

# SHIRE OF KOJONUP E-NEWS

Edition 183 – 13 June 2020

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### **Governance, and the Lessons to be Learned from the Inquiry into the City of Perth**

Local Governments were created by Legislation and operate under a distinct separation of powers being the Council, and the Administration. The roles, functions and responsibilities of each are separate, yet complimentary. This has not always been the case.

Originally operating under the Municipal Corporations Act 1906, there was no separation of powers and “Councils” were vested with vast powers which enabled them to appoint and remove officers as and when they saw fit to do so. In the 1960’s the *Local Government Act 1960* came into effect. The Chief Elective Executive Office of the Council became known as the Mayor (in the case of a city or town) and President (in the case of a shire). The Non-Elective Executive Office of a Council became known as the Town Clerk (in the case of a city or town) and the Shire Clerk (in the case of a shire).

During the 1980’s a report by the advisory Council for intergovernmental relations: suggested the separation between the elected members and the executive, stating “...*the primary responsibilities of the Council ... are in policy making and evaluation. Council staff should be primarily responsible for administration and the provision of advice to the elected representatives...*”, and ultimately leading to the introduction of the current legislation know as Local Government Act 1995.

It was believed that the new Act would provide clarity between the legislative/policy making responsibilities of Councillors as being distinct from administrative functions and was noted in a 1995 Hansard Report that “*the lack of role clarity has led to some mayors/presidents and councillors becoming involved in administrative matters which should be handled by staff. The new Act will provide a clear distinction between the representative and policy making role of the elected councillors and the administrative and advisory role of the chief executive office and other staff.*”

On 24 April 2018 the Minister for Local Government announced the “Inquiry into the City of Perth”. On 30 June 2020, Commissioner Tony Power closed the largest and most complex inquiry into local government in the history of Western Australia. The Inquiry into the City of Perth uncovered a large number of governance failures which were widespread and entrenched throughout both the Council and the Administration. The hearings took place over 125 days resulting in 250 findings and 341 recommendations, contained within a report to the Minister for Local Government David Templeman.

Various commentary has outlined some of the findings as follows:

- > *Electoral interference*
- > *Council made poor decisions, not proper consideration, did not consider on merits, lacked transparency and accountability*
- > *Did not understand or stick to what they were doing - lost sight of their role*
- > *Failure to properly disclose interests and gifts*
- > *Councillors interfered in operational matters, where they had no business*
- > *All council members and employees bound by City’s code of conduct, but improper and unethical behaviour occurred, well short of expectations*
- > *Service to community should have come before self-entitlement*

- > *Senior management was dysfunctional and inefficient*
- > *Did not provide good or effective leadership*
- > *Administration made and were allowed to make, too many poor decisions*
- > *Poor decisions regarding procurement of goods and services, project management, human resources and sponsorships*
- > *Poor governance practices*
- > *Widespread cultural and systemic failures*
- > *Failed to identify, prevent, investigate, report and act on misconduct*
- > *Failure to implement and enforce good government practices*
- > *Failure to plan for the City's future and adequately manage its finances*
- > *Poorly managed relationships, factionalism corrupting processes*
- > *Too much importance given to statutory requirements, too little to planning and financial management for the benefit of the city and community*
- > *Vast majority of employees did jobs well with best intentions, but leadership infected with animosity and division*

In July 2017, the State Government announced a review of the *Local Government act 1995* would commence. The intent of the review is to modernise the Act and empower local governments to, “*better deliver for the community*”.

On 27 June 2019, the Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 was passed by Parliament and further amendments are continually progressing with key areas of change being:

- Introduction of universal training for candidates and council members;
- Greater access to information held by a local government;
- Changes to the Standards Panel; and
- The new gifts framework.
- Changes to public notice requirements;
- Changes to the authorisation of persons; and
- Other administrative matters, providing for further transparency.

Reforms expected by the end of 2020 are:

- A new code of conduct; and
- Best practice standards for CEO recruitment, performance review and early termination.

### **So what does all of this mean?**

Generally speaking, governance is about the decision-making process and ensuring that there are necessary and appropriate checks and balances in place. It is about legitimate, accountable and effective ways of obtaining and using public power and resources. As demonstrated by the Inquiry into the City of Perth, anything less, including the misuse of position and power, is simply not good governance.

Modern governance requires a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities between those who govern the organisation, and those who manage the organisation. The council governs, but it must act through its officers. Each arm is necessary however, required to work independently of the others to keep them accountable.



Shire President  
*John Benn*

Chief Executive Officer  
*Rick Mitchell-Collins*

# Important Announcement!

The Shire of Kojonup is proud to announce the launch of our new and improved website.

