



Nomination BPA - WA Volunteer Awards	Nominations are open for the Western Australia Volunteer Awards. As we are 'on a roll', W.Trow has drafted a nomination for Balingup Progress Association in the category of Community Organisation of the year. It was agreed that we progress with this application.	W.Trow
Standpipe charges	Balingup residents pay\$12.45/kL for water through the public standpipe (Donnybrook pay \$8.60/kL). We have been advised that Balingup is charged a higher rate because it costs more to supply water to the town. A letter has been sent to the Shire requesting they consider removing or reducing the Shire administration fee in the 2026/27 budget to at least reduce the disparity.	W.Trow
Sub-lease agreement	The Shire has issued a draft sub-lease agreement for the community grounds (Brockman St). This has been reviewed and a 'plain English' version drafted by W.Trow. We plan to sit down with some of the BPA umbrella groups, especially the Carnivale, to explain the document and discuss its ramifications. It is important that we all understand the terms so we can comply with the conditions. BPA Executive will continue to progress the agreement – work in progress.	W.Trow
CISCO	The Community Information Social Centre (CISCO) was put into action for the first time when a power outage occurred on a total fire danger day on 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 26. Around a dozen people took advantage of the aircon, TV and internet at the Recreation Centre. We believe this will increase as people become more aware of the service. BPA thanks Wendy Trow, Sharon Smith, Chris Leam and Damien Cameron for helping make it happen.	Information
AON Insurance	BPA has paid for insurance and the total is \$16,176. AON has confirmed (email 12 Jan 26) that the policies cover ALL umbrella groups.	Information
BACH Insurance waiver request	BACH has requested that their fee of \$425 for 2026 insurance be waived due to their financial situation. They advised they do intend to pay in 2027.  It was moved that the BACH insurance fee of \$425 for 2026 be waived. Moved J.Hornum Seconded W.Trow Carried.	J.Hornum
BRG Press Release	Balingup Rail Group has issued a statement regarding Talison's decision not to pursue rail for its lithium transport. BRG maintains its position that a battery-operated passenger service on this line is not only viable—it is a transformational opportunity for the entire South West. See Annex C.  BPA support BRG and the Press Release proposed at Annex C-2 was approved.	W.Trow
Busy Bee at Community Centre	The Community Centre needs de-cobwebbing and a general tidy up. D.Cameron suggested we invite the Bunbury Regional Prison team to assist. It was agreed J.Hornum will identify what work needs doing, liaise with H.Christensen and D.Cameron.	D.Cameron J.Hornum

Umbrella groups	R.Thomas asked that umbrella groups be reminded that it is in their interest to send a representative to the BPA meeting. W.Trow to email umbrella groups.	W.Trow
Shire Community Workshop	<p>The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is developing a plan for the future which will describe the community's aspirations and priorities. It will also outline what actions the Shire will take to meet these goals, and other various local needs. All are invited to attend a Community Workshop to have your say.</p> <p>Thursday 19 February 2026 Balingup Town Hall 9:30am - 11:30am</p> <p>To register using the following link. <a href="https://www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au/events/community-workshops-council-plan-review/1186">https://www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au/events/community-workshops-council-plan-review/1186</a></p> <p>J.Hornum advised that, if people need help to register, go to Balingup Library and ask for assistance.</p>	Information
Local Emergency Management meeting	<p>W.Trow advised she had attended the Shire LEMC. Points to note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shire Ranger has conducted over 2000 firebreak inspection and issued around 200 non-compliance documents.</li> <li>• NBN say that, if they are advised of major events, they will try to reschedule maintenance/major works on those dates.</li> <li>• The UCI world cycling tour is taking place in the south west in October 2026 and will result in a massive influx of cycling and spectators and impacting local roads. More information will be provided as it becomes available.</li> <li>• Water Corporation offer a service for people to receive alerts for planned and unplanned water outages. <a href="https://www.watercorporation.com.au/help-and-advice/water-issues/water-supply-interruptions/sign-up-for-water-supply-alerts">https://www.watercorporation.com.au/help-and-advice/water-issues/water-supply-interruptions/sign-up-for-water-supply-alerts</a></li> </ul>	Information
<b>Business arising from previous minutes</b>		Chair
<b>Report on Action Items Annex A</b>	Ongoing (tabled) Complete (tabled)	Chair
<b>Correspondence list</b>	<i>List from November to January tabled at Annex B</i> Correspondence list accepted and received Moved: W.Trow Seconded: R.Benson	Secretary
<b>Umbrella Group Reports</b>		Secretary

