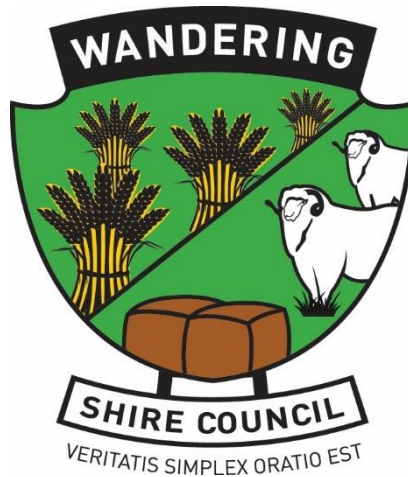




AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026
3:30pm

Council Chambers, 22 Watts Street, Wandering

OUR VISION

Wandering is a community of responsible, resilient and adaptable residents thriving in our scenic, economically diverse environment.

**This Ordinary Council Meeting will be recorded in line with Section 5.23A
of the *Local Government Act 1995*.**

Electronic copies of minutes and agendas are available for download from the Shire of Wandering
website www.wandering.wa.gov.au

Notice of Meeting

Dear Elected Members, Residents and Ratepayers,

The next Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Wandering will be held on Thursday 16 July 2026 in the Council Chambers commencing at 3.30pm. The purpose of this Council Meeting is to discuss and, where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda.

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wandering for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Wandering disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or discussions.

Any person or legal entity that act or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at the person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Wandering during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wandering.

The Shire of Wandering warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wandering must obtain and only should rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wandering in respect of the application.



Dr Alistair Pinto
Chief Executive Officer

10 July 2026

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

The Shire of Wandering welcomes community participation during public question time.

1. All Council meetings are open to the public, except for matter raised by Council under “Confidential Reports”.
2. Members of the public may ask a question at an ordinary Council Meeting under “Public Question Time”.
3. A member of the public who raises a question during question time must:
 - a. be in attendance at the meeting.
 - b. first state their name and address.
 - c. direct the question to the Presiding Member.
 - d. ask the question briefly and concisely.
 - e. limit any preamble to matters directly relevant to the question and
 - f. ensure that the question is not accompanied by any expression of opinion, statement of fact or other comment, except where necessary to explain the question.
4. Each member of the public is entitled to ask a maximum of 3 questions. Questions must be related to the items on the agenda only. Questions on items not related to the agenda, within the remit of the local government, may be taken on notice and a response provided after the meeting.
5. Written notice of each question should be given to the Chief Executive Officer a minimum of one working day prior to the commencement of the meeting. Questions may be submitted via email to reception@wandering.wa.gov.au or submitted in written format at the Shire Office reception. A summary of each question and the response will be included in the meeting minutes.
6. When a question is unable to be answered at the Council Meeting a written answer will be provided prior to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

Council Meeting Information:

Councillors may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter before Council. Councillors must declare an interest and the extent of the interest in the matter on the agenda. The Councillor must leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and cannot vote on the agenda item.

Members of staff, who have delegated authority from Council to act on certain matters, may from time to time have a financial interest in a matter on the agenda. The member of staff must declare that interest and generally the presiding member of the meeting will advise the Officer if he/she is to leave the meeting.

Should an elector wish to have a matter placed on the agenda the relevant information should be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer two weeks prior to an ordinary council meeting to allow the matter to be fully researched by a Shire Officer. An agenda item, including a recommendation, will then be submitted to Council for consideration. The agenda closes the Friday week prior to the Council Meeting (i.e. ten (10) days prior to the meeting).

Agendas for Ordinary Council Meetings are available on the Shire website seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting and the public are invited to view a copy at the Shire Office. Printed copies can be made available from the Shire Administration Office for a printing fee, as per the Fees and Charges Schedule.

Agenda items submitted to Council will include a recommendation for Council consideration. Electors should not interpret and/or act on the recommendations until after they have been considered by Council. Please note the Disclaimer on page 2.

Public Inspection of Unconfirmed Minutes (Regulation 13) - A copy of the unconfirmed Minutes of Ordinary and Special Council Meetings will be available for public inspection from the Shire of Wandering Office and the Shire of Wandering website within ten (10) working days after the Meeting.

