

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, 2 April 2026 at 6:00 PM

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MINUTES

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2026 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 135 CANNING HIGHWAY, EAST FREMANTLE

1 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6.01pm

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“On behalf of the Council I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting is taking place and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.”

3 ANNOUNCEMENT TO GALLERY

“Members of the gallery are advised that:

- 1. this meeting will be audio-recorded*
- 2. no Council decision from tonight’s meeting will be communicated or implemented until 12 noon on the first clear working day after this meeting, unless Council, by resolution carried at this meeting, requested the CEO to take immediate action to implement the decision.”*

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

4.1 ATTENDANCE

The following members were in attendance:

Mayor A Natale	Presiding Member
Cr S Boyd	
Cr A Brockmann	
Cr C Collinson	
Cr R Cutter	
Cr A White	
Cr M Wilson	

The following staff were in attendance:

Mr J Throssell	Chief Executive Officer
Ms J May	Minute Secretary

There were three members of the public in attendance.

4.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Maywood
Cr Harrington

4.3 APPROVED

Nil

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

5.1 FINANCIAL

Nil

5.2 PROXIMITY

Nil

5.3 IMPARTIALITY

Nil

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

6.2 DEPUTATIONS

6.2.1 ADRIAN BROMAGE CEO EAST FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr Bromage addressed the meeting requesting Council consider “Option 2 – Approve a formal variation to permit fencing to remain between consecutive fixtures (including defined blocks of time), subject to conditions” contained within the officer’s report due to issues related to potential government funding for the fencing.

6.2.2 DEAN NARDI, MARMION STREET

Mr Nardi sought and received clarification on a number of issues:

- Who made the request for the perimeter fencing?
A formal request was made by the East Fremantle Football Club following advice from WA Football that perimeter fencing would be required to play games at the ground.
- What is the purpose of the fence?
WA Football stated the perimeter fencing was required for the safety of patrons, officials and players and to control access so people could be informed and required to comply with the venue regulations.
- Had there been any evidence of a safety incident at this ground or any other ground?
No information has been presented to the Town and no advice provided by the Club in any meetings held with them.
- How much pressure is the Club under from WA Football? What would happen if the request was denied?
This is probably more a question for the Club, however what has been identified is the potential that, if the Club cannot comply with the venue regulations, such things such as rescheduling of their games elsewhere may be a possibility ie they won’t be able to play home games at East Fremantle Community Park.
- Was the WAFL not aware of the original concept of no fence at the ground?

There is background in the officer's report stating that the Town's information demonstrates there was consultation with WA Football (WA Football Commission at the time) and they had indicated general support for the no fence concept, and that they were represented on the project working group. It has therefore come as very much a surprise to the Town, and very late in the piece for the Town, for that position to now be changed. WA Football have stated they have never formally given their approval to having no fencing at the Oval.

- Details on the type of fence proposed.

Details of the fencing proposed by the EF Football Club are outlined in the report presented to the March Council Meeting ie approximately 1.1m high picket fence, which is the preferred option for temporary/permanent fencing. As outlined by Club CEO tonight, the state government, in considering grant funding, has also sought a second option for temporary fencing of 1.2m high crowd control barrier metal mesh fencing.

- If state government funding is not forthcoming would the Town consider funding this fence?

If the Club is unable to secure funding and provide the required fencing, there is a risk this will affect their ability to host fixtures at the ground. The Town has been very clear that it will not provide funding for this fencing.

- When will community consultation commence?

It had been intended to commence consultation this week, however, due to tonight's application for temporary fencing, it was decided to wait until this had been determined. Consultation will commence in the week or so after Easter, with an intention to have all information provided for a determination at the May Council Meeting.

7 BUSINESS

Reports start on the next page

7.1 EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK – REQUEST FROM EAST FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB TO ERECT TEMPORARY PERIMETER FENCING FOR WAFL FIXTURES

Report Reference Number	OCR-4149
Prepared by	Jonathan Throssell, CEO
Supervised by	N/A
Meeting date	Thursday, 2 April 2026
Voting requirements	Simple
Documents tabled	Nil

Attachments

- Request for Temporary Exemption – Football Licence from Adrian Bromage, CEO East Fremantle Football Club (including following attachments):
 - Letter to A Bromage CEO EFC from P Bell WAF re EFC Fence
 - Game Day Blocks
 - Good Grocer Park fence Project Plan Update 03262026 (Confidential)**
 - Good Grocer Park - Fence Map v1.3
- Extracts from Football Licence (clause 12.13 and “WAFL Match Day” definition)

PURPOSE

EFC has requested Council approval to permit the erection of temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures during the 2026 season, as set out in the email from Adrian Bromage, CEO East Fremantle Football Club, titled “Request for Temporary Exemption – Football Licence”, including its attachments.

This request seeks a temporary exemption or variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence, which currently limits temporary fencing to two (2) home and away match days, plus finals.

This report has been prepared following Council’s consideration of a report submitted to the February 2026 Ordinary Meeting entitled “East Fremantle Community Park – WA Football Requirement for perimeter control during WAFL fixture”, and subsequent correspondence advising that WA Football will not grant an exemption from its requirement for perimeter control.

