



Narrogin Narrative

August 2022



Shire of
Narrogin

~ PRESIDENT'S POST ~

It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the Elected Members of the Shire of Narrogin, I present the Council's 2022/23 Budget.

As in 2021/22, we continue to manage and support the impact of COVID 19 and its implications within our community.

In 2022/23 funding will be used to complete the Narrogin Railway Station, and its fit-out. Funding from the Commonwealth's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) will be used to expand the Narrogin Library, upgrade the Narrogin Caravan Park Ablutions and Camp Kitchen and completion of the Narrogin Cemetery upgrade.

Other major projects planned for 2022/23 include additional public CCTV installations (subject to crime prevention grant), works on the Shire's Town Hall, Museum restorations, an upgrade to the Narrogin Tennis Club's lighting and surface in conjunction with that Club, as well as a comprehensive and continued program of roadworks including a further 2km of seal extension on Narrogin Valley Road.

Overall, in 2022/23, there will be a comprehensive capital works program, that encompasses many of the Council's functional areas, totalling over \$9m.

The Budget has been prepared with a rate increase of 4.99%, and whilst the Council continues to demonstrate a commitment to keep increases as low as possible, it should be noted that inflation has had an impact resulting in cost of materials and services increasing significantly.

Please note that for the former Shire ratepayers, there is an additional "Parity" increase, as per the merger Memorandum of Understanding.

In explaining the relatively high rise in rates, although small in comparison to some of our neighbours, the following background is important to note:

The year gone has seen unprecedented increases in some of the Shire's largest costs. We build and maintain roads as one of our primary expenditure areas. Diesel in our trucks and as the base of all bituminous products, for all of our seals and reseals, has seen an increase in our costs of 50% - diesel from \$1.30 to over \$2 a litre, for example.

Our energy costs in heating the aquatic at the Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre, have increased by similar in the last year. Keeping rates increases to only 4.99%, means we have had to cut our cloth accordingly, as we knew we couldn't pass on these costs to our ratepayers, who are faced with cost of living pressures across the board, like we are.

More details and a copy of the Budget can be found on the Shire's website www.narrogin.wa.gov.au.

The Council looks forward to another year in advocating for and investing in our infrastructure, our roads and other assets, and to further the work under-

way in restoring confidence in the housing and retail sector and the CBD.

On a side note, I would like to thank all the volunteers of Wildfire Bloom for their successful long table lunch held recently. By all accounts, everyone attending had a fantastic time enjoying both great food and great company. It is events like this that makes Narrogin such a great place to live.

Narrogin - Love the Life
Leigh Ballard ~ Shire President.

~ COUNCIL DECISIONS ~

Council decisions made at the meeting held on 27 July 2022 include:

Draft Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Governance Plan Review

Council endorsed the Draft Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Governance Plan with a couple of minor suggested changes. This Governance Plan is designed to assist with governance and administrative aspects which will ensure the successful delivery of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

Corporate Business Plan – 2022 Review

Council adopted the Corporate Business Plan 2022-2026. This Plan is required to be reviewed annually under the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 and set out the likely strategic initiatives of the Shire for the upcoming 4 years.

Proposed Sale of Land 2-4 Hansard Street & 7 Hartog Street due to Unpaid Rates and Determination of Auction Reserve Price

Council resolved to proceed with the sale of land located at 2-4 Hansard Street and 7 Hartog Street Narrogin due to the non payment of rates of 3 or more years. A public auction will be held in the near future.

Adoption of 2022/23 Draft Annual Budget

Council adopted the 2022/23 Annual Budget for the year ending 30 June 2023. A full copy of the budget can be found [here](#).

Amendment Local Law 2022- Commencement

Council resolved to accept the Amendment Local Law 2022. This Local Law allows for some minor amendments in the Health Local Law 2022 and align with the Bush Fire Brigades Local Law with the Shire's recently amended policy with respect to acknowledging recognised prior learning for Firefighters.

Proposed Winding up of Regional Waste Group (Wagin Group of Councils)

Council supported the request from the Shire of Wagin to wind up the Regional Waste Group (Wagin Group of Councils). This group was established in 2011 with surrounding shires with a view of having a Regional Waste Site. As this is no longer necessary, the Group is being wound up and all monies contributed will be refunded to member local governments.

