

11 June 2009

TO ALL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Dear Mayor/Shire President and CEO

**WASTE LEVY INCREASE – WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENT  
BUDGET 2009**

As I am sure you have now heard, the State Government has recently announced its intention to significantly increase the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy as part of its 2009/2010 State budget.

The extent of this increase will see the levies increase as per the following table;

Year	Putrescible Waste (per tonne)	Inert Landfill
2008/2009	\$7.00	\$5.00
2009/2010	\$28.00	\$12.00

This equates to a massive 300% increase for Putrescible Waste costs and a further 140% increase for inert landfill.

These increases arrive during a period in which local governments are being asked to continually review their operations, tighten their belts and devise strategies for improving efficiencies of operation, including amalgamations and broad scale local government reform.

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act provided the legislative framework by which the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy was to apply to the receipt of waste by any premises that are required to be licensed for such a purpose.

The waste levy as introduced in 1998 was on the basis of providing support to the introduction of waste resources recovery facilities to significantly reduce waste to landfill as a key platform under the then WA State Government Policy “Zero Waste to landfill by 2020”.

At the introduction of the legislation and the levy, the parliament was told that;

*The primary purpose of the establishment of the landfill levy was to provide resources to fund projects for advancing waste reduction and recycling.*

The proposed changes to the levy for the 2009/2010 State Government budget sees a significant departure from the initial principle behind this levy.

The main change to this legislation will see the revenue, creating many millions of dollars, derived from this levy increase, being used to offset administrative costs for the Department of Environment and Conservation.

It would appear that the Western Australian State Government is following the trend set by the New South Wales parliament, where following the increase of landfill levies by the NSW government, it was discovered that of the \$300 million raised through the imposition of their newly increased levy, only \$13.25 million was estimated to have been applied to waste management programs, with the balance of funds being used to supplement State Government general revenue streams.

Local Government has, and will continue to have a significant issue with being able to manage and dispose of increasing volumes of domestic and other forms of waste.

Governments across the country are struggling to find the most cost effective means by which household refuse is disposed and the technologies. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy was specifically designed to assist this process, by providing the capital required to advance waste disposal technologies and improve the long term sustainability of waste disposal activity.

The levy was never designed to offset State Government administrative costs or fund the running of a government department. Local Government would have to pass these additional costs, effectively government taxes, directly to the end user, the members of the community. The decision to use this levy to provide for anything other than *for advancing waste reduction and recycling*, should not be supported by either local government or the communities that they represent.

## 12.2 Attachment Waste Levy Increase

Representatives from the Western Australian Local Government Association recently met with the Minister for Environment; the Hon. Donna Faragher to raise concerns regarding the proposed increase in the Landfill Levy.

Specific points which were raised with the Minister included:

- Lack of consultation with the sector regarding the increase;
- Local Government opposition to the removal of hypothecation for the Levy;
- Likely increase in illegal dumping as a result;
- Likelihood of increasing transport of waste from the metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas (and dumping in non-manned landfills); and
- Needs of the waste industry (such as support for recycling).

The response from the Minister included:

- That WA needs to improve recycling, particularly construction and demolition; and she sees an increase in the Levy as one way to do that;
- Under the proposed WARR Act amendments waste related issues would receive about \$13 million / year (as with the current Levy rate); and
- The Department of Environment and Conservation is drafting changes to the Environmental Protection Act to significantly increase the fines for illegal dumping.

To date, these conversations have not resulted in any changes to the proposed imposition of this levy increase and it is now clear that local government must present a **unified position** to the State Government in respect to this increase and the use of the funds for anything other than for the purpose for which they were established.

Local Government has often been asked to act as the State Government collector of revenues, with examples such as the ESL levy and the BCIFT fund, each causing consternation for local governments and complaints by the communities from whom the funds were collected.

This most recent proposed levy increase is clearly a means by which the State Government intends to offset its own costs and shift these costs to local government or the community thus surreptitiously making Local Government its tax collector.

Waste disposal is a critical issue for all levels of government, and if the State Government wishes to extract additional funds from this levy, then the funds collected should be invested back into waste management technologies and practices, as was the agreed basis as to why the levy was first introduced.

