



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

Shire of Northam

Notes

Council Forum Meeting

12 October 2022



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Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Notes for distribution they are in essence "informal notes."

At the next Ordinary Meeting of Council the Notes will be received, subject to any amendments made by the Council. The "Received" Notes are then signed off by the Presiding Person.

Please refer to the Ordinary Council meeting agenda and minutes for further information and details in relation to the matters and items discussed at the Forum meeting.

Unconfirmed Notes

These notes were approved for distribution on 14 October 2022.

JASON WHITEAKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Received Notes

These notes were received at an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 October 2022.

Signed:

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President, Cr C R Antonio, declared the meeting open at 5:30pm.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

The Shire of Northam would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Ballardong and Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation and pay our respects to Elders, past present and emerging.

3. ATTENDANCE

Council:

Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors

C R Antonio
M P Ryan
D Galloway
A J Mencshelyi
J E G Williams
D A Hughes
H Appleton

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Manager Engineering Services
Executive Manager Community Services
Acting Executive Manager Development
Services
Acting Governance Coordinator
Acting Governance Officer

J B Whiteaker
S Patterson
J Metcalf

J Jurmann
A C McCall
T Van Beek

Gallery:

Public

Gary Williams
Doug Crake
Graeme Godfrey
Laurie Felstead
Kevin Jones
Alan Ings
Brendan Worth
Christopher Poulton
Jeff Roberts
Rebecca Jackson
Sue Webb
Ken Pearce
Gabi Oricas
Lidia Oricas
Phil Freeman
S. Broad

3.1 APOLOGIES

Council:

Councillors

M I Girak

R W Tinetti

Staff:

Executive Manager Corporate Services

C Young

3.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr P T Curtis has been granted leave of absence from 19 September 2022 to 1 January 2023 (inclusive).

3.3 ABSENT

Nil.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members should fill in Disclosure of Interest forms for items in which they have a financial, proximity or impartiality interest and forward these to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences.

*As defined in section 5.60A of the Local Government Act 1995, a **financial interest** occurs where a Councillor / Committee Member, or a person with whom the Councillor / Committee Member is closely associated, has a direct or indirect financial interest in the matter. That is, the person stands to make a financial gain or loss from the decision, either now or at some time in the future.*

*As defined in section 5.61 of the Local Government Act 1995, an **indirect financial interest** includes a reference to a financial relationship between that person and another person who requires a Local Government decision in relation to the matter.*

*As defined in section 5.60B of the Local Government Act 1995, a person has a **proximity interest** in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed development (as defined in section 5.63(5)) of land that adjoins the person's land.*

*As defined in 34C of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, an **impartiality interest** means an interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association.*

Item Name	Item No.	Name	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest
Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation	13.1.1	Cr C R Antonio	Impartiality	Cr Antonio is one of the elected members of council mentioned in this item for review of shire wards.
		Cr D J Galloway	Impartiality	Cr Galloway is one of the elected members in this item for review of shire wards.
		Cr D A Hughes	Impartiality	Cr Hughes is an elected member of council, and this agenda item discusses conditions effecting elected members position on council.
		Cr A J Mencshelyi	Impartiality	This item impacts Cr Mencshelyi's status as an elected member of the Shire of Northam.
		Cr M P Ryan	Impartiality	Cr Ryan is an elected member of the Shire of Northam.
		Cr J E G Williams	Impartiality	Cr Williams has always been a vocal advocate for the retention of shire wards. Cr Williams current position of elected member for Central ward may cease to exist at the next election.
		Cr H J Appleton	Impartiality	Cr Appleton is an elected member of the Shire of Northam.
Proposed Home Business – 34 Broome Terrace, Northam	13.3.1	Cr C R Antonio	Impartiality	Proponent is known to Cr Antonio.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

No queries were raised in relation to this item.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6.1 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Name: Christopher Poulton.

Background

The Eastlink proposal originated from a strategy to solve a problem faced by the Mundaring Shire over 30 years ago (Trucks). The section added to the Northam Shire in the 90's was poorly planned and influenced by the Northam Shire council members at the time, as the 2 preferred routes proposed by Main Roads, were rejected by the Shire and coincidentally ran through property owned by members on the Council.

The original bypass for Mundaring finished at El Caballo, before entering our Shire.

There is going to be a significant impact on 3 towns in our Shire as well as the loss of significant assets to our region (which could be avoided).

Summary of Question:

Question 1:

What has the Northam shire done to assess the impact on the local community of Wundowie, Bakers Hill and Clackline in regard to the proposed Eastlink project?

Question 2:

Has the Northam shire conducted an assessment, identifying damage, loss of assets, and long term impacts to the region caused by land use taken up by Eastlink proposal?

Question 3:

What is the Northam shires stance on main roads forcibly taking land and homes from people along the proposed route?

Question 4:

What is the Northam shires stance on Main Roads trying to forcibly take state heritage listed land for the purposes of the Eastlink project?

Question 5:

What is the Northam shires stance on the conservation of the Kep Track?

Question 6:

What steps has the shire taken to measure that local communities are adequately informed of the impacts the proposed Eastlink project will have on their lifestyle?

Question 7:

Has the shire carried out an assessment of alternatives to the Eastlink project, such as existing road upgrades that are less detrimental to the community?