<b>Confirmation of minutes previous meeting</b>	Amendments (N) Moved: W.Trow Seconded: J. Hornum	Carried (Y)
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<p><u>Bank account balances as of 31/01/26</u>  Operating Account \$13, 254.85  Trust Fund Account \$26,441.50  Term Deposit Insurance Account \$40,174.22 (\$3000 to be transferred to Trust Fund Account on next renewal)  Term Deposit Future's Fund Account \$36,528.85  Coordinator Payment Account \$1.21</p> <p><u>Accounts for payment</u>  Reimbursement for Aust Day B/fast \$1,096.93  Synergy \$233.98  Balingup General Store \$162.43</p> <p>*request from H. Christensen to check on balance of cleaner payment monies.</p> <p><u>Membership payments received since last meeting</u>  None</p> <p>Treasurer's Report on bank balances accepted and received.  Moved: J. Hornum  Seconded: W.Trow</p> <p>J.Hornum advised that, based on current calculations - around \$9000 should be available for distribution through the Community Trust Fund. This to be checked and confirmed.</p> <p>J.Hornum advised that currently \$5000 is allocated annually to BPA and moved that this be raised to \$7000 due to increasing costs of utilities etc  Moved R.Benson Seconded R.Thomas Carried.</p>	J. Hornum (for T. Benson)
<b>Reminders</b>	Shire Community Workshop - Thursday 19 February 2026, Balingup Town Hall, 9:30am - 11:30am BalingUpcycle Fashion Parade Fundraiser - 25/2/26, Balingup Recreation Centre, 11am to 3pm.	
Meeting Closed	6.50pm	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6pm</b>	

## ANNEX A

ANNEX A		
as of 3/12/25	ACTION LIST, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC	
MEETING DATE PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ITEM	STATUS
<b>AON Insurance Policies</b> J.Hornum	Insurance policies and invoices have been received and paid at the end of December. Invoices have been sent out to the relevant umbrella groups to pay their contribution. See summary at Annex A-1 below.	ONGOING
<b>BFOF Umbrella Group</b> W.Trow/ J.Hornum/ S.Noonan Dec 25	At the December meeting, Balingup Friends of the Forest applied to become an umbrella group under the Balingup Progress Association as they plan to deregister as an association. AON have confirmed they have been accepted as an umbrella group. Jodie has provided letter of authority for bank account. BFOF have provided contact details of members. They have no assets.	COMPLETED
<b>Staying in Place</b> W.Trow/ J.Hornum C.Bailey Aug 25	BPA has sought approval from the Busselton Hospice Care Inc. Board to enter into a partnership on the Staying in Place (SIP) model to deliver Home Care Packages in the Balingup district. A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been received. A meeting to be held with the SIP Coordinator prior to entering into any contract. MOU/proposal to be discussed at March BPA meeting.	ONGOING
<b>Community Foundation</b> Nov 24/ W.Trow	Initial discussions have been held with Fremantle Community Foundation to discuss creating a Community Foundation in Balingup. FCF advised (22 July) they have DGR1 (charitable) status but are still awaiting ATO approval. A meeting will be held with the wider community when DGR1 status confirmed.	ONGOING

## Insurance Costs

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Public liability (combined)	\$1676	\$1676	\$1072	\$2304	\$3491	\$6521	\$6791
Associations liability	\$130	\$328	\$497	\$1444	\$1527	\$1600	\$1606
Personal accident	\$76	\$76	\$76	\$76	\$87	\$98	\$103
ISR Agricultural (buildings etc)	\$3582	\$4,998	\$5674	\$6086	\$7095	\$7670	\$7676
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5464</b>	<b>\$7079</b>	<b>\$7319</b>	<b>\$9910</b>	<b>\$12,200</b>	<b>\$15891</b>	<b>\$16176</b>