## 12.2 Attachment Waste Levy Increase

To that end, I implore your Council to consider its position with respect to this matter and to move a motion to:

- Reject this proposed levy increase;
- Object to the use of additional funds raised by this levy to offset State Government administrative costs;
- Object to the use of this levy to do anything other than to provide resources to fund projects for advancing waste reduction and recycling; and
- Request the State Government to reconsider its position, and to meet with the Western Australian Local Government Association to resolve this matter.

The Town of Kwinana at our meeting held on 10 June passed the attached resolution. I sincerely hope that your Council is able to support this most important issue and I thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and its imposition upon your Council and your community.

Yours faithfully



Carol Adams  
Mayor

Resolution attached

## **21.1 Increase in Waste Levy - State Government Budget 2009**

### **COUNCIL DECISION**

**519**

**MOVED CR LEE**

**SECONDED CR D WOOD**

**That Council resolves to adopt the following recommendation:**

**That the Town of Kwinana express its great concern at the lack of consultation and notice provided by the state government in increasing the Landfill levy by 300%. The lack of time to plan for this cost increase will cause considerable financial burden to local governments and the community. To this end**

- 1. The Town of Kwinana strongly condemns the use of landfill levy funds for consolidated revenue purposes and requests that the state government reconsider this position.**
- 2. That the government be reminded that at the time of the introduction of the levy commitments were made to local government that amount of money used to administer the levy would be strictly limited (1 to 3%) and that a rebate scheme would be introduced to return funds to local government for materials diverted from landfill.**
- 3. The Town of Kwinana recognises that this increase will assist with driving greater diversion of waste from landfill, however without the infrastructure or cost support for alternative waste processing systems, the impact of the increased landfill levy will be nullified.**
- 4. The Town of Kwinana strongly supports that all funds raised by the landfill levy generated from domestic municipal waste streams and local governments be hypothecated back to local government to support recycling and resource recovery activities and the associated infrastructure. Without this support continued diversion of waste from landfill will be put in jeopardy as the levy increase also penalises resource recovery facilities.**
- 5. The Town of Kwinana strongly supports an exemption from the landfill levy for all residual wastes from resource recovery facilities thus providing further incentive for the development of such facilities.**
- 6. That the Chief Executive Officer write to the Western Australian local Government Association and request that a media campaign be initiated to inform the community of this hidden cost increase to state government revenue at a cost to ratepayers.**
- 7. That the Mayor is requested to write, as a matter of urgency, to all other Western Australian Local Governments seeking their support to pass a Council resolution to reject the unfair 300% landfill levy increase, to be imposed on their respective communities from 1 July 2009.**

21.1 *Increase in Waste Levy - State Government Budget 2009*

8. That the Mayor write to all members of Parliament condemning the use of landfill levy funds for consolidated revenue purposes and request that the State Government reconsider its position and request that the Minister for Environment consult with the local government through our peak body, the Western Australia Local Government Association about the proposed levy.
9. Subject to a favourable response/support from a majority of WA Local Governments, the Town of Kwinana to formally consider its position on the levy at the next ordinary meeting of Council on 24 June.

**CARRIED**

NRK 12/6

SHIRE OF WAGIN

10 JUL 2008

# Wagin Development Association

RECEIVED

PO Box 18 Wagin Western Australia 6315  
Telephone: (08) 9861 2650  
Email: [trees@westnet.com.au](mailto:trees@westnet.com.au)

John Hunter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Wagin  
PO Box 200  
Wagin WA 6315

25<sup>th</sup>, August, 2008

Dear John,

Re: Bicycle Racks – Central Business District

At the last meeting of our Association a project undertaken by Carol Drayton and Pat Scaddan into the need for bicycle racks in the central business district was tabled and adopted by our membership.

The initial sites that their report recommends are:

- Outside or in the immediate vicinity of Damo's Kwick E Mart;
- Near Esiway Food Store on the corner of Tudhoe and Tudor Streets, and
- Near the Wagin Co-op.

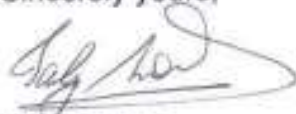
The project initially sought to examine the need for increased street seating, however it was decided to defer any recommendations until such time as the Wagin Townscape Committee finalises its plan for the type and locations of street trees, particularly in the central business district.

