Shire of Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

'Katanning is a safe, sustainable, and prosperous community.
We respect and celebrate our diverse culture.'

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Dear Council Member

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Katanning held on Tuesday 20 October 2026 in the Shire of Katanning Council Chambers, 52 Austral Terrace, Katanning.

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 _____

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISTORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:39pm.

The Shire of Katanning acknowledges the Goreng Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land that we live and work on. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing relationship with the land and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presiding Member:	Cr Kristy D'Aprile - President
Members:	Cr Ian Hanna – Deputy President Cr Matt Collis Cr Gemma Trolove Cr Danny McGrath Cr Paul Totino
Council Officers:	Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer David Blurton, Executive Manager Corporate Services Lisa Smith, Acting Manager Operations Taryn Human, Executive Assistant to CEO
Gallery:	Barbara Groves
Media:	
Apologies:	
Leave of Absence:	Cr John Goodheart

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

President Kristy D'Aprile explained that the purpose of the Special Council Meeting was to make urgent decisions regarding the Shire's airport runway project. She acknowledged and thanked Samantha Rowe MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, the Premier's Office, and Peter Rundle MLA for their ongoing support and advocacy in seeking additional funding for this critical infrastructure project.

She noted that Council has spent considerable time discussing and investigating the airport project over many months and recognises both the urgency of the required repairs and the seasonal constraints that affect the timing of the works. While considering the matter before Council, she advised that the Shire would continue pursuing every available avenue for additional State Government funding, which is reflected in the alternative motion included in the report.

President D'Aprile encouraged councillors to take the opportunity to ask questions, acknowledging the significant work undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer and administrative staff in preparing information on the issue. The President concluded by thanking the CEO for providing a detailed report to help Council make a well-informed decision on the airport runway project.

4. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/IMPARTIALITY INTERESTS

8.1	Cr Danny McGrath	Disclosure of Financial Interest

5. PUBLIC QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME

Barbara Groves raised concerns on behalf of St John Ambulance, explaining that volunteers were unaware of the proposed runway closure until it was mentioned after a fire brigade meeting. She expressed concern about the impact the closure would have on medical transfers, particularly as the RFDS aircraft would be unable to land at night, placing additional pressure on local ambulance volunteers.

President Kristy D'Aprile acknowledged these concerns and explained that the matter had become urgent due to the limited seasonal window available to undertake the runway rehabilitation works. She advised that the works can only be completed during suitable weather conditions, making November and December the preferred timeframe. She also noted that Council had been investigating options for emergency service access during the closure period.

CEO Peter Klein advised that neither the main sealed runway nor the gravel cross-runway would be available while works were underway because construction would occur across the runway intersection. He stated that the closure was expected to last approximately four to five weeks, with the preferred contractor proposing to commence works on 16 November and complete them before Christmas.

Peter Klein explained that discussions had been held with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). During the runway closure, a helicopter would be available for daytime emergency transfers however, nighttime aeromedical evacuations into Katanning would not be possible. Patients requiring urgent medical evacuation at night would most likely need to be transported by road to another airport.

Peter Klein also advised that records indicated there are generally between two and five nighttime RFDS evacuations per month, although the number can vary. He acknowledged that the runway closure would increase travel and response times for St John volunteers and that the Shire was continuing discussions with RFDS and other agencies to minimise impacts on emergency services.

Barbara Groves highlighted that St John Ambulance volunteers were already under pressure due to ongoing staffing shortages, particularly in patient transport services. She expressed concern that the additional workload created by transferring patients further afield could place significant strain on volunteers during an already busy harvest period.

In response, President D'Aprile committed to ensuring ongoing communication with St John Ambulance, local paramedics and the hospital. She confirmed the Shire would continue advocating for additional support and investigate whether assistance could be provided to address staffing and recruitment challenges. She emphasised that while the closure would be disruptive, it would be for a relatively short but intensive period and that proactive planning and collaboration with emergency service providers would be essential.

