



## Message From The Chief Executive Officer

As we kick off 2024, I have had time to reflect on the incredible strides and accomplishments that the Shire of Coolgardie achieved in 2023. This includes the completion of the significant investment into Bluebush Village, the operationalisation of a Class 3 Waste Facility, and the inauguration of the groundbreaking First Nation's Cultural Hub in Coolgardie stand as testament to our commitment to progress and innovation.

Our strategic partnerships with esteemed institutions like Curtin University, Fulton Hogan, and the Commonwealth Bank have also paved the way for our future.

As we look ahead to this year, our focus remains steadfast on fostering economic and community growth in the Shire, with a keen eye on enhancing our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives.

The upcoming projects in 2024, including the expansion of the Coolgardie Waste Facility, and the delivery of new residential houses in Kambalda, underscore our dedication to sustainable development. The ongoing expansion of the Kambalda aerodrome, with its potential to alleviate transit challenges for FIFO workers and reduce environmental impact, showcase our commitment to responsible progress. Together, let us stride confidently into the new year, building on our successes and embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Best regards,

Warm Regards,  
James Trail



## 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.

For more information please see our summary report [here](#).

## What's Down The Track

At the end of 2023, James Trail presented at the What's Down The Track forum to highlight some of the key accomplishments the Shire implemented throughout the year. These accomplishments have not only positively impacted the economy but have also left a noticeable imprint on the social and cultural aspects of the Shire. Some highlights that we're particularly proud of in 2023 that were discussed during the presentation include:

- Completing a significant investment for the Bluebush Village, injecting 320 fully operational rooms into the accommodation supply
- Completing a Class 3 Waste Facility that is now operational
- Opening the First Nation's Cultural Hub in Coolgardie, being the first of its kind in the region
- Forming Strategic Partnerships with Curtin University, Fulton Hogan and the Commonwealth Bank

Additionally, The Shire looked into what next year holds and how we can continue the momentum of fostering economic and community growth within the Shire. With a particular lens on improving our ESG offering, such as:

- Powering our villages, waste facilities and airport by microgrids
- Expanding the Coolgardie Waste Facility to include mining liquid waste, tyres and plastics
- Increasing worker's accommodation by 200 rooms
- Delivering 7 new residential houses in Kambalda



Bree Crawley, Community Development Team Leader and Joy Charlton at What's Down The Track last year.



## Airport Development for regional connectivity

The refurbishment and expansion of the Kambalda aerodrome is well underway, with planned upgrades to help shorten the transit time between worker accommodation and mine sites for FIFO workers. Through providing competitive landing fees, we're helping mining companies reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and seeking to redirect up to 1,000 FIFO staff to relieve pressure on the Kalgoorlie regional airport.

This project will help overcome two major challenges facing the industry to improve decarbonization

reporting and better support employee welfare and fatigue management. The upgrade of the aerodrome has also been advantageous for specialist and medical practitioners from Perth, who can now offer FIFO day consultancies through the Kambalda medical centre to directly benefit the local community. Additionally, the functioning all weather airport provides greater opportunity to support emergency landings and services.

## Modular housing solutions for critical workers

Market demand continues to grow for critical and battery minerals, consequently increasing pressure for housing in the Shire of Coolgardie. In late 2022, The Shire completed the development of the accommodation village in Kambalda to provide 200 additional beds as well as a dry mess, recreation room, meeting room and gym. The site is now fully operational and leases accommodation on a daily bed rate basis, providing an additional income-generating asset in the town and helping improve Kambalda's own source of income.

As the site has proven vastly effective in increasing the supply of much-needed worker accommodation, the landmark facility has generated interest from other companies for a similar Shire-built and managed facility closer to Coolgardie. This will continue to enable local economic growth underpinned by mining activity to sustain the future of towns like Kambalda long-term.



## Pro-active approach to economic development

Core to our strategic planning for the Shire of Coolgardie is constantly seeking proactive opportunities to foster economic development in the region. In recent times, we've focused on two major initiatives to the benefit of the State economy and community: the Mungari Strategic Industrial Area (SIA) and the Critical Minerals Strategic Alliance.

As the largest industrial site available in the Goldfields suitable for mineral processing, the Mungari SIA was established to facilitate significant industrial economic development to the benefit of the State economy and community. The Mungari SIA will help the region further its development of an industrial advanced processing hub and respond to the growing demand from mineral resources and industrial customers.

Further supporting the economic development of the region, the Shire of Coolgardie established a Critical Minerals Strategic Alliance which will see mining companies work collaboratively to enhance productivity of operations and improve the liveability of the Shire and wider region. The result of this alliance intends to strengthen economic development opportunities and work in partnership to find solutions to complex shared issues for mutual community benefit.

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