Follow the link to find out more

<https://www.kojonup.wa.gov.au/>

Feedback regarding the website can be provided to [council@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@kojonup.wa.gov.au)

## WORKS AND SERVICES

- ✓ Graders are currently in the Tenner Road area and then heading south east.
- ✓ Bitumen roadside spraying will commence in the coming weeks, weather permitting.
- ✓ Bitumen patching and pot holing as and where required, to date we have cleaned 18 culverts with the shire water jetter.
- ✓ Rose pruning at the Rose Maze has been completed.
- ✓ Tree pruning completed on Bokerup Road and commencing Sexton Road this week.
- ✓ As per Covid-19 requirements, all play equipment in the parks is being sanitized daily during the week and twice daily during the weekend.
- ✓ Public toilets are being sanitized twice daily throughout the week/weekend.
- ✓ **Drivers please be aware that road conditions could change very quickly depending on weather, so please drive cautiously.**



## Parks and Reserves

The Shire are in the process of developing the Street Tree Management Plan with a variety of species for the streets, prior to going out for public comment.

Over the last three years, Parks & Gardens have planted over 100 trees in the parks, Public Open Space areas and some verges. This doesn't include re-vegetation species planted around the cemetery and along Tunney Road



*Kodja Place with native and deciduous trees*



*Prunus Bliireana*

### **The Benefits of Trees in an Urban Setting**

Street and park trees improve the live ability of urban environments providing many benefits for people and wildlife

- social
- environmental
- economic

Key among these is their contribution to the amenity of parks, Public Open Space, walkability of local neighbourhoods and beautification of street verges through -

- the provision of shade to protect residents, walkers and cyclists.
- increasing community interaction as in parks, conversing with neighbours under shade
- the mitigation of urban heat island effect by shading, which modulates temperatures and increases humidity
- Deflection of wind and reduction in wind tunnel effects
- Increasing the urban forest and canopy coverage  
This contributes to enhanced community well-being and property values.  
Trees filter out air-borne pollutants and absorb atmospheric carbon, increasing air quality.  
Supporting urban biodiversity, trees provide –
- food,
- habitat
- landscape connectivity and corridors for urban fauna.

Reducing erosion through root binding and improving environmental water quality, trees increase local infiltration following down their root systems which in turn recharges the ground water.

The social, environmental and economic benefits of trees overlap in innumerable and complex ways, making them invaluable to our urban area.

## THE KODJA PLACE

### What's Flowering Now

Wildflower season is just around the corner. Have a look at what's flowering now at Myrtle Benn Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. Come into the Kojonup Visitor Centre at the Kodja Place to collect a walk trail map or for more information contact the Kojonup Visitor Centre on 9831 0500 or email [kojonupvisitors@bigpond.com](mailto:kojonupvisitors@bigpond.com)



## What Our Visitors are Saying

- ✓ *"A very nice information centre and Cafe"*  
P Hincks, QLD
- ✓ *"Jack was very informative and humorous. Excellent presentation"*  
G & C Penfold, Cowaramup WA
- ✓ *"Such a Lovely man who tells great stories"*  
D & J Ashworth
- ✓ *"We'll be back. Great design and layout"*  
C Nunn



## SPRINGHAVEN

We are still held back by some restrictions and therefore have had to adjust our activities calendar accordingly. As we cannot have visitors/volunteers in our communal area. We make do with our in house talents 😊

We celebrated Canada day with our awesome Canadian Activities lady Alex last week.



We have also had lots of pet visits lately, which always puts the biggest smiles on our resident's faces. Alex brought in her pet lamb for cuddles – which was a big hit.

Over the next few weeks we will be taking some residents out for a drive around the shire, check out how good the Paddocks are looking and spot all the little lambs.

Our residents have been confined to Springhaven since March so we are looking forward to breaking out, even if only for a short time.

We been on the lookout for Horse and or Farm themed books and/or magazines if you have any you no longer need and would be happy to donate please get in touch with Aleigha at Springhaven on 98312800.

Just a reminder that we still have restricted visiting hours – this is in line with WA Government directive.

Currently they are 10.30-11.30am and 2pm-3pm Monday to Friday. You must ring beforehand and book a visit and you MUST have a flu vaccine and be able to provide evidence (if you have not done so already). No-one under the age of 16 is able to visit Springhaven and only two (2) visitors per resident at one time.

Please let your other family members know this information.

We would also like to personally thank all the family and representatives for all your support to the staff and Management through this unusual time.

Springhaven currently have 1 permanent bed and 1 respite bed available – please call Ciara or Jody for further information.

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Lotterywest Funded Playground and Shade Structures for Kojonup

It is with great excitement that we can announce our success in receiving Lotterywest grant funding to provide Kojonup with a new playground and shade facility at the Sports Complex and Swimming Pool.



The Playground will be situated between the upper and lower ovals at the Sports Complex, adjacent to the ramp and Hockey club rooms. It will include play spaces for all ages, as well as outdoor gym equipment. The initial design work was done with input from community groups, and the detailed designs will be workshopped shortly.

The shade facility will be installed on the western side of the toddler pool at the Kevin O'Halloran Memorial Swimming Pool, allowing all day shade for carers and toddlers using that space. It will encourage our swimming pool users to remain close to their young ones while ensuring they are protected from the sun, especially during the afternoons.

