

SHIRE SNIPPETS



Edition 2, 2026

SHIRE OF MORAWA

CALL 9971 1204



Building for our community



INSIDE: Local Events | Shire Updates | Community Highlights | Youth Holiday Program

President's Message

As we move into spring and reflect on another busy and productive period for our community, I am proud of the progress being made across Morawa and the positive momentum we continue to build together.

The highlight of recent months was undoubtedly the 10th Biennial Morawa Art Awards and Exhibition. With more than 300 artworks on display and strong attendance from both locals and visitors, the exhibition once again showcased Morawa as a vibrant regional centre for arts and culture. The quality of entries was outstanding and the event demonstrated what can be achieved through community support, volunteer effort and generous sponsorship. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the exhibition and celebrating the remarkable talent found across Western Australia.

Council has also recently adopted the 2026-2027 Annual Budget. Roads remain our highest priority, and this year's budget includes significant investment in road maintenance and upgrades, alongside major projects that will support Morawa's future growth and livability. These include the Early Childhood Education and Care Centre, key worker housing, works Depot redevelopment, and the commencement of our Ten-Year Building Maintenance Program.

One project especially close to my heart is the Morawa Early Childhood Education and Care Centre. Seeing construction progress from a long-held vision to a reality is incredibly rewarding. This facility will support local families, help attract and retain workers, and strengthen Morawa as a place where young families can confidently build their future.

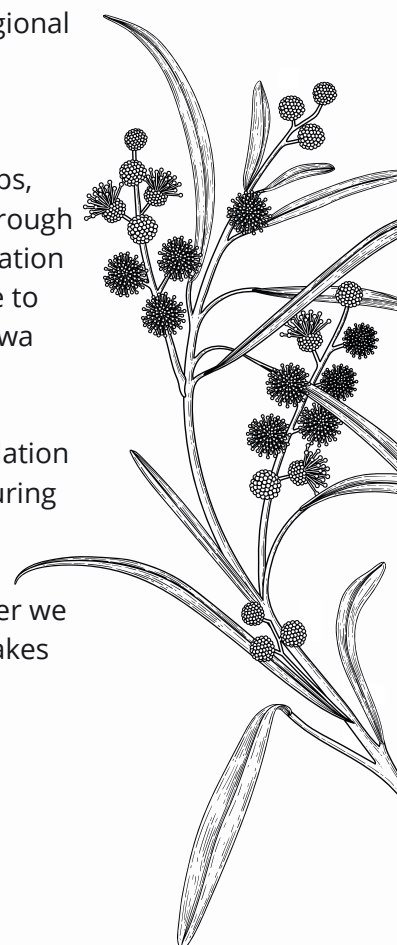


This year has also been a personally humbling one. I was deeply honoured earlier this year to receive the WALGA Local Government Medal, the highest honour awarded by the Western Australian Local Government Association. While I am grateful for this recognition, it reflects the collective efforts of the many people who work tirelessly to support regional communities and local government across Western Australia. I thank the Morawa community for the opportunity to serve and represent our district over many years.

As we look ahead, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many community groups, organisations and volunteers who contribute so much to life in Morawa. Whether through our sporting clubs, the Morawa Visitor Centre, or other volunteer groups, your dedication helps create the strong sense of community that makes Morawa such a special place to live. The time, energy and commitment you give enrich our district and ensure Morawa remains a welcoming and vibrant place for residents and visitors alike.

I am also pleased that recent upgrades to the Recreation Centre, including the installation of large industrial fans, will significantly improve comfort for users and spectators during the warmer months.

On behalf of Council, thank you for your ongoing support of our community. Together we continue to invest in the future while preserving the strong community spirit that makes Morawa such a special place to live.