	Invoice	SFFD	BMC	Community BPA	Upcycle	BACH
Public Liability	\$6,791	40%	40%	10%	5%	5%
Associations liability	\$1,606	40%	40%	10%	5%	5%
Personal accident	\$104	40%	40%	10%	5%	5%
ISR (Buildings etc) - see below	\$7,677	9%	85%	6%	0%	0%

	Public Liability	Associations liability	Personal accident	ISR (Buildings etc)	Total INVOICED
BSFFDC	\$2,716.40	\$642.44	\$41.54	\$693	\$4,094
BMCC	\$2,716.40	\$642.44	\$41.54	\$6,533	\$9,933
Community/BPA	\$679.10	\$161	\$10.38	\$451	\$1,301
BalingUpcycle	\$339.55	\$80	\$5.19	\$0	\$425
BACH (BME)	\$339.55	\$80	\$5.19	\$0	\$425
	\$6,791.00	\$1,606.10	\$103.84	\$7,676.78	\$16,178

## ANNEX B

**Emails/Letters In Note:** This list does not include newsletters/general updates from other organisations.

Date	From	Subject	Action
5 Sept 25	Talison	Site bulletin	
6 Sept 25	Telling tales	Community thanks	
8 Sept	Qualtrics	Shire scorecard	
8 Sept	Balingup Primary	BPA grant – Dance report	JH
11 Sept	Water Corp	Leak allowance approved	JH
14 Sept	BADSA	Invoice hall hire 12-14 Sept	JH
16 Sept	S.Delaporte	Community grant – Shire	To all BPA
16 Sept	Regen Strategic	Talison community meeting	RT
20 Sept	R.Price	Pedlars withdraw request – sub committee	JH
23 Sept	J.Hornum	Microsoft annual payment	JH
23 Sept	W.Irvine	Flagpole	WI
27 Sept	H.Christensen	Townscape report AGM	WT
30 Sept	BACH	BACH report AGM	WT
28 Sept	Suitefiles	Signed document	JH
30 Sept	E.Gerritson	MIG Report AGM	WT
1 Oct	W.Irvine	Flagpole	WT
1 Oct	S.Smith	Patches & Craft insurance	JH
2 Oct	W.Irvine	BPG report AGM	WI
2 Oct	J.Hornum	Presidents report AGM	WT
3 Oct	C.Middle	Health & Wellbeing funds	JH
4 Oct	B.Slava/B.Hindocha	Community garden AGM	WT
4 Oct	M.Lee	BRG report AGM	WT
5 Oct	N.King	Museum report AGM	WT
5 Oct	K.Magi	Upcycle report AGM	WT
7 Oct	Telling tales	Report AGM	WT
7 Oct	M.Lee	BRG Minutes	WT
9 Oct	BACH	Insurance financials	WT
13 Oct	W.Irvine	Flagpole	WI
13 Oct	Shire	BPA lease Agreement	WT
16 Oct	K.Haigh	BPA audit and invoice	JH
16 Oct	N.Putland (J.Hanns)	Water standpipes	WT
24 Oct	J.Mutton	Balya Balinga	JH
26 Oct	AON (Sevag)	Insurance	JH
29 Oct	Consumer Protection	Amendment to Association rules	WT/JH
4 Nov	Balingupcycle	Playground project	Info
10 Nov	Shire Planner	Local Planning Strategy update	Info
16 Nov	Talison	Talison bulletin	Info
16 Nov	DBCR	Dbk Community radio invoice \$160	JH
17 Nov	Gay Wilison	Meeting WA Health Service	To C.Bailey
18 Nov	BFOF	Request to become sub-committee BPA	WT
20 / 21 Nov	Talison	2025 sustainability assessment	JH
20 Nov	A.Carrigg	CISCO mailout	WT
22 Nov	S. Franks	Playground feedback	JH
24 Nov	Talison	Survey – sustainability	JH
26 Nov	K.Magi	Playground map	Info
27 Nov	Shire	Mining lease proposals	Info
27 Nov	DBCCI	Community Directory	JH
8 Dec 25	Balingup Primary School	EOY concert	JH
3 Dec 25	Balingup Primary School	Request \$50 donation book award	JH
12 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	BFOF insurance – request more info	WT

