ECHO NEWS

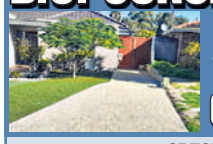
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Filming to save the Jarrah Forest

P11



Bennett Brook clearing concerns

P3



Car convoy rallies behind assault victim

P10





Next generation of rugby

The Ellenbrook Vipers Rugby Union club will hold a community event to provide more opportunities and pathways for female rugby players. P 19

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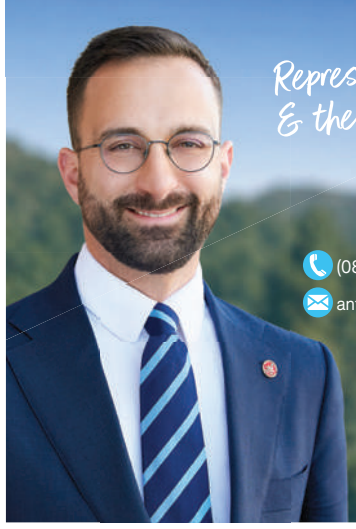
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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Backyard Buddies

Your monthly guide to pests, weeds and diseases

The Season for Giving (Responsibly)



Examples of inappropriate items to post or carry interstate: bee products including honey and beeswax candles, homemade dried fruit and plant materials, and fresh produce.

The holidays are a time for giving, travelling and spending time with loved ones. Unfortunately, this season also sees a spike in biosecurity breaches. The good news – we can still show our friends and family we care, without compromising our enviable biosecurity status.

Western Australia is subject to some of the strictest biosecurity measures in the world; our geographic isolation means we have been able to avoid many of Australia and the world's worst pests, weeds and diseases. However, this natural advantage is very much tested during the festive season. Every year, well-meaning travellers and gift-givers accidentally break the rules. Fresh fruit, vegetables, seeds, live plants, and bee products are frequent culprits. Quarantine WA officers intercepted more than 54 tonnes of quarantine risk material from travellers entering the state in the 2025-26 period.

Over the past year, inspectors seized more than three tonnes of honey alone. While a jar of artisanal honey might seem like the perfect gift, it poses a significant threat to WA's disease-free bee populations. Even more surprisingly, officers found some curious hauls in airport luggage, including a whopping 50 kilograms of fresh chillies and 18.5 kilograms of mud crabs! It isn't just airline passengers who need to be mindful. As festive care packages peak, our postal services become a vital biosecurity frontline. Last year, nearly 1.3 million interstate parcels were screened at postal facilities across Perth. When you mail plant materials or untreated wooden items, you might be packing more than just holiday cheer.

Worth celebrating, Quarantine WA successfully intercepted 120 imports contaminated with significant insect pests, including mealybugs, leaf miners, aphids, and caterpillars. Additionally, a total of 91 prohibited plant and animal species were stopped at our border and contained before they could impact our environment. The result of these pests slipping through could have been devastating, potentially severely damaging native ecosystems, hurting our primary industries, and costing the state millions in lost export markets.

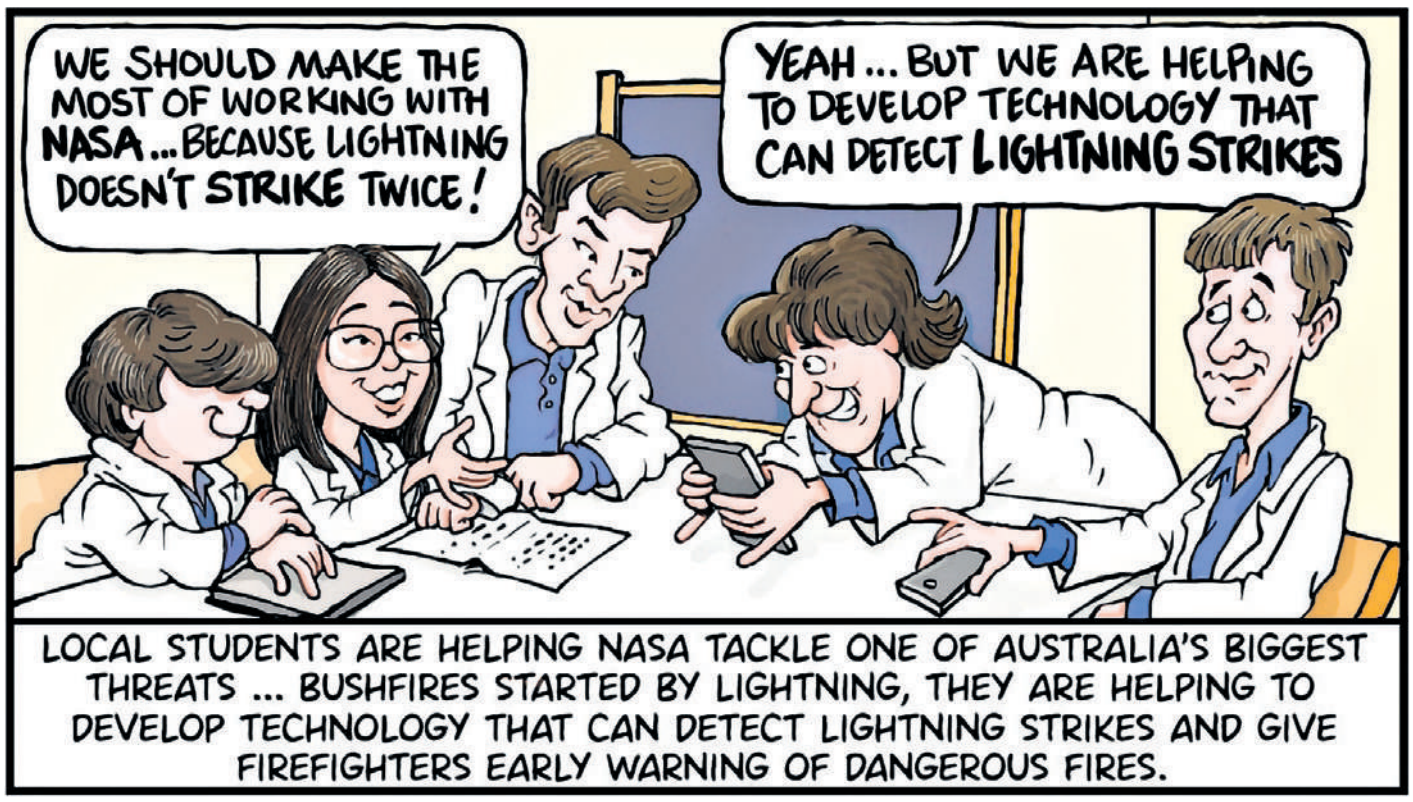
Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of us are doing the right thing. Most biosecurity breaches aren't malicious; they're accidental. Sharing is caring but before you pack your bags or send that Christmas parcel, take a moment to check the State's **import requirements** https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/individuals/what-can-I-bring-into-WA/. When travelling, declare your items; or if you've mistakenly brought something you shouldn't have, drop it in the quarantine bins at the terminal. If you're sending a gift, swap the fresh fruit, plants, seeds, or honey for safe alternatives like commercially packaged chocolates or a good book. Don't forget to remind your loved ones. ***Wishing you all a safe, happy, and biosecurity-conscious lead up to the holidays***.

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ECHO YOUR THOUGHTS

Have your say: editorial@echo-news.com

Thought for the day

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

- Beverly Sills

Bikes and heritage trails

Dear *Echo News*,

You recently published an article titled *e-bike use concerns on Mundaring heritage trail* (*Echo News*, October 9).

On October 23 you printed a letter titled *Limit speed on heritage trail*.

Bicycles and e-bikes limited to 25 kmh while under power are both legal on trails, shared paths, roads etc.

What isn't legal in areas like the heritage trail are modified or de-restricted e-bikes that have the speed limitation removed, and throttle-controlled devices that look like bicycles but don't require pedalling for motion.

These latter are actually motorcycles (motorbikes), and should be named as such (not just lumped into the group named 'e-ridables'), require licenses for both rider and vehicle. All motorcycles are not permitted on the heritage trail.

Tyre and wheel size, and bicycle style (gravel bike or otherwise), are not relevant.

What is relevant, as pointed out in the response letter, is the rider's attitude.

Groups of riders taking the whole trail width (and speeding individuals), frequently treating the trail like a personal race track, are inconsiderate at best and dangerous at worst.

Setting a speed limit is impractical and unlikely to be enforced, unfortunately, so it is almost inevitable that serious injuries will happen.

But it is not just the group riders that are inconsiderate and abusive; group walkers also spread out across the trail, frequently with their eyes on their phones and meandering aimlessly (why bother being there if they're not interested in their surroundings?), and wander into the path of riders then abuse the rider if they are startled.

Unsupervised small children wandering aimlessly, or learning to ride bikes, are also potentially dangerous to riders (and themselves).

Unfortunately self-centred, entitled and inconsiderate people are becoming more common, and cause angst and potentially dangerous situations for ordinary users of the heritage trail.

L Atkins
Parkerville

Ward boundary meeting

Dear *Echo News*,

The City of Swan special electors meeting on Monday, November 9 was an interesting exercise and an unexpectedly wonderful opportunity to observe what appeared to be stacking and stooges in an attempt to sway voting.

The meeting was called by concerned electors in the Midland/Guildford ward, in relation to the deeply flawed 2026 ward boundary discussion paper, all of which could have been very quickly resolved several weeks ago, by the city administration admitting to the unintentional errors and inadvertent non-presentation of all known options, then adjusting the paper accordingly, however the council in its wisdom, appeared to prefer an adversarial path.

It was interesting to hear the mayor instruct attendees that those speaking should not reflect adversely on council members or city employees, but subsequently allow one speaker the freedom to accuse several council members of arranging the meeting in order to gain financially, further accuse them of not attending previous meetings and then give a long and glowing reference to councillor Bowman!

I am of course, absolutely certain it was just pure coincidence, as was the block of people from other wards seated across the front rows, all there, as the show of red cards demonstrated, to disallow the motion.

One erstwhile chap explained that voters were not interested in ward changes, rather they were concerned with the cost of living and keeping council rates down, therefore the motion should be disallowed.

I spent some time door knocking re the motion and my conclusion was that people were shocked and angry at the proposed ward changes, but the weekly strain of cost of living issues, combined with a general disillusionment with politics and politicians on all levels, meant they had given up on even bothering to vote.

However, they were very glad to have their attention drawn to the matter and that people were working on their behalf.

The motion was passed with a very healthy majority, but it may well be a hollow victory, as such motions are not binding on councils and this is not a council historically given to listening to and acting on behalf of electors.

Perhaps the next step, should the council decide that rectifying mistakes and providing all reasonable options to electors is not an option, is for voters to demand early elections across the City of Swan.

G Ross
Swan View

European olives are invasive

Dear *Echo News*,

A Brown's *Olive branch extended* letter is a lovely account of this wonderful plant and its significance to many people across the globe, and I thank them for reminding us of that.

One could write similar letters about other weeds such as Watsonia and especially Arum lilies, both personal favourites of mine due to their lovely flowers.

However, when you get an eye for the ecosystem damage caused by these and many other weeds which get into our bush reserves you can't unsee the devastation they often cause.

This is particularly upsetting when the plant out of place is hard to remove, such as figs or Flinders Range wattles.

European olives are highly invasive weeds in south-west WA.

Birds spread them into bushland where they compete with native plants for light, water and nutrients, and increase bushfire risks through volatile oils.

Left uncontrolled, olives can displace native vegetation, suppress the regeneration of our beautiful wildflowers, and reduce the diversity of native plants.

Olives are particularly difficult to eradicate due to their extensive roots and vigorous resprouting, and they require years of control and follow-up to tackle regrowth and new seedlings.

Gardeners have the right to plant almost anything but will they accept the responsibility to pull them up when they spread?

Please don't say, "Not my problem, that's council land," if your plants are getting away.

MD Jones
Jane Brook
Catchment Group Incorporated

The Echo reserves the right to edit letters for length, legal reasons or clarity. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Echo. All letters must contain the author's full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

ECHO News

ADDRESS:
Unit 4/9 The Avenue
Midland WA 6056

Phone: 9374 6666

GENERAL MANAGER / EDITOR
Peter W Lewis 9374 6605
peter.lewis@echo-news.com

ADVERTISING
sales@echo-news.com
Karon McCracken 9374 6610

EDITORIAL
editorial@echo-news.com
Guanhao Cheng 9374 6602
Brayden Mould 9374 6603

PRODUCTION
production@echo-news.com
Liz Rowlands 9374 6613
Maja Pietranik 9374 6613
Brody Pettit 9374 6613

ACCOUNTS
accounts@echo-news.com
Caprice Harries 9374 6604

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Bennett Brook native clearing concerns

GUANHAO CHENG

A PROPOSED telecommunications tower near Bennett Brook has raised concerns about the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, with a conservation volunteer questioning the accuracy of information provided in a clearing application.

Friends of Bennett Brook member Emily Hethey said the proposal threatened years of revegetation work along an ecological corridor connecting Whiteman Park to the Swan River.

