



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **27 June 2024**, commencing at 12.00 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 – 23 May 2024	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
	15.1 Audit Committee	5
16	WORKS	7
	16.1 Works Report.....	7
17	FINANCE.....	10
	17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council	10
	17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 May 2024.....	12
	17.3 2024 / 2025 Rates Review Update.....	13
	17.4 Short Term Borrowing Facility	15
18	DEVELOPMENT	18
	18.1 Community Development Progress Report.....	18
19	ADMINISTRATION.....	23
	19.1 Local Loyalty Scheme	23
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT	25
21	OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS	26
22	MEETING CLOSURE.....	26

ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.00noon

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Note. Owing to rainfall, road conditions various roads were closed within the Shire with two councillors attending the meeting remotely via Teams.

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Cr A Whitmarsh (*Remote via Teams*)

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor (*Remote via Teams*)

Cr Q Fowler

Cr M Fowler

Cr G Mead

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO

Lisa Keen – Executive Manager/DCEO

Travis Bate – Financial Accountant (RSM)

Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apology

William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 May 2024

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 23 May 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 May 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

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 E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

Thursday 25 July 2024

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil. Councillor potential attendance at WALGA State Conference to be addressed at the July 2024 Meeting

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Nil apart from general informal interactions with Senior Council Staff.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

- ~ Camp Oven Muster Festival Meeting via Teams on 29 May 2024
- ~ Mid-West Development Meeting via Teams on 21 June 2024

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15.1 Audit Committee

File: 2.2
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 June 2024
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit Committee Meeting Agenda & Attachments

Matter for Consideration

To receive and consider a report from the Audit Committee their review of the Office of The Auditor General's Performance Audit on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards and Murchison Shire's Review and response.

A copy of the Audit Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments for the meeting on 27 June 2024 was separately circulated to all councillors. Meeting included the following recommendations which were presented to Council.

Committee Recommendations

Auditor General's Performance Audit on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards

That the Audit Committee notes the Chief Executive Officers Report on the Auditor General's Performance Audit on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards and the actions proposed to be undertaken in response and reports to these findings to the June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting

Policy Updates Relating to Management of Purchasing Cards

That the Audit Committee

- 1 Notes the Chief Executive Officers Report Policy Updates Relating to Management of Purchasing Cards and the actions proposed to be undertaken in response
- 2 Endorses the attached Policies 3.1 Staff Matters and 4.1 Financial Operations as amended

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council adopts the following recommendations from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 27 June 2024

Auditor General's Performance Audit on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards

That Council notes the Audit Committees report on the Auditor General's Performance Audit on Local Government Management of Purchasing Cards and the actions proposed to be undertaken in response.

Policy Updates Relating to Management of Purchasing Cards

That Council

- 1 Notes the Audit Committees Report relating to Management of Purchasing Cards and the actions proposed to be undertaken in response and
- 2 Endorses the Policies 3.1 Staff Matters and 4.1 Financial Operations as amended

Carried

For

6

Against

0

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: Lisa Keen – Executive Manager DCEO
Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer *
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 June 2024
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The first earthworks on the new section (SLK 208.23) which is just north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road intersection began on the 5th of June. Rain events initially delayed the mopping up along the recently sealed section by a few days. The camp has also been moved 8kms north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road intersection. Some work installing signage and guide posts along both the recently sealed section and the section that was sealed last year has also been completed.

Maintenance

Since Council last met the maintenance crew have completed the Beringarra-Cue Road, Mt Gould Road, Beringarra-Byro Road, Erong Road and Yunda Road and have done a patch grade on Innouendy Road. By the time Council meets they should be working their way south along Carnarvon Mullewa Road.

SKA Route Upgrade and Maintenance

Walladar are getting close to finishing the realignment works on Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road, despite delays caused by rain. Various sections along the whole of the SKA route are going to require maintenance grading however at the time of writing this report there is further rain forecast and as such, this work has been postponed.

Water Upgrade

Murchison Gas & Plumbing have now completed works to the stage that the new pumps can run off the temporary/backup generator. Trenching has been dug and some conduit laid for the permanent power supply in future.