15 Dec 25	Shire (S.Delaporte)	Community grant (Curtin) success	WT
15 Dec 25	A.Clifford	Dbk-Bal Health Advisory Committee	WT
15 Dec 25	DBCCI	Community Directory	JH
15 Dec 25	W.Trow	Email to Shire – tree pruning	WT
15 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	Approve BFOF sub-committee	JH
15 Dec 25	Shire (S.Delaporte)	Community grant	JH
19 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	Insurances (changes to groups/locations)	WT
19 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	Confirms Community Fund/Staying in Place as umbrella groups	WT
23 Dec 25	DBCCI	Community Directory	JH
6 Jan 26	Bunbury Pre-release	Public liability insurance	WT
6 Jan 26	AON	Insurance ISR	WT
6 Jan 26	AON	Insurance Ag Society & Combined liability	WT
10 Jan 26	Bunbury Pre-release	Public liability insurance confirm receipt	WT
8 Jan 26	NBN	Workshops	To all BPA
12 Jan 26	AON (Sevag)	Insurance	WT
12 Jan 26	Shire (Bec Armstrong)	Sub licence 101	WT
14 Jan 26	NBN	Workshops cancelled	info
18 Jan 26	G.Hodge	BACH GST transfer	JH
22 Jan 26	Shire	Australia Day Councillor representation	JH
23 Jan 26	G.Hodge	BRG press release Talison	WT
23 Jan 26	Sghire	Community workshops	To all BPA
27 Jan 26	Shire	DMIRS mining lease	Info
28 Jan 26	Andrea Lee	Membership payment	JH
20 Jan 26	Citizen of the Year	Survey	WT
30 Jan 26	G.Hodge	BACH insurance – request waiver	JH
2 Feb 26	Andrea Lee	PL insurance for Bunnings	JH
4 Feb 26	Sevag (AON)	Certificate of currency	JH
4 Feb 26	Savanah Spence	Volunteer of the Year awards.	WT

### Letters/emails Out

Date	To	Subject	Actioned by
6 Sept 25	All BPA	Reminder Shire election	WT
10 Sept 25	All BPA	Talison bulletin	JH
16 Sept	All BPA	Shire community grant	JH
27 Sept	All BPA umbrella groups	Reminder insurance	WT
1 Oct	M.Armstrong	ANZAC approval	WT
15 Oct	M.Howells	Backroads accommodation	JH
22 Oct	All BPA	AGM Minutes	WT
23 Oct	Shire	Community grant app'n – Curtin weekend	WT
28 Oct	AON (Sevag)	Insurance	JH
5 Nov	All BPA	Playground	JH
16 Nov 25	Shire	Request waiver Village Green fee	JH
23 Nov	S.Franks	Playground	JH
10 Dec	All BPA	December Minutes	JH
10 Dec	BPA Executive	Donation Primary School \$50	JH
10 Dec	DBCI	Community directory	JH
10 Dec	AON (Sevag)	BFOF sub-committee request.	WT
11 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	BFOF insurance response	WT
16 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	Insurance enquiry	WT
16 Dec 25	AON (Sevag)	List of umbrella groups	WT
26 Dec 25	All BPA	Iphone emergency use and heatwave	WT
30 Dec 25	Shire CEO	Standpipe fees (letter) budget request	WT/JH
30 Dec 25	Shire (Bec Armstrong)	Sub licence 101	WT

6 Jan 26	Bunbury Pre-release	Public liability insurance copy	WT
10 Jan 26	All BPA	NBN workshops	WT
12 Jan & 17 Jan	Shire (Bec Armstrong)	Sub licence 101	WT
23 Jan 26	All BPA	Shire community workshop	WT
25 Jan 26	Various	Letter support for BACH	JH
25 Jan 26	Umbrella groups	Audit/banking reports due	JH
4 Feb 26	Sevag (AON)	Request certificates of currency	JH

## Annex C-1

### Version 2 Balingup Rail Group (BRG) — Public Statement (393 words)

22 January 2026

#### Our Vision: A Zero-Emissions Transport Future for the South West Rail Line

In response to Talison Lithium’s December 2025 announcement regarding the Bunbury–Greenbushes rail line, the Balingup Rail Group reaffirms its position: **the case for reopening the South West Rail Line remains compelling and urgent.**

While Talison has chosen not to pursue rail for its lithium transport, this decision does not define the corridor’s potential. The line is a public asset with value far beyond a single user.

