



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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1. OUR VISION

Vision

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne will be a sustainable service base supporting the pastoral, tourism sector, mining industries and the local community.

Mission Statement

To work with all sectors of the Upper Gascoyne community to retain and attract people and businesses to the district.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

1. Economic

Encourage greater diversity in the commercial sector, so as to grow a broader local economy. Develop and maintain an efficient road transport system.

Strategies

- Develop, maintain and improve an efficient road system to support the transport requirements associated with the pastoral, mining and tourism industries.
- Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base.
- Promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

2. Environmental

Actively protect the environment, promote ecological sustainability, protect water quality, pursue water and energy conservation and manage future built development.

Strategies

- Pursue high quality water sources within statutory health requirements with sufficient quantity to meet demand. Extension of scheme water supply to residents on north side of Gascoyne River.
- Identify future development and ongoing maintenance requirements at Shire waste disposal sites and identify future recycling opportunities.
- Attempt to protect and retain the regions native vegetation and animals to support indigenous culture and the pastoral industry.

3. Social:

Develop, co-ordinate, provide support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire.

Strategies

- Enhance community well-being through crime prevention measures.
- Improve community health and well-being through improving primary care services and opportunities for the community.
- Promote and enhance the spirit and cohesiveness of the community by supporting activities and local events.

- Maintain and improve the standard of community infrastructure including mobile phone coverage and a cemetery.

4. Civic Leadership:

To provide good governance to the Upper Gascoyne Shire area.

Strategies

- Financial Planning and Management – responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.
- Strategic Planning – ongoing reviews of the Community Strategic Plan.
- Asset Management – meet the required level of service in the most cost effective manner for present and future residents.

2. THE COUNCIL

Shire of Upper Gascoyne Contact Information

Office Hours 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Closed on Public Holidays

Phone (08) 9943 0988

Fax (08) 9943 0507

Email adminmanager@uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au

Web Page <https://www.uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au/>

Address 4 Scott St, Gascoyne Junction WA 6705

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8.30am and the public are welcome to attend.

HAVING YOUR SAY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Council encourages local residents to have their opinions heard on issues which are of concern to them.

You can present your ideas and opinions to the Council in a number of ways:

- *Write to or email the shire office*
- *Telephone or visit the shire office*
- *Write to the Council*
- *Present a question to a Council meeting through 'public question time'*
- *Contact any Councillor*

Deputations may also be made to Council meetings with permission of the Presiding Member. Please contact the office of the Chief Executive Officer on 9943 0988 for full details of how this can be arranged.

WHERE TO VIEW COUNCIL AGENDA / MINUTES

AGENDAS

Copies of all non-confidential items are tabled at a council meeting and are normally available to the public on the Friday prior to the meeting or available from the shire website, CRC and Shire Administration Office. In the interests of the environment the shire encourages the use of on-line services rather than the printing of paper documents.

