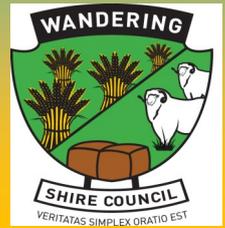


Council Corner

Wandering Shire Monthly Newsletter



CEO's Update

Well thank fully freezing July is behind us and there is only one more month to Spring! I am trying to embrace and love the winters but alas I don't think that it will be an enduring love affair at all!!

The Council signed off on the 2016/17 budget on the 21 July at the Ordinary Meeting of Council. This is a fabulous outcome and means we can hit the ground running to ensure our capital program is planned and carried out effectively. Tree pruning has been booked and will commence early September, Improvements to the Industrial Area Road Network will kick off in early September and Ricks Road Black Spot Works will begin in October. So its all go at the

Shire.

The Caravan Park Program is starting to really take shape and Graham Thompson and his team are doing a fantastic job on the ablution Block. We look forward to the project being finalised mid August and Graham tells us they are on track for that! We are applying for funding through the various avenues to increase the powered and watered sites and are aiming for 8 fully functional sites at the Park.

Election Nominations made this week, quite an exciting affair.... We started out the final day for nominations without a nomination and closed the day with 2 new Councillors. We would like to take this opportunity to Congratulate Graeme Parsons (elected until

October 2019) and Max Watts (elected until October 2017) on being elected unopposed to the role of Councillor.

Graeme and Max will be sworn in as Councillors at the 18 August Ordinary Meeting of Council.

***Fees and Charges have been updated , there are a number of new and updated fees this year, please call in for a copy or look up the website.

Don't forget to pop in and say hi, and fill us in on your thoughts or hopes for the Shire.



Calling for Nominations for the Shire of Wandering Citizen of the Year Award

This is your opportunity to recognise those outstanding people in your club or community who make such a difference. It's a simple way to say thank you from us all and we're happy to help you complete the nomination. Just give us a call! Each nominee will be recognised at the Australia Day Breakfast 2017.

Nominations close on the 31 October 2016, please see nomination form at the back of the ECHO.

Transfer Station Seasons Pass

\$130.00

A year

New and Improved Seasons Pass

We have listened to the communities feedback and have simplified the Transfer Station Seasons Pass to hopefully work better for users.

\$130.00 per annum to include just one Bin (household waste or recycling) which can be emptied weekly, fortnightly when ever you like... If you bring 3 bins at once you will use up three weeks of your seasons pass, choose to use it as you wish...

We hope this meets our residents needs better, but if there are still issues please don't hesitate to let us know.

Getting to know your New Councillors

Graeme Parsons is a farmer and ratepayer in the Wandering Shire and has been for over 50 years. He has always had a keen interest in Local Government and considers that he will bring some valuable life experience to our Shire.

Over the Last 35 yrs he has been an active member of the Hastings Bush Fire Brigade, holding positions from Chief Fire Control Officer to Captain.

Graeme endeavours to be open and honest and work hard towards—

- Maintaining Wanderings Identity—No amalgamations



- Continuing good cost effective road maintenance
- Fight hard to convince our Shire to maintain the current Bush Fire Brigade System
- Limit exorbitant rate increases we have been experiencing over the last few years.

Max Watts runs his farming operations with his wife Virginia and his 2 Sons. He is dedicated to the local community and is/has been involved in the following community groups—

- WD Productivity Group
- WD Landcare Group
- Lions 35 yrs
- Wandering Fire Captain 10 yrs
- Wandering Wine Awards



Max has received the Wandering Landcare and Sustainable Community Award and the Citizen of the Year Award.

Max has been involved in agricultural politics for 26 years across Australia, holding numerous positions, has sat on many boards and worked for various State Ministers.

Max believes that with his community involvement and communication skills he will work to represent the interests of residents and their interests, continuing to make Wandering an incredible place to live and work...

National Tree Planting Day

Planet Ark is celebrating 20 years of National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day - Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. Tree Day is an opportunity to do something positive for your local environment and community and to reconnect with nature. National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 3.8 million people have planted 22.3 million trees and plants and it's still growing.

The Shire of Wandering took advantage of National Tree Day this year to incorporate its revegetation program. The Shire has responsibilities under the Department of Environmental Regulation to replant trees when it clears for road works and projects and is required to rehabilitate the old rubbish tip site.

We had about 1400 trees and shrubs to plant under the expert guidance of Ian Price—Spiffy's Gardening Services . Many thanks to the volunteers that turned out on the chilly morning, many hands made light work and we were finished up by 9.30 am!

A sausage sizzle was enjoyed afterwards...



