

## 9 OFFICER'S REPORTS

### SY113-11/24 WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK FUNDING APPLICATION

<b>File Number:</b>	<b>4.8046</b>
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<b>Authoriser:</b>	<b>Chris Linnell, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>Previously before Council:</b>	<b>27 August 2018 (060818) 27 May 2019 (040519)</b>
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1. Current WSN current program 2024 <a href="#">↓</a> 2. WSN Proposal Route Plan <a href="#">↓</a> 3. WSN Route Overlay <a href="#">↓</a></b>

### NATURE OF COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER

Executive

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to consider an application to the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) Steering Committee for two (2) Shire of York roads to be added to the WSN program which includes Quellington Road and Goldfields (York-Tammin) Road and seek funding towards these projects.

### BACKGROUND

The WSN is a jointly funded program between the Commonwealth, State and forty-two (42) Wheatbelt Local Governments working together to strategically improve the regional road freight safety and efficiency across the key transport routes that support the region's major industries.

The scope of the WSN Program is to upgrade local roads that play a key role in the movement of primarily agricultural freight in the Wheatbelt Region of Western Australia. The Secondary Freight Network in the Wheatbelt region currently comprises some 4,400km of Local Government roads upgraded in a rolling program. An overview of the current routes included in the WSN program is included in Attachment 1.

The WSN program and associated funding is overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of the representatives from the Wheatbelt North and Wheatbelt South Regional Road Groups, Main Roads Western Australia, the WA Local Government Association, Wheatbelt Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt. All road projects are delivered by Local Government members.

Along key freight routes within the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia the outcomes being sought from the WSN are to:

- Improve road infrastructure assets suitable to accommodate increased heavy vehicle numbers;
- Increase freight efficiency and productivity;
- Reduce vehicle operating costs; and
- Improve road safety.

The Shire of York is currently part of the WSNF program after participating in the original business case developed for funding towards the program. Council has previously been supportive of being a part of this program, through the following resolutions of Council:

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 August 2018 (060818), it was resolved:

***“That Council:***

- 1. Notes the Briefing Note: Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes;***
- 2. Supports the strategic intent of the Secondary Freight Routes project;***
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and sign a letter of support in favour of an application for Federal Government Funding under the Building Better Regions Program to develop the Secondary Freight Routes project; and***
- 4. Endorses in principle, an allocation of \$6,000 in 2019/20 as a contribution to the Secondary Freight Routes Project development subject to a successful Building Better Regions Program application.”***

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 May 2019 (040519), it was resolved:

***“That Council:***

- 1. Continues to support the strategic intent of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route Project;***
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and sign a letter of support that endorses the allocation of \$6,000 in the 2019/20 budget to co-fund the project management of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Route in combination with the WA State Government’s \$100,000 of Regional Economic Development Grant funding, as part of the delivery of its Stage 1 Priority Works.”***

Although the Shire of York is a project member of the program, the Shire is the only Local Government involved who does not currently have any projects nominated within the prioritised project list.

## **COMMENTS AND DETAILS**

In May 2023 the Administration began discussions with WSNF Projects Manager and Program Director about the opportunity of the Shire of York being able to add new projects in the program. It was noted at the time that criteria were being developed by the WSNF Steering Committee for the application process and some early indication was provided what this might include.

In preparation of a future application, the administration developed possible routes and discussed with Council in the August 2024 Concept forum. The Administration also had initial discussions to gauge support from the Avon Sub Regional Road members and sent letters to the Shire of Northam, Shire of Cunderdin and Shire of Quairading, also seeking their input. The Shire received support from the Avon Sub Regional Road Group for its application.

In September 2024 the WSNF Steering Committee endorsed new road assessment criteria for any Council who is seeking to add or amend a road to the current network.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- Each route/road should connect to the Main Roads WA or State network.
- Parallel routes/roads should be at least 20 kms apart.
- Roads and/or routes should not duplicate State roads or routes.
- The road should be listed on the Mainroads Roads 2040 list.
- Shires who are applying to change across the whole route/road within their shire should provide Council resolution in writing.

Based on the criteria, Quellington Rd and Goldfields Rd (York-Tammin Rd) are seen to be as suitable routes to be nominated for the program for the following reasons:

**1. Quellington Road:**

- Connects the Northam-York Road to Great Eastern Highway which are both Mainroads WA networks.
- Is not parallel to an existing route.
- Is listed as a Roads 2040 road.
- Connects York to the existing WSN Route 8 - Lancelin to Meckering Route/Aglime Route 2.

**2. Goldfields (York-Tammin) Road**

- Connects the Northam-York Road to Great Eastern Highway which are both Mainroads WA networks.
- Is over 20km from what could be considered a parallel route.
- Is listed as a Roads 2040 road.
- Provides a strategic connection from York to Tammin
- Connects York to the existing WSN route 13 Cunderdin to Corrigin Route

A localised map showing the proposed routes are included as Attachment 2. A map showing the connections to the existing WSN routes is included as Attachment 3.

Council's support of the proposal is required to progress the application further, understanding there will be a financial commitment from the Shire that comes with this funding. More details regarding the funding are noted in the Financial section of this report.

