

What's Happening July to August 2023

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the winter edition of What's Happening.

In this edition, we look at key projects planned as part of the 2023/24 Budget.

This financial year, Council adopted a \$293 million budget, which will be invested in maintaining and upgrading existing facilities and constructing new infrastructure to support and connect our community in the coming years.

This includes:

- \$61 million for roads, pathways and street lights
- \$15.1 million for sporting facilities
- \$4.7 million for foreshore and coastal management activities and bushland preservation
- \$2 million for community facilities.

Do you know someone who tirelessly gives back to the local community? You can honour the valuable contribution of these citizens by nominating them for the 2024 Australia Day Awards. For more details and to nominate an individual or organisation, visit

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/awardfunding

We encourage you to have your say and vote in the City of Wanneroo Council Election later this year. Check your enrolment details are up-to-date by heading to

elections.wa.gov.au/enrol

Make sure you flip over this special edition of What's Happening to find out what's on at our libraries, museum and gallery, plus read our special feature to discover all the big sporting names who have come from the City of Wanneroo.

Mayor Linda Aitken

What's good in your 'hood?

Are you passionate about more shops, public parking, access to green spaces or enhancing public safety?

Complete the Wanneroo Liveability Survey to help us to shape the future of our City.

It only takes 10 minutes and all participants will have the chance to win one of ten \$100 vouchers!

Tell us what you think at survey.placescore.org/s3/wanneroo

*Terms and conditions apply

Budget delivers strong plan for City of Wanneroo

The City of Wanneroo adopted a \$293 million 2023/24 budget this month, investing in a range of services and facilities to keep our community connected, safe and sustainable.

The balanced budget includes a significant capital works program and investment in a range of everyday services and facilities to benefit residents. Through the capital works program, \$20 million will be invested in roads, pathways and street lighting, to help create a safe, connected and reliable local transport network that encourages people to use forms of transport other than driving, such as cycling and walking.

Lenore Road in Hocking will benefit from a \$4 million upgrade to provide a safer and more efficient road for residents and better transport connections for local businesses.

The City is taking steps to become more accessible and connected, encouraging our residents to look after their mental and physical health by being active outdoors, providing new multi-use pathways and end-of-trip facilities, including new shared paths along Hartman Drive in Wangara and Alexander Drive in Landsdale.

Some \$15.1 million will see major sport and recreation projects progress, including:

- \$5.2 million for a pavilion and a storage building at Halesworth Park in Butler. These works will complement the first stage of the project, which included construction of two multi-sport ovals, 16 multi-use hardcourts, cricket nets, a dual-use path, children's play area and picnic facilities.
- The state-of-the-art Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre project will move into the detailed design phase, with a \$4 million investment. Once completed, the facility is set to cater for the growing northern corridor, providing a fantastic public aquatic facility for our community.
- A \$1.7 million contribution to progress concept designs and the first stage of construction of a new sports amenity building at Heath Park in Eglinton.

The City will invest \$2 million in community facilities, including \$300,000 for the detailed design of Dordaak Kepap Library and Youth Innovation Hub. On completion, the facility will feature a demonstration kitchen, gaming room, recording booth and studio, podcasting room and function and meeting rooms.

Some \$1.1 million has been committed to build new and improve existing playgrounds, including concept design and site analysis for a new all abilities playground at Riverlinks Park, so you and your family can enjoy the outdoors. This financial year, several parks including Hardcastle and Bembridge parks in Hocking, Mitchell Park in Two Rocks, Sanctuary Park in Ridgewood and Rotary Park in Wanneroo are set to benefit from a \$3.2 million allocation for park furniture upgrades and renewals.

A further \$4.7 million will be spent on foreshore and coastal management to ensure our community can enjoy our 32 kilometres of coastline. This includes maintenance works and upgrades to the Mindarie Breakwater to ensure the structure remains functional for the next 50 years, as well as dune restoration works at Mindarie, Quinns Rocks, Yanchep and Two Rocks.

Community safety will get a boost with new emergency management initiatives and around-the-clock safety patrols, as well as a \$300,000 investment to expand the City's CCTV network.

For more information on the City of Wanneroo's 2023/24 budget, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/budget

Looking back at some of our top projects from 2022/23

Splendid Park Cycling Facility, Yanchep

The City proudly completed the state-of-the-art Splendid Park cycling facility last financial year. The cycling track has already proved to be a premier venue of choice for major events, hosting the WA State Criterium Championship and the Skate Australia National In-line Speed Skating Championships.

