

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT 2024 - 2025

This Information Statement is published by the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 96 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (Western Australia).

The Council is pleased to comply with the legislation and welcomes enquiries.

An updated Information Statement will be published at least every 12 months.

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1 MISSION STATEMENT

The Shire of Three Springs operates in a stable environment in which the expectations and requirements of the community and government, as well as environmental and economic factors impact on its activities and overall performance. Council is committed to improve the quality of life of the residents of Three Springs through services based on the principles of quality, equity, value and responsiveness and to ensure operations of the Shire are conducted in a cost efficient and effective manner as not to unfairly impose upon its ratepayers and residents.

Its objectives are to:

- provide quality services to residents in the community at reasonable cost;
- strengthen the financial viability of Council by improving efficiency and effectiveness; and
- by recognising the need to be responsible to the electorate in providing information on the activities of the Shire and to involve electors in everyday decision making, to increase the awareness of the Shire's objectives and policies for all those who live and work in the Shire, and to help the community understand the need to reconcile often conflicting factors in planning and providing services.

By these means, the community confidence in the Shire as an efficient provider of services and an effective manager of its resources will be gained.

2 DETAILS OF LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED

Including, yet not limited to:

- Local Government Act 1995
- Freedom of Information Act 1992
- Planning and Development Act 2005
- And all other legislation relevant to Local Government functions

3 COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The Shire of Three Springs consists of seven (7) Councillors including the Shire President. Councillors are elected for a four-year term with four members retiring in one election and the balance (three) retiring at the next. Election is held in October of every second year. The President of the Council is elected by the Councillors at the first meeting following the ordinary election. Extraordinary elections are held to fill any vacancies which may have occurred during the year.

Council is the decision making body of all policy matters.

The CEO reports to Council and the present Shire organisational structure is shown in Figure 1 (attached).

4 DETAIL OF DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Ordinary meetings of Full Council are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except the month of January when Council is in recess and December when the meeting is bought forward by two weeks, and commence at 5.30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and Public Question Time is the first item of business.

The main business of the meeting is to consider and make resolutions.

Correspondence and applications on any matters to be considered by Council must be received at the Council office at least one week prior to the week of the Council meeting if they are to be guaranteed of being dealt with at this meeting.

4.1 Minutes

Minutes of Full Council Meetings are placed on display on the Council website within:

- 10 days after Ordinary Council Meeting

5. THREE SPRINGS SHIRE COUNCILLORS

Councillor C. (Chris) Lane (President)	Term expires October 2025
Councillor N. (Nadine) Eva (Deputy President)	Term expires October 2027
Councillor R. J. (Jim) Heal	Term expires October 2025
Councillor J. D. (Jenny) Mutter	Term expires October 2025
Councillor C. (Chris) Connaughton	Term expires October 2027
Councillor J. (Julia) Ennor	Term expires October 2027
Councillor Z. (Zac) Mills	Term expires October 2027

FOR 2023/2024	
COMMITTEE	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
1. Northern Country Zone of WALGA	Shire President, Cr. C Lane & (Proxy) Shire Deputy President Cr. N. Eva, Cr. J. Ennor & Cr. J. Mutter.
2. WALGA Conference	Shire President, Cr. C. Lane and Shire Deputy President Cr. N Eva, Cr. C. Connaughton & Cr. J. Mutter
3. MRWA Regional Road Group	President Cr. C. Connaughton & Cr. R. J. Heal (Proxy)
4. Three Springs Local Emergency Management Committee	Cr. R. Heal (President) & Cr. J. Mutter (Proxy) and Cr. N. Eva
5. Audit Committee	All Councillors
6. Development Assessment Panel	Cr C. Connaughton (President) & Cr J Ennor (Proxy), Cr. Lane and Cr. Mutter

6 DELEGATIONS

The CEO has the delegated authority from Council to make decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters. These delegations are listed in Council's Delegation Register and are reviewed by Council annually. The CEO has the power under the Local Government Act 1995 to sub-delegate these Authorities.

In keeping with the legislative requirement:

- to determine policies to be applied by the Council in exercising its discretionary powers
- to determine the type, range and scope of projects to be undertaken by the Council
- to develop comprehensive management plans, budgets, financial controls and performance objectives and indicators for the operations of the Council

The Council makes decisions which direct and/or determine its activities and functions. Such decisions include the approval of works and services to be undertaken, and the allocation of resources to works and services.

Decisions are also made to determine whether or not approvals are to be granted for applications from residents for various forms of development.

7 SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Council makes decisions on policy issues relating to services that are provided for members of the public.