This report seeks a decision on an interim operational arrangement only. It does not seek approval for permanent fencing, capital works, or to pre-empt the outcome of community consultation previously supported by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has previously resolved to support community consultation on a potential permanent perimeter control solution at EFCP, recognising the significance of the precinct as an open access community asset and the externally imposed nature of WA Football’s requirements.

Since that decision, EFC has advised the Town that WA Football has confirmed it will not grant an exemption and has directed that temporary perimeter fencing must be erected for all WAFL and WAFLW fixtures until a permanent compliant solution is delivered.

Officers note that this position has been communicated late in the planning cycle for the 2026 season, without allowance for transitional or interim exemption arrangements. This has constrained the ability of the Town, the Club and the community to consider options in a staged and orderly way, and has required Council to consider interim operational decisions ahead of the consultation process previously endorsed.

EFFC has formally requested Council approval for a temporary exemption/variation to clause 12.13 to allow temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures during the 2026 season as an interim measure pending consideration of a permanent solution.

The attached material indicates the preferred interim fencing solution being proposed is a picket style perimeter treatment comparable in scale and configuration to the permanent picket fence option previously proposed, and WA Football has expressly advised that temporary fencing must be of at least the same dimensions/configuration as that permanent picket fence option to satisfy compliance requirements.

EFFC has advised it is seeking State Government funding to support the required temporary fencing. There is a risk such funding may not be secured, with potential implications for the ability to host WAFL fixtures at EFCP and for precinct activation and revenue.

Council is asked to determine whether to approve the interim request, and if so, to do so with clear conditions addressing installation/removal timeframes, storage arrangements, and ensuring that approval of temporary fencing does not unintentionally expand entry fee rights beyond Council's intent.

BACKGROUND

A report submitted to the February 2026 ordinary meeting of council documented the history, context and policy position relating to perimeter control at EFCP, including the longstanding "no fence" principle underpinning the precinct's design, funding and operation.

This report has been prepared having regard to the email from Adrian Bromage, CEO East Fremantle Football Club, per Attachment 1, including the attached materials, namely:

- Letter to A Bromage CEO EFFC from P Bell WAF re EFFC Fence (WA Football correspondence confirming requirement and configuration);
- Game Day Blocks (fixture compliance blocks),
- Good Grocer Park fence project plan Update 03262026 (project plan including interim requirement), and
- Good Grocer Park - Fence Map v1.3 (fence alignment map).

On 24 and 26 March 2026, the Town received correspondence from EFFC enclosing advice from WA Football confirming that:

- an exemption would not be granted; and
- temporary perimeter fencing is required for all WAFL and WAFLW fixtures at EFCP until a permanent solution is installed.

WA Football acknowledged it is not a party to the Football Licence, but encouraged the Town and EFFC to reconsider any existing restrictions that may prevent compliance.

On 29 March 2026 the Town received further correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer of the East Fremantle Football Club titled "*Temporary Fencing – Clause 12.13 / Game Day Blocks*". That correspondence provides additional detail regarding EFFC's preferred interim fencing solution and proposed delivery approach, including the use of defined "game blocks" where multiple fixtures occur within a short period.

WA Football awareness of the EFCP operating model

The open access, unfenced operating model for East Fremantle Community Park has been clearly articulated and consistently documented since at least the preparation of the EFCP Business Plan (2020), which informed Council decision-making, State Government funding advocacy and the detailed design of the precinct.

Page 19 of the Business Plan records that removal of perimeter fencing would be a decision for the East Fremantle Football Club, subject only to the need for a mechanism to temporarily re-establish fencing for finals, where required to facilitate ticketing and WA Football Commission revenue participation.

Appendix A (Stakeholder Consultation) of the Business Plan records a meeting held on 25 March 2020 with Tom Bottrell, Executive Manager - Country Football and Facilities, WA Football Commission. The recorded key meeting outputs include that WA Football was:

- *open to having fences brought down (as a club decision), provided there was the ability to reinstate fencing for finals if EFCP qualified for a home final; and*
- *overall supportive of the development.*

WA Football was represented and participated in the Project Working Group throughout the planning and delivery of the EFCP redevelopment, and no concerns were raised during that process regarding the no fence operating model.

This context is relevant to Council's consideration of the late timing and changed nature of the current requirements now being imposed.

CONSULTATION

EFFC President, EFFC CEO, and EFFC Board Member.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

This report does not determine any statutory approvals.

Any permanent fencing proposal would be subject to further statutory and regulatory consideration and would be reported to Council separately.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the request would involve a temporary departure from existing licence arrangements and must be clearly:

- time limited;
- non-precedential; and
- expressly linked to Council's future consideration of consultation outcomes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report does not propose any capital expenditure or financial contribution by the Town.

EFFC has advised that it is seeking State Government funding to support both the temporary perimeter fencing required for the 2026 WAFL season and any longer-term permanent solution. There is, however, no certainty that such funding will be secured, either in full or at all.

Council should note the financial risk that, if State Government funding for temporary fencing is not obtained, EFFC may be unable to meet WA Football's compliance requirements. In that event, WAFL and WAFLW fixtures may not be able to be hosted at East Fremantle Community Park.