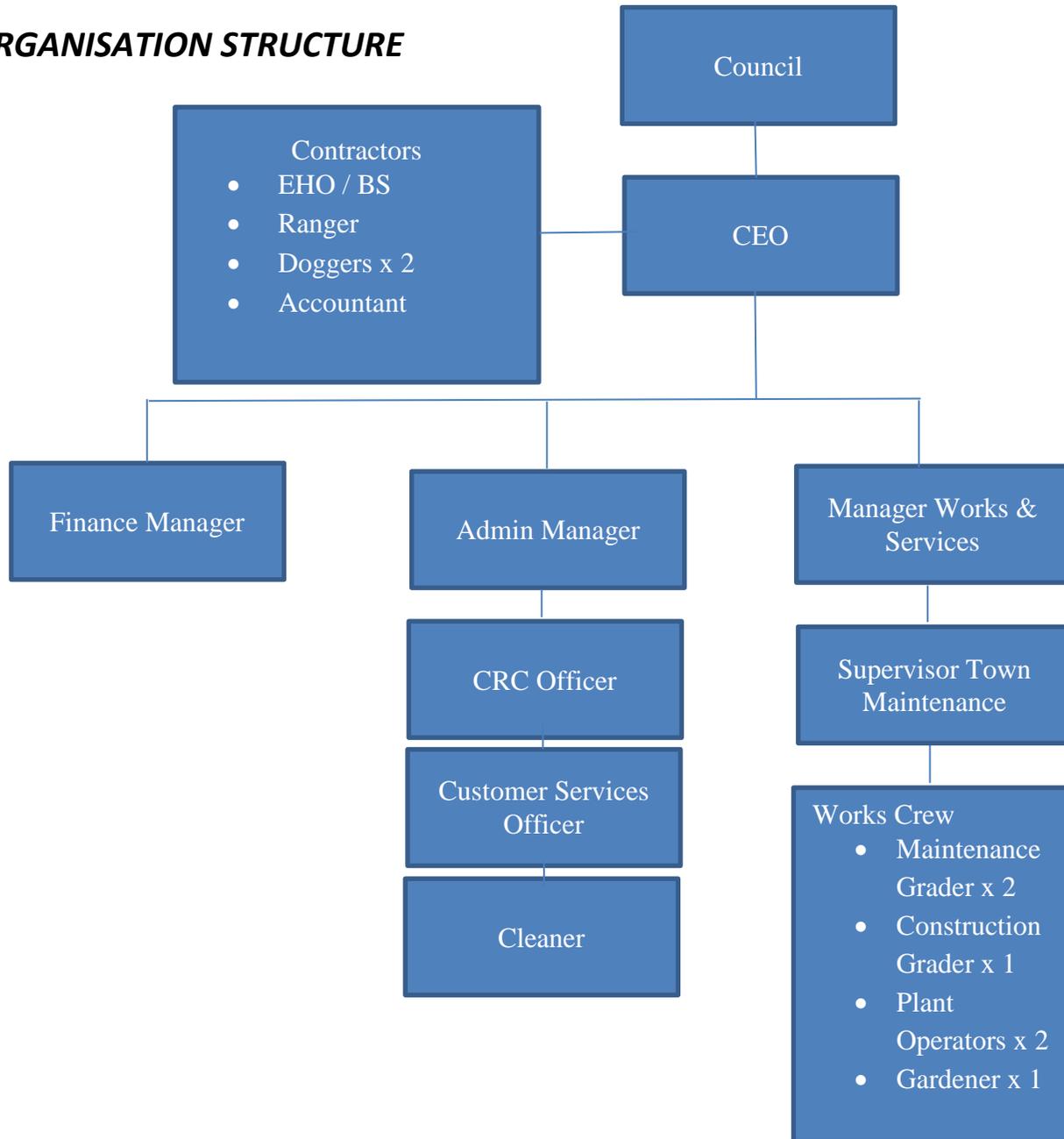
MINUTES

Minutes of all Council meetings are available to the public free online in Public Documents in Word format on www.uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au, the Shire of Upper Gascoyne, 4 Scott St, Gascoyne Junction or the CRC.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name	Position	Status
Cr D.R Hammarquist, JP	Shire President	To October 2019
Cr J Caunt	Deputy Shire President	To October 2019
Cr G Watters	Councillor	To October 2019
Cr R.J. Collins	Councillor	To October 2019
Cr A. McKeough	Councillor	To October 2021
Cr H. McTaggart	Councillor	To October 2021
Cr B. Walker	Councillor	To October 2021

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



SHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

The Shire has an estimated population of some 260 persons located as follows:

- Approximately 120 residents at Burringurrah, an Indigenous community south of Mt. Augustus, (as advised by the police stationed Burringurrah as at December 2016)
- 90 people on 35 pastoral stations,
- About 15 at Woodgamia, an indigenous community just south of the Gascoyne Junction township, and
- 35 residents at Gascoyne Junction.

The current demographic trend is relatively stable over time; however, there can be significant variances with the influx and dispersion of people from Burringurrah Aboriginal Community.

The townsite of Gascoyne Junction is the administrative hub for the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. Gascoyne Junction sits in the western side of the shire adjacent to the majestic Kennedy Range. The town is well serviced with modern facilities such as; Community Resource Centre, Shire Administration Building, Town Hall, Grassed Oval, School, Gymnasium, Craft Centre and Junction Tourist Precinct which consists of a Caravan Park, Restaurant and Roadhouse. The town is serviced with mains electricity, reticulated water, mobile telephone coverage and the NBN is available via satellite.

Cattle grazing is the principle local economic activity in the shire. There is also some mining in the area.

Future growth is likely to be generated by increased Tourism and Mining activity. This forms part of a wider tourism focus in the Gascoyne region which includes two World Heritage listed Sites:

- Shark Bay (Monkey Mia/Denham)
- Ningaloo Reef (Coral Bay/Exmouth)

These outstanding ocean based tourism attractions are balanced and supported by land based attractions in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne; namely the Kennedy Range and Mount Augustus National Parks.

