



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

'A prosperous, vibrant and diverse community working together.'

**MINUTES OF
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Dear Council Member

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Katanning held on
Tuesday 23 June 2020 in the Shire of Katanning Council Chambers,
52 Austral Terrace, Katanning, commencing at 6:00pm.

DISCLAIMER

The Council of the Shire of Katanning hereby
advises that before taking any action on an application or a
decision of the Council, any applicant or members of the
public should wait for written advice from the Council.

PRESIDING MEMBER _____

DATE SIGNED _____



Table of Contents

Item No.	Item Heading	Page No.
1	Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors	3
2	Record of Attendance	3
3	Announcements by Presiding Member Without Discussion	4
4	Response to Previous Public Questions Taken on Notice	4
5	Disclosure of Financial/Impartiality Interest	4
6	Public Question/Statement Time	4
7	Applications for Leave of Absence	4
7.1	Application for Leave of Absence Cr Ernie Menghini	4
8	Petitions/Deputations/Presentations	4
9	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings	4
9.1	Tuesday 26 May 2020	4
10	Reports of Committees and Officers	4
10.1	Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets	5
10.1.1	Restricted Access Vehicle Network	5
10.2	Executive Manager Corporate and Community	7
10.2.1	Schedule of Accounts	7
10.2.2	Monthly Financial Reports	9
10.3	Chief Executive Officer's Reports	10
10.3.1	Endorsement of Fire Management Requirement Brochure	10
10.3.2	Participation in National Redress Scheme	12
11	Elected Members Motions	19
12	New Business of an Urgent Nature	19
13	Confidential Item	19
14	Closure of Meeting	19

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISTORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.00 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**PRESENT**

Presiding Member: Cr Liz Guidera - President

Members: Cr John Goodheart – Deputy President
Cr Danny McGrath
Cr Serena Sandwell
Cr Martin van Koldenhoven
Cr Owen Boxall
Cr Ernie Menghini
Cr Kristy D'Aprile
Cr Mark Stephens

Council Officers: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Lisa Hannagan, Executive Manager Corporate and Community
Heidi Cowcher, Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets
Sue Eastcott, Executive Assistant to CEO

Gallery:

Media:

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

4. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

5. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/IMPARTIALITY INTERESTS

10.1.1 Cr Liz Guidera Disclosure of Proximity Interest.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME

Nil.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

This item was considered following Item 9.

7.1 Application for Leave of Absence Cr Ernie Menghini

MOVED: CR SERENA SANDWELL SECONDED: CR KRISTY D'APRILE

OC49/20 That Council grants Cr Menghini leave of absence for the August Ordinary Council Meeting (25 August 2020)

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED 8/0

8. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**9.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – Tuesday 26 May 2020
(SEE ATTACHED MINUTES)**

MOVED: CR MARK STEPHENS SECONDED: CR JOHN GOODHEART

OC50/20 That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2020 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED 9/0

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

Nil.

Cr Liz Guidera disclosed a proximity interest to item 10.1.1 as she owns land bordered by Rockwell, Stott and Flugge Roads.

Cr Liz Guidera left the room at 6.01 pm.

Cr John Goodheart took the chair.

Heidi Cowcher entered the room at 6.01 pm.

10.1 EXECUTIVE MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

10.1.1 Restricted Access Vehicle Network

File Ref: RD.PG.2

Reporting Officer: Cherrie Campbell, Executive Officer Infrastructure & Development Services

Date Report Prepared: 28 May 2020

Issue:

Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS) proposes to upgrade the following roads Flugge Road, Stott Road and Rockwell Road onto the Harvest Mass Management (HMMS) list. The Shire wishes to support the amendments to the current RAV network classification.

Body/Background:

Flugge Road, Stott Road and Rockwell Road are currently RAV 3 network roads these roads are currently approved for 27.5 metre access, Main Roads has determined there is negligible risk to safety associated with upgrading them. Heavy vehicle restrictions are often unnecessary prohibitive and have significant impacts on rural shires especially during harvest period. There is often the misconception that larger heavier vehicle combinations result in increased wear and tear to the road infrastructure. Restricted access vehicles (RAV) such as road trains not only increase productivity for operator's, but they also reduce the number of road trips, traffic congestion, carbon emissions and overall pavement wear.

