

# MINUTES

## **Annual Meeting of Electors**

Wednesday, 29 January 2025 at 6:30 PM

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# MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 135 CANNING HIGHWAY, EAST FREMANTLE ON WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025

### 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.30pm

#### PRESENT

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Mayor J O'Neill | Presiding Member |
| Cr C Collinson  |                  |
| Cr J Harrington |                  |
| Cr L Maywood    |                  |
| Cr A McPhail    |                  |
| Cr A Natale     |                  |
| Cr A White      |                  |
| Cr M Wilson     |                  |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr J Throssell | Chief Executive Officer (CEO)                  |
| Mr P Kocian    | Executive Manager Corporate Services (EMCS)    |
| Mr F Henderson | Executive Manager Regulatory Services (EMRS)   |
| Ms J May       | Executive Assistant/Governance Officer (EA/GC) |

There were 12 electors in attendance.

### 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 APOLOGIES

Cr Kerry Donovan  
Mr Nick King Executive Manager Technical Services (EMTS)

### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

**Moved Maureen Flynn, seconded John Newton**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 27 February 2024 be received.**

CARRIED

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

*"Good evening and thank you for attending the Town's Annual Electors Meeting. Before I present the Annual Report, I would like to make some comments and observations.*

*The East Fremantle Community Park (EFCP) attained practical completion during this period. The Town and Council should be proud of attaining this, in what was an extremely complex construction environment. I thank and recognize the hard work undertaken by staff and elected members and draw attention to their commitment, professionalism and ability to resolve major issues whilst maintaining focus and respect in extremely stressful situations.*

*Undoubtedly some major changes to the scope were required and most of those were either deferred, undertaken by the Town or removed. However, the sustainability of the facility remains at the forefront of the EFCP, and I recognize the members of Climate Action Reference Group (CARG) for their advice, understanding and ongoing commitment to ensure this happens. The facility needs to be seen as a 'work in progress' to continue to evolve its sustainability outcomes. To achieve this, all stakeholders and the community must work together. I thank and recognize the nearby residents impacted during the demolition and construction phase. To truly appreciate what the Town has achieved you need to think back 4 years to the dilapidated state of the oval, the surrounding areas and the football facilities.*

*Sustainability remains a focal point, and we will continue with our tree planting program, inclusive of a focus on the endangered black cockatoo.*

*Council also undertook work with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to upgrade the changeroom facilities for the Fremantle City Football Club (FCFC) at the Tricolore Centre. Women's football will have much improved facilities and I thank members of the FCFC for their patience and support.*

*I also thank the staff and volunteers in Neighbourhood Link ensuring our elderly residents can participate in a range of group social activities and one on one care programs. It is a wonderful program.*

*I thank all residents that attended the Seniors' Lunch in 2023 as well as the East Fremantle Festival in George Street.*

*The Town will, in 2024/25, work on LED street lighting, Riverside Road and footpath upgrades, installation of solar and battery charging stations at the EFCP, other solar panel installations, Local Planning Scheme Review and continue work on our Reconciliation Action Plan by our steering committee.*

*Our Strategic Priorities of Social Connection and Inclusion, Economic objectives in local business focus and sustainability, preserving and enhancing our Built and Natural Environments and improving our Leadership and Governance will continue to guide our decision making.*

*In a world that seems to lack, at times, empathy and tolerance I am proud to represent our Town. With our committed and fantastic staff, cohesive Council and input from CARG, RAP committee, Public Art Panel and many community and sporting community groups we will continue to work towards an inclusive and caring local community.*

*Mayor Jim O'Neill"*

Ms Maureen Flynn highlighted the last paragraph on page 22 of the Annual Report (as follows):

*"Ranger services supporting an inclusive and safe community*

*As the Town is focussed on community education and voluntary compliance, 5,476 cautions were issued in the reporting year, compared to 1,594 infringements. Additionally, there were 505 maintenance reports filed and 4.421 individual interactions recorded."*

and advised she was interested in understanding the nature of the infringements issued, noting that in the Town's Policy guideline document the only reference to infringements is in relation to parking.

1. *What are the other types of offences for which infringement notices are given?*

The CEO advised that the majority of infringements issued were for parking offences, however there were also dog infringements issued.

2. *So, in relation to the 5,476 cautions, can you please explain what are the guiding principles that inform the decision to provide a caution as opposed to an infringement. What percentage of parking offences result in a caution as opposed to an infringement?*

The EMCS advised that the Town has an administrative Compliance and Enforcement Policy. The Policy includes a complete list of offences under the Town's local laws and categorises the offences as either minor, moderate or major.

