



SHIRE
of
DANDARAGAN

MINUTES
OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
HELD AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JURIEEN BAY
on
FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2025
COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

(THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT ON REQUEST)

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS 27 JANUARY 2022

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President declared the meeting open at 5:00pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Councillors:

Councillor T O’Gorman (President)
Councillor W Gibson
Councillor J Clarke
Councillor R Glasfurd
Councillor S Young
Councillor G Lethlean

Staff:

Mr B Bailey (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr B Pepper (Executive Manager Infrastructure Services)
Mr B Waters (Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services)
Mr L Fouché (Executive Manager Development Services)
Mrs N Winsloe (Executive Secretary)

Apologies:

Councillor M McDonald (Deputy President)

Electors / members of the public:

19 members of the public registered and attended the meeting, while approximately 7 members of the public didn’t register, however were in attendance.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD 22 FEBRUARY 2024

Moved Cr Clarke, seconded Cr Gibson

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 22 February 2024 as circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. RECEIVING OF THE 2023 / 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report incorporated the following:

- President's Report
- Chief Executive Officer's Report
- Key Aspirations
- Scope of Shire Services
- Infrastructure Goals & Achievements
- Prosperity Goals & Achievements
- Environmental Goals & Achievements
- Community Goals & Achievements
- Annual Financial Statements

Moved Cr Clarke, seconded Cr Glasfurd

That the annual report for the year 2023 / 2024 as presented be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Pre – submitted question submitted by Frank & Debra Fforde

We understood when we moved to Jurien being in our 60 and 70s that it would not have the same services as available in a city; However, the actions by Council to try to obtain more doctors was fully supported and we believe a priority for the growth of this great town.

Therefore, what actions can we and other residents take to assist Council in their endeavour to acquire more doctors and keep good doctors like Dr Lily who I understand bought a house in Jurien. We want doctors to be part of our community. We are concerned that hard working committed doctors like Dr Wee will leave because of the workload he has had to endure.

Bearing in mind we have State and Federal elections looming, would petitions by the residents of the Shire be appropriate and be of assistance.

Chief Executive Officer response

The notion of a formal petition to parliaments is worthwhile, however the lack of sitting days before the elections would prevent their formal submission in the short-term.

Nonetheless the issue is a matter that the Shire President has directly escalated through to the Federal Minister for Health and other State Government representatives. The Australia wide shortage of GP's is a challenging predicament, and many practices rely on the recruitment of overseas doctors to address shortages. These doctors are required to undertake a range of visa approvals, accreditation processes and periods of active supervision which both prolong the recruitment process and make it very difficult for small rural practices.

Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

The Shire President previously stated that the Jurien Bay Medical Centre was accredited to provide supervision of the doctors on the fellowship accreditation pathway up until to 6 months ago, but that the RACGP then changed the regulations.

What are the changes to the regulations?

Chief Executive Officer response

The issue was not a change to regulations, it was following a training site accreditation interview by RACGP that led them to change their view of the practice's compliance with supervision requirements for Doctors participating in the RACGP's fellowship program to become a Vocationally Registered GP (VR-GP). Dr Lily was participating in this program to gain her status as a VR-GP. The RACGP determined that the remote supervision arrangements in place at the Jurien Bay Medical Centre did not meet their standards under the accreditation program. This has been appealed by Spectrum Health as they disagree with the assessment.

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Non-VR GPs do the same work as VR GPs and provide the same standard of care. Both VR GPs and non-VR GPs are required to have the same professional indemnity insurance cover, and both are recognised by the Medical Board of Australia. The main difference between a VR GP and a non-VR GP is that non-VR GPs are not eligible for the same level of Medicare rebates and consequently patients of non-VR GPs may have higher out-of-pocket expenses for GP visits.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

Why is the practice no longer able to meet those regulations?

- i) Is it because the supervision is now required to be done on site rather than remotely?
- ii) Is it because they do not have Drs that are accredited to provide the supervision?
- iii) Is it because they have failed to carry out the supervision adequately in the past?

