

# NEWSLETTER JUNE



North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils  
Dowerin | Koorda | Mt Marshall | Mukinbudin | Nungarin | Trayning | Wyalkatchem

The North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils is a voluntary organisation of seven local governments, established for over 20yrs. The purpose of NEWROC is to ***work together for successful communities***. NEWROC achieves this with ***regional collaboration to champion opportunities for the communities***.

## Internet

With funding from the State Governments Digital Farm Grant, NEWROC and Crisp Wireless have commissioned three additional internet towers in Wyalkatchem, North Koorda and Gabbin. These new towers will provide additional coverage to the Crisp Wireless network in the district, taking the total number of towers in the NEWROC to 15. The towers will be due to come online in the next month.

## Energy Update

NEWROC representatives and the Shire of Quairading met with the Minister for Energy and Western Power in Quairading in mid September 2022 to discuss reliable power supply to eastern Wheatbelt communities and businesses. Also in attendance was Hon Darren West. NEWROC representatives advocated for increased investment in the network and presented their proposal to develop a microgrid for power reliability.

The NEWROC formed an energy sub committee following the meeting to investigate options for power reliability and are working with Empire C&E to develop a business case for an application to ARENA for community batteries. The ARENA grant funds 100% of the capital cost of the batteries with the intent to see an uptake of solar to supply the batteries. The business case and application will be submitted on 30 June.



## Economic Development

In April, the Wheatbelt Development Commission led a forward planning session with Presidents and CEOs of the NEWROC. The Commission presented key demographic and economic data to the group for their consideration. The presentation assisted the identification of economic opportunities across the 7 local governments. The NEWROC has formed an economic development sub committee and is in the process of setting goals for the sub committee to work towards.

## NEW! Wyalkatchem Town Team

We welcome the Wylie Collective to the network of Town Teams in the NEWROC, following a successful inception meeting. Keep up to date with all the Towns Teams in our district on the [Town Team Movement Facebook](#) or Instagram @townteammovement pages.

## 2023 NEWROC Literary Luncheon

The NEWROC is pleased to support the upcoming Literary Luncheon with Anthea Hodgson on Friday 4 August. Tickets at TryBooking or through the Nungarin CRC

## Waste

The NEWROC continues to investigate an improved waste management model as well as supporting waste infrastructure across the 7 local governments.

## Advocacy

One of the roles NEWROC performs is to advocate on behalf of the communities and businesses in the district. In 2023, NEWROC made submissions to the “Inquiry into Bank Closures in Regional Australia” and the “Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea”. Both submissions address the community and economic impact of government policy.

### Our Sheep Industry. Did you know?

- ✓ The agricultural output from businesses in the NEWROC district represents 6.8% of the Wheatbelt’s total agricultural output (2022). The total value added by the businesses in the NEWROC agricultural sector represents 7.4% of total value added by agriculture to the Wheatbelt economy (2022) and it has consistently been the highest employing sector across the seven local governments, providing 52% of the jobs in 2022.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ The sheep producers participating in live trade in the NEWROC predominantly supply the Fremantle port, contributing to the 12.2% of sheep sold into the live sheep trade nationally. The North East Wheatbelt is highly dependent on live sheep export, at 7.4% of total sales (ABARES AAGIS survey).<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ During the 2020/21<sup>3</sup> financial year there was 402,574 sheep in the NEWROC district, and 180 businesses involved in the industry. Today there are a total of 702 businesses in the NEWROC, with the businesses participating in the sheep industry representing just under a third of all businesses in the district. There are also a large number of businesses in the NEWROC and surrounding central and eastern Wheatbelt that rely on the sheep industry such as transport carriers, wool classers, shearers, stock agents etc – all of whom will be impacted by the phase out of live sheep exports by sea which will reduce industry growth and diversification. The negative impact on the businesses that support sheep producers will most certainly affect their bottom line, their viability and potentially their presence and valuable contributions in our communities, including our population.

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<sup>1</sup> REMPLAN and Agricultural output and value added 2018 - 2022

<sup>2</sup> Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade, Mecardo 2019

<sup>3</sup> DAFF ABARES