- Any offence that is considered 'minor' attracts a caution
- Any offence that is considered 'major' attracts an infringement
- Any offence that is considered 'moderate', the Ranger team apply their discretion as to whether to issue a caution or infringement

The objective of the Policy is to promote education and voluntary compliance.

**Moved Maureen Flynn, seconded Gordon Lee**

**That the 2023-24 Annual Report be received.**

CARRIED

## 5.2 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 5.2.1 FREMANTLE TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Mr Kim McNish and Mr Gordon Lee provided some background to the Fremantle Table Tennis Club's current operations and financial situation, and their aspiration for purpose built facilities.

Mr McNish advised that this question pertained to the Fremantle Table Tennis Club's application for a lease area to establish a permanent facility.

*The Fremantle Table Tennis Club has for many years been seeking a site to develop a permanent home. Late 2024, we submitted a proposal to the Town of East Fremantle seeking an option to lease a portion of land at the Community Park with a view to building a new facility. We were advised that the Town would be seeking Expressions of Interest early in 2025 in relation to the unallocated sites at the Community Park.*

1. *“Could the TOEF please confirm the process for allocation of the remaining parcels of unallocated land at the East Fremantle Community Park, including timelines and selection process and selection criteria?”*

The CEO advised licence agreements were still to be finalised with the football, bowls and croquet clubs before the Town would be seeking interest from other clubs for the remaining community space. After consultation with elected members to determine appropriate parameters for use of the land, expressions of interest will be sought to attract the widest range of responses. This is anticipated to occur during the first half of 2025.

## 5.2.2 DAMIEN FLYNN, ALLEN STREET – TOWN CANOPY COVER

Mr Damien Flynn addressed the meeting as follows:

I wish to congratulate the Town and Council for initiatives aimed at enhancing the natural environment of our Town especially green spaces such as verges, riverside vegetation and parks. In particular I’m pleased to be advised that the current cost of tree replacement is \$350 and the mortality rate of new plantings is a low 4%. This represents a significant reduction in costs to when I last asked at an electors’ meeting several years ago when Mr Gallagher advised a cost of \$500 per tree.

The revised verge guidelines approved by the Council on 19 November 2024 are a good step in this direction enabling and encouraging residents to plant native waterwise verges. Verges represent the single greatest asset by area size to enhance vegetation and tree canopy cover. We have one of the lowest canopy cover at 16% of the metropolitan area.

Under the guidelines and policy approved, in strategic objective 2 (PP155-173), the Town “commits to increasing canopy cover to 30% by 2030”. In addition, “Council will support initiatives on both public and private land”.

We have had high mortality of street trees over the past two torrid summers with another one facing us.

1. *“What strategies have been investigated and are under development to achieve these objectives?”*
2. *“Are the Town’s resources sufficient to achieve this operational goal in the time frame stipulated? Is it envisaged that external resources be employed to achieve this?”*

Mayor O’Neill noted a discussion today with the CEO, where it was mentioned there were approximately 4,000 shrubs yet to be planted (in house) at the East Fremantle Community Park and around 40 trees.

The CEO advised it was unfortunate that the Town’s Executive Manager Technical Services, Nick King, could not be at the meeting tonight to respond to these questions and noted that he would be leaving the Town’s employ on Friday. The CEO undertook to provide responses to Mr Flynn in due course.

## 5.2.3 RUTH ELLIS, FORTESCUE STREET – SOCIAL CONCERNS RELATED TO AUKUS

**Moved Ruth Ellis, seconded Imma Farre Codina**

**That the Town of East Fremantle calls a public meeting to address the need for community information and consultation about AUKUS as identified in the Perth South West Metro Alliance (PSWMA) report [“Building Defence Social Licence in the Perth South West Region”](#).**

CARRIED

**Moved Ruth Ellis, seconded Imma Farre Codina**

**That Council requests the public meeting:**

- 1. includes attendance of qualified representatives from the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and ARPANSA, and the relevant local MP or government defence spokesperson**
- 2. includes panel participation of a First Nations spokesperson and representatives from Stop AUKUS WA, Nuclear Free WA (NF-WA), Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) and Conservation Council of WA (CCWA); Teachers for Peace.**
- 3. allows a substantial Q&A. Questions may be submitted in advance to ASA and ARPANSA to ensure they are answered at the event, questions also will be allowed from the floor**
- 4. be moderated by an impartial member of the community, wider public or media**
- 5. is widely advertised through traditional and digital media.**

