



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# MINUTES

## Annual Electors Meeting

Held in Council Chambers  
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin  
Tuesday 7 February 2017



### Common Acronyms Used in this Document

WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

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Shire of Merredin  
Annual Electors Meeting  
Tuesday 7 February 2017



**1. Official Opening**

The President welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

**2. Public Question Time**

Nil

**3. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence**

**Councillors:**

Cr KA Hooper	Shire President
Cr BJ Anderson	
Cr LN Boehme	
Cr MA Crisafio	
Cr JP Flockart	
Cr MD Willis	

**Staff:**

G Powell	CEO
R McCall	Deputy CEO
C Brown	EMCS
M Hudson	EMES
P Zenni	EMDS
L Holben	Community Liaison Officer
V Green	EA to CEO

**Members of the Gallery:** J Anderson, M Gethin, D Hayes-Thompson, M Hooper, S Lowe, R Patroni, J Simmonds

**Apologies:** Cr RM Crees, Cr CA Blakers, Cr ML Young, J Flockart

**Approved Leave of Absence:** Nil

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 9 February 2016  
[Attachment 4.1A](#)

#### Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority  Absolute Majority

#### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Flockart **Seconded:** Cr Boehme

- 81915** That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 9 February 2016 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**CARRIED 6/o**

#### Business Arising from Previous Minutes

The growing of Merritt trees was raised again following a previous suggestion that they be raised from seedlings, however they have proven very difficult to propagate and the project is not expected to progress further.

#### 5. Annual Report 2015/16

- 5.1 Receipt of the Annual Report for 2015/16  
[Attachment 5.1A](#)

#### Voting Requirements

- Simple Majority  Absolute Majority

#### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** R Patroni **Seconded:** Cr Anderson

- 81916** That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 be received.

**CARRIED 6/o**

#### 6. General Business

- 6.1 Gates on O'Connor Street

Mr Roy Butler submitted the following question:

*“By what legal right have two gates (one padlocked) been put across O'Connor Street, one part of the road between Bruce Rock Road and the Great Eastern Highway?”*

Mike Hudson, EMES, advised that the land in question is Unallocated Crown Land, with the gates in question not being part of the road reserve. It would appear there is a small easement with a track allowing access to power poles and a redundant water pipe. The land surrounding the easement/UCL is privately owned.

A meeting would be organised on site with Mr Butler to further explain the situation.

## **6.2 CEACA Inc Independent Living Units**

Ms Norma Henderson submitted the following question:

*“Further to my correspondence Nov last year, just wondering if you have any more info with regards to units going up on old North Merredin Primary School site. I have been told that they will be completed in 2018. But who will be eligible to move in, will we be asset tested, are they for rent or buy, can you apply to put your name down. I know of other residents who are also interested in these questions, also some of us have houses in town which we would need to look at selling to downsize.”*

Ms Henderson’s query has been responded to under separate cover however the main points of that response were CEACA Inc is the independent, incorporated body established to construct and manage the ILUs, with the Shire of Merredin being 1 of its 11 members across the central eastern Wheatbelt. CEACA is still yet to determine the split of units in each location for rent/lease/purchase and the eligibility etc of residents, however it is expected that notification on such would occur in the not too distant future and/or a call for expressions of interest from the public to be on a waiting list.

## **6.3 Redevelopment of Merredin Pool**

Mrs Meg Gethin asked whether there are any plans for the redevelopment of the children’s area at the Merredin Pool, specifically to make it more interesting and to the same standard as surrounding town’s pools.

The President responded advising there were no plans for such a redevelopment at this stage as the Royalties for Regions funding received for pools was around \$30,000 annually, with one more year’s funding to be received. The type of redevelopment proposed would likely require the pool to be completely removed and reinstated, costing around \$500,000. Grant funding for such a project isn’t available and therefore it’s unlikely Council would expend its own funds on such a proposal.

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged that surrounding towns may have what are considered “better” facilities in some circumstances however it may be the case into the future that not all towns in the region can have the same level of the same facilities and that residents choose to travel between those towns to access facilities as required or preferred.

#### **6.4 Improvement to Tourism and Visitor Facilities**

Mr John Anderson mentioned he would like to see more activities and facilities to attract caravans and tourists to town. While it was acknowledged that signage has been improved Mr Anderson suggested the parking area behind Lisa's Café could be tidied up and gazebos installed around the Merredin Peak site.

The President responded to Mr Anderson's comment on additional facilities at Merredin Peak and suggested it needed to be mentioned at the next IPR / Plan for the Future consultation series.

#### **6.5 Airport Entrance**

Mr Romalo Patroni advised that the cats eyes and signs have been removed from around the entrance to the airport thus making it difficult to locate, particularly in the middle of the night.

It was noted that particularly for ambulance and emergency service access clear notification of the airport entrance was important. The Chief Executive Officer advised it was highly unlikely that the Shire would have removed the fittings and that perhaps China Southern had done so. The matter would be investigated and rectified where possible.

### **7. Closure**

There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance for their interest and for taking the time to attend and declared the meeting closed at 6.30pm.