Taywood Park, Wanneroo

Taywood Park playground upgrades are proving to be a hit with the local community.

The City has received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the upgrade, which was completed in March. We are committed to revitalising our open spaces to help our community maintain good physical and mental health.

Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, Madeley

Upgrades have set Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex up to host the Danish international team as part of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

The main soccer field now boasts upgraded lighting and will provide a space for the Denmark side to train, rest and recover between matches.

Fragola Park, Landsdale

Local children and families have a fantastic new space to play, after works at Fragola Park in Landsdale were completed.

The City worked closely with Carnaby Rise Primary School to determine the playground design. School Principal Karen Giacomucci said the park was a wonderful place for the school community to gather.

Streamlined approval process

Building applications

It's now easier than ever to lodge a building application for your new carport, granny flat, front fence, pergola, pool and more. Stay in the know with our new customer portal, where you can lodge and track the progress of your application online.

Find out what approvals you might need and start your application today by visiting wanneroo.wa.gov.au/info/20141/

Big wins for small business

The City has continued to cut red tape with online hub Business Wanneroo and through its ongoing participation in the Small Business Friendly Approvals Program.

The Program, led by the Small Business Development Corporation, aims to smooth the process of obtaining licences and permits – saving business owners time and money and ultimately making it easier to start, operate and grow a small business in Wanneroo.

Mindarie Breakwater upgrades

Works continue at Mindarie Breakwater. Upgrades include parking, drainage, pathways and kerbing that will ensure the breakwater structure remains functional for the next 50 years.

Kingsway Little Athletics kiosk, Madeley

A new kiosk at Kingsway Little Athletics Centre is set to be constructed after the City secured \$80,000 through the State Government's Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund. The kiosk will allow the Madeley-based club to offer healthy food and drink options to athletes and spectators, providing the club with a valuable income source that will allow them to reduce membership fees.

Rotary Park play space, Wanneroo

The Rotary Park Play Space project is progressing after the community showed their support for the concept design. The design includes refurbishing the tree house and introducing a range of new elements including nature play equipment, climbing structures, imaginative play items, shade sails and a rubberised surface for safety.

Halesworth Park pavilion, Butler

Works have started on the construction of a new sporting pavilion and storage facility at Halesworth Park in Butler. The \$9.3 million project, designed by the Bollig Design Group and constructed by Wangara contractor Swan Group WA, will provide local sporting clubs with new change rooms, multi-purpose rooms, universal access toilet facilities, first aid rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, kiosks and improved storage.

Central-East Ward park upgrades

A series of upgrade works are set to breathe new life into Central-East Ward parks this financial year. The City will resurface the tennis court at Delamare Park in Banksia Grove, renew the basketball ring and surface at Peridot Park in Banksia Grove, install a new bench seat at Staunton Park in Carramar and renew the barbecue at Nankeen Park in Tapping.

We will also install new play equipment and rubber softfall at Peter Turner Park in Carramar, with rubber softfall and signage set to refresh the fitness area at Jimbub Swamp Park in Tapping.

Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre

The much-anticipated Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre (AARC) project is a step closer following land acquisition and announcement of successful tenders.

Earlier this year, Council progressed the land acquisition for the AARC, appointed Donovan Payne Architects to deliver the project's detailed design and selected two businesses to carry out cost planner services on the project. The facility is set to feature indoor and outdoor swimming pools, gym and fitness facilities, sports courts, a crèche, café and change rooms.

Avila Park, Alexander Heights

Avila Park is already a fun place for local children to play, with new shade sails set to improve sun safety for families. The City's South Ward – which includes the suburbs of Alexander Heights, Girrawheen, Koondoola and Marangaroo – also boasts many beautiful established trees that provide natural shade, making our local play spaces even more sun safe!

Supercars set to return to Wanneroo

A new agreement will see Wanneroo Raceway host the Supercars Championship for another two years. Supercars will continue to race at the historic Wanneroo circuit in the Perth SuperSprint for a minimum of two more annual Supercars Championship events.