BMM Group Pty Ltd has applied to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for permission to clear 0.14ha of native vegetation at Lot 200 on Deposited Plan 63095 to construct a telecommunications facility.

Ms Hethey, who has worked with the friends group since 2012, said her knowledge of the area had led her to question several details in the application.

"The inaccuracy in their application is one thing," she said.

"I've done a lot of work around that area, so there's a lot of inaccuracies, I believe, in what they've put into their application."

Ms Hethey questioned the application's description of Bennett Brook as being between 350m and 500m east of the proposed clearing area.

"There's a bridge over the brook, 50m from where the proposed site is," she said.

She also raised concerns about photographs used to illustrate the proposed cable installation area, arguing they did not adequately represent existing vegetation.

Ms Hethey said vegetation planted during a community planting day around 2006, attended by about 140 volunteers, could be affected.

She said flora surveys also appeared to have missed pink fairy orchids growing within the proposed clearing area, where she had previously counted about 40 plants.

Beyond the vegetation itself, Ms Hethey said the area provided important habitat for native wildlife.

She reported regularly observing quenda foraging near the proposed clearing area and had photographed their tracks during a recent site visit.

Ms Hethey also identified the corridor as important for Carnaby's black cockatoos travelling between Whiteman Park and the Swan River.





Friends of Bennett Brook planting seedlings at Gardenvale Entry and Lord Street revegetation sites earlier this year. Pictures: Friends of Bennett Brook

"One of our concerns, for me, is, oh, this gets approved, and then there's another bit approved there, and another bit approved there," she said.

"And then the ecological value disappears altogether."

She said years of volunteer revegetation work had helped improve habitat along Bennett Brook, including areas where she had since observed evidence of rakali, or native water rats.

Ms Hethey said about $200,000 had been invested in revegetation work over the years, alongside thousands of volunteer hours.

In *Hills' groups to benefit from latest environment grants* (*Echo News*, February 27) Friends of the Bennett Brook received nearly $20,000 to improve biodiversity and water quality in the Bennett Brook Reserve.

Ms Hethey said clearing established vegetation also risked undermining the efforts of volunteers who had helped restore the area.

"It devalues the people that are working so hard, and what they have done," she said.

Her concerns have been compounded by recent clearing associated with Reid Highway works, where she said another revegetation area had been removed without the friends group's knowledge.

"We turned up the other day to do some work in our revegetation area and it's gone. It's been bulldozed," she said.

Ms Hethey questioned why the telecommunications facility had been proposed within Bush Forever site 305 rather than on previously degraded land.

"Why a site within a Bush Forever site was chosen over more suitable sites that are degraded?" she said.

"Why are you destroying marri trees, and the black cockatoo foraging habitat, in this very important linking corridor, when there are alternatives?"

She said replacing cleared vegetation was not necessarily straightforward, particularly for orchids and other native species that were difficult or expensive to source.

"When you take plants out, you cannot replace them," she said.

DWER has listed the clearing application for public comment until November 23.

A DWER spokesperson said application documents are made publicly available.

Cont. p16.

Ellenbrook plans approved despite fear over drainage

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) approved changes to the North Ellenbrook East District Structure Plan (DSP) despite renewed concerns about groundwater management and potential environmental damage.

At its November 11 meeting, the commission endorsed amendment 1, which identifies an additional 18.1ha of potential local reserves to protect environmentally significant areas, including black cockatoo habitat.

The amendment also identifies potential road network upgrades, with further investigations to be undertaken during subsequent planning stages.

Swan Communities Environment Alliance vice-chair Jan Zeck urged commissioners to reconsider existing drainage strategies, warning that similar approaches had contributed to groundwater problems across the southern Swan urban growth corridor.

"In high groundwater areas, such as these floodplains associated with the Swan Canning River system, where Bassendean sands overlie impervious Guildford Formation clay, current methodologies and technologies are failing," she said.

Ms Zeck said authorities failed to adequately account for similarities between the geological conditions in North Ellenbrook and suburbs further south.

She said existing drainage strategies had not been sufficiently monitored, reviewed or adapted following development.

"What is actually happening is no oversight, little scrutiny, and limited compliance," she said.

"Developers are implementing development with minimal governance and passing flawed infrastructure onto local governments to deal with."

Ms Zeck said the consequences were ultimately borne by residents and ratepayers.

"It is the local ratepayers and residents carrying the cost and burden of living with the consequences," she said.

Another deputation raised concerns about the potential impacts of drainage infrastructure and road development on environmentally sensitive areas, arguing that stronger protections were required before local planning progressed.

Swan resident Ingrid Mulder welcomed the additional proposed conservation areas but questioned whether their designation as local reserves would adequately protect black cockatoo habitat and ecological corridors.



Areas south of the North Ellenbrook East District Structure Plan have experienced severe flooding which residents fear may reappear in the new district set for development.

She also raised concerns about vegetation clearing that she said had already occurred within areas proposed for retention.

CLE Town Planning associate planner Alex Jarvis supported the amendment, saying it would implement environmental protections recommended through an earlier Environmental Protection Authority process.

He said more detailed water management investigations would accompany future local structure plans.

Responding to the deputations, planning officers maintained that the existing district-level water management framework was appropriate and provided sufficient guidance for subsequent planning stages.

They said further assessments would address drainage, groundwater management and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Commissioners acknowledged the concerns but supported the additional environmental protections introduced by the amendment.

WAPC commissioner Ray Haeren said many of the detailed matters raised during deputations would be addressed through future local structure plans.

The recommendation was carried unanimously by the WAPC.

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Students join with NASA to fight fires from space

THEY haven't even finished high school yet, but local students are already helping NASA tackle one of Australia's biggest threats: bushfires started by lightning.

Students from Ellenbrook's Holy Cross College, Swan Christian College, Governor Stirling Senior High School, Ballajura Community College and Malaga's Al-Ameen College have joined 21 other schools in Edith Cowan University's (ECU's) IGNIS internship program, a unique STEM initiative giving teenagers the chance to gain hands-on experience of a real international space mission.

The students, from years 8 to 11, are working with NASA scientists, aerospace experts, ECU School of Engineering academics and Aboriginal rangers, helping to develop technology that can detect lightning strikes and give firefighters earlier warning of dangerous fires.

Lightning causes hundreds of bushfires across WA each year, many in remote regions which can burn undetected for days.

Students have been building mini weather stations in their classrooms to collect environmental data such as temperature, soil moisture, and humidity which help predict conditions that lead to lightning-triggered bushfires.

They've also been given a taste of university life through a series of on-campus IGNIS workshops and mentoring sessions.

ECU deputy vice-Chancellor (Research) and IGNIS mission leader Professor Paulo de Souza said the project has the potential to transform bushfire prediction and save lives.

"IGNIS harnesses space technology to tackle one of Australia's most pressing challenges," Professor de Souza said.

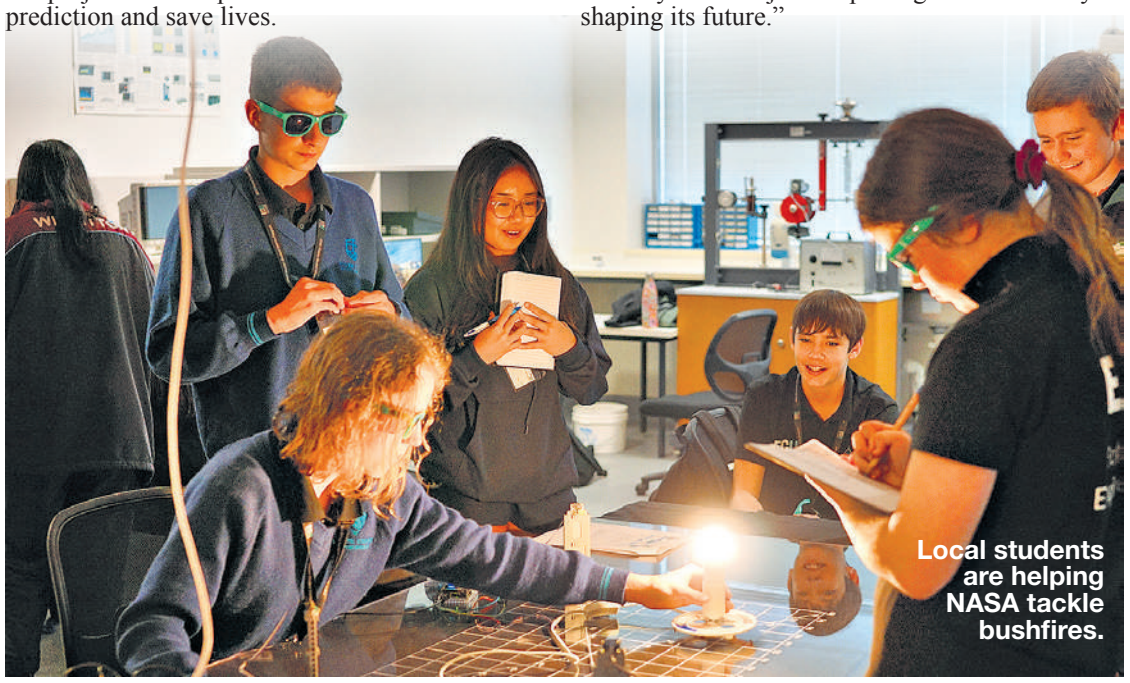
"This pioneering work will give us vital insights into fire prediction and community safety, providing research data for global scientists and fire investigators. It has the potential to save thousands of lives around the world."

The IGNIS mission is a landmark collaboration between ECU, NASA and leading Australian universities, with ECU the only WA university involved.

The program will culminate in a graduation ceremony on November 30, where students will be recognised for their contributions to the IGNIS mission with certificates and NASA-linked acknowledgements.

"IGNIS is about empowering students to use their creative thinking, develop solutions for real-world problems and see themselves as part of something bigger," Professor de Souza said.

"They're not just exploring STEM. They're shaping its future."



Local students are helping NASA tackle bushfires.

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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WAPC Western Australian Planning Commission

Open for Public Comment

Draft Station Precincts Improvement Scheme No.1

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) is seeking public comment on draft Station Precincts Improvement Scheme No.1.

The draft Station Precincts Improvement Scheme No. 1 is a State Government initiative to provide a coordinated planning framework for eight metropolitan station precincts:

Bassendean, Carlisle-Oats Street, Claisebrook, Cottesloe, Glendalough, Morley, Mosman Park and Swanbourne. It sets out proposed zoning, residential densities, building heights and other planning requirements that will guide how each precinct can change over time.

Community drop-in sessions are being held at the following locations:

Station precinct	Date/time	Location
Claisebrook	Monday 16 November 2026 12pm – 3pm	IGA Local Grocer East Perth (Outside) 81 Royal Street, East Perth
Mosman Park	Tuesday 17 November 2026 4pm – 7pm	Alexandra Hall, St Luke's Anglican Church 16–18 Monument Street, Mosman Park
Bassendean	Wednesday 18 November 2026 4pm – 7pm	Bassendean Library Meeting Room 2 46 Old Perth Road, Bassendean
Swanbourne	Saturday 21 November 2026 1:30pm – 4:30pm	The Resurrection Church Hall 105 Shenton Road, Swanbourne
Morley	Tuesday 24 November 2026 9am – 12pm	Bayswater Waves, Corner Broun Avenue and Priestley Street, Embleton
Cottesloe	Thursday 26 November 2026 4:30pm – 7:30pm	The Grove Library Community Centre 1 Leake St, Peppermint Grove
Carlisle-Oats Street	Saturday 28 November 2026 9am – 12pm	AquaLife 42 Somerset Street, East Victoria Park
Glendalough	Monday 30 November 2026 3pm – 6pm	Glendalough Village Shopping Centre Jon Sanders Drive, Glendalough

Information can be viewed online at **www.haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au/stationprecincts-is** or in person by appointment at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Level 2, 140 William Street, Perth.

Submissions are open from **Thursday 5 November** to **Friday 12 February 2027** and can be lodged online or posted to: **Precincts and Projects, Locked Bag 2506, 140 William St, PERTH WA 6001**. Late submissions may not be considered.

DPLH_32110

Be ready for bushfires: DFES

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to 'Join the Ready' in the lead-up to summer, as a dry landscape and warming temperatures trigger an increased bushfire risk across southern parts of the State.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) this week launched its new multi-hazard campaign Join the Ready, drawing on quintessential Australian humour and scenery to reinforce that being prepared is simply the WA way of life and individual actions help make our communities safer.

By downloading the Emergency WA app, creating an emergency plan and setting watch zones for key locations, people can ensure they are ready for fast-moving natural hazards before they happen.

Clearing gutters, packing an emergency kit and keeping greenery tidy are other important steps households can take to protect their families, neighbours and communities all year round.

Parts of southern WA have experienced very low rainfall over winter which will contribute to a heightened bushfire risk as the landscape dries out.

Severe soil moisture deficits in forest areas across the south west are also a watchpoint.