Dr. Alistair Pinto
Chief Executive Officer

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting open.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Attendance

Elected Members

Cr. Sheryl Little	Shire President (Presiding Member)
Cr. Alan Price	Deputy President
Cr. Lou Cowan	
Cr. Gillian Hansen	
Cr. Peter Latham	
Cr. Andrew Thompson	

Staff

Dr. Alistair Pinto	Chief Executive Officer
Karl Mickle	Operations Manager

Members of the Public

2.2 Apologies

2.3 Approved Leave of Absence
Nil

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

5. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Name	Item No.	Interest	Nature

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 18 June 2026

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meetings are to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 June 2026 be confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

9. RECEPTION OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting | 12 June 2026

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the WALGA Central Country Zone Meeting held on 12 June 2026, be received.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

9.2 Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) Meeting | 16 June 2026

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) Meeting held on 16 June 2026, be received.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

10.1 Shire President Report

Meetings attended by Shire President.

23 June – Meeting with the CEO.

25 June – Exit meeting with Auditors.

06 July – Meeting with the CEO.

10.2 Deputy President Report

Meetings attended by Deputy President.

23 June – Meeting with the CEO.

11. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 Financial Report

File Reference:	N/A
Date:	10 July 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Bob Waddell
Authorising Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	June 2026 Financial Statements
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Previous Reference:	Nil

Summary of Report:

The monthly financial report for the period ending 30 June 2026 is presented for Councils consideration.

Background:

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1995, a statement of financial activity must be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of Council. This is required to be presented within two months, after the end of the month, to which the statement relates.

The statement of financial activity is to report on the revenue and expenditure as set out in the annual budget for the month, including explanations of any variances. Regulation 34, from the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 sets out the detail that is required to be included in the reports.

Consultation:

The Chief Executive Officer has been involved in monthly reviews of the operational budget and provides strategic advice to our financial consultant on trends and variances arising from various operational areas.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 34.

Policy Implications:

Not applicable.

Financial Implications:

As disclosed in the financial statements.

Strategic Implications:

Improve Our Financial Position

Our Goals	Our Strategies
The Wandering Shire is financially sustainable	• Improve accountability and transparency • Develop an investment strategy that plans for the future and provides cash backed reserves to meet operational needs • Prudently manage our financial resources to ensure value for money • Reduce reliance on operational grants

Risk Implications:

Risk	Low
Financial reports are prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Accounting Standards.	

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council receive the financial report presented for the period ending 30 June 2026.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

11.2 Payment Listing

File Reference:	N/A
Date:	10 July 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Finance Officer
Authorising Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	List of Payments and Credit Card Statement 30 June 2026
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Previous Reference:	Nil

Summary of Report:

The list of payments for the month ending 30 June 2026 is presented for noting by Council.

Background:

Council has delegated the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the Shires municipal fund and the trust fund. In exercising their authority, and in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation, it is a requirement to produce a list of payments made from Councils Municipal Fund and Trust Fund bank accounts to be presented to Council for the purposes of noting, in the following month.

Consultation:

The Chief Executive Officer has been involved in the approvals of any requisitions, purchase orders, invoicing and reconciliation matters.

Statutory Environment:

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states that

- (1) If the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month showing for each account paid since the last such list was prepared — (a) the payee's name; and
(b) the amount of the payment; and
(c) the date of the payment; and
(d) sufficient information to identify the transaction.

Policy Implications:

Officers are required to ensure that they comply with the Shire's Purchasing Policy, where applicable and that budget provision is available for any expenditure commitments.

Financial Implications:

Payments are made under delegated authority and are within approved budgets. Payment is made within agreed trade terms and in a timely manner.

Strategic Implications:
Improve Our Financial Position

Our Goals	Our Strategies
The Wandering Shire is financially sustainable	• Improve accountability and transparency • Develop an investment strategy that plans for the future and provides cash backed reserves to meet operational needs • Prudently manage our financial resources to ensure value for money • Reduce reliance on operational grants

Risk Implications:

Risk	Low
Failure to make payments within terms may render Council liable to interest and penalties. Failure to pay for goods and services in a prompt and professional manner, in particular to local suppliers, may cause dissatisfaction (reputational damage) amongst the community.	