It is requested that the Shire Council and Townscape Committee examine this proposal and report back to the our Association as to how they intend to action and implement the above recommendations.

Attached is a brief prepared in relation to the need for bicycle racks. It is suggested that any racks installed should be erected parallel to the kerb in either pairs or triples so as not to interfere with pedestrian traffic.

We look forward to the Shire's positive response and implementation.

Sincerely yours,



Ian Menzies  
Acting Chairman

**"The easiest way of being left behind is to stand still"**



## Len Calneggia

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**From:** Greg Ball [gregb7@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 June 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** Len Calneggia; Phil Blight; Anton Pieterse  
**Cc:** 'Dean Morgan'  
**Subject:** Fw: Airfield

G'day Len,

After discussion with Aero Club members and Cr Morgan's conversation with you yesterday we would like it put to Council that The Aero Club wishes to be involved with the goings on at the airstrip. The estimated cost given the scenario of Aero Club involvement and voluntary labour is a little under \$60,000 for the building as drawn in the plan handed to Anton.

The gravel for the sheeting undertaken already has come from my property and is a donation.

Local tradesmen have also indicated their willingness to be involved on an ex gratia basis.

The guts of what we are suggesting is as follows:

The Wagin Aero Club Inc. requests the Shire's permission to be involved in the development at the Airfield. The Aero Club offer to contribute \$5,000 in cash and erect the whole building using voluntary labour under the supervision of the Shire. This will save between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in labour costs.

We will set out form work for concreting, dig footings, cart the mesh, organise screeding of concrete and erect the building as well as dismantle the existing Ambulance shed on completion of the new one.

The nett cost to the Shire of the facility will be considerably less and certainly not be greater by allowing The Aero Club to be involved.

Regards Greg

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 8.5.339 / Virus Database: 270.12.71/2178 - Release Date: 06/16/09 21:23:00





12.6 Attachment Wagin Historical Village

PRO 7



SHIRE OF WAGIN  
6 JUN 2009  
RECEIVED

The CEO  
Wagin Shire Council  
Wagin WA 6315

Dear Sir

Could the Council please make a new entrance into the entry Kiosk at the Historical Village Museum. It is on a slope and needs a rail on one side and new concrete slabs as there is spaces between the old large ones.

Our members would like to sincerely thank Council for the grant of \$15,000 towards the Fire Station which helped out greatly and enabled us to pay off our present debt to the builder.

Many thanks indeed.

Sincerely

Cay Gell  
Secretary

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009



SHIRE OF WAGIN

15 APR 2009

RECEIVED

The Acting CEO  
Wagin Shire Council  
PO Box 200  
Wagin WA 6315

Dear Sir


The members of the Wagin Historical Village Museum committee would like to have the row of trees in front of the Village removed and replaced with more suitable trees.

Apart from being very messy and untidy with leaves and small branches always falling in the last two months there has been three large branches drop and members are concerned they may fall on the buildings close to the fence or on visitors cars.

Is it possible for the Council to include the removal of the trees in its works project and budget?