CARRIED

#### 5.2.4 WENDY WISNIEWSKI, VIEW TERRACE – CYCLIST SAFETY

**Moved Wendy Wisniewski, seconded Miles Dracup**

**That the Town of East Fremantle urgently acts to implement measures to increase safety for cyclists. Actions to be considered (in order of priority):**

- 1. improve cycle access to the Stirling Bridge footpath, with installation of a barrier to protect cyclists adjacent to the Stirling Highway, and installation of an additional path to access the bridge. (See photos of location for barrier, and similar barrier in Mosman Park)**
- 2. cyclists' boxes – painted green and marked with bicycle symbol to heighten driver awareness and protect cyclists at major intersections in the Town. Notably:**
  - Preston Point Rd/Canning Highway
  - Petra St/Canning Highway
  - East St/Canning Highway
  - Marmion St/Stirling Highway
- 3. prioritising cycle and pedestrian access along Fraser & George Streets to calm traffic and create safe, active streets that improve safety for students of Richmond Primary School & East Fremantle kindergarten cycling and walking to school. Also enabling pedestrians accessing Glyde In (Photo attached of traffic calming initiative in Elizabeth Street, Nedlands)**
- 4. continuation of cycle lanes along Preston Point Rd, extending west from Petra St to Wauhop Road, to link to the dedicated Riverside Road cycle lanes.**

CARRIED

#### 5.2.5 MAUREEN FLYNN, ALLEN STREET – INFRINGEMENT DISCRETION

**Moved Maureen Flynn, seconded Imma Farre Codina**

**That where a parking offence is not dangerous or causing a lack of access (for example, parking across a footpath so as to make it difficult for a person with a disability or someone pushing a pram) that a first offence be responded to with a written caution as opposed to an infringement.**

CARRIED

#### 5.2.6 MAUREEN FLYNN, ALLEN STREET – EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK

Ms Maureen Flynn advised that approximately 12 years ago, 130 people attended a Council meeting opposing the selling off of portion of the East Fremantle Oval precinct for housing. She wished to congratulate all those people for their hard work to ensure this didn't happen. Ms Flynn thanked Council for listening to the residents and proceeding with a design that has resulted in a fantastic community facility, especially the dog and skate parks.

### 6 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm.



## MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 135 CANNING HIGHWAY, EAST FREMANTLE ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

#### 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.30pm

##### PRESENT

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Mayor J O'Neill | Presiding Member |
| Cr C Collinson  |                  |
| Cr K Donovan    |                  |
| Cr J Harrington |                  |
| Cr L Maywood    |                  |
| Cr A McPhail    |                  |
| Cr A Natale     |                  |
| Cr A White      |                  |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr J Throssell | Chief Executive Officer (CEO)                  |
| Mr A Malone    | Executive Manager Regulatory Services (EMRS)   |
| Mr N King      | Executive Manager Technical Services (EMTS)    |
| Ms J May       | Executive Assistant/Governance Officer (EA/GC) |

There were ten electors in attendance.

#### 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 APOLOGIES

Cr M Wilson  
Mr P Kocian Executive Manager Corporate Services

#### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

**Moved Mr Newton, seconded Ms McPhail**  
**That the Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on 30 January 2023 be received.**

CARRIED

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Mayor O'Neill addressed the meeting as follows:

*"Before the Annual Report for 2022- 2023 is moved to be received I would like to comment.*

*This financial year both staff and elected members were required to make many difficult financial and development decisions not just regarding the East Fremantle Community Park development but also in other areas of Council. I recognise the responsibility that this has required.*

*The Town received an additional \$5,000,000 from the State government to increase their contribution to the Community Park development to \$25,000,000 and an additional Lotteries Commission grant funded the skate zone and 'all abilities' playground. On behalf of the Town, I especially thank the member for Bickton, Lisa O'Malley, for her assistance and support in this redevelopment. The Council's contribution also increased substantially. The challenge will be to ensure that this is truly a community facility.*

*Electric charging stations were installed at the Town Hall with further stations planned for the Community Park. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Climate Action Reference Group for their ongoing commitment, support, and advice to the Council to ensure we meet our emission reduction targets. We also received recognition as a Gold Waterwise Council. With Mr Warn, the outside crew and many local residents we embarked on a large tree planting exercise to increase our urban tree canopy and provide habitats for local fauna.*

*New nature play facilities and a pump track were installed in Gourley Park. Again, a big thank you to Lisa O'Malley for her support for this facility.*

*Our RAP was accredited, and I recognise Yabini Kickett and Nathan Hoyle for her fantastic art work.*

