

Commissioner's Update #15

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup 8 September 2023



Nominations closed yesterday for the Council Election on 21 October, and it was very pleasing to see that 17 candidates have put themselves forward for consideration.

There are 9 vacancies to be filled, and the new Councillors will elect one of the group to be the Shire President. The five candidates with the highest number of votes will be appointed for a four-year term, and the remaining candidates for a two year term.

Over the next few weeks there will be a number of opportunities for the community to meet with or hear from the candidates. I thank all who have nominated for their willingness to support their community and wish them the very best of luck. The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) will conduct the election via postal voting, and for the first time optional preferential voting will be used. This means that those people eligible to vote will be able to indicate an order of preference if they wish to.

Postal voting ballots will be mailed out by the WAEC from around 15 September to eligible voters. Completed ballot papers must be returned by 21 October. While it is a postal vote, you will still be able to lodge your vote at the Shire Office. I'd encourage you to take the time to review the expansive range of election information on the Shire website, including what to do if you misplace or lose your ballot papers. Profiles of each of the candidates are also available on the website, as provided by the WAEC Returning Officer.

As previously advised, Ben Rose has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer at the Shire of Manjimup and will take up his new role at the end of November. As Ben will take leave from the end of September, I am currently in discussions about the appointment of an acting or interim CEO and would hope to have something finalised over the next couple of weeks. One of the first tasks of the new Council will be to recruit a new Chief Executive Officer. Realistically, I expect that process to take about 6 months.



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Once elected, the new Council will undergo a comprehensive onboarding and induction process, which includes a requirement to complete formal training. I remain in discussion with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) in terms of transition arrangements.

At the most recent Special Council Meeting (30 August 2023), approval was given to proceed to the construction phase of the VC Mitchell Park Project. I also approved the 2023/2024 Annual Budget, and an application for an extractive industries licence at Yabberup. Further information is available on the Shire website: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au/news

While there will be Ordinary Council Meetings as scheduled in September and October, these will not deal with any significant issues as the Shire will enter a voluntary Caretaker mode on 14 September. Information on the Caretaker Period, such as what it is and what it means for the Shire and community, is also available on the 2023 Elections webpage in the FAQs: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au/council/council-elections

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