

SHIRE OF KENT

ANNUAL REPORT



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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SHIRE SNAPSHOT





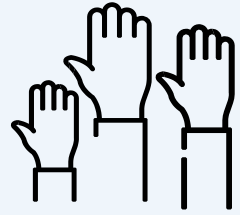
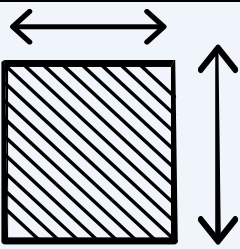
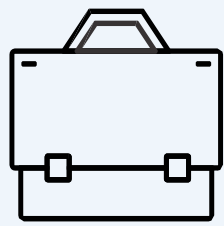

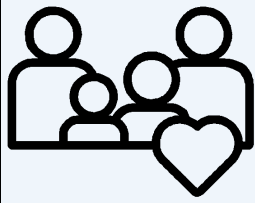

				
\$61.8 Million How Much We Contribute to the Great Southern's Gross Regional Product	143 Local Businesses	340 Dwellings	3,539 sq km Total Agriculture Holdings	39 Median Age
				
5,634 sq km Total Land Area	464 People Are Employed	365mm Average Annual Rainfall	SAFE + most livable town regional town in WA	524 Population



Photo by Darren Gray, Firestick Photography

VISION & MISSION

Vision

A proud, inclusive and growing community.

Mission

We demonstrate proactive leadership; work cooperatively with others; facilitate sustainable opportunities for our community and we are an employer of choice.



SHIRE PRESIDENT & CEO MESSAGE

As we reflect on the 2023/2024 financial year, we are proud to highlight the Shire of Kent's continued progress in building a sustainable, prosperous, and thriving community. This year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and together, we have worked towards enhancing the well-being of our community, supporting local businesses, and fostering a vibrant future for our Shire.

The Shire Council has focused on strengthening its governance, ensuring that we meet the growing needs of our community while managing resources efficiently. We have made significant strides in advancing key infrastructure projects, promoting economic development, and supporting community programs. Our commitment to a transparent and accountable approach has ensured that we are well-positioned for the future, with a clear vision for growth and improvement.

Notable projects this year include:

- Finalisation of the bridge at the Pingrup Silo Trail
- Shire of Kent Centenary
- Pingrup Centenary
- Completion of the redevelopment at the Pingrup Caravan Park
- Installation of acoustic panels at the Pingrup Hall
- New Shire of Kent logo
- Automatic doors at the Administration Office
- Commencement of 2 new key worker houses
- Night Sky Camera
- Bitumen seal on Range Road
- Gravel sheeting on North Kuringup, Rasmussen and North Needilup Roads
- New banner poles in Pingrup
- Replacement fence at Nyabing RSL Hall
- Gazebo at the Pingrup Cemetery
- 2 x new tanks at the Nyabing Standpipe
- New footpaths

SHIRE PRESIDENT & CEO MESSAGE

Through strong collaboration between Council, community groups, and local businesses, we have laid the groundwork for a stronger, more connected Shire. We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, who continue to make a positive impact on our community every day.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities for growth and development in the coming year. With ongoing strategic planning, we are committed to delivering on the priorities outlined in our Community Strategic Plan 2023-2033, which will guide us in making decisions that benefit the entire Shire of Kent.

We thank all members of our community for their continued support and engagement, and we look forward to working together to make the next financial year even more successful.



Kate Johnston
Shire President



Christie Smith
Chief Executive Officer



ELECTED MEMBERS 2023/2024

Kate Johnston

Shire President

Elected: 2023

Retiring: 2025



Delegate on the following Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee
- Great Southern Treasures
- Great Southern WALGA Zone

Darren Gray

Deputy Shire President

Elected: 2021

Retiring: 2025



Delegate on the following Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Regional Road Group

Proxy on the following Committee:

- Bushfire Advisory
- Recreation Advisory Group

Greg Hobley

Elected Member

Elected: 2021

Retiring: 2025

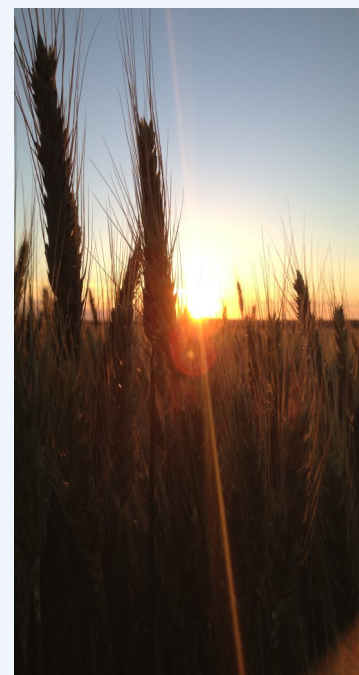


Delegate on the following Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Bushfire Advisory

Proxy on the following Committees:

- Nyabing Sports Club
- Recreation Advisory Group



ELECTED MEMBERS 2023/2024

Scott Crosby

Elected Member

Elected: 2015

Retiring: 2027



Delegate on the following Committees:

- Bushfire Advisory
- Nyabing Sports Club
- Great Southern WALGA Zone

Proxy on the following Committees:

Suma Reid

Elected Member

Elected: 2023

Retiring: 2027



Delegate on the following Committees:

- Pingrup CRC
- Recreation Advisory Group

Proxy on the following Committees:

- Pingrup Ground Improvement
- Regional Road Group

Dustin Harris

Elected Member

Elected: 2023

Retiring: 2027



Delegate on the following Committees:

- Pingrup Ground Improvement

Proxy on the following Committees:

- Pingrup CRC
- Great Southern WALGA Zone



ELECTED MEMBERS 2023/2024

The Ordinary Meetings of the full Council are held at the Council Chambers in Nyabing at either 9:30am or 5:30pm on the third Wednesday of every month, except January.

