

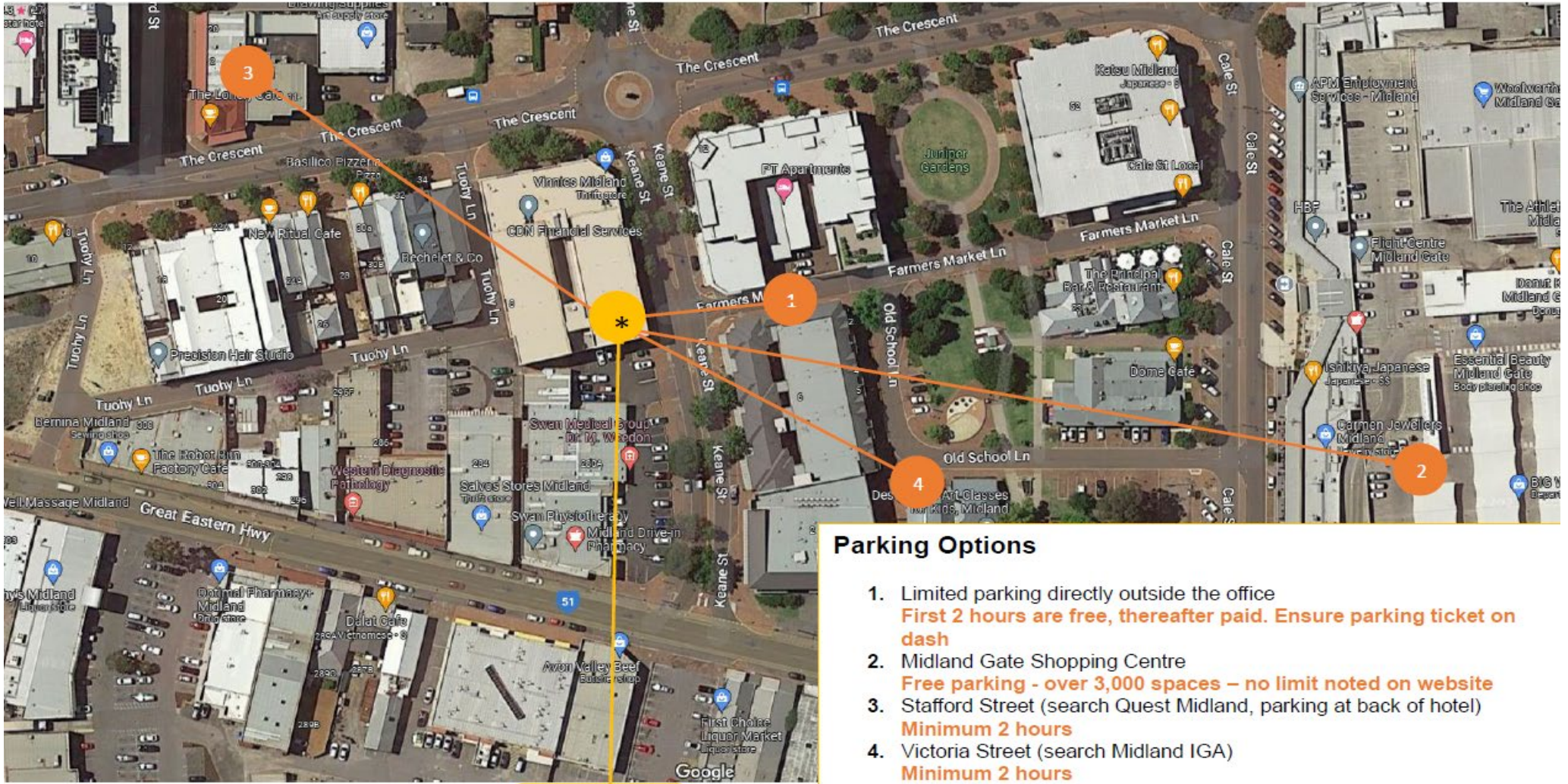


STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

08 May 2026 at 10:00 am

WSFN Office – 37/5 Keane Street MIDLAND 6056



We are here

Parking Options

1. Limited parking directly outside the office
First 2 hours are free, thereafter paid. Ensure parking ticket on dash
2. Midland Gate Shopping Centre
Free parking - over 3,000 spaces – no limit noted on website
3. Stafford Street (search Quest Midland, parking at back of hotel)
Minimum 2 hours
4. Victoria Street (search Midland IGA)
Minimum 2 hours

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

08 MAY 2026

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List of Attendees:

WSFN John Nuttall – Program Director
Peter Hall – Program Manager
Racelis Rose – Executive Officer

Delegate	SRRG	Proxy
Cr Chris Poulton – Shire of Northam	Avon	Cr Michael McKeown – Shire of Toodyay
Cr Peter Wood – Shire of Pingelly	Hotham Dale	Cr Alan Price – Shire of Wandering
Cr Paul Brown - Shire of Kellerberrin	Kellerberrin	Cr Jo Fullwood – Shire of Cunderdin
Cr Grant Robins – Shire of Kulin	Lakes	Cr Len Armstrong – Shire of Lake Grace
Cr Wayne Gibson – Chairperson - Shire of Dandaragan	Moora	Cr Steve Gilbert Shire of Moora
Cr Graham Broad – Shire of Narrogin	Narrogin	Cr Scott Ballantyne – Shire of Cuballing
Cr Ashley Walker – Shire of Mukinbudin	North-East	Cr Adam Eksanow– Shire of Nungarin
Cr Kent Mouritz – Shire of Kondinin	Roe	Cr Trevor Stacey – Shire of Quairading
Mohammad Siddiqui	Main Roads WA	
Jacqui Early		
Ian Duncan	WALGA	
Chris Sharples	Wheatbelt DC	
Josh Pomykala	RDA	

