



Western Australia

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the Murchison Shire Council,  
To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,  
On Friday **25 March 2011**, commencing at 10.00 am.

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**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Stand Down Local Law Standing Orders

- 7.1 Use of official titles
- 7.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 7.3 Duration of speeches

**5. NEXT MEETING**

The scheduled date for the next ordinary meeting is 15 April 2011.

**6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**7. NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

Item 21 – Matter of a confidential nature.

*Note: Confidential report to be provided at 25 March Ordinary Council Meeting.*

**8. CONFIRMATION OF FLYING MINUTES**

Nil.

**9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**9.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 February 2011**

**Background:**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

**Voting Requirements:**

Simple majority

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 11 February 2011 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

**11. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS**

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**12.1 PRESIDENT**

**12.2 COUNCILLORS**

**13. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

**14. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**15. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**15.1 WORKS**

**15.1 WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011**

Owing to the fine weather in the past 2-3 weeks the flood damage repair to roads is now back on track.

Northcoast crew and Craig Harvey are utilising 3 graders, 3 water carts and 2 rubber tyred rollers on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road north of the Settlement.

The plan at this stage is to carry out a quick, but safe grade to get the roads open to all traffic.

The work has been prioritised and the roads that will be concentrated on initially are Carnarvon Mullewa Road from Byro/Beringarra intersection, north to the Gascoyne Junction boundary. Once completed the crew will then continue to the Byro Beringarra Road, followed by Beringarra Cue Road up to the bitumen. Then down to the Pindar Beringarra Road to Mt Wittenoom Woolen Road from where they will head to Twin Peaks.

The second round will entail a full road works to reform/reshape full construction of badly washed out areas. Resheeting of washed away road surfaces, rebuilding of bunds and cleaning out of drains (sand) will take place.

**Butchers Track**

A two kilometre detour has temporarily been put in place around two major bog holes. 600ml of fill has been carted in and with the help of Craig Harvey and the Shire crew the bog holes are almost repaired.

## **Construction Crew**

The construction crew are back working on the road south of the Settlement. Owing to a water cart and vibre roller breaking down the construction crew assisted the crew at Butchers track for a few days. The construction crew are camping south of Billabalong homestead. This saves an hour and a half of travel time and maximises work hours on construction.

## **Maintenance Crew**

Maintenance crew, Paul Smart, has been working on Parkers Hill with the help of Paul Squire's grader and operator Steve Marine. This job is now completed with a few extra drains to be put in place at a later date.

Many thanks to Rosasco Foulkes-Taylor and Paul Squires for helping with the work at Parker's Hill.

Thanks to Rosasco and Emma for accommodating the work crew at Yuin Station and Rosasco for the mechanical work to the water pump along with odd jobs he has carried out. Thanks must also go to Rosasco's son Tom for helping out with the roller, loader and water truck when rivers were down and Northcoast work crew were stuck in town, and for support of the Shire's maintenance grader operator, Paul Smart.

The maintenance crew, Paul and Steve will head north from Parkers Hill on Pindar Beringarra Road to catch up with the flood damage crew (Northcoast Holdings). On the way through they will carry out a quick grade on Wooleen Mt Wittenoom Road, then the Boolardy Kalli Road, Manfred Road and Mileura Nookawarra.

### **Breakdowns, repairs and other information**

- Vive roller ..... driver motor on the drum
- Volvo loader ..... 3,000 hour service ((Pemco)
- Dozer ..... repairs required owing to fire (Pemco)
- UD Nissan ..... 80,000km service (in house)
  
- The new tool box and the key are the responsibility of Neil Coombe leading hand of the construction crew.
  
- The Shire has taken delivery of the new 3.5tonne Canter maintenance truck, which replaces Toyota Landcruiser 01 MU.

## **16.2 Accounts Paid during the period**

File:  
Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date:  
Attachments: EFT & Cheque Detail for

### **Matter for Consideration:**

Authorisation of accounts paid during the month of September October 2010.