As part of the 2023 Bosch Power Tools Perth SuperSprint weekend, local schoolgirls gained an insight into the motorsport industry as part of Motorsport Australia's Girls on Track program. Motorsport Australia held two workshops at Wanneroo Raceway, where students from Roseworth Primary School and Clarkson Senior High School took part in free STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sessions.

The INSPIRE workshop, aimed at girls aged 8 to 15, provided an insight into the motorsport world, encouraged an interest in STEM subjects and industries and aimed to increase female participation in these sectors. The PATHWAYS session hosted girls and young adults aged 15 to 22 and aimed to inspire them to pursue careers in the motorsport industry, connect with women currently in the industry and take part in simulator, STEM and pit stop challenges.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the Girls on Track program was a fantastic opportunity for young women to learn more about the motorsport industry and future career options.

"The City of Wanneroo was excited to sponsor the SuperSprint weekend which supported career development for our local young women," she said.

"It's so exciting to have a world-class facility in our backyard and to have attracted around 9000 visitors from across the country per day."

Roseworth Primary School Year 4 student Diana (9) said she enjoyed learning STEM subjects at school and one day hoped to become a doctor.

"Girls on Track was great, it's my first time at an event like this, I really enjoyed building Lego robots and learning to change a tyre," she said.

Roseworth Primary School Science Teacher Anna Keunen said the program helped the students develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex up in lights this month

With the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup kicking off this month, a host of international visitors have toured Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex.

The Danish international team selected Kingsway as their team base camp and training site for the World Cup. FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura, visited the facility, as well as FIFA Australia Chief Operating Officer Jane Fernandez, Denmark Match Manager Line Hilmer Jepsen and Team Manager Henriette Jensen. Described by Forbes as the one of the most powerful women in international sport, Madame Samoura visited Kingsway as part of a tour of host cities and training sites across the country.

Mayor Linda Aitken said it was honour for the City of Wanneroo to host international guests.

"I am excited to give a warm Wanneroo welcome to FIFA representatives and Denmark athletes, offering them a venue to train, rest and recover at Kingsway," she said. "It's an exciting opportunity for the City of Wanneroo to play a role in one of the biggest women's sporting events on the planet."

Floodlighting at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex's main soccer pitch was recently upgraded to 500 lux lighting. The \$2.7 million project was funded by the State Government's WA Recovery Plan and a \$126,030 contribution from the City of Wanneroo.

Wanneroo sporting talent hits it out of the park

The City of Wanneroo has a long and proud history of producing and nurturing sporting greats. Wanneroo Regional Museum is looking to capture the stories of local clubs and associations and is keen to chat with anyone who may have photos, objects, or tales to share.

Spotlight on Wanneroo greats

You may know Liam Hendriks as a professional baseball pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, but he got his start playing for local teams, the Wanneroo Giants and Carine Cats. Hendriks' contract with the White Sox in 2021 made him the highest paid Australian export ever. When he's back in Perth, he visits the Giants and encourages the younger players to continue with the sport.

Over to motorsports – the Wanneroo Raceway has hosted national and international motorsport events across the years. The track has seen several local drivers make their mark, including Formula 1 driver Daniel Ricciardo. Ricciardo began his career at the Wanneroo Raceway, racing go-karts before making his way up to Formula Ford and eventually landing a seat in Formula 1.

In cricket, the Wanneroo Districts Cricket Club has been a force to be reckoned with, producing several successful players who have represented state and national teams. Damien Martyn was Wanneroo's first Test representative. Another notable cricketer with roots in Wanneroo is Michael Hussey, who is considered one of the best cricketers to come out of WA.

In swimming, Wanneroo Senior High School alumni Sally Hunter won a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and was a member of Australia's gold medal-winning 4x100m medley relay team. These achievements inspired future generations of athletes to strive for excellence and represent their hometown on the national and international stage.

An early example of Wanneroo's sporting history is the 1911 Sports Day, held at the Wanneroo Showgrounds. Events held included a Half-Mile Race, Open Log Chop and even a Married Ladies Race and a Single Ladies Race!

Share your story! Contact the Wanneroo Regional Museum on 9405 5920 or email museum@wanneroo.wa.gov.au

Prepare for emergencies at free information sessions

Storms, bushfires and other natural hazards are becoming more frequent and intense.

Do you have a plan to protect yourself, your loved ones, your animals, your home, and even your livelihood? Join us for a free Prepare Together information session where you can learn how to reduce the impacts of natural disasters.

