

AGENDA Ordinary Council Meeting

To be held in Council Chambers
13 Cottrell Street, Dowerin WA 6461
Friday 19 December 2025
Commencing 4:00pm





NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Elected Members,

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Shire of Dowerin will be held on Friday 19 December 2025 in the Shire of Dowerin Council Chambers, 13 Cottrell Street, Dowerin. The format of the day will be:

2:00pm	Council Workshop
4:00pm	Council Meeting

Darren Mollenoyux Acting Chief Executive Officer 11 December 2025

DISCLAIMER

Statements or decisions made at this meeting should not be relied or acted on by an applicant or any other person until they have received written notification from the Shire. Notice of all approvals, including planning and building approvals, will be given to applicants in writing. The Shire of Dowerin expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damages suffered by a person who relies or acts on statements or decisions made at a Council or Committee meeting before receiving written notification from the Shire.

The advice and information contained herein is given by and to Council without liability or responsibility for its accuracy. Before placing any reliance on this advice or information, a written inquiry should be made to Council giving entire reasons for seeking the advice or information and how it is proposed to be used.

It should be noted that the Attachment hyperlinks may not be functional from this document when sourced from the Shire of Dowerin's website. Attachment copies can be obtained by contacting the Shire Office on 08 9631 1202 or dowerin.wa.gov.au

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Shire of Dowerin Ordinary Council Meeting 4:00pm Friday 19 December 2025



1. Official Opening / Obituaries

The President welcomes those in attendance and declares the Meeting open at 4:00pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies / Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr DP Hudson

President

Cr RI Trepp

Deputy President

Cr J Graffin Cr C Meakins

Cr JC Sewell

Staff:

Mr D Mollenoyux

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Ms K Rose

Manager of Governance and Community Services

Mr B Forbes

Manager of Infrastructure and Projects

Ms C Skinner

Compliance Officer

Members of the Public:

Apologies:

Ms M Barthakur

Chief Executive Officer

Ms M Shirt

Acting Manager of Corporate Services

Approved Leave of Absence:

Cr AR Jones

Cr AJ Metcalf

3. Public Question Time

4. Disclosure of Interest

Councillors are to complete a Disclosure of Interest Form for each item they are required to disclose an interest in. The Form should be given to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences. After the meeting, the Form is to be provided to the Manager of Governance and Community Services for inclusion in the Disclosures Register.

Friday 19 December 2025

5.	Applications for Leave of Absence	
6.	Petitions and Presentations	
7.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)	
7.1	Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 November 2025 <u>Attachment 7.1A</u>	
	Voting Requirements	
Simple Majority Absolute Majority		
Office	r's Recommendation - 7	
the Min	y Simple Majority pursuant to Sections 5.22(2) and 3.18 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , utes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 November 2025, as presented in Attachment confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.	
8.	Minutes of Committee Meeting(s) to be Received	
8.1	Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting held on 25 November 2025 Attachment 8.1A	
8.2	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2025 Late Attachment 8.2A	
	Voting Requirements	
	Simple Majority Absolute Majority	

Officer's Recommendation - 8

That, by Simple Majority pursuant to Sections 5.22(2) and 3.18 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Minutes of the Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting held on 25 November 2025, as presented in Attachment 8.1A, and the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2025, as presented in Attachment 8.2A, be received.

9.	Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council Consideration		
9.1	Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting		
5.1	Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting		
9.1.1	Confidential Item - 2026 Australia Day Award Nominations		
	Refer to ADA Committee Meeting minutes dated 25 November 2025		
	Attachment 9.1.1A		
	Voting Requirements		
	Simple Majority Absolute Majority		
Committee Recommendation - 9.1.1			

That, by Simple Majority, the Committee recommends to Council that:

- * be awarded the 2026 Citizen of the Year,
- * be awarded the 2026 Senior Citizen of the Year,

All recipients will be announced and awards presented on Monday 26 January 2026 at the Australia Day Breakfast

9.2	Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee Meeting	
9.2.1	2024/25 Annual Report & Annual Electors Meeting	
	Refer to ARIC Meeting minutes dated 19 December 2025 Attachment 9.2.1A - 2024/2025 Annual Report & Audited Financial Reports	
	Voting Requirements	
	Simple Majority Absolute Majority	
Committee Recommendation – 9.2.1		

That, in accordance with Sections 5.27, 5.29, 5.53 and 5.54 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council, by Absolute Majority:

- 1. Accepts the 2024/25 Annual Report, as presented in Attachment 9.2.1A, for the 2024/25 financial year;
- 2. Adopts the 2024/25 Annual Report, as presented in Attachment 9.2.1A, for the 2024/25 financial year; and
- 3. Conducts its Annual Electors Meeting on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at the Dowerin Community Club, East Street Dowerin commencing at 6.00pm.