### **Background:**

Accounts paid are required to be submitted each month.

### **Statutory Environment:**

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996  
Reg 13(1)–Requires that where the Chief Executive Officer has delegated power to make payments from the Municipal or Trust funds a list of accounts paid is to be prepared each month.

### **Strategic Implications:**

None

### **Policy Implications:**

None

### **Financial Implications:**

Payment from Council's Municipal Account

### **Consultation:**

None

### **Comment:**

Payments made during the month of February 2011 as per attached schedule.

### **Voting Requirements:**

Simple majority

<b>OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:</b>
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That the following payment of accounts schedule be passed by Council.

## **17. DEVELOPMENT**

## **18. ADMINISTRATION**

### **18.1.10311 EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANT – ASKAP/MWA PROJECTS**

File:  
Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: Nil.  
Date: 9 March 2011  
Attachments:

#### **Matter for Consideration:**

This report recommends that Council employ a lobbyist to mediate with representatives from the relevant Federal and State Government agencies involved with the ASKAP/MWA Projects.

#### **Background:**

In November 2010 Council discussed the option of employing a consultant to represent the Shire's interests in regard to all CSIRO activities in the area. Further discussion resulted in the employment of Mr Paul Fletcher, a Commercial Lawyer, to review the legal and legislative details associated with the CSIRO ASKAP projects and the effects that they may have on the Shire.

Mr Fletcher is currently investigating the proposed legislation being drafted by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to implement aspects of the radio-quiet zone arrangements and the possible effects of the legislation on Shire residents. At the conclusion of this task Mr Fletcher's appointment should be reviewed by Council.

#### **Comment:**

Recent information from Elected Members has indicated that currently the more urgent issue is to get CSIRO to acknowledge that they should make a regular financial contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the access roads to the MRO site under the Shire's control. Previously numerous Shire representatives have held numerous discussions with numerous CSIRO representatives to access the necessary funding. Unfortunately, these discussions have not resulted in any agreement for regular funding for road maintenance.

Mr Fletcher has advised that Council should employ a consultant with the necessary contacts to lobby relevant Federal and State politicians and bureaucrats on behalf of Council to develop a funding agreement. He suggested that Council consider employing Mr Robert Taylor, a West Australian journalist, for a fee of \$1,500 per day to undertake the relevant lobbying.

While agreeing with Mr Fletcher's opinion regarding employing a lobbyist, it would be more appropriate to employ a lobbyist who has known political connections and a sound knowledge of issues currently relevant to the Murchison region and specifically the ASKAP/MWA projects.

There are several potential candidates for the position, however as time is limited Mr Bill Mitchell meets the criteria and he has indicated that he is willing to undertake the role on Council's behalf.

**Consultation:**

Mr Paul Fletcher  
Mr Bill Mitchell

Commercial Lawyer  
Ex-President West Australian Local Government Association

**Statutory Environment:**

There is no provision in the Shire's 2010/11 budget for funding the employment of a lobbyist. If Council agrees to appoint a lobbyist any payment would require an Absolute Majority vote in favour.

**Strategic Implications:**

Establishing a funding agreement with CSIRO for a regular financial contribution towards the maintenance of access roads to the ASKAP/MWA Boolardy site would reduce the financial burden on Council for roads maintenance,

**Policy Implications:**

Nil.

**Financial Implications:**

Lobbying is not an exact science and it is difficult for the Shire and the lobbyist to know exactly what the cost would be. It would seem reasonable to consider employing a lobbyist with current knowledge of the broader shire issues and a firm understanding of Council's direction. This would reduce the amount of time and cost that the Lobbyist would require to come up to speed.

An amount of up to \$15,000 should be made available if Council decides to appoint a lobbyist .

**Voting Requirements:**

Absolute Majority.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council employ a Lobbyist to mediate with representatives from the relevant Federal and State Government agencies involved with the ASKA/MWA Projects for establishment of an agreement for the provision of regular funding towards the maintenance of Shire controlled roads that provide access to the MRO site; and
2. An amount of up to \$15,000 be made available in the 2010/2011 budget for the employment of a lobbyist.
3. Mr Bill Mitchell be offered the position of Lobbyist.