These sessions will give you the confidence to:

- Prepare your property
- Assess alerts and warnings
- Develop a Household Emergency Plan
- Build an Emergency Kit

The City of Wanneroo's Prepare Together project aims to provide information and resources to help you respond to the threat of natural hazards and other major emergencies.

With 90 per cent of the City of Wanneroo a bushfire prone area, it's important that all residents are ready should the worst happen.

Find out more and book your place, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/preparingtogether

Constable Care empowers local students

Local students are tackling the big issues as the Constable Care Foundation's childhood and youth empowerment programs roll out across the community.

The City of Wanneroo is proud to sponsor Constable Care and encourages more local schools to get involved.

The Foundation recently held a Youth Choices intensive program with Wanneroo Secondary College Year 10 drama students.

The Youth Choices program aims to trigger meaningful discussion about an issue chosen by the participants, that ripples across the school community.

Using the internationally recognised Forum Theatre technique, issues explored can include bullying, sexuality, drug abuse, discrimination, mental illness and gaming addiction.

Wanneroo Secondary College students created short stories about the impact of mental illness and performed them in front of friends, family and teachers.

Sponsored programs include:

- A Theatre-in-Education Program now called 'Constable Care' for primary schools and 'Youth Choices' for secondary schools
- The Rapid Response Program
- The Youth Choices Intensive Program for 12 to 17-year-olds

Schools can book at constablecare.com.au

ABC TV's New Leash on Life

We were thrilled to be a part of ABC TV's new series New Leash on Life!

New Leash on Life follows comedian Joel Creasey and leading dog behaviourist Laura V as they work with dogs from pounds across Perth, including our very own Animal Care Centre in Ashby, and pair each dog with a family or person in need of a new best friend.

Tuesdays | 8pm, stream on ABC TV and ABC iview

Five minutes with... Animal Care Officer Kristy

What's Happening sat down with Animal Care Officer Kristy to go behind-the-scenes at the City's Animal Care Centre in Ashby.

What's involved in the day to day of an Animal Care Officer?

It's always busy at the Animal Care Centre. We keep the kennels and the whole space thoroughly clean to ensure the best health conditions for the animals. We can have up to 26 dogs and six cats at a time in the kennels and cages. We give regular flea and worming treatments and make sure the dogs get their exercise.

We work hard to reunite pets with their families and work with rescue and rehoming groups to get dogs settled into their forever homes. Also, the amount of poo we deal with every day is not so glamorous!

What's an unexpected part of your job?

We take care of animals other than dogs and cats. We once took care of a tiny guinea pig that was too small for our designated cages, so we had to be creative with our caring solution!

We've also had a massive pig, baby goats, chickens, roosters, rabbits and cattle.

Being an Animal Care Officer is not just looking after puppies – there is a huge element of human interaction involved, more than people may think. If dogs are not registered and microchipped, locating an owner can be very difficult and requires a fair amount of work – it's rarely straightforward.

What is a highlight of your time at the City?

Earlier this year, a resident put her bins out for collection, not realising her dog followed behind her and had trotted off. When she realised what had happened, she was very distressed, and immediately started driving around the neighbourhood to find her dog. Because her dog was microchipped and registered, after initially attempting to return the dog, we were able to call her while she was driving and she came straight over. She was just so grateful and so happy to be reunited – it was beautiful to see. It's also great to see adopted dogs doing well in their forever homes. A woman adopted one of our dogs in March and she still sends us regular photos of Dot's progress. She's living her best life, going to the beach and snuggling on the couch.

How important is responsible pet ownership?

Being a responsible pet owner means keeping your pet safe, ensuring your pet is not a nuisance to others, and preventing unwanted litters. And make sure you clean-up after your dog! You can look after your cat or dog by:

- Having them sterilised, microchipped and registered
- Annual and three-yearly renewals are due 31 October each year. Even better, get a lifetime registration as a cost effective option.

To register your cat or dog or to renew your registration, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/pets

Local talent recognised in 2023 Community Art Awards

Genevieve Hartney has been named the overall winner of the prestigious City of Wanneroo Community Art Awards & Exhibition, taking home the grand prize for her painting From Here to There, Beginnings and Growth.

Genevieve was one of 11 winners whose artistic talents were recognised as part of the 2023 Art Awards and took home a share in the \$18,700 prize pool. The City received 176 entries to the Awards, including 105 paintings, 26 works on paper and 14 sculptures.