1.0 OPENING – RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10:05 am, welcomed the attendees including those attending via TEAMS and read the apologies. It was also noted that Mr Grant Arthur attending on behalf of Chris Sharples. The Chairperson announced to the members that WSNF Program Manager is on three (3) months leave and all inquiries or matters that need attending particularly Shire visits etc should be directed firstly to the WSNF Program Director so it can be dealt with accordingly.

1.1 Present

Cr Wayne Gibson	Cr Paul Brown	Cr Grant Robins
Cr Ashley Walker	Cr Scott Ballantyne	Cr Len Armstrong
Cr Jo Fullwood (via TEAMS)		
Jacqui Early	Josh Pomykala	Grant Arthur

1.2 Apologies

Cr Graham Broad	Cr Steve Gilbert	Cr Adam Eksanow
Ian Duncan	Mohammad Siddiqui	Cr Kent Mouritz
Chris Sharples		

1.3 Visitors / Observers

Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food, Racing and

Gaming via TEAMS.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (FINANCIAL / IMPARTIALITY / PROXIMITY)

No Declaration of Interests submitted.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – 30 JANUARY 2026

RESOLUTION SC2026 / 05 - 149

That the Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held on 30 January 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MOVED: CR ASHLEY WALKER
SECONDED: CR SCOTT BALLANTYNE
CARRIED: 5/0

4.0 WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK – PROGRAM FINANCIAL

Title	Financial Reports
Date of Report	01 May 2026
Author	Mr John Nuttall – Program Director
Attachments	Financial Reports (handed on the day of the meeting)
Senior officer	Mr John Nuttall – Program Director

Background

The Steering Committee requested the WSNF Program Management Team to provide a financial progress report each meeting.

Consultation

Main Roads WA
WSNF Program Management Team

Proposal

The Steering Committee receive the financial reports.

Financial Implications

Nil at this stage, the Steering Committee has oversight of the financial welfare of the program / funds.

Risk Assessment

Nil

Comment

Nil

RESOLUTION SC2026 / 05 - 150

That the Steering Committee **receive** the Financial Reports.

MOVED: **CR ASHLEY WALKER**
SECONDED: **CR SCOTT BALLANTYNE**
CARRIED: **5/0**

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

WSFN Funding Application

No reason was provided but the WSFN Program is one of the many programs that did not make the shortlist of programs that the State government will support/fund in the 2026/2027 budget.

With assistance from Main Roads WA, a Business Case was created. Because of lack of support from Treasury, the business case was not lodged with the Minister. It will be reviewed and lodged as soon as possible.

Even if there is no funding received until 2027/2028, WSFN can continue, around \$10 million of construction funds were already awarded for the 2026/2027 financial year. The SC was informed that the PMT have started looking and working at various development projects which can be done within 12 months to be able to catch up with those development projects that was deferred.

Knowing that the WSFN Business Case was not submitted to the Minister, the Committee suggested / discussed the following strategies to consider:

- Conduct face-to-face meetings with various politicians (Labor/Liberals/Independents etc) to discuss the importance of the WSFN Program both from road safety standpoint and product delivery to various wheatbelt locations.
- Communicate with various stakeholders who will be impacted by way of conducting petitions/surveys/questionnaires and the results to be included in the submission of the business case to the Minister.
- Include technical data as well as improve the narrative by way of including human interests' stories, employment statistics, and evidence of Indigenous participation to strengthen the advocacy.
- Mr Josh Pomykala and Mr Grant Arthur will be happy to assist and provide contacts/details with various government authorities for WSFN meetings.

6.0 PRESENTATION BY MR LACHLAN HUNTER (VIA TEAMS AT 11:00AM)

At 11:06 am, Mr Lachlan Hunter, MLA – Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food, Racing and Gaming joined the meeting via TEAMS and spoke to the Committee:

Mr Hunter suggested the following in order to secure the much-needed attention for WSFN to secure funding:

- a coordinated media campaign (print/television/radio etc) and engage a professional communicator or lobbyist to facilitate.
- direct engagement with a various minister to raise awareness of why the funding is critical particularly for road safety, delivery of amenities to the regions, tourism, etc. This has to be done before the mid-year budget review which takes place sometime in June/July 2026.

Mr Hunter left the TEAMS meeting at 11:40am

The Committee continued their discussions from the agenda provided.

Recap of the Technical Committee meeting held on 24 April 2026

The WSFN Program Director provided an update regarding the Technical Committee discussions on 24 April 2026.

General Business

There was no further general business discussed.

Cr Ashley Walker left the meeting at 11:59 am.

Cr Paul Brown left the meeting at 12:06 pm

7.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Steering Committee decided that the following future meetings to be conducted:

Technical Committee	Steering Committee
10 July (via TEAMS)	24 July (in person WSFN office)
11 September	25 September
06 November	20 November

8.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss the Chairperson closed the meeting at 12:10pm.