Extensive work has gone into the planning and application process for this grant funding to be successful, and we look forward to sharing the new facilities with the community in 2021.

**RATES 2020/2021**

The State Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic recommended to all Local Governments, a rate freeze for 2020/2021 to lessen the impact on household budgets. The Shire of Kojonup is heeding this recommendation and there will be no council imposed rating increase for 2020/2021.

However, the Valuer General has provided a valuation update for the Unimproved Values (UV's or Rural rates). This has resulted in an average overall increase of 7.06%, with some properties in the South West corner of the shire with increases up to 20%.

To minimise the effect this increase would have, the rate in the dollar is reduced for UV's to ensure that the same amount will be raised as the previous year. However, the larger increase in some valuations will unfortunately result in an increased rate levied than last year on those properties.

The Gross Rental Value (GRV) and the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) charges remain the same as 2019/2020. If you would like further information please contact the shire on 98312400 or [council@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@kojonup.wa.gov.au)

# EMAIL MY RATE NOTICE

The Shire offers its ratepayers the opportunity to receive their rate notice via email. This convenient service saves paper and offers a quick and easy way for people to receive their rate notice.

To receive your rate notice via email, please contact [council@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@kojonup.wa.gov.au) with the following details.

- Assessment Number:
- Name:
- Postal address:
- Email address you would like the rates sent to:
- Phone number:



**Relaunching Tidy Towns Committee**



The Keep Australia Beautiful Council has relaunched Tidy Towns for 2020 and we are looking for members to help form a brand new Committee.

Why would you want to join this Committee?

There are lots of reasons why including the real benefits of the good old adage Act, Belong Commit! Apart from having pride for the community we live in, you will be a part of



doing something positive which will then make you feel good. Feel free to bring your kids along and get them involved. Meetings will be held monthly although we will meet regularly in August to get the ball rolling. First meeting is at RSL Hall, Thursday 23 July at 4pm. All positions need to be filled. No experience necessary. Must be willing to have lots of fun on the way and be part of a team with the common goal of beautifying our town.

Kojonup is a very pretty town with lots of passing traffic. With new accommodation and exciting new ventures in the pipeline now is the time to get the ball rolling. So come on Kojonup without your support and the formation of a Committee this will not go ahead. A lot of the hard work has already been done, so with a few busy bees we will be up to scratch. There are 7 categories and many improvements have been made around town, enabling us to enter several. If you are interested please come along to the RSL hall on Thursday 23 July at 4pm. Phone 98312411 or e-mail [cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@kojonup.wa.gov.au) for more information. Hope to see you there.

### **The Community Harvest (Foodbank)**

For those suffering financial hardship, did you know The Community Harvest (Foodbank) is located in Katanning and offers heavily discounted food including meat, vegetables, shelf food and readymade meals to recipients of a Centrelink Card (also available to those facing extreme hardship without a card, at the discretion of Management). It is located at the Katanning Community Resource Centre and is open from Monday-Friday 9am-2pm. Phone 98214433 or just show up during opening hours.

### **Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) Week 2020**



Expressions of interest are sought for raising awareness for Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) Week 2020. We are looking at doing something a little different this year and are looking for ideas and interested people who are happy to help spread the word on antenatal and postnatal depression.

There is currently an increased level of demand for PANDA services due to the concerns in the community about the coronavirus. Expectant new parents are feeling especially vulnerable at this time. The Shire will be holding an event in November to acknowledge PANDA, as this illness affects so many people and has touched so many of us at one time or another.

If you would like to contribute in any way watch this space. For support call 1300 726 306 Mon-Fri from 7am- 5.30 pm or for immediate crisis support call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

**KOJONUP REGIONAL AIRPORT UPGRADES**



The Convergence Engineering Illuminated wind indicator recently installed at the airstrip is designed and Manufactured in Western Australia to meet the harshest Australian conditions.

The design is structurally certified to withstand Region C Cyclonic conditions and the unit is constructed using high quality Australian hot dip galvanised steel to minimise corrosion.

The pivoting frame that carries the windsock uses fully sealed bearings that are protected from the weather and don't require maintenance.

The mid hinged counterweighted design allows the easy lowering of the head frame by a single person located on the ground making it simple to replace the windsock as there is no requirement to use an elevated work platform or ladders.

The lighting system consists of 4 light fittings each with dual high quality Bridgelux LEDs and fitted with custom designed lens systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the CASA Manual of Standards for Illuminated Wind

Indicators. The lighting system has been tested and certified as compliant with the relevant CASA standards by a NATA certified testing laboratory.

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**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

Consumer perspectives of palliative care in WA

Would you like to help improve palliative care services in WA? If so, Perron Institute researchers would love to hear from you. If you fall into one of these categories, please complete the survey about your experiences:

- Current patients with a life-limiting illness
- Family/friend carer of a person with a life-limiting illness
- Family/friend carer of a person with a life-limiting illness who has died in the last five years (2015-2020)
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Find the link at: <https://perroninstitute.org/consumer-perspectives-of-palliative-care>

**Survey closes 26 July**