The inability to host WAFL fixtures would be likely to have adverse financial impacts on the East Fremantle Football Club, including loss of matchday revenue and associated commercial impacts.

There is also a consequential financial risk to the Town, given the integrated operating model for East Fremantle Community Park. A reduction or loss of WAFL matchday activity would be expected to result in:

- reduced patronage across the precinct on match days;
- lower utilisation of hospitality and ancillary facilities; and
- a corresponding reduction in revenue derived from those activities.

These impacts would extend beyond the Club and may affect the overall financial sustainability and activation of the precinct.

Council should also note the risk that, if funding for a permanent solution is not secured, interim arrangements may persist longer than anticipated, potentially creating future pressure for Town funding participation or further governance decisions.

Should Council approve the requested variation, there may be administrative and legal costs associated with preparing appropriate correspondence and/or a formal addendum or variation to the Football Licence.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

EFCP is a strategically significant community asset supporting sport, recreation, health and hospitality. Council's decision will influence:

- the Town's ability to continue hosting WAFL fixtures;
- stakeholder confidence and relationships; and
- community trust in Council's governance and consultation processes.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Governance and regulatory risk – late and inflexible application of external requirements

There is a governance and regulatory risk associated with the late application of externally imposed requirements without transitional arrangements or an exemption pathway, which has shifted pressure onto the Town to make interim decisions outside its preferred staged governance sequence.

Governance and precedent risk

Approval of temporary fencing beyond the limits contemplated under the Football Licence creates a risk of incremental normalisation of perimeter control, potentially undermining the unfenced operating model endorsed by Council and weakening the Town's position in responding to future requests.

Compliance risk

Departures from clause 12.13 of the Football Licence without clear, explicit conditions may erode the integrity of the licence framework and make future enforcement more difficult.

Financial and sustainability risk – funding uncertainty

If State Government funding for temporary fencing is not secured, EFFC may be unable to comply with WA Football requirements, resulting in fixtures not being played at EFCP, reduced precinct activation and diminished matchday revenue.

Operational and storage risk

The attached project planning material explicitly identifies that interim compliance will require installation, removal, storage and logistics of fencing systems on a recurring match-day basis.

Without clear controls, the frequency of fixtures increases the likelihood of pressure to leave fencing erected between match days or store fencing within the precinct, leading to de facto permanence and unintended impacts on public access.

Reputational risk – approval and community perception

There is a risk that approval of temporary fencing may be perceived as endorsing perimeter fencing ahead of community consultation on a permanent solution, unless framed as time limited and conditional.

Reputational risk – non-approval and community perception

If Council does not approve the requested interim variation, there is a reputational risk to the Town arising from perceptions that Council has contributed to the East Fremantle Football Club being unable to host WAFL and WAFLW fixtures at East Fremantle Community Park.

Given the Club's long-standing presence within the Town, the prominence of WAFL fixtures within the local community, and the fact that the compliance requirement has been imposed by an external governing body, there is a risk that the Town may be criticised for adversely affecting the Club's operations, notwithstanding Council's compliance with the existing Football Licence.

This risk is heightened in circumstances where fixtures are relocated or cancelled and where the distinction between the Town's governance role and WA Football's regulatory role may not be well understood by the broader community or media.

Risk of non-approval

Non-approval of the requested interim variation may result in the East Fremantle Football Club being unable to meet WA Football's compliance requirements for the 2026 season. This may lead to WAFL and WAFLW fixtures not being hosted at East Fremantle Community Park, with potential financial impacts for the Club and flow on effects for precinct activation, patronage and associated revenue.

This risk must be weighed against the governance and precedent risks associated with approving temporary fencing beyond the limits contemplated under the existing Football Licence.

SITE INSPECTION

N/A

COMMENT

Contractual Context

Clause 12.13 of the Football Licence permits the erection of temporary perimeter fencing only in narrowly defined circumstances (two home and away match days excluding finals, plus finals), with notice and strict installation/removal windows, and all costs borne by EFFC.

The interim fencing solution proposed by EFFC (as described in the attached material) would appear similar in form and scale to the permanent picket style perimeter solution previously proposed. WA Football has advised that temporary fencing must be of at least the same dimensions/configuration as the permanent picket fence option in order to satisfy compliance requirements.

Scale of 2026 fixtures

The 2026 WAFL fixture schedules include nine WAFL men's home games and eight WAFL women's home games at East Fremantle Community Park / Good Grocer Park, totalling 17 WAFL home match days during the season.

This scale of fixtures materially exceeds the two WAFL Match Days per home and away season contemplated under clause 12.13 of the Football Licence (excluding finals), and is relevant to Council's consideration of what was originally agreed under the licence compared to what is now being sought.

Storage management

Given the frequency of fixtures and the project plan's acknowledgement of recurring storage/logistics requirements, approval should include clear controls requiring fencing to be stored off-site, or only at an on-site location expressly approved in writing by the CEO under delegated authority, with conditions ensuring it remains discreet, reversible and does not restrict access.

Relationship to Consultation for a Permanent Solution

Council has already provided in principle support to undertake community consultation on a permanent perimeter control solution. Interim fencing approval would occur prior to and concurrently with that consultation, and should be framed as time limited and non-precedential.