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Municipal Fund	Amount
Electronic Funds Transfers	\$ 1,308,154.83
Direct Debits	\$ 72,208.43
Cheques	Nil
TOTAL	\$ 1,380,363.26

Officer Recommendation:

That Council receive the list of payments totalling \$1,380,363.26 for the month ending 30 June 2026 as presented.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

12. PLANNING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 Retrospective Dam – Lot 88 (No. 38) Redgum Court, Wandering

File Reference:	10.106.10690
Date:	10 July 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	Matthew Sherman
Author:	Ben Laycock (Altus Planning), Shire's Town Planning Consultant
Authorising Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	1. Development Application 2. Neighbour Submission
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Previous Reference:	Nil

Summary of Report:

The landowner of Lot 88 (No. 38) Redgum Court, Wandering is seeking retrospective development approval relating for the construction of a dam at the property.

Background:

Lot 88 (No. 38) Redgum Court, Wandering (**subject land** or **site**) is zoned 'Rural Residential (RRes2)' pursuant to the Shire of Wandering Town Planning Scheme No. 3 (**TPS3** or **Scheme**).

The subject land is located to the south-west of the Redgum Court cul-de-sac head, measures approximately 61,997m² (6.19 hectares) and exists with a Single House, Ancillary Dwelling, and Rainwater Tank. The immediate surrounding locality comprises of similarly sized and developed Rural Residential properties, none of which are connected to reticulated sewer or water networks. Refer to Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Locality Plan (Source: PlanWA 2026)

Under Schedule 11 of TPS3, it is explicitly stated that no dam or artificial lake is to be developed on any lot within Rural Residential Zone No. 2 without the prior planning approval of the Shire. It is unfortunate that the applicant was apparently advised by personnel at the Shire that no approvals were required. The applicant, however, did not write to the Shire requesting permission to build the dam and this advice was allegedly provided verbally.

Based on the drawings provided by the Applicant, the dam is:

- Located in the south-eastern corner of the site and is setback approximately 1.5m from the subject land's eastern boundary;
- Approximately 75m (l) x 65m (w) at its largest points;
- Has a minimum depth of 5.5m; and
- Has a capacity of approximately 3,360,000L (3,360kL).

Consultation:

The application was referred to the three (3) immediately adjoining neighbours for a period of fourteen (14) days. One (1) objection was received raising concerns with the following aspects:

- Lot boundary setbacks
- Capacity of the dam
- Dam construction and potential failure
- Amenity impacts

A copy of the neighbour submission can be viewed at **Attachment 2** of this report.

The application was also referred to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for comment.

Whilst DWER does not object to the proposal in principle, it recommends that the Shire ensure the dam:

- is properly designed (including overflow capacity and embankment stability).
- is constructed to acceptable engineering standards.
- has appropriate dam storage and the freeboard should provide for at least a 1 per cent annual exceedance probability (**AEP**) storm event.

DPIRD advised that it did not have any comments to provide within its advisory scope.

Statutory Environment:

Town Planning Scheme No. 3

As mentioned, development (planning) approval is required under TPS3 for a dam within the Rural Residential Zone No. 2.

Whilst there are no specific development requirements within TPS3 or any local planning policy adopted by the Shire in relation to dams, it is noted that clause 5.16.1 prescribes the following minimum building setbacks for Rural Residential zoned land:

Front: 30.0m
Rear: 10.0m
Side: 10.0m

Whilst a dam is not a building, the setback requirements are considered to provide a default spatial control, particularly where a structure or earthworks protrude above natural ground level to a height similar the wall height of a building. Here it is noted that the dam has been positioned approximately 1.5m from the nearest lot boundary. A review of aerial imagery in the immediate surrounding area suggests that dams located on other properties typically achieve a minimum setback of 10m.