Local residents submitted 84 artworks to this year's awards, with other entries coming from artists around the State, including Cowaramup, Eneabba and Chidlow.

An independent judging panel comprising Art on the Move Executive Director Dr Theo Constantino, Perth Festival Visual Arts Curator Annika Kristensen and artist Rohin Kickett assessed this year's entries.

Mayor Linda Aitken said she was pleased to give artists an opportunity to exhibit their work. "The Community Art Awards provide an opportunity for artists from across Western Australia to showcase their diverse talents," Mayor Aitken said.

"This year's entries are a clear reminder of what an incredibly talented artistic community we have in our State, and within the City itself, with nearly half of this year's entries submitted by local residents.

"We are delighted that our Gallery will be home to some incredible talent until the exhibition ends in August.

Visitors can take part in the judging of the People's Choice Award by nominating their favourite artwork, with the winning entry to be announced in August.

Exhibiting until 12 August, 10am-4pm, Wednesday to Saturday
Wanneroo Gallery, 3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo

For more information, contact 9405 5920 or visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawards

Prizes

City of Wanneroo Open Award (acquisitive) Winner: Genevieve Hartney

Painting Winner: Eric Hynynen

Highly Commended: Joanne Cox

Sculpture Winner: Michelle Gauntlett

Highly Commended: Ernst Schneider

Works on Paper Winner: Janice Oliver

Highly Commended: Linda Fardoe

Photo, Film and Digital Media Winner: Lana Ge

Highly Commended: Kirsty Chisolm

Best City of Wanneroo Resident: Tatiana Amaral

Highly Commended: Frank Penfold

Intelligence of Birds

To celebrate National Science Week, City libraries are hosting a series of free community events called Intelligence of Birds. Presenters include University of WA scientists, Birds of Prey Centre WA, Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre and local ecologist Simon Cherriman. Events are happening in August at all City Libraries with bird walks at Lake Joondalup Reserve and Yanchep National Park, Yanchep.

To book, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/libraries

The program will be supported by a Scitech Inspire WA National Science Week grant.

Join us to host a murder

We've joined forces with the talented Limelight Theatre troop to host a murder in August.

Get ready for an evening of mystery and mayhem at Host a Murder, a party with spine-tingling clues to be solved.

The free fun event is part of Library and Information Week which celebrates the vital services libraries provide to our community.

Thursday 17 August | 6pm-7.30pm, Wanneroo Library

Suitable for adults, book at mystery-night-wan.eventbrite.com.au

Public Art Safari Bus Tour

Keen to uncover little known artistic gems in your community?

Join us to tour public artworks located in the southern suburbs of the City of Wanneroo.

The tour will be guided by our knowledgeable Arts Development Team.

Saturday 5 August | 9am-2pm | \$10

Departing from Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre

Book at publicartsafari.eventbrite.com.au

Students learn from Museum in a Box

The City recently received \$7,100 as part of the Federal Government's Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program to help protect and preserve our Anzac Museum in Box series.

The Wanneroo Regional Museum proudly works with local schools and early learning centres to offer a range of free outreach sources, including:

- Anzac Museum in a Box
- Noongar Museum in a Box
- Schooling Museum in a Box
- Technology Mystery Box

The boxes are so popular they've been booked out for much of next year already!

City celebrates NAIDOC Week 2023

NAIDOC Week is a time for all Australians to come together to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The 2023 National NAIDOC Week theme is For Our Elders. The City of Wanneroo is proud of its Whadjuk Noongar heritage and celebrated NAIDOC Week 2023 with Dreamtime storytelling, children's museum activities and an exhibition featuring textile artworks by local Aboriginal women's group the Kookaburra Club.

On Friday 30 June, the City held a formal flag raising ceremony in the Jacaranda Amphitheatre, as a symbol of respect and appreciation for the City's local Aboriginal heritage, culture and community.

Noongar Six Seasons Walking Trails

Did you know there are six Noongar seasons, indicated by changes in local plants and animals? Traditionally Noongar people hunted and gathered food according to the seasons, being guided by signs in nature as to which animal and plant resources were plentiful at those times. Get into nature and learn more about each season and their environmental indicators by walking one of our trails.