Your Rates at Work 2016/17

The Shire of Wandering has delivered a budget for the 2016/17 financial year that reflects Council's commitment to investing in the renewal of ageing road infrastructure whilst continuing to deliver high quality services. Budget constraints such as the continued freeze on the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants (the funding Local Governments receive from the Australian Government to be spent on service delivery in accordance with local priorities) reflect some of the challenges the Shire faces when trying to set rate levels whilst ensuring quality services for residents are maintained over the next 12 months.

This year's budget provides \$1,359,150 for the continued maintenance, upgrade and improvements to The Shire of Wandering's infrastructure. It will also enable the Shire to provide support to the local economy, improve road conditions and beautify our town.

Council has implemented a 7% rate increase with a reduction in the discount to 5% this year to ensure the Shire is able to continue to invest in the renewal of infrastructure and plant.

Operational challenges continue with increasing pressure placed on local governments to conform to State and Federal legislation and standards. Some areas, which you may not be aware of, which we are required to carry out daily, monthly and annually include (but are not limited to):

- Formal valuation of Roads, Plant, Equipment, Building and Land Assets every 3 years revolving, costing approximately \$12,000 on average per year
- Audit costs for the annual financial audit of our financial documents, compliance report, grant acquittals etc... \$35,000 per year
- Applying for competitive grants for road funding and community programs... \$15,000
- Occupational Health and Safety compliance...\$25,000
- Policy development and review...\$5,000
- Disability Services compliance...\$5,000
- Australia Post compliance to rules, security etc... \$15,000
- Council election costs...\$6,000
- Compliance to record keeping legislation...\$1500
- Compliance to the Cat and Dog Act...\$20,000
- Adequately insuring Council in regards to public liability, theft, damage, bush fire activities, business continuity, fraud and director risk etc... \$109,000

Council will continue to support community initiatives such as the Wandering Wheatbelt Wine Awards, the Wandering Fair, local sporting and community groups. Council recognises the significance of supporting the community to celebrate and showcase all that it has to offer. Events such as these build community cohesion and strengthen and develop local and regional relationships and networks.

Encouraging business and new residents to Wandering is crucial to increasing economic development, enhancing business opportunities and for the development of tourism. Council is committed to encouraging increased economic development opportunities in the community and has budgeted funds to support initiatives in this area.

2016/17 Income

This year the total revenue is \$3,328,854 (including operating and capital grants). The Shire is heavily reliant upon Federal and State Government grants and contributions.

Federal Government - Federal Assistance Grant and Roads to Recovery Grant \$986,202

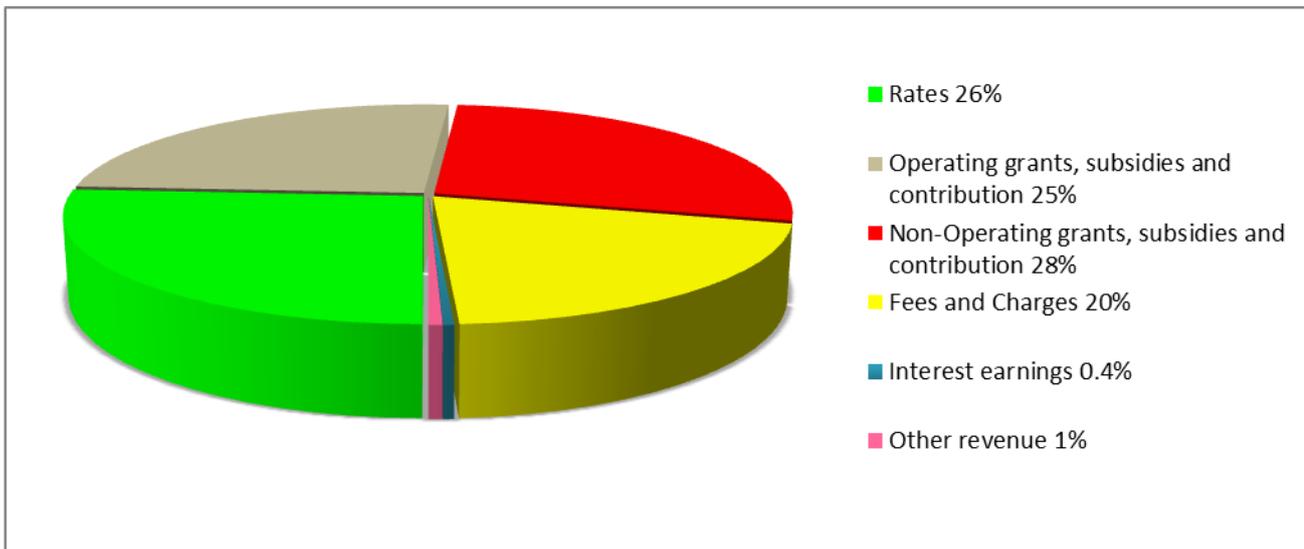
State Government – Main Roads & Department for Regional Development Grants \$1,093,634

Rates – Shire Rates and Service Charges \$865,641

Fees and Charges – Fuel Income and other Fees charged by the Shire \$666,945

The remaining revenue comes from minor operating grants, interest received and miscellaneous income.

