

Annual General Meeting of Electors

Minutes

17 December 2024

Pursuant to Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a General Meeting of Electors is to be held within a local government district once every financial year.

Meeting advertised for public information as follows:

- Bunbury Herald 'City Focus Column on Tuesday 4, 11 and 17 December 2024.
- Notice posted on notice boards in the City's Customer Service Centre, City Library and Withers Library between 27 November and 17 December 2024.
- Notice posted on City's website between 2 and 17 December 2024.
- Notice posted on City's social media account (Facebook) between 2 and 17 December 2024.



CITY OF BUNBURY
4 Stephen Street
Bunbury WA 6230
Western Australia

Correspondence to:
Post Office Box 21
Bunbury WA 6231

1.	Welcome by the Mayor.....	3
2.	Record of Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
3.	Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024	3
	3.1 Mayor’s Report 2023/2024.....	3
	3.2 Acceptance of Annual Report 2023/2024.....	3
4.	Business of the Meeting.....	4
	4.1 Questions of Which Notice Has Been Given.....	4
	4.2 Questions from Electors at the Meeting.....	5
	4.3 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given.....	9
	4.4 Motions from Electors	10
5.	Closure	10

1. Welcome by the Mayor

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:00pm, welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Electors.

2. Record of Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence

City of Bunbury Representatives

Mayor Jaysen Miguel, Presiding Member
Alan Ferris, Chief Executive Officer
Aileen Clemens, A/Director Infrastructure
Greg Golinski, Manager Governance
Liam Murphy, Governance Officer
Jason Lynam, Manager Communications and Place Activation

Community Members

Linton Hodsdon; Cr Ben Andrew; Cr Tresslyn Smith; Jon Byles; Bernhard Bischoff; Jane Anderson; Kevin Bird; Ruth Bird; Brian Rettinger; Allan Mitchell; Mike Fenton; Kath Fenton; Cr Cheryl Kozisek; Rolf Stene; Sonya Dye; Cr Marina Quain; Cr Todd Brown; Garry Calgaret

Apologies

Cr Karen Steele; Cr Michelle Steck

3. Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

3.1 Mayor's Report 2023/2024

The Mayor provided his report for the financial year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 as depicted within the Annual Report.

3.2 Acceptance of Annual Report 2023/2024

Recommendation:	Moved: Karen Turner	Seconded: Bernhard Bischoff
------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------------

The Annual Report of the City of Bunbury for the year ending 30 June 2024 be received.

CARRIED

4. Business of the Meeting

4.1 Questions of Which Notice Has Been Given

The following persons gave written notice of questions as below. The questions were responded to by the Mayor and CEO.

Jill Lyall – 49 Wilkerson Way, Withers

Question 1

Why does Bunbury have no Emergency Shelter for people experiencing homelessness?

Response

There are both crisis and transitional accommodation facilities that are connected with wrap around services facilitated by local support agencies. Beds, rooms and houses are almost always at capacity however, due to the demand. Crisis Care, Salvation Army, Accordwest, Alliance Housing, Anglicare, Housing Choices can all be contacted for emergency support and assistance. These organisations are expert in their fields and provide a lot of services to our vulnerable community members including health care and essentials like food and clothing. The City of Bunbury works very closely with all these agencies to ensure we are all operating in the best interests of our rough sleepers. Additionally, Accordwest is in the process of constructing a new temporary accommodation building as we speak that will further add to local capacity to provide shelter.

Question 2

Has the Council done anything to document the number of people sleeping rough or in their cars on any given night?

Response

The WA Alliance to End Homelessness has created a survey that is used as a triage tool, to assess the needs and requirements of individuals and families. Support services with trained staff conduct the survey with those suffering from homelessness and have a Bunbury “By Name List”. This list allows the person, or people, to be eligible for housing as well as collecting data and stats that is then de-identified and made publicly available via their website. The City of Bunbury is part of a Rough Sleeper Coordination Group that regular meets and individually reviews every single registered member and collaborates to identify immediate needs and potential accommodation and long-term solutions.