Best Wishes

President Karen Chappel AM JP



Left to Right: CEO Marty Simmons, Cr Dean Clemson, Cr Karen Chappel AM JP, Cr Diana North, Cr Naomi Francis, Cr Ken Stokes at the WALGA Local Government Awards. Photo Courtesy WALGA

CEO Message



The past few months have been exceptionally busy across the organisation, and I would like to acknowledge the commitment of our staff, contractors, volunteers and community members who continue to contribute to Morawa's growth and success.

One of the most exciting developments currently underway is the construction of the Morawa Early Childhood Education and Care Centre. After many years of planning, advocacy and securing funding, it is rewarding to see the project taking shape on site. This facility represents a significant investment in Morawa's future and will provide modern childcare, family support and community facilities that will benefit generations to come.

Council's recently adopted Budget reflects a strong commitment to both maintaining our existing assets and delivering important new projects. Alongside the ECEC Centre, the budget includes funding toward key worker housing, redevelopment of the works depot, administration building improvements, roads and infrastructure upgrades, and the introduction of the Shire's Building Maintenance Ten-Year Program. Residents will also continue to benefit from initiatives such as free access to the swimming pool and the ongoing mouse bait program.

Another important milestone achieved during this period was Council's adoption of the annual review of the Corporate Business Plan 2024-2034. The Corporate Business Plan is one of Council's key strategic planning documents and provides the roadmap for delivering the priorities identified by our community over the coming years. The updated plan aligns Council's projects, services and financial resources with our long-term vision, ensuring that investments such as the Early Childhood Education and Care Centre, workforce inroad improvement and asset financial programs are delivered in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Our works crews have continued to make strong progress across the district, delivering road maintenance, drainage improvements, footpath connections and preparations for future capital projects. These efforts, while often occurring behind the scenes, play an important role in maintaining the infrastructure our residents and businesses rely upon every day.

Morawa continues to be a community of ambition, resilience and optimism. With major projects underway, strong community events and continued investment in essential services, I am excited about what lies ahead for our district.

Thanks Marty Symmons CEO



Midwest NAIDOC 2026

We were excited to once again co-host the annual Midwest NAIDOC Celebration on Wednesday, 22 July 2026. This year's theme, "50 Years of Deadly," marked a significant milestone, celebrating 50 years of recognising the rich history, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The day began with a community march from Morawa District High School to the Town Square, led by the vibrant community banner created by local children during the school holidays.

A special thank you to Widi Elder and Traditional Owner Linda McIntosh for delivering the Welcome to Country, and to the Lewis family for conducting the Smoking Ceremony, helping to officially open this important community event.

We were honoured to welcome guest speakers Traditional Owner Yvette Harris and Carol Innes AM, a highly respected Noongar leader. Sharing a personal reflection on growing up in Morawa, along with insights into her remarkable career spanning both State and Federal Government as well as her deep commitment to the arts and her longstanding advocacy for community cultural development.

Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed outstanding performances by the Morawa District High School Junior Choir, the Year 9/10 Pop Band who performed alongside the Karloo Rockers. The celebration also featured interactive art stations, activity booths, cultural workshops, food stalls, and live music from the Red Ochre Band, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for people of all ages.

Our annual NAIDOC celebration continues to be a highlight for the Morawa community, providing an opportunity to learn about, celebrate and reflect on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements while bringing people together in the spirit of respect, connection and reconciliation.



10th Biennial Morawa Art Show & Exhibition

We were delighted to once again host the Morawa Biennial Art Awards and Exhibition opening night on Friday 21 August 2026, with over 130 guests joining us for this premier event.

