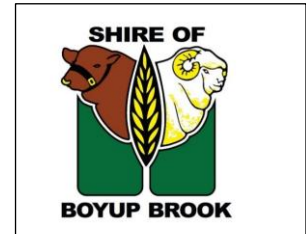


Date: 15 July 2026

To: Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors
Community



Minutes of Special Council Meeting

Minutes of Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Boyup Brook held in the Council Chambers on 7 July 2026 at 5:00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Long", is written in a cursive style.

Leonard Long
Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Boyup Brook Corporate Values



Proactive

Embrace creativity, adaptability and continuous improvement seeking new ideas and solutions to address challenges and seize opportunities to ensure sustainability.



Leadership & Teamwork

Lead through collaboration, promote diversity, have pride in our work and partner with the community to achieve shared visions and aspirations.



Accountability & Integrity

Demonstrate respect, transparency, honesty and inclusivity in all interactions with the community.



Commitment

Build and share knowledge, act professionally and develop relationships that make a positive contribution to our community.



Engaging Community

Show respect, understanding and compassion for others and work collaboratively with community for better outcomes.



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Agenda

1. Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:01pm.

Welcome to all Councillors, staff and members of the public in attendance.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We acknowledge the Kaniyang people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off or placed on silent for the duration of the meeting.

This meeting will be audio recorded and made available for public access on the Shire website.

Members of the public are reminded that no other visual or audio recording of this meeting is allowed without the permission of the Presiding Member.

Councillors are reminded to declare any conflict of interest as they arise in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*.

2. Record of Attendance

2.1 Attendance

Shire President
Deputy Shire President
Councillors

Cr Helen O'Connell
Cr Darren King
Cr David Inglis
Cr Helen Hack
Cr John Matthews

Council Officers
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer
Manager Financial Services
Manager Community Services

Leonard Long
Magdalena Le Grange
Malcolm Armstrong
Nicola Jones

Observers / Public Members

- Shirley Broadhurst
- Andrew Ball

2.2 Apologies

Councillors

Cr Michael Wright
Cr Philip Moore

Executive Manager Operational Services
Executive Manager Corporate Services

Jason Forsyth
Carolyn Mallett

3. Public Question Time

3.2 Public Question Time

Shirley Broadhurst

Question 1

Speaking on behalf of the Boyup Brook Tourism Association Inc, if the Shire of Boyup Brook withdraws from the Alliance, where will the Tourism Association stand within Southern Forests & Valleys tourism body?

Shire Response:

Shire President – The officer recommendation is to stay with WBAC for 6 months, and we will see what the decision of the Council is.

Chief Executive Officer – Council had made a prior decision to withdraw from the WBAC. Council has since been discussing and negotiating with WBAC whether to remain with the tourism side of things, hence the report on the table to decide whether to continue for a further 6 months to continue negotiations. The Tourism Association, being an organisation, will have to deal with Southern Forests & Valleys tourism body directly, the Shire can't deal with Southern Forests & Valleys tourism on your behalf.

Andrew Ball

Question 1

When this meeting was first advertised on Facebook, being that I'm not up on acronyms, I asked a simple question as to what the acronym stood for. That post was subsequently deleted, yet others were not. May I respectfully ask why that was deleted?

Question 2

Is it personal?

Shire Response:

Chief Executive Officer – I don't believe the post was deleted. (This has been confirmed by the Manager Community Services).

Secondly, it is not personal, although I would say it's best to ask questions directly to Council rather than putting things on Facebook. We do not respond to questions on Facebook.

If you ever have a question, you know my door is always open and you are welcome anytime.

Shire President – My number is also on the website and I'm happy for you to call me. I was not aware of any post being deleted as I don't look at Facebook to get my Council information, I go through the website.

4. Declarations of Interest**4.1 Financial and / or Proximity Interest**

Nil

4.2 Disclosures of Impartiality Interest that may cause Conflict

Nil

5. Notice of Motion – Rescission of Resolution 26/05/122 of 28 May 2026

6. Reports of Officers

6.1 Chief Executive Officer

6.1.1 Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils – Reconsideration of Membership for a further six (6) months	
File Ref:	Governance/Regional Partnerships/WBAC
Previous Items:	OCM 28 May 2026, Item 10.5.5, Council Decision 26/05/122, OCM 26 March 2026, Item 10.5.12 Warren Blackwood Regional Trails Strategy and contextual WBAC membership review
Applicant:	Nil
Author and Title:	Leonard Long, Chief Executive Officer
Declaration of Interest:	Nil
Voting Requirements:	Absolute Majority
Attachment Number:	6.1.1A Correspondence form Minister for Treasury regarding FPC rates 6.1.1B Warren Blackwood Alliance Strategic Planning Outcomes

