



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **24 October 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

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Lisa Keen – Senior Executive Manager DCEO
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apologies

William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 September 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 26 September 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

- 8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 8.3 Duration of speeches

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21 November 2024

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

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

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 October 2024
Attachments: Nil

Road Construction

The construction crew have continued with the new floodways and at the time of writing have almost finished the wet section of pavement that has caused a few issues. We are waiting on Greenfield to put out the Stabilisation and Sealing tenders, hopefully we will be sealing in late February or early March, assuming no delays! As soon as the construction part of the program is completed, hopefully in early November they will move to the Settlement and start seal preparation on Mulga Way, Roderick Street adjacent to the ANZAC memorial as well as several fishtails and the entrance to the airstrip apron. It is also planned that the seal between the Roadhouse and old ablution block will be extended past the new Caravan Park ablution block.

Road Maintenance

The maintenance crew have completed Butchers Track, finished the north section of Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, are currently doing a patch grade on the Beringarra-Byro Rd west of the Milly Milly house creek. They will then continue south on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, do some repairs on the west end of the Byro-Woodleigh Rd and then continue south to the Settlement.

SKA Roadworks

Walladar have continued works on the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd. with several sections being re-sheeted. The corner re-alignment is still to be completed. Considerable maintenance grading has also been done on the route as well as grading of the Meeberrie-Wooleen Rd. and a tidy up of the table drains and shoulders along the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, south of the Meeberrie-Wooleen Rd. intersection.

Rowe Contractors should finish their work on Tuesday 22 October. Most of their work has been repairing damage caused during the June and July weather events on the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd. and the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. between Pia and the Boolardy Homestead entrance. I am waiting on Squires Resources to submit quotes on various jobs, mainly north of the Boolardy homestead entrance and on the Boolardy Kalli Rd.

Formal agreement with the City of Greater Geraldton for the Shire to take operational control of their 28km gravel section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road has now been completed

AGRN1021 & AGRN1062 Flood Damage

At the time of writing, I have no further update as to when this work may eventually get underway. We are currently refining the scope of works to also include other Shire related works. A new year start has now been foreshadowed. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that we could have another event before these works commence!

Caravan Park New Ablution Block

This now has power and water, new heat pumps are installed, verandah is up with some concrete work still to be completed. There are also several defects to be repaired by MI Global. Hopefully this will be fully commissioned by the end of November. My thanks to MGP WA and Hosken Electrical for making things happen. Landscaping and other work will also be required

Pool Splashpad

The pool shell is in. This involved approximately 60m3 of concrete by way of shotcreting and general concrete pours. Other trenching work has been undertaken. The rendering, most of the plumbing and electricians still needs to be installed, as does the splash pad. We are told it should be ready by the time of the Christmas

tree! Time will tell but permanent fencing, paving, grass, landscaping, staff training etc. also need to be undertaken before it can be fully operational.

Parks and Gardens

Adam and Gary continue to be kept busy; they have a new slave driver in Bec casting a beady eye over many things. Thanks, Bec, suddenly we find all sorts of repairs being carried out that in the past were overlooked, this is over and above all the regular work that takes place. The Settlement is looking a little like a new pin in spite of it being a construction site, thank you Ladies & Gentlemen.

Infrastructure Development Fund Works **

Agreement with the State Government for \$1,088,339 in funding assistance for water and electricity infrastructure upgrade works within the Settlement to support the construction of 5 additional key worker dwellings has finally been signed.

One issue in the delay involved around ensuring the actual land tenure associated with each aspect of the project provides the recusant authority to undertake the required works, notwithstanding that entire parcel of crown land originally excised from the former Wooleen Pastoral Lease is reserved in one form or other for Shire purposes. This aspect is to be addressed as well as delivery of a raft of individual infrastructure and dwelling delivery timelines broadly in accord with the adopted 4-year budget.

