

SHIRE MATTERS

Issue 196 - August 2025



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	2-4
Council Meeting / The Smoke Column / Dog Attacks	5
Community Development News	6-7
Economic Development News	8-9



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cr Tony O'Gorman
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Cruise Ship to Visit Jurien Bay

Jurien Bay is set to welcome the first of what we hope will be many visits from cruise ships. The Scenic Eclipse II will arrive on 1 September and return on 5 September, weather permitting.

The inaugural visit will be acknowledged with the exchange of plaques to commemorate the event.

Scenic's newest Discovery Yacht, Scenic Eclipse II, has arrived in Australia for a two-year season of ultra-luxury voyages.

The Scenic Eclipse II has been designed to be the ultimate 6-star ultra-luxury cruise experience of a lifetime for up to 228 guests.

The Discovery Yacht features two state-of-the-art helicopters, a custom-designed submersible 'Scenic Neptune II', world-class dining experiences, spacious suites, and the

most expansive wellness facilities at sea.

While visiting Jurien Bay, passengers will have the opportunity to explore the Pinnacles, take a sea lion tour, or visit the Lesueur National Park.



World-Class Resort Given the Go-Ahead for Jurien Bay

At the July Council meeting, development approval was granted for the Jurien Bay Resort on Casuarina Crescent.

Project Highlights

- 7-star + energy rating, targeting an 8-star rating, an industry first in WA for a resort.
- High-performance build: double-glazed, thermally broken windows, Low-E glass.
- Solar panels standard; EV charger wired with optional installation.
- Central hot water system designed to eliminate "dead legs" and improve efficiency.
- All units are detached and completely separate from neighbouring units, with soundproofing and energy efficiency being a key design consideration for JBR.

- Construction will commence in September 2025 and the site will be fully complete for Christmas 2027, maybe earlier depending on sales.

The project will include 81 holiday units and 28 grouped dwellings which can also be used for short term accommodation.

The development will be the first commercial development with a 7+ energy rating in Jurien Bay.

The complex will have minimal reliance on Western Power due to the solar and heating systems planned for the site.

The development will also feature a café, two pools, and a children's playground. Once construction is completed, anticipated to be in late 2027, there will be in excess of 1,200 short term accommodation beds in Jurien Bay.

Jurien Bay is fast becoming the destination of choice for many Western Australians holidaying in the Midwest. The town is also attracting large numbers of interstate and overseas visitors.

I wish the developers well in their venture and look

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

forward to the final unit being completed in late 2027.

Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy

Council has adopted the Renewable Energy Local Planning Policy; the policy is intended to provide clear parameters for the development of Renewable Energy Projects across the Shire.

The Policy sets out clear setbacks from project boundaries and recognises that projects are often spread across a number of properties. The policy was advertised to the public and a total of 28 submissions were received. The main concern from the submissions was that the proposed setbacks would inhibit the construction of many renewable energy projects across the Shire.

The large number of submissions provided the Shire with a clearer understanding of the requirements for appropriate setbacks and the policy has since been amended accordingly.

The Shire of Dandaragan is one of the leading renewable energy producers in the Wheatbelt and is setting standards that are being closely monitored by local

governments across the state.

I thank all those who took the time to provide feedback on the policy and thank the staff for their responsible management of this significant new industry in our Shire.



Shire Budget 2025/2026

Like all local governments across the state, Council is required to adopt its annual budget before 31 August each year. This year's budget was adopted at the July Council meeting.

Like all businesses and households, we are experiencing cost pressures and significant increases across many areas but also prioritising investments in infrastructure that will support continued growth.

Staff costs are a significant consideration for our Shire and with rapid growth in the local economy and population growth there is increased need for our workforce resourcing to respond. Increased economic

activity results in commercial vehicle movements in and around our Shire, this puts greater strain on our road network particularly the many kilometres of gravel roads in the farming regions.