Chief Executive Officer response

As stated above, the accreditation issue was not associated with a change in regulations. Spectrum Health has established remote supervision procedures for GP's undertaking fellowship to become a vocationally registered GP. Late last year the RACGP determined that this did not meet their standards under the program and the decision is being appealed by Spectrum Health.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

What needs to change for the practice to regain accreditation in order to provide the supervision?

Chief Executive Officer response

The practice has appealed the decision to revoke their accreditation for the RACGP fellowship program which will be determined in mid-February.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

Is Spectrum Health willing to make those changes to ensure we have a consistent and effective medical service in our community?

Chief Executive Officer response

The Shire is not in a position to answer this question on behalf of a third party and while the current decision of the RACGP is being appealed.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

If it was 6 months ago that the changes in regulation and the cancelling of the Practices ' accreditation to supervise occurred, RACGP must have been aware that it was happening when the appointment of Dr Lily occurred, as

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should Spectrum Health – so how was she allowed to be allocated to this practice? She was here for close to 6 months prior to receiving notice that her appointment no longer met the guidelines

- i) Who was responsible for applying for and approving her provider number for Jurien Bay
- ii) Who allowed her to go to the considerable expense and upheaval to move here without anyone picking up the potential problems? Was the mistake with RACGP or Spectrum Health?
- iii) Why were the changes to the regulations applied retrospectively when Dr Lily has already provided 6 months of dedicated and very effective service to our community? What was different about her practices/experience that can justify removing a competent and much needed GP from an area of need with only a months' notice?

Chief Executive Officer response

As stated above, the accreditation issue was not associated with a change in regulations.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

What plans do Spectrum Health have in place to replace Dr Lily and how soon will that occur?

Chief Executive Officer response

Spectrum Health have recently received advice that Dr Maricar Santos has received her VISA and is seeing to the remainder of her accreditation and medical licensing processes. The Shire is currently awaiting an estimated commencement date and will publish that as an update on our website and newsletter in due course.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

I believe that these questions need to be asked of both RACGP and Spectrum Health in order to ensure that this situation does not occur again.

What is being done to ensure the contract between Spectrum Health and the Shire of Dandaragan is being met in order to provide our community with the medical service we need. Our community last year went through 3 months with only one GP which put a lot of stress on that GP and the surgery staff. What are the consequences of such breaches of the contract and how can our community be confident that this will not occur again?

Chief Executive Officer response

The Shire has the discretion to issue Spectrum Health with a breach of contract notice requiring remedy within a reasonable time. If formal notices are issued and not complied with, it may give rise to grounds to terminate the contract for the delivery of medical services from the Jurien Bay Medical

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Centre. The Shire is cautious in exercising this approach given the likely impact on our existing GP's and ensuing loss of all services and appointment availability while a new GP provider is appointed via an open market process which could take a number of months to achieve.

Spectrum Health have been continually in the process of recruiting and increasing GP numbers at the Jurien Bay Medical Centre which not only improves access for the public, but also increases the viability of the business, however a nationwide GP shortage continues to present challenges attracting and retaining qualified GPs.

Continued - Pre – submitted question submitted by Irene Conner

I would also like to ask, as an age-friendly town, what is the Shire doing about the loss of respite services within our community?

The Turquoise Coast Respite centre building was originally built through a community effort with many within our community giving a lot of time and effort in order to help provide a service for our senior community. Ultimately, this was included in the retirement village run by the then RSLWA. With the recognition of Jurien Bay becoming a 'super town' eligible for Royalties for Regions funding, the Shire identified a high need for respite services within our community. They collaborated with RSLWA (Acacia Living group) to source funding to convert the building to a respite and day care centre that would help our seniors to stay at home longer through having that support. It has been a wonderful and much needed service that has been well used.

Bolton Clarke have now discontinued the service, and the rooms converted to office space for Bolton Clarke employees.

Has the Shire of Dandaragan had conversations with Bolton Clarke and impressed on them the high need identified by themselves for respite services, and asked what Bolton Clarkes intentions are on returning that service to our community in the future? It was indicated that the day centre was going to be restarted close to a year ago, but nothing has eventuated.

Chief Executive Officer response

Yes, the Shire President and CEO have met previously with the Local Area Manager and WA Operations Manager to discuss respite and aged care services more broadly. It remains apparent that the centre's ability to provide respite care is limited by the funding models available to the service and the lack of capacity to provide higher care respite as the facility is not a secured facility nor attached to a high care aged care facility.