Question 8:

Has the Northam shire done anything to promote Main Roads to change its current proposal to reduce the impact on the communities impacted?
(Please show references if any)

Question 9:

What has the shire done over the past 20 years to encourage Main Roads to improve the safety along the Great Eastern Highway between El Caballo to Clackline? (Please show references if any)

Question 10:

The town planning scheme for Bakers Hill mentions that the Northam shire has committed to preserving heritage and historical places. What action has the Northam shire implemented towards this? (Please provide a summary for each year with references)

Question 11:

What has the Northam shire done to make sure that the Eastlink project improves the local communities that it is proposed to go through?

Question 12:

Has the Northam shire voiced any concerns to Main Roads about the Eastlink project?
If so, what? (Please provide documented evidence of these discussions)

Question 13:

Has the Northam shire fought for the interest of the community in regard to the Eastlink project, to make sure that the people they represent do not get pushed aside by Perth city government and Main Roads.
(Please provide evidence of discussion with Main Roads)

Question 14:

Has the Northam shire carried out any statistical assessment to validate what they have been told by Main Roads?

Question 15:

Has the Northam Shire discussed alternatives to the Eastlink proposal with Main Roads? for example, have they discussed the option to revert to the original proposal, re-joining Great Eastern Highway before El Caballo?

Question 16:

Has the Northam shire requested Main Roads validate their claims regarding time savings and other perceived benefits claimed by the construction of the Eastlink project?

Question 17:

Has the Northam shire requested that all information be in writing and from Main Roads themselves and not the subcontracted company?

Question 18:

What has the Northam shire done to ensure that the safety of the community is not compromised with the introduction of the Eastlink proposal?

Question 19:

Has the Northam shire carried out an assessment on the impact and change in the lifestyle of the local residents that will be impacted by the implementation of the Eastlink project?

Question 20:

Has the Northam shire conducted an impact assessment of how this road land allocation will impact

future growth on the town sites impacted by the Eastlink proposal?

Question 21:

Has the Northam shire conducted an impact assessment of how this road land allocation will impact future opportunities for infrastructure development? For example, re-establishing a rail line between Northam to Mundaring and Midland?

Summary of Response:

Due to the quantity of questions asked it will take some time to correlate answers. The council will endeavour to provide a response at next meeting.

Name:

Doug Crare and Graeme Godfrey – Lifestyle Village

Summary of Question:

In regard to El Caballo currently being for sale, if the owner or person who purchases it applies to turn it in to something else, what would be the Council's position, and would Council be able to stop it?

Summary of Response:

The Shire have not received any applications to do anything with the property as yet and has limited contact with the current owner. The only information that we have received regarding the property was through the media. Any proposed changes to land use will be required to go through an application process, including community consultation and need subsequent assessment by council. The property is currently listed as a Special Use Zone and no other use of the property is permitted outside of that without approval from council to change the zone.

Name:

Kevin Jones

Summary of Question:

Sims road in Bakers Hill is a single lane bitumen road that has never been upgraded and has been a cause for numerous close calls. The road side verges are also in need of maintenance. Does the council have any future plans to have Sims Rd sealed?

Summary of Response:

The Shire is currently in the process of redeveloping its 5 year road plan and will be finalised for presentation to Council at the end of the 2022. Once this plan has

been endorsed by Council (early 2023), we will be positioned to advise where Sims road sits, if it is included, in the proposed program. The Executive Manager Engineering Services will reach out to Mr Jones to further discuss the safety issues that have been mentioned.

7. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

2 members of the Gallery entered the meeting at 5:46pm.

1 member of the Gallery entered the meeting at 5:47pm.

1 member of the Gallery left the meeting at 5:48pm.

2 members of the Gallery entered the meeting at 5:52pm.

2 members of the Gallery left the meeting at 5:54pm.

8. RECEIVING OF PETITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

8.1 PETITIONS

Nil.

8.2 PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

8.3 DEPUTATIONS

Name: Christopher Poulton

Summary of Deputation: Mr Poulton presented a power point deputation, see Attachment 1.

Name: Unknown Wundowie Resident

Summary of Deputation: A Wundowie Community Hub has been spoken about for years but the Shire has not gone ahead with it.