Main Roads proposes to upgrade Flugge Road, Stott Road and Rockwell Road to Rav 4 network roads due to max vehicle combination lengths and weights being identical across these networks.

The table below shows the changes which Main Roads are considering for endorsement onto the HMMS list:

Road Name	From (SLK)	To (SLK)	Current Network	Requested Network
Flugge Road	0.00	5.73	RAV3	RAV4

Stott Road	0.00	4.72	RAV3	RAV4
Rockwell Road	0.00	7.23	RAV3	RAV4

Officer's Comment:

This will give the transport operators more freedom to use a wider range of vehicle combinations on the road, without adding additional safety concerns. The overall impact on pavements is reduced with a RAV when used correctly in accordance with Main Road requirements.

Statutory Environment:

Road Traffic Act 2014

Road Traffic Regulations 2014

Policy Implications:

There are no Shire of Katanning policy implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for the shire and in many instances access to road funding is more readily available with an increase in RAV rating.

Risk Implications:

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Katanning's Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be "low". The "Low" risk rank is considered acceptable with adequate controls, managed by routine procedures.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027

PRIORITY	LEADERSHIP	
ASPIRATION	B1	Infrastructure that meets community need.
OBJECTIVE	B1.2	Provide facilities that meet community need.

Officer's Recommendation/Council Motion:

MOVED: CR DANNY MCGRATH

SECONDED: CR MARTIN VAN KOLDENHOVEN

OC51/20 That Council supports the application to amend the Restricted Access Vehicle Network for Flugge Road, Stott Road and Rockwell Road as proposed.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED 8/0

Cr Danny McGrath spoke for the motion.

Cr Liz Guidera returned to room at 6.03pm and took the chair.

10.2 EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts (ATTACHMENTS)

File Ref: FM.FI.4
Reporting Officer: Wendy Stringer, Manager Finance
Report Prepared: 10 June 2020

Body/Background:

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits may be obtained.

Below is a summary of the payments made for the financial year:

Month	Cheques 2019/20	EFT Payments 2019/20	Direct Debits 2019/20	Credit Card 2019/20	Payroll 2019/20	Trust 2019/20	Total Payments 2019/20
July	47,366.57	1,176,232.69	233,759.25	-	330,679.18	574.8	1,788,612.57
August	41,439.99	908,599.83	105,255.62	25,680.27	315,742.80	736.45	1,397,454.96
September	26,200.40	1,751,702.11	48,767.40	1,070.69	314,244.68	-	2,141,985.28
October	43,117.15	1,590,746.79	52,380.52	-	517,707.50	-	2,203,951.96
November	51,601.72	1,588,987.73	31,777.33	7,613.45	298,108.14	-	1,978,082.37
December	41,223.00	1,159,597.47	30,584.45	1,973.64	308,213.62	-	1,441,592.18
January	63,781.96	990,544.55	29,912.68	-	218,916.24	-	1,303,155.43
February	25,391.90	479,807.99	29,869.29	-	238,368.36	-	773,437.54
March	3,390.90	842,605.38	29,279.65	11,931.66	215,792.33	-	1,102,999.92
April	1,148.30	1,013,531.70	45,952.54	-	323,294.55	-	1,384,927.09
May	612.25	1,295,643.35	33,540.54	3,236.99	209,042.12	-	1,542,075.25
June							
Total	345,274.14	12,797,999.59	671,,079.27	51,506.70	3,290,109.52	1,311.25	17,157,280.55

Officer's Comment:

The schedule of accounts for the month of May 2020 are attached.

The Finance Forum held on 16 June 2020 gave attending Councillors an opportunity to ask questions regarding the presented accounts paid.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Policy Implications:

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

Financial Implications:

Expenditure in accordance with the 2019/20 Annual Budget.

Risk Implications:

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Katanning's Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be "Low" risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with current resources.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027

PRIORITY	LEADERSHIP	
ASPIRATION	L2	A collaborative, progressive and resilient local government which is sustainably resourced.
OBJECTIVE	L2.1	Optimise use of shire resources – improve organisational systems.