While the respite service at the Centre has been rolled back, Bolton Clarke can provide in home respite services within their home care packages on a daily or overnight basis for patients that require lower levels of care and support.

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Bolton Clarke and other service providers have also increased their presence in local health services now offering home care packages extending to the Dandaragan, Badgingarra and other rural areas and are actively recruiting new staff to build this service.

***Pre – submitted questions submitted by Greta Poulter
Please note two of Greta’s questions have been answered above –
Please see the attachments for full written submissions.***

As an Age Friendly Community has the council considered becoming a Dementia Friendly Shire or looked at supporting its towns to become Dementia Friendly Communities?

Chief Executive Officer response

The concept of a Dementia Friendly Shire has not previously been raised over the past 7 years however our Community Development Team have had interactions with projects such as Memory Lane Café. The topic fits well with the upcoming review and establishment of a new Community Development Plan.

Continued - Pre – submitted questions submitted by Greta Poulter

Also, has the Council considered installing a swimming pool in Jurien Bay, this would greatly benefit our older residents to keep mobile and to rehabilitate after medical and/or surgical episodes/procedures. A swimming pool would enable local children to have swimming lessons locally instead of having to travel to Perth, it would benefit the wider community. It would also be a value add for our visitors and may increase the tourist period if it were an indoor swimming pool as we would have an all-weather activity.

Chief Executive Officer response

Council has considered a swimming pool project on a number of occasions, the topic is often brought up within community consultation and our Council Plan consultation processes. To date, Council has not progressed any detailed planning on such a project due to the inherent cost of constructing and maintaining community swimming pools against other more significant projects raised by the community.

Irene Conner

Irene stated that currently Spectrum Health are in breach of their contract with regards to the minimum availability of GP appointments and asked what is the Council policy on a breached contract?

Chief Executive Officer response

The CEO advised that while Council does not have a formal policy relating to the contract it does have the prerogative to issue a breach of contract or

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where a contract remains in breach, seek to sever any contract which it holds for the provision of services. It is really important Council understand potential ramifications that can come from the termination of a contract particularly where a service may go unprovided for a period of time. At this stage the Council have decided not to go down that path with the Medical Services contract, which is largely because of the expected ongoing impact that it may have.

The Shire has instead opted to work and support Spectrum Health to onboard doctors into the community., It is important to recognise that there are processes associated with the recruitment of Doctors which sit beyond the Shire's direct control. No doubt Council will speak about this at their next meeting, and they will then provide more direction to the administration as to what actions they want to take.

Irene Conner

Irene asked about the process of issuing the current Medical Centre contract which was awarded to Spectrum Health. What is the term of the contract and the process for going back out to market.

Chief Executive Officer response

Without analysing the specifics of the decision-making process for the initial awarding of the Medical Services contract, the relevance of any tender is that periodically they will be released to the open market and vendors of whatever nature will come back to Council with their various offers.

Council then deliberates on what is termed best value for money based on financial information and a range of qualitative criteria of what they are seeking from the service provider. As you mentioned, the current provider took that contract back when it was last tendered. In 2022 Council issued a renewal of that contract within the existing contract terms. There are no further extensions available within the current contract so that would mean the next time the medical contract is issued would be in 2027. The CEO stated it would go out to tender prior to the contract term being up. Around 6-12 months prior to the contract concluding Council will advise the current operators that the contract is coming back up to facilitate timely handover in the event they are not the successful recipient of the new contract.

John Willett

Has this change of regulations from the RACGP impacted any other regional towns or Councils?

Chief Executive Officer response

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The CEO wanted to make it very clear that there has been no regulation change from the RACGP. The regulations and standards have always been the same and haven't been changed in the recent history. The RACGP have done an independent audit of the practice in question and have decided they are not satisfied with the level of supervision provided in accordance with their standards.

The Shire President advised that we are not the only Shire impacted, and he has heard from another Shire in the same situation. He advised he does not know if that was Spectrum Health or not. RACGP would do audits every so often and make decisions based on these audits. The Shire President acknowledged that his initial wording to some members of the public may have led to a misinterpretation of the issue at hand. He apologised if he originally used the term 'regulations' in this situation.