Name: Unknown Wundowie Resident

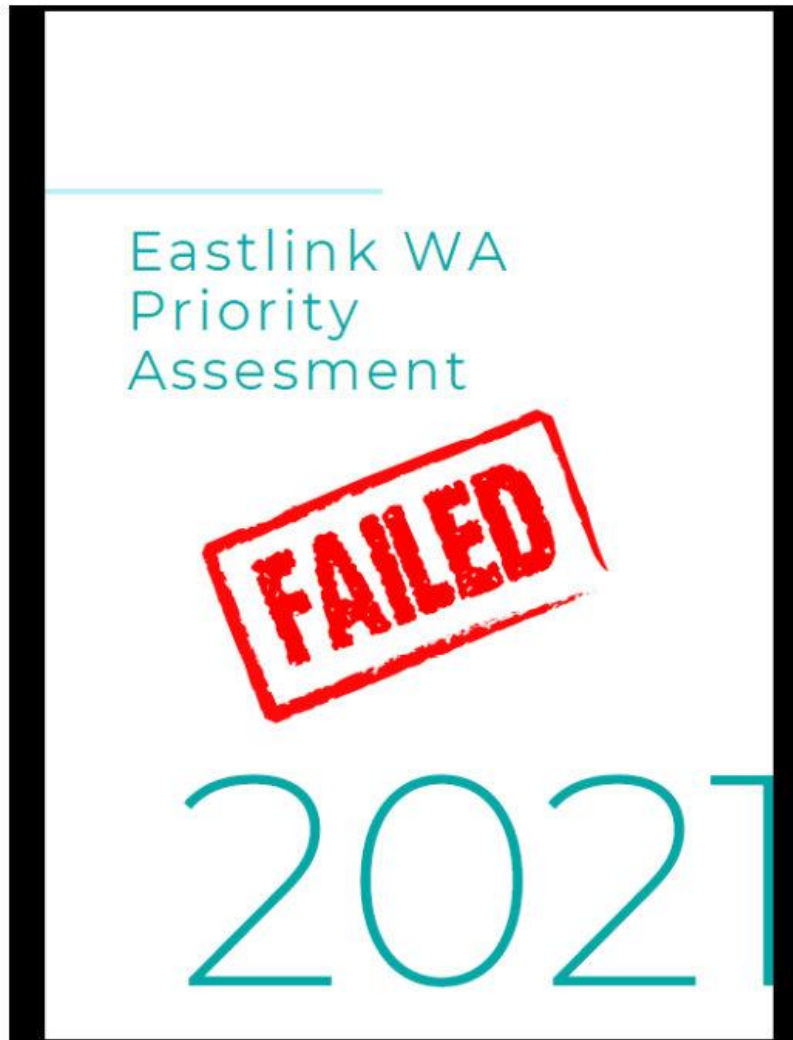
Summary of Deputation: The Shire does nothing for the communities outside of Northam. Wundowie if ignored with nothing happening.

Attachment 1 – Eastlink Deputation Power Point



THE NORTHAM
SHIRE SHOULD NOT
BE SUPPORTING THE
EASTLINK PROJECT





Information is available in the Eastlink Priority Assessment and Main roads database.

Brief History

- 40-year-old proposal. That has recently been revived within the last 2 years. (It has not been actively worked on over the past 40 years).
- Originated from Maundering shire to address shire concerns about trucks driving through town.
- Finished at El Caballo / Wooraloo
- Trucks are no longer the Problem.
- A new Road won't address the current problems of Great Eastern Highway.
- Is no longer a logical project moving into the future.
- Freight planning is moving towards rail and ocean, making this redundant by the time it is completed.



North-link project construction

- They didn't consider investigating hydrology till 2021.
- Have no idea how important the golden heritage trial is!!!



Current works along Great Eastern Highway that could be done to achieve the same result as the eastlink project



Our Mission

In order to achieve our Vision the Shire of Northam has established an organisational Mission commitment, which is:

"To deliver responsive, sustainable services in a manner that preserves and enhances our environment and lifestyle whilst respecting our heritage and facilitating economic growth."

In order to achieve this Mission, the organisation will commit to being:

SAFE - Focus on importance of safety in the organisation.

OPEN - Engage in two-way communication, with transparency and trust.

ACCOUNTABLE - Know what you are responsible for, take ownership and deliver accordingly.

RESPECTFUL - Demonstrate respect for other's skills, knowledge and differing value systems.

First Do NO Harm!!!

Northam Shires Mandate:

- Sustainable
- Preserves and enhances our:
 - environment,
 - lifestyle.
- Respecting our Heritage.

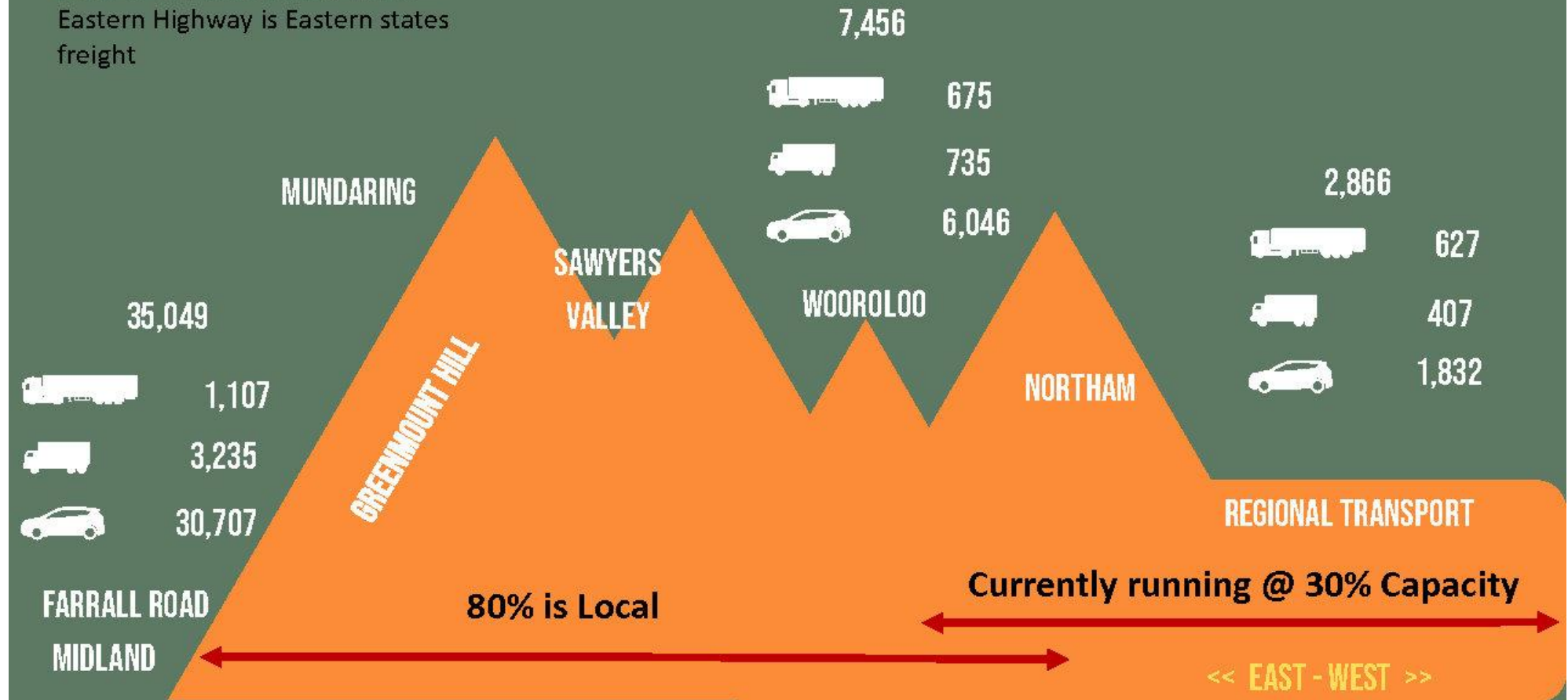
To Represent the community!!!!!!