Overview of Total Revenue 2016/17



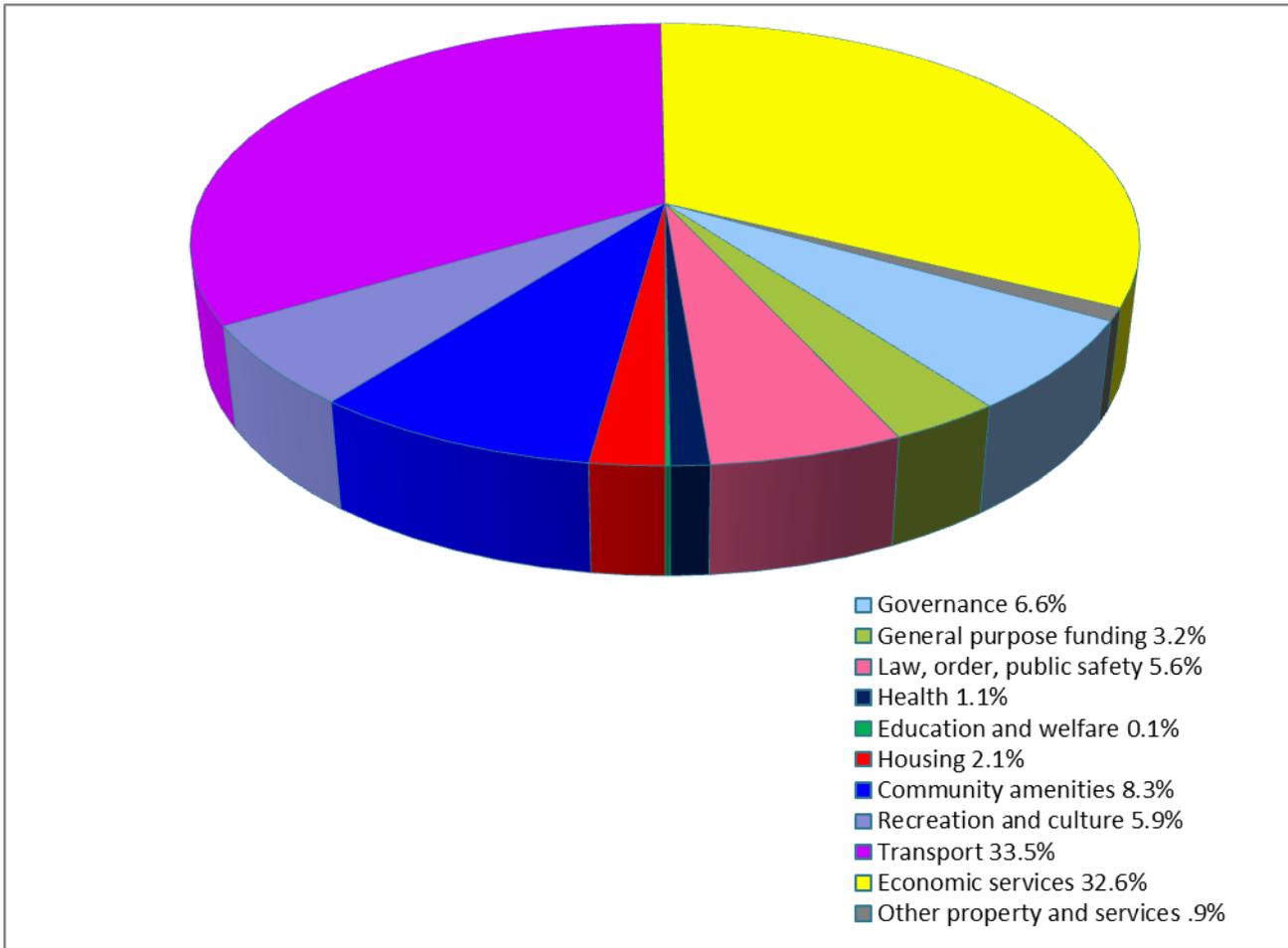
2016/17 Expenditure

Where is the money spent?