We are all working towards a goal of Rare, Brief and Non-Recurring homelessness in the City of Bunbury and the Greater Bunbury community.

Brian Rettinger – 49 Hakea Crescent, South Bunbury

Question 1

Will the Mayor and CEO (i.e. the City) please give serious consideration to the relocation of the Bunbury Visitor Centre back into its former office in the Old Train Station, as part of a reactivation program for Bicentennial Square and to promote more visitation to Bunbury's CBD?

Response

Stakeholder engagement and work relating to the Visitor Centre and the visitor experience has been completed and was presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 3 September 2024. As a result of this report, Council decided (190/24)

“That Council:

- 1. Agrees to cease the two-location trial and return visitor centre operations to one location.*
- 2. Retains the Museum as the CBD location for the Visitor Centre.*
- 3. Supports the Visitor Centre location to be reviewed once further development and opportunities at Bicentennial Square have occurred.”*

The first two items have been actioned and point 3 of the Council Decision will be actioned once community engagement has been undertaken and revised concepts completed around the proposed Bicentennial Square Precinct.

It should be noted community public engagement is currently occurring around the precinct design Bicentennial Square and you are encouraged to make comment through this avenue. The Community Survey can be accessed through the Community Connect page of the City’

Ruth Bird – 20/11 Casuarina Drive, Bunbury

Question 1

I would like to know if the Tourism Advisory Group set up last October 2023 is still operating. If so what, have been the outcomes? There was a comment early this year that there would be a big announcement mid-year. Has this happened and what was it please in case I missed it.

Response

The Tourism Working Group is established and had its first meeting on 14 December 2023. The group has held six (6) meetings to provide strategic advice during the development of the draft Tourism Plan, along with further inputs and advice where requested with relation to both points 1 and 2 of the Terms of Reference.

The draft plan is due to be recommended for endorsement early in the new year, during which the role of the working group moving forward will be determined. The draft plan will include considerations for the 2025/2026 budget process.

We are very grateful for the contributions of the Tourism Working Group and their strategic guidance in the development of the plan, meeting the outcomes desired as a working group and in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

We are unaware of the announcement to which you refer.

4.2 Questions from Electors at the Meeting

The following persons asked questions at the meeting from the floor. Where questions were taken on notice, the answers are now provided within these minutes.

Mike Fenton - 25 Acacia Street, South Bunbury

Question 1

Page 51 of the Regional Capitals Alliance Western Australia (RCAWA) meeting minutes 19 April 2024 states, "*RCA(VIC) has 28 members currently...*" This RCAWA statement regarding 28 RCA members is false according to RCA's website which listed only 19 councils.

- a) Who supplied that false information to RCAWA Directors Miguel and Ferris?
- b) Was that public, false information circulated and if so, to whom (e.g. State or Federal government officials).
- c) Does the reputation of COB stand to be adversely affected by its exposure to RCAWA?

Response

The question was taken on notice with a response now provided as below:

The question around membership numbers is best directed to RCA. The City's reputation is not expected to be adversely affected through its association with RCA.

Question 2

Why is an RCA Inc VIC bad debts transaction-record of \$8,800 for Bendigo Council published on the Perth based RCAWA web address

Response

The question was taken on notice with a response now provided as below:

That is not a question for the City to answer but rather RCA.

Question 3

Bunbury was a financial member of RCA Inc VIC till 30th June 2024.

- a) Why is the CPA signed Midwest Financial Auditor's Report 30th June 2024 not disclosed within the RCA Annual Report published last week?
- b) RCA's 30th June 2024 Profit and Loss published last week lists Donations of \$380,000 which is \$190,000 more than last years' Membership Receipts?
 - What is the nature of this additional \$190,000 income and from where was it sourced?

Response

The question was taken on notice with a response now provided as below:

That is not a question for the City to answer but rather RCA.

Question 4

Can Council consider rationalising the use of ratepayer funds on the matter of homelessness, as this is a State Government issue?