Roadhouse Operations **

Staffing support for Terry and Wendy at the Roadhouse continues to be a challenge which was compounded during the past month we have had to restrict operations due to a lack of casuals. Various members of staff (including Bec, Adam, and Lisa) at some stage, have pitched in and operated front of house and also ensuring that contractors meals were provided for. By all accounts this was well understood and received by patrons. Many thanks to all involved as each member involved also had their own work to do during this period with the Office a fairly spartan environment. Future recruitment should hopefully rectify this situation moving forward.

Roadhouse & Playground Redevelopments **

Meeting with UDLA in Fremantle has kicked off both projects well with the initial briefing leading to a raft of information being provided to them including access to survey, photos and operational requirements. Playground will have a strong pastoral theme. Final results will include playground, roadhouse, and the rear roadhouse accommodation precinct. Grant applications for roadhouse and playground elements will follow. For operational and grant acquittal reasons, redevelopment of the Roadhouse must be undertaken in the October 2025 to March 2026 period, with the Community Centre (currently being upgraded) used as a temporary roadhouse. Everything is to be programmed around this constraint.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 October 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 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 pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2024 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

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

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

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2024

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 October 2024
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report September 2024

Note due to audit work and staff availability, this item may be either held over to the next meeting or considered as Urgent Business

Matter for Consideration

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

Comment

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

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 September 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 21 October 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report October 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>

Nominations have been called for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster 2025 Working Group

Settlement Tourism

Economic Objective 1
Tourism Development

*To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.
To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.*



MURCHISON SETTLEMENT 60KM NORTH OF PERTH

It doesn't get any more outback than the Shire of Murchison. The 'Ancient Lands Under Brilliant Skies' are home to sprawling pastoral stations, abundant wildlife, and seasonal wildflower displays, yet very few people. The shire covers an area of 49,500km² with a population of just 153.

The hub of the shire is the Murchison Settlement, home to around 20 people. Murchison Shire is home to incredible sophisticated technology at Inyaminantha (Igar) Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory. The observatory hosts world-leading radio telescopes exploring the history of the Universe, including the global SKA-Low telescope, currently under construction by the SKA Observatory. The observatory is operated by CSIRO as a restricted site and is not open to visitors, but it's here for good reason — the radio quiet is ideal for these sensitive instruments and the night sky is spectacular.

PLACES TO VISIT

Murchison Settlement

Be at one with nature on the upgraded rangeland botanical walk or view the many artefacts of pastoral and Indigenous Australian life at the Murchison Museum. Go bird watching, enjoy the sunsets, gaze at the amazing night sky, or just boost the population for a day.

Errabiddy Bluff and Outcamp

Fifteen kilometres west of Murchison

Settlement, Errabiddy Bluff's large rock formations make a mark on the landscape — it's an ideal setting for a day trip and a picnic or barbecue. The magnificent sunsets seen from the bluff are a prelude to a breath-taking display of stars.

Bilung Pool and Wooramel River Gorges

On the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, discover the tranquil waters and enjoy a picnic at Bilung Pool. While you're there be sure to take in the Wooramel River Gorges, a spectacular example of an inland river system.

Old Stock Well

Fifty-five kilometres south of Murchison Settlement on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, this recently restored well was once used by drovers moving stock. A picnic area with barbecue is now available for visitors making it a great place to stop off and take in the vast history of the area.

Ballinyoo Bridge

Further south, the oldest concrete bridge in Western Australia has been replaced with a new bridge, but a span of the original Ballinyoo Bridge has been preserved as an historic marker of its former glory.

Wildlife and Wildflowers

Kangaroos, emus, majestic eagles, red-tail black cockatoos and many amazing reptile species. Seasonal rain can bring fields of everlasting and other rangeland natives.

At A Glance

TOP ATTRACTIONS

Errabiddy Bluff / Bilung Pool / Oasis Roadhouse / Wooleen Lake / Murchison Museum

WILDFLOWERS TO DISCOVER

Mulla Mulla / Bladder Dock / Native Hops / Flannel Bush / Cotton Bush / Various Eremophila



MURCHISON VISITOR INFORMATION

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse
3001 Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
Murchison
(08) 9961 3875
oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au
murchison.wa.gov.au
Check the Murchison Shire website for events.