- Safe Roads
- Efficiency
- Effective / productive
- Resilient/ Innovative
- Socially Responsible
- Environmentally Responsible

According to the East metropolitan regional councils' guidelines, the East Link project does not meet these requirements!!!!

WHO USES THE GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY TODAY?

0.7% of the traffic along Great Eastern Highway is Eastern states freight





Northam Shire have stated that their support for main roads has been due to:

- Perceived community support
- Perceived benefits in making the metropolitan area more accessible (potentially saving 10 minutes)
- Perceived improvement to road safety (More appropriate road alignment).
- Perceived economic benefits



Perceived community
support

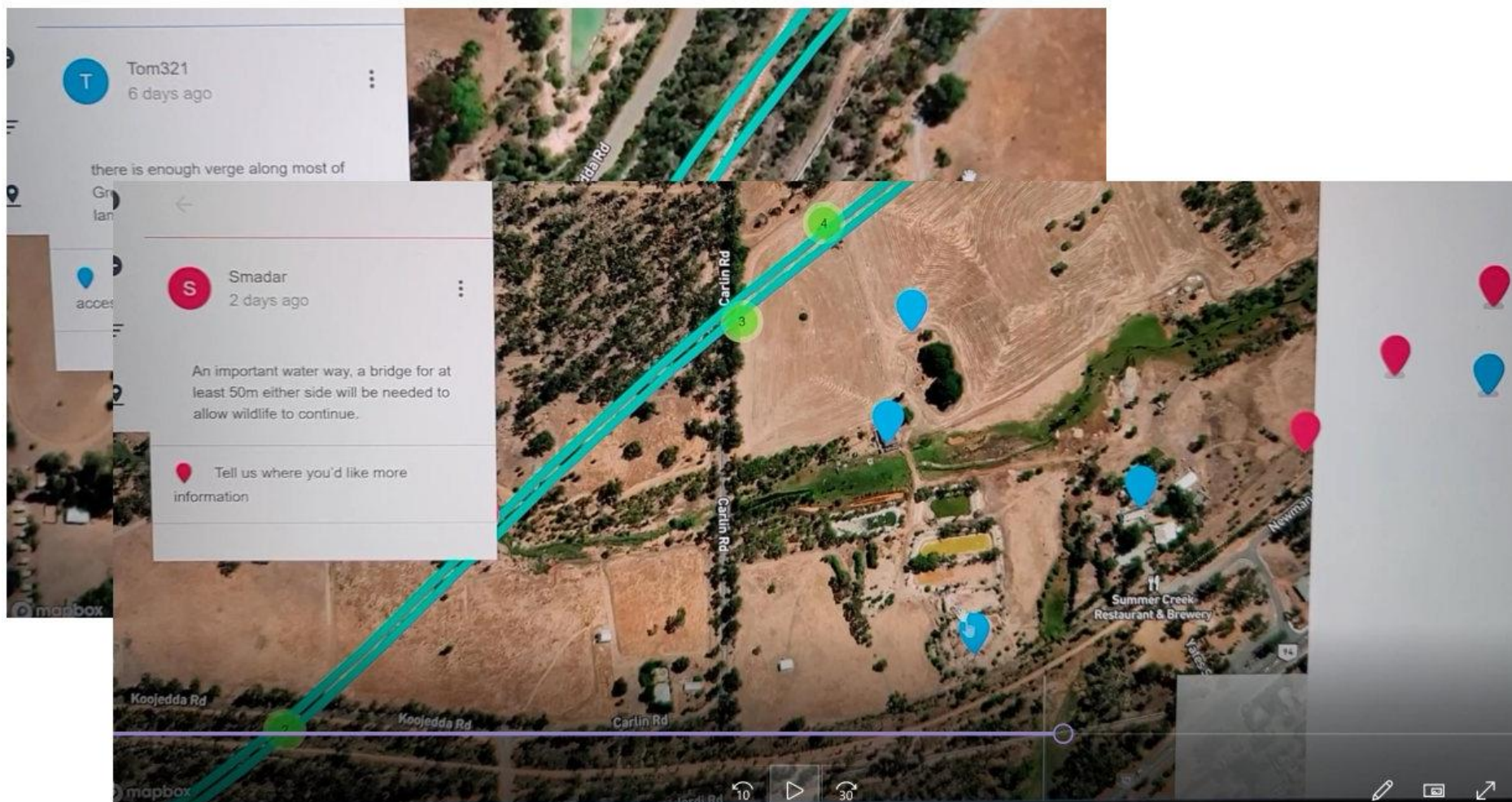
What do WE want?