Ablution Block

The new ablution block is booked for delivery on Monday the 5th of August with MI Global due on site in July to complete the setout. Once setout is complete, pad excavation will begin and after the building is in place Murchison Gas & Plumbing and Hosken Electrical will commence plumbing and electrical connection works and Yuin Pastoral will pour concrete for the verandah and pathways.

Roadhouse Point of Sale System

Our new point of sale system in the roadhouse has now been installed and is operative. There have been some teething issues, as to be expected with any new system, but these are being worked through and the capabilities and advantages of the system are already proving to show its worth. An extra special thank you to Julia who has spent a lot of time in the last couple of weeks setting up the back end.

Roadhouse Staff

Joop, Julia and Gwen's time with us is coming to an end with their last day being 7th July. A huge thankyou to all three who have stepped up and done a marvellous job especially during the time with no managers in place- they will be sincerely missed. Welcome to Scott and Tanith who have arrived to take over the reins.

An advert has been placed on Seek for a Roadhouse Manager and support person and applicants are already flooding in with a view to conduct interviews and get the positions filled as soon as possible

Community Pool / Splash Pad*

Pool concept layout design has been finalised and detailed design commenced including hydraulics design. Health Department approval will be required. Construction of Splash Pad features will soon to commence.

Carnarvon- Mullewa Road Upgrade and Widening Program*

At the last meeting as per the following extract Will advised that *“the stabilization and sealing works are completed. There is still some cleaning up and cosmetic work to be done and a little tinkering around the odd floodway. The cement stabilized pavement certainly came up spectacularly. Expensive it certainly was and time will tell if this was the correct move or not.” My thanks to WA Stabilizers for guiding us through the process in the initial phases. Also, Bitutek who once again arrived and made things happen smoothly and efficiently. All in all, I am extremely pleased with the final result.”*

Following discussions with Will the extent of changes to works initially envisaged were significant which naturally increased the overall cost. Rather than a basic stabilisation in situ it was found that large sections of subgrade consisted of inferior material that needed to be removed with the road level also having to be lowered to allow for improved cross drainage. A decision was also made to also undertake an additional length of around 1.0km associated with a 7.0m wide sealed section had virtually no shoulders. It was considered opportune to cost effectively upgrade as all of the construction plant was in position with section also able to be part funded through the LRCIP Program as MRWA funds can only be applied to widening of 4.0m sections.

Perhaps in hindsight from a budget viewpoint it was unwise to have all works were cement stabilized rather than just the floodway sections, although from a long-term viewpoint this decision may eventually prove wise. This also meant an additional prime coat was required although Will is now of the view that this additional cost is worthwhile moving forward as this additional prime coat delivers final two coat seal which of better quality for our material. Overall lots of lessons learnt as this was the first time we had used profile cement stabilization over such a large area.

Will has advised that moving forward north of the Twin-Peaks-Wooleen Road existing insitu pavement material is of better quality and road levels are not expected to be such a dramatic issue with a more realistic cost per km expected and budgeted for.

Overall costs have been able to be managed to a large extent budget wise through transfer of locations of two of the four MRWA 2024/25 Projects located north of Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road to works recently completed north of Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road. Reconstruction and widening works undertaken for the 9.8km length included funding from the LRCIP, Main Roads WA and Shire. Additionally, 3.6km of reseals were also undertaken at the same time.

SKA Route Update*

Recently we have been advised that MRWA have reached agreement with City of Greater Geraldton to allow them to take on maintenance responsibilities for the gravel section on the Carnarvon- Mullewa Road. As a result, MRWA have authorised the Shire to undertake the required works and to obtain an independent condition survey of the gravel section, plus a detailed design using survey information that has already been obtained through Mid-West / Royalty of Regions Business Case funding. In this way any sections that require reconstruction as a cost-effective approach to maintenance, can be undertaken with a long-term view in mind.

Meanwhile invoices for outstanding completed works undertaken thus far have been sent, plus a progress payment for future works via an interim 2024/25 maintenance program. This interim program will be reviewed and expanded once Will returns.