Response

The question was taken on notice with a response now provided as below:

People experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness are among Australia's most socially and economically disadvantaged. To support Australians at risk of or experiencing homelessness, governments across Australia fund housing and homelessness services. These services are mainly delivered by non-government organisations, including those specialising in delivering services to specific target groups and those providing more general services to people facing housing crises. More information on Homelessness and Homelessness Services can be found at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/homelessness-and-homelessness-services>.

Reducing the number of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is a priority for the State Government with all activity and investment being guided by [All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030](#) (the Strategy). To progress the priorities of the Strategy and improve accountability and transparency, a Ministerial Homelessness portfolio was created in 2022 to collectively achieve better outcomes for people experiencing, or a risk of homelessness. To break the cycle of homelessness requires collaboration across state and local governments, community organisations including Aboriginal organisations and elders, to ensure there is adequate housing, appropriate health services and other support services. Information from the Office of Homelessness can be found at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/office-of-homelessness>.

The City is part of the South West Chapter of the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness. The Alliance is made up of agencies and organisations involved in homelessness and includes: The City of Bunbury; Anglicare; Accordwest; Housing Choices (DM100 model); and the Rough Sleepers Coordination Group. All these organisations work together to identify those sleeping rough and determine what wraparound services they need and work to get them into housing. Further information about the Alliance can be found at: <https://aaeh.org.au/atoz>

By acknowledging the humanity of homeless individuals and offering support without judgment, we can contribute to a more compassionate and inclusive society. It's not just about what the City says but the sincerity behind our actions that can make a difference in people's lives. The City understands that all residents within the City of Bunbury should be treated with compassion and understanding, and whilst the state government are the level of government provided with funding to help counteract homelessness, the City has a role to play to help enable this to happen.

An item was also presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 October 2024 titled *City of Bunbury advocacy in relation to homelessness, domestic violence and safety*. The Minutes of this meeting can be downloaded at: <https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/live/your-council/meetings-and-minutes>.

Jane Anderson – 40A Prince Philip Drive, South Bunbury

Question 1

What is the status of Council advocacy to the Minister of Homelessness and Housing for a much needed homeless shelter in Bunbury?

Question 2

What is Bunbury going to do to help alleviate these dangerous weather conditions for these vulnerable people?

Response

The Mayor responded to both questions together.

Council recently passed a motion to advocate to the Minister and a letter has been sent. A report was presented to Council at the 15 October 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting which outlined what the City is currently doing in relation to homelessness, domestic violence and safety. The Minutes of this meeting can be downloaded at:

<https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/live/your-council/meetings-and-minutes>.

The City is a member of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness and the Rough Sleepers Coordination Group.

The City has particularly focused on what we can do in the housing space. Through the Housing Solutions and Homelessness Working Group, and in consultation with the Department of Communities, the City is working towards creating opportunities for development to increasing housing options in Bunbury. There are various developments currently underway including Glen Iris, Tuart Brook, infill, and other land rationalisations including the sale of the old Punchbowl Caravan Site.

The City's Community Safety team go above and beyond and have recently presented at a forum in Fremantle to discuss what the City is doing in this space.

The CEO acknowledges that there is a lot of work to be done, however the City is working with service providers to find solutions to address the issue.

Jon Byles, 40A Prince Philip Drive, South Bunbury

Question 1

Would the City consider a scholarship to help those who are vulnerable and struggling to find work to upskill themselves?

Response

The City considers matters to do with finance/budgeting during its budget deliberations between March and June each year

Brian Rettinger – 49 Hakea Crescent, South Bunbury

Question 1

How will the City address the impact of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) and keep visitors coming to Bunbury?

Response

Mayor: An immediate response in this space is to look at events which will increase visitation in the short term, such as the AFL games which will be played at Hands Oval. The tourism plan will come in early 2025 with budget recommendations in this space which will assist in the interim.