DFES has invested significant time and resources into preparations for the high-threat period, including allocating around 120 extra firefighting appliances across southern WA.

More than 80 activities and exercises are underway to ensure career and volunteer personnel are well-equipped for the challenging months ahead.

The state government has delivered 12 new fire stations over the past two years and more than 100 new appliances this year, ensuring emergency services personnel have the best facilities and equipment possible to protect their communities.

There were 2936 bushfires across the southern half of the State between November 2025 and April 2026, burning 398,532 hectares. More than 45 reached emergency warning level where lives and homes were under threat.

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said more than 93 per cent of Western Australia is bushfire-prone yet our latest research shows only 22 per cent of people across Perth and southern WA feel prepared for a bushfire.

"Signs are pointing to another challenging season. We've had a very dry winter across southern WA and temperatures will be warmer than usual heading into summer.

"Our firefighters do an incredible job protecting lives and homes but we need the community to play their part and take some simple steps to get ready now before an emergency hits."

Emergency Services Minister Reece Whitby said the 'Join the Ready' campaign encourages Western Australians to utilise Emergency WA's world-leading technology and prepare now for a range of hazards including bushfires, storms, cyclones and floods.

"We know the vast majority of people who engaged with the DFES bushfire campaign last year took at least one step to be better prepared and this new campaign will build on that success as we head into the busy summer period.

People are urged to visit the Emergency WA website or download the app to make an emergency plan and stay up to date with alerts and warnings in your area.

York backs data centre safeguards

GUANHAO CHENG

THE Shire of York has backed a statewide local government advocacy push calling for stronger planning controls on data centres.

At its October ordinary council meeting, York councillors unanimously supported a recommendation seeking stronger data centre safeguards for regional communities.

The advocacy push originates from Western Australian Local Government Association's (WALGA) draft data centre advocacy position.

WALGA released its consultation paper on October 9, identifying gaps in the state's existing planning framework as demand for data centres grows.

The association said existing planning frameworks were not designed for modern large-scale data centres, which combine characteristics of industrial, commercial, telecommunications and utility infrastructure.

WALGA's draft advocacy position calls for a coordinated state plan identifying suitable locations, a dedicated land use definition and a data centre planning code addressing community impact.

It also seeks better coordination of electricity, water and telecommunications infrastructure, while considering the cumulative impacts of developments on industrial land and employment areas.

Councillor Monique Hutchinson sought clarification after hearing community concerns that the shire was attempting to fast-track a data centre development.

Chief executive Alina Behan said the item concerned WALGA's advocacy to state and federal governments rather than any development application in York.

Ms Behan said councillors had considered WALGA's draft position at a workshop and wanted its proposed controls strengthened, particularly for regional areas.

She said the shire had also consulted experts about data centres, wind farms and renewable energy developments.

Their advice suggested a data centre was unlikely to be established in York under current conditions because of insufficient supporting infrastructure.

"We just don't have the infrastructure to support it at this point," she said.

The recommendation was carried 5-0.

York's position follows similar action in the City of Swan, where councillors unanimously backed Midland-Guildford ward councillor Sarah Howlett's motion on September 9 to develop a local planning policy for future data centre applications.

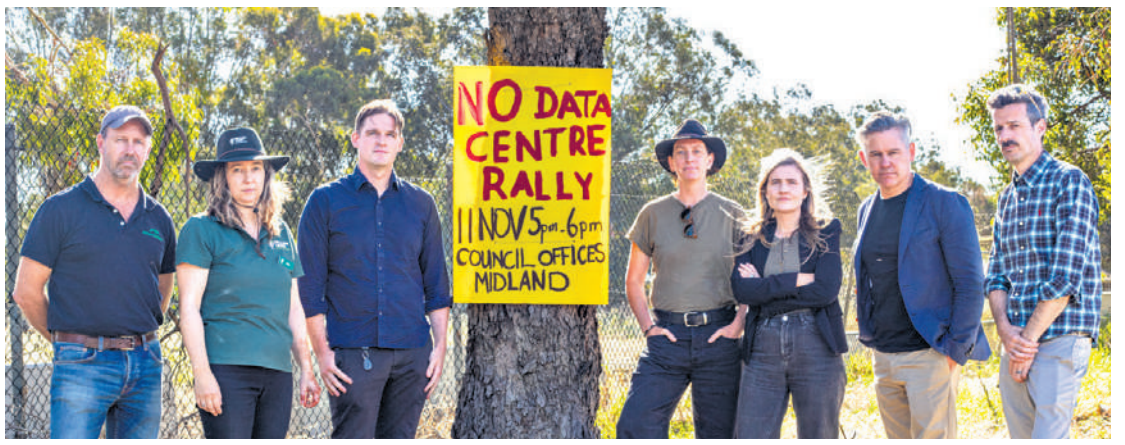
As reported in *Swan backs data centre policy push* (*Echo News*, September 11), Cr Howlett sought planning guidance addressing location, scale, noise, cooling systems, backup generators, environmental impacts and buffers from sensitive land uses.

The motion followed community opposition to a proposed GreenSquareDC facility in Hazelmere, which was withdrawn in May.

"With growth of this scale comes a responsibility to put sensible guardrails in place now so we protect existing communities from incompatible land uses and ensure the long-term interests of the City of Swan are not compromised," Cr Howlett said at the time.

She said the motion was not intended to stop investment but to ensure developments occurred in appropriate locations and under suitable conditions.

WALGA's consultation paper also identifies the withdrawn Hazelmere proposal as an example of how noise impacts and community concerns can become significant factors in data centre assessments.



Trillion Trees president Paul Barber, nursery manager Kate Herren, MLCs Tim Clifford, Jess Beckerling, Sophie McNeill and Dr Brad Pettitt with Murdoch University Mineral Policy Institute's Gwenaël Velge.

Greens call for moratorium on data centres

THE Greens (WA) have called on the state government to immediately impose a moratorium on new AI data centre projects, as poorly planned proposals pop up throughout communities in Western Australia.

The move comes after US voters overwhelmingly rejected new proposals during the midterm elections with 40 of 41 proposals voted against and US companies now eyeing Australia for expansion.

The moratorium on data centres will demand a clear WA government planning policy on Hyperscale AI data centres to include a requirement for them to run off 100 per cent renewable energy and closed circuit cooling with no external water use.

They also want a specific planning definition for Hyperscale AI data centres, saying they are not just warehouses and storage (the current zoning) and must be in existing light industrial areas, not within 500m of homes or involve the clearing of bushland.

"In WA, there are a number of new hyperscale AI data centres proposed, each without community support, and posing significant risk to the local environment, water supplies and some likely powered by gas and other fossil fuels," a spokesperson said.

Gingerah Energy's Project Meridien in the Kimberley region will be the largest data centre in the state if approved and is proposed to be powered by gas sourced through fracking.

Hazelmere data centre was proposed in October this year, which came five months after residents of the nearby Helena Valley made it abundantly clear they did not want a data centre in their community.

Greens (WA) Planning spokesperson Dr Brad Pettitt MLC said the government is failing to get in the driver's seat on data centres, and as a result communities are being forced to fight against badly placed proposals often relying on gas, not renewable energy.

"Huge data centres are not just warehouses, they need to be given a specific planning definition and closely managed," he said.

"Hyperscale AI data centres have a massive environmental footprint. They're noisy, energy-guzzling industrial monsters that use huge amounts of water.

"Residents like those living in Hazelmere shouldn't continuously worry about when the next data centre could be proposed at their doorstep.

"This community made their opposition to massive data centres known when they successfully blocked GreenSquareDC's planned centre in May this year, only to have another project put forward months later."

Mr Pettitt said it was time the government paused approvals and did some serious planning to put communities first.



Funding boost for Koya Aboriginal Corp

PETER W LEWIS

MIDLAND'S Koya Aboriginal Corporation has received a $500,000 Lotterywest grant to deliver the Djaling Koya (Listening to the Frog Call) Project, an initiative designed to strengthen the organisation's capacity and support its sustainable growth.

The project will help Koya build the foundations needed to continue delivering culturally grounded services and respond to the evolving needs of Aboriginal communities across Western Australia.

The grant will fund a range of initiatives, including project staffing, governance and leadership development, community engagement resources, digital communications, monitoring and evaluation, a client relationship management system, and administrative support.

The funds will also improve organisational co-ordination, efficiency and strategic planning, enabling Koya to enhance program delivery, foster new partnerships and strengthen its advocacy for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

A Koya Aboriginal Corporation spokesperson said the organisation was delighted to receive a $500,000 Lotterywest grant to support its Djaling Koya project.

"As a 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned and led community-controlled organisation, Koya has a long and proud history of working alongside Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities, delivering culturally safe programs that promote wellbeing, healing, education, cultural identity and connection to community," they said.



Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch with members of the Koya Aboriginal Corporation.

"This significant investment will enable Koya to strengthen its organisational capacity, develop its workforce, improve its systems and resources, and expand opportunities for cultural learning, community engagement and storytelling.

"Importantly, the grant recognises that investing in the strength and sustainability of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations is also an investment in the communities they serve.

"For Koya, this funding represents an opportunity to build on over 22 years of grassroots community work, ensuring the organisation has the people, systems and resources needed to respond to increasing community needs while remaining firmly grounded in Aboriginal culture, knowledge and leadership."

Established in 2004, Midland-based Koya Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal-owned and led not-for-profit organisation that delivers culturally responsive programs and services that support Aboriginal and vulnerable children, young people and families.

Since 2010, Koya Aboriginal Corporation has received four Lotterywest grants, totalling $978,515.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch said the Koya Aboriginal Corporation has a strong track record of delivering culturally safe and community-led services that make a real difference in the lives of Aboriginal children, young people and families.

"This Lotterywest grant will strengthen Koya's organisational capability, ensuring it has the staff, systems and governance structures needed to continue growing and responding to community needs.

Further information can be found at www.koya.org.au



Lil Miki's Before and After School Care in Forrestfield was recognised at the annual VERA awards.

Forrestfield business honoured for backing volunteer firefighter

BRAYDEN MOULD

A BEFORE and after school care in Forrestfield has been honoured at the 2026 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards for its exceptional backing of emergency service personnel.

Lil Miki's Before and After School Care received the accolade for supporting staff member Katina Sweeney in her role as captain of the Wooroloo Bush Fire Brigade.

Lil Miki's has backed Ms Sweeney for more than three years, covering her shifts during emergency deployments so she can lead her brigade without added workplace friction.

The annual Department of Fire and Emergency Services program highlights organisations across the state that provide operational flexibility and leave arrangements for volunteers.

Forty-seven businesses were celebrated this year across a diverse range of industries, spanning small enterprises to large resource companies.

Emergency services minister Reece Whitby said employers form a vital part of the support network behind every volunteer.

"Behind every emergency services volunteer is a network of support that helps make their services possible and employers are a vital part of that network," he said.

"Volunteering is made possible, in part, by the flexibility and generosity of employers who understand the importance of supporting their staff to serve their communities.

"These businesses play a crucial role in helping keep Western Australia safe and I thank each of the 47 award recipients for the practical support they provide to our emergency services volunteers."



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ECH013112BL

FISH addresses development concerns

GUANHAO CHENG

PROPONENTS of an Aboriginal patient accommodation facility in Henley Brook have responded to community concerns about the proposal, clarifying the development would be privately funded.

Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health (FISH) project manager Kristian Rodd said the proposed facility for Nyiyaparli people travelling from the Pilbara for medical treatment would preserve the Swan Valley's rural character while introducing horticultural activities.

As reported in *Swan Aboriginal patient accommodation plans* (*Echo News*, October 30), the planned facility is not a hospital or a drug or alcohol rehabilitation facility.

Mr Rodd said following the previous report, some commentary they had heard incorrectly suggested the project would be funded by the government.

"It's a private property, purchased by a group of people with their own money, and then developing it with their own money," he said.

The organisation also acknowledged concerns about the potential loss of agricultural land under amendment 16 to the Swan Valley Planning Scheme, which seeks to rezone the property from priority agriculture to special use.

Mr Rodd said its examination of historical Landgate records, dating back approximately 40 to 50 years, indicated the property had not previously been used for productive agriculture.

Instead, the organisation intends to dedicate approximately 20 per cent of the site to horticulture, including the cultivation of native bush tucker and other Australian plants.

The horticultural activities would occupy the lower portion of the property, including land visible from West Swan Road, while accommodation buildings would be positioned on higher ground away from the road.

Mr Rodd said the rural setting was one of the reasons the Nyiyaparli community had selected the location.

"As much as everyone in this region values that aspect of this property, that's exactly what we want to preserve about it as well," he said.

Mr Rodd said FISH intended to retain all existing native trees and remove only invasive vegetation identified through environmental assessments.

The proposed layout would also protect a culturally significant WA Christmas tree, known as a moodjar, and retain trees identified as potential wildlife habitat.



Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health project manager Kristian Rodd says bush ingredients will be grown and showcased at the new facility. Picture: Guanhao Cheng

The development would comprise 10 accommodation units alongside communal facilities and an art studio.