Additionally, before the proposed routes can be confirmed, support will be required from surrounding Councils confirming they endorse the parts of the routes being proposed which fall within their boundaries. These Councils include the Shires of Cunderdin, Northam, Quairading and Tammin.

It is worth noting if the Shire is successful in the proposal, the projects proposed will still need to be prioritised within the WSN existing projects program. The current 5-year program is already agreed, with funds already allocated, so it isn't guaranteed that these roads will be funded. This proposal is seen as a long-term approach to be proactive about seeking funding for the future to help improve the Shire's road network.

**OPTIONS**

Council has following options:

- Option 1:** Council could choose to support the application to the WSN Steering Committee for two (2) roads to be added to the WSN program which include Quellington Road and Goldfields (York-Tammin) Road.
- Option 2:** Council could choose not to support the application to the WSN Steering Committee for two (2) roads to be added to the WSN program which include Quellington Road and Goldfields (York-Tammin) Road.
- Option 3:** Council could choose to support an application to the WSN Steering Committee for one (1) road to be added to the WSN program and identify which road that is.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

**IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER****Consultative**

Mainroads WA

Avon Sub Regional Road Group

Shire of Northam

Shire of Cunderdin  
Shire of Quairading  
Shire of Tammin

## Strategic

### Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030

Goal 4: Built for Lifestyle and Resilience

To have a built environment which supports community, economy and the environment, respects the past, and creates a resilient future.

## Policy Related

Nil

## Financial

The WSNF program is currently a jointly funded program which includes 80% Federal government contribution, 13.3% State Government contribution and 6.67% Local Government contribution. Compared to grant funding sources it requires a very low commitment from the Shire to fund the projects. With that in mind, it will still require an additional allocation in the budget and the funding cannot be combined with other State and Federal grant funds.

There has also been discussion that the LG contribution may increase in future funding rounds of the program, which may increase the required funds the Shire may need to allocate to these projects.

Both Quellington Rd and Goldfields Rd are part of the Shire's Regional Road Group (RRG) funding program currently. By having these projects funded through the WSNF funding program, this will allow RRG funds to be allocated to other projects, increasing the Shire's ability to renew the rest of the existing road network.

## Legal and Statutory

Nil

## Risk Related

As the proposed projects include sections of road within other council boundaries, if those Councils were not supportive of these roads being included in the WSNF program this may negatively impact the result of the Shires application.

If Council chose not to take this opportunity to seek funding, it may be seen negatively by the community given the on-going cost maintaining the roads proposal will cost the community.

## Workforce

It is believed additional road projects which will come through the WSNF program can be achieved within existing workforce provisions and incorporated with other road upgrade projects being completed through RRG funds.

## VOTING REQUIREMENTS

**Absolute Majority: No**

**RESOLUTION  
031124**

**Moved: Cr Denese Smythe**

**Seconded: Cr Peter Wright**

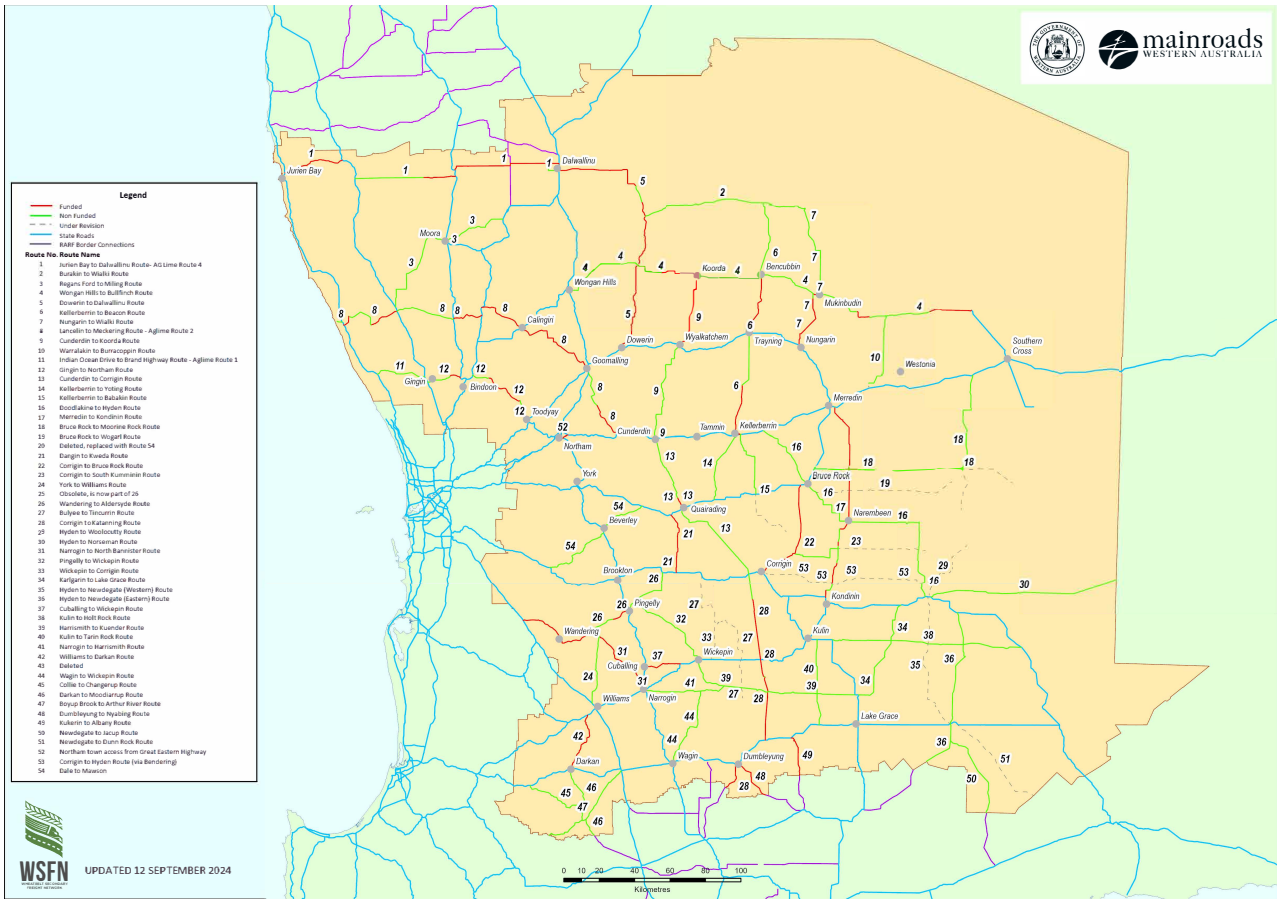
**That, with regard to Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Funding Application, Council:**