Rising up to 100 metres above the valley, the Kennedy Range plateau dominates the surrounding plains. Kennedy Range is a flora and fauna haven, 90 kilometres in length with stunning cliffs, springs and canyons. The Temple Gorge camp site at Kennedy Range National Park is 56 kilometres north of Gascoyne Junction.

Mt Augustus is more than twice the size of Uluru and is visible from as far away as 100km. It is 8km long, 3 km wide, 858 metres high and in total 1105 metres above sea level, while Uluru is 3.6km long 2.4km wide and 348.7 metres high. Uluru currently attracts between 300,000-400,000 tourists per year. With better developed facilities and marketing, Mt Augustus will attract many more tourists than it does currently.

SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first report as the Shire President for the Shire of Upper Gascoyne, by the nature of the reporting time frames – 1st July to the 30th of June most of this report relates to work carried out under the leadership of the former Shire President - Mr L.M. McTaggart, JP. I have been honoured and privileged to be able to serve with Locky for the past 27 years. Locky has given 39 years of service to our community and in any measure this is a mammoth effort, in addition we also need to acknowledge Locky's wife, Jane.

I would like to welcome Blanche Walker as a new Councillor for our Shire and I am positive that Blanche will be a very good addition to our already strong team. Mr James (Jimmy) Caunt has been elected by his peers as the Deputy Shire President and I am sure Jimmy will prove to be a valuable resource who will assist me in my roll.

It's really pleasing that this year, we have been able to provide the Shire of Upper Gascoyne community with substantial infrastructure developments across the district which will be of on-going benefit to both residents and an increasing number of visitors. The small rate base, due to our limited population, means the Shire has to rely on grant funding contributing to the upkeep of our existing facilities and construction of any new infrastructure.

The construction of Killili Bridge has now been completed. I am pleased to advise that this project was delivered on time and under budget. The budget windfall enabled the Shire to make application to the State Government to use this saving toward another project (Bundagee Wash) and the Shire was subsequently granted approval to carry out the required works.

On the 17th of December 2016 Killili Bridge was officially opened by Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher and Mr Vince Catania, MLA. The ceremony was followed by a community function held at the Gascoyne Junction Pavilion, this event was very well attended with many past and present community members in attendance.

Work is continuing on developing the Kennedy Range National Park Loop tourist drive. Most of the West side has now been finalised with the environmental and Aboriginal Heritage Studies having been undertaken. Work has now commenced on the Eastern side with an alignment being investigated, once this is done the necessary environmental and Aboriginal Heritage studies will need to be undertaken. At the end of this process the Shire will be in a position to blaze a trail along the eastern escarpment.

The Shire has recently been received grant monies from the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Lotterywest to construct a new war memorial. This project will be constructed in the 2017/18 financial year with the aim of having it completed prior to ANZAC Day. Significant work was undertaken to identify those individuals from within our Shire that served their country in the various conflicts. I am pleased to advise that we now have a record of those who we believe served. This was a particularly difficult process as the armed forces records only recorded where an individual signed up and not necessarily where they came from.

In January and February 2017 the Shire was affected by significant rainfall events over the period that led to a significant amount of damage to our road infrastructure. These rainfall events were declared a natural disaster by the State Government; as such, the Shire were able to seek financial assistance through the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA). After assessment of the damage by our consultants and Main Roads it is estimated that approximately \$10.5 million dollars' worth of damage had

occurred. Work is due to commence in August 2017 and this work will take approximately 12 months to complete.

In keeping with our Community Strategic Plan and our staff requirements the Shire have decided to construct two new staff houses. These will be modern two bedroom 2 bathroom residences that will be situated in Gregory Street and Hatch Street. These are due for completion in September 2017.

Work is proceeding with the Mount Augustus to Paraburdoo Road thanks to the Regional Grants Scheme that is administered by the Gascoyne Development Commission. The work at this stage is largely to determine the road alignment and commence the environmental / Aboriginal Heritage Studies.

I sincerely thank the Shire staff who are putting a lot of time and effort into continuing to provide and maintain our amenities, including infrastructure, roads and grounds, to such a high standard. Thanks also go to the Shire Councillors for their support and contribution to the Upper Gascoyne community during the past year.

