



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 **22 August 2024**, 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 12.00noon

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
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
William Herold – Works Manager
Lisa Keen – Senior Executive Manager DCEO

Apologies

Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 July 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 25 July 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 25 July 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 G Mead

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 26 September 2024

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Q Fowler and Cr M Fowler advised that they would be absent from the next Ordinary Council Meeting and requested a Leave of Absence

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Cr Q Fowler and Cr M Fowler be granted Leave of Absence from the next September Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

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

Shire President indicated that

- ~ He was pleased to see that the optic fibre cable works installation heading south from the Shire Settlement had commenced.
- ~ Inaugural Camp Oven Muster Festival held on 3-4 August 2024 in Murchison was in his view the best community led event undertaken for a number of years with thanks expressed to local community volunteers and Shire Staff for their efforts.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Undertook various discussions with the CEO and Works Manager concerning the management of unauthorised haulage traffic in connection with the 10M mining operation.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Camp Oven Muster Festival

26.07.24 Attended Final Working Group Meeting prior to the Festival

15.08.24 Attended post festival debrief

Mid-West Development Commission

9.07.24 Attended Development Commission Meeting to consider REDS Grants application. Good spread of applications from around the wider region but nothing from within the Murchison Zone Region. Next round of applications early next year.

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 August 2023
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The Construction Crew have progressed steadily with the drier conditions making work a little easier and less bogged gear to remove from sticky situations has certainly had an effect on the speed of the operation. Carting for this section was completed on Tuesday 13.08.2024. The mixing and laying should progress quickly before tackling the floodways which will take some time. The floodways will be boxed out to a minimum of 350 mm and stabilized before sealing. There is a possibility that this may be sealed by the end of December. The wood for the Camp oven muster was also collected and delivered as well as some signage work done when conditions were too damp. The boundary grid between Twin Peaks and Yuin was also cleaned out.

Maintenance

We are currently without a Maintenance Crew after Ivor Dumbris resigned and Brian Wundenberg moved on. I thank them both for their service to the Shire and wish them well in their future endeavors, what and wherever they may be. I hope to have one and possibly two new staff members to fill this role by the second half of September.

SKA Route Works

These works continue to test us with new challenges from time to time. After the last Council meeting I engaged Greenfield to assess damage done during the last wet spell in July and to assist me with planning some of the upgrade works for the coming financial year.

Walladar had to abandon the corner re-alignment and move to another job because of the wet conditions.

Rowe Contractors are engaged in repairs of the damaged and wet areas on the route, mainly Beringarra Pindar Rd. and Boolardy Wooleen Rd. Some of the bog holes were pumped out to speed up the drying process. As this route was closed for some time, traffic was redirected via Cue. This meant the Boolardy Kalli and Kalli Cue roads took a beating.

Woolbung Peak Mine Site (10M)

Council are already aware that 10M went into administration. It would appear there is a new entity that have taken it over. Confusion on many fronts appears to be the order of the day. CEO Bill is working to try and make sense of the situation. On the ground it caused considerable angst and frustration when they resumed carting the remaining ore without a Road User Agreement or maintenance protocols in place. Hopefully this will be resolved by the time Council meets.

** Since preparing this report it has been confirmed that 10M are now not in administration and are trading. This has also been confirmed through our Solicitors and a such the current agreement operates and remains in force. We understand that the now majority shareholder TP Mining Operations managing the day to day. It has been suggested that amongst other things they make arrangements to meet and discuss there ongoing operations with Council.

New Caravan Park Ablution Block

Delivery has again been delayed causing a bit of inconvenience as far as electricians, plumbers and concrete works go. Hopefully by the September Council meeting there will be a positive report.

Water Upgrade Works

These works are continuing sporadically as the Shire attempts to kill many birds with one stone. MGPWA have unfortunately been forced into a bit of a stop start situation.

DRFWA (Flood Damage Works)

Without tempting fate, I hope we will have these works in progress by late November 2024. It certainly has been a long drawn out and frustrating process and I fear it will not improve into the future.

*Update ***

By way of an update the level of frustration with DFES approval processes does not seem to be improving and should continue to be challenged.

The largest of a long list of sagas has recently come to light as the DFES have advised that *“an audit of the management system that sets out assurance requirements the State must meet when establishing the estimated cost for the reconstruction of essential public assets (EPAR) under the DRFAWA has recently been completed.*

The audit highlighted the need for updates to the previous assurance processes. One of these updates, relates to DRFAWA Control Objective 10.2.7 – Cost Estimation and Procurement – C4. ‘Applicable procurement processes are followed.’

To meet this control objective, a Procurement Certification Form is required to be completed for all cost estimates that are approved from 1 July 2024. This form is to be used by local government and state government agencies to describe and certify the applicable procurement processes that applied and were completed in relation to all pricing elements used to calculate an EPAR cost estimate value. In addition to completing the form, evidence must be provided demonstrating that the applicable process was completed in accordance with legislation and the policy, processes and procedures of the local government or state government agency.