Officer's Recommendation/Council Motion:

MOVED: CR SERENA SANDWELL

SECONDED: CR MARK STEPHENS

OC52/20 That Council endorses the Schedule of Accounts as presented, being cheques 42322 - 42324 totalling \$612.25, EFT payments 29833 - 29987 totalling \$1,295,643.35, direct payments totalling \$33,540.54 and credit card payments totalling \$3,236.99 authorised and paid in May 2020.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority.

CARRIED 9/0

10.2.2 Monthly Financial Reports (ATTACHMENTS)

File Ref: FM.FI.4
Reporting Officer: Wendy Stringer, Manager Finance
Report Prepared: 11 June 2020

Body/Background:

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 states that a local government must prepare a statement of financial activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget for the month.

Variances between budgeted and actual expenditure including the required Material Variances (10% with a minimum value of \$10,000) are included in the variance report.

Officer's Comment:

A variance report is included with the monthly financial statement's attachment.

The Finance Forum held on 16 June 2020 gave attending Councillors an opportunity to ask questions regarding the presented financial statements.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Policy Implications:

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

Financial Implications:

Monthly Statement of Financial Activity.

Risk Implications:

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Katanning's Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be "Low" risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with current resources.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027

PRIORITY	LEADERSHIP	
ASPIRATION	L2	A collaborative, progressive and resilient local government which is sustainably resourced.
OBJECTIVE	L2.1	Optimise use of shire resources – improve organisational systems.

Officer's Recommendation/Council Motion:

MOVED: CR KRISTY D'APRILE

SECONDED: CR JOHN GOODHEART

OC53/20 That Council adopts the Statement of Financial Activity for the month ending 31 May 2020, as presented.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority.

CARRIED 9/0

10.3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**10.3.1 Endorsement of Fire Management Requirement Brochure
(ATTACHMENT)**

File Ref: ES.AT.1
Reporting Officer: Cindy Pearce, Community Emergency Services Manager
Date Report Prepared: 5 June 2020

Issue:

Council to endorse the 2020 – 2021 Fire Management Requirement Brochure.

Body/Background:

The Fire Management Requirement Brochure is published annually and distributed to all residents and property owners within the Shire.

The Fire Management Requirement Brochure provides landowners and occupiers with information on their responsibilities regarding fire prevention. Also included in the brochure are the contact details of Local Bush Fire Control Officers and information on general fire related matters. There are a number of changes within the Fire Management Requirement Brochure for 2020/2021. Changes are as follows:

- 1) Dates updated 2020/2021 throughout the brochure;
- 2) Page 3 - Include the wording "Boundary fire breaks are compulsory within the Special Rural Land Areas within the town site. Council or its agents will establish fire breaks at strategic points at its discretion or on a Risk Base Assessment on land it managers.
- 3) Page 6 - It is not necessary for Council to notify property owners or give prior warning that legal action may proceed for failing to comply with the requirements of this notice.
- 4) Page 11 - Under Fire Attendance heading included CH 5 UHF.
- 5) Page 10 - Update of the Fire Control Officers.
- 6) Last page - removed the Shire fax number.

Officer's Comment:

Council endorsement of the Brochure and recommended changes are required prior to printing and distribution.

Statutory Environment:

Bushfire Act 1954 – section 33 Local Government may require occupier of land to plough or clear fire-break

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

Annual provision in the budget for printing approximately \$2,500.

Risk Implications:

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Katanning's Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be "Low" risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with current resources.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027

PRIORITY	SOCIAL	
ASPIRATION	S2	A safe community.
OBJECTIVE	S2.1	Strive for a community where people feel safe and secure.

Officer's Recommendation/Council Motion:

MOVED: CR OWEN BOXALL

SECONDED: CR ERNIE MENGHINI

OC54/20 That Council, in accordance with section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, endorses the 2020 – 2021 Shire of Katanning Fire Management Requirements as presented.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED 9/0

Cr Owen Boxall spoke for the motion.

10.3.2 Participation in National Redress Scheme (ATTACHMENT)

File Ref: RM.PL.1
Reporting Officer: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Date Report Prepared: 17 June 2020

Issue:

This item is provided to Council to:

- Note the background information and the WA Government's decision in relation to the National Redress Scheme;
- Note the key considerations and administrative arrangements for the Shire of Katanning to participate in the National Redress Scheme;
- Formally endorse the Shire of Katanning's participation as part of the WA Government's declaration in the National Redress Scheme; and
- Grant authority to an appropriate position / officer to execute a service agreement with the State, if a Redress application is received.