The full minutes can be found on the Shire's website with public copies



From Days Gone By - The view of Federal Street Narrogin from the balcony of the Horden Hotel. Circa 1952.

available at the Library and Shire Administration. Council Meetings commence at 7pm and are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Community members are most welcome to attend.

Community Chest Fund

The Shire's biannual Community Chest funding, to a maximum of \$2,500 cash or in-kind for events or projects which benefit the Narrogin community, is currently open to eligible community-based organisations.

All of the forms are available from the Shire Website. Should you require a hard copy of the application form please visit the Shire's Administration Office.

Applications close 4:30 pm on 31 August and successful projects must be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2023.

E-Rates—Go Paperless!

2022/23 Rates Notices have now been issued. Payment is due by 20 September. Sign up for eNotices at narrogin.enotices.com.au to receive future rates notices by email and save time, money and the environment.

~ HOMECARE HIGHLIGHTS ~

This month we celebrated Gordon Neale's 80th Birthday and Ian Harper's

75th. We also celebrated Christmas in July with a scrumptious Xmas baked ham and all the trimmings and had an excursion on the Gadabout bus to the Aviation Museum in Bullcreek and the clients in the cottage made a beautiful tribute to the oldest elephant in the world – Tricia. We wished Eileen Lange well as she moved into Karinya on a permanent basis and also many of our staff got involved by volunteering for the Wildfire Bloom Long Table Luncheon in the last weekend of July for a brilliant cause.

This month we welcomed three new staff members to Homecare. Gerri is a very experienced support worker, Rob is joining our Home Maintenance team and Sarah Hicks is our new Enrolled Nurse. I am sure everyone will make them feel very welcome and help to ease them into their new roles.!

~ IMPORTANT DATES ~

- 24 August 2022**
7.00 pm Ordinary Council Meeting
- 31 August – 4.30pm**
Community Chest Fund (Round 1) closes
- 28 September 2022**
7.00 pm Ordinary Council Meeting

~ LIBRARY NEWS ~

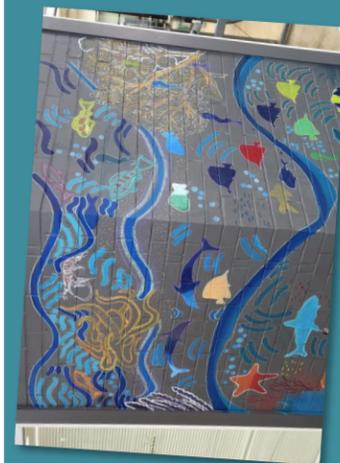
The library NAIDOC Week activity was very successful, with children creating a sea of decorated hands during the school holidays.

There is an ongoing book sale within the library. All items are \$1, with children's books free to encourage children to participate in Paint Narrogin REaD

The library has been allocated a grant of \$4,000 to fund an activity during Senior's Week in November. We are planning an afternoon tea at the John Higgins Centre on Thursday 10th November 2pm – 4pm, including Meet the local authors talks, entertainment from the Narrogin Primary School choir, Nelly Numbat from Paint Narrogin REaD and local singers, and a local Historical Newspaper and Photo display.

We have begun transferring the Local History Electronic Collection to the library Web Opac (online catalogue) for people to access. There are over 7,000 images ready to transfer across and we are cataloguing more weekly.

OUT 'n' ABOUT



Local Noongar artist Ross Storey has finished work on the 'wet' part of the mural, located in the foyer of the Regional Leisure Centre. Local children have assisted Ross by painting fish and seahorses on the mural. Work will shortly commence on the 'dry' aspect of the mural, which is in recognition of National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.



Yilliminning Rock is the dark skies location within the Narrogin Shire. A 'Stargazing for Beginners' sign is now located between the George Brockway Tree and the BBQ. Take advantage of the lengthening days and enjoy the dark skies of Yilliminning Rock. You don't need a telescope, thanks to country WA's low light pollution. Just look up and enjoy the night sky.



Highbury Siding Park is located on the east side of Great Southern Hwy, and commemorates the rail history of the town. The town was renamed as Highbury from Wolwillling in 1906.