CSIRO Beringarra-Pindar Road Maintenance Contribution*

In conjunction with Will, over the past 12 months or so various discussions have been undertaken with CSIRO with a view to ascertaining the current status of the CSIRO Beringarra-Pindar Road Maintenance Contribution Agreement and any applicable payments that may be required. Also briefly discussed was a potential future approach, especially considering that the current agreement only applies to a maintenance contribution with no provision for contribution towards asset replacement works associated with works such as resheets.

Recent discussions with Chris Brayton from CSIRO have been positive with a supportive information provided to CSIRO utilizing information from the Shire's Road Asset Management Plan to justify reconciliation of the current agreement, including payments, as well as potential future changes. We await CSIRO's response.

Infrastructure Development Fund Update*

As previously verbally advise recent discussions to finalise the \$1.1m funding agreement with DPLH to deliver an upgrade in power supply (new Powerhouse) and water supply (Chlorinator) within the next 12-18 months as a precondition of delivering worker accommodation in the medium term are nearing completion.

At this stage we are looking to spread delivery of the first stage of works of worker accommodation (Roadhouse Manager and two support staff) to the end of 2026 with commitments also required via transfers to a workforce accommodation reserve as a condition of funding. This effectively spreads the financial commitments over the next three, not two financial years as originally proposed. Apart from the Roadhouse Managers Residence (dwelling) the balance of accommodation units are expected to be small single person type configurations.

A side benefit but also at a cost is that the Roadhouse Redevelopment will need to also occur within this timeframe. The Community Officer is looking at funding support options and has a strong business case to work with associated with these works and other settlement development works that are currently in train.

Comments

The Executive Manager DCEO expressed thanks to Cr R Foulkes-Taylor, C A Whitmarsh and Cr G Mead, on their feedback, assistance and advice in relation to road conditions during recent rainfall events

Cr Foulkes-Taylor and Cr Emma-Foulkes-Taylor requested that a diagram with SLK locations be provided to show the locations construction works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

Carried

For

6

Against

0

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: 22 June 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2024 (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 that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2024 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2024 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

Simple Majority

1 Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2024 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.15pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.16pm

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1.1

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2024 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

6

Against

0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 May 2024

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 June 2024
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report May 2024

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 31 May 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 May 2024 as attached

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.3 2024 / 2025 Rates Review Update

File: 3.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 June 2024
Attachments: 17.3.1 Nil
17.3.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2024/25 Financial Year

Matter for Consideration

Update review of Council's Rating Strategy as part of Council considering its proposed 2024/25 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

Background

At the May 2024 Council Meeting Council considered a comprehensive 2024/25 Rates Review Report before resolving as follows.

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2024 / 25 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2024/25 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2024/25 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
<i>UV Pastoral</i>	9.325	900
<i>UV Mining</i>	18.550	900
<i>UV Prospecting & Exploration</i>	18.550	900

- 4 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2024/25 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 5 That public submissions be invited.

Since this time public notice has been undertaken in the Western Australian where it indicates that Electors or ratepayers are invited to make submissions regarding the proposed differential rates, to be received at the Shire Office no later than 4.00 pm Wednesday 26 June 2024.

Comment

At the time of preparing the agenda no submissions have been received. On the basis that no public submissions are received prior to the Meeting then Council is able to adopt the differential rates and minimum as advertised when adopting its budgets. The recommendations below are prefaced on this scenario. Should submissions be received prior to the meeting then Council will need to consider and have regard to them prior to making a final determination on what differential rates and minimums are finally adopted.

Budget / Financial Implications:

Proposed differential rates will be set to meet the estimated budget deficiency in the 2024-25 financial year.

Strategic Implications

Delivery of strategic outcomes are impacted upon through the budget process as underpinned in part through the setting of rates.

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Detailed and professional administration; Compliance with statutory requirements; High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;</i>
Strategies	
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Sustainability Implications

Environmental	There are no known significant environmental considerations.
Economic	There are significant economic considerations.
Social	There will potentially be impacts on social considerations.

Policy Implications

Nil.