A separate form is required for each procurement process completed and used to calculate the value of the EPAR cost estimate, this includes all estimated costs related to reconstruction works, project and contract management. As the approval of the EPAR Cost estimate submitted for your local government or state agency falls into the 2024-25 financial year, completion of the EPAR Procurement Process Certification Form (attached) is required.”

This advice relates to AGRN1062 which is still yet to receive final approval.

Putting aside one’s thoughts on this new extreme bureaucratic nature of the request provided at the 11th hour long after a large array of previous similar pedantic questions have been answered some 2 years 5 months from the actual event, it is suggested that the current desire to use existing contracts and contractors to undertake works is both appropriate and cost effective. This is notwithstanding that DFES has sought confirmation that THEM Earthmoving and Greenfield Technical Services have confirmed in writing that they are willing to use current rates that have been held in check for some two years and know that the previous processes that led to this situation have been previously accepted by DFES for current and previous flood events.

Under Council’s Purchasing Policy amongst other things purchases outside of policy guidelines (within budget) must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer and the reasons for not complying with the policy provisions documented.

Notwithstanding that schedule of rates tenders have been entered into following due process and that this policy provision does not apply in the avoidance of any doubt it is considered prudent these actions should be endorsed by Council. .

Recommendation

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 That the Works Report be noted
- 2 That in relation to current flood works projects including AGRN1062, that Council endorses the CEO's actions to utilise existing schedule of contracts, contract rates and appointed contractors by agreement as also previously acknowledged by DFES, to undertake the required works.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 That the Works Report be noted
- 2 That in relation to current flood works projects including AGRN1062, that Council endorses the CEO's actions to utilise existing schedule of contracts, contract rates and appointed contractors by agreement as also previously acknowledged by DFES, to undertake the required works.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

DRFWA (Flood Damage Works)

Councillors further discussed the latest update of recent DFES approval processes associated with DRWFA works associated with AGRN1062 and other projects and expressed significant disquiet that warrants action in relation the latest information request, and decided to send advice to DFES, and submissions to relevant Ministers and Local Members as per the following resolutions

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council notes that in relation to the AGRN1062 flood event

- 1 that DFES has sought confirmation that THEM Earthmoving and Greenfield Technical Services have confirmed in writing that they are willing to use current rates that have been held in check for some two years for the delivery of AGRN1062 flood restoration works, which are to be conducted in accordance with previously approved procurement processes and contracts associated with previous flood events that have been previously accepted by DFES and as such that the works should be approved on this basis without delay.
- 2 that Council notes the latest in a long list of overly bureaucratic requests from DFES the most recent of which was provided at the 11th hour long after a large array of previous similar pedantic questions have been answered some 2 years 5 months from the actual flood event and resolves to write and provide submissions to relevant Ministers and local members of Parliament on the state of affairs.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17 DEVELOPMENT

17.1 Corporate Business Plan

File: 2.15
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 August 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 Corporate Business Plan August 2024

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Corporate Business Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including	22 June 2023	This agenda Item
	Asset Management	24 August 2023	Update with 2024/25 Budget
	Workforce Planning	28 March 2019	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	24 August 2024	Update with 2024/25 Budget
	Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually		

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2024/25 Budget consideration.

Consultation

Bec Fogarty - Community Officer

Comments

The attached Corporate Business Plan was significantly updated in June 2023. This 2024 version is merely an extension of this with progress comments also appearing in each year’s Annual Report.

Given changes since 2017 the *Corporate Business Plan - Strategies & Actions Outline - June 2023 Section* has been updated with the following descriptors

- current this denotes that this element is currently in the existing Corporate Business Plan. ie no change just comments
- complan this denotes that this element was not in the existing Corporate Business Plan but was mentioned in the Community Strategic Plan... ie no real change just picking up what may have been missed and adding comments
- new these are new strategies and actions identified thus far

Some of the content of the plan directly relates to aspects associated with the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans. All budget related aspects are addressed separately in the 2023/24 Budget, Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan when these documents are updated.

Note a small number of minor amendments to the Corporate Business Plan were made at the meeting prior to its adoption.

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Corporate Business Plan Report and adopt the Corporate Business Plan August 2024.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr G Mead
That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Corporate Business Plan Report and adopt the Corporate Business Plan August 2024.		
Carried	For	Against

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Antony Schinkel (SKAO)

Antony Schinkel (SKA Low Site Construction Director) entered the room at 12:30pm to make a brief update of the SKAO operation and SKA Project and discuss various operational issues predominated around road maintenance and access.

SKA Progress

Antony Schinkel advised that due to rain delays on site and with road access plus issues associated with rock encountered on site that the project was a bit behind schedule.