Body/Background:

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) was established in 2013 to investigate failures of public and private institutions to protect children from sexual abuse. The Royal Commission released three reports throughout the inquiry:

- Working with Children Checks (August 2015);
- Redress and Civil Litigation (September 2015); and
- Criminal Justice (August 2017).

The Royal Commission's Final Report (15 December 2017) incorporated findings and recommendations of the three previous reports and contained a total of 409 recommendations, of which 310 are applicable to the Western Australian Government and the broader WA community.

The implications of the Royal Commission's recommendations are twofold: the first is accountability for historical breaches in the duty of care that occurred before 1 July 2018 within any institution; the second is future-facing, ensuring better child safe approaches are implemented holistically moving forward.

The scope of this report addresses only the historical element of institutional child sexual abuse through the National Redress Scheme.

All levels of Australian society (including the WA local government sector and the Shire of Katanning) will be required to consider leading practice approaches to child safeguarding separately in the future.

National Redress Scheme

The Royal Commission's *Redress and Civil Litigation (September 2015)* Report recommended the establishment of a single National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) to recognise the harm suffered by survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

The Scheme acknowledges that children were sexually abused, recognises the suffering endured, holds institutions accountable and helps those who have been abused access counselling, psychological services, an apology and a redress payment.

The Scheme commenced on 1 July 2018, will run for 10 years and offers eligible applicants three elements of Redress:

- A direct personal response (apology) from the responsible institution, if requested;
- Funds to access counselling and psychological care; and
- A monetary payment of up to \$150,000.

All State and Territory Governments and many major non-government organisations and church groups have joined the Scheme.

The WA Parliament has passed the legislation for the Government and WA based non-government organisations to participate in the National Redress Scheme.

The Western Australian Government (the State) started participating in the Scheme from 1 January 2019.

Under the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth), local governments may be considered a State Government institution.

A decision was made at the time of joining the Scheme to exclude WA local governments from the State Government's participation declaration. This was to allow consultation to occur with the sector about the Scheme, and for fuller consideration of how the WA local government sector could best participate.

Details:

Following extensive consultation, the State Government (December 2019):

- Noted the consultations undertaken to date with the WA local government sector about the National Redress Scheme;
- Noted the options for WA local government participation in the Scheme;
- Agreed to local governments participating in the Scheme as State Government institutions, with the State Government covering payments to the survivor; and
- Agrees to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) leading further negotiations with the WA local government sector regarding local government funding costs, other than payments to the survivor including counselling, legal and administrative costs.

The following will be covered for local governments participating in the Scheme as a State Government institution and part of the State's declaration:

- Redress monetary payment provided to the survivor;
- Costs in relation to counselling, legal and administration (including the coordination of requests for information and record keeping in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*); and
- Trained staff to coordinate and facilitate a Direct Personal Response (DPR – Apology) to the survivor if requested (on a fee for service basis with costs to be covered by the individual local government – see below for further explanation).

State Government financial support for local government participation in the Scheme, as set out, will ensure that Redress is available to as many WA survivors of institutional child sexual abuse as possible.

Individual local governments participating in the Scheme as a State Government institution, with the State will be responsible for:

- Providing the State with the necessary (facilities and services) information to participate in the Scheme;
- Resources and costs associated with gathering their own (internal) information and providing that information (Request for Information) to the State (if they receive a Redress application); and
- Costs associated with the delivery of a DPR (apology), if requested (based on a standard service fee, plus travel and accommodation depending on the survivor's circumstance). The State's decision includes that all requested DPR's will be coordinated and facilitated by the Redress Coordination Unit – Department of Justice, on every occasion.

The WALGA State Council meeting of 4 March 2020:

1. Acknowledged the State Government's decision to include the participation of Local Governments in the National Redress Scheme as part of the State's declaration;
2. Endorsed the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding and Template Service Agreement with the State Government, and
3. Endorsed by Flying Minute the Memorandum of Understanding prior to execution, in order to uphold requirements to respond within legislative timeframes.

The State and WALGA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to reflect the principles of WA local governments participating in the Scheme as State Government institutions and being part of the State's declaration.