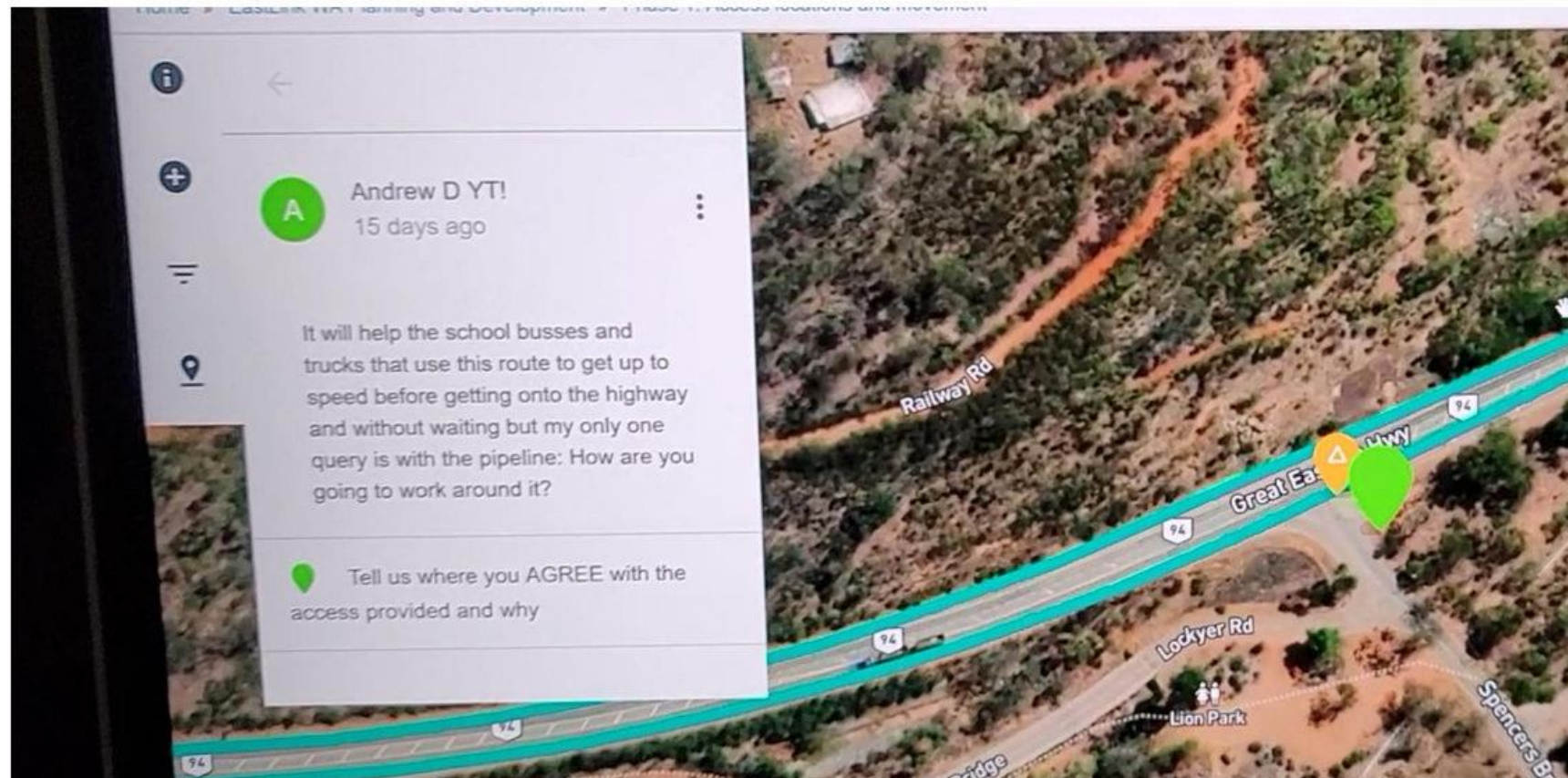
- Safe roads?
- Efficient travel?
- Preservation of community / lifestyle
For the future
- Innovative use of technology
- Great Eastern Highway is the
problem!!
- Let's fix the problem!
- Without sacrificing our assets!!!!