SKA Route

Amongst other things Antony advised that he considered it a bit unfair that the Shire could be potentially out of pocket financially for repair works on the SKA Route and for other roads including sections of the Beringarra-Pindar Road and Boolardy-Kalli Road that are used operationally as part of the project. From a SKA project perspective, SKAO as the Australian part of the project and other member countries had received commitments from the State Government of an all-weather access road during the construction phase. As a result SKAO is not in a position to assist directly with any additional funding for the route, given the State Government commitments that apply to all members of the consortium.

Will Herold advised that the Shire appreciates the importance of the project and significant daily on-site commitments and costs of the project born by SKAO and has always endeavoured to keep the roads open to SKA related traffic especially with respect to rain events, often when in the normal course of events the road may warrant closure or tighter restrictions. In doing so on occasions additional damage over and above normal maintenance requirements has occurred. Other roads outside of the designated SKA Route such as the Boolardy-Kalli and Cue-Kalli Roads have had to be used resulting in additional damage which falls on the Shire. Will also outlined that we are very conscious of the need to ensure that MRWA funds are managed appropriately and fairly.

Antony advised that he recognises and appreciates the Shire's efforts. In relation to roads outside of the scope of the SKA Route, SKAO are looking to enter onto separate arrangements with the Shire.

In response to questions concerning non winter use for sections of the Beringarra-Pindar Road closely aligned with daily SKAO site traffic site which create excessive dust, wear and tear and increase maintenance, Antony advised that SKAO have received advise and costs of various options with sections of new seal proposed. Further discussions and agreements with the Shire are foreshadowed.

In recognition that and that additional State Government funds will inevitably be required for the SKA Route, Antony indicated that they, along with CSIRO, would endeavour to seek State Government Commitments in the first instance for increased funding, the quantum of which would need to be supported by follow up work by MRWA and the Shire.

Stakeholder Discussions

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor raised the question of the lack of recent community stakeholder discussions. Whilst direct dialogue with the Shire was welcome and positive, the wider community opportunities are missing. Antony advised that this was a matter for CSIRO and that it was important for SKAO to participate and would follow up direct with them

Antony Shinkel (SKAO) left the room at 1.00pm

The Shire President adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.01pm

The Shire President reponed the meeting after lunch at 1.31pm

17 DEVELOPMENT Continued

17.2 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 19 August 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report August 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:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>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 was held August 3rd and 4th. The event received significant positive feedback from both working groups and public that were in attendance as shown the below feedback table. The event had over 124 guests at the events main attraction which was the long table dinner portion of the event. There were no significant incidents that impacted the event negatively however RFDS was used to evacuate a participant, this was not due to the event.

Event Feedback Summary

#	Question	Result Summary	No Respondents
1	How was your overall experience?	6/10 – 1 8/10 – 8 9/10 – 10 10/10 - 13	32/32
2	Would you recommend the 2025 event to friends, family or acquaintances?	100% Yes	31/32
3	What was your favourite experience at the event?		31/32
4	Please rank the event experiences in order of most interest to least	Camp oven cooking demos Long table dinner Wildflower walk Working dog demo + Q&A Woodworking Kites Billy boiling Bush tucker taste and talk Stargazing tours Murchison market Line dancing Campfire sing-a-long Bush poetry Family games Astrophotography workshop	32/32
5	Use three words to describe how you feel about the event	Warm, fuzzy, community, connection, authentic, manageable, enjoyable, happy crying, bloody perfect weekend, bringing people together, sense of belonging, great for community, friendly, inclusive, unusual, educational, curious, adventurous, happy, friendly, fun, relaxed, fun, interesting, delicious, community pride, country pride, achievement, informative, welcoming, bloody good fun, organised.	32/32
6	What improvements would you like to see?	The answer to this was varied and extensive. A summary of request covered the topics of ~ Fire safety ~ More time between activities ~ More workshops ~ More ticket buying options price and method ~ Starting earlier on Saturday	29/32
7	Suggestions for 2025 event	~ Art Exhibition ~ More station focused sharing activities – farm to table, family games. ~ Spinning flower workshop ~ Painting, paper flower making, weaving ~ Food Vans ~ Whip Cracking	22/32

The working group process of developing the event successfully increased community pride for the Murchison area and community involvement in event development and execution was significantly important to the individuals involved.

Areas of strength in the working group were;

- ~ Doers – Have a go and get stuff done
- ~ Communicators – Tell the story and spread the word
- ~ Drivers – Take responsibility, organise and coordinate
- ~ Knowledge Holders – Know the people, history and place

The working group met on 15th August and completed a SWOT analysis of the event and have indicated intention of running it again next year at the same time of year, the first weekend in August. The above feedback was utilised in the meeting to put ideas together for the 2025 offering.