**18.1.20311**                      **CARBON SEQUESTRATION STUDY**

File:  
Author:                      Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared:        Nil.  
Date:                        18 March 2011  
Attachments:                Proposed study

**Matter for Consideration:**

This report recommends that Council reserve \$25,000 in the 2011/2012 budget to provide financial support to Rangelands NRM Carbon for a carbon sequestration study.

**Background:**

During 2009/2010 Rangelands NRM provided funding for a project to assess the opportunities for sequestering carbon (C) in different rangelands soils, and the impact on C storage due to different management strategies. The project was a properly designed scientific study carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA. Sampling of soils and vegetation was undertaken at three sites located in the Pilbara and West Kimberley. Results of the study are available on the Dept. Of Agriculture web site:

[www.agric.wa.gov.au/objitwr/imported\\_assets/content/lwe/rpm/landup/carbonreport2010.pdf](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/objitwr/imported_assets/content/lwe/rpm/landup/carbonreport2010.pdf)

In summary the study shows that there are very significant opportunities across each of the regions to sequester C and in a functioning economy provide an income to the land managers if they have the rights to the sequestered C.

Under current pastoral lease arrangements there may be some issues regarding rights as the State Government apparently has the rights to stored C. This issue is being reviewed by the State Government and it is foreseeable that the situation could change as the C economy develops.

Although the results of the study undertaken in the northern rangelands are available it is not feasible to consider that that the results would be similar for a study undertaken in the southern rangelands. Recent discussions within Rangelands NRM and with its external stakeholders have focused on trying to establish a small program in the southern rangelands area to measure C sequestered under different soil and management conditions. Rangelands NRM are now attempting to find additional funds to undertake the study. (A copy of the proposed study is attached)

The aim is to repeat the sampling and analysis program at a site within the Shire of Murchison to be able to assess whether the data from the northern rangelands is valid for the southern rangelands. Rangelands NRM is requesting that the Shire of Murchison provide \$25,000 to part fund the project, which is expected to cost about \$150,000.

**Comment:**

Results from the study could support the development of carbon sequestration and associated industries within the Shire of Murchison and improve the sustainable management of WA's rangelands.

**Consultation:**

Mr Bill Mitchell                      Chair of Rangelands NRM

**Statutory Environment:**

Nil.

**Strategic Implications:**

The Shire of Murchison’s Strategic Plan 2009-2014 Item 6. Creating Opportunities lists the following objective:

*Aggressively pursue economic development opportunities*

**Policy Implications:**

Nil.

**Financial Implications:**

If the recommendation is supported, \$25,000 would be reserved in the 2011/2012 budget for the carbon sequestration study.

**Voting Requirements:**

Absolute majority.

**OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council agree to reserve \$25,000 in the 2011/2012 budget to provide financial support to Rangelands NRM Carbon for a carbon sequestration study to be undertaken within the Shire of Murchison.

**18.1.30311 ELECTRICAL GENERATOR SET - REPLACEMENT**

File:

Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil.

Date: 14 March 2011

Attachments:

**Matter for Consideration:**

This report recommends that Council accept the quote for \$210,256 from JMG Air Conditioning & Electrical Services Pty. Ltd. for replacement of the Settlement’s electrical generator set.

**Background:**

The Shire of Murchison is solely responsible for the production of electrical power to the Murchison Settlement. The electricity is produced by a 100KVA electricity generator and the electricity is used to power staff household requirements, the Roadhouse, the caravan park and other tourist facilities, security lighting, communications systems, water supply and fuel supplies.