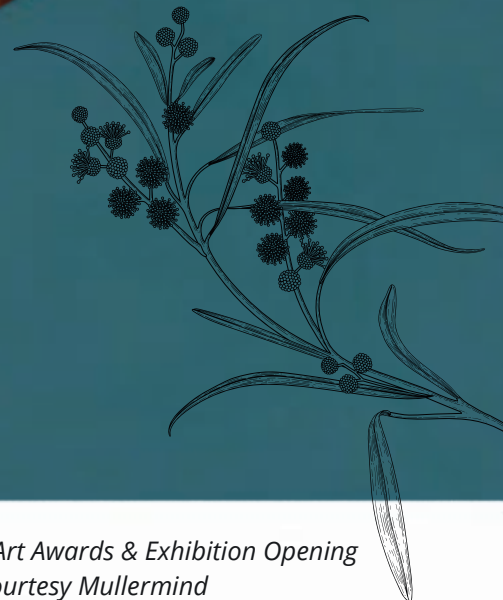
The event was a celebration of talented Western Australian artists, with more than 300 artworks on display across a diverse range of categories. Guests enjoyed live entertainment from Lakeisha and Band and delicious food from Tarts & Co, creating a memorable evening celebrating art, creativity and community.

A huge thank you to our generous event sponsors: Ansteel Karara Mining, Merkanooka Haulage, Mid West Development Commission, Regional Sounds, MidMech, Bendigo Bank – Community Bank Geraldton, North Midlands Project, Melissa Price MP and the Tropiano Family.

Their valued support helped the Shire of Morawa host one of the largest art exhibitions in regional Western Australia.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the opening night such a fantastic celebration of art, creativity and community!

With the exhibition open to the public from 22–30 August, we were thrilled by the incredible support from the community and visitors, with 540 people attending throughout the exhibition period.



*2026 Biennial Art Awards & Exhibition Opening
night, Image courtesy Mullermind*

Exhibition Award Winners

This year's exhibition showcased an outstanding quality and diversity of artworks submitted by artists from across Western Australia making it exceptionally difficult for our judges to select the winners across all categories. We thank all artists that entered into this year's exhibition.

We are pleased to announce the below winners of each category:

Shire of Morawa Acquisitive Award: Tatiana Amaral - 'Many into One'

Ansteel Karara Mining Indigenous Award: Possum Rose - 'Connected to Elders'

Works on Paper: Rosemary Mostyn - 'Spatial Fragments'

Works on Canvas: Vania Lawson - 'Chasing Dawn'

Three-Dimensional Art: Naomi Antenucci - 'The Ties That Bind'

Tony Tropiano Photography Award: Madeleine Fogliani - '8 Metres Deep in Debt'

Local Resident- People's Choice Award: Yeni Inbaselan - 'Whispers of Rhodantha'

Young Artist (5-12 years): Lena Severtson - 'Farm'

Mixed Media: Lexie Lazenby - '43#1'

Tropiano Family Emerging Photographer Award: Casey Jacobs - 'Taarblin Lake Tracks'

Youth Artist (13-17 years): Blake Appleton - 'Hu Jiao'



Shire of Morawa Acquisitive Award
winner Tatiana Amaral - 'Many into One'.

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2026 Morawa Biennial Art Awards & Exhibition, and a huge thank you to all the talented artists who entered their work.



Would you like to see all the winning artworks and read the artists' statements? Scan the QR code to visit our website and explore the winning entries.



Regional Housing Boost

As part of the Western Australian Government's Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Regional Housing Support Fund we are thrilled to have been awarded up to \$1,498,036 to support the construction of six key worker homes within the Morawa townsite. This funding forms part of a co-funded arrangement, with the Shire also contributing to the delivery of the project.

This project is an investment into Morawa and will ensure that we can attract and retain essential workers to our community supporting the long-term growth and sustainability for Morawa.

We are in the early planning stages with this project and will release more information and details soon!



Community Updates.

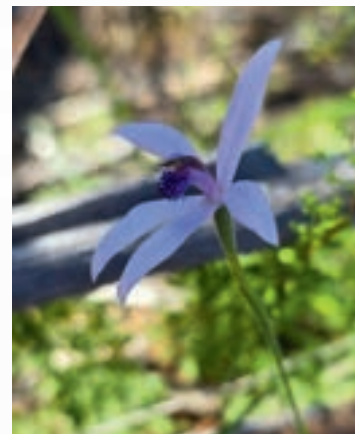
Morawa Visitors Centre

With another successful tourist season coming to a close, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the hardworking volunteers at the Morawa Visitor Centre who will be closing their doors on Friday 18 September 2026.