Continuing to support the community working groups process will see the event thrive, remain true to place and further develop community pride. This will also provide opportunities to potentially develop members/capacity in other key working group roles which are Connectors (Recruit people and build relationships) Dreamers (Have vision and story to inspire) Fundraisers (Chase Funding and opportunities) and Listeners (Listen, learn and remember).

Event Outcomes Report

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>
Ticket Sales	85 Tickets sold from 47 orders	Direct from booking platform and in person sales.
Active Participation	41 Camp Ovens for dinner 30+ Participants at individual experiences 32 Ticket holders who provide written feedback	Camp ovens counted Observation at experiences Post Event Survey
Attendance	50% Past or current Residents from Murchison LGA 20% Residents from neighbouring LGAS 30% Visitors and Tourists	Eventbrite and event conversations. Unfortunately, Eventbrite did not provide sufficient information so this had to be estimated.
Event Satisfaction	All ticket holders who answered the survey said they would recommend the event to friends and family. All ticket holders who answered the survey rated their experience above neutral. The survey received 32 responses in total 13 rated the experience 10/10 10 rated the experience 9/10 8 rated the experience 8/10 1 rated the experience 6/10	Post Event Survey

As the event occurred in the current month of reporting financials from our bookkeeping system will be available after end of month (August) has been completed as some invoices are still to be received. There were no significant unexpected or emergency costs that were incurred and it is expected that on the whole the event will be under budget.

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.

Currently it has been identified that below signage opportunities exist

Way Finding Sign at

- ~ Shire Office
- ~ Telephone Box - Access to emergency service (RFDS)
- ~ Information Gazebo – Map
- ~ Carnarvon Mullewa Rod - Botanic Walk Road Crossing

Educational/Tourism Signs

- ~ Welcome to the Museum
- ~ Information Gazebo – Botanic garden, museum, geo-region, story towns, bird watching
- ~ 3 information panels for transport items – Grader 1, Grader 2, Buggy
- ~ 2 information panels for transport items - replacements for tyre shrinker and camel cart

As part of the Camp Oven Muster event a settlement map was created (See below), this will be a corner stone for building awareness for the facilities available within the settlement. The next stage will include development of “zoomed in” caravan park to support Roadhouse operations, alongside this we will promote tourism

initiatives that are market ready and already supported by the Shire. These are Outback Pathways, Murchison Geo-Region and Settlement based tours and information like the story towns podcast.

I recommend the following stages include the digitisation of the existing bird watching materials and botanical garden information to increase accessibility to these elements to they can in turn be added to the above.



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 Interpretative 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>

A meeting has been scheduled on 21st August with WARRL and the Return it refund point and the Murchison Shire to discuss the below.

- ~ What collection infrastructure is most suitable for the Shire of Murchinson
 - o For collection
 - o For the Drop and Go Point
 - o For processing at the depot
- ~ What is the best infrastructure for the transport company
 - o Including how to get the infrastructure back to Shire of Murchinson

We expect a positive outcome and once the infrastructure is in place the system to be up and running as quickly as possible.

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>

I have reached out to the community and established that there is support for the development of an orchard. The community have reached out with a number of suggestions for the trees that the garden could contain. The closing date for applications to the above fund is August 21st. We will know the outcome of the grant application 12 weeks after closing.

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	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i>
Regional Collaboration	<i>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.</i>

The Box rallies have now opened registrations for the 2025 event and has confirmed Murchison is on the route. Their operations team has made initial contact and as more information comes available it will be shared with the community. The event offers great opportunities from a tourism perspective as the Shire will share their outback hospitality with the fresh faces of excited rally participants and their desire to raise funds for Cancer Council.

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

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: Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required. Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible;</i>
Regional Collaboration	<i>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.</i>

We are currently waiting of hear from Art One The Move as to the potential collaboration opportunity.

Education and Health Services Database

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. Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Health Services	<i>Explore strategies to improve the delivery of health services to residents of the Shire.</i>

A health services database has been created. This will soon be listed on the Murchison shire website on its own page and updates made through the community officer. The database will be promoted through shire social media and Murchison Monologue. This is consistent with the Corporate Business Plan.

Murchison Monologue

Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible; Detailed and professional administration; High levels of accountability; Compliance with statutory requirements; High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances; Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation; Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
Strategies	
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

We are working towards building digital templates for producing the Murchison Monologue monthly. The strategy includes the introduction of sections that support traffic through to the Murchison website where the most up to date information will be hosted, these section may include health services, road conditions and events to name a few.

The Shire has recently adopted a EDM software that has been successfully distributing emails regarding road reports and the marketing the Murchison Camp Oven Muster. The adoption of software like this makes the construction of a monologue issue more efficient while the switch to monthly distribution creates greater access to small digestible parcels of information.

The adoption of the EDM software will also allow for integration for website visitors to sign up to receive the community email and road reports. The software helps us meet the requirements of the The Spam Act of 2003.

