



Left to right: John Merrick, CEO Shire of Coorow; Colleen Bennier, President Carnamah Child Care Centre Inc. and Vin Fordham Lamont, CEO Shire of Carnamah.

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In early June 2020, the Carnamah Child Care Centre Inc. (CCCCI) experienced a major sewerage issue, with the existing leach drains/tank collapsing and needing to be fully replaced. A GoFundMe campaign was launched by the Centre to try and raise the huge financial outlay needed to enable CCCCCI to continue its operations. It was also noticed that the proposed new leach drains appeared to extend over the existing boundary of a neighbouring Shire property. During two Council meetings on 17 June and 15 July 2020, Shire of Carnamah resolved to unanimously approve the donation of \$3,000 to help with the costs of installing new leach drains and repair the sewerage system. Shire of Coorow kindly stepped in and contributed another \$3,000, as the service that the Centre provides is considered essential for the communities of Carnamah and Coorow.

In addition, Shire of Carnamah's Council resolved to contribute to the costs of gifting a portion of land to the CCCCCI to allow new leach drains to be installed across the existing boundary between its premises and the Shire Landcare building next door (up to \$10,000) which will be transferred from the Community Benefit Project Reserve to support the CCCCCI operations.

The Community Benefit Project Reserve was established earlier this year when Shire of Carnamah received an anonymous donation of \$15,000; the very generous sum of money was given to the Shire on the basis that it be used to benefit the community. After the June 2020 Council meeting, the donor was contacted about using some of the donation to financially help the CCCCCI and the donor was happy that a portion of the donation be used for this purpose.

"Shire of Carnamah is focussed on ensuring continuity and improvement of existing services and facilities in the Shire as per our Strategic Community Plan", Shire President Merle Isbister said. "It is extremely important to support a service like the Carnamah Child Care Centre Inc., to help maintaining and sustain the local population and provide the local community with employment opportunities". ***ENDS**