This season saw an amazing 1921 visitors calling into the centre, seeking local knowledge, recommendations and expert advice from our 8 dedicated volunteers. Their time, knowledge and enthusiasm play an important role in welcoming visitors to Morawa and showing everything our region has to offer.

A special mention goes to Leonie Aspin- Fraser, who once again hosted her outstanding and informative Widimia Trail walking tours throughout Wildflower season. Leonie's extensive knowledge and passion for our native flora is truly inspiring, with more than 185 people joining her tours this season.

The tours proved to be a hit with visitors and locals alike - even our CEO Marty joined a tour to learn more about the native plants in the area!



Leonie's final walking tour for the year
Image courtesy Wildflowers Morawa, Widimia Trail and beyond.

Community Updates

Community Citizen of the Year Award

Do you know a Morawa community member who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contribution to our community?

The Community Citizen of the Year Awards give us the opportunity to celebrate the positive impact of individuals, groups and events who are engaged and committed to our local community. The Awards are made up of four categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals over 16 years)
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 16-30 years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 65 years and over)
- Active Citizenship (for community groups or events)

Nominations can be made for contributions to education, health, fundraising, voluntary services, business, sports, arts, culture, the environment, social inclusion or any other area that enhances the wellbeing of our community. For the full criteria, or to nominate an individual or group for this prestigious award, visit www.citizenshipawards.com.au/criteria.

Nominations close Saturday, 31 October 2026.

Have Your Say – Draft Public Health Plan 2027–2031

The Shire of Morawa is seeking community feedback on its Draft Public Health Plan 2027–2031, which outlines how the Shire will support the health and wellbeing of our community over the next five years.

We want to hear from you! Your feedback will help ensure the final Plan reflects the priorities and needs of the Morawa community.

With public comment available from
22 September – 2 October 2026 (close of business)



Scan the QR Code to view
and provide your feedback



Do you know someone who
goes above and beyond for
our community?

NOMINATE NOW



citizenshipawards.com.au



Shire Updates

Road Works and General Works

The Shire has been busy delivering a range of capital works, maintenance and infrastructure projects across the community.

- Bitumen resealing works have been completed on Jones Lake Road (2 km) and Broad Avenue.
- Gravel re-sheating has been completed on Olden Road, Norton Road, Malcolm Road and Yammopol Pool.
- Replacement of the main culvert on Krummel Road has been completed, improving the road's drainage and resilience.
- The road crew has also continued grading operations, while supporting town maintenance works as required.
- Construction of the new footpath between Waddilove Road and Croot Street has been completed. The project has improved pedestrian access and connectivity between the school and key town amenities, providing a safer and more convenient route for residents and visitors.
- Upgrades across the town's sewerage network have been completed, helping to improve the reliability and performance of this essential infrastructure.
- Works to upgrade the sports oval sewerage system were also completed in June 2026.
- Earthworks are currently underway in preparation for the new works depot with construction starting over the next few months.

These projects reflect the continued commitment of Council and Shire staff to maintaining and improving roads, community facilities, public spaces and essential services throughout the Shire of Morawa.

Parks and Gardens



Our parks and gardens team have been busy maintaining our green areas throughout the townsite during the busy wildflower season.

Maintenance and upkeep of the Football and Hockey fields have also been a priority, ensuring the facilities are of a high standard during the Winter sports season.

We would also like to remind residents that if you do walk your dog at the Sports oval, please remember to pick up after your pet. Waste bags and bins are always available within the grounds and throughout other park areas within the townsite.

**Please
pick up
after
your
dog**



Shire Updates

Morawa Trials Its First Electric Fleet Vehicle

The Shire of Morawa has taken another step toward exploring innovative and cost-effective fleet options, with the addition of a new Tesla Model Y Long Range to the light vehicle fleet.