The Shire provides day to day services enhancing the everyday lives of its residents and visitors. These include, but are not limited to:

- Postal and Banking Services
- Road Maintenance – road patching, grading, guidepost installation, removal of trees etc.
- Rubbish Services – household, bulk waste, recycling
- Drainage Maintenance
- Fuel Facility Management
- Oval, Parks and Gardens – Playground inspections, maintenance, gardening and watering
- CRC and Library Services
- Bush Fire Services – Harvest Ban Line, printing and dissemination of fire notices, maintenance of equipment and vehicles, insurance for volunteers, provision of PPE, maintenance of fire shed etc.
- Street lighting
- Environmental Health – monitoring and licensing of food outlets, swimming pool inspections, water sampling and septic system authorisations and monitoring
- Planning and Building Compliance

Overview of Total Operating Expenditure 2016/17



Capital Expenditure 2016/17

Capital Works Road Program - \$1,338,714

- Carabin Road East – re sheet, clear, trim trees *approx. 5kms of re sheet (Roads to Recovery Federal Program Funding) (Remainder of road will be completed next financial year)*
- Wandering Bannister/ Ricks Road Intersection – redesign of the intersection to improve safety and increase lines of sight. *(State Black Spot Funding- Council contributes 1/3)*
- York Williams Road- Pumphreys Bridge to Pingelly Wandering Road – seal, stabilise clear and trim trees, improve drainage – 5kms *(Regional Road Group Funding Program – Council contributes 1/3).*
- Ferguson Way – seal, stabilise and improve drainage first section of road, construct full road around industrial estate and link into Schorer Road. *(Roads to Recovery Federal Program Funding)*
- Down Street - Wandering Town - upgrade of culverts *(Roads to Recovery Federal Program Funding)*
- Cheetaning Street and Dunmall Drive – reseal *(Roads to Recovery Federal Program Funding)*
- Bannister Road Braking Strip - reseal *(Council Funding)*
- Nth Bannister/ Wandering Road - Tree Trimming *targeting reported areas first. (Regional Road Group Funding Program - fully funded by State Gov't)*

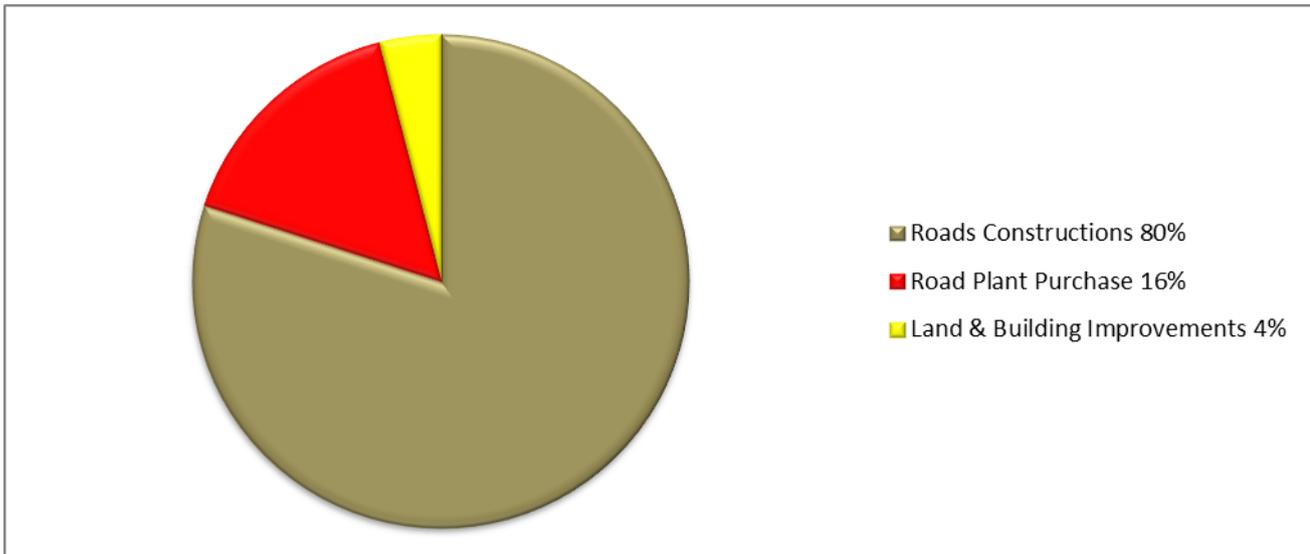
Bridges Program

- Upgrades and Seal repair – Codjatotine Brook Bridge – Wandering Pingelly Road - \$150,000
(Funded by Australian Government and Main Roads WA)
- Reseal Wandering Brook and Biberkine Brook – Wandering Pingelly Road \$15,000
- Remove bridge and replace with culverts – Carabin Creek / Mooterdine Loop \$57,000

Plant and Equipment Program

Purchase of essential plant and equipment upgrades \$264,360, Volvo Roller, Crew Cab Tipper, Colorado Ute and Lift and Carry Rake...

Overview of Total Capital Expenditure 2016/17



Council is committed to ensuring that your rates are injected and reinvested into the local economy and will ensure that a buy local philosophy is applied where ever possible

Bush Fire Season Preparations

Fire Breaks are required to be bare mineral earth breaks and all Council land occupiers should have started spraying and or undertaking further actions to ensure that they meet the 31 October deadline.

Mowed Fire Breaks are not accepted



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