Mr Rodd said the smaller-scale accommodation buildings would be positioned to minimise their visibility from the road and provide residents with a peaceful environment during medical treatment.

Mr Rodd said FISH already met with several community members and welcomed further discussions with residents concerned about the proposal.

"Occasionally, people come to us with concerns on things that we maybe just hadn't thought of," Mr Rodd said.

"By raising those with us, we can almost always find a way of resolving it to everybody's benefit."

This Wednesday, City of Swan council resolved to advise the WAPC the proposed amendment did not comply with the valley's planning act and note the WAPC's invitation for comment on the amendment.

Cr Aaron Bowman, who moved the approved alternate motion, said there was no specific mention of how the FISH proposal integrates with horticulture, viticulture, hobby farming or equestrian activities.

"The amendment provisions would appear to preclude ... a number of agriculture uses that the Swan Valley planning scheme provides for," he said.

Cr Bowman's alternate motion also seeks to advise the WAPC of the precedent it may set which he said may have significant long-term impacts on the valley's character.

New build-to-rent building welcomes Midland residents

WA's largest timber-framed apartment development, Inhabeco Apartments, has begun welcoming residents into 51 new build-to-rent apartments, marking a significant milestone in the revitalisation of the Midland town centre.

Built in 17 months by Bluerock Projects, the rental apartments will be operated by Inhabeco, a WA build-to-rent operator focused on delivering sustainable, rental communities.

Located on the prominent corner of Great Eastern Highway and Tuohy Lane in Midland, the four-storey development provides 51 build-to-rent apartments and 650 square metres of ground floor commercial space, within walking distance of the new Midland Metronet station, shops and amenities.

The development also incorporates a range of industry-leading sustainability initiatives, including a 130kW rooftop solar system, 414kWh battery storage system, embedded electricity network, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, centralised hot water generation, smart metering and integrated digital building services.

Designed to achieve a 7-star nationwide house energy scheme rating, the development will provide residents with comfortable, energy-efficient homes that help reduce household running costs.

Midland MLA Steve Catania said projects like Inhabeco Apartments demonstrate how thoughtful urban infill can help meet housing demand while supporting the continued revitalisation of Midland.



The new Midland build-to-rent apartments.

"More homes in strategic locations close to the Metronet station and town centre will bring more people into the area, activating our public spaces and supporting our local businesses."

Housing and Works Minister John Carey said more builders are embracing alternative construction methods - such as timber frames - delivering more homes, sooner.

"As WA's largest timber framed building, it demonstrates the scalability of alternative construction methods and the pace in which they can be delivered," he said

"This development delivers a substantial boost to housing in the heart of Midland, less than 200m from the Midland station, close to jobs and amenities.

"Through our $120 million Infrastructure Development Fund, Inhabeco Apartments received funding towards the cost of its utility connections - supporting our government's vision for more infill in existing suburbs."



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ECH0020924L

New Brabham centre off and racing

A FLOURISH of a green Grand Prix flag – recalling the triumphs of one of Australia's motor racing legends - signalled the formal opening of Brabham's new District Community Centre.

Designed to host local events for grassroots and not-for-profit organisations, the $8.5 million centre features function halls, meeting rooms, food preparation areas, storerooms and an external function area.

The City of Swan suburb of Brabham is named after Australian racing driver Sir Jack Brabham, who competed in Formula One from 1955 to 1970, including the 1962 Australian Grand Prix held at Caversham Airfield.

Sir Jack won three Formula One World Drivers' Championship titles and 14 Grands Prix across 16 seasons.

The project was made possible by $3.87m in funding through the federal government's 'thriving suburbs' program.

The centre features function halls, meeting rooms, food preparation areas, a storeroom and an external function area, providing a space for residents and community groups to host a wide range of meetings, classes, functions and events.

Brabham, situated in Perth's north east growth corridor is projected to reach 33,000 residents at full build-out, with the new community centre designed to meet the needs of this booming population.

City of Swan Mayor Tanya Richardson said the milestone is a proud moment for the city.



Brabham's new District Community Centre.

"This is an exciting day for Brabham, and we are proud to be delivering on our promise to provide a modern, accessible community space for residents to call their own," she said.

Deputy Premier and Swan Hills MLA Rita Saffioti said she was looking forward to seeing the centre become a major focus for community-based activities in the rapidly growing.

"I am looking forward to seeing the centre become a major focus for community-based activities in the rapidly growing region," she said.

"Facilities such as the centre perform an essential role in bringing communities closer together," she said.

For more information about the 'thriving suburbs' program, visit: www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions/cities/thriving-suburbs-program

Gidgegannup Rustic Farm Art Awards winners

A UNIQUE mix of imagination and inspiration summed up the entries in this year's Rustic Farm Art Awards, judged at the 80th Gidgegannup Show.

With a theme of 1940s to Now, artists were encouraged to explore change, continuity and memories of eight decades of rural life and community connection.

The top prize of the $3500 Bendigo Community Bank Mundaring Overall Award, won with a unanimous vote by the judging panel, was awarded to Mel Costall for their 'A Dog Called Gidge'.

Described as an emotive and beautifully executed response to the theme, capturing the quiet comfort of a much-loved childhood companion, the artwork incorporated a symbolic use of saw blades, referencing Gidgegannup's timber milling history.

Judges were particularly impressed by the dog's restful pose, evoking a sense of home and familiarity.

Highly commended was awarded to Aaron Buckle for 'Sit For A Bit', an artwork which the judges felt provided a thoughtful message, reminding hard workers to take a moment to pause and enjoy the view.

The $1500 Solahart Midland Local Artist Award went to David Elzer for 'Outback Luxury', a fully fabricated piece combining functionality with a simple, balanced composition.



Mel Costall with her overall award winning sculpture 'A Dog Called Gidge.

His considered use of scrap metal detailing was judged to have successfully transformed an everyday object into a celebration of the simple pleasures and comforts of rural life enjoyed in Gidgegannup and surrounds.

Other awards included the $1000 Michelle Maynard MLA Youth Award for 'Highland Cow' by Oliver Duncan, noted as an emerging artist showing great promise.

His artwork combined a well-constructed sculpture with an inventive use of materials, crafting a playful personality.

Highly commended in the youth category was 'Steel Bloom' by Arelle Argus, for bringing organic forms to life through expressive and engaging metalwork and 'Perched Crow' by Dyllon Church, recognised for the impressive skill, quality and finish evident in his work.

Dyllon also took home the $500 Gidgegannup Agricultural Society People's Choice Award.

The City of Swan supported the event and for more information for artists go to www.swan.wa.gov.au/explore-and-do/arts-and-culture

Top awards for Plume Estate at Perth Hills Wine Show

PLUME Estate Vineyards in the Bickley Valley have taken a host of awards at the 2026 Labelmakers Perth Hills Wine Show held at the Jorgensen Park Community Centre in Kalamunda last month.

They scooped the award for their 2025 Sparkling Pinot Noir: Best Sparkling, their second consecutive trophy following the best-in-class success for their 2023 Sparkling Pinot Noir.

Plume Estate, owned by Marcus and Anita Geisler, also took the gold medal for their 2025 Reserve Shiraz Viognier, along with the John Walsh Trophy for Best Shiraz, Chairman's Trophy for best regional character and Wine of Show.

Additional medals were also awarded for their Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir, Verdejo, Chardonnay, Shiraz Viognier, Dreamers Domain Shiraz, Durif and Fortified Durif.

"Our constant hard work and changes in the vineyard has paid off. The entire Plume team is immensely proud that our largest vintage yet has achieved such exceptional results," Mrs Geisler said.

Other major trophy winners include Best Rosé: La Fattoria Perth Hills - 2026 Nebbiolo Rosé, Best White Wine & Best Alternate Varietal: Tonon Vineyard & Winery - 2026 Vermentino, Best Red: Tonon Vineyard & Winery - 2025 Xavier Tempranillo.



Marcus and Anita Geisler with their multiple awards.

Notice of Adoption
Local Planning Policy 1.0

The Council of the City of Kalamunda at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 September 2026 resolved to ADOPT Local Planning Policy 1.0 – Development Assessment in accordance with Schedule 2, Part 2, Clause 4(3)(b)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.

The Council considered the policy and submissions received by the community during the consultation period and resolved to adopt the policy as amended to reflect the themes of feedback from the community.

The policy aims to facilitate improvements to the customer experience for development applications by providing a transparent process and expectations to guide applicants through the complex standards of the planning framework.

The Policy will be published on the City of Kalamunda website www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au.

Anthony Vuleta
Chief Executive Officer

City of Kalamunda

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Feedback called for Bassendean Metronet precinct housing plan

PETER W LEWIS

THE state government is seeking community feedback on its vision to boost the supply of housing through significant upzoning to enable greater infill and density around Metronet stations, including Bassendean, Ballajura and Redcliffe.

The draft station precincts improvement scheme establishes a consistent planning framework to streamline development around Bassendean, Carlisle-Oats Street, Claisebrook, Cottesloe, Glendalough, Morley, Mosman Park and Swanbourne precincts.

Planning for Ballajura and Redcliffe station precincts is progressing under separate improvement schemes.

The draft improvement scheme sets out the proposed zoning, housing densities and building heights, giving communities, landowners and industry a clearer picture of new development opportunities and how these areas could grow over time.

Each precinct has a core area for higher density of up to 20 storeys and a transitional frame area for medium density of two to eight storeys, with minimum density settings proposed to ensure land in these key precincts isn't underdeveloped.

The draft scheme takes a place-based approach, with proposed changes tailored to the qualities and opportunities of each precinct, including responding to local character and heritage, the existing urban form, access to transport and services, and the potential for new housing to be appropriately integrated into each area.

The scheme is accompanied by the draft station precincts heritage policy which protects both existing state and local government heritage listings.

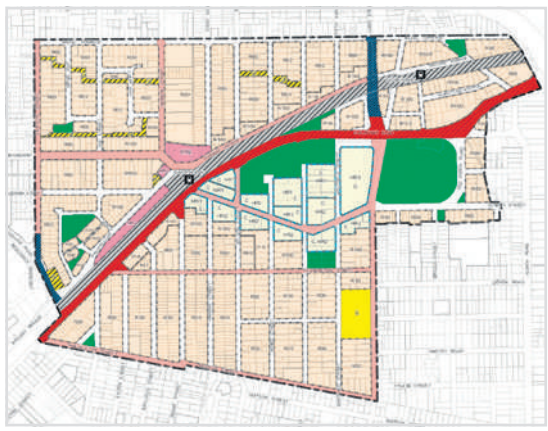
Existing local government planning policies, including those related to tree retention, can be given regard through the scheme.

Feedback is also being sought on a proposed public realm contribution framework for station precincts, which would replace separate requirements for public open space, public art and community benefits.

Drop-in information sessions will be held during the consultation period, with community, local government and industry encouraged to review the draft scheme and supporting documents and provide feedback through HaveYourSayWA.

Public consultation closes on 12 February 2027, with all submissions to be carefully considered before the scheme is finalised in mid-2027.

"Work continues on identifying the next tranche of station precincts, with a further announcement to be made in the new year," a spokesperson said.



Bassendean station precinct improvement scheme No 1.

Transport and Major Infrastructure Minister Rita Saffioti said Metronet had transformed the way people move around Perth.

"Now it'll transform how we deliver more housing for Western Australians. We want to build more homes near train stations and community centres because it just makes sense," she said.

"This is about responsible planning for Perth's future and giving more Western Australians the opportunity to live closer to public transport, jobs and services."

Planning and Lands Minister John Carey said great cities across the globe have long proven that well planned and designed density creates great walkable neighbourhoods, active shared spaces and vibrant communities.

"The Precincts WA program represents our government's approach to significant upzoning in Perth's station precincts, enabling thousands of more homes in well-connected locations, close to public transport, jobs and services.

"This draft scheme gives communities, landowners and industry more certainty, by painting a clearer picture of where and how new development may occur.

"It's about enabling more housing choice in established suburbs, complementing our record investment in new housing and land supply."

A community drop-in session will be held at the Bassendean Memorial Library meeting room 2 on Wednesday, November 18 from 4pm to 7pm.

Feedback can be given by going to www.haveyoursay.dplh.wa.gov.au

Business costs and flooding issues

RISING business costs, flooding and the proposed Bullsbrook prison were among the issues raised with WA Liberal parliamentarians during a recent series of visits across Swan Hills and the Swan Valley.

The visits took place late last month alongside the state Liberal Party's annual conference at The Vines, with members meeting local business owners, residents and community organisations to hear about the challenges facing the region.

Guildford-based MLC Anthony Spagnolo said it was important for his parliamentary colleagues to hear these concerns firsthand.

"One of the reasons I was pleased to have the parliamentary team here was the opportunity to get my colleagues out into the community and see what local businesses and residents are dealing with," Mr Spagnolo said.

"Many of these issues have been raised with my office and in parliament, and it was valuable for other members to hear about them directly."