This report and the one that preceded it at the May 2024 Meeting will assist in an improved policy setting framework. As a result, these documents and draft budgets that result have identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates.

At the Meeting the Chief Executive Officer advised that no submissions had been received.

Recommendation

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2024 / 25 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues with its a policy position forming part of the 2024/25 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are ignored when setting rates.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2024 / 25 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues with its a policy position forming part of the 2024/25 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are ignored when setting rates

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

17.4 Short Term Borrowing Facility

File:

Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 24 June 2024

Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To recommend that Council authorises a short-term finance facility with Westpac to cover operational cashflow and year end reserve transfers.

Background

Operational Cash Flow

The Shire has undertaken significant roadworks in the 2023/24 financial year. Of particular note are:

- ~ SKA Capital Roadworks (\$1.85M above budget to 31 May 2024); and
- ~ Carnarvon Mullewa Road 208.68 – 241.74 Reconstruction & Widening (\$396K above budget to 31 May 2024).

The increased capital works has put pressure on operational cash flow. Additional invoices to main roads for SKA capital works totalling \$3.125m have been raised in June 2024. It was identified that additional funding would be required to pay creditors before these claims are received from main roads.

It is anticipated that the Main Roads invoices will be paid in late June and/or early July.

A short-term finance facility was arranged with Westpac, being the Shire's bankers. The key features of the facility being:

- a \$2.5 million limit
- b For the period 19 June 2024 to 1 August 2024
- c Interest Rate 10.49%

Under the Local Government Act 1995, the power to borrow (which includes obtaining credit) rests with Council and cannot be delegated to the CEO.

Furthermore, where the power to borrow is exercised (outside of the budget process), local public notice of the borrowing needs to be given.

Given the timing pressures associated with the need for cashflow, Council authorisation and local public notice as required by the Local Government Act has not previously occurred.

It is noted that cashflow pressures arise for small local governments such as Murchison undertaking significant road works, where creditors need to be paid in advance of funding being received. It is therefore proposed that the 2024/25 budget increases the Shire's overdraft limit to avoid timing pressures on cashflow occurring in the future requiring council resolution and local public notice being required.

Year End Reserve Transfers

At the time of preparing this report, advance payment of the 2024/25 Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) has not been received. However, based on previous experience, it is anticipated that a significant portion of the FAG will be received in the 2023/24 financial year.

Council has established the Grants Commission Reserve with the purpose *"To ensure that any Grants Commission funds received are only applied to income and expenses in the financial year in which they apply"*.

Should an advance payment of FAG be received in 2023/24, this will be transferred to the Grants Commission Reserve in accordance with the above stated purpose. This will require the short-term facility to be maintained past 30 June 2024. Any advance FAG payment will be withdrawn from reserve in early July in order to pay down the short-term facility in a timely manner so as to minimise interest expense.

Repayment of Short-Term Facility

The short-term finance facility will be repaid from:

- 1 \$2,575,524.61 (ex GST) from Main Roads for progress claim in relation to SKA Route Works;
- 2 Main Roads claims in relation to SKA route preliminary works \$550,000; and
- 3 2024/25 Financial Assistance Grant.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Legislative Requirements

Subdivision 3 — Borrowings

6.20. Power to borrow

- (1) *Subject to this Act, a local government may —*
 - (a) *borrow or re borrow money; or*
 - (b) *obtain credit; or*
 - (c) *arrange for financial accommodation to be extended to the local government in ways additional to or other than borrowing money or obtaining credit,**to enable the local government to perform the functions and exercise the powers conferred on it under this Act or any other written law.*
- (2) *Where, in any financial year, a local government proposes to exercise a power under subsection (1) (power to borrow) and details of that proposal have not been included in the annual budget for that financial year —*
 - (a) *unless the proposal is of a prescribed kind, the local government must give one month's local public notice of the proposal; and*
 - (b) *the resolution to exercise that power is to be by absolute majority.*
- (3) *Where a local government has exercised a power to borrow and —*
 - (a) *it does not wish to proceed with the performance of the function or the exercise of the power for which the power to borrow was exercised; or*
 - (b) *after having completed the performance of the function or the exercise of the power for which the power to borrow was exercised, any part of the money borrowed, credit obtained or financial accommodation arranged has not been expended or utilized,**the local government may resolve* to expend the money or utilize the credit or financial accommodation for another purpose if one month's local public notice is given of the proposed change of purpose.*