The discussion concluded with Council acknowledging the concerns raised by St John Ambulance and committing to continued engagement with emergency service providers to manage the impacts of the runway closure on the community.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

7. EXECUTIVE MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

Nil.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8.1 Runway Refurbishment Project – Budget Amendment

File Ref:
Reporting Officer: Peter Klein, Chief Executive Officer
Date Report Prepared: 16 October 2026
Disclosure of Interest: No Interest to disclose

Issue:
To consider options for providing the Council's additional contribution towards delivering the amended Runway Refurbishment Project.

Background:
In May 2024, the Shire engaged Greenfield Technical Services to undertake a preliminary condition assessment of Runway 07 and based on visual assessment contractors (Greenfields) estimated a project cost of $750,000 (ex GST)**.**

This informed successful grant funding (ex GST) of:

Funding Source (ex GST)	Amount	% Contribution
RADS (State)	$236,817	31.58%
State RfR	$138,183	18.42%
RAP (Federal)	$236,817	31.58%
Shire	$138,183	18.42%
Total	$750,000	100.00%

Issue:
The approved grant funding as outlined above, included funding for a detailed design of the planned works and once the grant funds were available, Airport Consultancy Group (ACG) was contracted to deliver this detailed design.

To inform the design ACG commissioned a runway geotechnical investigation which has revealed additional areas of subbase failure, not previously identified.

Rectifying these new areas of failure increased the project cost by $773,327 (ex GST)**.**

Delivery Approach:
Given the Shire had only $750,000 to deliver this project, we approached the design consultant ACG to request a staged delivery strategy. A Technical Memorandum documenting three staging options and costings of these options, are attached.

In summary, ACG identifies a 23m x 150m section of runway (CH 870 to 1020) impacted by block cracking and advises that a single seal over this 3,450m² section, the minimum treatment recommended for the balance of the runway, will not "durably address" this defect.

Consequently, ACG recommend this section cannot be left untreated and propose it be reconstructed & treated with a prime coat and a two-coat bitumen seal. ACG estimate the cost of this option to be $1,408,583 just $114,744 (ex GST) less than the complete works.

Delivering options 2 & 3 costs the additional $114,744 and delivery of these options involve the reconstruction of two additional narrow, wheel path, sections of runway.

Recognising there was little alternative to delivering the full revised scope, management approached the current funding parties requesting their consideration of increasing their contribution to meet the funding shortfall of $773,327 (ex GST), in proportion to their existing commitment. The request to each funding party is summarised as follows;

Funding Source (ex GST)	Amount	% Contribution	Top-up Request	Total Request
RADs (State)	$236,817	31.58%	$244,183	$481,000
State RfR	$138,183	18.42%	$142,481	$280,664
RAP (Federal)	$236,817	31.58%	$244,183	$481,000
Shire	$138,183	18.42%	$142,481	$280,664
Total	**$750,000**	**100.00%**	**$773,327**	**$1,523,327**

In response, the State's Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) agreed to commit an additional $200,516. This contribution is less than requested because their grant guidelines disallow contingencies which, are included in the revised cost estimate.

The Federal Government's Regional Airport Program (RAP) has committed a further $244,183 towards the project, the full amount requested.

During a 14 September meeting, the Regional Development Minister advised that no further funds from the Royalties for Regions program would be allocated to this project. In response on 18 September, the President wrote to the WA Premier requesting a meeting to brief the Premier on the findings of a recently completed study into the economic & community impacts of Ausgold's impending mine development, and to explore the challenge facing our Council in meeting the ownership cost of the Katanning Aerodrome.

The Premier declined this meeting which management considers exhausted options for sourcing additional funding within the time available for delivery of this project.

Meanwhile, the RFQ for the refurbishment works has closed and various quotes including one for $1.482M (ex GST) was received and subsequently endorsed by the selection panel. An additional $80K is recommended to contract independent specialist project management/quality assurance services.