Our independently commissioned *Zero Emissions Tourist and Commuter Railway Feasibility Study* (August 2024, Linqage International) demonstrates that a modern, battery-operated passenger service on this line is not only viable—it is a transformational opportunity for the entire South West.

#### The BRG Positive Vision for the Line

##### 1. Broad Regional Benefits — Exceeding \$1 Billion

Economic, social, and environmental gains would flow to communities across the region, boosting tourism and activity in Bunbury, Dardanup, Boyanup, Donnybrook, Kirup, Balingup, Greenbushes, Bridgetown, Pemberton, Manjimup, Nannup, Capel, Boyup Brook, and Busselton.

##### 2. A World-Class Scenic Tourist Journey

Capitalise on the untapped potential of state, interstate, and international visitors—especially via Busselton Airport—with a spectacular scenic rail experience from Bunbury to Bridgetown.

##### 3. Ready-to-Go Heritage Experiences

Launch heritage steam train excursions from Boyanup, offering immediate tourism activation.

This is about **regional development, tourism innovation, and preserving a vital corridor for future generations.** It aligns directly with the Government’s stated policy of recovering disused rail lines for community and tourism benefit.

#### The Path Forward

Talison’s study confirmed there are “no barriers to restoring the line to modern standards” and provides “valuable insights” for future planning. We welcome these findings.

The restoration cost identified in the study should be viewed as a strategic investment, offset by the significant and ongoing economic dividend generated by the passenger rail service we propose.

**Our proposal is viable, community-focused, and aligns with state and national strategic objectives.**

### **The Decision Rests with Government**

Realising this vision requires partnership between the State and Federal Governments. The recent policy to recover control of Western Australia's rail lines creates the perfect opportunity to repurpose this asset for public good.

We urge the Government to act decisively to secure the South West Rail Line—for a sustainable, exciting future that serves the many, not the interests of a few.

### **The Balingup Rail Group**

#### **Contacts**

For copies of the Balingup Rail Group Feasibility Study email [balinguprailgroup@outlook.com](mailto:balinguprailgroup@outlook.com)

Chair the Hon Malcolm Lee KC 0418 489 495

Executive Officer Gary Hodge 0417 985 897

Annex C-2

### **Proposed BPA Press Release - Talison**

In June 2018 community concerns increased over the damaging effect on Balingup of the large number of B-double road-trains travelling through the town, carting ore from the Talison lithium mine at Greenbushes to Bunbury.

Balingup Progress Association (Inc.) ('BPA') appointed a sub-committee (Balingup Rail Group) ('BRG') to examine the case for transferring the road transport of ore to the existing South West rail line at Greenbushes. As a result of the work of the Rail Group, the Government made a decision in 2023 to have a rail freight study undertaken and Talison agreed to be a joint contributor. This study was completed in December 2025 and Talison then issued a press release which advised they would not be moving forward with the project to transfer ore onto rail at this time.

Talison is an important business in the South West and provides hundreds of jobs. BPA appreciates the fact that they have held community meetings and conducted surveys; demonstrating that they value the concept of social licence. We are also aware that the draft South West Supply Chain Strategy, submitted to Government in June 2020, states that there would be a need to consider the shift of the transport of lithium concentrate from road to rail once production approached 2 million tonnes per annum. The permitted projected production is now 2.8 million tonnes per annum.

Balingup Progress Association supports the re-activation of the railway to support tourism and commuter travel to/from Bunbury. We also look forward to hearing what plans are now proposed to remove the 200 road-trains passing daily through the hearts of Balingup, Kirup, Donnybrook and Boyanup.