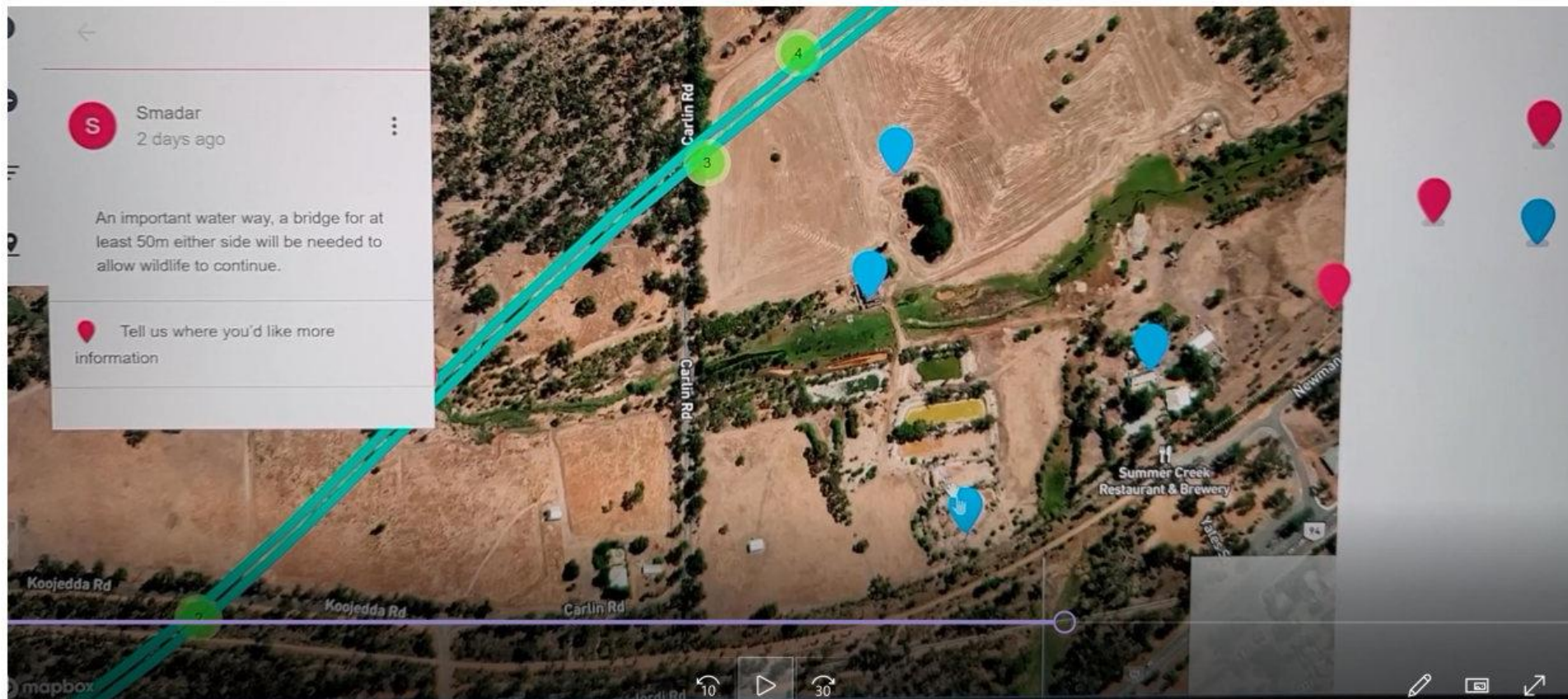


VS













Perceived benefits in in making the metropolitan area more accessible (potentially saving 10 minutes)

- How can the Northam shire say that the POSSIBLE time saving of 10 minutes is worth the actual impact that this project will have on our community?

The benefits of this road according to Main Roads:

Safety **NOT TRUE**

By ~~removing a significant number of trucks~~ from Perth Hills residential areas along Great Eastern Highway.
By providing verge and median barriers to reduce the incidence of head on crashes.
Through bridged intersections.

Congestion and travel reliability **NOT TRUE**

By ~~separating freight, local and tourist traffic.~~

Through bridged intersections and a dual carriageway.

Provide travel time savings from Perth to Northam of approximately 13 minutes.

NOT TRUE

Freight efficiency

Allowing access for ~~RAV 7 heavy vehicles (36.5m combinations).~~

By reducing steep hills.

Already allowed

Access and connectivity

To the Swan ~~Valley and destinations~~ in and around Gidgegannup, Mundaring and Northam.

For Mundaring and surrounds through ~~reduced traffic along Great Eastern Highway.~~

NOT TRUE

Service life of roads

Improve the service life of existing arterial ~~roads by reducing the number of trucks~~ having to use these routes and reducing maintenance costs.

NOT TRUE

NOT TRUE



Rita Skita,

The Eastlink Project will:

Keep the roads dangerous

Damage our environment, culture and historical sites

Damage the quality of life of the communities

Destroy a significant portion of the Golden Heritage Trail / Kerp track

Forcibly Take private property

Destroy State Heritage places

Increase our reliance on road vehicles

It goes against climate change targets and Road Safety targets

Goes against the governments policy "Build UP not OUT"