Station Stays

Experience true station life, discover Indigenous Australian rock art or soak in the outback atmosphere at the various station stays throughout the region.

Accommodation for campers, caravans, motorbikes and clubs. 6 rooms available. 24hr hot water. 3x without booking essential. Oasis Roadhouse - the in or take away alcohol available. Fuel, ice, grocery items, free WiFi, BBQ and laundry facilities. Birdwatching, bushwalks, stargazing, anniversary events (email for details). Open 7 days, scan QR code for seasonal opening hours.

There's so much to see and do and it's yours on your pocket!
Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, Murchison WA
E: oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au Ph: 9961 3875
www.murchison.wa.gov.au

6 | The Gascoyne Murchison | AUSTRALIASGOLDENOUTBACK.COM

The Shire Handymen/Gardeners have completed works on the upright structure of the Information gazebo and it should have its final coat of paint come council meeting. The bannisters are currently being restored and repaired expected to be back in place come Christmas. Signage can be expected in the new year. We are working with a Graphic Designer to create a template that can create consistency throughout the settlement for all tourism's signage.

Tourism advertising will be continued in the Australia Golden Outback Holiday Planner and Map for 2025. This will include a full page in the planner as per last year please see example below and a half page on the folded map.

We have been working in collaboration with the Murchison Geo-Region in creating a 30minute TV show called Great Aussie Road trips. Shires of Cue, Yalgoo and Mt Magnet all opted in along with us. The 30 minute TV show will be shown internationally on the Outdoor Channel and in Australia through 7plus.

Roadhouse Update

Roadhouse has been busy over the past month with the Landor races bringing significant traffic. Consultation has begun with the commencement of the concept and detailed design of the Roadhouse renovation with UDLA as part of the settlement redevelopment masterplan.

We are expecting new backpackers to support the Roadhouse operations around 23rd of October. Operational materials to support Tourism are currently being developed this incorporates the Settlement Map created for the Camp Oven Muster, a zoomed in caravan park map to show sites, Caravan Park Rules and a show case of experiences for visitors to do while they are in the region.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1

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

Interpretive Centre

Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.

Tourism Development

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

Environmental Objective 2

To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.

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.

Our first drop of infrastructure from Containers for Change has arrived. You will see a variety of new bins distributed around the Settlement along with a variety of green bags available for residents of the Shire free of charge. These have been placed in the freight depot and the Administration office.

We have registered Murchison Shire with a containers for change member number and it is considered that refunds received should be distributed evenly to organisations and projects that benefit the local community. Identified organisation and projects are Murchison Sports Club, Murchison Museum, Murchison Arts Council and Murchison Community Garden. From an operational perspective this would be undertaken by bank transfers or internal journals with transactions to fall in line with current financial policies and established procedures. The recommendation below encapsulates this suggestion.

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>

The application for orchard is pending and will be until 12 weeks after closing applications closed on August 21st.

The Community Garden has provided a bounty of produce of the past month with summer planting taking place in the last 4 weeks to continue to provide produce over the summer months.

The current grant from the department of communities has appx \$3,000 remaining there has been expressed requests for more mulch, stakes and soil conditioner to raise the soil condition level. The fund are required to be acquitted at project close which is 1 December 2024.

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 neighboring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.</i>

We are awaiting responses from Box Rallies about the information we have provided to them.

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:</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> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>
Regional Collaboration	<i>Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.</i>

Kristen Brownfield and Charlotte Hickson from Art on the Move visited Murchison on 30th September through to 2nd of October. Visits were made to Yuin Station, Wooleen Station, Curbur Station, Errabiddy Bluff, there was time spent in the museum and Settlement. This visit allowed the Art on the Move team to understand the place and people better to ensure the application pack for Murchison is an accurate representation of the region's way of life. This is important for attracting artists that connect with the Murchison way of life, it allows for applications to illustrate their desire for learning and understanding in the application process.