** Absolute majority required.*

- (4) *A local government is not required to give local public notice under subsection (3) —*
 - (a) *where the change of purpose has been disclosed in the annual budget of the local government for the relevant financial year; or*
 - (b) *in such other circumstances as are prescribed.*
- (5) *A change of purpose referred to in subsection (3) is to be disclosed in the annual financial report for the year in which the change occurs.*

6.21. Restrictions on borrowing

- (1) *Where, under section 6.20(1), a regional local government borrows money, obtains credit or arranges for financial accommodation to be extended to the regional local government that money, credit or financial accommodation is to be secured only —*
 - (a) *by the regional local government giving security over the financial contributions of the participants to the regional local government's funds as set out or provided for in the establishment agreement for the regional local government; or*
 - (b) *by the regional local government giving security over Government grants which were not given to the regional local government for a specific purpose; or*
 - (c) *by a participant giving security over its general funds to the extent agreed by the participant.*
- (1a) *Despite subsection (1)(a) and (c), security cannot be given over —*
 - (a) *the financial contributions of a particular participant to the regional local government's funds; or*

(b) the general funds of a particular participant,
if the participant is not a party to the activity or transaction for which the money is to be borrowed by, the credit is to be obtained for, or the financial accommodation is to be extended to, the regional local government.

- (2) Where, under section 6.20(1), a local government borrows money, obtains credit or arranges for financial accommodation to be extended to the local government that money, credit or financial accommodation is only to be secured by giving security over the general funds of the local government.
- (3) The Treasurer or a person authorised in that behalf by the Treasurer may give a direction in writing to a local government with respect to the exercise of its power under section 6.20(1) either generally or in relation to a particular proposed borrowing and the local government is to give effect to any such direction.
- (4) In this section and in section 6.23 —
general funds means the revenue or income from —
- (a) general rates; and
 - (b) Government grants which were not given to the local government for a specific purpose; and
 - (c) such other sources as are prescribed.

[Section 6.21 amended: No. 49 of 2004 s. 59.]

Budget/Financial Implications

Interest will be payable on any outstanding balance of the short-term facility.

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Notes the Financial Accountants Short Term Borrowing Report.
- 2 Exercises the power to obtain credit in accordance with Local Government Act 1995 S6.20(1)(b) of:
 - a A short-term facility with Westpac, the terms of which are:
 - i \$2.5 million limit.
 - ii For the period 19 June 2024 to 1 August 2024.
 - iii Interest Rate 10.49%.
- 3 Instructs the CEO to proceed with Local Public Notice of the borrowings as required by Local Government Act 1995 S6.20(2).

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council:

- 1 Notes the Financial Accountants Short Term Borrowing Report.
- 2 Exercises the power to obtain credit in accordance with Local Government Act 1995 S6.20(1)(b) of:
 - a A short-term facility with Westpac, the terms of which are:
 - i \$2.5 million limit.
 - ii For the period 19 June 2024 to 1 August 2024.
 - iii Interest Rate 10.49%.
- 3 Instructs the CEO to proceed with Local Public Notice of the borrowings as required by Local Government Act 1995 S6.20(2).

Carried

For

6

Against

0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 21 June 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report June Council Meeting

Background

This report seeks to inform the Shire of the works undertaken in relation to references to the relevant objectives and strategies contained within the Community Strategic Plan, in accordance with the following Vision Statement.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives & Strategies	<i>Description</i>

Murchison Camp Oven Muster

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>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by: Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required. Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.). Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible; 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>

Event overview

The purpose of the Murchison Camp Oven Muster is to create a wholesome annual event that embraces community participation, creating connectedness for all Muster goers through authentically Murchison experiences.