Parliamentarians visited businesses including Ellenbrook IGA, Wafex Australia and several Swan Valley producers, while a small business roundtable at Mrs Rabbit's Tea Rooms brought local operators together with Shadow Minister for Small Business Steve Martin MLC and Libby Mettam MLA.

At the Rose and Crown Hotel in Guildford, owner Mark estimated the Liberal Party's recently announced payroll tax policy could save his business approximately $21,000 annually.

The Liberal policy would increase WA's payroll tax-free threshold from $1 million to $1.5m, providing tax relief to an estimated 14,500 employers, including 3500 businesses that would no longer pay payroll tax.

"Businesses are facing higher costs across the board, and payroll tax is another expense that makes it harder to grow and employ people," Mr Spagnolo said.

"Labor has left the tax-free threshold unchanged since 2020, despite wages continuing to rise. Our policy would give thousands of WA employers some much-needed relief."



Deputy Liberal Leader Libby Mettam MLA and Shadow Minister for Small Business Steve Martin MLC meeting with local business owners.

The visits also included meetings with Bullsbrook residents concerned about the Cook government's possible conversion of the former quarantine facility into a prison, and representatives of the Swan Communities Environmental Alliance about flooding, drainage and development across the Swan Valley.

Mr Spagnolo joined WA Liberal Leader Basil Zempilas at Providence Lifestyle Village in Henley Brook, while other parliamentary colleagues visited the State Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon.

"Whether it's the ongoing water problems in the Swan Valley or the uncertainty surrounding the Bullsbrook facility, residents deserve clear answers from the state government," Mr Spagnolo said.

"These are issues I have been raising in parliament for some time, and having my colleagues hear directly from the people affected reinforces why we need to keep pursuing them."

Notice of Making of Local Law

Rural and Urban Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2026

***Local Government Act 1995* [s. 3.12 (6)]**

The Council of the City of Kalamunda resolved on 27 October 2026 to make the Rural and Urban Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2026.

The local law has been published in the Government Gazette on 6 November 2026 and comes into operation on Friday 20 November 2026.

Purpose

The purpose of the local law is to manage nuisances arising from the rural, urban and built environment in the district.

Effect

The effect of the local law is that every person and property owner conducting activity governed by this local law is subject to the local law.

The local law is published on the City's website at www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au and can be inspected at the City of Kalamunda Administration Centre at 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda and City libraries during normal opening hours.

Anthony Vuleta
Chief Executive Officer

City of Kalamunda

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- Every effort will be made to minimise disruption and to permanently reinstate affected areas to their previous condition as soon as possible, within 15 working days of completion of works.
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Ellenbrook car cruise rallies behind teen assault victim



Crowds gathered for a community vehicle rally at Coolamon Park before driving down to a nearby retail precinct.

BRAYDEN MOULD

MORE than 100 cars and 25 motorbikes converged on Coolamon Park last week in a massive vehicle convoy, organised to take a firm stand against bulling and violence following an alleged group attack on a 13-year-old boy.

Put together in just 12 hours, the motorcade saw crowds gather before driving to a nearby retail precinct.

Organiser Terry Mason said he quickly mobilised community support after seeing the impact of the incident.

"I knew it was going to be big, just by how my phone was blowing up all night in regard to the posts I put up on Ellenbrook pages," Mr Mason said.

"It was a hell of a lot bigger than we expected which was amazing really."

Supporters and car enthusiasts travelled from south of the river and across the metropolitan area to join the convoy after viewing footage of the attack online.

Footage of the violent incident circulated widely online, sparking widespread outrage and resulting in eight youths being arrested and subsequently refused bail at their first appearances.

Having family ties to the area, Mr Mason said the incident hit close to home after learning his nephew had previously been harassed by one of the youths allegedly involved.

"My brother lives in the area and my nephew was harassed by one of the boys in the video," Mr Mason said.

"So, it really hit home, and yeah it was nice to see the community rally, and that we weren't alone."

The rally was designed to send an unequivocal message about bullying and violence in the community isn't tolerated.

"We don't accept it," Mr Mason said.

"It's just seeming too constant; it just doesn't go down well with me.

"I think having put so much attention on it and community attention on this issue – the government and the courts – it puts pressure on them and tells them this is unacceptable."

Reflecting on the night, Mr Mason described meeting the affected teenager and his family as a humbling highlight.

"The best moment for me was actually meeting him and his parents," Mr Mason said.

"They were so humbled by the community coming together for them.

"He was really in high spirits, and he was blessed to see what the community were doing for him."

Eight charged over Ellenbrook armed robbery

PETER W LEWIS

MIDLAND detectives have now charged a total of eight juveniles in relation to an incident in Ellenbrook on Sunday, November 1 where a 13-year-old male was allegedly assaulted at a reserve on Coolamon Boulevard.

While the investigation remains ongoing there are no outstanding offenders.

Between 5am and 6am, the victim was allegedly assaulted by several juveniles believed to be known to him.

It is further alleged a knife was produced, threats were made and property was stolen from the victim.

The victim received minor injuries and later attended St John of God Midland Public Hospital for medical treatment.

Police became aware of vision of the incident circulating online and commenced inquiries.

Police also understand the incident has caused considerable concern within the community and ask members of the public to remain calm and allow detectives to conduct their investigation.

Members of the community are strongly urged not to take matters into their own hands, threaten retaliation or publish the names, photographs or personal information of people believed to be involved.

In the first arrest Midland detectives charged a 14-year-old with one charge each of aggravated armed robbery and intent to harm, or did an act causing bodily harm.

He appeared before the Perth Children's Court on Friday, November 6 where bail was refused, with the magistrate noting it was an "extremely serious" assault.

The 14-year-old boy was remanded in custody ahead of his next appearance for legal advice on November 27.

At the time detectives identified a number of persons of interest.

As part of the ongoing investigation a further five juveniles were arrested and a 13-year-old girl, two 14-year-old girls, a 16-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy have each been charged with one count each of aggravated armed robbery and did an act causing bodily harm with intent to harm.

They appeared in the Perth Children's Court on Saturday, November 7 with the following outcomes:

- 14-year-old – next listed on November 16 for legal advice.
- 14-year-old – granted bail and next listed on December 16 for negotiations.
- 16-year-old – next listed on November 16 for a bail application.
- 17-year-old – next listed on November 16 for a bail application.
- 13-year-old – listed on November 12 for a bail application.

On Monday, November 9 Midland detectives charged a further two males aged 14 and 15 years with one charge each of aggravated armed robbery and intent to harm, or did an act causing bodily harm.

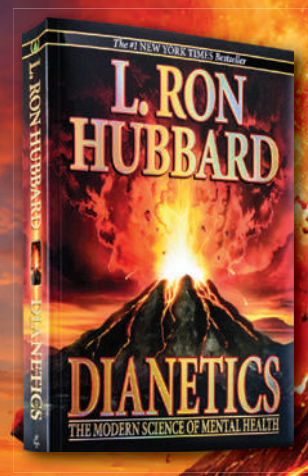
The 14-year-old appeared in the Perth Children's Court on November 9 and is next due to appear on December 9.

The 15-year-old appeared in the Perth Children's Court on November 10 and is next due to appear on November 17.

Both juveniles were remanded in custody.

Anyone with information, mobile phone vision or other material that may assist the investigation is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at www.crimestopperswa.com.au or call 1800 333 000.

Reports made to Crime Stoppers can be made anonymously.

Can buried memories trigger stress without warning?


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Filming to save the Jarrah Forest

RAISING funds late last month with a sponsored bike ride through the Jarrah Forest, documentary maker Jane Hammond is back on track to make two new films to help save it.

Working hand in hand with conservation groups, her previous two films have won scores of international awards and have had an incredible impact.

The first film, 'Cry of the Forests', was instrumental in building the movement that stopped logging in native forests in WA.

The second 'Black Cockatoo Crisis' drew attention to mining and helped garner over 59,000 submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority.

Now she is raising funds for the third and fourth film in the quadrilogy.

Her latest film 'Undermining the Forest' will drill down further into the damage of bauxite mining and the need to protect what she describes as the world's oldest, most biodiverse and most vulnerable temperate forests and the water that it provides to over two million people.

"All of this is at risk if mining expands, and the next year is going to be crucial," Ms Hammond said.

"People power will be essential to help stop any further mining expansion and end all mining in the Jarrah Forest as the government decides if mining should expand.

"The lack of rain and increasing intensity and frequency of heatwaves has already seen huge swaths of the Jarrah Forest die off, and poor seed production has led to severe food shortages for black cockatoos.



Director Jane Hammond with a rehabilitated red tailed forest black cockatoo during filming. Picture: Nancye Miles-Tweedie

"If you want to help, you don't need to ride through the forest at breakneck speed, simply go online and make a donation. Every dollar raised goes towards getting the films made and seen."

To donate go to www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/browned-off/



Abandoned shopping trolleys retrieved from the Avon River and local streets by the Clean Up Northam Community Group.

Northam petition aims to stop abandoned shopping trolleys

BRAYDEN MOULD

THE Northam community is taking a stand against an ongoing epidemic of abandoned shopping trolleys cluttering local streets, parks and waterways, backed by a petition signed by more than 350 residents.

The petition, presented to the Shire of Northam last month, urged council to introduce strict local laws requiring major retailers to implement effective trolley containment systems and enforce prompt collection times.

The document, organised by local volunteer group Clean Up Northam Community, specifically requested council mandate containment measures such as coin locks or geofencing, and requiring retailers to promptly retrieve abandoned units.

The group is calling for urgent action due to the impact on local waterways including the Avon River, where Clean Up Northam representative Sue Rogers said more than 100 trolleys had been removed from the water this year alone.

"This year alone we've pulled 120-plus trolleys out of the river," she said.

"The shire workers cannot do it, and Woolworths trolley collectors aren't able to pick up the ones on the street, there's no way they're going to go fishing them out of the river.

"It's an eyesore in the main street as well, and something needs to change."

The group are advocating for preventative containment measures to protect local amenity, vehicle safety in carparks, and pedestrian pathways.

"We're really trying to promote tourism in town and if nobody pulls them out and it's just ignored, it's going to be terrible for the environment," Ms Rogers said.

"It's just bad for the wildlife and bird life that we have on our river.

"You can blame the people who take them, you can blame the supermarkets, you can blame whoever you want to blame, but at the end of the day it's not a good look and something needs to change."

The petition requests council consider measures requiring retailers to prevent trolleys from leaving shopping precincts, set collection timeframes, establish council cost-recovery mechanisms. Or create enforcement processes for repeated abandonment.

At its October 28 meeting, council unanimously voted to refer the petition to the chief executive officer for consideration, and for a future officer report to be developed and brought back to council for a final decision.



Stratton mother daughter duo fined $8,000 for animal cruelty

A STRATTON mother and daughter, aged 67 and 48, have been convicted of animal cruelty over the younger woman's puppy who was suffering from serious skin and eye infections.

Both were also convicted of failing to comply with a written direction from an RSPCA WA inspector, and the daughter for threatening and abusing an inspector.

The older offender was fined $3000 and her daughter $5000 and each has been banned from being in charge of an animal for two years and ordered to pay $4671 in costs.

Midland Magistrates Court heard RSPCA WA received a cruelty report about the male Shar-pei cross named Brutus in March.

An inspector attended the address and saw 10-month-old Brutus – his eyes were swollen and covered in a thick yellow discharge causing him to squint and struggling to open his right eye. He also had large red lesions all over his body and patches of missing fur.

The older offender was subsequently given a written direction to take Brutus to a vet and follow all advice and instructions.

The order was not complied with and the younger offender confirmed she could take Brutus to a vet and was subsequently issued a written direction to do so, including that all advice and instructions were followed.

Brutus was taken to see a vet, but the required, prescribed medications were not collected or given to the puppy.

The younger offender was told she could surrender Brutus to RSPCA WA if she was unable to meet his needs to which she responded with threats and verbal abuse.

Brutus was subsequently seized and taken to the RSPCA in Malaga. A vet examination found he was suffering from severe, chronic mange; a secondary skin infection from the mange; and a severe, chronic form of entropion which causes the eyelids to roll inwards in both eyes.



Brutus on arrival at the RSPCA.

After extensive treatment by RSPCA WA, including three surgeries for his eye condition, Brutus has since recovered in foster care.

In sentencing, Magistrate Matthew Holgate said Brutus was suffering from "chronic [and] painful" conditions and that the offending constituted "neglect and failure to get that proper treatment for him so he was not in pain".

"Animals can't tell you what their problems are… they rely upon you to look after them."

Inspector Manager Kylie Green said the conditions Brutus was suffering from were extremely serious.

"It's shocking to think how long he was left in such a state, enduring pain and discomfort," she said.

"The physical signs of just how unwell he was were clear for anyone to see – he should have received appropriate treatment long before RSPCA WA stepped in."

Both offenders were convicted under the Animal Welfare Act 2002 and the younger woman was also convicted for abusing and threatening an RSPCA WA inspector.

