



# Minutes

## Annual General Meeting of Electors

6 February 2025

**SNAPSHOT**

# Strategic Community Plan 2023-2033



**Your Choice. Our Future.**

**VISION**

A globally recognised community of guardians for our unique environment and culture as we pursue innovations for sustainable growth.

**GOALS**

The goals are organised in five strategic pillars: Social, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, and Governance and Leadership.

## SOCIAL

Nurture a friendly, safe and inclusive community spirit.

- Improve local community and visitor experiences.
- Ensure a full suite of services to meet the needs of families and individuals at all ages and stages of life.
- Build community cohesion and connectedness.



## GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Foster open, transparent & accountable leadership, working collaboratively & in partnership with our community & stakeholders.

- Forward-thinking leadership for efficient & sustainable operations.
- Continued focus on transparent, accountable leadership & community & stakeholder engagement.
- Council & administration plan & lead with good governance.



## ECONOMY

Enhance a robust, resilient & diversified economy that champions innovation.

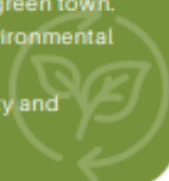
- Increase opportunities for smart and sustainable business ideas.
- Establish Exmouth as a vibrant, welcoming and environmentally aware destination.
- Promote Exmouth as a thriving economy based on its regional strength as a global environmental hotspot.



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Embrace natural sensitivities and promote positive change.

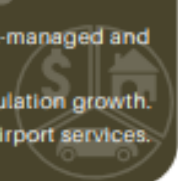
- Establish Exmouth as a clean and green town.
- Prepare Exmouth for changing environmental conditions.
- Increase awareness of sustainability and environmental issues.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Enable sustainable development and infrastructure that meets the needs of the community, visitors and industry.

- Infrastructure and assets are well-managed and maintained.
- Plan and cater for increased population growth.
- Revitalisation and expansion of airport services.



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## 1. Declaration of Opening and Announcements

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.00 pm.

The Shire President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, and paid respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

The Shire President advised the meeting would be recorded and uploaded to the Shire website.

## 2. Attendance and Apologies

Shire President M (Matthew) Niikkula

Councillor K (Kristy) Devereux

Councillor M (Mark) Lucas

Ben Lewis                      Chief Executive Officer

Vikki Lauritsen              Chief Financial Officer

Gallery                         R. Koelbel, J. Hine, S. Flint, D. Skene

## 3. Presentation of the 2023/2024 Annual Report

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a general meeting of electors is to be held once every financial year, not more than 56 days after the local government has accepted the annual report.

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* specifies that the matters to be discussed at a general electors' meeting are, firstly, the contents of the Annual Report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

The 2023/24 Annual Report was adopted by Council at its latest Ordinary Council meeting held on the 12 December 2024 incorporating the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer messages, Annual Financial Report and Auditor's report.

The Annual Report as presented is available on the Shire of Exmouth website via the following link: [Annual Reports » Shire of Exmouth, WA](#)

## 4. General Business

Question received by D Skene

*Will the Shire of Exmouth Council consider reducing the Rate in the Dollar amount when setting the next round of residential rates for ratepayers within our Shire? As a long-standing resident, I believe many in our community have felt increased financial strain because of the recent rates increase. Combined with the current cost of living crisis some residents will find it unsustainable to remain in Exmouth.*

*Additionally, many of our town's frontline Emergency Services personnel are Volunteers who are also homeowner residents and, in some cases, fixed income retirees subject to the same financial pressures the increases have caused. There is a very real risk the town may lose these valuable volunteers if the rates situation is allowed to remain or worse increase. I strongly urge the council to remedy this situation.*

*Further to the matter I request the council engage in a meaningful consultation process with residents prior to implementing any future changes to shire rates, specifically increases. I believe*

*residents should be consulted on any rate changes that affect them. Clear communication regarding the reasoning behind rate increases, how the funds will be allocated, and what tangible benefits will be provided to the community is essential for maintaining trust between the council and ratepayers.*

Shire response:

The Shire has engaged consultants who are currently working through a rating strategy to be considered in time for the adoption of the 2025/2026 Annual Budget.

## **5. Meeting Closure**

The Shire President thanked the gallery for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.09pm.

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on 27 February 2025 commencing at 4.00 pm.