Event Progress

The event program has now been confirmed and includes camp oven cooking, wood carving and turning, wildflower walks, bush tucker taste and talk, construction and flying of kites, family games, community long table dinner, campfire sing-a-long, stargazing, astrophotography, line dancing, Murchison market, bush poetry, billy boiling, morning smoko and working dog demonstration with Q&A.

The Working Group have strongly participated in the event development process and intend to support the on the ground delivery. Thank you to the council for fostering such strong community participation. By enabling actions by our community we make the most of our scarce resources including staff, assets and finances. The empowerment of our community creates better and more resilient outcomes. The working groups active participation and decision making ensures the event is most likely to meet community expectations.

Tickets for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster have now been launched and the working group are coming together again in early July to discuss more detail regarding the event plans.

A press release has been issued and marketing collateral is now available. Some examples are shown as follows.



Settlement Tourism

Economic Objective 1 *To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.*

Tourism Development *To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.*

During the stocktake of assets we uncovered collections of works from banners to photos that require restoration. This includes hand painted banners from as far back as 2006. I will be reaching out to the community to be able to ascertain the artist. One of them I have found providence on as created by the late Jano Foulkes-Taylor. After some cleaning and repairs we intend to hang them on the banner poles on the main street.



Another was a photo of the 1923 first annual reunion of the pastoralist association, this has been restored by settlement Handyman Adam Fogarty and hung in the Shire chambers.

Tourism initiatives underway include the story towns bespoke tour for the Roads to Rehydration Project. Scheduled to be recorded on 28th June with Cr Emma Foulkes Taylor and Works Manager William Herold.

The Settlement now has control over their own social media accounts and will be using these to highlight what is happening in the Settlement.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Interpretive Centre	<i>Development of an Interpretive Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

Unfortunately, there are currently no updates in this space discussions with WARRL are ongoing.

Community Garden

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>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by:</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

To further develop potential economic outcomes of the Community Garden we have been discussing the potential upgrade and licensing of the kitchen in the Settlement Sports Club and further afar to the potential of residential kitchens within the Shire. The point of sale upgrades in the Roadhouse have created the operational viability for locally made produce to be sold through the roadhouse thus supporting the development of cottage industry.

2025 Significant Event Opportunity – Box Rally

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 by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>

Support for Community Groups

Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Civic Leadership Objective 4

*To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:
Regional collaboration where possible;*

Regional Collaboration

Work collaboratively with neighbouring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.

We have been contacted by Box Rallies and they have expressed their interest to make Murchison a stop on their 15 year anniversary Shitbox Rally in 2025.

Opportunity

Box rallies have proposed they will bring 250 vehicles and 500 people for an overnight stop on Friday 20th June 2025. They would like to engage local community groups to provide dinner, dessert, breakfast and a take away lunch.

Background

Shitbox Rally is not a race, rather a challenge to achieve the unthinkable... To drive cars worth just \$1,500 across Australia via some of its most formidable roads, all in the name of charity.

This rally is for those who want to have an adventure, have fun, who crave something different, who want to make new life long friends, take part in something memorable but most importantly, it's for those who want to raise much needed money for charity.

Many of us have been affected by cancer in one way or another. Whether it be parents, family, close friends, people we know or ourselves that have battled or are battling cancer, this awful disease has touched us all. We not only want to raise awareness and money for Cancer Council, but also want to offer support and a friendly ear to those that have suffered or are suffering.

Here is the web link Spring Rally from 2024 - <https://player.vimeo.com/video/889352329>

Thank you so much for choosing Yaraka as a stopover for your rally. For us, as a community, it was a wonderful occasion and your group were friendly, delightful, well behaved, appreciative – and entertaining! We hope you come back again! It would be true to say that we were nervous about the population explosion – a population explosion of 2655% to be exact but everything seemed to run very smoothly and everyone, without exception, were very complimentary about the dinner and breakfast which was very encouraging. From our town's perspective it was a real boost – dehydrated vehicles lined up at the bowsers, dehydrated people buying drinks and the voluntary workers who prepared and cooked the meals resulted in swelling the funds of the RFDS etc. Your rally is the largest that Yaraka has ever catered for and knowing that your well organised efforts result in huge contributions toward the Cancer Council make it all so worthwhile for everywhere you pass through these towns. Congratulations on the organising and professional way in which you do everything – a win win for everyone. Many thanks again. Yaraka Community

2025 Artist Residency Opportunity - Art on the move (AOTM)

Economic Objective 1

To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.

