



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **25 November 2021**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
	3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 October 2021	3
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	3
5	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	3
6	STANDING ORDERS	4
7	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4
8	NEXT MEETING	4
9	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
10	URGENT BUSINESS	4
11	NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	4
12	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION.....	4
13	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS	5
14	ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED	5
	14.1 Shire President	5
	14.2 Councillors.....	5
15	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES	5
16	WORKS.....	6
	16.1 Works Report.....	6
17	FINANCE.....	7
	17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council	7
	17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2021	8
	17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 October 2021.....	9
18	DEVELOPMENT	10
	18.1 Community Development Report	10
	18.2 Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment.....	12
19	ADMINISTRATION.....	14
	19.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021	14
	19.2 Christmas Office Closure.....	16
	19.3 Local Government Reform	17
	19.4 COVID19 - Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions	20
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT	21
21	ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	22
22	MEETING CLOSURE.....	22

ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.03pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Cr Q Fowler

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Cr S Fowler

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO

Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO

William Herold – Works Manager

Leave of Absence

Cr A Whitmarsh

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 October 2021

Background

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

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 October 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 October 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For 4

Against 0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

It has been customary practice in the interests of a productive meeting in relation to the Conduct of Members during debates for the Council suspend Standing Orders 8.2 (Limitation on Number of speeches) and 8.3 (Duration of Speeches) under Local Law 2001. To facilitate this, the following recommended resolution is required.

Recommendation

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

Carried

For

4

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Saturday 18 December 2021 commencing at 12:00noon

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

At 12:30pm, Dr Anne-Maree Dowd, Executive Manager Performance and Evaluation Strategy at CSIRO attended via remote video link and provided information in relation CSIRO's proposed Murchison Shire Impact Feasibility Study. This will also assist in the assessment of the proposed SKA Interpretive Tourism Centre and Roads Connectively projects and also provide the data required to fulfill the requirements for delivering the Shire's future Community Strategic and Corporate Plan. Councillors were able to ask questions and clarify the scope of work involved in this collaboration project.

Note with respect to the order of business, this presentation was undertaken after consideration of all items up to and including Item 17.3.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Meeting and discussion on general Shire Issues and projects with the Chief Executive Officer in Murchison on 18.11.2021.

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA Meeting at Cue on 19.11.2021

- ~ In attendance with Cr E Foulkes-Taylor as delegate.
- ~ Re-elected to the position of Chair of the Zone and Deputy State Council Representative for Zone

Meeting with Ant Schinkel (SKA) to discuss various aspects associated with the SKA Project rollout.

Phone discussion with Blake Murray. At this stage there has been no contract with AARNnet for the Optic Fibre Cable project for PIA and the Murchison Settlement.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA Meeting at Cue on 19.11.2021

- ~ In attendance with Cr R Foulkes-Taylor as delegate.
- ~ Presentations from Racheal Ferran concerning the requirement to prepare a Public Health Plan and Grant Robinson (Office of Auditor General) who answered queries in relation to Auditor work and Karen Grima (MWDC Project Officer) who outlined progress on the Murchison GeoRegion were informative.
- ~ Advice received that WALGA President (Tracy Roberts) will resign prior to Christmas a few months short of her scheduled term with her place taken by Deputy (Karen Chappel from Morrawa Shire). The Zone meeting was of the view, which is to be expressed to the WALGA State Council, that she should stay on for the balance of Tracy Roberts Term when a new election would be required under the WALGA Constitution in the new year. The WALGA Constitution has a City / Rural rotation every two years.

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File:
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 November 2021
Attachments: Nil

Construction Crew

By the time Council meets, the Construction crew should have finished the works on the Pinegrove Corner, the single cement stabilised floodway and be well into final preparation for sealing. If all goes according to plan, sealing should start on December 7 and be completed by the December Council meeting. After completion of the sealing work, we will still have considerable tidy up and drainage work to complete which I suspect will only be finished in the new year. My thanks and congratulations to Mark and his men on a job well done, they can be proud of their work over the past year.

Maintenance Crew

The Maintenance crew have continued with the program having finished the Beringarra-Pindar Road up to the MRO intersections, the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd, the Wooleen-Mt Wittenoom Rd, and should be close to completing the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd by the time Council meets. They will then make a start at the North boundary on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd.

Sealing Works

Downer were awarded the Quotation through the WALGA list of suppliers to perform sealing as mentioned, work should start on December 7.