*I recognise the work of our community members on the RAP committee, Public Art Panel and the Climate Action Reference Group. It is essential that the community play an important role in policy creation and implementation and advice and guidance.*

*Our Planning staff worked extremely hard to have the Town's new Planning Strategy endorsed, and also the development of the Town's Redevelopment Guidelines and Local Commercial Centres Assessment and Strategy.*

*Mr Andrew Malone took over as the Acting CEO and overseeing the new Community Park redevelopment. This was an enormous responsibility given the complexity of the development, value engineering demands and the obvious financial pressures in the current construction environment. I cannot thank Mr Malone enough for his commitment to this development as well as meeting the responsibilities of being CEO.*

*I thank and recognise Mr Kocian and team for their hard work and commitment and especially with their oversight of the financial responsibilities with the Community Park redevelopment. Mr King and the outside crew continue to maintain the Town to a very high standard.*

*We are very fortunate to have Ms May and staff in our office. They have worked hard to ensure a friendly and efficient customer focus.*

*As I have reiterated on many occasions, we are extremely lucky to have such a committed and professional workforce despite the ever-increasing availability pressures to attract and maintain quality staff."*

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS, TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024



Joanne Taggart (Dalgety Street) referred to the Town's Strategic Priority 3 Built Environment on page 41 of the Report and queried what steps the Town would take to protect the community's interests with the imminent Woodside Hospital site development.

The EMRS advised that:

- discussions with the developers, Hall and Prior, indicate they are investigating the possibility of consultation with a community group through a community reference group for the construction process.
- following approval of the development by the State Development Assessment Unit, once a Certified Building Permit is received, the Town only has ten days to process and determine, not allowing further opportunity to receive community feedback on aspects such as traffic and parking management.

Mayor O'Neill pointed out that the Annual Report pertained to the 2022/23 financial year, however advised that the Town would endeavour to keep the community informed regarding the development.

**Moved Mrs Newton, seconded Mrs Connor  
That the 2022-23 Annual Report be received.**

CARRIED

## 5.2 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 5.2.1 DAMIEN FLYNN (ALLEN STREET) – GREENING GUIDELINES

Mr Flynn recounted his interactions with the Town in relation to the development of a native garden on his verge and suggested that the process should not discourage those residents trying to establish a waterwise verge.

**Moved Mr Flynn, seconded Ms Taggart**

**That:**

1. the Council remove the requirement for the submission of plans for the installation of a verge garden where the garden is comprised entirely of waterwise species and conforms in all other respects to the requirements and specifications detailed in the Town's Greening Guidelines.
2. the 1.5m setback requirement be deleted and replaced with "plants to not obstruct pedestrians or vehicles".

CARRIED

### 5.2.2 GERALDINE CONNOR (DALGETY STREET) – FORMER WOODSIDE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Mrs Connor thanked elected members of 2023 for their deliberations on the Woodside redevelopment application to the WAPC that led to the Town's resolution to not support the application in its current form.

- One of the conditions of the now approved redevelopment was that a traffic and parking plan be prepared by the developers. What will the role of Council and members of the community be in this regard?

*The EMRS advised there would be a very limited role. As Main Roads WA had determined there would be insignificant traffic impact on surrounding streets, the Town would have minimal input but would be required to*



MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS, TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024



*review the plans where appropriate but the decision to approve a traffic and parking plan would be with the Western Australian Planning Commission.*

- Given four major developments are underway or approved for the southern side of the Town, has Council considered the combined impact of increased traffic and parking issues that may arise for the local area once these projects reach completion? Will Council give an undertaking to engage with the community about strategies to manage the increased traffic impact on residents' amenity?

*The EMRS advised yes Council has considered the combined impact of increased traffic and parking issues that may arise for the local area once these projects as well as other projects such as the Fremantle Traffic Bridge, the corner of East Street and any potential future developments at the intersection of Petra Street and Canning Highway. All these developments combined will have an impact on the Town and will be required to be monitored, however given that Main Roads have high volumes permitted before roads require modifications, the potential actions and strategies the Town can take is very limited. The Town will undertake to engage the community about strategies to manage the increased traffic impact on residents' amenity where appropriate but noting there may be limited opportunity afforded to the Town by Main Roads.*

- Given the interest of the local member (Lisa O'Malley) in the safety of the Canning Highway school crossing, the shortage of crossing wardens in WA, the approval of the adjacent Woodside redevelopment and the projected increase in traffic on the highway, is the Council advocating on behalf of the community about safety issues at the crossing?

