



MINUTES

Annual General Meeting of Electors

Tuesday 10 February 2026

Time: 5:30pm

**Location: 13 McGregor Street, PORT HEDLAND WA
6721**

Distribution Date: 24/02/2026

Commissioner Jessica Shaw

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6.1 Closure5

1 Opening of Meeting

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5:30pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The Presiding Member acknowledged the Kariyarra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land that we are meeting on and recognises their strength and resilience and pays respect to elders past, present and emerging.

3 Recording of Attendance

Important note:

This meeting is being live-streamed and audio recorded to facilitate community participation and for minute-taking purposes, which may be released upon request to third parties. In accordance with Section 6.16 of the Town of Port Hedland Local Law on Standing Orders members of the public are not permitted to use any visual or vocal electronic device or instrument to record the proceedings of any meeting unless that person has been given permission by the Presiding Member to do so. Members of the public are also reminded that in accordance with section 6.17(4) of the Town of Port Hedland Standing Orders Local Law mobile telephones must be switched off and not used during the meeting.

3.1 Attendance

Scheduled Present:

Commissioner (Chair) Jessica Shaw
Commissioner (Deputy Chair) Martin Aldridge
Commissioner Ron Yuryevich AM

Scheduled for Attendance:

Kenneth Donohoe (Temporary Chief Executive Officer)
Stephen Leeson (Director Corporate Services)
Kylie Davies (Director Regulatory Services)
Lee Furness (Director Infrastructure Services)
Denise Mackay (Manager Public Affairs)
Tom Kettle (Manager Governance)
Maree Cutler-Naroba (Senior Governance Advisor)
Sophie Marlow (Governance Support Officer)
Chloe Evans (Governance Services Trainee)

Electors in Attendance: Jacinta Behrend
 Camilo Blanco
 Renae Coles
 Jillian Fisher
 Janet Gillingham
 Adrian McRae

3.2 Attendance by Telephone / Instantaneous Communications

Nil

3.3 Apologies

Nil

3.4 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

4 Annual Report

In my capacity as Chair, I am pleased to present the Town of Port Hedland's Annual Report for the 2024–25 financial year. This year's report reflects a period of consolidation, delivery and preparation for the future — demonstrating how the Town has continued to invest in liveability, deliver essential services and position itself for long term growth in one of Australia's most important regional communities.

Port Hedland continues to play a critical role as one of Western Australia's and the nation's most important economic engines. Investment confidence remains strong over the year, the Town approved \$331 million in development applications and \$112 million in building approvals, including major commercial, accommodation and mixed-use projects. Strategic infrastructure such as Lumsden Point continues to reshape Hedland's future, strengthening our position as Australia's premier bulk export hub and opening doors to new industries, logistics and jobs.

Economic strength must be matched by strong liveability; this year we invested in the places and services that support everyday life. We completed major upgrades at Marquee Park and Lion's Park, and delivered Stage 1 of the Cooke Point Shared Path — improving accessibility, open space amenity and active transport links along our foreshore.

Our facilities continued to perform at scale:

- Wanangkura Stadium recorded ~190,000 visits; the JD Hardie Youth & Community Hub welcomed ~132,000 visits and delivered 1,000+ programs; our aquatic facilities saw ~90,000 visits.
- Across the year, 48,965 people attended Town delivered events, with programs like Spinifex Spree and Good Nights Hedland strengthening community pride and connection.

The Town continued to deliver essential services reliably and responsibly. Over the year we delivered 1,594 community programs, our libraries recorded 35,430 visits, and our planning and regulatory teams maintained strong approvals while supporting growth and compliance.

Our commitment to safety, professionalism and excellence was recognised with the Platinum Certificate of Achievement from WorkSafe, and our Planning & Economic Development Team was named Local Government Team of the Year by the Planning Institute of Australia — both proud achievements for Hedland. These results reflect the dedication of our staff — many of whom choose to live and raise families here — while delivering critical services to the community.

Housing affordability and supply remain urgent challenges. The Town progressed the Key Worker Housing Project — a proposed \$40 million investment to deliver affordable homes for essential workers — and advanced a Local Housing Strategy to guide action, advocacy and partnerships. We also secured major external funding to

deliver long term community infrastructure, including:

- \$22.5 million committed toward a new aquatic centre,
- \$2 million toward the JD Hardie Adventure Park, and
- \$10 million in Federal funding for Wedgefield upgrades.

Environmental responsibility continues to be a defining strength for Hedland. The Town was named WA Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award winner and achieved national recognition — supported by our partnership with Care for Hedland, which expanded Containers for Change access, lifted recycling, delivered largescale cleanups, and engaged thousands of residents — especially young people — in sustainability action.

This Annual Report demonstrates a Town that is financially strong, operationally capable, and firmly focused on its future. With net assets exceeding \$818 million and \$188.6 million in reserves, and with a clear pipeline of infrastructure and housing priorities, Port Hedland is well positioned for its next phase of growth and renewal. As the Town moves through its current governance arrangements, the Commission's focus is on stability, transparency and momentum — and on preparing the organisation and community for the return to an elected Council in March 2026.

On behalf of the Commission, thank you to our staff, partners, volunteers and community members for your continued commitment to Hedland. We look forward to building — together — a more liveable, resilient and inclusive Port Hedland.

4.1	Jillian Fisher
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Question 1: *I just want clarification, on page 12 for Councillor Arentz, it doesn't show that he resigned. Can you elaborate on that please and why it wasn't included?*

The Commissioner (Chair) provided the following response:

I will pass that question to the CEO.

The Temporary Chief Executive Officer provided the following response:

We will have a look at that and if it's necessary, we will make that change.

4.2 RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: NIL

SECONDED: NIL

That the Town of Port Hedland Annual Report for the 2024-2025 Financial Year, including the Audited Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2025 be accepted.

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5 General Business

5.1 Written Questions

5.1.1	Janet Gillingham
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Question 1: *My question is to do with the recent Cyclone Mitchell. There has been much confusion and difficulty with understanding the alert notifications of the approaching cyclone. I would like the Town of Port Hedland to address this confusion and request to return to the previous warning system for cyclones of blue, yellow and red.*

The Commissioner (Chair) provided the following response:

My understanding is that the warning systems need to be consistent statewide. I will ask the CEO to respond.

The Temporary Chief Executive Officer providing the following response:

Yes, that is correct, it's been run by the State through Department Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

Question 2: *I understand that I spoke to many people on the weekend regarding this, they were totally confused. There were times where it was very dangerous to be out on the road and yet it was not classed as what we would have thought as red alert. So, I would like if that could be taken on board for investigation.*

The Commissioner (Chair) provided the following response:

As a local member and one whose electorate has caught fire pretty much every summer, I was quite close to the alert process being updated, from a bushfire perspective. I live in the Perth Hills, so I've never had to deal with a cyclone. But I think that it's fair to say that this sort of feedback does need to be provided, particularly if there is confusion. I know that it's certainly something Commissioner Aldridge has close to his heart too. So, I think we would be happy to provide that feedback to DFES, if anybody else wants to reach out to us about that, then we'd be very happy to get their feedback as well.

5.2 General Decisions (and associated statements)

Nil

6 Closure

6.1 Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:47pm.