The next meeting with Art on The Move to discuss MOU's and tripartite agreements is on 21st October.,

Thank you to all residents that made time and supported this visit. There will be further opportunities in the future for those that were not available.

Communications

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

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
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Email Communications

- ~ 3 Community Messages were sent regarding 2024/2025 Restricted Burning Periods, GSWA Narryer Airborne ,magnetic and radiometric survey and Temporary roadhouse operation changes.
- ~ 0 Road Condition Report
- ~ 1 Murchison Monologue – This included integrated feedback options due to the significant change in format.

Social Media Communications

The Shire continues to share developments within the settlement and shire through facebook. This month has been used to present tourism within the shire in a positive light. Sharing the latest drop of photo and video from The Murchison Camp oven Muster held in August.

Mail Communications

Rates were mailed out including a budget snapshot.

Website

Regularly updated to reflect operations.

The next Monologue will be released on November 1st as this is the second Friday following council meeting.

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 resolve as follows.

- 1 That Council note the Community Development Progress Report
- 2 That Council allocates any funds it receives from Containers for Change on an equal basis to the Murchison Sports Club, Murchison Museum, Murchison Arts Council and Murchison Community Garden.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

18.2 DPLH - Wooleen Station Pastoral Lease Amendment Request

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 19 October 2024

Attachments: 18.2.1 DPLH - Wooleen Station Pastoral Lease Amendment Request

Matter for Consideration

Request of the Pastoral Lands Board (Board) for Council to provide comments on a proposal from the lessee of Wooleen Station requesting an amendment to a permit to undertake pastoral tourism on the Stations' Pastoral Lease.

Proposal

The Senior State Land Officer of the Property & Risk Management Land Use Management Sector of the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage has written to Council offering Council the opportunity to comment on a proposal to amend the existing permit to undertake pastoral based tourism on the Wooleen Station. A copy of the letter, application, map and proposed draft permit conditions is attached.

Following discussions with the Senior State Land Officer I am advised that the application is scheduled to be presented to the Pastoral Lands Board at its December Meeting with Council's comments welcome.

Background

The application is associated with update of an existing permit. Essentially it is proposed that the current tourism operation be extended through additional camp site locations as outlined in the attached map on the Murchison River, Rocky Outcrop Campsite, and at a dense stand of Gidgee Trees, west of the homestead.

Comment

From all accounts the current tourism operation has worked well and has expanded significantly over the years and attracted visitors to the Shire resulting additional positive flow effects for other Shires' and region related tourism, as well as other community partnerships.

Separately the applicant has made preliminary inquiries concerning what if any planning issues may be involved with development of this proposal and has been advised that the previous development approval approved the homestead (5) bays and the three remote sites, and that Council would have to issue another development approval to expand the number of sites. As part of this process referral to the CSIRO will be required as part of the Scheme Provisions. Accordingly in relation to this specific request the Board should advised that separate planning permit will be required .

In a general sense any use of pastoral land for non-pastoral purposes should always sit alongside and not be subservient to pastoral activities. The proposed draft permit conditions seem to make this clear with clause 8(a) specifying that the provisions the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA) relating to permits and pastoral leases on crown land granted under Part 7 of the LAA apply to this permit. From an equity perspective in relation to other pastoralists, it may be prudent to advise the Pastoral Board that Council expects that this scenario applies.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Sustainability Implications

Environmental There are no known significant environmental considerations associated with the current tourism operation with any expansion subject to separate planning consent.

