



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL (ELECTION MINUTES)

**22 October 2025
Commencing at 2:30pm**

**Council Chambers
Yougenup Road, Gnowangerup WA 6335**

Shire of Gnowangerup

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Council Member

A Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Gnowangerup will be held on Wednesday 22 October 2025, at the Council Chambers 28 Yougenup Road Gnowangerup, commencing at 2:30pm.

Signed: 

David Nicholson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Meaning of and CAUTION concerning Council's "In Principle" support:

When Council uses this expression it means that:

- (a) Council is generally in favour of the proposal BUT is not yet willing to give its consent; and*
- (b) Importantly, Council reserves the right to (and may well) either decide against the proposal or to formally support it but with restrictive conditions or modifications.*

Therefore, whilst you can take some comfort from Council's "support" you are clearly at risk if you act upon it before Council makes its actual (and binding) decision and communicates that to you in writing.



DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Gnowangerup for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

The Shire of Gnowangerup disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Shire of Gnowangerup during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Gnowangerup.

The Shire of Gnowangerup advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Gnowangerup shall obtain and should only rely on **written confirmation** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Gnowangerup in respect of the application.

These minutes are not a verbatim record but include the contents pursuant to Regulation 11 of Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

Signed: 

David Nicholson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	1
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	1
3. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
3.1. ATTENDANCE	1
3.2. APOLOGIES	1
3.3. APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
4. TAKING OF OATH AND DECLARATION OF OFFICE	1
5. ELECTION OF SHIRE PRESIDENT	2
6. DECLARATION OF SHIRE PRESIDENT	2
7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT	2
8. DECLARATION OF DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT	2
9. SEATING ARRANGEMENT FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS (COUNCILLORS)	3
10. CLOSURE OF MEETING	3

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Chief Executive Officer. David Nicholson welcomed Councillors, visitors and staff, JP Keith House and opened the meeting at 2:31pm.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Shire of Gnowangerup would like to acknowledge the Goreng people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. The Shire of Gnowangerup would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Noongar Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginals present.

3. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 ATTENDANCE

Cr Kate O'Keeffe JP
Cr Rebecca O'Meehan
Cr Rebecca Kiddle
Cr Robert Minter OAM
Cr M Creagh
Cr Peter Callaghan

David Nicholson	Chief Executive Officer
Tom Gorman	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Rick Miller	Executive Manager of Infrastructure & Assets
Anita Finn	Senior Governance & Risk Management Officer
Ciara Nalty	HR & Contracts Manager
Stuart Drummond	Manager, Community and Economic Development
Penny Wells	Communications & Events Coordinator
Melanie Wilson	Executive Officer
Clementine Illy	Council Support

Keith House JP

3.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3.3 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4. TAKING OF OATH AND DECLARATION OF OFFICE

Three of the newly Elected Councillors took the Declaration of Office administered by Keith House JP.

- Rebecca O'Meehan
- Rebecca Kiddle
- Peter Callaghan

5. ELECTION OF SHIRE PRESIDENT

The Chief Executive Officer, David Nicholson, conducted the election for the position of Shire President.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that one written nomination had been received prior to the meeting: Cr Kate O'Keeffe, nominated by Cr R O'Meehan.

The Chief Executive Officer then called for any further nominations. As no additional nominations were received, he declared nominations closed.

Cr Kate O'Keeffe confirmed her acceptance of the nomination when asked by the Chief Executive Officer.

As Cr Kate O'Keeffe was the sole nominee, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Kate O'Keeffe elected unopposed as Shire President for the Shire of Gnowangerup, to hold office until the next ordinary election in 2027.

6. DECLARATION OF SHIRE PRESIDENT

The Shire President Kate O'Keeffe undertook the Declaration of Office administered by Keith House JP.

The Shire President Kate O'Keeffe took over as presiding member of the meeting.

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT

The Shire President conducted the election for the position of Deputy Shire President.

Shire President Kate O'Keeffe advised that one written nomination had been received prior to the meeting: Cr Rebecca O'Meehan, nominated by Cr K O'Keeffe.

The Shire President then called for any further nominations. As no additional nominations were received, he declared nominations closed.

Cr Rebecca O'Meehan confirmed her acceptance of the nomination when asked by the Shire President.

As Cr Rebecca O'Meehan was the sole nominee, the Shire President Officer declared Cr Rebecca O'Meehan elected unopposed as Deputy Shire President for the Shire of Gnowangerup, to hold office until the next ordinary election in 2027.

8. DECLARATION OF DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT

The Deputy Shire President Rebecca O'Meehan undertook the Declaration of Office administered by Keith House JP.

9. SEATING ARRANGEMENT FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS (COUNCILLORS)

The Shire President conducts the seating arrangement in the council chambers. The Shire President and Deputy Shire President seats remained as custom.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Tom Gorman	Shire President CR Kate O'Keeffe	Chief Executive Officer David Nicholson	Senior Governance & Risk Management Officer Anita Finn
Deputy Shire President CR Rebecca O'Meehan			CR Rebecca Kiddle
CR Mick Creagh			CR Robert Miniter
Vacant			CR Peter Callaghan
Executive Manager of Infrastructure & Assets Rick Miller			STAFF
STAFF			STAFF
STAFF			Council Support Clementine Illy

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President thanked Council, Keith House JP and staff for their time and declared the meeting closed at 14:45pm.