Moved: Cr. Inglis

Seconded: Cr. King

Council Decision CM 26/07/146

That the Council suspend Standing Orders as per clause 15.6 of the Standing Orders Local Law No. 1 to allow free and open discussion on the matter.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr. O’Connell, Cr. King, Cr. Inglis, Cr. Hack, Cr. Matthews

Against: Nil

Moved: Cr. Inglis

Seconded: Cr. King

Council Decision CM 26/07/147

That the Council resume Standing Orders as per clause 15.6 of the Standing Orders Local Law No. 1.

CARRIED 5/0

For: Cr. O’Connell, Cr. King, Cr. Inglis, Cr. Hack, Cr. Matthews

Against: Nil

Moved: Cr. Inglis**Seconded: Cr. Matthews****Council Decision CM 26/07/148****That Council:**

- 1. Pursuant to Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, revoke Council Resolution No. 26/05/122 made at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 May 2026,**
- 2. In its place, adopt the following resolution:**
- 3. Continue the Shire of Boyup Brook's membership of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils for a further period of six (6) months.**
- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer present a further report to Council prior to the expiry of the six-month period detailing:**
 - the outcomes achieved regarding the proposed revised operational model of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils;**
 - the future benefits delivered to the Shire of Boyup Brook;**
 - progress made regarding negotiations with the Forest Products Commission and the State Government on future funding arrangements; and**
 - recommendation regarding the Shire's ongoing membership of the Alliance.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 5/0**For: Cr. O'Connell, Cr. King, Cr. Inglis, Cr. Hack, Cr. Matthews****Against: Nil****Summary**

At its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 May 2026, Council resolved that the Shire withdraw from membership of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils (WBAC).

Since that decision, two significant developments have occurred that warrant Council reconsidering its position.

The first is the proposed restructuring of the operational model of the Warren Blackwood Alliance. Discussions between the current Chief

Executive Officer of WBAC and the Chair of the Alliance have identified that a revised direction will be implemented within six months that places a much stronger emphasis on delivering measurable outcomes for member local governments through shared services, collaborative resource sharing, regional project delivery and coordinated advocacy.

The second is the receipt of formal correspondence from the Minister for Treasury confirming that the rates equivalent revenue previously received by local governments from the Forest Products Commission (FPC), and now paid into the State's Consolidated Account, will not be redistributed to the affected local governments.

These developments provide an opportunity for Council to retain membership for a further six months while the revised operational model is implemented.

Background

Council had at its Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 May 2026 resolved:

“Moved: Cr. King

Seconded: Cr. Wright

Council Decision CM 26/05/122

That Council:

- 1. Determines that, due to ongoing uncertainty in Forest Products Commission equivalent-rates funding and the need to prioritise discretionary expenditure, the Shire of Boyup Brook withdraw from membership of the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils at the earliest date permitted under WBAC’s governing arrangements.*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate continued participation in the Southern Forests & Valleys tourism program through a separate service agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other acceptable arrangement, for consideration as part of the 2026/2027 budget.*
- 3. Notes that the Shire’s participation in the Warren Blackwood Regional Trails Strategy continues until project completion in accordance with Council’s March 2026 decision and is independent of ongoing WBAC membership.*

CARRIED 7/0

*For: Cr. O’Connell, Cr. King, Cr. Moore, Cr. Inglis, Cr. Matthews,
Cr. Wright, Cr. Hack
Against: Nil”*

Subsequent to that decision, discussions have occurred between the current Chief Executive Officer of WBAC and the Chair of the Alliance regarding the future direction of the organisation. Those discussions have identified significant changes are needed to the current operational model to deliver greater value and more tangible outcomes for member local governments.

In addition, the Shire has now received confirmation from the Minister for Treasury that the Forest Products Commission rates equivalent payments currently being paid to Treasury will not be returned to affected local governments.

These developments have occurred since Council made its decision and are considered significant enough to warrant Council reconsidering its position.

Report Detail

The Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils has historically operated primarily as a regional advocacy body representing the five-member local governments on issues of regional importance.

While this advocacy role remains important, discussions with the current Chief Executive Officer and Chair of WBAC have identified the need for the Alliance to evolve into an organisation that delivers practical and measurable outcomes for its members.