These services currently include but are not limited to:

Roads/Footpaths/Kerbing	Stormwater Drainage
Traffic Control Devices	Street Lighting
Street Tree Planting	Refuse Collection & Tip Control
Public Toilets	Public Library
Aged Persons Accommodation	Parks and Reserves
Dog & Cat Control	Planning Controls
Environmental Health Matters	Pest Controls
Town Planning	Occupational Health and Safety
Community Information	Noxious Weed Controls
Building Control	Citizenship Ceremonies
Landcare	

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

8.1 Council Meetings

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council.

These are:

1. Deputations - With the permission of the Presiding Officer or the President, a member of the public can address a Committee or Council personally or on behalf of a group of residents for a period of time determined by the Committee and/or Council on any issue relevant to Council
2. Presentation to Council with prior notification, approval and arrangement with Council, a member of the public can address Council on any issue relevant to Council
3. Petitions - Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction
4. Written Requests - A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council policy, activity or service
5. Elected Members - Member of the Public can contact their Elected Members of Council, to discuss any issue relevant to Council

8.2 Community Consultation

The Council consults with local residents on particular issues that affect their neighbourhood as per the following examples:

1. Electors are invited to attend the annual general meeting of electors to discuss any specific issues over a large range of topics. All residents may attend, but only electors on the Council Electoral roll, are eligible to vote
2. Working Party/Sub-Committee - Local residents are invited to work with Members of Council and staff, to develop strategies to address various matters as they may arise

9 ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

9.1 Documents Available for Inspection

The following documents are available for public inspection at the Council Office free of charge. Members of the public may purchase copies of these documents and the charges are shown below:

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Document	Fee
Council Agenda	}
Council Minutes	}
Policy Manual	}
Council Budget	}
Council Annual Financial Statements	}
Council Local Laws	} at the set photocopying rate
Planning/Building Application Register	}
Principal Activities Plan	}
Assessment Book	}
Delegation Register	}
Directional Maps	}
Building Plans	}
Council Town Planning Scheme No. 2	}
Scheme Text	}
Consolidated Roll	\$12.00 complete roll
Owner & Occupier Roll	\$12.00 complete roll

10 OTHER INFORMATION REQUESTS

10.1 FOI Operations:

It is the aim of the agency to make information available promptly and at the least possible cost, and whenever possible documents will be provided outside the FOI process.

If information is not routinely available, *the Freedom of Information Act 1992* provides the right to apply for documents held by the agency and to enable the public to ensure that personal information in the document is accurate, complete, up to date and not misleading.

10.2 Freedom of Information Applications:

Access applications have to-

- be in writing,
- give enough information so that the documentation requested can be identified;
- give an Australian address to which notices can be sent; and
- be lodged at the agency with any application fee payable.

Applications and enquiries should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Coordinator:-

Postal Address:

Shire of Three Springs
PO Box 117
THREE SPRINGS WA 6519

In Person:

132 Railway Road
THREE SPRINGS WA 6519

Application will be acknowledged in writing and the applicant will be notified of the decision within 45 (calendar) days.

10.3 Freedom of Information Charges

A scale of fees and charges are set under the FOI Act Regulations. Apart from the application fee for non – personal information all charges are discretionary. The charges are as follows:-

1. Type of Fee

Personal information about the applicant	No fee
Application fee (for non-personal information)	\$30.00

2. Type of Charge

• Charge for time dealing with application (per hour, or pro rata)	\$30.00
• Access time supervised by staff (per hour, or pro rata)	\$30.00
• Photocopying staff time (per hour, or pro rata)	\$30.00
• Per photocopy	.40cents
• Transcribing from tape, film or computer (per hour, or pro rata)	\$30.00
• Duplicating a tape, film or computer information	Actual cost
• Delivery, packaging and postage	Actual cost

Deposits

• Advance deposit may be required of the estimated charges	25%
• Further advance deposit may be required to meet the charges for dealing with the application	75%

For financially disadvantaged applicants or those issued with prescribed pensioner concession cards,
the Charge is reduced by 25%

11 ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Access to documents can be granted by way of inspection of a document, a copy of a computer disk or USB drive.

12 NOTICE OF DECISION

As soon as possible but in any case within 45 days the applicant will be provided with a notice of decision which will include details such as –

- the date the decision was made
- the name and designation of the officer who made the decision
- if the document is an exempt document the reasons for classifying the matter exempt;
- or the fact that access is given to an edited document
- information on the right to review and the procedures to be followed to exercise those rights.

Refusal of Access

Applicants who are dissatisfied with a decision of the agency are entitled to ask for an internal review by the agency. Applications should be made in writing within 30 days of receiving the notice of decision.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review within 15 days.