Tourism Development

To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Social Objective 3

To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:

Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

Supporting community groups.

Support for Community Groups

Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Civic Leadership Objective 4 *To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:
Regional collaboration where possible;*

Regional Collaboration *Work collaboratively with neighbouring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.*

Opportunity

Collaborate with AOTM to establish an annual residency program. This would involve providing accommodation for a period of 4 – 8 weeks for an artist to live in the Murchison Settlement. Shire staff would support the artist to visit stations and provide opportunities for the community to gather to learn from the artist. AOTM would facilitate the application process and provide an artist payment. Residencies currently offered as part of the art on the move program include Carnamah, Shark Bay and Albany.

Background

As the only Western Australian organisation dedicated to touring visual art exhibitions throughout the regions, interstate and beyond, ART ON THE MOVE plays a critical role in connecting art, people, and place. In addition to our touring exhibitions and engagement programs, AOTM support the sector through advocacy, capacity building and opportunities for creative and professional development.

AOTM work towards the development of a diverse, connected, and thriving arts sector throughout WA and beyond that contributes to community wellbeing and economic prosperity. AOTM champion artists and galleries for the essential role they play in enriching Australian cultural life, creating opportunities for education, reflection, and exchange.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

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

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed above for each item.

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	
That Council note the Community Development Progress Report				
Carried		For	6	Against 0

Comment

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor expressed thanks to the Community Officer for the outstanding work thus far in advancing the planning for the Camp Oven Muster Festival

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Local Loyalty Scheme

File:	4.40
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	22 June 2024
Attachments:	19.1.1 Draft Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme

Matter for Consideration

Adoption of a Local Loyalty Scheme, initially through the operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse

Background

Under the Fees and Charges (Prices) section of Council Policy 5.2 Roadhouse Operations, subject to any local loyalty scheme approved by Council prices charged at the Roadhouse shall be uniform for all patrons.

When the Roadhouse Point of Sale System (Roadhouse POS) was being considered provisions to apply a potential discount were included in the design as only then would it be feasible to implement any such scheme. Recently a new Roadhouse Point of Sale System has been installed meaning that a Local Loyalty Scheme can now be considered and implemented if Council so chooses.

Comments

It is considered that the objectives of the Local Loyalty Scheme mirror that of Council Policy 5.2 Roadhouse Operations which are shown as follows.

To manage and operate the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park with the aim of ensuring 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.

As a not-for-profit organisation in a remote area, Council is committed to balancing the desire to make a commercial return with the aims of providing local support, local employment and tourism attraction benefits within a community operation.

Any loyalty scheme requires at the very least some form of record of who is eligible so that it can be applied creditably. The rationale for application should also be stated.

The Roadhouse POS system has been allocated one separate customer number so whilst individual transactions cannot be separated total transactions can be recorded and the application reviewed.

From a practical simple viewpoint, at least initially, application should as far as practicable be applied uniformly on a product-by-product basis. A straight % discount is considered the simplest and readily understood and applied in similar discount regimes. An annual charge could also apply if desired. Provisions for exemptions and the ability to have vary these will also be needed.

The attached draft Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme has been prepared on the basis that initially it is envisaged to the operations of the Roadhouse although it can be expanded later to wider areas if Council so decides. It is also proposed that everything else including meals should be covered other than specific exemptions such as caravan park fees, accommodation, power cards , fuel and cigarettes etc with discretion afforded to the CEO as circumstances change.

Previous preliminary discussions at councillor level indicated that it could be only apply to staff. However, there are also good arguments to also apply to Shire Residents, albeit recognising perhaps some complexity in identification of the applicable person; given the strong staff community linkages that exist and are being expanded upon as outlined in the Community Officer's Report, and other community works that are under

construction and development and which will further encourage residents to access the settlement. This aspect is up to Council with the Draft Policy predicated on a Shire Resident wide approach. In any event Council can define its own beneficiaries. Terms and conditions and administrative provisions will be subject to development by the Chief Executive Officer.