Progress Update Provided at the Meeting

The Community Officer provided the following progress update at the meeting

- ~ Community Garden Grant application has been submitted outcome of our application won't be known for 12 weeks, we can expect notification at the end of December or early January.
- ~ Containers for change – This conversation was resoundingly positive! Return It and WARRL are so keen we have already organised IBC's, and bags for all residents and stations and as soon as the infrastructure is in place we will share the introduction of containers for change through the community email list and facebook.

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	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	G Mead	
That Council note the Community Development Progress Report				
Carried		For	6	Against 0

Camp Oven Muster Festival

Cr E Foukes-Taylor remarked that the Inaugural Camp Oven Muster Festival was extremely successful and thanked Bec Fogarty Community Officer, Lisa Keen Executive Manager DCEO, Council staff and community members for their efforts, noting that all were also able to enjoy the event as individuals as well as working. Debrief of event was extremely positive with the intention that the event be run the same time of year in the first weekend in August with a Friday evening start at Errabiddy Bluff followed by Saturday events, camp oven cook off and long table dinner concluding with a Sunday breakfast. Lessons learnt with some infrastructure, marketing and other materials already purchased mean that next year's event be easier to manage. Attendance, whilst a bit lower that hoped for, became a bit of a blessing in disguise as event was more manageable. Next year attendance to be capped at 170.

18 FINANCE

18.1 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 August 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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 July 2023 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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 Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

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 July 2023 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 1.38pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 1.40pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

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

18.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2024

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 August 2023
Attachments: Nil as per comment below

Note this Item will be held over till the next month as significant resources have been applied to end of year reconciliation and budget finalisation. The July Report when submitted to Council will then include adopted budget figures.

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 July 2024 as attached.

18.3 Asset Management Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 18 August 2024
 Attachments: 18.3.1 Asset Management Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Asset Management Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends'	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community. Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including.	22 June 2023	
	Asset Management Plan	24 August 2024	This Agenda Item. To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 Budget.
	Workforce Planning	28 March 2019	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	24 August 2024	Year 1 to underpin the 2024/25 Budget.
	Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually.		

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2024/25 Budget consideration.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant and William Herold - Works Manager

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the contents included in the Long-Term Financial and 2024/25 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management Plan Report and adopt the Asset Management Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management Plan Report and adopt the Asset Management Plan as attached.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

18.4 Long-Term Financial Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 18 August 2024
 Attachments: 18.4.1 Long-Term Financial Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends'	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community. Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including.	22 June 2023	
	Asset Management	24 August 2023	To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 Budget.
	Workforce Planning	28 March 2019	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	22 June 2023	This Agenda Item. Year 1 to underpin the 2023/24 Budget.
Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually.			

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2024/25 Budget consideration.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the 2024/25 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long-Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Note the Long-Term Financial considered by Council included updated schedules arising from late advice of the actual amounts of Grants Commission funding received for 2024/25, slight adjustments to depreciation and inclusion of the Statement of Financial Position.

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Long-Term Financial Plan Report and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Long-Term Financial Plan Report and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan as attached.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

18.5 2024-2025 Budget Adoption

File:	2.4
Author:	Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	18 August 2024
Attachments:	18.5.1 Murchison Shire 2024/25 Annual Budget
	18.5.2 Murchison Shire 2024/25 Budget Snapshot
	18.5.3 Fees and Charges 2024-25

Matter for Consideration

Council is to consider the Draft Budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year and the Fees & Charges Table for 2024-25 period.

Background

As part of the function of a local government as per its obligations under Section 6.2 of *the Local Government Act 1995*, that during the period 1 June to 31 August in a financial year the local government is to prepare and adopt its Annual budget in the prescribed format.

The 2024-2025 draft budget has been developed amongst other things in consideration of the following:

- ~ Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 - 2026/27
- ~ Corporate Business Plan 2024-2028 as per Agenda Item 17.1
- ~ Asset Management Plan 2025-2046 as per Agenda Item 18.3
- ~ Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2046 as per Agenda Item 18.4
- ~ Councilor workshop held on 25 July 2024.

COVID-19 Coronavirus General Influences

At the 20 August 2020 Council Meeting it was noted that ahead on the then 2020/21 budget deliberations that there were then various actions associated with the COVID-19 environment with several notable decisions made which influenced the then operating environment as follows

- 1 *In responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus that Council act in accordance with the following principles and rationale associated with health and economic activity:*
 - (a) *Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.*
 - (b) *Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.*
- 3 *That Council look to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community.*

Whilst this budget is impacted by previous decisions made during the COVID19 period, this is the second budget prepared where these COVID19 influences now do not specifically apply.

2024/25 Budget Summary

Prior to finalising the 2024/25 Council Budget significant bodies of work have been undertaken to continue to consolidate the 2023/24 major updates of our Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews and considered by Council previously and during the year at previous meetings as well at various Councillor Budget Workshops.