10.

11. OFFICER'S REPORTS - CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

11.1 Financial Activity Statements

Corporate and Community Services



Date:	11 December 2025	
Location:	Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer:	Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer	
Author:	Megan Shirt, Acting Manager of Corporate Services	
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996	
SharePoint Reference:	Organisation / Financial Management / Reporting / Financial Statements / 2025-2026 Monthly Financial Statements	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Attachment 11.1A - November Monthly Financial Report	

Purpose of Report	
Executive Decision	Legislative Requirement
Summary	

This item presents the Statement of Financial Activity to Council for the period November 2025.

Background

Section 6.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires a local government to prepare financial reports.

Regulations 34 and 35 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* set out the form and content of the financial reports which have been prepared and are presented to Council.

Comment

To fulfil statutory reporting requirements and provide Council with a synopsis of the Shire of Dowerin's overall financial performance on a year-to-date basis, the following financial information is included in the Attachment.

The Statements of Financial Activity provide details of the Shire's operating revenues and expenditures on a year-to-date basis. The reports further include details of non-cash adjustments and capital revenues and expenditures, to identify the Shire's net current position.

Note 1 - Statement of Financial Activity

Notes supporting the Statement of Financial Activity by Nature and Type (Statutory) and by Program (for information).

Note 2 - Cash and Financial Assets

This note provides Council with the details of the actual amounts in the Shire's bank accounts and/or investment accounts as at the reporting date.

Note 3 - Receivables

This note provides Council with both Rates Receivables and General Receivables outstanding as at the reporting date. This report has been expanded to further break down the detail of General Receivables.

Note 4 - Other Current Assets

This note provides details of other current assets that the Shire may hold.

Note 5 - Payables

This note provides details of Shire payables unpaid as at the reporting date. This Note is new to the financial statements.

Note 6- Rate Revenue

This note provides details of rates levied during the year.

Note 7 - Disposal of Assets

This note gives details of the capital asset disposals during the year.

Note 8- Capital Acquisitions

This note details the capital expenditure program for the year.

Note 9 -Borrowings

This note shows the Shire's current debt position and lists all borrowings.

Note 10 - Cash Backed Reserves

This note provides summary details of transfers to and from reserve funds, and associated interest earnings on reserve funds, on a year-to-date basis.

Note 11 - Other Current Liabilities

This note outlines any provisions the Shire has on hand relative to other current liabilities.

Note 12 - Operating Grants and Contributions Received

This note provides information on operating grants received.

Note 13 - Non-Operating Grants and Contributions Received

This note provides information on non-operating grants received.

Note 14 - Explanation of Material Variances

Council adopted (in conjunction with the Annual Budget) a material reporting variance threshold of 10% or \$5,000, whichever is the greater. This note explains the reasons for any material variances identified in the Statements of Financial Activity at the end of the reporting period.

Consultation

Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer

Megan Shirt, Acting Manager of Corporate Services

Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Projects

Policy Implications

The Shire of Dowerin has a comprehensive suite of financial management policies. Finances have been managed in accordance with these policies.

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority: Our Organisation

Objective: Deliver a high standard of governance and administration.

Outcome: 4.1

Reference: 4.1c

Asset Management Plan

Nil

Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

Statutory Implications

Council is required to adopt monthly statements of financial activity to comply with Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Failure to fulfil statutory regulations or compliance requirements	
Risk Category	Compliance	
Risk Description	No noticeable regulatory or statutory impact	
Consequence Rating	Insignificant (1)	
Likelihood Rating	Rare (1)	
Risk Matrix Rating	Low (1)	
Key Controls (in place)	Governance Calendar, Financial Management Framework and Legislation	
Action (Treatment)	Nil	
Risk Rating (after treatment)	Adequate	

Timely preparation of the monthly financial statements within statutory guidelines is vital to good financial management. Failure to submit compliant reports within statutory time limits will lead to non-compliance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

	Financial Implications	
Nil		
	Voting Requirements	
	Simple Majority	Absolute Majority
Officer's Recommendation - 11.1		

That Council, by Simple Majority pursuant to Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, receives the draft statutory Financial Activity Statement report for the period of November 2025, as presented in Attachment 11.1A.