It is considered that the actual % reduction or any annual fee (if any) that is applied be adopted as a separate fee and charge with reference to the policy rather than have the actual fees and reductions imbedded in the policy, much like how the Roadhouse Fuel Policy is applied

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

Element	<i>Description</i>
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>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by: 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>

Financial Implications

Slight adjustments will be incorporated in the 2024/25 Budget

Recommendation

That Council.

- 1 Adopt Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme as attached
- 2 Apply a 10% reduction in prices charged and a \$0 annual fee in accordance with the provisions Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme for those applicable items.

Note at the meeting councillors considered that the Scheme should apply for an initial 12 months when it could then be reviewed.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Adopt Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme as attached for an initial 12month trial period beginning 1 July 2024 when it could then be reviewed. 2 Apply a 10% reduction in prices charged and a \$0 annual fee in accordance with the provisions Policy 5.8 Local Loyalty Scheme for those applicable items. 			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 24 June 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The table below provides an update of activities undertaken since the last report.

Date	Activity
21.05.2024	Sealing Invoice Costs Reconciliation. Polocrosse Meeting with Works Manager & Executive Manager DCEO. Telephone discussion with Shire President
22.05.2024	Catch up meetings with Executive Manager DCEO & Community Officer. Meeting with Executive Manager DCEO and Roadhouse Mangers. Sealing Invoice Costs Reconciliation.
23.05.2024	Catch up with Works Manager & Executive Manager DCEO. Meeting with Executive Manager DCEO and Roadhouse Staff. Biggest Morning Tea. Council Meeting. Council Minutes & follow up actions
24.05.2024	TOIL .Council follow up actions
27.05.2024	Annual Leave
28.05.2024	Emails. Council, Minutes, Follow up Council Actions Tourism Work TOIL
29.05.2024	Emails. Remote Camp Oven Muster Teams Meeting. Sealing Invoice Analysis. Personal Leave. TOIL
30.05.2024	Credit Card Review Team Meeting with Executive Manager DCEO and Office Auditor General. Emails touch base with Executive Manager DCEO. Personal Leave. TOIL
31.05.2024	Personal Leave.
3.06.2024	WA Public Holiday. Credit Card Audit Response
4.06.2024	Touch base with Executive Manager DCEO. Admin Emails Roadwork apportionment. TOIL
5.06.2024	Carnarvon-Mullewa roadworks cost finalisation. Touch base with Executive Manager DCEO & Shire President. TOIL
6.06.2024	Emails. MRWA Program. Beringarra-Pindar Road Cost work. Catch up with Works Manager via phone. TOIL
7.06.2024	Annual Leave
9.06.2024	Emails Admin. MRWA Road program work
10.06.2024	MRWA Road program work. Beringarra-Pindar Road Maintenance Agreement Work. Catch up with Chris Brayton (CSIRO). Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO
11.06.2024	MRWA Road program work. Telephone discussion with Leon Wilson MRWA regarding SKA Road Program. Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO
12.06.2024	Annual Leave
13.06.2024	Fuel Review. Emails. Touch base with Travis Bate Financial Accountant RSM and Executive Manager DCEO via phone. Personal Leave.
14.06.2024	Annual Leave
17.06.2024	Touch base with Executive Manager DCEO at Depot. SKA Route and MRWA Claim Work
18.06.2024	Admin Emails follow up work. Road Assets Update. Credit Card Review Report
19.06.2024	Credit Card Review Report. Local Loyalty Program Policy. Audit Committee Agenda and Council Agenda Work
20.06.2024	Council Agenda Work. Catch up and briefings with Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer
21.06.2024	Council Agenda Work. Finance Work. Catch up and briefings with Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer.
22.06.2024 to 24.06.2024	Council Agenda Work and other administration and Finance Work.

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	M Fowler
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.55pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 25 July 2024

Signed..... Presiding Officer