Whilst Budgets are set and delivered on an annual basis, in reality, works and services are delivered on a continuous basis with the financial year merely a point in time. The 2024/25 Budget follows this "*Structure follows Strategy Approach*" with the 2024/25 Budget effectively implementing year one of the Long-Term Financial Plan. Supporting budget information also includes a 4-year indicative Corporate Plan Budget which is an extract of the Long-Term Financial Plan but in an expanded form. The Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary Graph included in these documents highlights these approaches.

As previously foreshadowed at the July Councillor Workshop a small number of changes have been identified since the last Councillor workshop associated with end of year adjustments and updating budget estimates associated with budgeted items previously identified. Final documents incorporate these changes. It is also considered prudent that all supporting budget documents be formally endorsed by Council given the strategic importance of the 2023/24 Budget to Councils overall strategy.

2024/25 Budget Snapshot

The attached 2023/24 Budget Snapshot is a two-page simple summary of Council's 2023/24 Budget. It is intended that this will accompany the Rates Notices when they are sent out.

Accrual of Interest on Overdue Rates or Service Charges

Pursuant to s 6.51 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council may set an interest rate when adopting its annual budget on a rate or service charge, and any costs of proceedings to recovery of any such charge that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable. The interest rate however must not exceed the prescribed maximum rate of interest that is prescribed by regulation.

The maximum prescribed rate of interest on unpaid rates per *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 80* is 11%. 10% is proposed for 2024/25:

Year	Maximum Permitted Interest Rate % per annum	Council Interest Rate % per annum
2024/25	11.00%	proposed 10.00%
2023/24	11.00%	7.0%
2022/23	8.17%	7.0%
2021/22	8.03%	8.0%
2020/21	8.53%	8.0%
2019/20	9.83%	8.0%

Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020

In response to the current COVID-19 Coronavirus environment The Minister for Local Government implemented the *Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020* which had implications for Local Government on how Councils make their rating and budget decisions. As previously indicated, this is no longer applicable.

Differential General Rates – s6.33

A local government may impose a single general rate which applies to all the properties in the unimproved value or gross rental value category; or alternatively, the local government can distinguish between land in either category on the basis of its zoning, use or whether or not it is vacant land (or a combination of these factors) and apply a differential rate to each.

Ministerial approval is required where a differential rate which is more than twice the lowest differential rate is to be imposed by it.

At the May Council Meeting Council resolved 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 (\$)
UV Pastoral	9.325	900
UV Mining	18.550	900
UV Prospecting & Exploration	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.

All of the above actions were undertaken.

At the June Council Meeting the Chief Executive Officer advised that no submissions had been received. Council then resolved 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.

As previously advised the differential rates as advertised are not more than twice the lowest differential rate such that differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government. Accordingly, as recommended, the differentials and minimum rates as advertised can be formally declared.

Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2024/25

Note in preparing this element of this report no discussions have been held with any Elected Member.

Council is required on an annual basis, to determine fees and allowances for elected members. The range of permitted fee are determined under the *Salaries and Allowance Act 1975* as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal and as outlined in the 6 April 2023 Determination. Traditionally Council has adopted an Annual Attendance Fee in lieu of a per meeting attendance fee.

Details of applicable Fees and Allowances endorsed under the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal are shown as follows:

Tribunal Fee & Allowances (Band 4 Council)	Council Member		President	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member / President	\$3,884	\$10,286	\$3,884	\$21,138
Annual Allowance for President			\$556	\$21,710
Annual Allowance for Deputy President (25% of President)	\$139	\$5,427		
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$500	\$3,500		

It is for Council to determine Member fees and allowances so long as they set are within the allowable limits.

Historically Member Annual Attendance Fees have been set at the maximum. Maintaining this arrangement seems reasonable. In 2021/22 the President was around 37.5% above this but also well below the maximum so a slightly greater increase of around 50% above the member fee was introduced in 2022/23 and was considered reasonable. It is proposed that nexus be retained.

In 2019/20 the annual allowance for the President, was increased by around \$2,000 as it then was well under the mark for the work undertaken. At the time I was of the view that this situation remains and a progressively lifting the amount was justified. A \$2,000 increase was applied for 2022/23, 2023/24 and is again proposed for 2024/24.

Recommended fees and allowances including past years comparisons are outlined in the following table have been included in the recommendation.

Murchison Fee & Allowances	Council Member				President			
	2022	2023	2024	Proposed	2022	2023	2024	Proposed
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member / President	\$9,504	\$9,742	\$9,890	\$10,286	\$13,824	\$14,613	\$14,835	\$15,429
Annual Allowance for President					\$12,032	\$14,032	\$16,032	\$18,032
Annual Allowance for Dep President (25% of President)	\$3,008	\$3,508	\$4,008	\$4,508				
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$1,785	\$2,000	\$2,215	\$2,400				

Fees and Charges

All of the fees and charges which applied in 2023/24 have been reviewed considering the cost to Council and by comparing the proposed Fee or Charge to that charged by alternative suppliers in a similar situation. In the main, fees have remained at current levels but in some situations have been rationalised or modernised to reflect a more contemporary practice.