1. **Resolves to support Quellington Road and Goldfields (York-Tammin) Road to be included in the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network program.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Shires of Cunderdin, Northam, Quairading and Tammin to seek their formal support towards the proposal.**

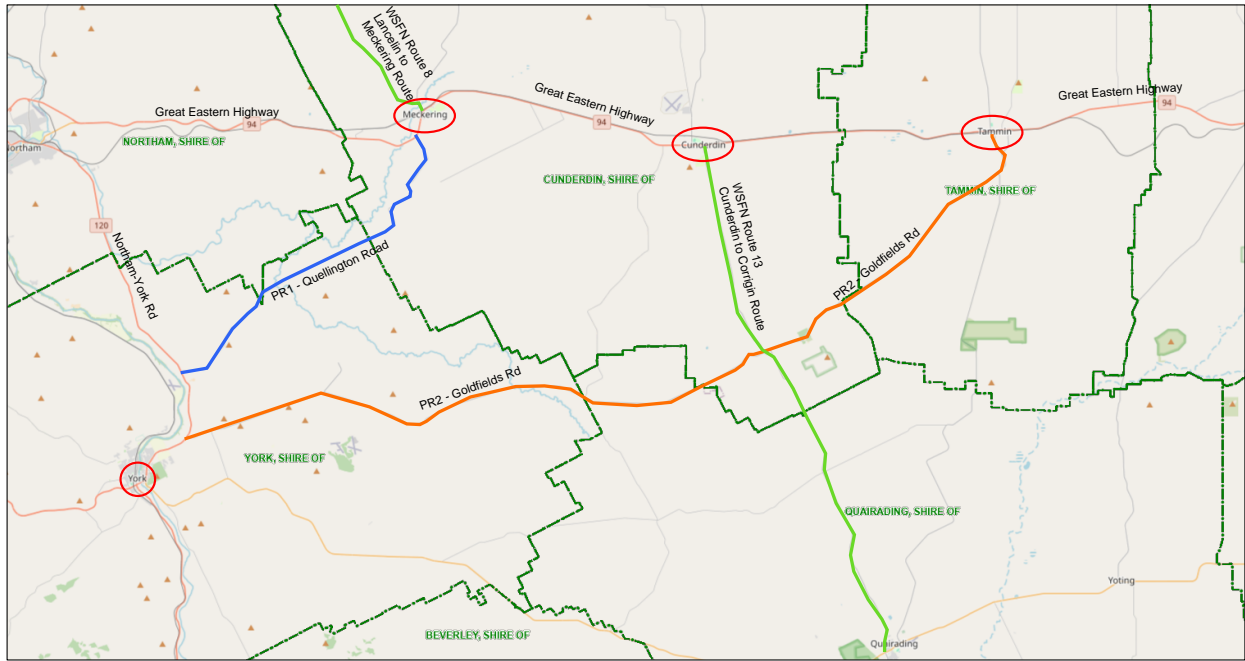
**In Favour:** Crs Kevin Trent, Denis Warnick, Chris Gibbs, Kevin Pyke, Denese Smythe and Peter Wright

**Against:** Nil

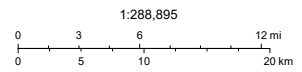
***CARRIED 6/0***



Shire of York - WSFN Proposed Roads



- 11/6/2024, 4:41:25 PM
- LGA
  - Existing WSFN Route
  - Proposed Route 1 - Quellington Rd
  - Proposed Route 2 - Goldfields Rd
  - Towns



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