Head to our website to discover six seasons walking trails at Marangaroo Conversation Reserve, Quinns Beach Bushland and Yellagonga Regional Park.

Noongar seasons

Djilba - August to September. Djilba is a transitional time of the year, with some very cold and clear days contrasting with warmer, rainy, windy days along with the occasional sunny day.

As the days start to warm up, we witness the first of the newborn animals with their proud parents, providing them with food, guiding them through foraging tasks and protecting their family units from much bigger animals, including people.

As the season progresses and the temperatures continue to rise, the flower stalks of the balgas (grass trees) emerge.

Learn about reusing and recycling

Curious residents have been joining our Waste Education Team to explore the waste world beyond their kerbside bins.

Want to learn more about free waste drop-off, community reuse shops, and how bring-your-own container bulk food stores work?

The Reduce in Wanneroo – Sustainable Living Tours offer a visit to free drop-off facilities and other service providers that can help you reduce your waste and responsibly dispose of challenging items.

In May, residents joined us on a tour which included a visit to the Weigh 'n Pay store in Woodvale, a family owned and operated business since 1992. Check out future tours and help do your part for the environment. Head to the City's event page for future sustainability tours and workshops.

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/events

Floating wetlands an environmental win for the City

To improve water quality and biodiversity, the City has installed a floating wetland in the southern lake at Kingsway Regional Open Space in Madeley.

The modular wetland provides local wildlife with a unique protective habitat, while improving water quality and reducing algae.

City Parks and Conservation staff planted the artificial wetland with native plants, before floating it into the middle of the lake and securing it.

Mayor Linda Aitken said it was important to be continually working towards a greener and cleaner future for the community.

"We all have an obligation to make the effort to reduce our carbon footprint, and it's important in local government to embrace and promote new technology wherever we can," she said.

"The City is committed to a greener future and to creating a sustainable City that balances urban growth and the environment, while planning for climate change and managing waste and its impacts."

The City has also successfully used floating wetlands in the lake at Ridgewood Park.

Connecting students with nature

The City has proudly supplied native plants and trees to help 41 local schools celebrate Schools Tree Day on Friday 28 July.

Schools Tree Day is a great way to inspire students to learn about our local environment while playing an active role in their community.

The City supplied native trees and trays of tube stock – a selection of plants that are attractive to local wildlife – for participating schools.

We also host a National Tree Day in July, a chance for residents to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

Last year's event saw 100 trees and 420 tube stock planted at Foundation Park in Quinns Rocks with the help of dedicated volunteers.

Keep an eye out on the City's website for the details of this year's National Tree Day event – we hope to see you there!

Community urged to never bin a battery

The City of Wanneroo is calling on the community to safely dispose of batteries, after three City recycling trucks caught fire in just one month.

Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said households incorrectly disposing of batteries was the most common cause of truck fires in the City.

"Since late February, we've had three waste truck fires caused by incorrectly binned batteries, with some particularly close calls in busy residential areas," she said.

"In these instances, it was thanks to the quick thinking of our Waste Operators and quick responses by emergency services that we were able to avoid these fires spreading.

"It's up to the whole community to do the right thing and help us make sure this doesn't happen again."

Fires in waste trucks not only pose dangers to Waste Operators, but can also damage the environment and City infrastructure, cause delays to waste collection schedules, and create costly clean-up jobs.

"It's an issue that can easily be avoided by keeping batteries out of your household bins, removing batteries from items such as children's toys before you dispose of them, and taking chargeable devices such as laptops to drop-off points for safe disposal," Mayor Aitken said.

Mindarie Regional Council CEO Scott Cairns said that it was a common misconception that batteries could be disposed of in kerbside bins.

"Batteries are actually classed as Household Hazardous Waste, meaning they can't be collected in standard kerbside waste or bulk waste collections," he said.

"Disposing of batteries correctly is as easy as dropping them off free of charge at your local supermarket, hardware store, office supply chain, or any of the many other drop-off points across Perth, including the Tamala Park waste disposal facility."

Safe battery storage is also important to ensure batteries remain stable and to reduce the risk of short-circuits.

This includes:

- Storing batteries in their original packaging
- Storing batteries at room temperature, 25 degrees celsius or below
- Never placing batteries in metal containers
- Never letting batteries get wet and avoid moisture

For more information about battery drop-off points, visit recycleright.wa.gov.au