The updated funding status is therefore, summarised in the following table.

Funding Source (ex GST)	Initial Contribution	% Contribution	Additional Request	Additional Provided	New Shire Commitment	Total	New % Contribution
Funds Required						**$1,561,075**	
RADs (state)	$236,817	31.58%	$244,183	$200,516		$437,333	28.01%
State RfR	$138,183	18.42%	$142,481	$0		$138,183	8.85%
RAP (federal)	$236,817	31.58%	$244,183	$244,183		$481,000	30.81%
Shire	$138,183	18.42%			**$366,376**	**$504,559**	32.32%
Total	**$750,000**	**100%**	**$773,328**	**$444,699**		**$1,561,075**	**100%**

Because the design engineers recommend that the only way to durably address the defects is to reconstruct failed sections and complete a full reseal, management is recommending the project be delivered in full this summer.

Consequently, management is recommending that Council commit an additional $366,376 to deliver this upgrade. Failure to deliver the works this summer will likely result in:

- Reduced runway safety and reliability
- Restricted access for RFDS and emergency services
- Risk to ongoing CASA certification

The aerodrome is critical infrastructure supporting emergency health services and regional connectivity.

Financial Context:
The Council's initial commitment to this project of $138,183 is already budgeted to be drawn from our 26/27 operating account (the municipal fund).

It is proposed that the Council's additional contribution of $366,376 be borrowed from the WA Treasury Corporation because this option is the most cost-effective way of providing these funds. The following table shows the net cost of borrowing (5% interest rate assumed) and please note this takes into account the compounding interest effect of leaving the $366,376 in the existing reserve account (term deposit at 4.5% interest);

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Payment	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	$47,447	
- Interest	$18,319	$16,862	$15,333	$13,727	$12,041	$10,271	$8,412	$6,461	$4,411	$2,259	**$108,098**
- Principal	$29,129	$30,585	$32,114	$33,720	$35,406	$37,176	$39,035	$40,987	$43,036	$45,188	**$366,376**
Total Repayment	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$47,447**	**$474,474**
Interest revenue received	**$16,487**	**$17,229**	**$18,004**	**$18,814**	**$19,661**	**$20,546**	**$21,470**	**$22,436**	**$23,446**	**$24,501**	**$202,595**
Total cost of borrowing	**$30,960**	**$30,219**	**$29,443**	**$28,633**	**$27,786**	**$26,902**	**$25,977**	**$25,011**	**$24,001**	**$22,946**	**$271,879**

The above table shows that the net annual cost of borrowing ranges from $30,960 in Year 1 to $22,946 in Year 10.

For comparison, the following table shows the net annual cost of drawing the $366,376 from our existing reserve. The requirement is not only to reinvest the $366,376 but, Council also needs to contribute the interest foregone to establish a like for like comparison. The net effect of this option is an annual cost of $53,125 in Year 1 to $61,139 in Year 10.

Annual Contribution to Reinstate the Reserve

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Contribution to Reserves	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$36,638	$366,376
Interest foregone	$16,487	$17,229	$18,004	$18,814	$19,661	$20,546	$21,470	$22,436	$23,446	$24,501	$202,595
Required Reserve Deposit	**$53,125**	**$53,866**	**$54,642**	**$55,452**	**$56,299**	**$57,183**	**$58,108**	**$59,074**	**$60,084**	**$61,139**	**$568,971**

It is therefore recommended that the required funds be borrowed from WATC with a 10-year payback period. However, because the proposed borrowing was not included in the adopted annual budget, Council is required to authorise the expenditure for an additional purpose pursuant to section 6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* by absolute majority and amend the budget accordingly. However, before Council can consider the borrowing it must issue a public notice under the *Local Government Act 1995* s.6.20 and associated financial management regulations.

Risk Implications:

Failure to deliver the runway refurbishment works is likely to result in reduced runway safety and reliability, restricted access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and emergency services, and risk to ongoing CASA certification. This presents as both a reputational and community safety risk.