Type of temporary fencing

The East Fremantle Football Club has confirmed that its preferred interim solution is picket style temporary fencing, consistent with the design intent of the precinct and WA Football's compliance expectations. Alternative fencing types (including construction style fencing or crowd control barriers) were included in supporting material at the request of the State Government for funding assessment purposes, but are not EFFC's preferred approach.

Officers note that any cost differences between temporary fencing types are not a financial responsibility of the Town and will be considered by the State Government as part of its assessment of EFFC's funding application. Council's role is therefore to determine the acceptable form of temporary fencing from a visual, access and public perception perspective, rather than on the basis of cost.

Given the highly visible, public nature of East Fremantle Community Park and the Town's commitment to undertake community consultation on any permanent perimeter solution, officers consider it appropriate that Council provide direction on the acceptable form of temporary fencing, with detailed implementation to be managed by the CEO within those parameters.

Officers therefore recommend that Council record a preference for picket style fencing, while authorising the CEO to approve a compliant alternative only where required to secure external funding and subject to strict access and amenity conditions.

OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The 2026 fixture schedule includes multiple instances where WAFL men's and WAFL women's home games are scheduled on consecutive days (Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday). Under the current clause 12.13 settings (which includes installation/removal windows), this can result in fencing being present within the precinct for close to a full week.

To avoid delay and the need for a further report, Council may consider:

Option 1 – Approve a formal variation to reduce installation and removal timeframes

Approve a formal variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to reduce the permitted installation and removal timeframes for temporary perimeter fencing, such that fencing may be installed no earlier than 24 hours prior to a WAFL Match Day and must be removed no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the relevant match day, while otherwise retaining the genuinely temporary character of fencing and limiting the duration of disruption within the precinct.

Implications:

- reduces the duration fencing is present within the precinct.
- maintains fencing as genuinely temporary.
- represents a lower governance and precedent risk.
- requires explicit Council approval as a licence variation.

Option 2 – Approve a formal variation to permit fencing to remain between consecutive fixtures (including defined blocks of time), subject to conditions

Approve a formal variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to permit temporary perimeter fencing to remain erected between consecutive WAFL and WAFLW fixtures, including for defined "blocks" of time where multiple fixtures occur within a short period, provided that fencing can be opened or configured to allow unrestricted public access when no match is being played.

Implications:

- reduces repeated installation and removal costs.
- increases the risk of fencing becoming a de facto routine or semi-permanent feature.
- blurs the distinction between temporary and ongoing perimeter control.
- establishes a higher precedent risk.

In its correspondence of 29 March 2026, EFFC has outlined a proposed "game block" approach for certain periods of the 2026 season (particularly during May), whereby temporary fencing would be installed at the commencement of a defined fixture block and remain in place across several consecutive fixtures before removal at the end of the block. EFFC has advised that, outside matchday operations, fencing would be limited to non-trafficable areas only, with key access points reopened on non-match days to maintain normal public access to the precinct.

Additional implications and risks (block of time approach):

- Increased risk that temporary fencing may be perceived by the community as a semi-permanent or ongoing feature of the precinct;
- Extended periods during which public access may be restricted if not carefully managed;

- Greater reputational risk for the Town if fencing remains in place for prolonged periods outside match days; and
- Increased need for clear communication and onsite management to distinguish between matchday controls and non-matchday public access.

Risk mitigation measures that would be required if this option were supported include:

- Temporary fencing must be configured to allow reasonable and unrestricted public access on non-match days, including through the provision of designated openings in the fence line;
- Clear signage to indicate when match-day controls apply and when the precinct remains open for general public use;
- Fencing must be removed promptly at the conclusion of the approved block period; and
- Any approval must remain time limited, nonprecedential, and subject to review if issues arise.

Option 3 – Do not support the request to vary the Football Licence

Council may resolve not to approve the requested exemption or variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence.

Implications:

- The East Fremantle Football Club will be unable to comply with WA Football's venue requirements for the 2026 season.
- WAFL and WAFLW fixtures scheduled at East Fremantle Community Park may be required to be relocated or cancelled.
- The Club may experience financial and operational impacts associated with loss of home fixtures.
- There may be consequential impacts on precinct activation, patronage and revenue on match days.
- Council would retain the existing licence framework pending consideration of any permanent solution following community consultation.
- There may be reputational impacts for the Town if the decision is perceived as contributing to the Club's inability to host scheduled WAFL and WAFLW fixtures, particularly where the compliance requirement has been imposed by WA Football rather than by the Town.

Officer assessment and preferred option

In assessing the options available, officers have considered the need to enable compliance with WA Football requirements for the 2026 season, while minimising governance, precedent and reputational risks to the Town and preserving Council's discretion in relation to any permanent perimeter control solution.

In assessing the options, officers have not had regard to the relative cost of different temporary fencing types, noting that funding for any interim fencing solution is not a Town responsibility and will be considered separately by the State Government.

On balance Option 1 - approving a temporary variation to the Football Licence to allow perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW fixtures during the 2026 season, with reduced installation and removal timeframes - is considered the most proportionate and lowest risk response. This option enables scheduled fixtures to proceed, addresses the practical implications of consecutive match days, and maintains the temporary nature of fencing by limiting the duration for which fencing is present within the precinct.

