that is itself directly or indirectly adopted.

Therefore, I am asking if the Shire of Goomalling would consider adopting the Northam Cat Local Law in its entirety, or the containment provision alone, to provide a united front on feral and domestic cat control in the Avon.

Warm Regards

Rosemary Madacs  
**COUNCILLOR**

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