

Report of the Inquiry into the Shire of Coolgardie

We are pleased to provide you with a summary of the Inquiry into the operations of the Shire of Coolgardie, which recently published its findings.

The inquiry, initiated in 2020 by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), examined the Shire's tendering processes, policy adherence, financial viability, and organisational culture. In line with our commitment to transparency and accountability, the Shire was an active participant in the inquiry, allowing an Authorized Person to review tendering processes and review relevant documents. Taking a proactive approach to address concerns, the Shire also collaborated with 2020 Global Pty Ltd for a forensic audit, conducting a thorough examination of credit card transactions and payment data.

We're pleased to share that both the DLGSC inquiry and the forensic audit reflected well on the Shire's processes and practices, finding no evidence of fraud, corruption or collusion. Credit card transactions were deemed appropriate, with personal purchases promptly self-reported and resolved.

This comprehensive audit not only highlighted the Shire's commitment to financial integrity but also showcased the transparent and ethical practices implemented in all procurement processes. Among the key findings of the report were:

- The Shire is meeting its financial reporting obligations and has adopted a strategic and forward-looking approach to financial management.
- The Shire maintains a positive internal culture, with a commitment to community service, clear roles, effective relationships, and a strong focus on good governance.
- The Shire President and CEO were praised for maintaining an effective relationship, ensuring a strong connection between Council and administration.
- The Council demonstrated transparency, trust, and followed policies.
- The Shire was committed to responsible financial management by Council and the Administration, ensuring the well-being of the Shire's fiscal health.

While we're proud of the positive outcomes from the report, the Shire is also committed to further improving our operations and the service we provide wherever we can. The inquiry also found opportunities for the Shire to improve its work in a few key areas, including:

- All council members and staff to undergo conflict of interest training.
- The Shire should review and update its professional development and training program.
- The Shire should review and update its Procurement/Purchasing Policy and develop procedures.

We welcome these findings and are looking forward to implementing these recommendations as part of our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

We appreciate the active engagement of our stakeholders and the community throughout this process, and thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Shire of Coolgardie.

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