The City will continue to look at the next significant infrastructure programs and place activation which will increase visitation to the City. There are currently business cases for an Ocean Pool and a new Art Gallery, and other business cases being worked on to identify what major infrastructure asset will best service the community, and increase visitation to the City.

CEO: The AFL games will be a major drawcard to the City. There are commercial opportunities and potential land development to take place around Back Beach, additional to the proposed ocean pool. The CEO has been finalising the sale of LOT3 Blair Street, next to the BREC which is for a proposed 5 Star Hotel. This will be a massive drawcard for the City and provide opportunities around Bicentennial Square, the Inlet and the CBD. The City has also been working with the Government to work through the impact of the BORR.

There is a lot that the City is currently working towards, however there is still much work to be done.

Garry Calgaret – 74 Barton Drive, Australind

Question 1

In relation to the proposed cultural centre near the inlet, can a new location be considered or can we make sure that the mangroves are well protected?

Response

The Mayor noted that this is currently not a City project and can not make comment at this time.

Question 2

What more can the City do to address homelessness?

Response

The question was taken on notice with a response now provided as below:

An item was presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 October 2024 titled *City of Bunbury advocacy in relation to homelessness, domestic violence and safety*. The Minutes of this meeting can be downloaded at: <https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/live/your-council/meetings-and-minutes>. This report advises:

“Other ways that the City is working to help break the cycle of homelessness include:

- *Forming the Housing Solutions and Homelessness Working Group in an aim to increase housing options in Bunbury. The City is working towards creating opportunities to utilise undeveloped land to increase housing.*
- *Council endorsed the City’s strategic advocacy priorities at the end of September, which includes advocating for increased investment in infrastructure, services and land releases to enable housing options in Bunbury.*
- *Becoming a member of the Rough Sleepers Coordination Group which is facilitated by the WA Alliance to End Homelessness. Locally, some of the City’s Community Wellbeing team meet fortnightly with the group to collaborate and share information with the view of helping vulnerable people in our community.*
- *Working closely with Bunbury local support services including Anglicare, Salvation Army, St Jude’s, Accordwest, Housing Choices, Department of Communities: Housing, In Town Centre, Doors Wide Open, and many more. These groups along with the City meet regularly to discuss ideas, people, cross-service or wrap-around assistance, and collaboratively communicate and work together to try to assist those suffering in our community.*
- *The City is part of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness strategic group, which meets regularly to discuss and tackle issues facing particular demographic groups or current issues one at a time, in an aim to reduce homelessness numbers. The group’s current focus is mental health within the homelessness space.*
- *The City will have panel representation at this month’s Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH) summit in Fremantle. The Australian Zero Homelessness Summit 2024 brings together organisations, communities and individuals committed to ending homelessness. International and local practitioners who are working hard to end homelessness in their local municipalities will be presenting with the agenda focusing on ‘Ending Homelessness: how do we bring local government to the table?’*
- *The City of Bunbury Rangers Team and Community Safety Team are developing a procedure for managing rough sleeper service requests, that focuses on increasing empathy and understanding of individual circumstances and histories. The procedure also aims to help define the differences between Homelessness, Anti-Social Behaviour, Mental Health and Medical Incidents and Illegal Camping. The lines can often seem blurry to community members so the City is trying to change the lens to ensure service requests are managed properly and people receive the appropriate response and assistance.”*

Jill Lyall – 49 Wilkerson Way, Withers

Question 1

What more can the Council in the short term to address the homelessness issue?

Response

The Mayor indicated that previously explanations have been provided this evening as to what the City is doing/has done regarding homelessness (See response to question 2 of Garry Calgaret’s question above)

The City will continue its work in this space with compassion and understanding.

4.3 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given

Nil

4.4 Motions from Electors

Nil

5. Closure

The Mayor closed the meeting at 5:53pm thanking those in attendance for their contributions.

Confirmed this day, 4 February 2025 to be a true and correct record of proceedings of the City of Bunbury Annual General Meeting of Electors held 17 December 2024

Jaysen de San Miguel
MAYOR