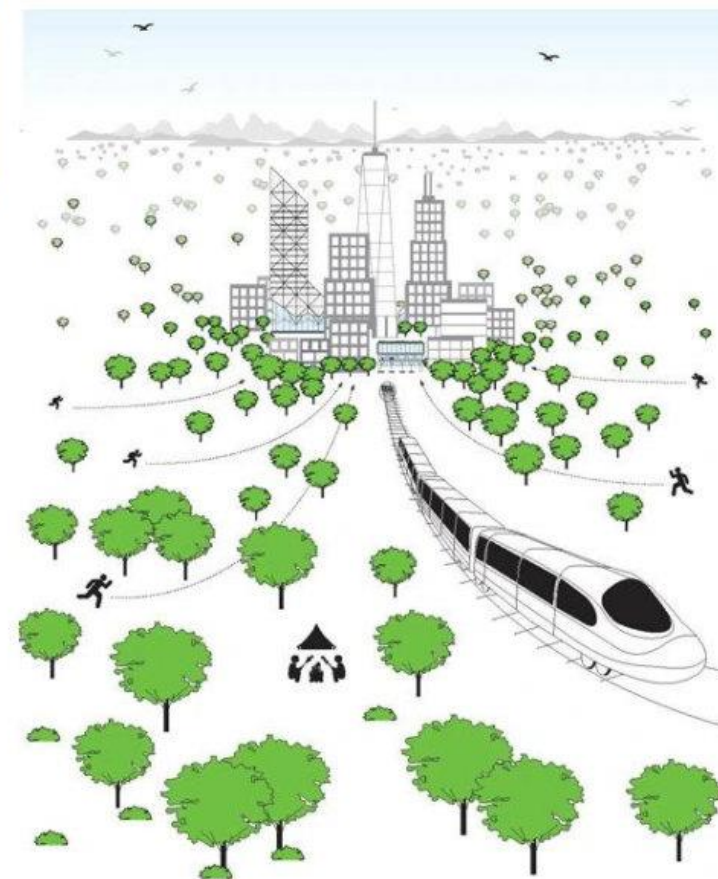


Perceived economic benefits

- Does the shire have any evidence to substantiate this?
- This is a BYPASS road.
- This project is not targeted towards the economic improvement of the region

1 alternative) A Fast and efficient rail network

- Fast efficient Rail System, would put Northam on the map.
- Make it a center for freight transport management form the eastern states, not a bypass
- Bullet trains could make the trip from Perth cbd, to Northam in 20 minutes.
- Would alleviate the traffic load on commuters (80%) using Great Eastern Highway to Perth.
- Reduce Car emissions, road maintenance costs
- Quieter
- Tracks are less intrusive on landscapes compared to a freeway (especially comparing transport volume capacity)





Perceived improvement to road safety (More appropriate road alignment).

Efficient East West Truck Rout

- **Norseman to Hyden to Perth**
- Cuts over 100km of the trip
- Trucks are currently using it over Great Eastern Highway, because main roads have failed to maintain the roads they currently have.
- Can improve current roads with reduced community impact

Great Eastern Highway, Toodyay Rd

A road built for interstate trucks is not the only option!!

These trucks are less than 1% of traffic along Great Eastern Highway. We need an approach that focuses on improving all roads for local users.

The Eastlink is not the only option!!there are better ones available to us!

- By addressing the problems faced by local commuters, we fix the problem (apparently faced by trucks).

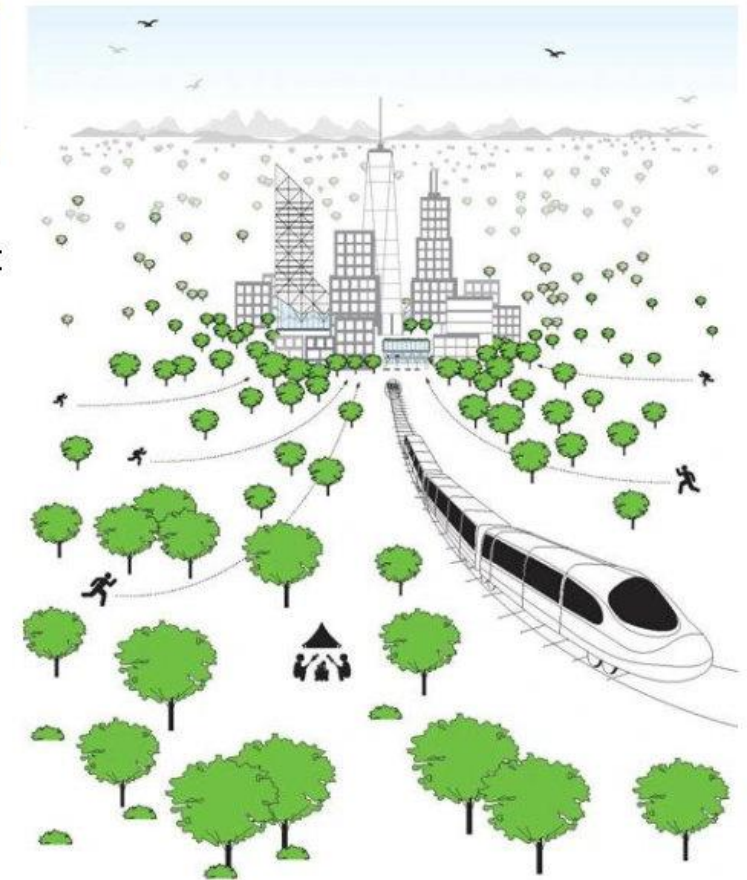
**Let's push for:
a community focused solution
to clearly identified problem
with valid support from data.**



Solution to Orrong Rd

Northam Shire has a responsibility

- To Alert the community to the details and significant impact that this project will have on the community.
- To Fight to protect our assets, such as the Keep Track and State Heritage listed sites, such as Summer Creek Farm.
- Drive effective projects that add to the community not destroy it.
- The Northam Shire should remove any current support for the Eastlink Project.





Northam Shire Needs to:

- Withdraw its support for the Eastlink Project
- Inform the community in a non bias approach
- Assess community support for the project in a non bias approach
- Less invasive alternatives that are better for the community, such as the original proposal, that connected to Great Eastern Highway before entering the Northam shire.

Thank You



Visit: <https://rethinkeastlink.org/>

9. APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

10. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

10.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

Nil.

10.2 NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL FORUM MEETING HELD 12 OCTOBER 2022

Nil.

11. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY

Nil.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.1 BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2022.