The vehicle is being introduced on a trial basis to assess its suitability for regional local government operations. With a driving range of up to 680 km, the Tesla is well suited to the long-distance travel often required across regional Western Australia.

Importantly, the transition to an electric vehicle (EV) is not only about reducing emissions. It also presents opportunities to lower operating costs and take advantage of government incentives available to organisations adopting EV technology.



Vehicle indicative two-year total cost comparison:

Item	Tesla Model Y Long Range	Ford Everest Diesel
Purchase Price	\$79,000	\$86,000
2-Year Fuel/Energy Cost	\$5,288	\$15,960
Home Charger Installation	\$2,000	-
2-Year FBT Exemption Benefit	(\$25,000)	-
Gross Ownership Cost	\$61,288	\$101,960
Estimated Resale Value (2 Years / 100,000 km)	(\$43,450)	(\$43,000)
Indicative Net Cost	\$17,838	\$58,960



The trial will allow the Shire to evaluate real-world performance, charging requirements, operating costs and driver experience before considering future fleet decisions. As vehicle technology continues to evolve, the trial will provide valuable local data to help inform whether electric vehicles have a long-term role within the Shire's fleet.

Early indications suggest the Tesla may deliver both environmental and financial benefits while supporting the Shire's commitment to operating as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

2026-2027 Annual Budget & Rates

The 2026-2027 Annual Budget and Fees & Charges were adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 August 2026. As part of the budget process, Council also approved the rate in the dollar. Rates notices were issued to ratepayers on 11 September 2026, with the first installment or full payment due on Friday, 16 October 2026.

Rates play an important role in supporting the services and facilities provided by the Shire of Morawa. This includes the upkeep and maintenance of roads, footpaths and parks, as well as community facilities and services such as the recreation centre, halls, library, swimming pool, refuse collection sites and rubbish collection.

Another key inclusion in the current budget is the first year of the Shire's Building Maintenance Ten-Year Program, endorsed by Council last financial year. The program will establish a preventative and ongoing maintenance schedule for Shire-owned facilities, helping to ensure our buildings are well maintained and fit for purpose, starting with improvements to the Town Hall and Lesser Hall.

We will also continue our 'Mouse Bait Provision' Initiative into the new financial year and this pool season we are excited to announce that there will be free access to all Residents to the Morawa Swimming Pool, ensuring everyone has access to our wonderful facility.

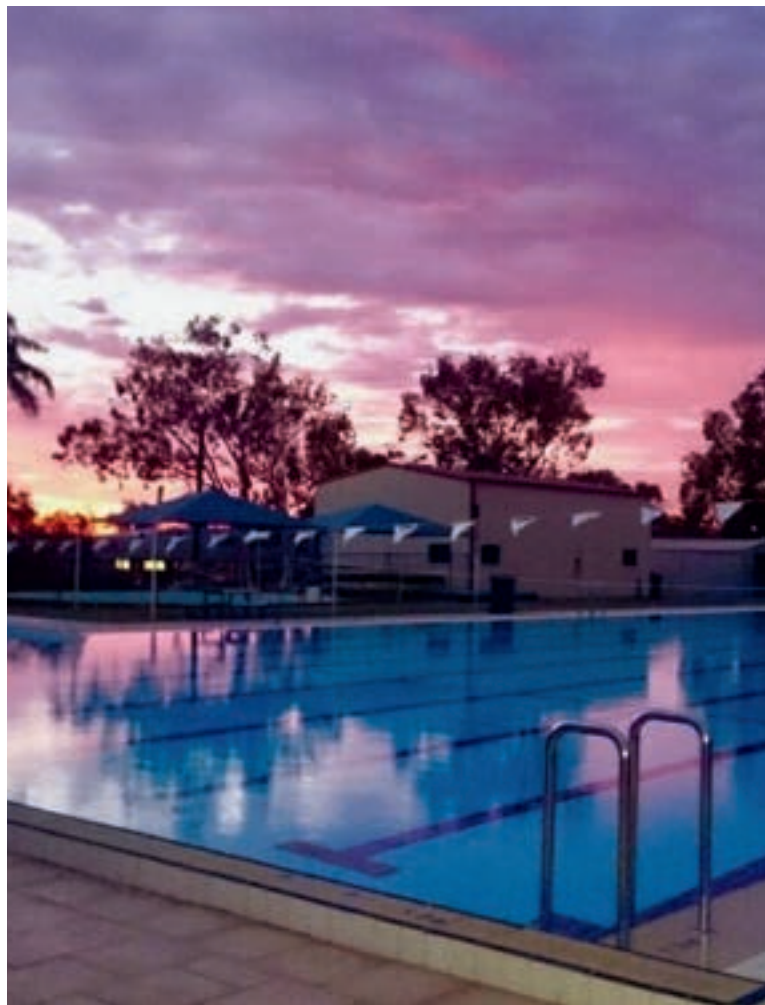
The current budget is available to view on the Shire's website:

www.morawa.wa.gov.au/documents/annual-budgets

If you require assistance with your rates payments or would like to discuss setting up a payment plan, please contact the Shire's Rates Officer at rates@morawa.wa.gov.au.

For more information regarding your rates visit our website:

www.morawa.wa.gov.au/services/ratepayers-residents/rates-information.aspx



2026-2027 Annual Budget & Rates

Curious where your rates payments go? Below is a breakdown of our upcoming major projects for 2026/2027, the projects we completed in 2025/2026 and the areas of major expenditure.

Upcoming Projects for 2026-2027

Early Childhood and Family Centre - \$4.2 million
Construction of 6 Key Worker Housing- \$2.7 million
New Depot Construction- \$483k

Shire Administration Office Renewal - \$400K
Town Hall & Old Roads Board Renewal- \$355k
Nanekine Road Reconstruct & Upgrade- \$1.38million
Evaside Road Black Spot Project Stage 2 - \$537k
Morawa- Yalgoo Rd Section Reconstruction- \$450k

** Figures include total amount budgeted to be spent on projects including Grant Funding, Loans and Shire Contributions.**



Completed Projects for 2025-2026

Tennis Court Renewal Project- \$279k
Solomon Tce Precinct Stage 2 Redevelopment - \$130K
Collins, Norton & Malcolm Road Gravel Resheeting- \$644k
Morawa- Yalgoo Road Upgrade- \$456K

Some major projects span multiple financial years due to project timelines, grant funding and contractor availability. Funding is allocated across annual budgets to support the effective planning and delivery of these projects.



Other Major Expenditure for 2025-2026

Road Maintenance- \$1.7 million
Infrastructure upgrade & Maintenance- \$547k
Plant Replacement- \$417k
Maintenance Sports/ Building Facilities- \$350k
Tourism/Area Promotions- \$310k
Infrastructure Footpath & Sewage Upgrades- \$300k



Morawa Early Childhood Education & Care Centre

As part of our commitment to the future sustainability of Morawa, we are pleased to announce that construction is well underway of the Morawa Early Childhood Education and Care Centre next to the Pre-Primary building on Prater Street.

This new facility will provide modern, high quality early childhood education and care, dedicated play spaces, community rooms suitable for allied health and family services, and a wellness room designed to support children and families across the district. This is a passion project for the Shire, as by having accessible, high quality early childhood services available to the community, will help attract and retain families, strengthen community connection, and support long term economic and social growth.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions from our funding partners that has made this project possible.

1. Australian Government & WA Government's Growing Regions Program (Round Two): \$2,234,775
2. Cook Government Lottery west: \$5112,150
3. WA Government - Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (REA Grants Program): \$200,000.