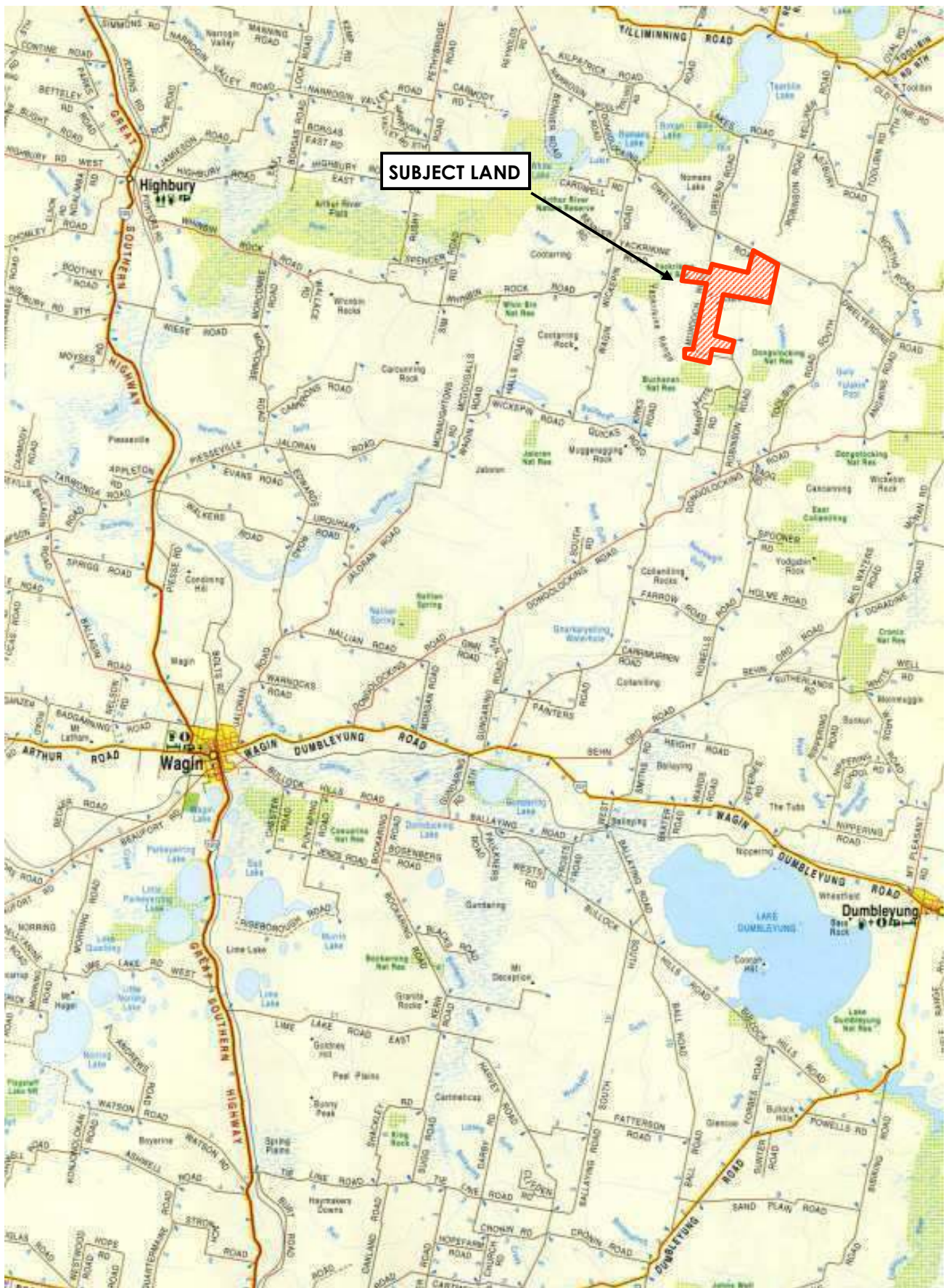
Thanking you in anticipation of your help in this.