The 100 KVA electrical generator ceased working on 21 December 2010 and due to extensive flooding in December 2010 which prevented the evacuation of the Settlement, the 70 KVA back-up generator was used to supply electricity. However, as daytime temperatures were steadily around 42 degrees, the back-up generator continually went into fault mode and shut down for many hours each day. A 100 KVA hire generator was brought in as a temporary replacement on 10 January 2011. The Shire’s 100 KVA generator was assessed by an electrical repair contractor who advised that due to the cost of repairs that needed to be carried out it would be cheaper to purchase a new generator.

During January/February 2011 quotes for replacement of the generator set were obtained and at the February 2011 Council meeting the following resolution was passed by Council:

*That Council approve that an amount of up to \$300,000 be made available from the Plant Reserve for the provision of electricity supply for the Murchison Settlement, subject to no works to be undertaken or agreements entered into without prior approval from Council for the proposed works or agreements.*

**CARRIED by Absolute Majority 5/0**

**Comment:**

A standard set of requirements was sent to all the suppliers that had originally submitted quotes for the replacement generator set, the requirements are:

**MURCHISON SETTLEMENT'S ELECTRICITY GENERATION REQUIREMENTS**

*Please provide a quote for the cost of the following equipment and installation*

- *Two (2) enclosed generator sets, each capable of delivering 100 – 110 KVA output*
- Each generator set to include as a minimum:*
- *On board bunded diesel storage tank*
  - *Digital control panel (e.g. Power Wizard 1.0 Series)*
  - *Emergency stop button*
  - *Lockable, sound attenuated to approx. 68 dBa@7mtrs on full load, weatherproof enclosure*
- *One (1) 50kW to 100kW load bank*
  - *One (1) Remote synchronising panel capable of:*
    - *Interfacing with existing distribution board*
    - *Duty cycling of the generator sets to promote even run times*
    - *Provide start up/run down facility for lag generator*
    - *Provision for future expansion*
  - *Two (2) diesel fuel pumps to be automatically controlled by float switches within each generator set.*
  - *Labour and incidental costs*

Note:

*The Shire of Murchison will transport the equipment to Murchison Settlement*

Unfortunately there are variations in the quotes that subsequently have been received. The following chart shows the suppliers, their quoted price and an adjusted price showing the estimated cost of supplying all of the Shire's requirements.

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Quoted Cost</b>	<b>Adjusted Cost</b>	<b>Reason for Adjustment</b>
Aussie Solar	\$208,500	\$228,100	plus installation, fuel pumps
CAPS Australia	\$122,677	\$191,583	plus load banks, site works
JMG Air Con & Electrical	\$215,136	\$210,256	less freight

JMG Air Conditioning & Electrical Services is the preferred quote as its staff travelled to Murchison Settlement to assess what work is required and was able to provide the most accurate quote.

Two additional suppliers, Allight and PR Power, provided quotes for supply of generator sets only and have not been included.

**Consultation:**

Aussie Solar  
CAPS Australia  
JMG Air Conditioning and Electrical Services

PR Power  
Allight Generators

**Statutory Environment:**

Tender regulations require the Shire to call for tenders for the supply of goods and services over \$100,000. However, as the flooding in December 2010 and February 2011 have been declared disasters the Shire President may use the emergency provisions of the Local Government Act 1996 – Section 6.8 (1) (c), and the Emergency Provisions - Regulation 11 (2) (a) of the Local Government (Functions & General) Regulations 1996 to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make immediate arrangements to replace the Settlement's electrical supply system and engage the necessary suppliers and installation workforce to undertake the replacement and installation of an electrical system without the requirement to tender any works costing over \$100,000.

**Strategic Implications:**

The ability to supply sufficient electricity for the Settlement's anticipated future needs is crucial to ensure the ongoing development of facilities and services.

**Policy Implications:**

Nil.