In addition, Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* provide 'Deemed Provisions' that are automatically applied to all local planning schemes, whether or not they are included in the Scheme text. Relevantly, clause 67(2) of the Deemed Provisions outline the matters that a local government is to give due regard to (to the extent those matters are relevant) when considering an application for development approval. The following table provides an assessment of those relevant considerations:

Consideration	Officer Comment
(a) the aims and provisions of the Scheme	Pursuant to clause 1.7(h), one of the aims of the Scheme is to safeguard and enhance the character and amenity of the built and natural environment of the Scheme area. Similarly, pursuant to clause 4c), an objective of the Rural Residential zone is to make provision for the retention of the rural landscape and amenity in a manner consistent with the orderly and proper planning of such areas. Whilst dams are commonplace within a Rural Residential environment, it is considered that the setback of the dam and the visual prominence is not in keeping with the established landscape.
(m) the compatibility of the development with its setting, including – (i) the compatibility of the development with the desired future character of its setting; and (ii) the relationship of the development to development on adjoining land or on other land in the locality including, but not limited to, the likely effect of the height, bulk, scale, orientation and appearance of the development;	As mentioned, dams are commonplace in the Rural Residential environment. However, the minimum 1.5m lot boundary setback and minimum dam wall height of at least 2.0m is not in keeping with the established rural character. As evidenced by the neighbour submission, the height, bulk and scale of the dam is visually prominent, appearing as an earth wall that impedes views of the rural landscape.
(n) the amenity of the locality including the following – (i) environmental impacts of the development; (ii) the character of the locality; (iii) social impacts of the development;	Based on available aerial imagery, it appears as though existing vegetation may have been removed to accommodate the dam. If so, this would be contrary to clause 5.16.3c) of TPS3 which requires the consent of the Shire to remove trees. In addition, there is currently insufficient information to ascertain any impact on natural flows. It is also reiterated that dams do form part of the Rural Residential character, as evidenced by a number of dams within the immediate surrounding area, including the immediate property to the east (37 Redgum Court). However, the visual prominence of the dam caused by the height and scale of the dam wall within close proximity to its lot boundaries is at odds with the character of the locality.
(o) the likely effect of the development on the natural environment or water resources and any means that are proposed to protect or to	As per the advice received from DWER, the dam is off-stream and does not interfere with the beds and banks of a watercourse. The application documentation submitted has

mitigate impacts on the natural environment or the water resource;	also not demonstrated that natural flows will not be significantly impacted.
(r) the suitability of the land for the development taking into account the possible risk to human health or safety;	The dam has the potential to hold a high volume of water and seemingly involves dam walls of at least 2.0m above natural ground level. Certified engineering drawings should be provided to demonstrate the adequacy of the structural details (e.g. materials, slopes, wall thickness, load calculations, capacity to handle storm events, overflows/spillways, etc) as failure of the dam could have significant impacts on surrounding properties and infrastructure.
(y) any submissions received on the application;	As noted, an objection was received from an adjoining neighbour which raised concerns with respect to lot boundary setbacks, capacity of the dam, dam construction and potential failure and amenity impacts. These are concerns shared with the assessing officer.
(za) the comments or submissions received from any authority consulted;	As noted, neither DPIRD nor DWER object in principle to the dam. DWER have however suggested that the Shire be satisfied that the dam has been adequately constructed. This cannot be ascertained based on the level of information provided.

Policy Implications:

Moving forward, Council may wish to consider adopting a local planning policy relating to dams which specifies matters such as when development approval is required, minimum standards and requirements and assessment criteria.

Financial Implications:

It is noted that should the applicant seek a review of Council's decision by the State Administrative Tribunal, there may be potential cost implications for the local government with respect to associated legal and administrative costs.

Strategic Implications:

Nil.

Risk Implications:

Risk	Medium
Approving the dam without adequate engineering details to demonstrate the suitability of the structure could have significant impacts on surrounding properties and infrastructure in the event of failure.	

