



North Eastern Wheatbelt
Regional Organisation of Councils



Sustaining the Present whilst Building the Future

Wheatbelt Futures Forum
Cr Melanie Brown, NEWROC President



**Working together to attract
opportunities that create
progressive, healthy, and
prosperous communities.**

OUR VALUES

- Regional commitment
- Community focus
- Accountability
- Innovation
- Collaboration



WHO WE ARE

- Population of 3,200
- Older population than Wheatbelt and State averages
- 22,700sqkm land area
- 180km by road to Perth
- 570+ businesses
- 1,460+ jobs
- \$460m+ in agricultural production
- \$250m+ per year in regional exports
- \$300m+ Gross Regional Product (2022)



PAST HIGHLIGHTS

- Wheatbelt Way Self Drive Route \$1.9m
- First Town Team Builder position in the regions
- \$1.2m Telecommunications Network with Crisp Wireless

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PHASE OUT LIVE SHEEP BY SEA

- 400,000 sheep across the 7 local governments
- Supports 180 businesses in the area
- \$18.7m gross value annually to our economy

Economic impact of implementing the policy is \$128m over 20 years.

PLUS \$34.6m in household expenditure.

Econisis, 2023

ECONOMIC OUTPUT LOSS OF SINGLE POWER OUTAGES (\$M)

Scenario	12hr Outage	2 Day Outage	6 Day Outage
Local Economic Output Impacts	\$0.7	\$1.4	\$4.6
First Round and Supply Chain Impacts	\$0.2	\$0.3	\$1.1
Production and Consumption Induced Impacts	\$0.8	\$1.6	\$5.4
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS	\$1.6m	\$3.3m	\$11.1m

Econisis, 2024

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TELECOMMUNICATION OUTAGE

Scenario	One day	3 days	Annual 3 days, over 20yrs
Telecommunications outages (internet and mobile phone)	Costs 16.01% of economic output	\$799,000	\$9.07m

Econisis, 2024

OUR VISION FOR THE NEWROC ECONOMY

**Growing prosperous and
sustainable communities
through collaboration,
leadership and investment.**

OUR CHALLENGES

- Small population
- Government intervention in agriculture
- Housing availability
- Essential infrastructure capacity
- Health and community services need

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1. Infrastructure Investment and Service Delivery
2. Tourism Sector Growth
3. Small Business Development
4. Local Communities Revitalisation
5. Regional Brand Establishment



OUR RESPONSE

Regional Brand	Revitalisation of our brand and advocacy
Housing	Worker Accommodation Housing Study with the Wheatbelt Development Commission
Economic Diversification	Regional Waste Management Strategy and Infrastructure
Infrastructure Investment	Bencubbin Microgrid – post feasibility stage
Health	First responders volunteer study
Tourism Sector Growth	NEWTRAVEL Visitor Accommodation Study



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