

# SHIRE NOTES



## **Councillor Resignation**

Cr Barry Leslie has tendered his resignation effective 26 March 2008. Cr Leslie was first elected in 1999 and served as President from 2001 through to 2007. An election to fill the vacancy will be held on Thursday, 10 July 2008.

## **New Staff**

Welcome aboard to Tom Findlay to the position of Works Supervisor and to Julie Oliver to the position of Senior Finance Officer. Both positions have been vacant for over 2 years. Please take the time to welcome Tom to Tammin (Julie has been part of Tammin a bit longer).

Sadly, it is goodbye to Carol Crane, Finance Officer who has been in the position for 11 months (after serving as the Community Development Officer). The position has been advertised.

Accommodation is still the restraining factor in filling the Community Development Officer's position.

## **Structural Reform**

Another round of debate is occurring in local government in relation to structural reform. The current subject surrounds a proposal to create regional local governments (with sizes proposed ranging from Tammin to Southern Cross (including Westonia and Bruce Rock) as the smaller through to Cunderdin to Southern Cross (including Mount Marshall to Kondinin) as the larger extreme. The proposal would see the Regional Council looking after the bigger issues (including rating) with the local councils continuing to look after minor local issues.

This should prove an interesting discussion issue with your local Councillor.

## **Roads Inspection**

An inspection of local roads by Councillors on 15 April found a considerable amount of storm damage resulting from the recent heavy rains. The graders continue to make inroads. The good news from the rain (other than the crop potential) is that the graders will be able to put more effort this year into maintenance grading – lack of moisture has been a restraining factor in the past couple of years.

Thanks to those who took time to draw local issues to Council's attention.

## **Local Achievement**

Congratulations to Simon Mackin on being selected to represent Western Australia in the Under 15 Schoolboys Cricket Team which competed in Maroochydore, Queensland at the end of March.

It is understood that Simon performed very well and made a great ambassador for Tammin.

## **Tammin School Oval**

Council has agreed to take over the mowing and fertilising of the school oval through to January 2009 to allow time for the School to make future arrangements.

## **Sea Containers & Building Control**

Council has adopted a Policy to control the use of sea containers in the Shire of Tammin. Whilst the Policy will not apply to existing sea containers, it will require development permission to be obtained. Conditions will apply as follows:

One smaller Sea Container (6m or less) may be located on a property in the Residential and Special Residential Zones subject to the following conditions:

- (i) That the containers shall be fitted with a pitched roof;
- (ii) That the containers shall be located to the rear of the dwelling and shall not be visible from the street;
- (iii) That the containers shall be located within normal building setbacks;
- (iv) That the containers shall be fitted with windows and doors that can be opened from inside to ensure safety of users;
- (v) That the containers shall be painted to match the colour of the house;
- (vi) That the containers may be used as outbuildings but not for ancillary accommodation;
- (vii) That the containers shall not be located over septic tanks, leach drains or utilities;
- (viii) That applicants shall obtain the written consent of surrounding neighbours;
- (ix) That the containers shall be landscaped to screen them from neighbours; and
- (x) That if the containers fall into disrepair or become unsightly Council shall require their removal.

One larger Sea Container (up to 12m) may be used for storage only on a property in the Light Industrial Zone and Rural Zone with Council's approval subject to the following conditions:

- (i) That the containers shall be located to the rear of buildings and that they are not prominently visible from the street;
- (ii) That the containers shall be located within building setbacks in the current Town Planning Scheme;
- (iii) That the containers shall be able to be opened from inside to ensure safety of users;
- (iv) That the containers shall be painted to match the buildings on the lot;
- (v) That the containers shall not be located over septic tanks, leach drains or utilities;
- (vi) That the applicants obtain the written consent of the surrounding property owners; and
- (vii) That if the containers fall into disrepair and become unsightly, that Council shall require their removal.

Council has also resolved to seek a change in the law that will require a building permit to be obtained for Class 1 buildings (dwellings) outside the townsite – currently a building permit is only required for building works in the townsite and development consent only for other areas.

Mick Oliver, Chief Executive Officer