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1. Refuses the application for retrospective development approval, submitted by Matthew Sherman, for the construction of a dam at Lot 88 (No. 38) Redgum Court, Wandering, for the following reasons:**
 - a. The height, scale and the location of the dam including its approximate 1.5 metre setback from the eastern boundary, results in a form of development that is visually intrusive and inconsistent with the established rural character and amenity of the locality.**
 - b. Insufficient engineering detail has been provided to demonstrate that the dam is structurally sound, safely constructed, and capable of being adequately managed without adverse impacts on surrounding land or infrastructure.**
- 2. Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to liaise with the Applicant to ascertain an appropriate timeframe for the dam to be removed and the land returned to its previous condition.**
- 3. Advises the Applicant that it would be willing to consider an application for a dam at the property, provided that it is setback a minimum of 10m from any lot boundary, is supported by engineering design details to the satisfaction of the Shire and demonstrates that the dam will not have unacceptable off-site impacts.**

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Adoption of the 2026/27 Fees and Charges

File Reference:	N/A
Date:	10 July 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Draft 2026/27 Fees and Charges
Previous Reference:	N/A

Summary:

Council to consider the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2026//27 which will help inform the budget for the year.

Background:

The Schedule of Fees and Charges is presented to Council each year prior to adoption of the annual budget with any suggested changes, additions or deletions. Any other changes that arise during the year are brought to Council for their consideration.

Comment:

In accordance with the Local Government Act, the fees that are being proposed for the 2026/27 financial year are reflective of the cost of service provision.

The proposed changes to the Fees and Charges in 2026/27 include an average increase of 5%.

Consultation:

Executive Team
Shire Councillors

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995 (Part 6, Division 5, s.6.17 and s.6.19) states in part:

6.17 Setting the level of fees and charges

(1) In determining the amount of a fee or charge for a service or for goods a local government is required to take into consideration the following factors

(a) the cost to the local government of providing the service or goods;

(b) the importance of the service or goods to the community; and

(c) the price at which the service or goods could be provided by an alternative provider.

6.19 Local Government to give notice of fees and charges If a Local Government wishes to impose any fees or charges under this Subdivision after the annual budget has been adopted it must, before introducing the fees and charges, give local public notice of –

(a) its intention to do so; and

(b) the date from which it is proposed the fees and charges will be imposed.

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

The schedule of fees and charges will help determine the income that will be derived by providing a service or facility to be included in the 2026/27 annual budget.

Strategic Implications:
Improve Our Financial Position

Our Goals	Our Strategies
The Wandering Shire is financially sustainable	• Improve accountability and transparency. • Develop an investment strategy that plans for the future and provides cash backed reserves to meet operational needs. • Prudently manage our financial resources to ensure value for money. • Reduce reliance on operational grants.

Risk Implications:

Risk	Low
That the Fees and Charges Schedule is not adopted at this meeting.	
That the expected income from fees and charges is lower than proposed in the Draft Budget, resulting in lower offset to Shire costs from this revenue stream.	

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council adopts the attached 2026/2027 Fees and Charges Schedule.

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

13.2 2026/27 Annual Budget

File Reference:	N/A
Date:	10 July 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Bob Waddell
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Neither the Author nor Authorising Officer have any Impartiality, Financial or Proximity Interest that requires disclosure.
Attachments:	2026/27 Statutory Annual Budget (under separate cover)
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority
Previous Reference:	Nil

Summary:

The 2026/27 Annual Budget for the year ending 30 June 2027 is prepared and delivers on the strategies adopted by Council and maintains a high level of service across all programs while ensuring a continued focus on road and associated infrastructure, as well as on renewing and maintaining all assets at sustainable levels.

For Council to consider and adopt the Annual Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Background:

The 2026/2027 Annual Budget has been prepared based on the principles contained within the Strategic Community Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Shire removed Differential Rating in 2024, meaning that all properties within each valuation category (GRV* and UV*) attract the same rate in the dollar for each valuation category.

*Gross Rental Valuation (GRV)

*Unimproved Valuation (UV).

Comment:

A key part of the budget process is identifying the 'budget deficiency' to be made up from the levying of council rates. The budget reflects the priorities of Council while considering community needs and managing organisational risk.

In collaboration with Council, the following strategic focus areas have been identified and resourced in the 2026/27 Budget:

1. Deliver key Capital Works Projects for 2026/2027.
2. Manage organisational financial risk and strengthen reserve balances to ensure the Shire's long-term financial sustainability and independence.
3. Maintain a strong focus on governance and strategic planning to support informed decision-making and the achievement of the Shire's long-term objectives.