Sincerely

  
Cay Gell  
Secretary

15<sup>th</sup> April 2009





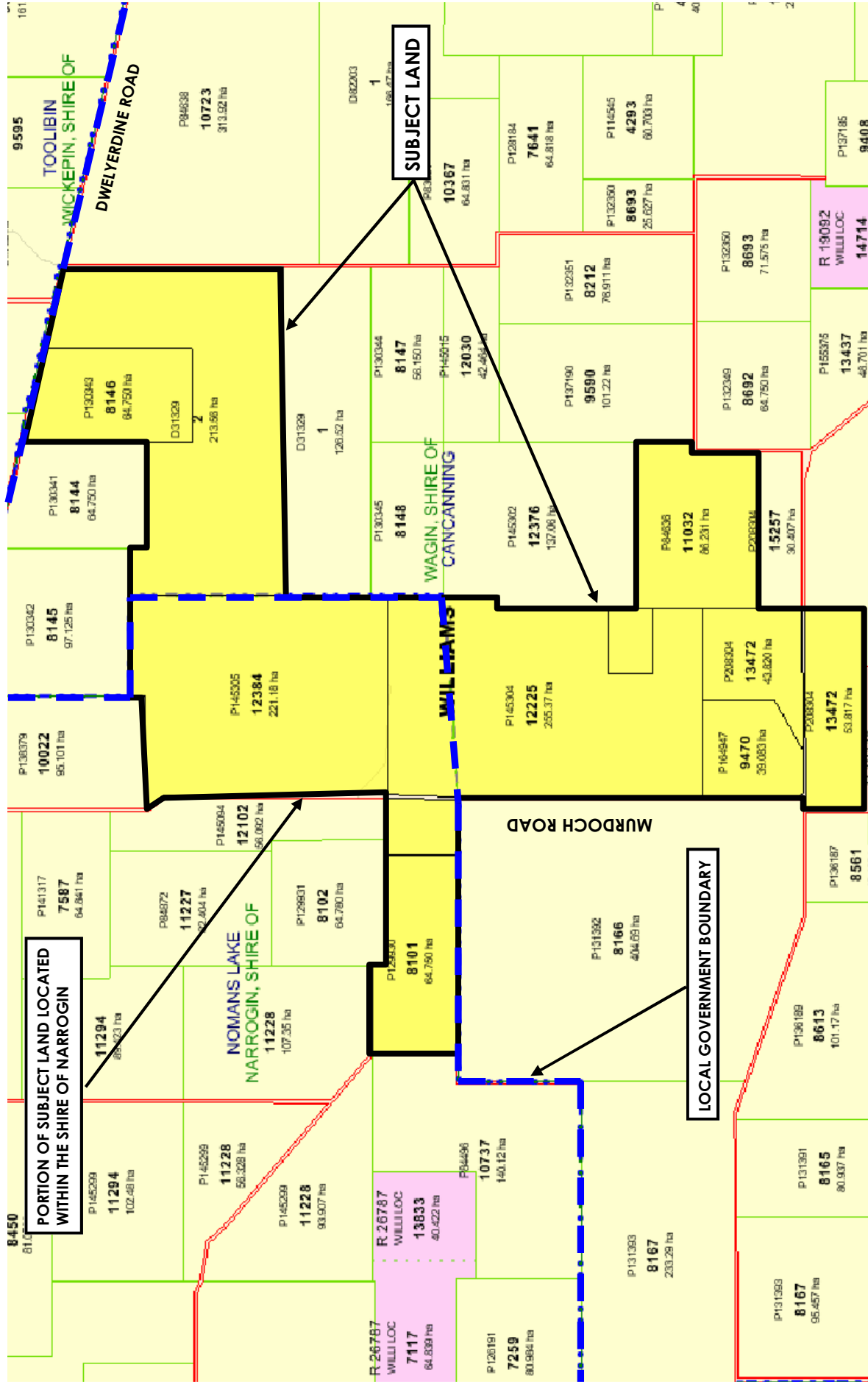
**LOCATION PLAN**  
**PROPOSED SANDALWOOD**  
**PLANTATION**  
**VARIOUS LOTS MURDOCH ROAD**  
**CANCANNING**

urban & rural perspectives  
**URP**  
 TOWN PLANNERS & BUILDING DESIGNERS  
 Unit 6, 41 Holder Way MALAGA WA 6090 Tel: (08) 9248 8777 Fax: (08) 9248 4040