I am happy to say that our outside crews in both Dandaragan and Jurien Bay do a fabulous job of keeping our roads in the best shape they can be. Adverse weather and heavy vehicle movements occasionally require the Shire to close certain roads for periods of time to ensure safety on the gravel roads and to avoid unnecessary damage of the surface.

The only legislated means for Council to raise revenue to deliver the services that the community requires is through rates and charges.

Charges apply to specific services like rubbish collection and tipping fees, venue hire etc. Rates are the biggest income generator and contribute approximately \$8.36m towards the Shire's annual operating budget. The remaining funds—making up the total budget of \$15 million—is largely sourced through state and federal government grants.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the expense side the biggest single line item is road construction, maintenance, and repair. The Shire staff in the Infrastructure Services area are adept at sourcing major road construction grants through the Regional Road Group, Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network or similar ad hoc opportunities from federal grant rounds. The Shire then matches those grants to enable us to maintain and improve the Shire's roads.

After Council resolved not to continue with a differential rating strategy this year, we have retained the three classifications of GRV, UV, and UV mining. GRV stands for Gross Rental Value and is based on the rental value that the Valuer General determines is the amount of income that could be attained if the property was rented. UV properties are based on an amount the Valuer General determines is the unimproved value of land (this generally applies to all areas outside the townsites). Mining UV is the same except that it deals with mining tenements.

The GRV rate in the dollar for this year has been set at 7.9151cents per dollar GRV.

The UV and UV mining rate has been set at 0.3732 cents in the dollar. The total budgeted GRV rates to be collected in 2025/2026 will be \$4,513,413 as compared to UV and UV mining, which will generate \$3,850,642. GRV makes up 54% of rates income and UV rates make up 46% approximately of rates income. We anticipate that your rates notice should be in the mail during the first week of August.

The table below shows a breakdown of our road construction and infrastructure asset expenditure for the 2025/2026 budget.

Roads and Infrastructure	
Cervantes (Total)	\$605,893
Catalonia Road Reconstruction	\$200,000
Cervantes Niche Wall	\$135,000
Cervantes Oval reticulation renewal	\$130,000
Cervantes Playground renovations	\$110,000
Cervantes Waste Station – Waste Bin Motorisation	\$30,893
Dandaragan (Total)	\$4,089,177
Pioneer Park – Mini Basketball ring	\$15,000
Cataby Road	\$72,500
Dambadgie Road	\$150,000
Dandaragan Road Main Street Upgrade	\$2,372,314
Dandaragan Road 2 nd Coat Seal	\$135,000
Gillingarra Road	\$110,638
Muthawandery Road	\$673,725
Pioneer Park Playground Improvements	\$30,000
Rowes Road	\$530,000
Jurien Bay (Total)	\$641,760
Cockleshell Gully Road	\$40,000
JB Airport Lighting & Firefighting Water Supply Improvements	\$162,260
JB Cemetery Grave retainment	\$20,000
JB Depot Light Vehicle Shed	\$46,000
Jurien Irrigation Project	\$85,500
Dual Use Path - Jurien Bay to Coalseam	\$288,000
Grand Total	\$5,736,830

Further to specific capital projects, the Shire also delivers ~\$2.5m in road maintenance activities, ~\$1.9m in public open space operations and ~\$0.5m in servicing around 40 public buildings.

A further ~\$1m is spent on waste, fire prevention and improving the experience at Sandy Cape. As you can see, the Shire delivers an ambitious undertaking in infrastructure investments and services each year and we are fortunate to have a workforce that who are highly astute in how they operate to help us set the annual budget.

They have made budgeting relatively easy for the Council by providing extensive modelling and options for us to consider through a number of workshops and information sharing sessions.

Our 25/26 budget is again balanced, but we have had to make significant drawdowns on our various reserve funds to be able to deliver all the projects and services that each and every one of our ratepayers expects and deserves. Full details of the budget document are provided on the Council website or are available on request.



Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 September 2025, at the Jurien Bay Council Chambers, commencing at 4:00pm. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE SMOKE COLUMN

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries are in things like phones, laptops, tools, e-scooters, and solar systems. They're very useful, but if misused, they can catch fire or even explode.

Here's how to stay safe:

- For all fires including batteries call 000 immediately
- Always use the charger that came with the device, or one from the same brand.
- Don't crush or drop them - damaged batteries can overheat and catch fire.
- Don't leave batteries in the sun, near heaters, or in wet places.
- Charge safely: Don't charge devices on beds, couches, or leave them charging overnight unattended.
- If a battery is hot, swollen, smoking, or smells unusual—stop using it and move it away from people and flammable items.
- Never put batteries in the bin. Take them to a battery recycling point.
- Take recall notices seriously and have the device disposed of immediately if subject to a recall.

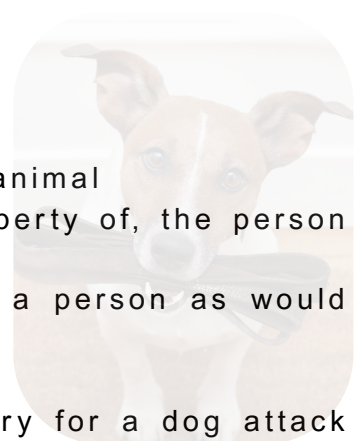
DOG ATTACKS

In the past financial year, over 10 dog attack incidents occurred in the areas of Jurien Bay and Cervantes. Nearly all of these incidents occurred as a result of the dogs wandering or not being tethered in a public place (outside of dog exercise areas). Whilst it might not sound like a lot, or a big issue, some of the occurrences resulted in serious injuries to both humans and pets alike. It is crucial to report all attacks to the Shire Ranger team immediately on 9652 0800 to help prevent future incidents, regardless if injuries occurred.

Under the WA Dog Act 1976 an attack is defined as:

- Aggressively rushing at or harassing any person or animal
- Biting, or otherwise causing physical injury to, a person or an animal
- Tearing clothing on, or otherwise causing damage to the property of, the person attacked
- Attempting to attack, or behaving in such a manner toward a person as would cause a reasonable person to fear physical injury.

It is important to note that a dog does not have to cause injury for a dog attack offence.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

ONLINE WORKSHOPS - CLUB DEVELOPMENT

We are offering a series of free online workshops open to local clubs and community members, covering a range of valuable topics, including:

- Roles and Responsibilities in Strong Committees
- Compliance for Incorporated Associations
- Governance Principles
- Legal and Financial Responsibilities
- Purpose and Strategic Planning
- Fundraising for Community Groups
- Grant Writing



To learn more about each workshop, including dates and times, visit the Shire's website or Facebook page, or alternatively, contact the Community Development Team. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to build your skills and strengthen your club!

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Development team at council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9652 0800.

Thank you to the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport for supporting these workshops.

1:1 MENTORING SESSION - CLUB DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the workshops, your club has the opportunity to book a one-on-one session with the facilitator for tailored support and guidance based on your club's specific needs.

To request a session, contact the Community Development Team at council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9652 0800. Please note that availability is limited and not all times may be accommodated.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport for funding the third and final year of the Shire of Dandaragan Every Club Program.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

Stay connected and discover new opportunities by joining the Shire's Business Newsletter. Be the first to hear about upcoming workshops, grants, networking events, and local business news.

It's a great way to grow your network, share ideas, and stay informed about what's happening in our local business community.

For more information or to join, please contact the Community Development Team at 9652 0800 or email council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au

TREEBATE

The State Government launched the Treebate program in January 2025 to encourage Western Australians to plant native trees at home and help grow a greener future.

Over the next four years, up to 10,000 WA residents each year can receive a rebate for purchasing native trees from local nurseries—up to \$150 per person through the ServiceWA app.

It's simple to take part:

One – Buy a native tree from a local nursery.