At the July Annual General Meeting a recommendation was passed to have the price of fuel sold at the Roadhouse reviewed. This was subsequently undertaken with the % current markup considered appropriate in relation to Councils policy which has the objective to operate these fuel facilities at neither a profit or loss over the medium to long term.

The attached schedule 18.5.3 shows previous years fees and what are proposed for 2024/25.

Statutory Environment:

Budget Adoption

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Section 6.2(2) of the Act requires that in preparing its annual budget the Council is to have regard to the contents of its plan for the future prepared in accordance with section 5.56. Under the Integrated Planning Framework for Local Government, that is the Community Strategic Plan. This section requires that Council must prepare detailed estimates of:

- (a) *Expenditure.*
- (b) *Revenue and income, independent of general rates*
- (c) *The amount required to make up the 'deficiency' if any shown by comparing the estimated expenditure with the estimated revenue and income.*

Section 6.2(3) requires that all expenditure, revenue and income must be taken in account unless otherwise prescribed. Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 32 prescribes amounts that may be excluded in calculating the 'budget deficiency'

Section 6.2(4) requires the annual budget to incorporate:

- (a) *Particulars of estimated expenditure proposed;*
- (b) *Detailed information relating to the rates and service charges which will apply, including:*
 - (i) *Amount estimated to be yielded by the general rate*
 - (ii) *Rate of interest to be charged on unpaid rates and service charges;*
- (c) *Fees and charges;*
- (d) *Borrowings and other financial accommodations proposed;*
- (e) *Reserve account allocations and uses;*
- (f) *Any proposed land transactions or trading undertakings per section 3.59*
- (g) *Such other matters that are prescribed*

Elected Member Fees & Allowances

Sections 5.98 to Section 5.99A Local Government Act 1995

Section 7A Salaries & Allowance Act 1975

Strategic Implications

As outlined above the Budget has been adapted to the with the view to achieving the community's vision and Shire's strategic goals use outlined by the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 -2026/27, Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027, Asset Management Plan 2024-2045, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2045 which together form the Shire Plan for Future.

Sustainability Implications

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

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The 2024-25 budget will guide the activities of the Shire for the financial year, but also in context for future years.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant and William Herold - Works Manager

Notes

- 1 *The 2024/25 budget considered by Council included updates to schedules arising from late advice of the actual amounts of Grants Commission funding received for 2024/25, slight adjustments to depreciation and variation in bank overdraft limits to distinguish between the Shire's permanent overdraft facility and temporary one that may apply to short term cashflow needs, usually applicable at the end of the financial year*
- 2 *The fees and charges adopted by Council excluded costs for facsimiles.*

Recommendation

That Council resolve resolutions as outlined in PARTS A to H as follows:

Part A- Budget Considerations

A1 That Council receives the 2024-2025 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and previous Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2024/25 Budget.

Voting Requirements

A1 Simple Majority

Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2024-25

B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2024/25 year as attachment 18.5.3 to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

B1 Absolute Majority

Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2024-25

C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2024/25 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

C1 Absolute Majority

Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2024/25

D1 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following meeting attendance fees for elected members:

President \$15,429 per annum

Councillors \$10,286 per annum.

D2 That Council, pursuant to section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual Information & Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance for elected members:

ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,400

D3 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

President \$18,032

D4 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

Deputy President \$4,508

Voting Requirements

D1, D2, D3, D4 Absolute Majority

Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2024-25

E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2024/25 financial year, including the following:

E1.1 2024/25 Budget Summary

E1.2 2023/24 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works

E2 That Council endorses the 2024/25 Budget Snapshot as attached.

E3 That in adopting the 2024/25 Budget that Council specifically notes that,

E3.1 the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2024/25 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2023/24 Budget deficiency.

E3.2 the Budlings Reserve been renamed as the Administration Building Reserve but the purpose for the construction / renovation of administration centre and works depot remains unaltered.

E3.3 a new a new Workforce Accommodation Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with the development of workforce accommodation and related functions.

Voting Requirements

E1 Absolute Majority

E2, E3 Simple Majority

Part F – Interest on Money Owing to Local Governments

F1 That Council in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995* will not apply an interest rate to any amount of money owing to the local government (other than rates or service charges).

Voting Requirements

F1 Absolute Majority

Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements

G1 That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and that pursuant to Section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the following differential and minimum rates on Unimproved Values.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	9.325	900
UV Mining	18.550	900
UV Exploration	18.550	900

- G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.
- G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 st instalment	4 October 2024
2 nd quarterly instalment	6 December 2024
3 rd quarterly instalment	7 February 2025
4 th quarterly and final instalment	11 April 2025

- G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$13.33 and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
- G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
- G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts an interest rate of 10% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Voting Requirements

- G1, G5, G6 Absolute Majority
 G2, G3, G4, Simple Majority

Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2024/25

- H1 That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/25 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Voting Requirements

- H1 Simple Majority

Overall Voting Requirements

As outlined under each Part.