Option 2, which would permit fencing to remain in place between consecutive fixtures, would reduce installation and removal costs but carries a higher risk of creating a de facto ongoing perimeter control arrangement and undermining the unfenced operating model previously endorsed by Council.

Option 3, not supporting the request, would retain the existing licence framework but may result in WAFL and WAFLW fixtures not being hosted at East Fremantle Community Park in 2026, with associated financial and reputational impacts for the Club and potential flow on impacts for the Town.

While officers recommend Option 1, Council may determine to adopt a different option or approach, having regard to the risks, implications and implementation considerations outlined in this report.

Should Council approve Option 1 or Option 2, officers consider it preferable that Council approves the principle and conditions under which temporary fencing may be erected, rather than approving specific dates or block periods. Under this approach, the CEO would be authorised to reach agreement with EFFC on the timing and duration of any temporary fencing (including any block of time arrangements), provided that:

- fencing remains genuinely temporary and time limited-;
- reasonable public access is maintained on non-match days;
- there is clear communication with the community regarding access arrangements; and
- the arrangement is consistent with the conditions and intent of Council's resolution.

This would allow practical flexibility to manage fixture scheduling while retaining Council oversight through clear parameters and conditions.

In implementing any approved option, officers consider it appropriate that temporary fencing be of a form that is visually consistent with the precinct and does not undermine community perception or the integrity of the consultation process, with detailed implementation to be managed under CEO delegation.

Entry Fees

Clause 12.13 provides that EFFC may erect temporary fencing on limited match days and is entitled to receive gate income collected on match days where fencing is erected in accordance with clause 12.13(a).

EFFC has indicated it does not intend to charge entry fees; however, Council should note that expanding the days on which fencing may be erected could unintentionally expand the circumstances in which gate income could be collected unless expressly constrained.

Accordingly, any approval in 2026 should expressly confirm that approval of temporary fencing does not constitute approval to charge entry fees for all WAFL/WAFLW home games and does not create any broader ticketing or gate income entitlement beyond what Council separately approves.

CONCLUSION

Council is asked to determine whether to approve interim arrangements to enable temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures at EFCP during the 2026 season, and if so, to approve a formal licence variation (Option 1) with conditions managing installation/removal timeframes, storage arrangements, and preventing any unintended expansion of entry fee/gate income rights.

7.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. notes WA Football has advised that perimeter control is required for all WA Football sanctioned fixtures at East Fremantle Community Park and that an exemption will not be granted;
2. notes the request from the East Fremantle Football Club (EFFC) contained in the email from Adrian Bromage, East Fremantle Football Club, titled "Request for Temporary Exemption – Football Licence", including its attachments, seeking a temporary exemption or variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to enable the erection of temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures during the 2026 season at East Fremantle Community Park / Good Grocer Park;
3. notes that the temporary fencing solution proposed by EFFC for interim compliance purposes is described in the attached material as a picket style perimeter treatment comparable in form and configuration to the permanent picket fence option previously proposed, and that WA Football has advised that any temporary fencing must be of at least the same dimensions/configuration as that permanent picket fence option to satisfy compliance requirements;
4. notes that EFFC has confirmed picket style temporary fencing as its preferred interim solution, and that alternative construction style fencing or crowd control barriers were included in supporting material at the request of the State Government for funding assessment purposes only;
5. indicates that, from a Town amenity and public perception perspective, picket style temporary fencing is the preferred interim approach; however, to avoid delay to fixture delivery, authorises the CEO to approve an alternative temporary fencing type only where required to secure external funding or where picket style fencing is not reasonably available, provided any alternative fencing is visually appropriate, maintains reasonable public access on nonmatch days, and does not give rise to a reasonable perception of a permanent or ongoing fenced precinct;
6. resolves to approve a temporary variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to permit the erection of temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures scheduled at East Fremantle Community Park during the 2026 season, subject to the conditions set out below;
7. resolves to approve a further variation to clause 12.13 to reduce the permitted installation and removal timeframes for such temporary fencing, such that:
 - temporary fencing may be installed no earlier than 24 hours prior to a WAFL Match Day; and
 - temporary fencing must be removed no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the relevant WAFL Match Day;
8. confirms that, except as expressly varied by this resolution:
 - all other requirements of clause 12.13 continue to apply;
 - temporary fencing must not remain erected between WAFL Match Days; and
 - all costs associated with procurement, installation, removal and storage remain the sole responsibility of EFFC;
9. resolves that temporary fencing may be stored off-site or only at a specific on-site location expressly approved in writing by the CEO, acting under delegated authority, noting that any approved on-site storage location must be discreet, reversible, must not restrict public access, and must not give rise to a reasonable perception of permanent or routine perimeter control;
10. confirms that approval of temporary fencing under this resolution:
 - does not constitute approval to charge entry fees for all WAFL or WAFLW home games; and
 - does not create any broader ticketing or gate income entitlement beyond what Council separately approves, notwithstanding clause 12.13(b);
11. confirms that this approval relates to interim operational arrangements only and does not pre-empt Council's consideration of any permanent perimeter fencing solution, which remains subject to community consultation and a further report to Council; and
12. authorises the CEO to give effect to this resolution, including execution of any necessary documentation to formally vary the Football Licence and agreeing the timing, duration and configuration of any temporary fencing arrangements, consistent with the conditions and principles set out in this report