**Financial Implications:**

Funding for the replacement of the Settlement's electrical generator system are available from the Plant Reserve

**Voting Requirements:**

Simple Majority

*(Council is voting on the selection of supplier, February's vote was for expenditure of Funds)*

<b>OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:</b>
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That Council accept the quote from for \$ to provide and installation of the following equipment:

- *Two (2) enclosed generator sets, each capable of delivering 100 – 110 KVA output*

*Each generator set to include as a minimum:*

- *On board bunded diesel storage tank*
- *Digital control panel (e.g. Power Wizard 1.0 Series)*
- *Emergency stop button*
- *Lockable, sound attenuated to approx. 68 dBa@7mtrs on full load, weatherproof enclosure*

- *One (1) 50kW to 100kW load bank (Size as required)*
- *One (1) Remote synchronising panel capable of:*
  - *Interfacing with existing distribution board*
  - *Duty cycling of the generator sets to promote even run times*
  - *Provide start up/run down facility for lag generator*
  - *Provision for future expansion*
- *Two (2) diesel fuel pumps to be automatically controlled by float switches within each generator set.*
- *Labour and incidental costs*

## **19. NOTICE OF MOTION**

## **20. CEO ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **20.1 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- 14.02.11      Attended WARAG meeting in Geraldton.
- 16.02.11      Met with representatives of WALGA in Perth for advice of a confidential nature.
- 17.02.11      Attended the offices of Haines Norton to gain better understanding of Council's financial program.
- 18.02.11      Met with Lotterywest representative in Perth to discuss potential grant options.
- 22.02.11      Inspected Shire roads with FESA by helicopter.
- 28.02.11      Meeting with RSM Bird Cameron re financial issue.
- 10.03.11      Inspected Cue Beringarra Road with Peter George, Crosslands Resources, Nigel Goode, Greenfields and Tim Lee, Main Roads.
- 17.03.11      Met with Jim McNamara, FESA re establishment of a Bush Fire Brigade.
- 23.03.11      Attended Astrofest Meeting.

## **21. URGENT BUSINESS**

### **20.1.0311 LATE AGENDA ITEM – COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN FOR 2010**

File:  
Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 March 2011  
Attachments: Compliance Audit Return 2010

#### **Matter for Consideration:**

That Council endorse the 2010 Compliance Audit Return.

#### **Background:**

The Chief Executive Officer is required to complete a Compliance Audit Return and submit it for comment and endorsement prior to submitting it to the Department of Local Government.

The Compliance Audit Return is a checklist of compliance of statutory obligations relating to the provision of, and management of, a local government.

#### **Statutory Environment:**

Local Government Act 1995

- S7.13 Provides for a local government to complete the audit return.

#### **Strategic Implications:**

Nil.

#### **Policy Implications:**

Nil.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Nil.

#### **Consultation:**

Nil.

#### **Comment:**

Nil.

#### **Voting Requirements:**

Absolute majority.

<b>OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:</b>
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That Council endorse the Compliance Audit Return for 2010.

**22. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

**22.1 FINANCIAL MATTER FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

**23. MEETING CLOSURE**

## ACTION LIST

### MARCH 2011

Item No	Originator	Action	Officer/Councillor	Schedule	Status
1	MSC/CSIRO	CEO liaise with Dr. Brian Boyle re: funding for roads used by Askar	CEO	ASAP	In Progress
2	MSC/CSIRO	Standard letter to contractors re preferred road route	CEO	ASAP	In Progress
3	MSC Nov 10 Council meeting	Finalise costing on CBD development and hold CBD meeting	CEO	ASAP	Costing finalised Meeting to be arranged
4	MSC Dec 2010	Building maintenance work to be carried out	CEO	Feb/Mar 2011	Work underway
5	MSC Nov 2010 Council meeting	Prepare report on implications of changing road hierarchy from Mt Wittenoom/Meka rd to Kallid rd	CEO	Feb 2011	In Progress
6	MSC Nov 2010	Review Emergency M/ment plan	CEO	ASAP	In Progress Met with FESA.
7	MSC Nov 2010	Lobbyist to seek opportunities from CSIRO projects	CEO	ASAP	Report to Council March meeting
8	MSC Feb 2011	Obtain quotes for Electric Gen Set	CEO	March 2011	Report to Council March meeting
9	MSC Feb2011	Purchase electronic recording unit	CEO	March 2011	Purchased