Christine Brandenburg

With it not being a regulation change, it is the supervision provided to the Doctor that is the issue. I am assuming Spectrum Health should have been providing the supervision?

Chief Executive Officer response

A doctor doesn't have to participate in this program to be able to practice as a GP in Australia. There are two types of GPs – One that has been through this fellowship program and one that hasn't. It affects their access to certain level of the Medicare rebate scheme. A Doctor may want to gain access to those higher rebates, and they may choose to relocate to a supervised practice where they can participate in that program and gain their qualifications.

Greta Poulter

Since Spectrum Health are currently in breach of their contract and not operating 2 doctors 5.5 days per week, why can't we get a locum? Also, Dr Lily did comply and now they believe the practice doesn't apply, why all of a sudden do they believe they don't comply?

Chief Executive Officer response

Having discussed this with both Spectrum Health and other practices, the Locum shortage is the same as the GP shortage as they are the same profession, right across Australia there is a very large shortage of both.

Spectrum Health are appealing that decision. They are of the belief that what they currently do should satisfy the requirements. Based on the outcome of the appeal they will be making their own decisions about what they need to do as a business to either maintain their participation in the fellowship accreditation processes or withdraw from it completely.

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John Willett

Has provision been made in the Jurien Bay Recreation Precinct Masterplan to cater for a swimming pool in the long term.

Chief Executive Officer response

The concept layout that we have at the moment doesn't necessarily have a swimming pool listed on the plan. However, there would be space in the recreation precinct to cater for that infrastructure if the Council of the day chooses to support such a project.

Ian Stiles

Our Marina 20 years ago was used for swimming lessons and carnivals. If we got the marina fixed up this could alleviate the problem of the Shire needing a swimming pool in the future?

Chief Executive Officer response

The State Government have budgeted \$17.5million in funding to get this project up and running. The Department of Transport is currently undertaking the detailed design process prior to issuing contracts for civil works to commence. The Shire expects that the project will continue to progress over the next 2-3 years in accordance with the budget forward estimates.

Tim Bailey

Noted that the jetty lights are not currently working and also asked if the Shire could ensure that future footpaths are constructed from bitumen rather than concrete noting that the cracks and expansion joints made it uncomfortable for people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc.

Chief Executive Officer response

The Shire President advised the Jetty lights request would be passed through to the Infrastructure Department for resolution.

The CEO advised that there had been a change in specification for concrete paths over recent years which had removed expansion joints that resulted in a much smoother and longer lasting result.

Irene Connor and members of the public discussed and provided information and examples to Council/CEO what particular people may need respite care and different reasons they may need it, different to in-home care.

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Shire President Response

The Shire President advised members of the public they do have an opportunity to pass a motion here asking Council to undertake certain work or follow up on with regards to respite care.

Members of the public discussed the matter and resolved the following:

Motion

Moved by Irene Conner, Seconded Pat Freebairn

That Council seek a detailed overview from Bolton Clarke about how the respite centre at the Acacia Village can be reopened to provide respite care for community members and the wider region on a short-term basis and for extended stays.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Pat Freebairn

I would like to know what happens if the situation gets worse with the Doctors and someone leaves, what happens then will we be left with one doctor again?

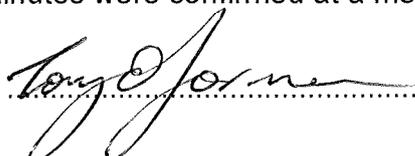
Shire President Response

Potentially yes, that could happen as there could always been changes in GP personnel at the Medical Centre. However, we are not in a position to say it will or won't happen. Realistically this is a problem that every community is currently facing especially out in the regions. All we can do is keep working with Spectrum Health to try and make sure we get our doctor quota filled all the time and when the contract comes up for tender, we put it out for tender and see what responses are received. Council also has the ability to change what goes out for tender.

A couple of examples are that Council could change number of doctors, they could put the same contract out for tender or even decide to remove its participation in medical services and let the free market meet the community need.

6. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The President closed the meeting at 6.03pm.

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting on ... 9/2/2026 ...
Signed 
Presiding person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

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Date 9/10/2026