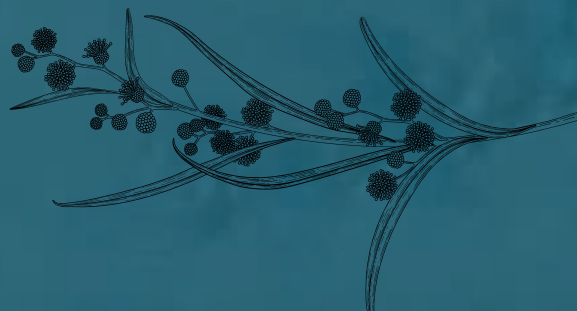
We are also thrilled that our partnership will continue with Regional Early Education & Development Inc. (REED) who will continue providing high quality childcare for local families in the new centre.



Rendered Image of the Morawa Early Childhood Education and Care Centre

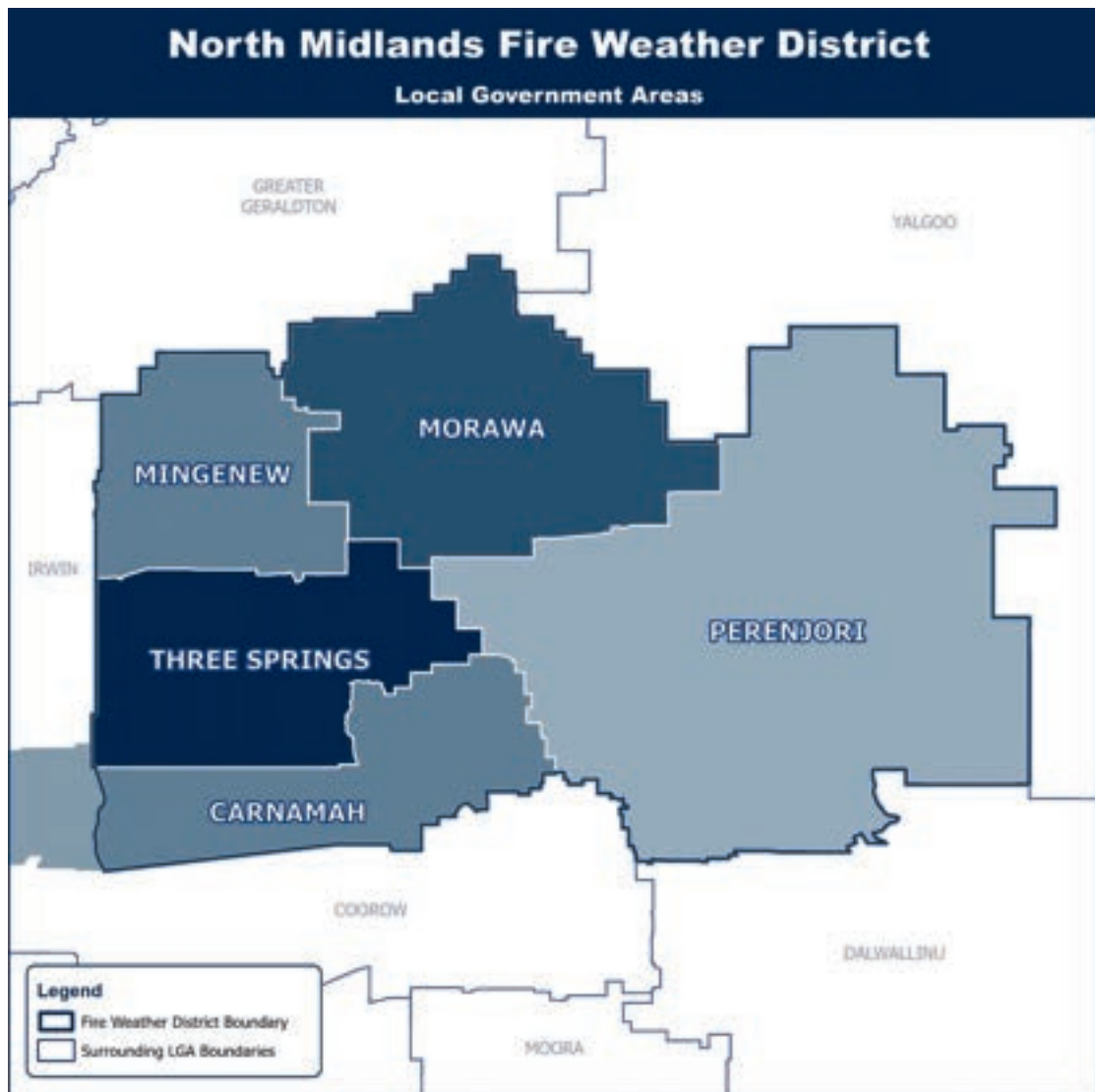


Works are well underway at the building site!



Update to Fire Weather District Boundaries

Fire Weather District Boundaries have been changed as part of updates to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) to simplify and streamline the way community members are kept informed about the risk in their local area. Morawa is now located in the North Midlands Fire Weather District.



With warmer weather just around the corner, it is important to be prepared and ensure all fire breaks are completed by 15 September 2026.

For more information visit the
Shire of Morawa Website
or the DFES website :
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2026

WEEK 1



TUESDAY
29/09

10AM - 2PM

Youth Centre Olympics
Test yourself with a range of
fun games & challenges!

@ Youth Centre



WED
30/09

11AM - 1PM

Roll & Ride
Interactive skate clinic with
Infinity Skate!

@ Skate Park

WEEK 2

MONDAY
5/10

11AM - 2PM

Culture & Community
Creative activities, art,
storytelling & cultural
connection

@ Youth Centre



TUESDAY
6/10

10AM - 2PM

Cooking Challenge
Masterchef group cooking
challenge!

@ Youth Centre



THURS
1/10

11AM - 3PM

Open Session
Youth Centre open session
and movie.

@ Youth Centre



WED
7/10

11AM - 3PM

Challenge Yourself
Team based challenges &
games

@ Youth Centre



FRIDAY
2/10

10AM - 2PM

Cricket Clinic
Fun cricket clinic hosted by
WA Cricket.

@ Morawa Sports Oval



THURS
8/10

11AM - 2PM

Create & Express
Design & Create your own
