



**Shire OF  
Wiluna**



## **Media Release**

### **Petition Outcome for Sealing the Goldfields Highway**

The Shire Presidents of Meekatharra and Wiluna have continued to lobby the WA State Government to support the sealing of the remaining 124 km of unsealed road between Wiluna and Meekatharra. The condition of the unsealed road continues to deteriorate with vehicle accidents also being an unfortunate regular occurrence.

The Meekatharra and Wiluna Shires commenced a Petition process to the WA Parliament Legislative Council Upper House in early March this year.

The Petition is a request for action and was open to any citizen or resident, or group of citizens or residents of WA, to petition the Legislative Council to take action. Signing of the Petition was either by hard copies of the petition being available in the towns of Meekatharra or Wiluna, and by e-petition directly to the WA Legislative Council.

The introduction of the Petition process to the WA Legislative Council was facilitated by the Hon Colin de Grussa MLC, Nationals WA and Member for Agricultural Region with support from the Member for North West Central the Hon Mem Beard MLA. The Hon Colin de Grussa MLC will also formally table the Petition by reading a summary of the Petition to the Upper House. At the close of the Petition process on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, a total of 594 petitions were received.

Once formally tabled in the Upper House, the Petition is referred to the Environment and Public Affairs Committee for consideration and reporting. In considering the petition, the Committee usually seeks the advice of the member who presented the petition, the person who promoted it and the Minister(s) in whose area of responsibility the subject matter of the petition falls. At this point the Principal Petitioner will be requested to provide more information about the intent of the Petition, such as why they support the Petition in a formal submission. Evidence of the road condition and regular vehicle accidents on the road will be provided to the Committee as part of supporting the submission process. The Principal Petitioner and the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna will then be advised of the outcome of the Committee's consideration of a petition and the Committee may report on the petition to the Legislative Council.

The Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna have long been concerned that the remaining unsealed gravel section of the State Goldfields Highway (Meekatharra Wiluna Road) continues to create road safety issues to both the travelling community and freight transport operators. The Petition process is therefore intended that the Environment

and Public Affairs Committee make recommendations for the government to seriously consider the sealing of the remaining section of the unsealed Goldfields Highway without delay.

Both Shire Presidents of Meekatharra and Wiluna are grateful to those persons who signed the petition in show of support to the government for maintaining the safety standards of our regional road network by sealing the remainder of the Goldfields Highway.

Cr Harvey Nichols  
Shire President  
Shire of Meekatharra

Cr Peter Grundy  
Shire President  
Shire of Wiluna

Contact: ***Kelvin Matthews*** Chief Executive Officer Meekatharra 0417 989076

***Gary Gaffney*** Chief Executive Officer Wiluna 0417141877