State agencies (led by DLGSC), WALGA and Local Government Professionals WA will support all local governments to prepare to participate in the Scheme from 1 July 2020 (or earlier, subject to completing the necessary arrangements).

The State's decision allows for the WA Government's Scheme participation declaration to be amended to include local governments and this report seeks endorsement of the Shire of Katanning's participation in the Scheme.

As an independent entity and for absolute clarity, it is essential that the Shire of Katanning formally indicates via a decision of Council, the intention to be considered a State Government institution (for the purposes on the National Redress Scheme) and be included in the WA Government's amended participation declaration.

The Shire of Katanning will not be included in the State's amended declaration, unless it formally decides to be included.

The financial and administrative coverage offered by the State will only be afforded to WA local governments that join the Scheme as a State Government institution, as part of the State's amended declaration.

The option also exists for the Shire of Katanning to formally decide not to participate in the Scheme (either individually or as part of the State's declaration).

Should the Shire of Katanning formally decide (via a resolution of Council) not to participate with the State or in the Scheme altogether, considerations for the Shire of Katanning include:

- Divergence from the Commonwealth, State, WALGA and the broader local government sector's position on the Scheme (noting the Commonwealth's preparedness to name-and-shame non-participating organisations).
- Potential reputational damage at a State, sector and community level.
- Complete removal of the State's coverage of costs and administrative support, with the Shire of Katanning having full responsibility and liability for any potential claim.
- Acknowledgement that the only remaining method of redress for a victim and survivor would be through civil litigation, with no upper limit, posing a significant financial risk to the Shire of Katanning.

Considerations for the Shire of Katanning

Detailed below is a list of considerations for the Shire of Katanning to participate in the Scheme:

1. Executing a Service Agreement

All Royal Commission information is confidential, and it is not known if the Shire of Katanning will receive a Redress application. A Service Agreement will only be executed if the Shire of Katanning receives a Redress application.

The Shire of Katanning needs to give authority to an appropriate position / officer to execute a service agreement with the State, if a Redress application is received. Timeframes for responding to a Request for Information are 3 weeks for priority applications and 7 weeks for non-priority applications. A priority application timeframe (3 weeks) will be outside most Council meeting cycles and therefore it is necessary to provide the authorisation to execute an agreement in advance.

2. Reporting to Council if / when an application is received

Council will receive a confidential report, notifying when a Redress application has been received. All information in the report will be de-identified but will make Council aware that an application has been received.

3. Application Processing / Staffing and Confidentiality

Administratively the Shire of Katanning will determine:

- Which position(s) will be responsible for receiving applications and responding to Requests for Information;
- Support mechanisms for staff members processing Requests for Information.

The appointed person(s) will have a level of seniority in order to understand the magnitude of the undertaking and to manage the potential conflicts of interest and confidentiality requirements

4. Record Keeping

The State Records Office advised (April 2019) all relevant agencies, including Local Governments, of a 'disposal freeze' initiated under the *State Records Act 2000* (the Act) to protect past and current records that may be relevant to actual and alleged incidents of child sexual abuse. The Shire of Katanning's record keeping practices as a result, have been modified to ensure the secure protection and retention of relevant records. These records (or part

thereof) may be required to be provided to the State's Redress Coordination Unit in relation to a Redress application.

The Redress Coordination Unit (Department of Justice) is the state record holder for Redress and will keep copies of all documentation and RFI responses. Local Governments will be required to keep their own records regarding a Redress application in a confidential and secure manner, and in line with all requirements in *The Act*.

5. Redress Decisions

The Shire of Katanning should note that decisions regarding Redress applicant eligibility and the responsible institution(s), are made by Independent Decision Makers, based on the information received by the applicant and any RFI responses. The State Government and the Shire of Katanning do not have any influence on the decision made and there is no right of appeal.

Consultation:

The State, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), consulted with the WA local government sector and other key stakeholders on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (in 2018) and the National Redress Scheme (in 2019).

The consultation throughout 2019 has focused on the National Redress Scheme with the aim of:

- raising awareness about the Scheme;
- identifying whether WA local governments are considering participating in the Scheme;
- identifying how participation may be facilitated; and
- enabling advice to be provided to Government on the longer-term participation of WA local governments.