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If the applicant disagrees with the result the applicant can apply to the Information Commissioner for an external review, and details would be advised to applicants when the internal review is issued.

Keith Woodward PSM
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Application for Access to Documents
- Information Statement

Shire of Three Springs Freedom of Information Statement

SHIRE OF THREE SPRINGS
APPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS
(Under the Freedom of Information Act 1992, Section 12)

DETAILS OF APPLICANT:

Surname: Given Names

Australian Postal Address:

Post Code: Telephone Number(s):

If the application is on behalf of an organisation:

Name of Organisation/Business:

DETAILS OF REQUEST: (please tick) Personal Documents ☐ Non-Personal Documents ☐

I am applying for access to document(s) concerning

(If space provided is not sufficient, please attach details on a separate sheet.)

FORM OF ACCESS: (Please tick appropriate box)

I wish to inspect the document(s) YES ☐ NO ☐

I require a copy of the document(s) YES ☐ NO ☐

I require access in another form YES ☐ NO ☐

(Specify)

FEES AND CHARGES:

Attached is a cheque/cash to the amount of \$ to cover the application fee. I understand that before I obtain access to documents, I may be required to pay processing charges in respect of this application, and that I will be supplied with a statement of charges if appropriate.

In certain cases, a reduction in fees and charges may apply - see section on FEES AND CHARGES on the back of this form. If you consider you are entitled to a reduction, submit a request with copies of documents which address the criteria on the back of this form and support your application for a fee reduction.

I am requesting a reduction in fees and charges: YES ☐ NO ☐ (Please tick appropriate box)

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: **Date:**

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

FOI Reference Number:

Received on:/...../..... Deadline for response:/...../.....

Acknowledgment sent on:/...../.....

Proof of Identity (If applicable)

Type: Sighted: Number:

PLEASE NOTE

FOI Application

- Provide sufficient information to enable the correct document(s) to be identified.

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- The Shire of Three Springs may request proof of your identity.
- If you are seeking access to document(s) on behalf of another person, written authorisation is required.
- Your application will be dealt with as soon as practicable (and, in any case, within 45 days) after it is received.
- Further information can be obtained from the Office of the Information Commissioner website: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information>

Freedom of Information Act 1992 - Sect 94

INFORMATION STATEMENT

(a) A statement of the structure and functions of the agency

Shire of Three Springs Structure:

- **Council:** Composed of elected members, including the Shire President and Councillors.
- **Executive Management Team:**
 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO)
 - Manager Infrastructure (MI)
- **Departments:**
 - Corporate Services: Finance, Governance, IT
 - Community Services: Community Development, Libraries, Recreation
 - Infrastructure Services: Engineering, Maintenance, Parks and Gardens, Waste Management
 - Planning and Development: Urban Planning, Building Services, Environmental Health

Functions:

- **Governance:** Formulating policies, local laws, and regulations for community well-being.
- **Service Delivery:** Providing essential services such as waste management, public health, recreational facilities, libraries, and community programs.
- **Infrastructure:** Maintaining and developing local infrastructure, including roads, footpaths, parks, and public facilities.
- **Community Development:** Promoting social cohesion through community programs, events, and support services.
- **Economic Development:** Supporting local businesses and economic growth through various initiatives and partnerships.
- **Environmental Management:** Ensuring sustainable environmental practices and conservation efforts.

(b) A description of the ways in which the functions (including, in particular, the decision-making functions) of the agency affect members of the public

Shire of Three Springs

The functions of the Shire of Three Springs affect members of the public in several significant ways:

- **Policy Formulation and Decision-Making:**
 - **Council Meetings and Decisions:** The elected council decides on local laws, development applications, budget allocations, and strategic planning. These

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decisions directly impact residents' daily lives, such as new developments, zoning changes, and community projects.

- **Public Consultations:** The Shire conducts consultations to gather public input on major projects, policies, and plans. This ensures community members have a say in shaping their environment.

- **Service Delivery:**

- **Waste Management:** Regular collection and disposal of household waste, recycling programs, and waste education initiatives ensure a clean and healthy environment.

Infrastructure Maintenance: Maintenance of roads, footpaths, and public spaces ensures safe and accessible environments for all community members.

- **Economic and Community Development:**

- **Business Support:** Initiatives to support local businesses, including grants, workshops, and promotional activities, contribute to economic growth and employment opportunities.
- **Community Events and Programs:** Hosting events such as festivals, markets, and cultural activities fosters community spirit and provides opportunities for social interaction and cultural enrichment.

- **Environmental Management:**

- **Sustainability Programs:** Efforts to promote sustainable practices, such as water conservation, renewable energy projects, and environmental education, help protect natural resources and ensure long-term community resilience.