The 2026/2027 Capital Works Programme includes a roads budget of \$2,715,966.

This is made up of approximately \$2.5million of grant funding and over \$390,000 of Shire contributions.

York Williams Road	Reconstruct from SKL 6.00-9.00 we will be widening this section from an 6.2 gravel road, to an 7 meter sealed road
York Williams Road	Final Seal-for project approved in 2025-26 SLK3.00-6.00(10mm CRM)
North Bannister Wandering RD	Replace all culverts -Clearing -Batter works from SLK13.60-18.52 (4.92)
North Bannister Wandering Road	Final Seal 4.5km SLK9.10-13.60
Cheetaning Street/Caravan Park	Re-Seal on Cheetaning Street from Slk 0.00-0.46 & Kerbing at caravan park & Line Marking
Gnowing Street	Re-Seal from Slk 0.00-0.20
Down Street & Watts Street	Footpath & drainage Repairs on Down Street & Watts Street-Footpath floods all needs lifting around 50m(Safety)

This budget includes:

- A minimum rate revenue increase of 8%, to enable Council to achieve and deliver on its key strategic focus areas, as outlined above.
- The addition of a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) for 2026/27.
- Independent Committee Member fees – the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has determined a 3.5% increase to the fees for independent committee members.
- Independent Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Member fees – the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has determined that the minimum range of fees be increased by 3.5% for independent ARIC members.
- Elected council members attendance fees – the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has determined a 3.5% increase to elected council member attendance (annual and sitting) fees.
- The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission issued a General Order which increased the casual loading from 20% to 25% for all private sector and local government awards from 26 April 2025.
- All rates of pay in WA awards have increased by 4.75% from 1 July 2026.
- Avon Waste have increased the waste collection rates by 4.6% from the 1 July 2026.
- Insurance premiums have increased by an average of 4%
- There are ongoing increases in utility costs (water, electricity and gas) and an average budget increase of 4.9% pa has been applied which represents the annual increase in Perth CPI for the March quarter;
- The Local Government Cost Index increased 3.1% in 2025-2026 and this impacts the cost for materials and resources needed to deliver project works, operations, and services in 2026/27.
- Additional and or increased costs have been factored into the 2026/27 budget for expenses such as Audit Fees (increased by 2.9%), indicative UV and GRV Valuations.
- The creation of two additional Shire Reserves:
 - a. Information Technology Reserve - For the replacement of the Shire's corporate information system. The current software is coming towards end-of-life and other local governments have begun transitioning to newer systems.
 - b. Community Resource Centre Reserve - For the community resource centre capital expenditure (as recommended by the CRC Working Group).

Employees:

Following successful advocacy by the Shire, there is the introduction of a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) (shared with and partially funded by the Shire of Boddington and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services) and the 2026/27 Budget reflects this new position.

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission issued the 2026 State Wage Case decision increasing rates of pay in WA awards from the beginning of the first pay period that starts on or after 1 July 2026. As a result, the Local Government Officers (Western Australia) Award 2021 and the Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Award 2021 have both increased by 4.75%.

There are no other substantive changes to employee numbers, roles or positions impacting the budget.

Fees and Charges:

Council will adopt the 2026/27 Fees and Charges at its Ordinary Council Meeting this month, with fees and charges increasing on average by 5%. The Fees and Charges Schedule was compared with surrounding Shire's to ensure fees were competitive whilst reflecting increasing cost pressures to all areas of service delivery.

Consultation:

The 2026/27 Annual Budget and related documentation has been compiled by officers and reviewed by Executive and Councillors through a series of budget workshops and Councillor briefing sessions.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 S66

Section 6.2 Local Government Act 1995 requires that not later than 31 August in each financial year, or such extended time as the Minister allows, each local government is to prepare and adopt, (Absolute Majority required) in the form and manner prescribed, a budget for its Municipal Fund for the financial year ending on the next following 30 June.

Section 5.63 (1)(b) the Local Government Act 1995 specifically excludes the need for Elected Members to "Declare a Financial Interest" in imposing a rate, charge, or fee.

