



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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# **COUNCIL PURCHASE NEW WASTE FACILITY SITE**

At a Special Council Meeting today Council voted to finalise the purchase of Lot 12 Kirwan Road. Scientific data collected from the site has indicated the site is a suitable location for a new waste facility.

Council received the findings of the Due Diligence report completed by Talis Consultants. This report contained an analysis of the data collected from the property and recommended to proceed with the proposed site. Council has agreed to purchase the property and moved to:

- Inform the owner of Lot 12 Kirwan Road, Merivale (Lot 12), A & J Knox Super Pty Ltd (Seller), that the due diligence condition as contained in clause 2.1(1) of the contract between the Seller and the Shire of Esperance for the sale of Lot 12 is satisfied and that settlement of the sale of Lot 12 shall occur within 20 business days from 14 April 2017.
- Request the CEO to prepare a report to Council on the formation of a Community Reference Group to assist in the development of a best practice waste facility, management plan and future operations at Lot 12 Kirwan Road to ensure local amenity is maintained.
- Request the CEO to issue an Expression of Interest for alternative waste treatments suitable for the Shire of Esperance, with a focus on reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill.
- Confirm that the Wylie Bay Waste Facility will remain utilised as a waste transfer station and alternate waste treatment site (if suitable).

The Shire can now commence the design phase, working with the Community Reference Group, to establish a best practice facility that accommodates the current and future waste needs of our community.

CEO Matthew Scott said "The seller has given access to Shire officers and Talis Consultants since September 2016. This has made sure we had sufficient time to determine if the property was suitable for a waste facility or whether we would encounter a fatal flaw (a fatal flaw would mean a new location would need to be found). During this time a significant, and necessary, amount of environmental data has been collected and analysed. This data supports the property being suitable for a new modern waste facility."

Shire President Victoria Brown acknowledged the disappointment and distress that this may cause the surrounding land owners "We understand members of the Merivale Tip Action Group and others in our community may not be happy with the decision. Unfortunately Council is not always able to make decisions that will please everyone. Our community needs a landfill site and stringent testing shows this one is the most suitable. Council will be making sure that this site

meets all Best Practice guidelines and we want to continue working with the members of the community. Maintaining the current local amenity is a priority of Council with regard to the management plan and future operations,” Cr Brown said.

Part of the resolution includes calling for expressions of interest in regards to alternative waste management treatments to reduce landfill which can be incorporated into the future design.

There is now a lengthy approvals process that must be completed prior to construction. This includes a comprehensive design process and site works.

**Ends**

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