Stolen Gooseberry Hill motorbikes recovered

FORRESTFIELD Police have charged a 27-year-old man following the theft of two motorcycles armed with tracking devices from a property in Gooseberry Hill between Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20.

Between 7pm and 7.50am the following morning, unknown person(s) forced entry into a residence and stole two off-road motorcycles.

The incident was reported to police, including information that both motorcycles were concealed with tracking devices.

About 8.05am, detectives from Fremantle's rapid high harm offender response team received the tracking information, enabling them to monitor their movements in real time.

Investigations led officers to a residence on Scales Way in Spearwood, approximately 35km from the victim's home.

A short time later, Police Air Wing conducted aerial observations of the Spearwood property and identified what appeared to be motorcycles concealed under a blanket and mattress in the courtyard.

Officers on the ground swiftly attended the scene and located both stolen motorcycles.

The 27-year-old man from Hamilton Hill was arrested and has been charged with possession of stolen or unlawfully obtained property and is due to appear before the Fremantle Magistrates Court on November 23.

The investigation remains ongoing and police are seeking to identify the persons involved in the theft of the motorcycles.

Anyone with information regarding the incident, or the identity of persons involved is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at www.crimestopperswa.com.au where reports can be made anonymously.

This incident highlights the value of fitting tracking devices to valuable property, particularly vehicles and motorcycles.

The real-time location information provided in this matter significantly enhanced police efforts, leading to the rapid recovery of the stolen property and the arrest of a man.

Tracking devices are a valuable tool for protecting high-value property, and the WA Police Force encourages their use where appropriate.

Community members can further reduce their risk of theft by adopting the following security measures:

• Avoid cleaning or displaying high-value items, such as motorcycles, in visible areas where they may attract attention.

• Secure valuable items with quality locks and, where possible, attach them to an immovable object.

• Ensure garages and storage areas are properly secured.

• Remain vigilant when transporting items and be aware of vehicles or persons that may be following you.

• Arrange to meet buyers in a public place, rather than at your residence.

• Do not hand over goods until payment has been confirmed in full.

• Trust your instincts and leave immediately if a situation does not feel right.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious behaviour, has information relating to motorcycle thefts or burglaries, or is aware of premises where off road motorcycles regularly enter and leave under suspicious circumstances – potentially involved in the storage, movement, or sale of stolen motorcycles – is encouraged to report the information to Crime Stoppers.

Motorcycles, bicycles, e-scooters and e-bikes can be registered free of charge at www.bikelinc.com.au, helping police reunite owners with stolen property.

For further burglary prevention advice members of the public can go to www.wa.gov.au/me dia/48439/download?inline



ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Tied up with String MAC fundraiser

REVISITING the hugely popular blind box fundraiser, Mundaring Arts Centre invited sixty-one established, mid-career and emerging Western Australian artists who have been crucial to their programming over the past six years, to think 'inside' the box.

The challenge was to create small, intimate covetable artworks contained within identical wooden boxes, 'Tied Up With String'.

The invited artists were each supplied with an identical handmade plywood box with sliding lid, and encouraged to interpret the brief in a way that highlights their unique practice.

Whether a personal artwork, an experimental piece, or something representative of their everyday practice, the parameters were to create an artwork working within the physical constraints of the box, with no adjustment to the external material.

The box might serve as a frame, or a container for jewellery, miniature prints, textiles, or a set of ceramics nestled within its casing, or the carrier for a folded sculptural piece which opens to a larger display.

Whether the box becomes integral to the artwork or is merely a vessel for the artwork to be hidden within was up to the artist.

The 56 boxes are available sale sight-unseen for $300. Upon purchasing a box, a unique number is randomly assigned to the purchaser.

This number is then drawn out at 'The Great Unboxing', an event exclusively for artists and purchasers.

With the artworks not visible from the outside, people will see only a row of identical boxes neatly tied up with string. Only at the unboxing will it be revealed which number is randomly matched to a box, and which artist created the work.



Ann Ong - Mantras for string story.

Boxes are already on sale via the Mundaring Arts Centre website.

'Tied Up With String' is not only a fun and exciting way to connect with the local artistic community and acquire a new work, but is also a fundraiser, with proceeds split between artists and the arts centre.

As a not-for-profit community organisation, Mundaring Arts Centre has nurtured the arts in Perth's eastern region for close to 50 years and can continue to do so with support.

Participating artists are: Aaron C.N. Seymour, Amanda Alderson, Amanda Bell, André Lipscombe, Andy Quilty, Angela Ferolla, Antony Muia, Arif Satar, Audrey Fernandes-Satar, Ben Joel, Bernard Kerr, Bethamy Linton, Craig McKeough, Eden Lennox, Greg Crowe, Jen Kerr, Jo Darvall, Joan Johnson, Kate Campbell-Pope, Kati Thamo, Katrina Virgona, Lesley Parker, Linda van der Merwe, Liz Berry, Louise Wells, Matt Perrin, Max Thornton-Smith, Megan Kirwan-Ward, Moira Court, Nalda Searles, Naomie Hatherley, Nazerul Ben-Dzulkefli, Penelope Forlano, Peter Dailey, Rachelle Dusting, Ric Burkitt, Rob Kettels, Sandra Black, Sarah Keirle, Sarah Thornton-Smith, Sarah Toohey, Shanti Gelmi, Silvana Ferrario, Stacy Gardoll, Stephanie De Biasi, Stuart Elliott, Sue Starcken, Sultana Shamshi, Susie Vickery, Tanija and Graham Carr, Trudy Hardman, Una Bell, Vicki Ames, Yamaji Art: Nicole Dickerson and Lily-mae Kerley, Sharita Croft and Chantel Riley, Natasha Smith, Faelan Smith and Tarlah Smith.

'Tied Up With String' is on display at the Mundaring Arts Centre from Saturday, November 21 to Sunday, December 20.

Pride in Swan Festival returns





Pride Swan Festival aims to spotlight First Nations and culturally diverse queer voices this year.

PRIDE in Swan Inc is presenting the third annual Pride Swan Festival on Saturday, November 21 from 2pm to 9pm at Stirling Square, Guildford.

The free, family-friendly event brings together LGBTIQA+ communities, families, friends and allies to celebrate diversity, equality, acceptance and belonging.

Established as a grassroots community initiative, Pride Swan Festival has grown to provide greater visibility and representation for LGBTIQA+ communities across Perth's north-eastern metropolitan region.

This year's festival places emphasis on First Nations and culturally diverse queer voices, recognising different identities, cultures and lived experiences.

Visitors can enjoy live music, drag performances, cultural entertainment, community stalls, family activities and opportunities to connect with organisations and support services.

Highlights include OUR VOICES, presented in collaboration with GRAI, recognising the stories and experiences of LGBTIQA+ seniors who paved the way for future generations.

The festival will also feature a Remembrance Day commemoration honouring LGBTIQA+ veterans, recognising their service during periods of discrimination and exclusion.

With accessibility and inclusion a focus, the festival welcomes people of all ages, abilities, identities and backgrounds.

The festival is supported by Lotterywest, the City of Swan and Bendigo Bank.

Pride Swan Festival aims to empower communities, build connections and create a sense of belonging.

Community members are invited to attend and celebrate diversity.

More information about the event can be found via pride wa.com.au/event/pride-swan-festival

ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

Your local Gig Guide

Fri November 13

Settlers House York
Ron Robinson
From 5.30pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

Lyric's Bar
Cactus Hack
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Jon Evans
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
Deadly Woodbines
From 8pm, Free
50 East St Guildford

Chidlow Tavern
Hilly-Billy Hottananny
From 6pm, Free
4 Thomas St Chidlow

Sat November 14

Settlers House York
Kyle Hearn
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

Woodbridge Hotel
Touché
From 8pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Hemingway & Co
Acoustic Saturday
From 7pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring

Lyric's Bar
The Pick-Me-Ups
From 7pm, Free
22 Lyric Lane
Maylands

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Robert Hinton
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Sun November 15

Settlers House York
Nick Childs
12pm-3pm, Free
125 Avon Terrace York

Woodbridge Hotel
Ryan Matthew
From 3pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Sun November 15 cont.

Chidlow Tavern
Shangri-La Road
From 12.30-3.30pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Blue City Wailers
4pm-7pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Tues November 17

Woodbridge Hotel
Hills Trad and Irish Singing Songs
From 6pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Smooth Groove
6pm-8.30pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Hemingway & Co
Jazz Tuesday
From 7pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring

Wed November 18

Chidlow Tavern
Wednesday Night Jam Session
From 7pm, Free
4 Thomas St, Chidlow

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Fenton and Friends
6pm-9pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Thu November 19

Hemingway & Co
Blues Thursday
From 7pm, Free
7095 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring

Mahogany Inn & Distillery
Waz Mac
5.30pm-8.30pm, Free
4260 Great Eastern Hwy
Mahogany Creek

Woodbridge Hotel
The Pointy Heads
From 6pm, Free
50 East St, Guildford

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ENTERTAINMENT & GIG GUIDE

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New-look discount guide for WA Seniors Card members

The state government has marked WA Seniors Week 2026 with a new-look discount guide for Western Australian seniors, offering a wide range of discounts on goods and services from hundreds of generous businesses.

The WA Seniors Card Members 2026/27 Guide, previously known as the WA Seniors Card Discount Directory, has evolved into a lifestyle-focused booklet featuring more than 150 exclusive discounts and benefits that align with members' interests and experiences.

Discounts from a long list of metropolitan and regional businesses encourage seniors to stay connected, engaged, and active in their communities. It also encourages seniors to buy and shop locally, which benefits local businesses and the State's economy.

Launched at Have a Go Day and during Seniors Week, which runs from 8 - 15 November, the guide is part of the government's commitment to creating age-friendly communities where older Western Australians feel empowered and supported.

The guide is just one of the many benefits of the WA Seniors Card program, which offers some of the most valuable State Government concessions and rebates in the country.

WA Seniors Card members have access to free off-peak public transport, concessions on local government rates and water service charges, the one-off $400 payment for the Safety and Security Rebate and a Cost of Living Rebate which has provided more than $496.1 million assistance since its introduction.

Aged Care and Seniors Minister Simone McGurk said the new and improved WA Seniors Card Members Guide was a fantastic resource for older Western Australians that helps reduce the cost-of-living through government concessions and a wide range of discounts offered by participating businesses.



"This guide would not be possible without the generosity of many businesses across our State, and I would like to acknowledge their contributions to the WA economy. I strongly encourage everyone to support our local businesses where possible.

"WA Seniors Card members continue to have access to a valuable range of State Government concessions and rebates. This includes free off-peak public transport, and concessions on your local government rates and water service charges.

"WA is proud to be the only state that delivers a targeted annual Cost of Living Rebate through the Seniors Card Program, with singles receiving a payment of $114.20 and couples receiving $171.30 this year."

Copies of the hard-copy guide can be found at selected libraries, community resource centres or from the offices of local members of Parliament. The full list of discount offers is available at www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au/discounts.

WA Seniors Card members can request a copy to be posted directly by contacting the WA Seniors Card Centre on 1800 671 233 or emailing info@seniorscard.wa.gov.au

Personalised and professional service at Foothills Denture

At Foothills Denture Clinic, denture repairs can be done while you wait, and denture relines are usually a same day service.

Raynee McArthur is a dental prosthetists', licensed to make all dentures including part acrylic and metal dentures.

The clinic is a Medibank Private Members Choice Provider and an HBF Members Plus Provider. Rebates are available from all other health funds and we also deal with Veterans Affairs and offer pensioner discounts.

Special arrangements can be made for country clients to reduce the number of visits.

The team are happy to discuss any difficulty or query you may have with your denture - free of charge - and offer a professional service at a reasonable price.



For a free quote call 9250 1733.



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21 Cort Way, **Rockingham**

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While some are very expensive, others are uncomfortably cheap, which can leave you wondering "what should I do".

30 years ago, we looked at the funeral industry in Perth and concluded that funeral homes were doing the same traditional expensive funerals that hadn't changed for 100 years.

At Just Cremations, we wanted to build a quality brand, at a far more affordable price than was currently available.

Our mission: to create a "professional, courteous funeral service for the people of Perth at a fair and reasonable price".

More and more people in WA are choosing a 'no fuss' approach to saying goodbye, and opting to mark the occasion with a simple and dignified service, avoiding the fanfare and the extra expense.



So, if you want to know more about our services and arranging a funeral, have a look around our website, or contact us on 1800 65 35 95 (Free Call).

https://justcremations.com.au



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Focus on Seniors



A fresh take on resort living for over 50s





Set at the gateway to the Swan Valley, with views across to the Darling Ranges, Xenium Living brings a new kind of vertical living to Midland, purpose built for over 50s ready to embrace their next chapter.

Behind the concept is John Wood, the driving force behind Providence Lifestyle Resorts, who brings decades of lifestyle industry experience to the project. Residents choose between a long-term lease or shared ownership, with no strata fees, sinking funds or exit fees, living alongside neighbours at a similar stage of life.