Additionally, the declaration provisions of the Act do not apply to Council business reimbursements or to Members sitting fees. Any other interest, be it Financial, Proximity or Impartiality must be declared.

Regulation 34(5) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires each financial year, a local government is to adopt a percentage or value, calculated in accordance with the AAS (Australian Accounting Standards), to be used in statements of financial activity for reporting material variances.

Policy Implications:

The following policies apply:

Policy 10 - Investments and Borrowings

Policy 71 - Financial Hardship

Policy 73 - Rating Policy

Financial Implications:

The financial implications of the proposed budget are based upon the objective of achieving a balanced budget as at 30 June 2027, after carrying out operational requirements and the planned capital works program.

Strategic Implications:
Improve Our Financial Position

Our Goals	Our Strategies
The Wandering Shire is financially sustainable	• Improve accountability and transparency • Develop an investment strategy that plans for the future and provides cash backed reserves to meet operational needs • Prudently manage our financial resources to ensure value for money • Reduce reliance on operational grants

Risk Implications:

Risk	Low
That the Budget is delayed or not adopted at this meeting. The Budget must by law be adopted by 31 August. That the Rates to be levied are lower than proposed in the Draft Budget, resulting in inability to perform services or projects to the extent proposed.	

Voting Requirements:
 Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That with respect to the Annual Budget for the 2026/27 Financial Year, Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Part 3 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopt the 2026/27 Annual Budget as contained in Attachment 1 (under separate cover) of this agenda and the minutes, for the Shire of Wandering for the 2026/27 financial year which includes the following:
 - Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature and Type;
 - Statement of Cash Flows;
 - Statement of Financial Activity;
 - Rate Setting Statement by Nature and Type;
 - Notes to and Forming Part of the Budget; and
 - Capital Expenditure Program.
2. For the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund 2026/27 Budget adopted at Part 2 above, Council pursuant to the Sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, impose the following minimum rates on Gross Rental and Unimproved Values.

Rate Category	Rate in the Dollar	Minimum Rate
GRV- Special Use, Residential, Rural Residential and Industrial	0.165456	\$1728.00
UV – Rural, Rural Residential & Mining	0.005571	\$1728.00

3. Rubbish and Recycling Charges:

In accordance with Section 67 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007* (as amended) an annual rubbish and recycling charge is imposed for Domestic/Commercial waste collection (which includes recycling)

- Once per week single bin pickup and once per fortnight recycling bin pickup = \$593.64 per annum.

4. Pursuant to the Section 6.45 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopt the following due dates for the payment in full or by instalments.

Option 1 – Full Payment due on or before:

27 August 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rates notice, whichever is the later.

Option 2 - Two (2) instalments

- First instalment to be made on or before 27 August 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later, including all arrears and half the current rates and service charges; and
- Second instalment to be made on or before 26 October 2026 or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later.

Option 3 - Four (4) instalments

- First instalment to be made on or before 27 August 2026 or 35 days after the date of issue appearing on the rate notice, whichever is the later including all arrears and a quarter of the current rates and service charges;
- Second instalment to be made on or before 26 October 2026 or two (2) months after the first instalment, whichever is the later;
- Third instalment to be made on or before 28 December 2026 or two (2) months after the second instalment, whichever is the later; and
- Fourth instalment to be made on or before 26 February 2027 or two (2) months after the third instalment, whichever is the later.

An administration fee of \$10.00 per instalment applies, after the first instalment. Instalment interest of 5.5% also applies.

5. Alternative Methods of Payment

Ratepayers may elect to pay rates and charges by instalments other than those prescribed. Such an agreement will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. Outstanding rates will be subject to penalty interest.

6. Discount and concessions:

No discounts to be granted for the early payment of rates and service fees.

7. Interest on Outstanding Rates and Other Services

Penalty interest of eleven (11%) percent per annum, calculated daily by simple interest, will accrue on all rates that remain unpaid after they are due and payable.