T-shirt & Tote Bag

@ Youth Centre



For additional details, scan
the QR code or check out
our socials.



SCAN ME

facebook.com/shireofmorawa
@shireofmorawa

FRIDAY
9/10

11AM - 2PM

Open Session & BBQ
Youth Centre open session &
delicious group BBQ

@ Youth Centre



To RSVP for any activities, reach out to Fran from the

JK Foundation at frana@jkfoundation.com.au or call 0450 393 057.

Youth Centre Programs are for local youth aged 8 years +

YOUR DOG, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

BEING A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

01 ENSURE YOUR PROPERTY IS SECURE

Make sure your fencing is secure, well maintained, and high enough to safely contain your dog at all times.

Roaming dogs will be seized by Rangers, and fines will apply to owners.

Keeping your dog secure helps protect them from injury, including being hit by a vehicle, and prevents distractions to other residents and pets in the community.



REGISTER YOUR DOG

02

Register your dog with the Shire to help ensure the safe return of your pet if it is found roaming.

Dogs must be microchipped and wear a collar with a current identification tag displaying the owner's contact details at all times

03 KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH

Dogs must be kept on a leash and under control in public spaces at all times. Owners are also responsible for cleaning up after their dog.

Dog waste bags are provided in public spaces throughout the townsite to help keep our community clean for everyone.



CONSEQUENCES & FINES

04

If your dog is found roaming or being disruptive the below fines may apply:

- Dog Roaming Fine: \$200
- Impounding Fine: \$120
- Unregistered Dog Fine: \$200
- Dog not on a leash in Public Place: \$200
- Residents within the Shire of Morawa cannot have more than 2 dogs per household as per local law.