Between March and May 2019, DLGSC completed consultations that reached 115 out of 137 WA local governments via:

- Webinars to local governments, predominately in regional and remote areas;
- Presentations at 12 WALGA Zone and Local Government Professional WA meetings;
- Responses to email and telephone enquiries from individual local governments.

It was apparent from the consultations local governments were most commonly concerned about the:

- potential cost of Redress payments;
- availability of historical information;
- capacity of local governments to provide a Direct Personal Response (apology) if requested by Redress recipients;
- process and obligations relating to maintaining confidentiality if Redress applications are received, particularly in small local governments;
- lack of insurance coverage of Redress payments by LGIS, meaning local governments would need to self-fund participation and Redress payments.

LGIS published and distributed an update (April 2019) regarding the considerations and (potential) liability position of the WA local government sector in relation to the National Redress Scheme.

The WALGA State Council meeting on 3 July 2019 recommended that:

1. *WA local government participation in the State's National Redress Scheme declaration with full financial coverage by the State Government, be endorsed in principle, noting that further engagement with the sector will occur in the second half of 2019.*
2. *WALGA continue to promote awareness of the National Redress Scheme and note that local governments may wish to join the Scheme in the future to demonstrate a commitment to the victims of institutional child sexual abuse.*

DLGSC representatives presented at a WALGA hosted webinar on 18 February 2020 and presented at all WALGA Zone meetings in late February 2020.

The State's decision, in particular to cover the costs / payments to the survivor, has taken into account the feedback provided by local governments during the consultation detailed above.

Statutory Environment:

The Shire of Katanning in agreeing to join the Scheme, is required to adhere to legislative requirements set out in the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth).

Authorisation of an appropriately appointed person to execute a service agreement with the State, if a Redress application is received, will be in accordance with s.9.49A(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Policy Implications:

Council does not have a policy relating to this issue.

Financial Implications:

The State's decision will cover the following financial costs for local governments:

- Redress monetary payment provided to the survivor;
- Costs in relation to counselling, legal and administration (including the coordination or requests for information and record keeping); and
- Trained staff to coordinate and facilitate a Direct Personal Response (DPR – Apology) to the survivor if requested (on a fee for service basis with costs to be covered by the individual local government – see below).

The only financial cost the local government may incur will be the payment of the DPR's, which is on an 'as requested' basis by the survivor. This will be based on the standard service fee of \$3,000 plus travel and accommodation depending on the survivor's circumstances. All requested DPR's will be coordinated and facilitated by the Redress Coordination Unit – Department of Justice.

The State's decision also mitigates a significant financial risk to the local government in terms of waiving rights to future claims. Accepting an offer of redress has the effect of releasing the responsible participating organisation and their officials (other than the abuser/s) from civil liability for instances of sexual abuse and related non-sexual abuse of the person that is within the scope of the Scheme. This means that the person who receives redress through the Scheme, agrees to not bring or continue any civil claims against the responsible participating organisation in relation to any abuse within the scope of the Scheme.

Risk Implications:

This item has been evaluated against the Shire of Katanning's Risk Assessment and Acceptance Criteria. The perceived level of risk is considered to be "Low" risk and can be managed by routine procedures and with current resources.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027

PRIORITY	LEADERSHIP	
ASPIRATION	L1	An inclusive community recognized as a great place to live and visit
OBJECTIVE	L1.2	Provide effective leadership and good governance

Officer's Recommendation/Council Motion:

MOVED: CR ERNIE MENGHINI

SECONDED: CR SERENA SANDWELL

OC55/20 That Council:

- 1) **Notes the consultation undertaken and information provided by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in regarding the National Redress Scheme and the participation of WA local governments;**
- 2) **Endorses the participation of the Shire of Katanning in the National Redress Scheme as a State Government institution and included as part of the State Government's declaration;**
- 3) **Grants authority to the Chief Executive Officer to execute a service agreement with the State, if a Redress application is received;**
- 4) **Notes that a confidential report will be provided to Council if a Redress application is received by the Shire of Katanning;**

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED 8/1

Cr Serena Sandwell spoke for the motion.

Cr Martin van Koldenhoven spoke against the motion.

Cr Owen Boxall spoke for the motion.

Cr John Goodheart spoke for the motion.

11. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING

Nil

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.11 pm.