8. Elected Member Allowances (payable quarterly, in arrears, pro-rata)

- a) Pursuant to the Section 5.99 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 30 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, adopt the following annual fees for payment of elected members in lieu of individual meeting attendance fees:

- President \$4,140 pa
- Councillors (x6) \$4,140 pa

- b) Pursuant to the Section 5.99A of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 31 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 adopt the following annual local government allowance for Elected Members:

Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Allowance:

- President \$1,100 pa (using own device).
- Deputy President \$1,100 pa (using own device).
- Councillors (x6) \$1,100 pa (using own device).

- c) Pursuant to the Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the annual meeting allowance:
 - President \$6,624 pa.
- d) Pursuant to the Section 5.98(5) of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition of the annual meeting allowance:
 - Deputy President \$1,656 pa.

9. Reserves Budget

Council Adopts the 2026/2027 Reserves Budget, as presented and incorporated into the 2026/2027 Annual Budget. This includes the creation of two additional reserves;

- a) **Information Technology Reserve - For the replacement of the Shire's corporate information system by 2030/31.**
- b) **Community Resource Centre (CRC) Reserve - For the community resource centre capital expenditure (as per the recommendation of the CRC Working Group).**

- 10. In accordance with regulation 34 (5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and AASB 1031 Materiality, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025/2026 for reporting material variances shall be 10% of the current budget. In addition, the material variance limit be applied to total revenue and expenditure for each nature and type classification and capital income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activity.**

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

13.3 Shire of Wandering Policy Manual Review – Policies 12,15,24,39,89 & 90

File Reference:	N/A
Date:	15 June 2026
Location:	Shire of Wandering
Applicant:	N/A
Author:	Chief Executive Officer
Authorising Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Policy 12 - Purchasing and Tenders Policy 15 - Integrated Planning Policy 24 - Occupational Health and Safety Policy 39 - Caretaker Policy in Lead to Elections Policy 89 - Level of Service - Grading Activities Policy 90 - Road Hierarchy Construction Procedure
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority
Previous Reference:	N/A

Summary of Report:

To continue with the process of reviewing all Council policies to ensure they are still relevant and correct for the day-to-day workings of the Shire.

Background:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 August 2022 Council resolved to adopt Policy 83 – Policy Manual which states that:

All policies within the Policy Manual are to be reviewed by Council every three years, being one third of Council's policies each year in a three-year period. Council may review an individual policy at any time before the next review date if it determines it to be necessary.

There are currently 95 Shire policies. It is proposed that each month policies are reviewed by Council. This will ensure that all policies are reviewed in the stated three-year period.

Three (3) policies are to be reviewed this month:

- Policy 12 - Purchasing and Tenders
- Policy 15 - Integrated Planning
- Policy 24 - Occupational Health and Safety
- Policy 39 - Caretaker Policy in Lead to Elections
- Policy 89 - Level of Service - Grading Activities
- Policy 90 - Road Hierarchy Construction Procedure

These policies were reviewed at the June 2026 General Planning Forum.

Consultation:

Chief Executive Officer
Councillors

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995 S.2.7(2)(b)

Policy Implications:

As reviewed and updated.

Financial Implications:

No financial implications.

Strategic Implications:

Provide Strong Leadership

Our Goals	Our Strategies
A well informed Community	Foster Opportunities for connectivity between Council and the Community
We plan for the future and are strategically focused	Ensure accountable, ethical and best practice governance Service Level Plans detail operational roles, responsibilities and resources.

Risk Implications:

Risk	Low
There is no perceived risk associated with the review and updating of these policies.	

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation:

That Council adopts the following policies with any amendments made.

- Policy 12 - Purchasing and Tenders
- Policy 15 - Integrated Planning
- Policy 24 - Occupational Health and Safety
- Policy 39 - Caretaker Policy in Lead to Elections
- Policy 89 - Level of Service - Grading Activities
- Policy 90 - Road Hierarchy Construction Procedure

Moved: _____

Seconded: _____

Carried

For/Against: Cr Little ☐ Cr Price ☐ Cr Cowan ☐ Cr Hansen ☐ Cr Latham ☐ Cr Thompson ☐

14. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN
Nil.

**15. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING
OR BY DECISION OF THE MEETING**

16. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

17. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting closed.