



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **27 October 2022**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor
Cr A Whitmarsh
Cr Q Fowler
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Cr M Fowler
Cr G Mead

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 22 September 2022

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 22 September 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24 November 2022

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Item 17.1.1 Account Listings Paid since the last list was presented to Council

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Representatives from CSIRO will also be in attendance at the meeting

Note Meetings with Natasha Watson from WA Country Health Service – Strategy & Change to discuss local Murchison Health needs and Murchison Experience Project Workshop with Scott Lang UDLA are scheduled prior to the meeting

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 16.1.1 Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report

Construction Crew

By the time Council meet all earthworks and pavement laying on the remaining gravel section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road south of the Murchison Settlement should be completed. Minor pavement maintenance only will be taking place, most probably just back watering and the quantity will obviously be determined by weather factors. They will also hopefully have made a start on moving gear to the Beringarra-Pindar Rd to make a start about mid-November. Some pothole patching will also occur over this period.

Maintenance Crew

The Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd has been completed and they are currently on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd heading north. They will be heading back toward Talling to do some more tidy up work as well as rectify some offshoot drain intakes that have vegetation and sand blocks.

Crew Training

Both works crews have undergone 3 days of Traffic Management training, both theory and practical.

Flood Damage

Squires Resources have kicked off their works and are progressing very satisfactorily. McNabb-Twin Peaks Rd is complete. On the Beringarra-Pindar Rd from our south boundary to about Boolardy homestead on 2 of the 3 AGRN packages work is complete as is the Mt Wittenoom Rd. It is hoped THEM will kick off around mid-November.

Sealing Works

As things currently stand this is due to commence on November 8.

Parks and Gardens

I am sure that most of the community would have noticed some new vigour has been injected into this field, most leaking taps, dysfunctional sprinklers etc have been repaired or replaced. My thanks to Des and Wendy for making us look like a new pin.

Niche Wall

Murchison Rammed Earth have completed the niche wall at the cemetery.

Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement

The final Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement as approved by Main Roads WA has now arrived. There were minimal changes from previous drafts, and we are happy with the content as it is workable.

At the February 2022 Council Meeting Council resolved *“That decision to sign the final addendum be delegated to a Working Group comprising Cr A Whitmarsh, Cr Q Fowler and Cr S Fowler and that they have the power to authorise the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to sign the addendum should it be deemed appropriate.”* The final agreement has now been provided to Cr’s A Whitmarsh, Q Fowler and S Fowler for decision.

Seal Widening Works

Initial planning and budgeting for sealed widening works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road envisaged stabilisation of the existing pavement with additional pavement material with cement also required in some floodway areas.

After discussion with the CEO and Josh Kirk of Greenfield Technical Services on the best way to achieve seal widening works cost effectively and efficiently. We are now also looking at other stabilisation possibilities given that we may not have to cart material which we have yet to find, and / or have to cart material considerable distances depending on the source of gravel supply if and when found. Josh Kirk and I will be further evaluating final option following testing of insitu pavement materials. This aspect is also further addressed and should be read in conjunction with this section of my works report below.

Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report

As part of the Murchison Road Sealing Planning and Design Project funded through Royalty for Regions, Greenfield Technical Services were commissioned to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential impact of heavy vehicle traffic on typical sealed pavements within the Murchison Shire.

This predominately refers to the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road which has, as one of its key management considerations, the need to quantify a contribution that heavy vehicles make to the wear tear and damage over and above “normal” use, given expected future mine operations who may use this road.

A copy of their Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report is attached. Section 7 of the report summaries findings and potential next steps.

A few comments include the following.

- ~ Heavy vehicle traffic on local Shire roads can have a significant impact on the life of the sealed pavement and without proper management, can impose significant costs on local governments. Determining a reasonable contribution from heavy vehicle operators as compensation for the additional pavement wear is a challenging proposition given the significant complexity involved with structural pavement design.
- ~ Pavement life is highly sensitive to the bearing strength as measured by the California Bearing Ratio (CBR) of both the underlying subgrade material and the pavement gravel. As both of these are likely to vary along a road and will vary across the entire Shire, any cost recovery model needs to consider the site location. A significant amount of local knowledge is likely to constitute site sampling and geotechnical testing of numerous samples along each road section across the road network.
- ~ Adoption of a cost recovery unit rate expressed in \$ per tonne kilometre will vary over time. There is likely two scenarios; either a fixed rate is adopted and is appropriately time indexed, or a rate is determined on a regular basis (e.g., yearly) which is pegged to the current cost of the Shire’s sealed pavement construction. For equity reasons adoption of such a rate could be applied regardless of location.

The models prepared in the assessment highlight the need to further develop this analysis and possibly reduce the range of uncertainty within the model, conducting testing of the CBR of the existing insitu pavement and/or subgrade material as well as undertaking pavement dipping’s to establish the typical pavement thickness for various roads in the Shire, with focus obviously on the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd.

In conjunction with Greenfield’s, we will soon commence such a testing program. We also continue to collect and improve the quality and completeness of the Shire’s traffic data along the length of this road to reduce uncertainty in the model.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 August 2022
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 (Elected Members Only)

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 Council

- 1 Receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 and that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items that this be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Voting Requirements

Recommendation 1 Absolute Majority
Recommendation 2 Simple Majority

Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried	For	Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report September 2022

Note attachment to be provided prior to the meeting.

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

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 September 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Report

File:

Author: Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager / DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 21 October 2022

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community development projects update at Murchison Shire which are outlined as follows.

Murchison Aquatic Facility Component of the Settlement Redevelopment

The establishment of an aquatic facility addresses a major component of the Shire's Masterplan by meeting a community service initiative. The aquatic facility consisting of a swimming pool, splash pad, paving, sunshades, and landscaped gardens will be the main recreational facility for the Shire of Murchison.

As previously advised the Shire has applied for \$250,000 through the Regional Economic Development grant. A further \$250,000 has been requested through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF). Most recently, the third and final funding application for \$250,000 has been lodged through Lotterywest.

Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival (ALUBSF)

The '*Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival*' will cater for the local and wider Murchison and Mid-West community, aligning with the April 2023 Solar Eclipse, it will provide a positive space to celebrate the Murchison 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 a Western Australian premium Astro tourism destination.

Recent developments include a \$5,000 financial contribution from Greenfield Technical Services and a further \$5,000 financial contribution from Squires Resources Pty Ltd. These recent sponsorship agreements have assisted the Shire to meet the event budget given that the Building Better Regions grant application is still currently pending.

Further developments include discussions with Chris Brayton (CSIRO) and Kirsten Fredericksen (CSIRO), for the inclusion MRO site visits via bus tours to and from the settlement to the MRO for festival attendees on the Sunday 16 April 2023.

Further discussions also through ICRAR (International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research) and Astrotourism WA for the inclusion of the immersive display VR headsets "Beyond the Milky Way" featurette as well as another Stellar Stargazing event hosted by Astrotourism WA to end the festival Sunday evening. The inclusion of MRO site visits for festival attendees is very unique and has the potential to be recognised on an international level. It is estimated that 50,000 people will visit Ashburton and the wider Pilbara, Gascoyne and Midwest regions to witness the total solar eclipse, which will have a positive impact on WA's tourism industry.

Now that the majority of the funding package and program outline has now been finalised, we are about to form up a small Working Group including of staff and other persons to assist in a successful implementation. Councillor suggestions representation and participation would be ideal, especially at this event is becoming a major showcase of the Shire.

Story Towns Podcasts

The Murchison Story Towns podcasts have commenced the production phase. Russell McGilton recently met with Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor and Michael Foulkes-Taylor and conducted interviews for the Murchison Museum, Settlement and Heritage episode. The second episode combines Rebecca Wheadon (MRO Site Entity Leader) and Indigenous Elder where they discuss the SKA from a scientific viewpoint and ancient astronomy viewpoint.

Strategic Implications

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region’s economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire</i>
<i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i>	<i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

Statutory Environment

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer, Works Manager, Carol Redford, Astrotourism WA, Chris Brayton, CSIRO, Kirsten Fredericksen, CSIRO, Russell McGilton, Story Towns

Recommendation

That the Council note the Community Development Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

18.2 Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia

File: 14.11
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 18.2.1 Radio Quiet 2022 Consultation Compilation

Matter for Consideration

Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia

Background

The Radiocommunications (Mid-West Radio Quiet Zone) Frequency Band Plan 2011 (the band plan) is part of a multi-tiered spectrum planning regulatory arrangement in place to support the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia (ARQZWA) and its ongoing viability for radio astronomy services.

Under Part 4 of Chapter 3 of the Legislation Act 2003, most legislative instruments ‘sunset’. That is, they are automatically repealed on 1 April or 1 October that first occurs 10 years after they are registered. This is an automatic process applying to most legislative instruments, regardless of their content. The band plan is due to sunset on 1 April 2023. We have formed the preliminary view that the band plan is operating effectively and efficiently and continues to form a necessary and useful part of the legislative framework.

The ACMA proposes to remake the Radiocommunications (Mid-West Radio Quiet Zone) Frequency Band Plan 2011 with only such minor changes, and to retitle it the Radiocommunications (Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia) Frequency Band Plan 2023. A draft of the proposed new band plan is available in the key documents section of the consultation as included in the attached **Radio Quiet 2022 Consultation Compilation** document which has already been circulated to councillors.

Comments from interested parties on the proposed new band plan by COB, Monday 14 November 2022. Information about making a submission is in the Invitation to comment section of this consultation paper.

Comment

It is obvious that Radio Quiet Provisions will remain moving forward but there is no reason why Council cannot articulate those key community concerns as part of a submission should it chose to do so. Key elements of a submission could be framed up at the meeting or a working group established to form up a proposal, given that the closing date for submissions is prior the next Council Meeting.

Recommendation

For Council to decided

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 22 October 2022

Attachments: 20.1 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention Program
20.2 2022 WALGA Aboriginal Forum Program

Staff

As Council are aware our Finance Officer Racheal King has tendered her resignation and will finish up on the Council Day. Racheal has obtained a similar position at the Shire of Tammin with the main reason for moving being to give her kids greater opportunities and especially improved schooling and to be closer to family.

Whilst we are all sad to see her leave as she has been a great asset to us and a terrific person. She leaves on very good terms and I am pleased that she has made what looks like a great move for her and am very appreciative of her work.

We have also made significant progress with Travis and Lisa on board and operating well so we are not left completely in the lurch but will look to recruit temporarily and on a permanent basis.

Meanwhile, with summer season approaching we have and will reduce our casual staffing at the Roadhouse over this quite period

General

The following update of activities is provided

Date	Activity
20.09.2022	TOIL
21.09.2022	Application for a request for an extension to submit Annual Financial Report to Auditors. Meeting with WALGA procurement Representatives with Works Manager, Community Manager-DCEO and Depot Officer. Meetings and briefings with Works Manager.
22.09.2022	Queens Memorial Public Holiday. Council Meeting & Workshop. Annual Electors Meeting. Council Minutes
23.09.2022	Council Minutes. Administration
26.09.2022	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
27.09.2022	Meeting with Community Manager-DCEO, Finance Officer and Administration Officer. Catch up with AGFIX. Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program
28.09.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program. Meeting with Works Manager and Gardener / Handyman over Settlement maintenance and improvements. Phone discussion / touch base with Chris Brayton CSIRO
29.09.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program. Provide brief Finance Submission to WALGA
30.09.2022	Administration Travel to Perth for WALGA State Convention
1.10.2022	Administration Emails. Roadworks program.
2.10.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks Program.
3.10.2022 to 4.10.2022	Attend WALGA State Conference. Follow up Emails.
5.10.2022	Attend Meeting with Shire President, Cr Emma Foulkes Taylor and Richard Newton (GRA). Attend WALGA Aboriginal Forum. Attend to emails. Provide advice to Shire President concerning CGG response.

Date	Activity
6.10.2022	Arrange for car service. TOIL
7.10.2022	Travel back from Perth
10.10.2022	Catch up with Office. Meeting with Works Manager. Review and update draft Asset Revaluation Work. Asset Management Work. Telephone discussion with Jeff King (CSIRO)
11.10.2022	Asset Revaluation Work. Asset Management Work.
12.10.2022	Asset Management Work. LRCIP Acquittal work.
13.10.2022	Asset Management Work. Meetings with Community Manager – DCEO and Finance Officer
14.10.2022	Asset Management Work. Meeting with Finance Officer. Telephone discussions with Margie Weir (SPA), Scott Lang (UDLA) and Travis Bate (RSM)
17.10.2022	Meeting with Community Manager – DCEO. Work on Finance Officer PD and Roads to Recovery and LRCIP Acquittal works and WALGA Roads expenditure return
18.10.2022	Attend PIA School Council Meeting at PIA. Meeting Briefing with Works Manager. Meetings with Roadhouse Staff
19.10.2022	Several Telephone discussions with Shire President. Attend Audit Entrance Meeting via Teams. Provide PIA Educational School Review feedback. Asset Management Plan Work. Telephone discussions with Josh Kirk (Greenfield\ Technical Services) regarding Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
20.10.2022	Asset Management Plan Work. Meeting with Roadhouse Staff. Council Policy and Agenda Work
21.10.2022	Agenda Work. Meeting and site inspection at Airport with Works Manager
22.10.2022 to 24.10.2022	Agenda Work

WALGA Local Government Convention

As indicated on the 3 and 4 October 2022 I attended with Crs Rossco and Emma Foulkes-Taylor the 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition with the theme “*Embracing Change*”. A copy of the Conference program is attached.

Both councillors will report on this convention separately. Whilst I have attended similar conventions interstate, this was the first WALGA conference that I have attended. My overall impression is that it was extremely well run and of high quality with the theme “*Embracing Change*” topical and relevant, with some lessons, also relevant to Murchison. Networking was also important.

A few summary extracts / comments /observations, with references as per the Conference Program is provided as follows:

Opening Keynote

Cecile Thaxter- Vice President, Health, Safety, Environment & Communities Rio Tinto Iron Ore Cecile

Cecile spoke about recent challenges the mining giant has faced and the resulting changes being implemented. Cecile gave the audience plenty to ponder and challenged Local Government leaders in the room to think about their operations, their workforce, and their own journeys. Not shying away from the Juukan Gorge incident, Cecile gave an honest appraisal of the lessons learned, and how these lessons can be applied to any organisation.

In short, Cecile said Rio Tinto didn’t partner, didn’t listen and didn’t engage. Partnerships and relationships with communities built on listening to understand rather than just listening to respond were vital. This allows trust to be built, problems to be solved and positive change to be affected. She added that when engaging with stakeholders, don’t arrive with a solution that is ultimately your solution. That only demonstrates you are not willing to work together.

In relation to sexual harassment within its workforce, Cecile was candid, admitting like many companies, Rio Tinto had placed an emphasis on the physical safety of its workforce, but not the mental safety.

What was her advice for those resistant to change?

Find people who are innovators in your organisation and convince them to get on board with your change journey and inspire people to implement change.

"Think about the change journey and what you're trying to get to. Start creating stories. Start sharing stories. Start telling stories."

One of the interesting takes Cecile offered was to embrace conflict and tension because it comes from emotion and humans are feeling beings with thinking abilities. Don't be afraid of not always getting it right.

The State of Play

The West Australian's Chief Reporter Ben Harvey quizzed Madeleine King – Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia, and Patrick Gorman, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister, in the State of Play session. Minister King, in her capacity as Resource Minister, has the job of making sure we can keep paying for everything. She noted, *"Resources are the source materials for Australia's future, a future that has decarbonisation and renewables at its forefront and I know WALGA has been on the front foot with this transformation with commitments such as your Sustainable Energy Project, your Urban Canopy project, and the fact 50 LGAs in WA – 80 per cent of the state - have signed climate change declarations."* –

Minister Madeleine King acknowledged the challenges facing the rural regions of WA in securing and retaining skilled workers and affordable housing. She complimented Local Government as the Government that sits closest to the people of Western Australia – *"this makes you all very important assets for those of us in the national government as genuine partners in delivering the best policy outcomes for Australia."*

Both Ministers spoke about the forthcoming Voice to Parliament and referendum that aims to enshrine a body in the Constitution that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide advice on policies that impact their lives.

Holistic Wellbeing Measures: A Tool for Better Planning and More Engaged Citizens

Professor Fiona Stanley AC joined this session via Zoom and even from her home office, she had the audience well engaged. She and fellow panellist Mike Salvaris, from the University of Melbourne, have been working on measuring well-being instead of GDP since the 2000s, and are excited it is now high on the agenda for governments at both national and state levels in Australia.

Professor Stanley explained the excessive focus on GDP has a variety of negative social impacts - it increases inequalities in power and wealth and causes overconsumption - creating waste, environmental degradation, unliveable cities and pollution, to name a few.

Why GDP is not a good measure of Society's Progress?

"The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile." [Robert F Kennedy]

As an alternative to measuring GDP, Mike Salvaris pointed to the National Development Index (ANDI) Project, which identifies, measures and reports on 12 key areas of community importance and progress. He also shared the proposed 'best practice' WA Development Index (WADI). In a recent survey in Australia, people were asked, 'What is the primary purpose of government?' 'Improving the overall wellbeing of the population' was the highest response (32%). By listening to and engaging with our communities, Professor Stanley believes it will strengthen people's trust in democracy.

WALGA was acknowledged as being a leader in this field and produced the Local Government Metrics of Wellbeing Research Report in 2021. WALGA is a principal partner in the WADI project. Beat Huser joined the conversation and shared his work with wellbeing indices in New Zealand, specifically in the Waikato region, through the Waikato Regional Council. The 32 Waikato Progress indicators are annually reported, with a quality-of-life survey done bi-annually. The wellness data has primarily been used for strategic planning, project development and funding applications.

During the Q+A session, the panel acknowledged there is so much siloed data in Local Government that is kept internally and not shared. But the data collected is often reflective of common insights broadly and the WADI project will allow for data to be collected and shared for everyone's benefit.

We have good data in WA, and it can help Local Governments decide where to get best bang for your buck." - Professor Fiona Stanley AC. Utilising wellbeing data assists Local Governments in their strategic planning, to make informed policy decisions and to advocate to other spheres of government on behalf of their community.

The final word: *"If we measure progress by GDP, doesn't that mean "life = shopping?"* – Mike Salvaris

As a general comment the use of a well-being index, which will become a prime measure in WA. The rationale is also being articulated by the Federal Government Treasurer as part of the October budget. Potentially it is something that Murchison could readily adapt to as part of our community planning processes. In part we have already coined the well-being concept and if we work in conjunction with the WA project that that Mike Salvaris is currently working on such that we could potentially be on the front foot.

Address from Ambassador Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko

The Ambassador gave an emotional speech with a moving video on the plight of his homeland Ukraine, since it was invaded by Russia earlier this year. He thanked the Australian public and Federal Government for their support and gave a shout out to two Western Australian local governments for their contribution. Mr Myroshnychenko called on attendees to adopt a region in Ukraine and help support the reconstruction and recovery in the area. The final word: *"In Ukraine, we're defending all the rights and values that are important to Australians too"*. – Vasyl Myroshnychenko

Comment. One couldn't help but be moved.

WALGA Aboriginal Forum

On 5 October 2022 I attended the 2022 WALGA Aboriginal Forum. A copy of the Conference Program is attached.

This was not the first of such Forums organised by WALGA from all accounts was of a higher order than previously. Again, good networking opportunities but significantly many of those that presented and articulated what they were doing at a local level that included many local governments.

As a general comment it some observations, contacts lessons learnt could be potentially useful locally

A few summary extracts / comments / observations, with references as per the Conference Program is provided as follows:

Aboriginal leadership and change makers in Local Government and the community

Nolan Hunter, Local Dialogue participant and Former CEO Kimberley Land Council outlined some of the actions undertaken as part of and since the Uluru Statement from the Heart was undertaken a number of years, ago and also provided some comments on the reconciliation process as per the following brief points

- ~ Aboriginal exclusion from Constitution until the 1966 referendum
- ~ Constitutional provisions for Parliament to make laws for aboriginal people, including suspending the racial discrimination act without any rights available for those people to have constitutional rights to have a say
- ~ Through the Marbo land rights case finally, a successful recognition to debunk the notion of Terra nullius—meaning land belonging to no-one and then require those affected to prove that they existed and continue to exist on the land when it's obvious that they did exist. Net result 17 years average delays in claims, complicated and costly legal processes with \$ that could have better spent.
- ~ Simple notion from Nolan of *"I am sick of putting out fires. Let's address the fire eaters"*

Cr Elsta Foy, Shire of Broome outlined a few anecdotes of how she dealt with racism and made change through quiet perseverance. Eg Elsta wasn't allowed to play Tennis at normal times, so she played at very early in the morning. She also turned to Golf and won many championships.

Let's Talk About Racism – Impact and Change

Christine Young; Executive Project Officer, City of Melville, Leanne Woods; First Nations Engagement Coordinator, City of Melville, Barbara Freeman; Family and Community Development Manager, City of Cockburn

Outline of a successful, unique and evolving program that tackles racism head on, its impacts, causes and solutions. This program, involving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff from the neighbouring cities of Cockburn and Melville, aims to increase awareness and understanding of racism, and discuss ways to step up and take action to stop its perpetuation.

Program seems to be rolled out to all staff. Takes 4 sessions with profound change and influence resulting at an individual and organisational level.

“Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny” (Our Truth Telling)

Robert Miles, Chairman, Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, Helen Shanks, Director - Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, Project Coordinator - Shire of Toodyay

Outline of Truth Telling processes undertaken in Toodyay which included reconciliation with previous and actions taken against aboriginal people, reconciling those actions with the truth, healing those involved and providing documented histories, yarning experiences and signage.

Comment. From all accounts a very positive and enriching process which we could learn from.

Menang First - The Albany Approach to Restoring Menang Noongar

Place Names, Reconciliation and WA's First Bicentenary, Lester Coyne, Menang Elder, Chair, Albany Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group Louise Paterson, Manager Community Relations, City of Albany, Bethany Findlay, Bicentenary Coordinator, City of Albany

An impressive outline of what is obviously a well support process from the City of Albany and the local Menang Noongar people to ensure that progressively local Aboriginal names have pride of place ahead of current colonial names for many local areas and features

Department of Local Government, Sport and Industries Update

Outline of a major project to develop a Cultural Centre for all Western Australian Aboriginal peoples in Perth overlooking the Swan River. Project is being overseen by the Whadjuk Noongar and has significant investment at a State and National Level to be built and operational well before the WA Bicentennial. A specific decision was made undertake this project as a standalone commitment not linked to WA Bicentennial. All Aboriginal regions and cultures will be represented.

Yacker Danjoo Ngala Bidi

Presentation of the background and process behind the December 2021 signing of the Yacker Danjoo Ngala Bidi with representatives of the City of Perth Elders Advisory Group. This formal “treaty” document was the culmination of many facilitated discussions and meetings between the City of Perth and local Elders. It followed significant amount of adverse press, confrontation and fines for local Whadjuk people who were attending and celebrating local sites of their significance contrary to the City of Perth's directions. The growth of reconciliation and improved understanding was significant with a number of activists included in the process and ultimately forming part of the solution.

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.