Grant agreements with the Federal Government's RAP and State Government's RADS programs require the grant funds to be expended by May 2027 to achieve acquittal by the 30 June 2027 deadline. Failure to deliver within this timeframe may require the resubmission of grant applications and the risk to future project funding this creates.

Delays to project delivery will also result in project cost escalation which will need to be considered prior to the applications being resubmitted.

Statutory Environment:
Section 6.20 of the *Local Government Act 1995* prescribes a process that must be satisfied before a local government borrows money for a purpose not included in the annual budget. The Shire of Katanning's 2026/27 budget doesn't include borrowing funds for the runway upgrade project. The statutory sequence required by section 6.20 is summarised as follows;

1. Council resolves to advertise the proposed borrowing.
2. Give local public notice for at least one month.
3. Receive and consider submissions.
4. Council resolves to borrow.
5. Council authorises the unbudgeted expenditure under section 6.8(1)(b) by absolute majority.

Policy Implications:
Nil.

Strategic Implications:
Shire of Katanning Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032

Focus Area	Built Environment
Aspiration	Katanning has well planned, managed and maintained infrastructure that supports community wellbeing, safety and growth.
Objective	To provide and maintain infrastructure that meets current and future community needs.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

MOVED: CR IAN HANNA **SECONDED: CR GEMMA TROLOVE**

OC133/26 That Council suspends standing orders.

CARRIED:5/0
FOR: CR KRISTY D'APRILE, CR IAN HANNA, CR PAUL TOTINO, CR GEMMA TROLOVE, CR MATT COLLIS
AGAINST: NIL.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority.

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

MOVED: CR IAN HANNA **SECONDED: CR GEMMA TROLOVE**

OC134/26 That Council resumes standing orders.

CARRIED:5/0
FOR: CR KRISTY D'APRILE, CR IAN HANNA, CR PAUL TOTINO, CR GEMMA TROLOVE, CR MATT COLLIS

Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. contract the applicant selected by the selection panel to perform the works at a total cost of $1.482M (ex GST);
2. pursuant to section 6.20(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, give one-month local public notice of its proposal to borrow $366,376 from the WATC for the Runway Refurbishment Project, with the loan to be repaid over 10 years;
3. invites public submissions on the proposed borrowing during the notice period;
4. if, after reviewing submissions Council resolves to proceed with the borrowing,
    a) a further absolute majority decision is required under section 6.8(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to authorise the additional expenditure, and
5. the 2026/27 Annual Budget must be amended accordingly; and
6. if, after reviewing submissions Council resolves not to proceed to borrow the funds then Council;
    a) notes that expenditure on refurbishing the runway is consistent with the Community & Economic Development Reserve's established purpose; ad
    b) endorses the $366,376 being drawn from the Community & Economic Development Reserve to pay for the runway refurbishment works.

Voting Requirement: Absolute Majority

Council Motion:

OC135/26 That Council:

1. **Authorises additional expenditure of up to $400,000 for delivery of the Runway Refurbishment Project which, is additional to the approved annual budget.**
2. **Contract the applicant selected by the selection panel to perform the works at a total cost of $1.482M (ex GST);**
3. **Pursuant to section 6.20(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, approves borrowing from the WATC of up to $400,000 for expenditure on the project and gives one-month local public notice of its proposal to borrow this amount over a 10-year period;**
4. **Invites public submissions on the proposed borrowing during the notice period.**
5. **Acknowledges the urgency of the project and the need to meet delivery timeframes while continuing to pursue additional State Government funding to minimise the Council's borrowing requirements.**

CARRIED:5/0
FOR: CR KRISTY D'APRILE, CR IAN HANNA, CR PAUL TOTINO, CR GEMMA TROLOVE, CR MATT COLLIS

Cr Paul Totino spoke for the motion.
Cr Ian Hanna spoke for the motion.
Cr Kristy D'Aprile spoke for the motion.

9. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6:31pm.