11.2 List of Accounts Paid

Corporate & Community Services



Date:	11 December 2025		
Location:	Not Applicable		
Responsible Officer:	Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer		
Author:	Megan Shirt, Acting Manager of Corporate Services		
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995; Local Gove Management) Regulations 1996	ernment (Financial	
SharePoint Reference:	Organisation/Financial Management/Reporting/Financial Statements and Credit Cards		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil		
Attachments:	Attachment 11.2A - November 2025 LOP Attachment 11.2B - Credit and Star Cards		

Purpose of Report	
Executive Decision	Legislative Requirement
Summary	

This Item presents the List of Accounts Paid, paid under delegated authority, for November 2025.

Background

Nil

Comment

The List of Accounts Paid as presented have been reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Consultation

Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer

Megan Shirt, Acting Manager of Corporate Services

Policy Implications

The Shire of Dowerin has a comprehensive suite of financial management policies. Finances have been managed in accordance with these policies. Payments have been made under delegated authority.

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority: Our Organisation

Objective: Deliver a high standard of governance and administration.

Outcome: 4.1

Reference: 4.1c

Asset Management Plan

Nil

Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

Statutory Implications

Regulation 12 and 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires that a separate list be prepared each month for Council showing creditors paid under delegated authority.

Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Failure to fulfil statutory regulations or compliance requirements
Risk Category	Compliance
Risk Description	No noticeable regulatory or statutory impact
Consequence Rating	Insignificant (1)
Likelihood Rating	Rare (1)
Risk Matrix Rating	Low (1)
Key Controls (in place)	Governance Calendar
Action (Treatment)	Nil
Risk Rating (after treatment)	Adequate

Financial Implications

	Voting Requirements	
	Simple Majority	Absolute Majority
Office	er's Recommendation - 11.2	

That Council, by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 6.8(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 12 & 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, receives the report from the Chief Executive Officer on the exercise of delegated authority in relation to creditor payments from the Shire of Dowerin Municipal Fund, as presented in Attachments 11.2A and as detailed below:

Summary of List of Accounts Paid - Novembe	r 2025
EFT 14281 to EFT 14383	\$381,940.56
Direct Debits Total	\$36,295.01
Payroll Total	\$167,038.47
TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$585,274.04

11.3 Shire Office Replacement Generator - Budget Amendment Consideration

Corporate and Community Services



		TIN DOG TERRITORY	
Date:	11 th December 2025		
Location:	Shire Office - 13 Cottrell Street, Dowerin		
Responsible Officer:	Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Projects		
Author:	Darren Mollenoyux, Acting Chief Executive Office Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Project		
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995		
Sharepoint Reference:	Technical > Asset Management		
Disclosure of Interest:			
Attachments:	Confidential Attachment - Replacement General Report	tor Quotes Summary	

NOTE

The quotes received for this item relate to business and financial transactions. Under section 5.23(2) of the Local Government Act 1995, the public may be excluded where matters of a commercial nature are discussed. Where disclosure may prejudice the commercial position of either a supplier or the local government, the information is appropriately treated as confidential.

Purpose of Report	
Executive Decision	Legislative Requirement
Summary	

Council is asked to consider quotations received for the replacement of the failed generator at the Shire Office and to approve unbudgeted expenditure to fund its purchase and installation.

Background

The Shire's generator provides essential backup power to ensure continuity of critical operations and emergency response capability during outages.

A grant submission earlier in the financial year sought full replacement funding; however, the application was unsuccessful. Only \$7,500 remains in the adopted 2025/26 Budget for co-contribution toward this project which was budgeted to be funded from the plant reserve.

The generator at the Shire Office became non-operational in or around September 2025. During a town-wide outage in November 2025, a local electrician was required to supply and install a temporary generator to maintain power to the building.

At the November 2025 Council Workshop, officers advised Councillors that the Disaster Ready Fund (DFES) grant application had been unsuccessful. Workshop notes indicate Council's support to proceed with immediate purchase of a new generator and dispose of the existing unit through an EOI/tender process with other small plant.

Officers subsequently undertook a market review and obtained detailed specifications for several generator models, including units powered by Cummins, Perkins and OEM engines. Warranty information has also been collated, noting that some suppliers did not specify warranty terms.

In the weekly update to Councillors on 5 December 2025, the CEO advised:

"Generator - Budget Amendment & Next Steps

Regarding the generator, we will require a budget amendment. In the event of a power failure, we will proceed with hiring a generator as an interim measure to ensure business continuity.