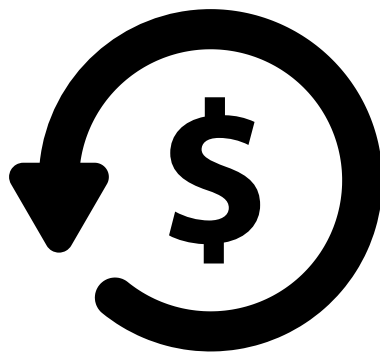
Two – Plant it in your backyard.

Tree – Submit your claim using the ServiceWA app.

Just remember to keep your tax invoice and a photo of the plant label to complete your rebate claim.

Treebate officially opens on 28 July 2025, as part of the State Government's commitment to boosting WA's urban tree canopy and supporting a more sustainable environment.

For more information, please visit the [wa.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) website.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

WINNER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT 2025-2026 ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Ruby Repairs Pty Ltd, recipient of the Shire of Dandaragan 2025-2026 Economic Development Grant of \$30,000.

Established in Jurien Bay in 2023 by Shaun Kilburn, Ruby Repairs provides maintenance and repair services for heavy earthmoving, marine, and agricultural machinery.

Shaun will utilise the grant funds to contribute to the purchase of four heavy vehicle mobile wireless column lifts and two truck stands.

Shaun explained, “As new opportunities for mines and renewable energies have opened in the Shire of Dandaragan, the demand for heavy vehicle mechanical services and repairs has increased significantly.”

“The new mobile hoists will increase our capacity to service large equipment and support improved flexibility to configure for various vehicle sizes and different heights, both in the workshop and at a customer’s site.

“This equipment will significantly improve our heavy vehicle business operations and enable us to apply to become a Department of Transport (DOT) approved heavy vehicle inspection station.”

Council wishes Ruby Repairs success with the project and in securing a DOT contract locally, as this will bring significant economic benefits to Jurien Bay and the broader Shire region.



CERVANTES ART FESTIVAL 2025 THEMED ‘OUR GALAXY’

The 2025 Cervantes Art Festival has ‘Our Galaxy’ as its theme for this year’s biennial event.

The Shire of Dandaragan, in addition to supporting the Acquisition Prize of \$3,000, will host a Stargazing AstroTourism event in Cervantes on the evening of Saturday 27 September 2025 to attract visitors to the event and the town.

Presenting the star gazing event and coordinating the telescope viewing of the night sky will be Carol Redford, CEO of AstroTourism WA, and Donna Vanzetti, CEO of Star

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Tracks Astro Events. They will also judge the Street Art Competition, where residents are encouraged to display a creation representing 'Our Galaxy' on their front verge.

The photography section will feature a Special Category "Into the Night Sky," for images that incorporate 'Our Galaxy', with a prize valued at \$800.

Cervantes is one of WA's noted AstroTourism towns, boasting great astrophotography and stargazing opportunities at the Pinnacles Desert, Lake Thetis, and along the coastline of the town, with each of these sites having low levels of artificial light.

Learn more and register your entries online at the Cervantes Art Festival website.



CERVANTES ART FESTIVAL 2025

ATO SMALL BUSINESS MASTERCLASSES

Small business owners can access free online courses to strengthen their business knowledge and skills via the ATO's online business platform, *Essentials to Strengthen Your Small Business*.

More than thirty business topics are available for free on the ATO website—from starting a business to planning an exit, and covering all the functions needed for business success.

Registrations are now open for the 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)' workshop to be held 12.00 – 1.00 pm on 22 August. This course outlines who must register for GST, how to calculate GST on sales and purchases, and other requirements such as invoicing, recordkeeping, and reporting GST to the ATO.

LOCAL CAPABILITY FUND – REGIONAL SUPPLIER ROUND

Applications are open until 4 September for the Regional Supplier Round, which supports regionally based WA SMEs to improve business capability, capacity, and competitiveness to supply goods, services and works to export markets, Government and the private business sector.

Applicants can apply for up to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$20,000. Details are available on the wa.gov.au website.