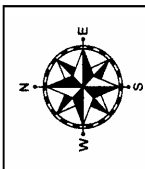
**PLAN 1**

**NTS**



**EXISTING LOT CONFIGURATION**  
**PROPOSED SANDELWOOD PLANTATION**  
**VARIOUS LOTS MURDOCH ROAD**  
**CANCAINING**

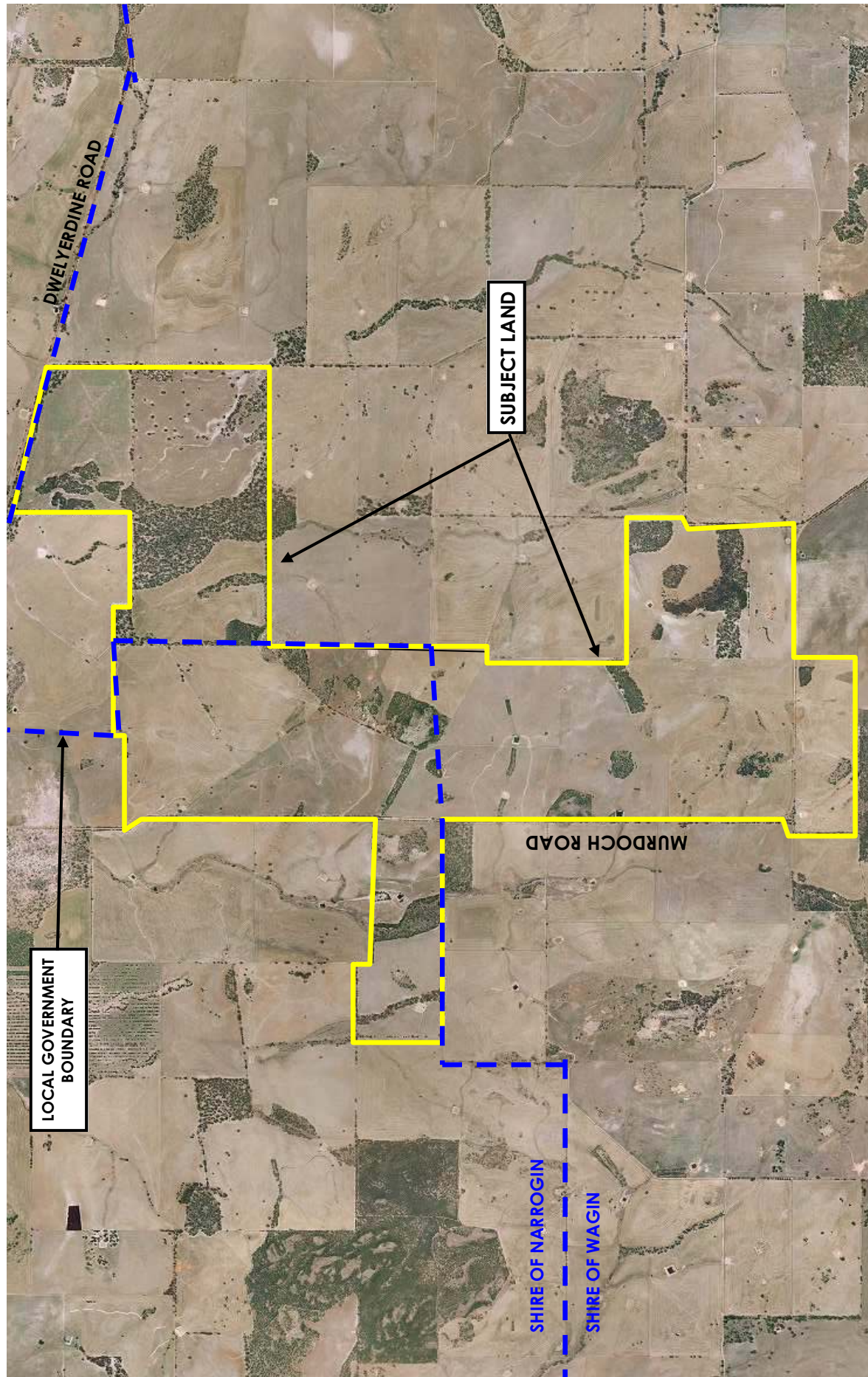
urban & rural perspectives  
  
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**PLAN 2**  
 SCALE: N.T.S

Source: Landgate





LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOUNDARY

SUBJECT LAND

MURDOCH ROAD

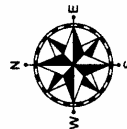
SHIRE OF NARROGIN

SHIRE OF WAGIN

DWELYERDINE ROAD

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH**  
**PROPOSED SANDELWOOD PLANTATION**  
**VARIOUS LOTS MURDOCH ROAD**  
**CANNANING**

urban & rural perspectives  
**urban**  
TOWN PLANNERS & BUILDING DESIGNERS  
Unit 6, 41 Holder Way MALAGA WA 6090 Tel: (08) 9248 8777 Fax: (08) 9248 4040



**PLAN 3**

SCALE: N.T.S