

POWER OUTAGE

The power outage which affected our region over the last 7 days was caused by not only the bushfires which damaged a large number of power poles but also a storm which severely damaged Western Power infrastructure in the Perth Hills leaving over 32,000 homes with no power for an extended amount of time.

We understand the frustration caused and the loss of food many households would have faced.

We are grateful for your patience whilst the Shire worked with Western Power to restore power within our region. The Shire opened the Wongan Hills Pavilion with power, air con and tea/coffee on Thursday until power was restored. Over the weekend the generator was sent to Ballidu to assist with relief at the Ballidu Pavilion for residents in the nearby affected area.

Shire works crews assisted with verge side collection of waste in Wongan Hills and a pickup from Cadoux Traders for Cadoux households. The tip was also free of charge for household and food waste on Thursday and Friday of last week to assist households in disposing of damaged food due to the unforeseen circumstances.

We will continually work hard to support our community where possible in times of emergency. Following this series of events, a debrief will occur internally and we will continually work to improve on our processes, should a similar event happen again in the future, to ensure we are as best prepared as possible.

Thank you to our wonderful community and residents for supporting each other, checking on neighbours and offering assistance in what was a challenging week for many.



THANK YOU

Councillors and the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu would like to thank the many Volunteer Firefighters from near and far, Contractors, Relief Teams, Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA, Staff and Community for their assistance in keeping our town and residents safe in last Tuesday's bushfire north of Wongan Hills.

The fire, which started in the early afternoon of Tuesday 16th January from a lightning strike caused 46 power poles to be down, as well as a large amount of the reserve left severely damaged.

We are so lucky to have amazing volunteers who dedicate their time to keeping us safe in times of emergency.

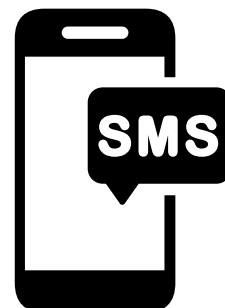
KEEP ME POSTED

Are you registered for our emergency SMS service? During an emergency or for various notifications you can sign up to our free SMS service.

Sign up at the below link or by scanning the QR code:

<https://www.wongan.wa.gov.au/forms/keep-me-posted/16>

Alternatively, visit the Shire Administration Office where one of our friendly Customer Service Officers can assist with signing up in person.



OFFICE CLOSURE

The Shire Administration Office and Wongan Hills CRC will be closed:

Wednesday 31 January
9.00am-10.30am

for an all-staff administration meeting.
We apologise for any inconvenience.

FOOTPATH WORKS

In accordance with Council's 10 Year Footpath Plan, a new concrete shared footpath has been scheduled for construction on Ellis Street & Mitchell Street. The commencement of work is set for Monday 29th of January 2024, with the project expected to span over a period of two weeks minimum.

There may be minor disruptions to vehicular access on these roads during this period and we can ask for the first 48 hours after the concrete is laid, that heavy vehicles avoid driving across the newly constructed footpath. This precaution is recommended by our contractors to ensure the proper curing of the concrete.



SWIMMING POOL

As the power has now been restored, we are working to get the swimming pool open as soon as we can.






Following the bushfire, there was a large amount of ash and dirt sitting in the bottom of the pool which required extensive cleaning. The cleaning was carried out over the weekend to allow for the water to be sent for regulation testing.

Recent weather events fried the circuit board in the chlorine system control which also required replacement.

We are now awaiting the result of the testing to comply with regulation to ensure the pool water meets the standards and can be reopened.

We understand the inconvenience of the closure of the pool during the hot weather and we are doing our best to have the pool open as soon as possible. We are hoping to have the pool open to the public for the long weekend providing no more issues arise.

ROADWORKS

-  CONSTRUCTION CREW: Manmanning Road Shoulder Widening followed by Ward Road gravel resheet.
-  MAINTENANCE GRADERS: Cadoux area followed by Kokardine and Burakin Areas.
-  BACKHOE CREW - Pushing and Tidying up of Ballidu Tip followed by Cadoux Tip.
-  MAINTENANCE CREW - Patching, Sign and guidepost repairs on Ballidu Bindi Road followed by Ballidu East Road.
-  TOWN MAINTENANCE - Footpath repairs and verge cleaning.