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 below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Strategies	
Small Scale Support for Vermin Control	<i>The Pastoral industry is a key industry within the Shire. Vermin issues, in particular wild dogs, have the ability to impact on the ongoing viability of the Pastoral industry within the Shire. The Shire supports a range of measures in relation to vermin control.</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>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Compliance with statutory requirements;</i>

Consultation

Bec Fogarty (Community Officer) and William Herold (Works Manager)

Recommendation

That in relation to the request from the Pastoral Lands Board (Board) for Council to provide comments on a proposal from the lessee of Wooleen Station requesting an amendment to a permit to undertake pastoral tourism on the Stations' Pastoral Lease, that Council advises the Board that

- 1 it has no objection in principle to the proposal subject to the provisions the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA) relating to permits and pastoral leases on crown land granted under Part 7 of the LAA apply to this permit being applied at least the same level that applies to other pastoralists within the Shire; and
- 2 under the provisions of the Shires Planning Scheme a separate planning application for the amendment to the tourism operation will be required to be approved by Council.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

18.3 Community Centre Sports Club Bar Operations

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: *Potential Financial Interest as a member of the Murchison Sports Club Inc*

Date 19 October 2024

Attachments: 18.3.1 Draft Policy 5.8 Community Centre Sports Club Bar
18.3.2 Extract Murchison Sports Club Constitution
18.3.3 Policy 5.1 Community Use of Facilities

Matter for Consideration

Formalisation of the current adhoc arrangements associated with the operation of bar facilities at the Murchison Community Centre.

Background

As part of the development of the Murchison Community Centre bar facilities for the sale and consumption of alcohol have been provided within the Centre. The Murchison Sports Club (Club) has over many years historically and successfully operated the bar. The Club's arrangements have by all accounts worked well with the Club effectively having permanent occupation of the bar and associated facilities, with the ability to derive revenue as a not-for-profit Association from sale of alcohol, and in return assisting in ensuring that community functions can operate effectively. The Shire picks up all building related costs.

The lack of a formalised agreement however exposes both the Council and Sports Club to potential risks as the facility is Council owned and managed. Notwithstanding that these arrangements have operated more or less without issue, from a governance perspective, arrangements should be formalised, especially as the type and scope of events directly relating to the Shire has and will inevitably increase.

This also in part complicated as some of the members of the Sports Clubs may also be councillors or members of staff, although in this instance the best way to affect a formalised change is by development of an appropriate policy as the basis of a subsequent formal agreement to improve the current situation with no additional financial benefits to result to any individual.

Apart for the annual polocrosse event, alcohol for all events has been provided by the Club, as a Club sanctioned event or on behalf of for the Shire as a Shire sponsored event, albeit in a very loose arrangement. For some small events under the provision of the Liquor Control Act a liquor licence is not required but for others a separate limited liquor licence has to be applied for, granted and operations undertaken in accordance with the licence. As a Council facility owner, it is incumbent on us to ensure that these aspects are undertaken.

Comment

As the likely the only Incorporated Association located within the Shire with members made up largely of members of staff and local pastoralists, and one that has permanent occupation of a room within the Community Centre, allowing other entities to use these bar facilities becomes problematical. The operation of the Murchison Polocrosse Event is one such issue whereby historically the Club has been required through practice to vacate its premises and swap or remove its alcohol and receive no compensation by way of bar hire fees with profits retained by the Polocrosse Club.

Providing a framework to continue to allow the Murchison Sports Club to operate bar facilities at the Murchison Community Centre and Murchison Sports Club in a more formal manner will invariably require Council to balance the governance needs to formalise arrangements with the community's needs and current voluntary operations. Ideally as far as practicable the way the operation has been historically established and conducted, should remain more or less unaffected. As indicated in the attached extract from the Club's Constitution the Club is well placed from a responsible governance perspective to manage alcohol.

In review a number of aspects arise and are suggested that they be addressed. These include the following.