The planned amenity list reads like a resort brochure: a heated infinity pool, gym, sauna and day spa, whisky bar and mini microbrewery, golf simulator, pickleball courts and a rooftop garden with sunset bar. There's even a hen house, veggie garden and a creche for the grandkids.

Location matters just as much. Midland Gate and St John of God Midland Public Hospital are close by; Midland Station is 1.4km away and Guildford's heritage precinct is just down the road.

With studio to sky residences ranging from 36.5m² to 215m², priced from $550,000, Xenium Living has a home to suit most stages of life.

Join us at our next free information seminar on Saturday, November 28, 1pm to 3.30pm, at Crooked Spire Coffee & Art House, Midland. Bookings are essential and places are limited. Register at xeniumliving.com.au

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A resort lifestyle at the gateway to the Swan Valley


Artist's impression of Xenium Living

Xenium Living is a new vertical living concept in Midland, designed for over 50s who want more from this chapter of life. Perfect for empty nesters, early retirees and rightsizers.

Close to everything and on the doorstep of the Swan Valley, it's for people who want to make the most of life and aren't ready for a retirement village.

Resort style facilities. Genuine connection. No strata fees, no sinking fund, no exit fees.

From the team behind Providence Lifestyle Resorts.

COME AND DISCOVER XENIUM LIVING
Join us at our exclusive information seminar
Saturday 28 November, 1:00pm to 3:30pm
Crooked Spire Coffee & Art House, Midland.
Free event. Bookings essential,
limited tickets available.

Book Your Spot Now!

XENIUM LIVING

For more information visit our website:
xeniumliving.com.au
Follow us on social:
/XeniumLifestyleLiving


Picture: Friends of Bennett Brook

Bennett Brook native clearing concerns

From p3.

"Interested parties may make submissions on an application before the closing date, including raising concerns about the accuracy of information provided in the application," they said.

"Community groups may make a submission on this application before the closing date of November 23.

"DWER notified the City of Swan and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's Bush Forever office about the application (and) advice was also sought in relation to Aboriginal heritage matters.

"As part of the application process, BMM Group provided a letter of authority from the Western Australian Planning Commission, as the registered landowner of Lot 200 Lord Street, Caversham, authorising BMM Group to access the property and undertake clearing of native vegetation.

"BMM Group also provided a copy of the development approval for the proposal granted by the commission."

Woofer of the week



Brian is a three-year-old bull terrier cross. He is looking for another home as his owner is going away for approximately four years. Brian is best suited to a single person. He is sterilised, vaccinated, and microchipped. Costs Apply. Contact Bakers Hill Dog Sanctuary on 9574 1438.

Read between the lines



By Pastor Ian Kirk

Protection

Recently, we were north of Geraldton, and came across the Hutt Lagoon salt lake near Port Gregory. This salt lake isn't just salty – it's pink!

What causes a salt lake to become pink? Firstly, a salt lake has to become extremely salty. This occurs as water evaporates during hot, dry weather, causing the salt lake to become up to ten times saltier than the ocean.

In these conditions, a tiny single-celled algae, Dunaliella salina, thrives. But to protect itself from intense sunlight and heat, it produces a red-orange pigment called beta-carotene (the same pigment found in carrots). It's this pigment that gives a salt lake its pink colour.

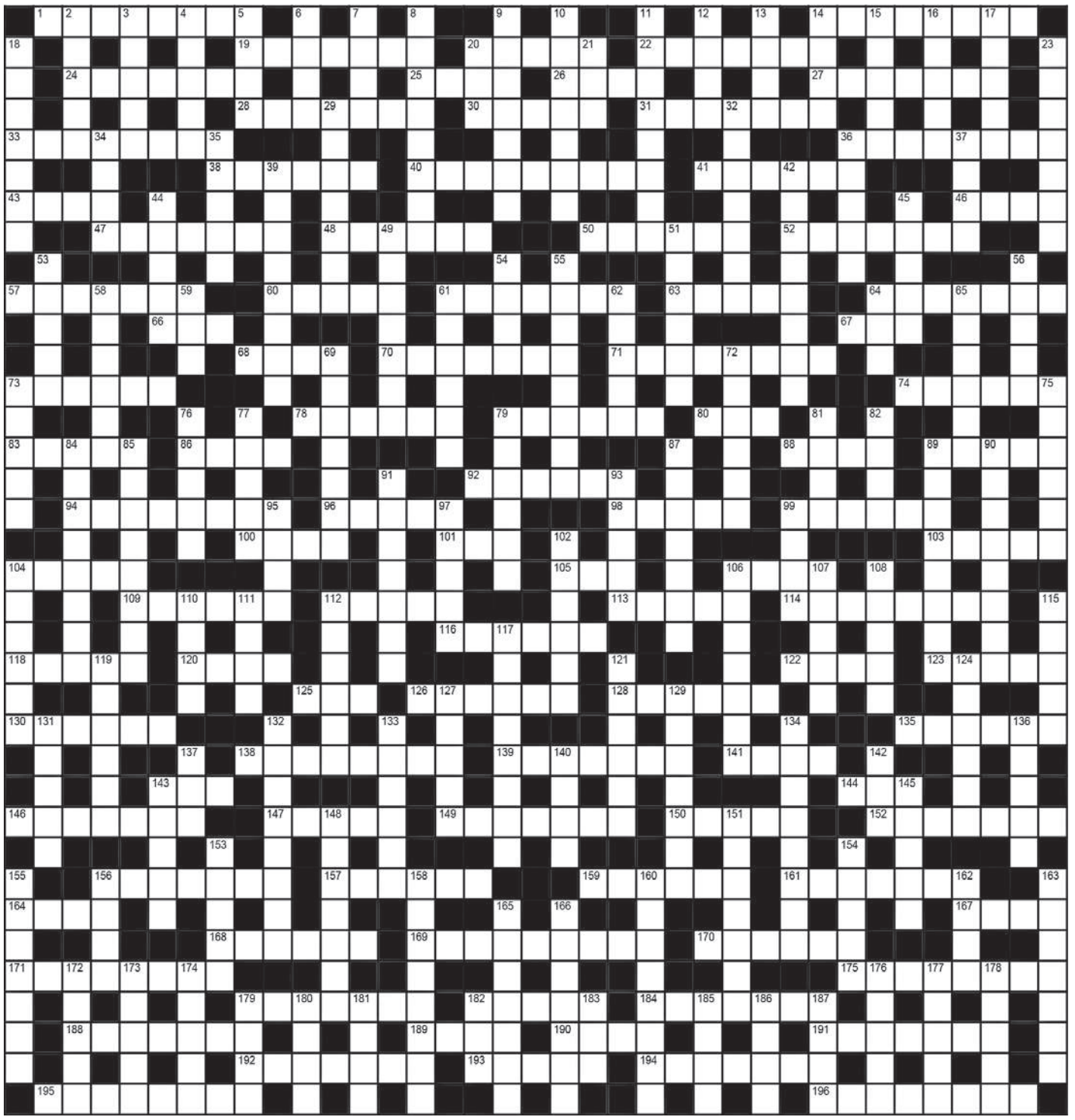
Pink lakes are stunning to see. But what I found so intriguing is that the pink colour is for the protection of the algae; not just for our enjoyment.

Protection is important in life. We know, as we head into sunnier days, that like the algae, we need to protect ourselves from the sun's harmful UV rays. We have the need to cover up and apply sunscreen to protect ourselves.

But there is one protection many don't seem to know too much about. It's protection from the consequences of our sins. I'm so grateful that God, in His love for us, sent His eternal Son Jesus to die for us on the cross, to save us from the consequences of our sins. Through faith in Jesus, we are forgiven and are blessed with eternal life. What a protector Jesus is!

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ECHO Mind Boggler Crossword 1294



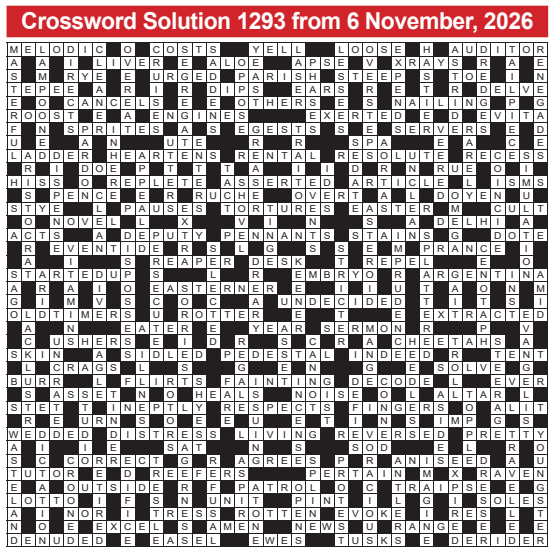
ACROSS

1 Catered for
14 Clothing
19 Stir up
20 Headwear
22 Captivate
24 Idle chats
25 Indigo plant
26 Come down heavily
27 Opposite
28 Delays
30 Ship's crane
31 A narrow bridge
33 Suffers from oppressive heat
36 Flower sellers
38 Dread
40 Less obedient
41 Taste
43 Volcano effluent
46 Undone
47 Before daybreak
48 Ships cooking area
50 Quickly
52 Of distinctive period
57 University official
60 Made a choice
61 Hire
63 Assistants
64 Parts of hands
66 To this time
67 Knight's term
68 Stalk
70 Learned ones
71 A being
73 Condition
74 Bread rolls
78 Gaol
79 Destroyed
80 Cunning moves
83 Lawn game
86 A vegetable
88 Money
89 Sadistic
92 Argue over price
94 Usual thing
96 Outer edge
98 In short supply
99 Gripping tool
100 Record
101 A cereal
103 Silly (coll)
104 Fascination
105 A deer
106 Downpour
109 A citrus fruit
112 Mediterranean tree
113 Raised surface
114 Refurbishment
116 Small flag
118 Small ships
120 Large container
122 Tribal group
123 Type of light beam
125 Enclosure
126 Behind at sea
128 Lay charges
130 Surrenders
135 Oration
138 A pest
139 Ambled
141 Dense
143 Witty remark
144 At the rear
146 Carried over water
147 Allude
149 Drive crazy
150 Lordly
152 Expertise
156 Make
157 Walks sideways
159 Cause to happen
161 Rude laugh
164 A bar
167 Spoken
168 Went about
169 Strict leaders
170 Interfere
171 Traces
175 Gifts
179 Coarse cloth
182 Ill-humour
184 Leased pasture
188 Come to know
189 Slain by Cain
190 Spicy taste
191 Illegal intruder
192 Small curl
193 Made later
194 Comes forth
195 Strains
196 Pieces for board game

DOWN

2 Outlaw
3 Call on
4 With less water
5 Run quickly
6 Large cat
7 Masculine gender
8 At certain times
9 Odd mixture
10 Shows clearly
11 Awkward
12 Special occasion
13 Bean curd
14 Small stones
15 Mix up
16 Mistake
17 Timber plants
18 Strong hair
20 Offer
21 Small drink
23 Agreement
29 Dry time
32 Precious stone
34 Bound
35 Bundle of straw
36 Criminal
37 Loved one
39 Renew
42 Good time
44 Lure
45 Church singers
49 Account books
51 Portions
53 Feel for clumsily
54 Body cover
55 Hiding away
56 Fisherman's basket
58 Group of plotters
59 A colour
61 Managing
62 Lace pleat
64 Fish part
65 A spice
69 Magical event
72 Thing aimed for
73 Strong fabric
75 Hot and humid
76 Cutting tool
77 Core
79 Harvested
81 Indonesian resort
82 Stylish
84 A climbing shrub
85 Engulfs
87 The beach
89 Celebratory occasion
90 Arrogant people
91 Dip in water
93 Chemical compound
95 Risk
97 Family group
99 Priggish
102 Fabled monster
104 Unkempt
106 Checked over
107 Part of stomach
108 Trifling
110 Curve
111 Struggle for breath
112 Large boxes
115 Glee
117 Gives cover
119 Steering device
121 Bovines
124 Get payback
127 Pace
129 Rhythmic flow
131 Loafer
132 Rebellious one
133 Trapped
134 Dead
136 Selected
137 Wet earth
140 Admits
142 Away from work
143 Vine fruit
145 Slight colouring
148 Worsens
151 Hits continuously
153 Tubes
154 A muscle
155 Courage
156 Garden bed
158 Put in layers
160 Rubs
162 Cord
163 Cut through
165 Wire fasteners
166 Tied up
172 Small fish
173 Replica
174 Sinful things
176 Stage show
177 Lateral parts
178 Body sensor
179 Belong to the lady
180 Chanted
181 Maladies
182 Japanese monetary unit
183 A listener
185 Thought
186 Labels
187 Recording plate

Crossword Solution 1293 from 6 November, 2026



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When an individual or other legal entity ("the Customer") requests Echo Newspaper ("Echo") to place an advertisement in this Newspaper, they agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

1. Echo, at its sole discretion, may decline to publish any advertisement requested by a Customer. If Echo decides not to publish a particular advertisement, there is no obligation on Echo to disclose the reasons for its decision, and Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned to the Customer as a result of the decision.
2. Echo will not be liable for any loss or damage caused to a Customer as a result of delay or as a result of Echo failing to place a requested advertisement or publishing an advertisement containing an error or omission.
3. Echo may, at its sole discretion, decide to refund a Customer a portion of the cost of the advertisement if it forms the view that the error was not attributable to the Customer and the Customer notifies Echo of the error or omission before 5.00pm on the day the advertisement first appears in the Newspaper.
4. Complaints concerning the accuracy of any invoice must be notified to Echo within 30 days from the end of the month in which the advertisement was published, after which time the Customer forfeits any rights it may have had to challenge the invoices.
5. The Customer warrants that publication of the requested advertisement/s will not contravene any laws, whether statutory, equitable or otherwise, and agrees to wholly indemnify Echo (and its employees and agents) against all expenses, loss and damage arising directly or indirectly from the publication of the advertisement/s.