7.1 COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Council Resolution 010204

MOTION

Moved Cr White, seconded Cr Wilson

That Council:

1. notes WA Football has advised that perimeter control is required for all WA Football sanctioned fixtures at East Fremantle Community Park and that an exemption will not be granted;
2. notes the request from the East Fremantle Football Club (EFFC) contained in the email from Adrian Bromage, East Fremantle Football Club, titled "Request for Temporary Exemption – Football Licence", including its attachments, seeking a temporary exemption or variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to enable the erection of temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures during the 2026 season at East Fremantle Community Park / Good Grocer Park;
3. notes that the temporary fencing solution proposed by EFFC for interim compliance purposes is described in the attached material as a picket style perimeter treatment comparable in form and configuration to the permanent picket fence option previously proposed, and that WA Football has advised that any temporary fencing must be of at least the same dimensions/configuration as that permanent picket fence option to satisfy compliance requirements;
4. notes that EFFC has confirmed picket style temporary fencing as its preferred interim solution, and that alternative construction style fencing or crowd control barriers were included in supporting material at the request of the State Government for funding assessment purposes only;
5. indicates that, from a Town amenity and public perception perspective, picket style temporary fencing is the preferred interim approach; however, to avoid delay to fixture delivery, authorises the CEO to approve an alternative temporary fencing type only where required to secure external funding or where picket style fencing is not reasonably available, provided any alternative fencing is visually appropriate, maintains reasonable public access on nonmatch days, and does not give rise to a reasonable perception of a permanent or ongoing fenced precinct;
6. resolves to approve a temporary variation to clause 12.13 of the Football Licence to permit the erection of temporary perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures scheduled at East Fremantle Community Park during the 2026 season, subject to the conditions set out below;
7. resolves to approve a further variation to clause 12.13 to permit temporary perimeter fencing to remain erected between consecutive WAFL and WAFLW fixtures, including within defined blocks of time, subject to the following conditions:
 - temporary fencing must be configured to maintain reasonable and unrestricted public access on non-match days, including through designated openings or gates;
 - temporary fencing must be limited to non-trafficable areas of the precinct outside of matchday operations; and
 - temporary fencing must be removed promptly at the conclusion of each approved block of fixtures;
8. confirms that, except as expressly varied by this resolution:
 - all other requirements of clause 12.13 continue to apply; and
 - all costs associated with the procurement, installation, removal and storage of temporary fencing remain the sole responsibility of EFFC;

9. resolves that temporary fencing may be stored offsite or only at a specific onsite location expressly approved in writing by the CEO, acting under delegated authority, noting that any approved onsite storage location must be discreet, reversible, must not restrict public access, and must not give rise to a reasonable perception of permanent or routine perimeter control;
10. confirms that approval of temporary fencing under this resolution:
 - does not constitute approval to charge entry fees for all WAFL or WAFLW home games; and
 - does not create any broader ticketing or gate income entitlement beyond what Council separately approves, notwithstanding clause 12.13(b);
11. confirms that this approval relates to interim operational arrangements only and does not pre-empt Council's consideration of any permanent perimeter fencing solution, which remains subject to community consultation and a further report to Council; and
12. authorises the CEO to give effect to this resolution, including execution of any necessary documentation to formally vary the Football Licence and agreeing the timing, duration and configuration of any temporary fencing arrangements, consistent with the conditions and principles set out in this report.

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7:0)

For: Crs Boyd, Brockmann, Collinson, Wilson, Cutter, White and Mayor Natale

Against: Nil

Reason for decision differing from officer recommendation:

Council resolved to permit temporary perimeter fencing to remain erected between closely scheduled fixtures or within defined blocks of time, rather than requiring installation and removal around each individual match day, in order to provide operational flexibility and avoid unnecessary logistical inefficiencies for the 2026 WAFL season, while maintaining public access, amenity protections and the interim nature of the arrangement pending future community consultation on any permanent solution.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved Cr White, seconded Cr Cutter

That Council, pursuant to clause 14.4 of the Town of East Fremantle Meeting Procedures Local Law, requests the Chief Executive Officer to take immediate action to give effect to Council's decision arising from the report considered at the Special Council Meeting of 2 April 2026, due to the time critical nature of implementation and noting the Easter public holiday period.