We will bring this matter back to Council in January for a full discussion on the long-term options and cost implications."

A significant power outage on 9 December 2025 affected the Shire Office from approximately 4.30pm to 7.30pm, during which a scheduled Councillor Induction proceeded without power. This event further demonstrated the urgency of replacing the generator, as the Shire Office serves as a central point for emergency coordination and business continuity.

Comment

On 10 December 2025, the Acting CEO reviewed the status of the generator replacement and met with relevant staff (Manager of Infrastructure and Projects, Technical Officer and Acting Manager of Corporate Services) to discuss the status of the generator replacement and determine confirm a formal agenda item and Council resolution were required, given the insufficient allocation in the 2025/26 Budget.

Replacement of the failed generator is essential to ensure ongoing operational resilience. Quotations reviewed range from approximately \$14,000 to \$37,000. Known engine and alternator brands—such as Cummins, Perkins, Stamford and Leroy Somer—provide higher reliability, longer service life, and better parts availability.

Warranty information sourced from the documents provided is summarised below:

- Perkins/Stamford models 3 years / 2,000 hours
- Cummins/Stamford models 3 years / 1,500 hours
- YTO/Dingol models 2 years / 1,000 hours
- OEM/unspecified engine units Warranty not specified

The required budget amendment will depend on the model selected and will range between approximately \$14,000 and \$37,000, plus installation (approximately \$2,500). The Plant Replacement Reserve is the appropriate funding source.

Full quotation details are provided under separate confidential cover.

A hire alternative was considered; however, at an estimated \$750 per week, this approach is not financially viable and would quickly exceed the cost of purchase while providing no long-term asset.

Full details of quotations, including process will be provided under separate cover as a confidential item.

Consultation

Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer

Darrel Hudson, Shire President

Ben Forbes, Manager of Infrastructure and Projects

Russell Holleley, Technical Officer

Megan Shirt, Acting Manager of Corporate Services

Various generator suppliers

Policy Implications

3.11 - Purchasing Policy

4.7 - Asset Management Policy

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

- Section 6.8(1)(b) A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose unless authorised in advance by a resolution of Council by absolute majority. As this change represents a variation to the adopted budget, Council endorsement is required.
- Section 6.11(2) Money held in a reserve account (in this case, the Plant Replacement Reserve)
 must not be used for any purpose other than that for which the reserve was established unless
 authorised by absolute majority resolution of Council. Local Government (Financial
 Management) Regulations 1996
- Regulation 33A Requires a local government to undertake a budget review between 1 January and 31 March each financial year and present the results to Council for consideration. This proposed amendment aligns with the scope of that review.

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority: Our Infrastructure

Objective: We have functional infrastructure that meets the needs of the community

Outcome: 3.2

Reference: 3.2.1

Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Failure to fulfil statutory regulations or compliance requirements		
Risk Category	Property (Plant, Equipment, Buildings)		
Risk Description	\$5,001 - \$50,000		
Consequence Rating	Moderate (3)		
Likelihood Rating	Likely (4)		
Risk Matrix Rating	High (10)		
Key Controls (in place)	Asset Management Plan Ongoing Monitoring		
Action (Treatment)	Plant Maintenance Plan Asset Management Plans		
Risk Rating (after treatment)	Adequate		

Financial Implications

The 2025/26 Budget includes \$7,500 for co-contribution towards a generator grant that was unsuccessful; these funds can be applied to the purchase of a new generator.

The remaining purchase and installation costs may be funded through the Plant Replacement Reserve, which with current year budget transfers accounted for holds a balance of \$292,000.

Use of the Reserve will require a formal budget amendment. A small budget allocation will also be required for anticipated income from disposal of the old generator.

Voting Requirements	
Simple Majority	Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation - 11.3

That Council, by Absolute Majority, in accordance with Sections 6.8(1)(b) and 6.11(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, resolves to:

- 1. Approve an amendment to the 2025/26 Budget to purchase a new generator for the Shire Office of \$.
- 2. Approve the allocation of \$_____ from the Plant Replacement Reserve to fund the purchase and installation of the new generator.
- 3. Include a provision in the 2025/26 Budget for income relating to the disposal of the existing generator with the budget review in February 2026.