Cr D.R. Hammarquist, JP
SHIRE PRESIDENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT 2016/17

I am pleased to report to residents of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne that the Shire has continued to maintain an ethos of continuous improvement and is operating in an open, efficient and accountable manner. The Auditors report found no issues whatsoever with our financial and compliance systems, this is a credit to our staff who are vigilant and leaders in this regard.

I would like to thank the dedicated employees of the Shire who have continued to provide a quality service to the community within an evolving environment of continuous improvement in the often challenging Local Government environment. Our operations revolve around the philosophy 'that just because we are small that does not mean we cannot be the best'.

The Shire has, due to effective financial management, finalised the year in a healthy financial position and it is planned to continue this practice through prudent and responsible financial management. We have introduced a robust budgetary process where areas of expenditure and income are examined in detail. The Shire Councillors and Staff now undertake an annual inspection of the Shires road network and this assists in prioritising where future works are required.

The continuation of the Strategic Community Plan which was introduced in 2012/13 and reviewed in a desk exercise in 2014/15 has provided the Council with a clear future direction and is addressing the issues that the community considers to be significant. The Community Plan was completely reviewed in 2016 /17 and has reset priorities for the community going forward. This report relates to the former SCP, future Annual Reports will report against the new SCP. This combined with the Forward Capital Works Plan has greatly assisted the Council in its ongoing development and provision of services for the community.

The major development for the Shire in 2015/16 financial year was receiving funding from the Royalties for Regions Program and the Roads to Recovery Program to construct a bridge(s) over the Gascoyne River situated at the Gascoyne Junction Townsite. The bridges were constructed in the 2016 / 17 financial year; Killili Bridge was officially opened on the 17th of December 2016. Full credit needs to be given to our staff and the contractors as the bridges were completed under budget and well within the allocated time frame, this again demonstrates the ability of the Shire to undertake and deliver complex projects.

I look forward to continuing the significant Capital Works projects that are currently in the planning stages and continuously improving the governance process and provision of services to the community in the Shire.

The Shire has continued to address the many challenges of providing services in a remote location during the 2016/2017 year and I am confident that the Shire is providing adequate services for the residents of the district while positioning itself well to address future opportunities and I look forward to assisting the community achieve the long term goals in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable manner.

2017 / 18 will be a very challenging period for Local Governments, with funding and grants being effectively reduced and in some cases withdrawn altogether. We are in time where both State and Federal Governments are facing their own financial challenges and unfortunately this will impact on Local Governments, particularly those Local Governments with small rate bases.

John McCleary, JP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

The Shire of Gascoyne will provide people with all necessary information held by the Council; however if we are unable to supply this information by less formal means, a Freedom of Information request can be made.

RECORD KEEPING PLAN

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne completed a revised Record Keeping Plan which was submitted to the State Records Office of Western Australia in November 2014.

The objectives of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne RKP are to ensure:

- Compliance with Section 28 of the State Records Act 2000;
- Recordkeeping within the Local Government is moving towards compliance with State Records Commission Standards and Records Management Standard AS ISO 15489;
- Processes are in place to facilitate the complete and accurate record of business transactions and decisions;
- Recorded information can be retrieved quickly, accurately and cheaply when required; and the Protection and preservation of the Local Government's records.

DISABILITY SERVICES PLAN

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne completed a revised Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which was submitted to the Government of Western Australia Disability Services Commission in August 2015.

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne is committed to achieving the seven desired outcomes of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan:

- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the relevant public authority.
- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the relevant public authority.
- People with disability receive information from the relevant public authority in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
- People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the relevant public authority.
- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the relevant public authority.
- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the relevant public authority.
- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with a public authority.

INFORMATION ABOUT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

In accordance with the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 19B, set out below is the number of employees of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more.

Salary Range	Number of Employees
\$100,000 - \$110,000	0
\$110,000 - \$120,000	1
\$120,000 - \$130,000	0
\$130,000 - \$140,000	0
\$140,000 - \$150,000	0
\$150,000 - \$160,000	0
\$160,000 - \$170,000	0
\$170,000 - \$180,000	0
\$180,000 - \$190,000	1

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT

During 2017/18 the Council received no disclosure or complaints lodged under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013.

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

Council operations in the 2017/18 financial; period did not fall within the requirements of National Competition Policy.