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- Point 4a in the recommendation, that the FCO authorise permits only in their own area and that if they are unavailable at that time, they must be contacted first before approaching another FCO. What if the FCO is on leave and unable to be contacted, how would you proceed?
The Chief Executive Officer advised that the background and rationale for this point can be found on page 23 of the agenda.
- Can we ascertain the amount of damage caused to the equipment mentioned under the heading Pre Season Servicing and the magnitude of the cost to repair/replace?
The Chief Executive Officer advised that it will be looked in to and further information will be provided at the next meeting.
- What is the status of the Inkpen shed and the payment in relation to off the grid power, has this been rectified?
Acting Executive Manager Development Services advised that they have not been provided with advice yet.
- Would it be possible to keep the paper based permit system?
Chief Executive Officer advised that there is no reason a dual paper based and electronic system cannot be utilised. The concern that was raised is that on some occasions the information was not fed through to staff, which caused some issues, this would

be monitored as staff need to be able to track what is being issued.

13. OFFICER REPORTS

2 members of the Gallery left the meeting at 6:13pm.

1 member of the Gallery left the meeting at 6:18pm.

13.1 CEO'S OFFICE

Cr C R Antonio declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Antonio is one of the elected members of council mentioned in this item for review of shire wards.

Cr D J Galloway declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Galloway is one of the elected members in this item for review of shire wards

Cr D A Hughes declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Hughes is an elected members of council and this agenda item discusses conditions effecting elected members positions on council.

Cr A J Mencshelyi declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as this item impacts on Cr Mencshelyi as an elected member of the Shire of Northam.

Cr M P Ryan declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Ryan is an elected member of the Shire of Northam.

Cr J E G Williams declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Williams has always been a vocal advocate for the retention of the shire wards. Cr Williams currently held position of elected member for Central ward may cease to exist at the next election.

Cr H J Appleton declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.1.1 – Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation as Cr Appleton is an elected member of the Shire of Northam.

13.1.1 Review of Shire of Northam Wards and Representation

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- Is there a definite need to make the changes suggested in this report?
Chief Executive Officer confirmed this.
- Is there any chance to get an exemption from the 'decree' from the minister as the Council in Narrogin are inquiring and is it likely to succeed.
Shire President advised that he has spoken to councillors from Narrogin regarding the headline this question is referring to and they have advised that the headline was misleading and that they are only inquiring about internally voting for a mayor.
The Chief Executive Officer confirmed 'opting out' was not an option.
- Would the number of councillors per ward need to be included in the initial decision or will this come in a later report.
Acting Governance Officer advised that the current report will be updated to include the recommended councillors per ward in the decision.
- Would the public elected Mayor/President be included in the recommended 9 councillors?
Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the total number of councillors including the mayor/president would be 9.
- Will every local government have a public elected mayor/president?
Chief Executive Officer advised that this is only relevant to band 1 or 2 local governments.
- If the Shire agrees to go to 2 wards, will that still be subject to further pressure from government to abolish wards?
Chief Executive Officer advised that the government recommend that Band 3 have no wards, but there is no further directive otherwise.
- The feedback from forums held indicates the desire to leave the wards as is, if left as is what could the state enforce of the council?
Chief Executive Officer advised that the risk is that there will be an imbalance in the representation, as is the current situation.
However, it is good to keep in mind that in the last ward and representation the council elected to retain the current system, which had the same imbalance in representation, which was approved by the Minister for Local Government at the time.

13.2 ENGINEERING SERVICES

Nil.

1 member of the Gallery returned to the meeting at 6:19pm.

13.3 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Cr C R Antonio declared an "Impartiality" interest in item 13.3.1 – Proposed Home Business – 34 Broome Terrace, Northam as the proponent is known the Cr Antonio.

13.3.1 Proposed Home Business – 34 Broome Terrace, Northam

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- Why does the report specify that the business is not opened on public holidays?
Acting Executive Manager Development Services advised that this is a standard amenity related condition on most home based businesses.

13.3.2 South West Native Title Settlement – Land Base Consultation

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- The shire is getting a few of these come through intermittently, would it be possible to get them all in one block from the Department or can they be placed on hold until all are received and then look at approving them all at once?
Acting Executive Manager Development Services advised that the Department are issuing deadlines with each request to review, and the shire has already requested an extension. We have tried to ask the Department for a projection of areas that will be included but have not received any response, however it seems that the few that come through at a time are grouped to an area. It is a recommendation within this report for this matter to be raised with WALGA through our zone.
- Has the shire received any feedback regarding responses to previous requests?
Acting Executive Manager Development Services advised that no feedback has been provided.
- In regard to the issue of access and infrastructure on mentioned properties, have the Department responded to the concerns raised?
Acting Executive Manager Development Services advised that they have not.

1 member of the Gallery left the meeting at 6:42pm.

13.4 CORPORATE SERVICES

13.4.1 Accounts & Statements of Accounts – 1st September - 30th September 2022

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- Are the cattle yards something that the council have approved funding for previously?
Chief Executive Officer advised that the cattle yards were included in the budget.

13.4.2 Financial Statement for the period ending 30th September 2022

Clarification was sought in relation to:

- Regarding the investment register that the audit committee requested to be included in the agenda, is 2 financial institutions compliant or are 3 needed?
Chief Executive Officer advised that while 2 is compliant the committee decided 3 would be needed to ensure that there is not over 50% in any 1 institute.

13.5 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil.

14. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

15. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

14.1 CEO REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 06 OCTOBER 2022

Nil.

16. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY DECISION

Nil.

17. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

The Shire President, Cr C R Antonio, declared the meeting closed at 6:27pm.