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Garage Sale **Bargains Galore**

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Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th November

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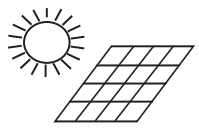
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The City of Swan has received a proposal for the above land. Any interested persons are invited to view the documentation at the City of Swan Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, MIDLAND between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday or on the City's website:

https://swanengage.swan.wa.gov.au/proposed-development-applications

Should you wish to comment on this proposal you may do so via the Online Feedback Form available on the City's website on or before **4 December 2026.**

Stephen Cain
Chief Executive Officer
City of Swan
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City of Swan

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Public Notice

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT

1037 Reen Road, GIDGEGANNUP WA 6083
RFNSA Site Number: 6083009

1. Telstra is proposing to upgrade an existing mobile phone base station located at 1037 Reen Road, GIDGEGANNUP. The proposed upgrade will improve Telstra 4G and 5G services in the area.

2. The proposed upgrade works on the existing monopole consist of
   - Removal of six (6) existing panel antennas
   - Installation of six (6) new panel antennas (each less than 2.8m in length)
   - Installation of three (3) new panel antennas (each less than 1.1m in length)
   - Installation/replacement of ancillary equipment

3. In accordance with Section 7 of the Industry Code C564:2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment, we invite you to make comments about the proposal.

4. Please direct comments to Mark Baade (Planning Consultant) on **mark@saqconsulting.com.au**, 0417 088 000 or to SAQ Consulting, P O Box 50 Clayfield QLD 4011 by **Friday 27th November 2026**.

For more information about the proposal, scan the QR Code or visit www.rfnsa.com.au/6083009

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The Echo Newspaper is looking to fill the following position

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- The successful applicant must be a self starter, have a strong work ethic with excellent time management skills, plus have the ability to work in a small sales team environment, with a dedicated team.
- A special area will be allocated, where the successful applicant will be required to canvass and service this area, plus have the ability to achieve weekly sales targets.
- A current "C" class drivers licence is required.
- A smart appearance with a strong commitment to customer service and able to develop and implement successful sales strategies.
- Strong negotiation verbal/written skills.

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ECHO Notice Board

A free service for non-profit organisations
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Upcoming Events

• **Midland CWA** meets at the Midland Railway Yards Blacksmith Lane (West) Midland on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am. CWA flags are displayed on Yelverton Drive, Midland on meeting days. CWA offers a diverse range of interests and each branch works to meet local community needs. Call Cathy on 0460 777 557 or email cwa.midland@outlook.com

• **Mahogany Creek Art and Craft Group** meets weekly on Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm during school terms at the Mahogany Creek Hall on Jacoby Street. Everyone brings along their art or craft to work on in a friendly social group with tea and coffee provided. For more information call Mary on 0431 201 814 or Jan on 6279 4031.

• **The Rosehill Ladies Golf Club** meets each Tuesday at 8am at Hillview Public Golf Club, Kalamunda Road, Maida Vale. The season runs from March to November. For more information call Roz on 0419 915 623 or Julia on 0419 954 106.

• **The Kalamunda Lapidary Club** at 3 Recreation Road, Kalamunda is a club dedicated to collecting, polishing and creating jewellery from natural gem stones and Australian minerals and crystals which they collect in the field. They have an open day on the first Saturday of each month where possible with examples for sale. You can check their Facebook page for current events. For more information call Richard on 0422 181 200.

• **Revival**, Guildford's monthly second-hand market, takes place on Saturday, November 14 at St Matthew's Hall, Stirling Square, Guildford from 10am to 2pm. This month, you can find fabulous fashion, accessories and jewellery, and enjoy morning tea from our pop-up cafe. Gold coin entry, proceeds go to the St Matthew's Church restoration fund.

• **Kalamunda Men's Shed** will be holding an open day on Saturday, November 21 from 10am to 4pm. The event will be held at 22 Falls Road, Lesmurdie. There will be drinks, food, and music provided and oportunities to purchase a number of wood and metal work items. Prospective members are welcome to attend.

• **WA Naturalists** are hosting a talk by Jasper Dean on 'The Wonderous World of Catapillars' on November 13 from 7pm to 9.30pm, at Kalamunda Community Centre at the end of Crescent Road, Kalamunda. For a $5 donation for adult visitors and $1 for children, the talk will be a fun-fact-filled insect anthology, learning about clever defensive strategies, their muscle-for-hire relationship with ants, and whether caterpillar's memories survive the change of metamorphosis.

• **Talkie Team Time** is on again at Midland Ascension Hall on Saturday, November 21 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. The guest speaker will be Alison Wroth who is a leading pelvic health physiotherapist. She will share tips and advice on staying healthy, plus an Oxfam stall with ethical gifts will be at the talk. All proceeds to charity. To RSVP, call Francesca on 0414 386 398 or email francescairwin2@iinet.com.au

Noticeboard is for non-profits and community groups advertising free/low cost events/programs. Entries must be emailed to editorial@echo-news.com two weeks before the event.

ECHO Sports

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Vipers supporting next generation of rugby girls



The Ellenbrook Vipers Rugby Union Club is looking to create more pathways in the sport for females.

THE Ellenbrook Vipers will hold a rugby day on Saturday, December 5 to grow opportunities for more female participation in the sport.

The Girls Rugby Day event will run from 10am to 3pm at Woodlake Sports Ground in Ellenbrook.

The team welcomes players of all experience levels with a goal that goes beyond teaching them how to pass or tackle.

"Rugby teaches kids how to work together, how to support each other, how to deal with challenges and how to keep going when things get tough," Ellenbrook Vipers Rugby Union Club president Janine Briggs said.

"It's a sport where everyone has a role to play.

"You don't have to be the fastest, strongest or most experienced player to be a valuable part of the team."

This year, the Vipers fielded the U13 girls team which was their very first girls' rugby team.

The team is now working towards having U14 and U16 girls teams in the coming year alongside their junior mixed teams.

Ms Briggs said there was a gap in the rugby playing pathways for girls at the moment which the team wanted to close.

"It's about making sure that when a young girl joins our club, she can see a future for herself here," she said.

"I don't want her to get to a certain age and feel like her only option is to stop playing because there isn't a team available and I think we're starting to see the impact of these opportunities already.

"We've had girls who have grown enormously in confidence throughout the season, not just as rugby players but as young people.

"We've seen them form friendships, support each other through challenges and really develop that sense of belonging."

Ms Briggs said media also played a role in shaping perceptions around female role models in sports, which impacted young people's expectations and aspirations.

"Growing up, rugby wasn't actually my sport – I was a swimmer and I competed in swimming at a competitive level," she said.

"When I think back to my sporting role models, my biggest idol was actually Kieren Perkins.

"I absolutely loved watching him swim, and he was someone I really looked up to (and) I also loved watching incredible female swimmers like Susie O'Neill and Leisel Jones.

"But when I look back, I don't think there was the same emphasis on celebrating female athletes as sporting role models that we're starting to see today.

"From my experience, the media attention and recognition were much more focused on male athletes, and naturally, they were often the ones we looked up to."

Ms Briggs said the engagement of female athletes with the next generation helped create the opportunities and pathways for young female athletes to progress.

"Having women like Sera Naiqama and Kahu Sturmey from the Western Force Women, along with former Wallaroo Debby Carley, involved in our Girls Rugby Day is another part of that," she said.

"It's one thing to watch these women playing rugby, but it's something completely different for a young girl to meet them, ask questions, hear about their experiences and realise that they were once young girls starting out in sport too.

"I want our girls to grow up seeing strong, confident women achieving incredible things in sport.

"I want them to have female role models they can relate to and to know that their opportunities aren't limited simply because they're girls.

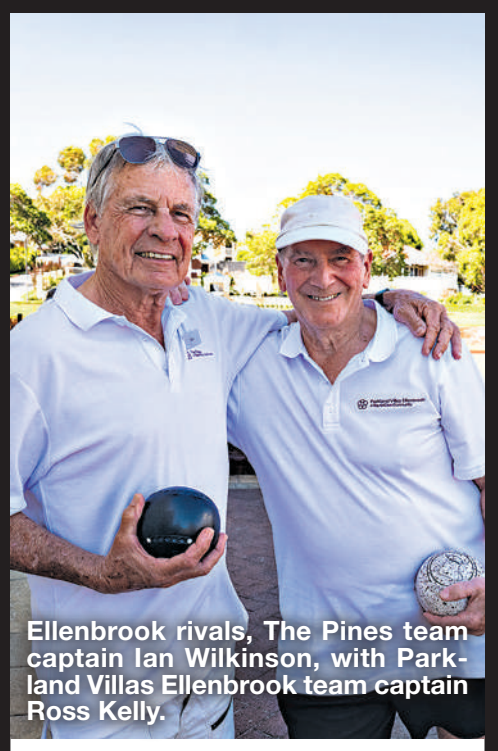
"And it's not just about creating future professional rugby players, it's about building confidence, giving girls something to aspire to and showing them that they belong in sport.

"If we can help create an environment where our girls feel supported, inspired and excited about their future, then I think we're doing something pretty special."

The group received funding through the Game On, Girls grant program, which will enable the club to further develop their girls' program.

Registration for the free event is essential and may be accessed via forms.gle/Zds1H4BYQecRbBGt8

Ellenbrook Villages face off at bowls tournament



Ellenbrook rivals, The Pines team captain Ian Wilkinson, with Parkland Villas Ellenbrook team captain Ross Kelly.

THE community spirit of Ellenbrook took centre stage on November 6 as two neighbouring retirement communities locked horns on the greens at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club for BaptistCare's 21st annual lawn bowls carnival.

Both The Pines and Parkland Villas Ellenbrook brought their fierce neighbourhood rivalry to the greens alongside eighty senior competitors from across Western Australia.

The Pines managed to edge out their cross-suburb competitors by securing fourth place in the overall standings while Parkland Villas finished right behind in fifth.

Riverside Village in Salter Point ultimately claimed the championship trophy.

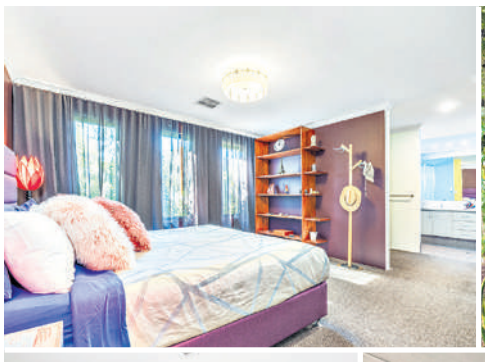
The Pines team captain Ian Wilkinson, and Parkland Villas Ellenbrook team captain Ross Kelly, share a fierce rivalry that led them to establish a dedicated competition shield between their communities.

The Pines hold past tournament titles from 2011, 2013, 2023, and 2024; While Parkland Villas have claimed championship victories in 2017 and 2025.

ECHO Local Real Estate

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Greenmount sanctuary offers modern comfort









NESTLED among established gardens and surrounded by open space, this four-bedroom, two-bathroom Greenmount residence combines charm with modern convenience.

Set on a 724sqm square block, this home offers low-maintenance living and plenty of existing trees for nature-lovers.

Each bedroom has peaceful garden views, while motorised roller shutters provide security, privacy and comfort.

The main bedroom features a walk-in robe and spacious ensuite on the opposite end of the home.

Three secondary bedrooms feature double mirrored built-in robes, with two offering additional shelving.

The main bedroom is separated from the others by a dedicated theatre room.

Complete with an overhead projector and impressive 3.4m by 1.7m projection screen, the theatre is an inviting space for family entertainment.

At the heart of the home, an open-plan living area brings the family together, with large windows letting in natural light and views of the surrounding gardens.

The kitchen features a spacious walk-in pantry, while an adjoining laundry and dedicated home-work or home office nook adds everyday practicality.

The dining area connects seamlessly with a generous conversation room, providing flexible spaces for entertaining and relaxation.

Outside, a covered alfresco overlooks a water feature inhabited by goldfish.

Established gardens offer plenty of edible plants and fruit trees, including passionfruit, lemon, mandarin, persimmon, strawberry, chilli and herbs.

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