Settlement

Various works have been done around the Settlement over the last month. The main works being an additional leach drain at the new houses and construction of the concrete slab for a new floor in the library. One of the two new gensets at the Settlement Powerhouse has been an issue and has been sent back to then manufacturer as a warranty claim. The second new genset may also need to be sent back if there is seen to be a fault in the manufacture. It was intended to trade in the old Cat Genset, but this has now been retained pending this issue being resolved.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Works Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	S Fowler	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council notes the Works Report.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Keith White – Relief Finance Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 13 November 2021
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 2021

Matter for Consideration

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13* requires that if the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, then the CEO is to prepare a list of accounts paid by the CEO for each month and present this to the next ordinary meeting of the Council after the list has been prepared and have this list recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

A list of payments presented in accordance with *Regulation 13* of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* made since the last report to Council is attached.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr R Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Carried **For** 4 **Against** 0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2021

File: 2.6
Author: Keith White – Relief Finance Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 November 2021
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report September 2021

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

Moore Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 September 2021 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 September 2021 as attached.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 October 2021

File: 2.6
Author: Keith White – Relief Finance Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 November 2021
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report October 2021

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receive the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

Moore Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 October 2021 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	S Fowler	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 October 2021 as attached.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Report

File:

Author: Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager -DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 15 November 2021

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Update of community development projects at Murchison Shire.

Update

RAC Reconnect WA

On 29 September 2021 the Shire was notified that our application has been shortlisted. On 15 November 2021 the Shire was notified that our application was unsuccessful.

The Reinvigorating Streets and Spaces Fund Grant through RAC Reconnect WA opened on 12th July and would have provided the Shire with an opportunity to set in motion elements of the Shire's masterplan revitalising those existing pocket parks and establishing connective pathways.

The Masterplan was used as supporting documentation to the application so that the funding body was aware of the work that has already been done in terms of identifying opportunities for connecting community, and how the funds would support a community owned project.

The Shire's application was shortlisted alongside 38 high contender applications to be assessed by the panel assessment team where they identified the preferred projects to be progressed to the negotiations stage.

Votes and input were received from invited RAC members and provided to the assessment and selection process team. The Shire's application was a strong contender, however, was not selected as a preferred project and therefore was unsuccessful.

Regional Events Scheme Funding Program

On 19 October 2021 the Shire submitted a funding application through the Regional Event's Scheme Program for the proposed '*Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival*' in 2022 and will cater for the wider Murchison and Mid-West community a high-quality annual calendar event, that provides a positive space to celebrate the Murchison while having some rollicking outback fun by showcasing Astro dark sky tourism, science tourism and geo-tourism assets.

The event will generate additional tourism income for the Murchison community by increasing visitor numbers and expenditure in the area, encouraging visitors to take a road trip through stunning outback Gascoyne and Murchison station stay country. It will also attract media coverage and raise the profile of the Murchison as Western Australia's premier Astro tourism destination.

Circuit West

Community/Manager/Deputy CEO attended the WA Showcase 2021 which was held 1 – 4 November 2021 at University Theatres on the grounds of the University of Western Australia. Few points to note.

- ~ Conference ensured multiple networking and meeting opportunities so presenters from around the state can share knowledge and experiences and work together on touring ideas;
- ~ Information and guidance on successful grant writing;

- ~ Provided master class workshops with lecturers and one-on-one meetings to provide individual support on applying principals;
- ~ Lobby exercises to support Regional Arts WA; and
- ~ Showcase artists new projects created for 2022 and 2023.

WA Showcase is the state's only capacity building event that provides best practice, world class education for those in the business of presenting and producing community level and professional performing arts, especially for those who operate venues. The event at the University Theatre complex offered four days of a mix of professional development and the best of the work that Western Australia has available for touring regionally.

This year's WA Showcase took on a new look due to COVID and international and national borders and as such Professional Development took place over Day One and Two and Pitching took place over Day Three and Four.

The Shire of Murchison was mentioned on a few occasions by the Yuck Circus. Georgia (Leading Team manager of Yuck Circus) used the Shire in her opening speech at the conference to help illustrate just how far the Arts are willing to travel. This recognition is pivotal in developing change where the Shire viewed as more than a stop for fuel, with an engaging community, and values in supporting arts and bringing people together.

In general, the benefits that most attendees at WA Showcase events have identified are the relationships developed with like organisations and the ability to collaborate and share, the wealth of knowledge gained from hearing expert speakers in performing arts, and the clarity of the range and nature of work available to tour venues and understanding of the benefits that brings to a community or region. This level of commitment was supported by each and every other artist/group – so it was good to see that rain, hail, or shine, 100ks or 1000ks away from Perth central, WA performing artists are willing to make it happen.

It is hoped that representation at this event can be expanded in future years.

Statutory Environment

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	S Fowler	
That Council note the Community Development Report.				
Carried		For	4	Against 0

18.2 Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment

File	10.6
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	18 November 2021
Attachments:	Nil

Matter for Consideration

Brief Update of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment.

Update

At the October 2021 Council Meeting in relation to the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment, it was resolved that

- ~ *That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report*
- ~ *That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to develop and refine arrangements with CSIRO to form a collaborative partnership to assist in the redevelopment of the Murchison Settlement and Shire's Strategic Community Plan.*
- ~ *That Council allocates \$40,000 towards detailed survey and design work as part of the Mid-West Development Commission's Business Case Work for the Murchison Settlement and Carnarvon-Mullewa Roads.*
- ~ *That Council develops and implements a coherent political and communication strategy to advance the development of the Murchison Settlement and Shire generally.*

By way of a brief update the following progress has been implemented thus far

Shire - CSIRO Strategic Collaboration

Arrangements have been made to have Dr Anne-Maree Dowd, Executive Manager Performance and Evaluation Strategy at CSIRO to remote in via video link to outline CSIRO's proposed Murchison Shire impact feasibility study for assessment of the proposed SKA Interpretive Tourism Centre and Roads Connectively projects, but it will also provide the data required to fulfill the requirements for delivering the Shire's future Community Strategic and Corporate Plan.

Mid-West Development Commission Business Case

Formal agreements have been entered into with the Royalty for Regions projects as follows

- 1 Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project. \$100,000 Project.
(\$80,000 Royalty for Regions- \$20,000 Council)
- 2 Murchison Roads Planning and Design Planning Project. \$70,000 Project.
(\$50,000 Royalty for Regions- \$20,000 Council)

Preliminary discussions with the Commission have commenced. A formal budget variation to include the net Council expenditure has been agreed to but that total projects costs and grant revenue also need to be addressed.

Communication Strategy

Arrangements have been made to have suitable consultants remotely discuss briefing / scoping approach with Council. An \$12,000 estimated project cost is involved

Caravan Park Ablutions Block

Tenders have been advertised for the construction of a new Ablutions Block in the Caravan Park. Tenders close 10 December 2021 and it is expected that a report and recommendation will be provided at the December Council Meeting

Consultation

CSIRO Related. (*Dr Anne-Maree Dowd, Executive Manager Performance and Evaluation Strategy*
MWDC (*Adam Murszewski, Principal Regional Development Officer*)

Financial Implications

As outlined above

Recommendation

That Council resolves as follows.

- 1 That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report
- 2 That Council as part of Councils \$40,000 contribution to the Mid-West Development Commission's Business Case Work for the Murchison Settlement that the budget be amended as follows:
 - ~ Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project. \$100,000 project expenses and \$80,000 Revenue.
 - ~ Murchison Roads Planning and Design Planning Project. \$70,000 project expenses and \$50,000 revenue.
- 3 That Council allocates an initial \$12,000 towards development and implementation of a a coherent political and communication strategy to advance the development of the Murchison Settlement and Shire generally.

Voting Requirements

Recommendation 1 Simple Majority
Recommendations 2 & 3 Absolute Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
1	That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report		
2	That Council as part of Councils \$40,000 contribution to the Mid-West Development Commission's Business Case Work for the Murchison Settlement that the budget be amended as follows:		
	~ Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project. \$100,000 project expenses and \$80,000 Revenue.		
	~ Murchison Roads Planning and Design Planning Project. \$70,000 project expenses and \$50,000 revenue.		
3	That Council allocates an initial \$12,000 towards development and implementation of a a coherent political and communication strategy to advance the development of the Murchison Settlement and Shire generally.		
Carried	For	4	Against 0

Council Comment.

A Workshop will be arranged prior to the next meeting for further discussion.

President R Foulkes-Taylor adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.14pm

President R Foulkes-Taylor re-opened the meeting at 1.58pm

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021

File:	4.72
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	15 November 2021
Attachments:	19.1.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider accepting the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021

Background

The Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI Act) created a general right of access to documents held by state and local government agencies. The FOI Act requires agencies, including local governments, to make available details about the kind of information they hold and enables persons to ensure that personal information held by government agencies about them is accurate, complete, up-to-date and not misleading.

Section 96 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 requires each government agency, including local governments, to prepare and publish annually, an Information Statement that includes the following:

- ~ the Agency's Mission Statement
- ~ details of legislation administered
- ~ details of the agency structure
- ~ details of decision-making functions
- ~ opportunities for public participation in the formulation of policy and performance of agency functions
- ~ documents held by the agency
- ~ the operation of FOI in the agency

Comment

It is the aim of the Murchison Shire to make information available promptly, at the least possible cost and wherever possible, documents will be provided outside the Freedom of Information (FOI) process.

Statutory Environment

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Local Government Act 1995 Division 7 Access to Information

Sustainability Implications

Environmental	There are no known significant environmental considerations
Economic	There are no known significant economic considerations
Social	There are no known significant social considerations

Strategic Implications

This is a statutory function.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Community Manager DCEO

Recommendation

That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021 as presented and attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	S Fowler
That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2021 as presented and attached.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

19.2 Christmas Office Closure

File:
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 November 2021
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Noting

Council to note arrangements for the annual Christmas shutdown period.

Background

In previous years Council has closed the Office during the Christmas/New year period but in 2018 following a review of the situation the office was closed for a two-week period. From all accounts this was well received by staff with minimal impact on the Councils operation.

Comment

Following discussions with staff it has been indicated that similar arrangements should apply for this Christmas with the administration office being closed from close of business on Monday 20 December 2021 reopening on Tuesday 4 January 2022, after the Monday 3 January 2022 public holiday.

Statutory Environment and Strategic Implications

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Environmental There are no known significant environmental considerations
Economic There are no known significant economic considerations
Social There are no known significant social considerations

Policy and Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Works Manager, Community Manager DCEO

Recommendation

That Council note the arrangements made by the CEO regarding the annual shutdown period.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	S Fowler
That Council note the arrangements made by the CEO regarding the annual shutdown period.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

19.3 Local Government Reform

File:	2.4
Author:	Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	20 November 2021
Attachments:	19.3.1 August 2020 Meeting Attachment 18.2.3 Local - Regional Comments - Local Government Review Panel Final Report
	19.3.2 Local Government Reform Summary of Proposed Reforms
	19.3.2 Local Government Reform Fact Sheets relating to Reforms Proposed.

Matter for Consideration

Local Government Reform initiatives proposed by the Minister for Local Government.

Background

In 2017 the McGowan Government announced a review of the Local Government Act 1995. It is claimed that this is the most significant and comprehensive reform of local government legislation conducted in more than two decades. The objective is for Western Australia to have a new, modern Act that empowers local governments to better deliver for the community. The vision is for local governments to be agile, smart and inclusive.

Given the breadth of matters covered by the Local Government Act, a staged approach to the review was adopted:

STAGE 1

The majority of the stage one priority reforms are now in place following the passage of the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019*. These reforms include:

- ~ A new gift framework for elected members.
- ~ A mandatory online induction for all candidates.
- ~ Universal training for elected members.
- ~ Changes to the Standards Panel; and
- ~ Easier access to information to provide greater transparency to the community.
- ~ New mandatory code of conduct for elected members, committee members and candidates.
- ~ Best practice standards for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) recruitment, performance review.

STAGE 2

Local Government Panel Report

Community consultation was conducted on stage two topics between September 2018 and March 2019 by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (the Department) with the input of a stakeholder reference group. After this a panel of experts was formed to provide more detailed consideration and to develop policy responses to guide the development of the new Act. The role of the Panel was to guide the review's strategic direction and to consider and recommend high level guiding principles of the new Act.

This was completed and in August 2020 its content and recommendations were discussed by Council in August 2020 and submissions made to WALGA for a sector wide review. A summary copy is attached.

Local Government Reform – Summary of Proposed Reforms

In November 2021 the Minister released a list of reforms that will underpin new amendments to the Local Government Act. These have been developed on the basis of findings identified as part of the Local Government Act Review and recommendations of various reports, including the Local Government Review Panel Final Report.

Major changes to the Local Government Act and Regulations will provide for a stronger, more consistent framework for local government across Western Australia. The reform proposals have been designed to deliver

significant benefits for residents and ratepayers, small business, industry, elected members and professionals working in the sector.

The proposed reforms are based on six themes:

- 1 Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties
- 2 Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity
- 3 Greater transparency and accountability
- 4 Stronger local democracy and community engagement
- 5 Clear roles and responsibilities
- 6 Improved financial management and reporting.

The summary of proposed reforms is attached as well as a fact sheet associated with each element. Anyone may submit comments either directly by email, or by adding comments to the Summary of Proposed Reforms document and emailing the document to actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.

Comments must be received no later than 5pm 4 February 2022 to be considered.

Local Input

WALGA will be putting in a sector wide submission and are seeking input from all local governments. Given time constraints and the Christmas New Year period WALGA are requesting comment be provided to them by 12 January 2021 so that they can evaluate and finalise a sector wide submission within the deadline. Notwithstanding a sector wide approach Councils are encouraged to put their own submission.

Suggested Approach

Given the importance of the issue, the time needed to read and understand what is to be proposed and that is normally Council is not scheduled to meet in January and in order meet the WALGA'S deadline, it is considered that Council should finalise its submission at the December Council Meeting.

It is therefore suggested that individual councillors or as a collective provide comments back to the CEO within in the Template provided by Minister, so that these can be collated and then finalised for final review at the December Meeting

Comment

As a general comment it seems that the approach taken is to address issues that have been raised with further legislation, which it itself may or may not be an improvement, but in effect merely modifies arguably "*around the edges*" to what already exists. There seems to be minimal consideration as to whether the current provisions are adequate or if indeed, they should be there in the first place. Structure always follows strategy, and, in this instance, there does not seem to be much strategy on how local government can contribute the overall well-being of the State.

There also needs to be some pragmatism given what has gone on before as the Minister will invariably wish to see the proposed changes finalised with perhaps limited scope to add any radical departures. From all accounts there is a willingness to listed to suggestions that improve the current proposals. WALGA have engaged on a strong relationship basis with the State Government and is to be respected.

Statutory Environment

A raft of potential amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 are expected to be delivered.

Policy, Strategic, Risk and Financial Implications

Although unknown amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 as part of this reform will likely impact in some way in all such areas

Recommendation

That Council finalise its submission in relation to Local Government Reform at the December Council Meeting and that this be separately sent to the WALGA and the Minister for Local Government.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council finalise its submission in relation to Local Government Reform at the December Council Meeting and that this be separately sent to the WALGA and the Minister for Local Government.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

Council Comment

Councillor E Foulkes-Taylor expressed disappointed as to the timing of the consultation period over the Christmas New Year period when a number of staff and councillors are absent thereby minimising the time available in which to prepare a submission

19.4 COVID19 - Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 November 2021

Attachments: 19.4.1 Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions Order & Information

Matter for Noting

Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions

Information

On 12 November 2021, the Chief Health Officer issued the Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions under the Public Health Act 2016. The directions specify COVID-19 vaccination requirements for fire and emergency services (FES) workers – the definition of which includes volunteers – before they can access fire and emergency services sites.

A copy of these directions and supplementary information is attached.

This means that DFES staff and fire and emergency services volunteers are required to comply with the directions which have been put in place to address the risks posed by COVID-19. The directions also mean all volunteers need to have received their first vaccination by 31 December 2021 and be fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022.

Staff and volunteers who do not comply with these directions will not be permitted to remain at or enter fire and emergency services

Information will be circulated to volunteers alerting them to the requirements. Any vaccination details from individuals that the Shire is required to hold will be securely stored and not available for viewing to other staff.

Recommendation

That Council note the Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions Requirements

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr S Fowler

That Council note the Fire and Emergency Services Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions Requirements

Carried

For 4

Against 0

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 October 2021
Attachments: Nil

General

Summary of activities which highlights the areas worked in is shown as follows:

Date	Activity
25.10.2021	Election Work
26.10.2021	Election Work. PIA Wadjari School Council Meeting
27.10.2021	Council Meeting. Start follow up work. Meeting with Steve Crabbe 10M Mining
28.10.2021 to 29.10.2021	Election Work. TOIL Emails
1.11.2021	Meeting with Finance Manager. Council Minutes. Separate discussions with Rebecca Wheadon and Geoff King (CSIRO)
2.11.2021	Council Minutes. End of month fuel review. Telephone discussion with Finance Manager
3.11.2021	Meeting with Finance Manager. Audit Work. Telephone conference with Dr Anne-Marie Dowd & Dr Karen Cosgrove CSIRO collaboration project
4.11.2021 to 8.11.2021	Audit, Finance and Budget Work.
9.11.2021	Travel to Geraldton. Meeting with Main Roads WA over SKA Road Agreement. TOIL
10.11.2021	Travel back from Geraldton. TOIL
11.11.2021	Meetings with Community Manager DCEO and Finance Manager. Audit preparation and finance related work
12.11.2021	Water Supply Work. Audit preparation and finance related work
13.11.2021 to 14.11.2021	Finance and Audit Work
15.11.2021 to 18.11.2021	Finance and Audit Work. Assist Auditors
19.11.2021	Travel to Cue and back. Attend Murchison Country Zone Meeting
20.11.2021 to 21.11.2021	Agenda Work

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	S Fowler	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.			
Carried	For	4	Against 0

21 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 2.39pm.

Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 18 December 2021.

Signed.....

Presiding Officer