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7:0)

For: Crs Boyd, Brockmann, Collinson, Wilson, Cutter, White and Mayor Natale

Against: Nil

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments start on the next page



Request for Temporary Exemption – Football Licence (Clause 12.13) – Good Grocer Park

From Adrian Bromage | East Fremantle Football Club <adrian.bromage@effc.com.au>

Date Thu 26/03/2026 2:51 PM

To Jonathan Throssell <jthrossell@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au>

Cc Ennio Tavani | East Fremantle Football Club <ennio.tavani@effc.com.au>; Mayor Tony Natale <Mayor.Natale@eastfremantle.wa.gov.au>; jonathanpstag@gmail.com <jonathanpstag@gmail.com>; ghumeston@belgravialeisure.com.au <ghumeston@belgravialeisure.com.au>

5 attachments (2 MB)

20260324 Letter to A Bromage CEO EFFC from P Bell WAF re EFFC Fence.pdf; Game Day Blocks.pdf; GOOD GROCER PARK fence project plan AB Update 03262026.pdf; Submission to CITS State Government - WAFL Venue Compliance Infrastructure – Good Grocer Park 260326.pdf; Good Grocer Park - Fence Map v1.3.pdf;

CAUTION:This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jonathan,

Thank you for your time yesterday and for the constructive discussion regarding WAFL venue compliance at Good Grocer Park.

Following that discussion, I am writing to formally request that the Town of East Fremantle consider granting a temporary exemption to the Football Licence, specifically Clause 12.13, which currently limits the installation of temporary fencing to two (2) home and away matches plus finals.

As outlined in our attached submission and supporting documents, WA Football has now confirmed that temporary perimeter fencing is required for all WAFL and WAFLW fixtures until a permanent compliant solution is delivered. This represents a material change from the original operating model and from the conditions contemplated at the time the Licence was executed.

Importantly, the current limitation within Clause 12.13 now creates a practical constraint that prevents the Club from meeting updated WA Football compliance requirements and, in turn, from hosting scheduled home fixtures at Good Grocer Park. The attached (Game Day Blocks) outlines the 2026 fixture schedule requiring compliance across the season.

To address this, we are seeking Council approval for a temporary variation or exemption to Clause 12.13 that would:

- Permit the installation of temporary compliant perimeter fencing for all WAFL and WAFLW home fixtures for the remainder of the 2026 season; and
- Operate as an interim measure only, expiring upon delivery of the proposed permanent perimeter solution currently being progressed through Council.

As detailed in the attached (Good Grocer Park Perimeter Fencing Project Plan), the Club is concurrently advancing a permanent solution designed to meet compliance requirements while preserving the open-access nature of the precinct outside of event periods. This includes a defined timeline for Council consideration, consultation and delivery. The Latest version of the Fence Map is attached for inclusion in your preparation for consultation as discussed.

We have also submitted a formal funding application to the State Government to support both the interim and permanent infrastructure requirements, recognising that this fencing

requirement was not part of the original project scope or funding acquittal (Attached). This request is therefore intended to provide a practical and time-bound pathway that:

- Enables continued hosting of WAFL fixtures in 2026
- Maintains compliance with WA Football requirements
- Allows the Town to properly consider and determine the permanent solution through its standard processes

We appreciate that this matter will require an Extraordinary Meeting for Council consideration and would welcome the opportunity to present or provide any further detail required to support that process.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and collaboration on this important issue.

Kind regards,

Adrian

Adrian Bromage
Chief Executive Officer

EAST FREMANTLE OVAL
1 Carnaby Close, East Fremantle, WA, 6158
P: PO Box 43, Palmyra WA 6957
T: 08 9339 5533
M: 0408 861 768

2026
MEMBERSHIPS ARE
NOW OPEN

EAST FREMANTLE SHARKS

WE CIRCLE AS ONE IN 2026

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN NOW](#)



105 Banksia Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060
PO Box 49, Tuart Hill WA 6939
+61 8 9381 5599
reception@wafotball.com.au
wafotball.com.au

24 March 2026

Mr Adrian Bromage
CEO
East Fremantle Football Club
adrian.bromage@effc.com.au

Dear Adrian

Thank you for your letter received via email on 23rd March addressed to WA Football Chair, Ian Callahan.

The WAF Board resolved to advise the East Fremantle Football Club that the Club will be required to ensure temporary fencing is erected for all matches at EF Oval until such time as a permanent fence is installed as per previous discussions. Noting the recent positive discussions between EFFC, the Town and other stakeholders regarding the need for fencing during WAFL matches at EF Oval, the Board strongly encourages EFFC, the Town and other important stakeholders to ensure that any current restrictions during the season which may obstruct the erection of fencing at EF Oval are reconsidered to ensure that EFFC can continue to host home games at EF Oval. WAF, not being a signatory to the licence agreement, understands the permission to erect temporary fencing is limited to two WAFL matches during the standard home and away fixtures, plus any finals that may be played at the Oval. WA Football wishes all parties to work together, positively and expediently, to achieve a pragmatic and sustainable long-term resolution to this important issue in the interests of both football and the local community.

The WAF Board confirms that any temporary fencing must be of at least the same dimensions outlined in your letter of February 27, 2026, specifically Option 2 – Permanent Picket Fence Perimeter Treatment (fully defined permanent enclosure model) – 260227 WAFL Matchday Compliance (Attached).

