



Agenda

SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

ON THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

The meeting will be held at the Civic Centre
Strickland Street, Denmark

ATTENDEES WILL NEED TO REGISTER

REGISTRATIONS WILL OPEN AT 4.30PM

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1. HOW THE SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED

These procedures are consistent with requirements under the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

- The Shire President will preside over the meeting [s 5.30].
- The only matter to be discussed at this meeting is the matter detailed in the Special Meeting Request.
- All electors present are required to sign the Attendance Register with their name and address.
- Only electors are permitted to vote.
- Each elector who is present is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided at the meeting but does not have to vote [r 17].
- Voting is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret [r 17].
- All decisions are to be made by a simple majority of electors present [r 17].
- The presiding person will call for a mover and a seconder for any motions. The presiding person will read out the motion.
- If a motion is moved and seconded, it becomes live, and the presiding person will facilitate debate.
- Debate will be limited to 3 or 4 speakers for the motion, and 3 or 4 speakers against the motion.
- Speakers for, or against, the motion will be limited to 3 minutes each.
- All decisions made at the meeting are to be considered at the next Ordinary Council meeting or, if that is not practicable, at the first Ordinary Council meeting after that meeting; or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, whichever happens first [s 5.33].
- There will be no public question time [r 5].
- The meeting procedure to be followed, other than those listed above, is to be determined by the person presiding [r 18].

An *elector* means a person who is eligible to be enrolled to vote at Shire of Denmark local government elections. An eligible person is one that is a ratepayer or is on the Shire of Denmark's Owners & Occupiers Roll.

2. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Person to declare the meeting open.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE – Electors Present:

Cr Kingsley Gibson (Shire President), Presiding Person

Electors present are required to sign the Attendance Register, detailing their name and address, which is available at the entrance of the Civic Centre. This is a legal requirement.

STAFF:

David King (Chief Executive Officer)

Kellie Jenkins (Executive Manager Corporate Services)

Rob Westerberg (Director Infrastructure & Assets)

Claire Thompson (Governance Coordinator)

Kristie Buss (Executive Support Officer)

4. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

A request signed by 340 different Electors was submitted to the Shire President on 4 August 2025 requesting a Special Meeting of Electors for the following purpose.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is as follows:

Ecological Exclusion Zones and Biodiversity Protection:

- Removal of key biodiversity zones from DBCA burn plans
- Independent ecological assessments
- Transparency on burn decisions

Health and Wellbeing:

- review of mental and physical health impacts from prescribed burns

Insurance and Accountability

- Report increased fire risks associated in prescribed burns and insurance costs rising
- Adjust policy to protect residents, businesses and farms

5. MOTIONS

5.1 INSURANCE RISK AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PRESCRIBED BURNS

MOTION 1

ITEM 5.1

We ask that the Denmark Shire write to DBCA and the relevant ministers on behalf of concerned residents of Denmark, requesting the revocation of Section 132 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. This section releases DBCA from automatic liability in the event of unintended and unplanned consequences arising from DBCA-managed prescribed burns. We believe this exemption does not fulfil the government's duty of care to its citizens.

5.2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPACTS OF PRESCRIBED BURNS

MOTION 2

ITEM 5.2

We ask that the Denmark Shire write to the relevant ministers, along with the Premier & DBCA, to request that DBCA engage with the community to review and significantly improve communication, notifications, and information **processes and practices** regarding their prescribed burn program. The growing community fear and anxiety, driven by DBCA's lack of transparency around when burns **may** occur, **the risk of the burns escaping and the known adverse impacts of smoke on people's health** is taking a physical and mental toll on **residents** — and their sense of safety at home.

5.3 ECOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

MOTION 3

ITEM 5.3

We ask that the Denmark Shire write to the relevant ministers, DBCA, and the Premier. Given community concern, we request that the WA Government withdraw Harewood Block FRK_108 from the burn options program until such time as it provides an **independent** pre-burn biodiversity assessment of FRK_108. This assessment should include protected native flora and fauna species, ecological communities, and cultural values, and must publicly demonstrate that the prescribed burn program is 'maintaining' biodiversity values in Harewood.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting will conclude when there are no further motions.