INTEGRATED PLANNING

Integrated Planning was introduced in the Shire of upper Gascoyne in 2012/13, and comprises:

- Strategic Community Plan
- Corporate Business Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan, and
- Workforce Plan

Those plans were subject to a desktop review in October 2015. The cornerstone of the Integrated Planning Process is the Strategic Community Plan which was developed in consultation with the community in 2012/13. This document is available on the Shire Web site and has determined the Shire's Vision, Key Focus Areas, and the development of strategies to achieve objectives in each of the Key Focus Areas.

As part of the Integrated Planning process a full review of the Strategic Community Plan and associated plans was undertaken in the 2016/17 financial year. This has provided the

opportunity for the broader community to review the previous document and make any changes that reflect the current time period.

The Shire is pleased to report the progress in achieving the following:

Economic:

Roads have been maintained and upgraded as part of a coordinated program to improve access for industry and tourism. Staff and Councillors undertake an annual collective inspection to determine the current status of the roads and identify key areas requiring capital works.



(Figure 3 Blasting Glenburgh – Dalgety Road)

Council has determined that upgrading the major access roads in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne to RAV9 is required, conditional approval has been provided to the Shire on the basis that signage is installed at prescribed locations. A Forward Capital Works Program has been developed to ensure that likely grant funding is focussed on providing this improvement.

The Tourism Precinct was opened in June 2014. To June 2015, in excess of 2,000 visitors were accommodated in the caravan park. They visited Kennedy Range National Park and many went on to stay at Mount Augustus. The Tourism Precinct itself has provided a social hub for the community. The Tourism Precinct was leased to Kapoo Holdings; unfortunately we have not seen the benefits of allowing the private sector to operate this facility, the Shire will continue to work with the owners to improve the overall performance of this very important community infrastructure.

Funding has been obtained to develop 4wd access though Kennedy Range National Park, which will further enhance the tourist experience.

The bridge over the Gascoyne River was completed in December 2016.



(figure 1 Killili Bridge under construction)



(figure 2 – Killili Bridge Completed)

Environmental:

The search continues for reliable good quality water. Watercorp have upgraded the reverse osmosis facility. Funding has been obtained to commence work to pipe in water from a Bore. The Shire has purchased 9 kilometres of 110mm pipe however we need a further 12 kilometres plus various pumps, at this stage the project is put on hold waiting to see if we can secure further funding.

Work continues on upgrading the Shire's waste disposal sites and the Shire is seeking recycling opportunities.

Systematic wild dog control has been undertaken by the Shire. With support from the Upper Gascoyne Land Conservation District Committee, two rounds of funding from National Resource Management have been used to control Mesquite infestations. A feral pig

eradication program has commenced – also with the assistance of National Resource Management funding and LCDC support. The Shire now have a dedicated Biosecurity Committee that looks at all Biosecurity issues. The Shire are now an association member of the Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association and are very willing to work with the CRBA to deliver projects through the Gascoyne District.

Social:

The Shire has worked closely with the Upper Gascoyne police stationed at Burringurrah and also Carnarvon police to ensure the safety of the Upper Gascoyne community.

The Shire has worked closely with the Aboriginal Medical Service to regain a fortnightly program of visits to Gascoyne Junction at the CRC.

Annual events including the Gassy Dash, Gascoyne in May, Landor Races, Junction Races and Mt Augustus Long Table Dinner continue to be important annual events and are supported by the Shire. The Shire also supports the local craft group. The Shire are actively looking to host other long term events for the benefit of our community.

The Gascoyne in May River Music Festival was held over the June long weekend, and was very well attended. It provided a welcome interlude for all concerned.

The Mobile phone tower opened in August 2012 continues to serve the community well. Additional towers are planned for Mount Augustus and the Kennedy Range.

Civic Leadership:

Each year, the budgeting process is conducted with reference to the ongoing requirements of the community as identified above. A ten year Forward Capital Works plan has been developed to ensure that scarce resources are allocated in a strategic fashion.

The Community Strategic Plan continues to drive business decisions and is reviewed regularly. This report forms part of the initial “desk top” review. A full review with community consultation was conducted in 2017.

The Shire ensures that Assets are maintained and developed to meet the needs of the community as outlined in the Strategic Community Plan.

The Shire appreciates the support of the community as we all strive to achieve the best possible, financially sustainable, result for residents in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.



(figure 3 – Gascoyne in May Music Festival)