The Chief Executive Officers of the member councils will be meeting to develop an operational model which will place a greater emphasis on collaborative service delivery, shared specialist resources, coordinated procurement, regional workforce initiatives, strategic project delivery and improved collaboration between member local governments.

The outcomes of the recent WBAC strategic planning workshop clearly demonstrate this change in direction. Opportunities identified include reducing duplication across member councils, increasing operational efficiencies through shared resources, establishing regional specialist positions, coordinated procurement, regional workforce planning, greater collaboration on infrastructure delivery and standardisation of systems and processes.

These initiatives have the potential to provide measurable financial and operational benefits to member councils while strengthening regional capability.

For the Shire of Boyup Brook, participation in this revised model has the potential to improve access to specialist expertise that would otherwise be difficult or costly to obtain independently. Opportunities also exist to reduce duplication of effort, improve procurement outcomes, strengthen regional grant applications and develop collaborative approaches to common operational challenges.

The Administration considers that this represents a significant shift from the operational model that existed when Council resolved to withdraw from the Alliance.

The second significant development relates to the Forest Products Commission rates issue.

Since Council's previous decision, the Shire has received formal correspondence from the Minister for Treasury confirming that the rates-equivalent revenue currently being paid by the Forest Products Commission into the State's Consolidated Account will not be returned to the affected local governments.

While this advice is disappointing, it provides certainty regarding the State Government's current position.

The Administration considers this outcome reinforces, rather than diminishes, the importance of maintaining a coordinated regional approach.

The financial impacts arising from the loss of Forest Products Commission rates continue to affect several local governments throughout the Warren Blackwood region. Rather than individual councils attempting to negotiate independently, a coordinated regional approach through the Alliance provides a significantly stronger platform from which to negotiate future funding arrangements directly with both the Forest Products Commission and the State Government.

The Administration believes the Alliance through a new operational model would be entering a new phase focused not only on advocacy but on delivering practical outcomes for member councils. This revised direction has the potential to significantly increase the value proposition of membership.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council defer its previous decision to withdraw from the Alliance and instead retain membership for a further six-month period.

This will provide sufficient time for the revised operational model to be developed and for Council to assess whether the anticipated benefits could be realised before making a longer-term commitment.

At the conclusion of the six-month period, the Administration will present a further report evaluating the final operating model, the value the operational model could deliver to the Shire and progress made regarding future funding negotiations with the Forest Products Commission, together with a recommendation regarding ongoing membership.

Shire of Boyup Brook Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031

	Key Imperatives	Governance and Organisation
	Objective	Demonstrate effective leadership, advocacy, and governance.
	Outcome	Provide transparent decision making that meets our legal and regulatory obligations, reflects the level of associated risk, and is adequately explained to the community.

Other Strategic Links

- Warren Blackwood Sub-Regional Growth Plan.
- Warren Blackwood Alliance Strategic Planning Outcomes.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Sustainability and Risk Consideration

Economic – (Impact on the Economy of the Shire and Region)

Continued participation in the Warren Blackwood Alliance has the potential to deliver improved regional efficiencies, shared service opportunities and stronger regional advocacy.

A coordinated regional approach to future negotiations with the Forest Products Commission and the State Government is considered the most effective means of pursuing a sustainable long-term funding arrangement to offset the financial impacts resulting from the cessation of Forest Products Commission rate payments.

Social – (Quality of life to community and / or affected landowners)

Improved regional collaboration has the potential to strengthen the delivery of services, infrastructure and community initiatives throughout the Warren Blackwood region while improving the capacity of member local governments to respond to common regional challenges.

Policy Implications

Nil

Risk Management Implications

Shire of Boyup Brook's commitment to the identification and management of risks that may impact on the achievement of its business objectives.

Risk Level	Comment
Moderate	Withdrawing from the Alliance prior to the implementation of the revised operational model may result in the Shire foregoing opportunities for regional collaboration, shared services, operational efficiencies and coordinated advocacy on matters of regional significance, including future funding arrangements with the Forest Products Commission.

Consultation

- Chair, Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils.
- Chief Executive Officer, Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils.

Resource Implications**Financial**

Should Council resolve to remain a member for six months the cost to the Shire will be \$12,938. However, to ensure funds are available should the membership continue for the rest of the year a total of \$25,876 will be included in the 2026/2027 budget.

If Council does resolve to withdrawn from the WBAC after the 6 months the balance of the funds will be redirected with the approval of Council through a budget amendment.

Workforce

Nil

End

7. Closure

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5:20pm.

Presiding Member

Date