The WAF Board also wished to communicate to the Club that, given the WAF is not a signatory to either the licence agreement or the sub-licence agreement, current and future decisions will be communicated directly to the Club and the Club should manage the timely communication of messaging to the Town of East Fremantle and Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd, as necessary.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bell
Executive Manager – Performance Pathways & Development
WA Football

Att 260227 WAFL Matchday Compliance (Attached)

1

2

<p>ROUND 3</p>  <p>SWANS</p> <p>6.45pm Fri, April 10 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>WOMEN</p>	<p>ROUND 2</p>  <p>FSC</p> <p>2.30pm Sat, April 11 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>MEN</p>	<p>ROUND 6</p>  <p>PERTH</p> <p>7.05pm Fri, May 1 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>WOMEN</p>	<p>ROUND 5</p>  <p>PERTH</p> <p>2.30pm Sat, May 2 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>MEN</p>
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4

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ROUND 7



CE

7.25pm Fri, May 8
The Good Grocer Park

WOMEN

<p>ROUND 7</p>  <p>WEST COAST EAGLES</p> <p>1.10pm Sat, May 23 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>MEN</p>	<p>ROUND 8</p>  <p>FSC</p> <p>6.05pm Sat, May 23 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>WOMEN</p>
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ROUND 9



BULLDOGS

7.05pm Fri, May 29
The Good Grocer Park

WOMEN

6

7

8

ROUND 10



FALCONS

2.30pm Sat, June 13
The Good Grocer Park

MEN

ROUND 12



CE

2.30pm Sat, June 27
The Good Grocer Park

MEN


<p>ROUND 14</p>  <p>THUNDER</p> <p>2.30pm Sat, July 11 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>MEN</p>	<p>ROUND 15</p>  <p>ROYALS</p> <p>12.10pm Sun, July 12 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>WOMEN</p>
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9

10

11

ROUND 16



THUNDER

12.10pm Sun, July 19
The Good Grocer Park

WOMEN

<p>ROUND 17</p>  <p>ROYALS</p> <p>2.30pm Sat, August 1 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>MEN</p>	<p>ROUND 18</p>  <p>FALCONS</p> <p>12.10pm Sun, August 2 The Good Grocer Park</p> <p>WOMEN</p>
--	--

ROUND 19



BULLDOGS

2.30pm Sat, August 15
The Good Grocer Park

MEN

12

ROUND 20



SWANS

2.30pm Sat, August 22
The Good Grocer Park

MEN

Attachment -C

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT



Extract from Football Licence

12.13 Temporary fencing

(a) Subject to 12.13(d), the Licensee may erect temporary fencing around the EFCP on:

(i) no more than two WAFL Match Days during each WAFL home and away season (excluding finals); and

(ii) on each WAFL Match Day that is a final during each WAFL men's and women's final series.

(b) The Licensee is entitled to receive all gate income collected on those WAFL Match Days that fencing has been erected around the EFCP in accordance with clause 12.13(a).

(c) The Licensee may erect temporary fencing within the EFCP to restrict access to the Football License Area and Surrounding Area on WAFL Match Days in such locations as agreed by the Licensor.

(d) The Licensee acknowledges and agrees that:

(i) the Licensee must give the Licensor not less than 14 days prior written Notice of the Licensee's intention to install temporary fencing around the EFCP on a WAFL Match Day (excluding finals, in which case the Licensee must give notice to the Licensor as soon as the Licensee becomes aware of the date that the final has been fixtured);

(ii) the temporary fencing must:

(A) not be installed in the EFCP earlier than 48 hours prior to 8:00 am on the WAFL Match Day; and

(B) be removed from the EFCP no later than 48 hours after 5:00pm on the WAFL Match Day;

(iii) for those periods before and after the WAFL Match Day, the Licensor must ensure that there are sufficient gaps in the temporary fencing to allow access to and egress from the EFCP by members of the general public;

(iv) the Licensee must, at the Licensee's cost:

(A) procure or hire the temporary fencing;

(B) install the temporary fencing around the EFCP; and

(C) remove the temporary fencing from the EFCP; and

(v) the Licensee must, at the Licensee's cost, provide any additional security or crowd control staff or employees required to control access to the EFCP while the temporary fencing is installed around the EFCP.

Extract from Football Licence

1. Definitions and interpretation

1.1 Definitions

...

1. Definitions and interpretation

1.1 Definitions

...

WAFL Match Day means:

(a) a WAFL men's home game (whether pre-season, home and away season or finals) involving either at least one game played by the Licensee's men's League football team on a day or no less than two games played by the Licensee's other competition grade men's football teams on a day between the hours of:

(i) 9:00 am and 6:00 pm if the WAFL Match Day comprises day games played on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday; or

(ii) 4:00pm and 9:30pm if the WAFL Match Day comprises a night men's League game or two other competition grade men's football teams played on a weeknight, a Saturday night or a Sunday night; and

(b) a WAFL women's home game (whether pre-season, home and away season or finals) involving at least one game played by the Licensee's women's League football team on a day or one of the Licensee's other competition grade women's football teams on a day between the hours of:

(i) 9:00 am and 6:00 pm if the WAFL Match Day comprises day games played on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday; or

(ii) 4:00 pm and 9:30 pm if the WAFL Match Day comprises a women's night game played on a weeknight, a Saturday night or a Sunday night.

8 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

*I hereby certify that the Minutes of the special meeting of the **Council** of the Town of East Fremantle, held on **2 April 2026**, Minute Book reference **1. to 9.** were confirmed at the meeting of the Council on*

21 APRIL 2026



Presiding Member