Council Decision

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

That Council resolve resolutions as outlined in PARTS A to H as follows:

Part A- Budget Considerations

- A1 That Council receives the 2024-2025 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and previous Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2024/25 Budget.

Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2024-25

- B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2024/25 year as attachment 18.5.3 to this agenda.

Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2024-25

C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2024/25 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2024/25

D1 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following meeting attendance fees for elected members:

- President \$15,429 per annum
- Councillors \$10,286 per annum.

D2 That Council, pursuant to section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual Information & Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance for elected members:

ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,400

D3 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

President \$18,032

D4 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

Deputy President \$4,508

Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2024-25

E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2024/25 financial year, including the following:

- E1.1 2024/25 Budget Summary
- E1.2 2023/24 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works

E2 That Council endorses the 2024/25 Budget Snapshot as attached.

E3 That in adopting the 2024/25 Budget that Council specifically notes that,

- E3.1 the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2024/25 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2023/24 Budget deficiency.
- E3.2 the Budlings Reserve been renamed as the Administration Building Reserve but the purpose for the construction / renovation of administration centre and works depot remains unaltered.
- E3.3 a new a new Workforce Accommodation Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with the development of workforce accommodation and related functions.

Part F – Interest on Money Owing to Local Governments

F1 That Council in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995* will not apply an interest rate to any amount of money owing to the local government (other than rates or service charges).

Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements

G1 That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and that pursuant to Section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the following differential and minimum rates on Unimproved Values.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	9.325	900
UV Mining	18.550	900
UV Exploration	18.550	900

G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.

G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 st instalment	4 October 2024
2 nd quarterly instalment	6 December 2024
3 rd quarterly instalment	7 February 2025
4 th quarterly and final instalment	11 April 2025

G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$13.33 and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts an interest rate of 10% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2024/25

H1 That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2024/25 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 19 August 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
23.07.2024	Budget Asset LTFP Work. Emails. Disability Access and Inclusion Report . Attend staff Camp Oven Muster Festival Meeting. Touch base via phone with Josh Kirk. SKA Road Asset Management
24.07.2024	SKA Route Reconciliation Work. Touch bas via phone with Shire President, Leon Wilson (MRWA) and Chris Brayton (CSIRO)
25.07.2024	Council Meeting and Budget Workshop. Council Minutes
26.07.2024	Council Minutes. Budget Asset LTFP Work
27.07.2024 to 28.07.2024	Budget Asset LTFP Work
29.07.2024	Budget Asset LTFP Work. Catch up with Community Officer, Executive Manager DCEO & Works Manager
30.07.2024	Attend and host MEG Meeting in Murchison. Budget Asset LTFP Work. Integrity Conduct Annual Survey
31.07.2024	Budget Asset LTFP Work. Catch up with Community Officer.
1.08.2024 to 2.08.2024	Budget Asset LTFP Work.
3.08.2024	Camp Oven Muster Festival
4.08.2024	Camp Oven Muster Festival. Splash pad follow up
5.08.2024	Catch up briefing with Works Manager, Executive Manager DCEO & Community Officer. TOIL
6.08.2024	Annual Leave
7.08.2024	Touch base on phone with Community Officer. Emails follow up work. Budget Asset LTFP Work
8.08.2024	Emails follow up work. Finalise and submit 2025/26 Regional Roads Group Submissions.
9.08.2024	Annual Leave
12.08.2024	Touch base on phone with Executive Manager DCEO & Community Officer. Budget Asset Work. Corporate Plan Work. SKA Route Work. Attend emails phone calls. Touch base on phone with Works Manager over 10M mine operations apparent startup. TOIL
13.08.2024	Touch base on phone with Shire President on few occasions over 10M mine operations apparent startup. Follow up Works Managers email with 10M Administrators. Obtain preliminary legal advice from Solicitors over status 10M Road Maintenance Agreement. SKA Route Work. Attend emails phone calls. TOIL
14.08.2024	Touch base via phone with Works Manager and Leon Wilson MRWA regarding 10M mining haulage. SKA Route Work. Follow up emails and actions with Works Manager. TOIL
15.08.2024	Touch base via phone with Works Manager regarding 10M mining haulage. Follow up emails and actions including phone discussion Mark Rosner at 10M. TOIL
16.08.2024	Touch base via phone with Travis & Community Officer. Follow up emails TOIL
18.08.2024	Council Agenda. Budget LTFP Asset Work
19.08.2024	Council Agenda Budget LTFP Asset Work

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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 2.36pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 26 September 2024

Signed.....

Presiding Officer