Attachments:

12. OFFICER'S REPORTS - GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

12.1 Appointment of Representative - CEACA Committee Governance & Compliance SHIRE O Date: 27 November 2025 Location: Responsible Officer: Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer Author: Kahli Rose, Manager of Governance and Community Services Legislation: Local Government Act 1995 SharePoint Reference: Organisation>Governance Disclosure of Interest:

Purpose of Report	
Executive Decision	Legislative Requirement
Summary	

The Shire of Dowerin is a Full Member of the Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance (CEACA), a regional collaboration of local governments focused on improving housing and care options for older residents in the Wheatbelt. Full Membership entitles the Shire to participate in CEACA's governance through a representative on its Management Committee.

This item seeks to appoint Cr Trepp to that role.

Background

Many Wheatbelt communities, including Dowerin, are experiencing an ageing population and increasing demand for seniors housing that enables residents to remain in their home towns as they age. To address this regional issue, several local governments formed the Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance (CEACA). CEACA works collaboratively to:

- Advocate for aged-care investment across the region
- Apply for, manage, and deliver seniors housing projects
- Identify gaps in aged accommodation and services
- Develop consistent planning and funding priorities across member councils

CEACA has successfully attracted significant external funding and has already delivered aged housing in multiple councils. The Shire of Dowerin joined as an Associate Member and subsequently transitioned to Full Membership, enabling direct participation in decision-making and eligibility for housing allocations. As part of CEACA's current project cycle, Dowerin has been allocated two seniors housing units, with the potential for further units based on demand assessments and committee decisions.

Because of this, it is essential that the Shire has an active and informed representative participating in CEACA discussions, ensuring Dowerin's needs are articulated and considered when regional priorities and funding submissions are determined.

In September 2025, Council appointed the Chief Executive Officer as an interim representative due to the approaching local government election and uncertainty regarding Council membership. With the election now completed, it is appropriate that representation formally transfers to an elected member.

Comment

The CEACA representative plays a strategic role in shaping aged housing provision across the region. Responsibilities include attending Management Committee meetings, reviewing project proposals, participating in regional advocacy, and ensuring Dowerin's demographic trends, land availability, and housing priorities are accurately reflected in CEACA's decisions.

Appointing Cr Trepp provides:

- Continuity in regional collaboration and advocacy
- Direct Council involvement in shaping aged housing outcomes
- Local knowledge in discussions affecting future housing allocations
- Improved alignment between CEACA strategies and Council's strategic direction

In addition, appointing an elected member rather than an officer reflects good governance, ensures member-led decision-making, and reinforces Council's commitment to supporting ageing in place within the community.

Consultation

Manisha Barthakur, Chief Executive Officer

Kahli Rose, Manager of Governance and Community Services

Councillors, November Workshop

Cr Darrel Hudson, Shire President

Cr Robert Trepp, Deputy President

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.11 — Tenure of committee membership

- (1) "A person's appointment to a committee continues until
 - a. the next ordinary local government election day; or
 - b. the person resigns from the committee; or
 - c. the person is removed, by resolution of the local government, from the committee.
- (2) If a member of a committee is an elected member of the council, the person's membership of the committee continues until the person's term of office as an elected member ends or the person ceases to be an elected member.
- (3) If a member of a committee is a person who is not an elected member of the council and the person is removed from the committee under subsection (1)(c), their appointment may be terminated at any time by the local government."

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority: Our Community

Objective: Continue to be a member of CEACA and advocate for external funding

for housing.

Outcome: 1.4

Reference: 1.4b

Asset Management Plan

Nil

Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

Risk Profiling Theme	Engagement Practices
Risk Category	Reputation (Social/Community)
Risk Description	Unsubstantiated, localosed low impact on community trust, low profile or no media item
Consequence Rating	Moderate (3)
Likelihood Rating	Possible (3)
Risk Matrix Rating	Moderate (9)
Key Controls (in place)	Appointment of representative on committee to ensure active participation and advocacy.
Action (Treatment)	Appointment of representative member.
Risk Rating (after treatment)	Effective

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There are no direct financial implications associated with the appointment of a representative.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation - 12.2

That Council, in accordance with Section 5.11 of the Local Government Act 1995, Appoints Cr Robert Trepp, Deputy Shire President, as the Shire of Dowerin representative to the Central East Accommodation and Care Alliance (CEACA) Management Committee.

13.	OFFICER'S REPORTS - ASSET & WORKS
	Nil
14.	Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision
	Nil
15.	Elected Members' Motions
	Nil
16.	Matters Behind Closed Doors
	Nil
17.	Closure

The President thanked those in attendance, and closed the meeting at X:XXpm