*Mayor O'Neill advised that Council had previously taken up this issue with Lisa O'Malley and state government agencies, however he believed it would be an ongoing issue whilst crossing wardens were paid so little. He undertook to again raise the matter at his forthcoming meeting with Lisa.*

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#### 5.2.3 JOHN NEWTON (ALEXANDRA ROAD) – FOOTPATH HAZARD

Mr Newton advised he had contacted Council regarding a hazardous 2 metre section of footpath works outside 47 Alexandra Road which had no safety measures for pedestrians.

Ms Taggart advised there had been a similar hazard in Dalgety Street opposite the Woodside site which also had no safety barricade.

*The CEO undertook to raise this issue with the private contractors involved.*

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#### 5.2.4 WENDY WISNIEWSKI (VIEW TERRACE) – FOGO BAGS/BIN AUDITS

- Ms Wisniewski queried whether the Town was still providing FOGO bags to residents and would it continue to do so in the future.

*The Mayor advised that the Town continues to provide FOGO bags for residents and promotes their use. There was no plan to discontinue this practice at this time.*

- Ms Wisniewski asked whether the Town would be conducting more audits of bins to educate residents regarding recycling.

*The Mayor advised that the Town had resolved to leave the Resource Recovery Group and this matter would be taken up with the contractor who is subsequently engaged to remove the Town's waste.*

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS, TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024



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5.2.5 JOANNE TAGGART (DALGETY STREET) – EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK PLANTING PLAN

- Ms Taggart queried whether there was a planting plan for the East Fremantle Community Park development and was this available to members of the public.

*The EMRS advised that the planting plan contained plants/trees that were a mix of endemic, Australian native and exotic varieties. There were 162 trees being planted ranging from 100 litre to 500 litre trees and over 11,000 plants proposed. Unfortunately due to the scale of planting a single plan could not be provided, however the Town would investigate options to make plans available.*

- Ms Taggart queried whether the species selected in the planting plan had been checked to ensure that trees selected aren't susceptible to attack by the shot hole borer.

*The EMRS advised the proposed trees had been chosen to mitigate any potential attack from the shot hole borer.*

*The Mayor commented that the Town sought to encourage the planting of vegetation to assist endangered species eg Carnaby's Black Cockatoo*

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5.2.6 WENDY WISNIEWSKI (VIEW TERRACE) – EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK/CARG CONSULTATION

Ms Wisniewski advised that the CARG were disappointed they were not consulted regarding this planting plan and with the species selected. She requested CARG be consulted prior to the next round of plantings.

*The Mayor advised that the request would be given consideration.*

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5.2.7 WENDY WISNIEWSKI (VIEW TERRACE) – PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDING POLICIES

**Moved Ms Wisniewski, seconded Ms Taggart**

**That the Council actively pursues elements of the Climate Action Plan related to Planning guidelines for the sustainable building policies of its built environment, commencing with the requirement for double glazing for all new dwellings.**

CARRIED

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5.2.8 DAMIEN FLYNN (ALLEN STREET) – CANNING HIGHWAY FOOTPATH

Mr Flynn queried whether Council was responsible for maintaining the Canning Highway footpath and commented on sections of old slabs that need replacement.

The EMTS advised that this was Council's responsibility and a budget allocation was made each year to upgrade sections of the Canning Highway footpath. It was explained that footpath works along Canning Highway were extremely expensive given they required traffic control measures and were often scheduled at night.

Mr Flynn also highlighted the hazard caused by the height difference between the road level and the footpath in some areas along the highway.

*The EMTS undertook to follow up this matter.*

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5.2.9 MAUREEN FLYNN (ALLEN STREET) – EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ms Flynn asked what was the process for establishing the facility management committee and was it still envisaged to include two community members.

*The CEO advised that investigations were currently underway regarding the establishment of the management committee. The committee would include two community representatives with expressions of interest being sought once the Committee's functions and delegations were determined.*

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5.2.10 PAT NEWTON, (ALEXANDRA ROAD) – EAST FREMANTLE COMMUNITY PARK

Mrs Newton expressed appreciation to elected members and staff for this project finally getting off the ground and finally a skateboard facility in the Town. She was very impressed with the whole development and thanked Council for its efforts.

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5.2.11 JANICE ENGLAND (MAY STREET) – INCREASED TRAFFIC

Ms England queried what process the community can take to raise awareness with relevant state government departments of the increased traffic through local streets that will be generated by the major developments planned for south of Canning Highway.

*Mayor O'Neill advised that the Town continually raises the matter with state government and he would again speak with Lisa O'Malley at their forthcoming meeting. He also suggested that the Town should revisit proposing a 40km/hour speed limit for local streets.*

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6 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.36pm.