Members of the public are always welcome, and have the opportunity through Public Question Time to ask questions of the Council.

Persons and organisations that wish to have a matter considered by Council should have all requests for consideration submitted to the Chief Executive Officer at least 1 week prior to the meeting.

In accordance with regulation 19B (f) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the number of council and committee meetings attended by each council member during the financial year is as follows:

Councillor	Gender	Linguistic	Ordinary	Special	Annual
Cr K Johnston	Female	English	11	2	1
Cr D Gray	Male	English	11	2	1
Cr G Hobley	Male	English	11	2	1
Cr S Crosby	Male	English	11	1	1
Cr S Reid	Female	English	8	1	1
Cr D Harris	Male	English	8	1	1

In accordance with regulation 19B(h)(i) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* the structure of the Council is as follows:

Elected Member Structure 2023/2024			
Elected Members aged between 18-24 years old	0	Elected Members aged between 55-64 years old	0
Elected Members aged between 25-34 years old	0	Elected Members aged 65 years and over	0
Elected Members aged between 35-44 years old	1	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Members	0
Elected Members aged between 45-54 years old	5		

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Executive

- Chief Executive Officer
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Manager Infrastructure

Administration

- HR & WHS Admin Officer
- Admin & Property Officer
- Administration Officer
- Customer Service Officer
- Office Assistant
- Finance Coordinator
- Finance Officer
- Creditors Officer
- IT Manager
- Community Emergency Services Manger (CESM)



Works & Services

- Team Leader Construction
- Team Leader Maintenance
- Mechanic
- Construction Maintenance Specialist
- 2 x General Hand/Plant Operators
- 4 x Truck/Plant Operators
- 3 x Maintenance Graders

Regulation 19B – Local Government (Administration) Regulations

The Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 as amended—Regulation 19B requires that the annual report for a Local Government for financial year is to contain the following information:

Number of Employees entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more were as follows:

Annual Cash Salary	Number of Employees
\$150,000 to \$160,000	1

Key Achievements in 2023/2024

COMMUNITY

- New footpaths in Nyabing and Pingrup
- Electronic doors for Administration Office as part of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Installation of speed signs in towns to keep our community safe
- Council’s continued support of community events such as Pingrup Centenary, Pingrup Races Ken Fox Shoot
- Finalisation of Pingrup Pavilion works
- New Gazebo at the Pingrup Cemetery
- Continued support to all Emergency Services volunteers



Pingrup Races

Photo Courtesy of Western Racepix

ENVIRONMENT

- Continued community education and re-sources around waste management
- Participation with local primary school for Keep Australia Beautiful
- Increased Ranger patrols
- 2 new tanks at the Nyabing Standpipe
- Council advocacy around the positive and negative impacts of renewable energy



Key Achievements in 2023/2024

ECONOMY

- Tender award to Modular WA to build 2 new key worker houses for staff housing
- Continued support to local Primary Schools to ensure sustainability
- Redevelopment of the Pingrup Caravan Park
- Continued support to the Great Southern Treasures to encourage tourism in our Shire



Construction of Ongerup-Pingrup Rd Pull Over Bay

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- New community engagement policy
- Monthly newsletter
- Review of communications methods
- Community Strategic Plan Major review



New Fence at Miller's Pond



Monthly Digital Newsletter

STATUTORY STATEMENTS

National Competition Policy

This policy has been introduced by the Commonwealth Government so as to promote competition for the benefit of business, consumers and the economy by removing unnecessary protection of monopolies of markets where competition can be enhanced. It affects local governments as factors such as exemption from company and income tax or possible local regulations and laws may give local government a potential advantage over private contractors. In respect to competitive neutrality, the Shire of Kent reports:

- The Shire of Kent during 2023/2024 did not engage in any significant business activities which generated in excess of \$200,000 annual income. Therefore, the introduction of competitive neutrality under Clause 7 of the policy was not required.
- There is no indication that the Council will become involved in any significant business activities during the next financial reporting period.
- There have been no allegations received by the Council of non-compliance with the neutrality principles.

Freedom of Information Statement

The Shire of Kent welcomes any inquiries for information held by Council. If information cannot be accessed by less formal means, a freedom of information request can be made by contacting the Chief Executive Officer.

It should be noted that some documents are for viewing only and documents cannot be copied which would breach the Copyright Act. No inquiries were received during the 2023/2024 period however and no formal application for information was received. Council's Information Statement is reviewed annually and a copy made available at its Nyabing office for perusal, as required under the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

Complaints Register: Elected Members

Section 5.121 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Annual Reports to contain details of entries made in the Complaints Register regarding complaints made about elected members.

There were no complaints lodged against elected members in the year under review.

Record Keeping Plan (State Records Act 2000)

The last review of the Shire of Kent Record Keeping Plan was completed in 2021 and approved by the State Records Commission on 5 April 2022. Following this review, the Record Keeping Policy and the Elected Member's Record Keeping Policy were completed.

The next review date is due by 5 April 2027.