



Advocacy Committee Meeting 16 October 2024

AGENDA

Meeting Notice

Dear Councillor,

I advise that an Advocacy Committee Meeting of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River will be held in Council Chambers, 41 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River on 16 October 2024 commencing at 2:00pm.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. ...", written over a white background.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges we are on Wadandi and Pibelmen Boodja, whose ancestors and their descendants are the traditional owners of this country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelmen have been custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Shire is committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region's cultural, social, environmental and economic future.

SHIRE'S VALUES / PURPOSE

Our Purpose

The Shire of August Margaret River exists for provide, facilitate and advocate for services, facilities and Boodja, to improve quality of life for everyone in our community.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Community
- Excellence

Community Vision

Sustainable, inclusive, connected to place and respecting Boodja.

Our Strategic Goals

Environment

We will protect and enhance the unique natural environment and biodiversity of the region through climate action and informed decision making.

Welcoming and inclusive communities

We will support and strengthen our diverse, resilient, welcoming, safe and connected community through our services and advocacy.

Place

We will responsibly develop vibrant, sustainable places which maintain their distinctive characters, and which supports a local economy that is resilient, equitable and sustainable.

Performance

We will deliver quality governance, service and value with integrity and transparency.

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

This agenda has yet to be dealt with by the Committee. The Recommendations shown at the foot of each item have yet to be considered by the Committee and are not to be interpreted as being the position of the Committee. The minutes of the meeting held to discuss this agenda should be read to ascertain the decision of the Committee.

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- 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING**
- 2. ATTENDANCE**
- 3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
- 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING***

6. REPORTS

6.1. STATE ELECTION ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Location/Address | Shire of Augusta Margaret River |
| Applicant/Landowner | Shire of Augusta Margaret River |
| File Reference | PRL/28 |
| Report Author | Nick Byrne, Director Sustainable Economy and Communities |
| Authorising Officer | Andrea Selvey, Chief Executive Officer |
| Authority/Discretion | Advocacy |

IN BRIEF

- On 28 August 2024 Council resolved to establish the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Advocacy Committee, delegated authority to the committee to communicate or respond to advocacy requests, adopted the Advocacy Committee Instrument of Appointment and Delegations and appointed its members (OM2024/134).
- The Shire of August Margaret River has prepared a list of State Election Advocacy Priorities aligned with our strategic objectives and community wishes which can be provided to candidates and incumbents in the lead up to the State election.

ATTACHMENTS

1. AMR Shire Election Advocacy Priorities [6.1.1 - 9 pages]

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advocacy Committee:

1. Endorses the Shire of Augusta Margaret River 2025 Election Priorities as shown in Attachment 1; and
2. Adopts Shire of Augusta Margaret River 2025 Election Priorities (as shown in Attachment 1) as the focus for Shire advocacy efforts directed toward the upcoming state election.

LOCATION PLAN

Nil

BACKGROUND

On 28 August 2024, Council established the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Advocacy Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION

CR MUIR, CR BINKS OM2024/134

That Council:

1. *Establishes the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Advocacy Committee Pursuant to section 5.8 of the Local Government Act 1995,;*
2. *Delegates to the Advocacy Committee, pursuant to section 5.16 and 5.17 of the Local Government Act 1995, the power to*
 - a) *Instruct the CEO or Shire President to communicate advocacy priorities or respond to priority requests from:*

Our Election Asks

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River has identified a series of pressing challenges that require state government support ahead of the upcoming election. These challenges relate to infrastructure, housing affordability, education, social services, and environmental management. The Shire's advocacy focuses on ensuring the region can continue to grow sustainably, supporting both the local economy and its residents. Below are the specific requests the Shire is asking the state government and election candidates to prioritize:

1. Protecting National Parks:

The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, a key tourism and environmental asset, is under pressure due to increasing visitor numbers and environmental degradation. The Shire requests increased resources for park restoration, expansion of protected areas, improved visitor management facilities, enhanced fire management practices, and state-supported insurance schemes for businesses impacted by natural disasters. These actions are necessary to preserve the park's environmental integrity while supporting tourism.

2. Access to Education and Social Support:

The Shire is facing growing pressure on education and healthcare services due to rapid population growth. Margaret River Senior High School is overcrowded, and the local hospital is struggling to meet current and future healthcare needs. The Shire is seeking investment to expand educational facilities, upgrade the hospital, and improve access to social services. Specific requests include more funding for existing social service providers and investment in local not-for-profits to address the unique needs of the community.

3. Housing Affordability:

Housing affordability is a critical issue in the Augusta-Margaret River region, driven by high property prices, limited housing supply, and low local incomes. The Shire seeks state coordination and investment in infrastructure to support affordable housing projects and key worker accommodation. Priority projects include infrastructure provision for infill development, investment in affordable housing at the Willmott Avenue site, and road infrastructure for a key worker housing initiative at Lot 102 Bussell Highway, Cowaramup.

4. Infrastructure for Economic Development and Growth:

To support economic development, the Shire requests state investment in upgrading sewer systems, expanding the treated wastewater network, and supporting urban infill and industrial development. Additionally, coastal infrastructure improvements are needed to manage tourism pressures and prevent environmental degradation. The Shire is also seeking funding for the Gas Bay to Cape Mentelle coastal infrastructure plan, road safety improvements in Cowaramup, and town centre upgrades in Augusta.

5. Increased Local Government Funding:

The Shire advocates for a review of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) to account for the impact of tourism and non-resident demand on local infrastructure. The Shire is asking the state government to advocate for an increased FAG funding pool, updated indexation methodologies, and the development of more funding programs similar to the LRCIP, but with a modified calculation that reflects the full use of local infrastructure by residents and visitors alike.

These election priorities are essential for addressing the region's immediate needs and ensuring long-term sustainable growth. The Shire urges state politicians and candidates to support these initiatives, which will have far-reaching benefits for both the local community and the broader Western Australian economy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implications, Long Term Financial Plan, Whole of Life Cycle Considerations

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental, Social, Economic, Contribution to 'Net Zero' Targets

Advocacy is the process of influencing others to create change. The aim of the committee is to establish advocacy priorities that encompass a broad spectrum of issues, to deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits for the community.

ADVOCACY

The Shire is committed to advocating on behalf of the community on a wide range of issues. Formalising the Shire's advocacy priorities will enhance and streamline the Shire's overall advocacy efforts.

RISK ASSESSMENT

If the advocacy priorities for the State election are not collated and ranked in order of importance there is risk of fragmented, inconsistent and ineffective advocacy efforts, which may not align with the Shire's immediate strategic goals and objectives.

Formalisation of the Shire's advocacy priorities that can be forwarded to and discussed with candidates for the State election will mitigate these risks by ensuring a coordinated, strategic and accountable approach to advocacy, ensuring efforts align with Shire priorities and community needs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advocacy Committee:

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7. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING