



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 **24 November 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 12.02pm.

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

At the commencement of the Meeting Mark Bennett (SKAO) who was scheduled to present a brief and update on SKAO activities and Chris Brayton (CSIRO) were in the public gallery.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 October 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 27 October 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 October 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cr G Mead declared a financial interest in 19.2 Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy and later 19.1 Purchasing Policy

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 A Whitmarsh

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

6

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Saturday 17 December 2022

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

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

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Mark Bennett, SKA-Low Site Manager (SKAO) gave a brief update on a few activities relating to the SKA Operation. Mark

- ~ advised that direction is being provided for all SKAO staff and contractors to use the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road when accessing the site and that this direction is being included within contract requirements and training packages.
- ~ congratulated Council on the sealing of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
- ~ confirmed that the official opening of the SKA Project will be on the 5 December 2022 at the MRO Site. Invitations have been sent out
- ~ advised that there will be very little SKA related traffic travelling to the site until the 2nd Quarter of 2023, with almost all of the expected increase commencing the 3rd quarter of 2023

Chris Brayton (CSIRO) advised that a heritage walkover for the proposed optic fibre cable route had been undertaken.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

4.11.22

Attended the PIA Wajarri School 20 Year Celebrations

5.11.22

Attended the Wajarri SKA ILUA Signing Celebration held at Murchison Settlement

18.11.22

Attended and as Zone President chaired the WALGA Murchison Country Zone Meeting at Cue

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

4.11.22

Attended the PIA Wajarri School 20 Year Celebrations. Emma expressed a view that the event was very successful and enjoyable.

5.11.22

Attended the Wajarri SKA ILUA Signing Celebration held at Murchison Settlement

18.11.22

Attended the WALGA Murchison Country Zone Meeting at Cue as Shire Delegate. Emma highlighted various aspects including the debate and decisions taken at the meeting relating to Elected Member Superannuation and WALGA Reform.

23.11.22

Attended online Murchison GeoRegion marketing meeting.

Cr M Fowler

18.11.22

Attended the Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival Working Group Meeting

Cr A Whitmarsh

29.11.22

Attended CRBA AGM Committee Meeting where he was appointed Chairman.

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: 18 November 2022
Attachments:

Construction Crew

The construction crew have completed work at the new seal site and moved over to the Beringarra-Pindar Road. They will commence works approximately 2km south of the Greenough River with two short re-sheet jobs before moving south picking up jobs in various locations and ending up at the wreath flowers. The work at the wreath flowers will only be completed in the new year after the crew return from their Christmas break.

Maintenance Crew

The maintenance crew are continuing up the Beringarra-Pindar Road heading north. With flood damage work underway their work is a little adhoc, sometimes being behind and at other times ahead of the Squires Resources crew. They have also sorted out a few troublesome grids on the Mt Wittenoorn Road. At least 2 of these will need to be replaced in the new year.

New Seal

The new 9km of seal has been laid and for the first time I can say it was a painless experience. Bitutek clearly sent their A-team, they not only were on time but 2 days early and dealt with the few minor breakdowns promptly and efficiently. My thanks to Bitutek, Rob (Supervisor) and his crew.

Beringarra-Cue Road

Rowe Contractors are progressing very well with reverting back to gravel as well as sorting out the drainage on certain sections. By the time Council meets there should be a little less than 25km left. We are well ahead of schedule time wise and right on budget.

Flood Damage

Squires Resources (package 1) are progressing well, since Council last met work on Meeberrie-Wooleen, Woolgorong, New Forest-Yallalong, Coolcalalaya, Errabiddy, Butchers Track and Muggon Roads will have been completed. THEM Earthmoving (package 2) are due to commence work on Monday 21 November starting on the Byro-Woodleigh Road.

Pothole Patching

The crews spent 4 days patching potholes on the sealed section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, there are still some minor potholes to be done sometime in the near year.

Plant

With the long wait times involved in acquiring new plant and the construction grader due for replacement next financial year it may be prudent for us to consider fast tracking the order process. It is suggested that the plant working group may want to discuss this sooner rather than later.

Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Sealed Pavement Analysis

At the last Council Meeting Council was advised Greenfield Technical Services were commissioned to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential impact of heavy vehicle traffic on typical sealed pavements on 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.

Also outlined was advice that we will soon commence such a testing program along then Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and that we had made a request to Main Roads WA to see if the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road could be included as part of a foreshadowed state-wide TSD strength data work.

Main Roads have indicated that this request can be accommodated and that this work is expected to be undertaken in April 2023.

Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement

At the last meeting Council was advised that following a review by Working Group Members Cr A Whitmarsh, Cr Q Fowler and Cr S Fowler, the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer were authorised to sign the final Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement for the Construction, Operation Use and Maintenance for the Square Kilometre Array Access Roads Project. We have since been advised that Main Roads WA have also signed the Agreement.

Under the agreement we are required to submit an Annual Works Schedule Main Roads for approval. Once this Works Schedule is approved the Shire is then paid on the following basis

- ~ 40% of the total estimated cost outs set out in the Annual Works Schedule
- ~ 40% of the Shires costs incurred at a 6-month review
- ~ 20% of the Shires costs plus or minus any variation

Following work undertaken in conjunction with Greenfields Technical Services a Works Program as outlined below has been submitted for approval for Year 1 Works. Estimated Cost \$2.9m. Initial focus has been placed on the more urgent areas requiring attention.

Road	Start SLK - End SLK				
Road Construction	Form up existing subgrade and gravel sheet to 8.0m pavement width				
Beringarra-Pindar Rd	131.75-132.37				
Boolardy-Wooleen Rd	0.23-0.40 15.90-16.30	2.00-2.56 17.20-17.40	10.33-10.88 18.00-19.30	11.67-12.90	13.26-14.00
Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd	15.00-16.85	25.00-26.37	31.50-40.00	44.89-44.98	
Wooleen-Mt Wittenoom Rd	3.50-4.50	4.70-4.81	5.50-6.30	6.70-13.00	
Road Maintenance	Maintenance Grading once only during period				
Carnarvon-Mullewa	0.00-27.82 (City of Greater Geraldton Section)				

Notwithstanding that costs associated with these works are fully funded and will have no net effect on the 2022/23 budget, a budget amendment to recognise revenue and expenditure is required. This is addressed under part 2 of the reports recommendation.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that

- 1 The Works Report be noted.
- 2 Council amends the 2022/23 budget to include revenue and expenses associated with Year 1 Works Program as approved by to Main Roads WA under the Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement.

Council Discussion

In relation the Plant Item in the Works Report the proposed action was agreed to be actioned. This would require a budget amendment in case a replacement of a grader was able to be facilitated in 2022//23., noting that such a purchase would be funded from the Plant Replacement Reserve and through plant sales and that this would have no effect on the budgeted surplus position.

Voting Requirements

Recommendation 1 Simple Majority
Recommendation 2 Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

Council resolve that

- 1 The Works Report be noted.
- 2 Council amends the 2022/23 budget to include revenue and expenses associated with Year 1 Works Program as approved by to Main Roads WA under the Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement.
- 3 Council amends the 2022/23 budget to include the purchase of a new grader to replace the current construction grader

Carried

For 6

Against 0

16.2 Road Asset Management Update

File:	12.42
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 November 2022
Attachments:	16.2.1 Asset Management Plan 2013 Extracts 16.2.2 Road Asset Valuation Summary 2022 16.2.3 Road Asset Management Plan Early Preliminary Draft Extracts

Matter for Consideration

Progress update in relation to an updated approach in managing Council's Road Network incorporating recent road asset valuation works, current and future road projects as a prelude to completing an overall updated Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Background

Council's current Asset Management Plan for the period 2012/23 to 2031/32 was adopted by Council on 21 June 2013. When adopted it was noted that its future financial forecasts would be improved by

- ~ Updating the ROMAN roads data base to include useful asset condition assessments and signs, grids and floodways
- ~ A more detailed component level analysis of future renewal requirements
- ~ Continuation of the analysis of upgrade work needed to bring all assets to an agreed service level]
- ~ A review of assets that are underperforming or nearing the end of their useful life and
- ~ Continued breakdown of asset expenditure and future projections for maintenance and capital renewal

Whilst being legislative compliant, in reality as shown in the attached extract from the 2013 document, it is a broad overview document and is not intended nor suited to year-to-year management of all assets, and particularly roads which make up such a significant portion.

Under the Financial Management Regulations Council is required to update its valuations for the purposes of its Annual Financial Reports. This task is required to be undertaken by licenced valuers for buildings and roads. This work has been undertaken in 2007 and most recently in 2022 for inclusion into the 2021/22 Financial Reports.

Whilst Council has detailed data bases for roads and a summary assessment for buildings, it is fair to say that thus far the data has not been used in any meaningful way in any replacement programs, nor cater for any new future or upgraded assets.

Update

As a prelude to the 2022 revaluation work in 2020 Greenfields were engaged to update the ROMAN roads data base with inclusion of information including asset condition assessments, signs, grids and floodways plus a more detailed component level analysis. Photos of the road conditions were also undertaken and may be particularly useful in establishing conditions for flood damage assessment. The 2020 information obtained has now been recently updated for inclusion in the 2022 revaluation.

A summary of Greenfield's work is attached. Although only the summary sheets of this work is shown it has been undertaken at a comprehensive level with each road element contained on its own specific spreadsheet as per the following summary.

Road Element	No	Length (Km)	Area (m2)
Unformed Subgrade	16	295.03	1,675,970
Formed Subgrade	619	1,644.86	14,973,706
Unsealed Pavement	539	907.39	6,448,771
Sealed Pavement	122	206.03	1,921,209

Road Element	No	Length (Km)	Area (m2)
Surfacing	345	290.24	1,774,250
Floodways	727		
Culverts	121		
Stock Grids	153		
Signs	2,945		
Bridge	1		

Whilst this information provides a sound base to support asset valuations, the data it needs a significant amount of adaptive work to provide for not just programming for replacement works but also to include new works that have been or will be identified. Work to consolidate this into an adjustable program that can be readily amended, expanded has been undertaken, with the first very early preliminary draft completed.

Early Preliminary Draft Features

Given the size of the consolidation into some 3,376 segments, only sample extracts have been attached as explanation. Worksheets includes the following elements.

Existing Consolidation

- ~ Consolidating recorded information including formation, pavement and sealed widths and construction dates on a road and SLK basis
- ~ Classifying each segment by way of Surface Type into Formed, Formed and Surfaced, Concrete and Sealed on a road and SLK basis
- ~ Incorporating all of the descriptive supporting information for each floodway section which is separately identified in each road plus identified replacement dates as recorded through Greenfield's analysis

Future Management

- ~ 20-year management model on the same format as the current plant replacement program. This can be varied easily altered annually and includes options such as changing the start year and including inflation impacts
- ~ Provision of a variable upgraded works program that incorporates a variety of components for each section of road including road width standards and scheduled replacement dates, intended treatment, and costs that can distinguish between our costs and those of contractors.
- ~ Provision of a schedule of variable rates for unit costs, asset lives that can be adapted as required
- ~ Matching of capital road expenses with matching expenditures requirements as required by the grant for Main Roads WA and SKA Route Work.

Key aspects include the following

Replacement Works

- ~ Gravel Resheet Programs
Replacements are based on a life of the asset. With an unsealed road network assessments can vary widely and to a certain extent are blurred within normal maintenance activities and flood damage repairs which for all intents and purposes can often restore the drivability of a road and extend its life. There is inbuilt degree of elasticity. A broad-brush assessment, whilst sufficient for an asset valuation purposes, needs to be modified according to local circumstances and conditions, as well as the degree of risk associated with each particular segment of road. Having a conservative approach will overstate the situation.
The Plan makes allowance for a "local" condition assessment in part by segmenting each road into small segments and having options for varying levels of intervention such with the Works Manager being able to use local knowledge to assess features such as location, traffic, availability of gravel and water, road classification etc.
The result of this approach should see a more realistic assessment which will most likely vary from that derived through the revaluation process and which will become in effect a de facto service level.
- ~ Floodways
To a large extent the treatment of floodway areas will perhaps have most critical impact on the road network as these sections will in many instances will more or less determine whether a road is open

or closed. There are some 727 recorded but a number of others need to be added. Each floodway has its own construction elements. The Plan makes provision for these variations by providing options for various treatments and variations to asset lives and where necessary adding in new floodways. It is also likely that these areas will be the ones with the earlier focus

~ Reseal Programs

These are based on a life of the asset determined by a condition assessment. Unlike unsealed roads there are more potential risks associated with extending life of a reseal as this can have a detrimental effect on the quality of the surface and life of the pavement. Broadly speaking asset lives will be around 15 years for reseals and 20 years for the first seal following the initial two coat seal.

~ Rehabilitation of Existing Sealed Roads

Those that are not subject to upgrade during life of the plan have not included as the scheduled replacements are beyond the plans 20-year window. As time moves on this will alter. Once a road is upgraded to seal the next replacement to be included will have a reseal treatment.

Upgrade Works

~ LRCIP Funded Works.

Remaining works to rehabilitate and widen sections on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road in the vicinity of the Ballinyoo Bridge have already been programmed for 2023 and 2024.

~ Main Roads WA Funded Works

Works to rehabilitate and widen sections on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the latest sealed sections south of the Ballinyoo Bridge and the Murchison Settlement have already been accepted and included in in 2024. It is assumed that Council will be able to attract funding for at least two Main Roads Projects on the Carnarvon- Mullewa Road each year. Plan proposes to progressively rehabilitate and widens sections of this road up to the Murchison Settlement. Thereafter north of the Settlement as per the Main Roads 2040 Strategy, it is foreshadowed that sections of wide seal be provided at strategic locations such as floodway areas, in part so as to provide passing opportunities. I also understand that the unsealed pavement immediately north of the Settlement to Butchers track was laid with an eventual seal in mind.

~ New Sections of Sealed Roads

Thus far upgrade and sealing on Mulga Crescent, Airport Access Road and Works Depot Road within the Settlement have been included. A section on the Beringarra-Pindar Road adjacent to the Nookawarra Homestead has been identified.

~ Major Floodways

Reconstruction, upgrade and widening of concrete floodways on the Meeberrie- Wooleen Road over the Richardson River and Carnarvon- Mullewa Road over the Wooramel River have been identified

~ Other Works

Other major works not yet identified and not already included in the above will need to be considered as they come to light. Feedback is requested.

Comments

Unlike the June 2013 Asset Management which has really not been used in any meaningful way since, this Plan is intended to be an ongoing piece of work that is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Whilst a 20-year period seems well into the future, annual reviews should identify any major issues well ahead so that that any adjustments and potential funding issues can be phased in over time.

Although this draft is still in the early preliminary stage it provides an excellent management tool for the Works Manager who can progressively review, add to and update over time. At this stage this additional review by Will has not yet been undertaken.

This plan, like the current Plant Replacement Program and others still to be developed is readily adaptable and will feed into the long-term financial plan.

It is envisaged that time permitting that this work can be finalised and consolidated with other asset considerations for presentation to the February 2023 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

That the Chief Executive Officer’s report on Road Asset Management Update Repot be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the Chief Executive Officer’s report on Road Asset Management Update Repot be noted

Carried

For 6

Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 October 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 November 2022
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report October 2022

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

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 October 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 October 2022 as attached.

Carried **For** 6 **Against** 0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case

File:	10.6
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	22 November 2022
Attachments:	18.1.1 Final Draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case 18.1.2 PIA Wadjarri Opportunities

Matter for Consideration

Consideration of the Final Draft of the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case developed by UDLA.

Background

At the October 2021 Council Meeting Council noted the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report, which amongst other things consolidated an updated approach in delivering the redevelopment of the Murchison Settlement and Shire as outlined in the adopted Settlement Masterplan. Elements included the following.

Murchison Settlement Masterplan

The adopted Settlement Masterplan took around 18 months to be finalised and provides a detailed layout of the way the settlement is to be developed. Importantly the Masterplan includes the following "Project Vision" statement which encapsulates the relationship of the Settlement within the context of the broader Shire.

"To ensure that Murchison Settlement is an attractive focal point that enables the Shire to function successfully and deliver a range of services that will underpin community, cultural and economic development within the Settlement and broader Shire"

The following overarching 'Project Vision' and design principles have been developed to help guide the development of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan.

- ~ To create an attractive activity hub for the community and visitors to Murchison that maintains the existing character, cultural and built qualities of the Settlement.
- ~ Provide functional pedestrian connectivity, improved access, and sight lines throughout the precinct.
- ~ Design a unified landscape character that maximises shade.
- ~ Create a consolidated sequence of spaces and activities for locals and tourists.
- ~ Allow space in design for Geo/Astro tourism and convey the idea of 'The Oasis'.

A range of projects identified (in no priority order) included Community Swimming Pool / Splash Pad, New - Caravan Park Ablution Block, New -Caravan Park 2 Ensuite Units, General Settlement Amenity Improvements, and Playground Upgrade. An Interpretive Centre was also identified but required further scoping and development

Since this time a 2021/22 budget allocation amount of \$1.30m was transferred into Reserves. The 2021/22 and now 2022/23 budgets provided allocations for a new Caravan Park Ablution Block.

Roadhouse Redevelopment

In 2020/21 it was realised that Roadhouse and Caravan Park layout needed a supplementary review to further develop desired expansion that would dovetail into the wider Settlement Masterplan. Work was undertaken to also review the overall operation of the roadhouse, considering the need to provide suitable long-term accommodation for the Roadhouse Management, to improve the functionality of the Roadhouse Business and to explore opportunities for a potential Interpretive Centre.

This work identified a separate Roadhouse Residence to be located at the rear of the Roadhouse. The 2022/23 Budget made provision for this along with two additional staff units accommodation units. UDLA are currently finalising a mini concept plan for this specific area ahead of planned tree plants and irrigation to screen off what will be a mini-Roadhouse staff precinct

Mid-West Development Commission Business Case Work (Murchison Interpretive Experience & Carnarvon-Mullewa Road)

In mid-2021 the Minister for Regional Development announced that \$290,000 in funding would be provided to develop up business cases to evaluate opportunities from the emerging Mid-West space economy, with particular focus on the SKA and Mingenew Space Precinct. Within this funding, \$80,000 was allocated for the development of plans and a business case for an Interpretive Centre in Murchison, and \$50,000 for plans / designs for upgrade and sealing of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road.

The \$130,000 was to be administered by the Mid-West Development Commission (MWDC) and allocated to the Shire to administer, given the strong alignment with works already underway. ie The Murchison Settlement Masterplan and Roadhouse redevelopment, and existing road sealing program. It was intended that this additional funding can value add and help further progress the Shire's aspirations.

Funding for this work by Council was actioned via In 2021/22 budget amendment and inclusion within the 2022/23 Budget. Regular verbal and written progress updates have been provided.

The Draft Business Case for what is now is called the "*Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case*" is formally presented to Council. Background information for the Carnarvon Mullewa Road Business case work is now with Economists ACIL Allen.

Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case Update

Development progress for the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case has been significant involving a range of stakeholders as identified below

UDLA were engaged to deliver the work with support from TRC Tourism and TRCB Architects. Work commenced in around November 2021 and involved finalising a detailed brief, in line with the project grant criteria. Significant work was undertaken by UDLA with several stakeholder Workshops also undertaken to review and endorse progress.

It is fair to say that all those uninformed were quite passionate and committed to what is an extremely exciting project. Whilst formal engagement with PIA Wadjarri was not able to be obtained until late in the piece, a number of potential opportunities for the local PIA Wadjarri community have been identified with ongoing engagement a key feature

At the October Council Meeting Day Scott Lang from UDLA presented the final draft to councillors, and representatives from CSIRO and PIA Wadjarri. A copy of the final draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case which has been reforwarded to Councillors on 7 November 2022 is attached and is provided for formal consideration. Also attached are extracts highlighting potential opportunities for PIA Wadjarri. A raft of other supportive detailed documents have also been provided.

Comments

The final draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case is in many ways a development with potential transformative effect. It ticks an abundance of boxes such as strategically linking Vast Sky tourism, showcasing SKA / CSIRO, providing an accessible outback feel without camping out, increased GeoTourism and broader tourism within a regional context, purveying local history and pastoral influence, inclusion of local Wadjarri aboriginal development opportunities, improved discovery walking trails as well as enhancing recruitment and retention opportunities for the Shire in an improved visually attractive environment.

The work undertaken by UDLA, and others is terrific with an amazing business case with plans well-presented beautifully. This is no doubt why the Mid -West Development Commission have it so high on their priority list for potential major State funding for the next State Budget. This Project was also highlighted by the MWDC at the 18 November WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting.

Specific comments also to note include the following

- ~ The entire business case should be seen as being complimentary to the Murchison Settlement Masterplan and Roadhouse development plans that have already been undertaken.
- ~ The business case has been written and presented in a form that meets what external funding bodies will be looking for. This enhances potential for funding but also makes it easier to reference for funding applications for other separate but integrated projects.
- ~ Stage 1 spend is around \$10.4m with further stages foreshadowed totaling \$11.5m over around a 10-year period. Business Case shows a profitable operation after 2 years. Significant levels of external funding will be required.
- ~ Even if Stage 1 works are not funded, there are significant elements that can be incorporated and delivered as part of the existing Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment. Eg Vast Sky, SKA related elements and Wadjarri Stories and Culture.
- ~ Notwithstanding that it may be relatively easier for those stakeholders' part of the journey and were involved in the development of the business case to understand both the outcome and context of the business case, nevertheless the final result is terrific and provides a way forward. In this regard the management model suggested is worth pursuing.
- ~ When undertaking consultation around this project it is essential that the projects overall context be also prefaced, also noting that any delivery will likely be very long term without significant external investment.

The recommendation below includes an element endorsing in principle the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Draft Business Case and suggesting that public input and comment be sought.

Consultation

Scott Lang, Loren Holmes (UDLA)

Settlement Redevelopment Working Group Members Cr Emma- Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Michelle Fowler, Frances Pollock, CEO, Community Manager–DCEO and Works Manager

Rebecca Wheadon, Chris Brayton, Liz Williams (CSIRO)

Josh Mangan, Penny Spoelder, Natasha Paul, Fred Chaney, Louise Allen (TRCB Architects),

Adam Murszewski (MWDC)

Karin Grima (Regional Development Australia)

Carol Redford (Astrotourism WA)

Su-Mita Hill (Scitech)

Imogen Winsborough (Inspiring Australia)

Peter Wheeler, Cassandra Rowles (ICRAR)

Jessica Machin (WA Museum)

Kylie Simpson (PIA Wadjarri)

Statutory Environment

In part s5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995

Policy Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

These projects are of significant strategic and community importance and are relevant to the implementation Shire of Murchison Community Strategic Plan. The Plan itself will also form part of the way forward hence only the broader vision statement is referenced.

Shire of Murchison Vision Statement

Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.

Financial Implications

As outlined delivery of the projects will involve significant future budget allocations with substantial external funding required.

Recommendation

That Council resolves as follows.

- 1 That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case Report
- 2 That Council endorse in principle the Draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case prepared by UDLA and that public input and comment be sought.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council resolves as follows.

- 1 That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case Report
- 2 That Council endorse in principle the Draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case prepared by UDLA and that public input and comment be sought.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

President Roscco Foulkes-Taylor adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.06pm

President Roscco Foulkes-Taylor re-opened the meeting at 1.44pm

Cr A Whitmarsh provided an apology and did not return to the meeting after lunch.

Cr G Mead declared a Financial Interest for Items 19.2 and 19.1 and left the meeting at 1.44pm

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.2 Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy

File: 14.20
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 November 2022
Attachments: 19.2.1 Policy 4.8 Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy

Matter for Consideration

Development of an Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy

Background

As it currently stands now, Council has no specific Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy in part as consideration of providing some preferential treatment for Aboriginal Businesses or Suppliers had not been raised before.

As indicated in the previous Agenda Item, additions to Councils Purchasing Policy have been recommended to provide for specific consideration for Aboriginal Businesses. In addition to being the appropriate thing to do, these changes also align with requirements for Aboriginal Engagement under the Main Roads SKA Route Agreement that Council has recently signed.

Comments

The attached new Policy 4.8 Aboriginal Regional Price Preference Policy has therefore been developed to promote Aboriginal business and those businesses who have Aboriginal employees or sub-contractors by giving preferential consideration of such suppliers in the Shire's procurement of goods and/or services.

Quantifying a potential price consideration is not an easy task but it is considered that Council's Policy 4.4 Regional Price Preference provides some guidance.

Essentially this proposed policy has been modelled along the lines of this Regional Price Preference Policy except that it is suggested that the price considerations be halved from 5% to 2.5% with the threshold maximums also halved. This will also effectively mean a local Aboriginal entity will get two considerations namely a 5% max, (Regional Price Preference) and 2.5% max (Aboriginal Regional Price Preference)

Regardless of this, any qualitative selection criteria will also separately apply under Policy 4.3 Purchasing and this potentially also influence selection.

Consultation

Finance Manager and Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council adopt Policy 4.8 Aboriginal Regional Price Preference as attached with any amendments made at meeting.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council adopt Policy 4.8 Aboriginal Price Preference as attached with amendments made at meeting.

Carried

For 4

Against 0

19.1 Purchasing Policy

File: 14.20
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 November 2022
Attachments: 19.1.1 Policy 4.3 Purchasing

Matter for Consideration

Review and Revision of Policy 4.3 Purchasing

Background

As part of a regular review of Council's adopted Policies and Procedures the current Policy 4.3 Purchasing has been identified for review.

In part this is as a result of continuous review process but also as a result of a review by a Section 17 Review of Financial Operations undertaken pursuant to regulation 5(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*. by Council's Financial Accountant Travis Bate (RSM) issued 24 May 2022.

Amongst other things it was recommended that *"the purchasing policy should be reviewed and updated in order to reflect the practicalities of the Shire's Operations"*.

In addition to being the appropriate thing to do it is also important to ensure that Council's policy approach is consistent with respect to the Aboriginal Engagement provisions within the Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement that Council recently signed.

Comments

As indicated in the external review the purchasing policy should be reviewed and updated in order to reflect the practicalities of the Shire's Operations

In review of the current policy, it is recognised that whilst value for money is achieved through the critical assessment of price, risk, timeliness, environmental, social, economic, qualitative and locational factors these include *"the remote nature of the Shire in relation to potential suppliers to who are willing to service the Shire"*.

With is in mind the following main changes to affect this include the following:

1.4.3 Purchasing Thresholds and Practices

Purchasing Value Threshold	Changes to current Purchasing Policy Requirements
Up to \$5,000	No change to the current provisions
From \$5,001 and up to \$20,000	Seek one (1) quotation in lieu of two (2) quotations
From \$20,001 and up to \$50,000	Seek two (2) quotations in lieu of three (3) quotations except where it can be demonstrated through a review of historical practices only one (1) suitable supplier has consistently been able to service the Shire to meet the Shire's needs
From \$50,001 and up to \$150,000	No change to the current need to seek either two (2) of (3) quotations except that where it can be demonstrated through a review of historical practices only one (1) suitable supplier has consistently been able to service the Shire to meet the Shire's needs
Over \$150,000	No change to the current provisions

Purchasing Value Threshold

Changes to current Purchasing Policy Requirements

Emergency Purchases and those outside of Policy Guidelines
(Within Budget)

Must be approved by the Chief Executive. Previously this only applied to Emergency Purchases

2.2.1 Aboriginal Businesses

Inclusion of a specific clause as per the WALGA Template but with a specific reference to a new Aboriginal Price Preference Policy which may also come into play

This section also allows provision to be made for the inclusion of an additional Aboriginal Business content as part of assessment in the qualitative section of the selection criteria that is included in any purchase process.

Consultation

Finance Manager and Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council adopt Policy 4.3 Purchasing as attached with any amendments made at meeting.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler	
That Council adopt Policy 4.3 Purchasing as attached with amendments made at meeting.				
Carried		For	4	Against 0

Cr G Mead returned to the meeting at 2.25pm

19.3 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2022

File: 4.72
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 November 2022
Attachments: 19.3.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2022

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider accepting the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2022

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 2022 as presented and attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2022 as presented and attached.

Carried **For** 5 **Against** 0

19.4 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 November 2022

Attachments: 19.4.1 WALGA Best Practice Governance Review

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider proposals and information from WALGA with a view to providing feedback relating to a Best Practice Governance Review for the Association

Background

WALGA is undertaking a Best Practice Governance Review to ensure that the governance models are contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members. A significant body of work, which is summarised in a Background Paper, has been undertaken by the Project's Steering Committee. A Consultation Paper with various options has also been prepared. Both papers as attached have been separately circulated to councillors

In addition, to supplement Council feedback, WALGA will be undertaking independent consultation to gain deeper insights from the perspective of CEOs and Elected Members

Member feedback, in the form of a Council decision, is requested from Local Governments on the governance model options as presented in the Consultation Paper are requested by 23 December 2022

Comment

This item has also been listed on the Agenda of the 18 November Meeting of the WALGA Murchison Country Zone. Feedback from this meeting may also assist Council in determining a position. It is also suggested that assuming Council reaches and agreed position that a few comments are provided when responding to WALGA's request for feedback.

Recommendation

For Council to decide

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

That Council advise WALGA that it is favour of Option 5 being retaining the current WALGA Governance arrangements and that the following feedback be included in Council's response.

- ~ The current representative model provides an appropriate number and geographic spread of representatives throughout the State and thereby ensures a good divergence of views are represented.
- ~ Other models suggested have the potential to centralise power and diminish regional representation and overload work on individuals
- ~ The current election of President Deputy President from within the Executive provides for a more inclusive team than directly elected alternatives.
- ~ Feedback on the current operation indicates that the current processes are working well
- ~ Other options suggested do not demonstrate any specific improvements that may otherwise warrant a change.

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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19.5 Christmas Office & Roadhouse Closure

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 20 November 2022

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Noting

Council to note arrangements for the annual Christmas shutdown period.

Background

In line with previous years well established practice 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

In line with previous years well established practice and following discussions with staff it the administration office will be closed over the Christmas/ New Year Period with Office being closed from Monday 19 December 2022 reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2024, after the Monday 2 January 2023 public holiday.

As previously, advised the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park will be closed between 22nd of December 2022 to 8th of January 2023; re-opening on Monday 9th of January 2023. Public toilets will remain open, and fuel will be available with 24-hour access to fuel bowser with card swipe facility.

For Information

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 22 November 2022
Attachments: Nil

The following update of activities is provided

Date	Activity
24.10.2022	Agenda Work. Administration. Asset Management Work
25.10.2022	Recruitment Work. Audit Queries follow up
26.10.2022	Meetings with Depot Officer and Finance Officer. Finance Officer Recruitment Work. Telephone discussion with Josh Cruze (Greenfields) about road sealing and gravel resheet works.
27.10.2022	Council Workshops and Meeting. Council Minutes
28.10.2022	Council Minutes. Meeting with Rick Ryan & Crain Smith. Follow up Audit Queries
29.10.2022	Travel to Gascoyne Junction. Attend Official Opening of Twin Rivers Park.
30.10.2022	Travel back from Gascoyne Junction.
31.10.2022	Meeting and catchup with Works Manager. Finalise Council Minutes. Finalise SKA Agreement and first year program. Commence Performance Review Preparatory Work
1.11.2022	Performance Review Preparatory Work. Meeting and discussion with Finance Manager relating to Audit work and financials
2.11.2022	Performance Review Preparatory Work. Assist Auditors Meeting and discussion with Finance Manager relating to Audit work and financials
3.11.2022	Performance Review Preparatory Work. Assist Auditors. Meeting and discussion with Finance Manager relating to Audit work and financials. Touch base and briefing relating to roadworks with Works Manager. Road Asset Management Work
4.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Attend PIA 20 Year School Celebrations. Telephone discussion update with Adam Murszewski (MWDC) regarding Vast Sky Project MWDC
5.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Attend Wadjarri Yamati ILUA Launch in Murchison
6.11.2022 to 8.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Assist Auditors. Meetings with Finance Manager
9.11.2022 to 10.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Assist & Meeting with Auditors
11.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Agenda Work
12.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Agenda Work. Catch up with Works Manager on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
13.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Agenda Work.
14.11.2022	TOIL
15.11.2022	Road Asset Management Work. Agenda Work.
16.11.2022	Meeting and Briefing with Works Manager concerning Asset Management and Roadworks Programs and Policy developments. Agenda Work
17.11.2022	Agenda and Monologue Work
18.11.2022	Work on Monologue. Attend WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting in Cue.
19.11.2022 to 20.11.2022	Agenda and Monologue Work
21.11.2022	Attend MEG Meeting in Yalgoo

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Carried

For 5

Against 0

17 FINANCE (Continued)

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: 18 November 2022
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 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

- 1 That pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 2022 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 2022 and 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 Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 2022 be discussed behind closed doors.

Carried **For** 5 **Against** 0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 2.48pm

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr G Mead	
Council to come out from behind closed doors.		
Carried	For	Against

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 2.53pm

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

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr G Mead	Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor		
That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 2022 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council			
Carried	For	5	Against 0

18 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

19 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 3.01pm

Minutes of the of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 17 December 2022

Signed..... Presiding Officer