- 1 Formalising the sole occupation of a section of a Council Building in a legal sense with some basic responsibilities set out.
- 2 Reconciling an organisation having effectively sole rights to use Council Facilities for no cost and sell alcohol to in part raise revenue
- 3 Clarify outsourcing of bar management services for community and council events
- 4 Looking at an aspect to use sales from alcohol for large Council run events as an exception rather than the rule, for those of regional significance, that may be substantially subsidised by Council with such revenue potentially forming a budget consideration for the event.
- 5 Ensuring that there is some basic oversight to ensure that any alcohol sales are used to assist community events or cater for specify groups that would otherwise not be able to be accommodated as there is no permanent liquor licensed operation in the Settlement.
- 6 Formalising requirements that liquor licensing requirements are being met
- 7 Providing a basic governance oversight of the organisations operations to ensure that the organisation is meeting minimum compliance requirements, is financially sound and if requests for financial support are forthcoming that Council can make an objective assessment.
- 8 Recognising that unless the Council was to manage the bar, that other than the Sports Club, there is no real alternative community based organisation.

A copy of Draft Policy 5.8 Community Centre Sports Club Bar Operations that addresses the above is attached. Also attached is a copy of Policy 5.1 Community Use of Facilities which will require a slight addition if this draft policy is adopted.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

5.1 Community Use Facilities

Financial / Risk Implications

Current operations have minimal financial implications. If some significant issue were to arise the current adhoc, non-documented arrangements pose a significant risk to Council which could also lead to some financial exposure.

On the basis that there is perhaps a nominal occupational fee charged and given that it is prudent for the Shire to not only have a responsible reputable entity managing this space, that the Shire may also consider assisting the Club financially to obtain the most appropriate form of general liquor licence that will facilitate the operation.

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 below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
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Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>

Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</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> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Strategies	
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Refurbishment of Community Centre	<i>The Community Centre is a key building within the Murchison Settlement. The Centre was built in the 1980's and has maintained since this time, however is due to refurbishment.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Compliance with statutory requirements;</i> <i>High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Consultation

Bec Fogarty (Community Officer), William Herold (Works Manager), Lisa Keen (Executive Manager DCEO), Local Government Risk Services and councillors present at the at the October 2022 and September 2024 Council Workshops.

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Notes the Chief Executive Officers Community Centre Sports Club Bar Operations Report.
- 2 Adopts Policy 5.8 Community Centre Sports Club Bar Operations as attached with amendments, if any, made at the meeting
- 3 Amends the Murchison Sports Club section of Policy 5.1 Community Use of Facilities to reference this policy.
- 4 Advise the Murchison Sports Club of these policy improvements with the Sports Club being the sole organisation authorised to distribute and sell alcohol from the Murchison Community Centre Bar for all events and functions delivered from the Centre in accordance with a formal agreement, part of which would see the Council meet the costs associated with obtaining the appropriate liquor licence.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

18.4 Murchison Polocrosse Events

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 19 October 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Finalising arrangements for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event and outlining requirements for future events.

Background

At the March 2024 and April 2024 Council Meetings the subject of the fees, charges and operating arrangements for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event was discussed by Council. As a result, the Polocrosse Club were advised as follows.

- I That following the conclusion of the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event that the event and operations be reviewed in conjunction with the Murchison Polocrosse Club and local stakeholders, and that the Club be so advised.
- II That the Murchison Polocrosse Club be advised that the current adopted Caravan Park fees of \$35 for a powered site and \$25 for an unpowered site on the grass areas will apply and that patrons are required to book into the caravan park prior to occupying the sites.
- III That Council request a donation of \$1,000 from the Murchison Polocrosse Club for use of the Council facilities for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event.
- IV That the Murchison Polocrosse Club be advised that in relation to the Shire's support for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event, that whilst on ground support by Works and Services Staff will be provided, that the Polocrosse Club will be required to undertake responsibilities for the cleaning, stocking and restocking consumables for the Polocrosse Ablutions prior to, during and after the event, and for the cleaning and restocking consumables for the Sports Club Ablutions during and after the event.

Since this time the polocrosse event has been successfully run. At a recent Councillor Workshop review, whilst some additional clarification was considered to be required around the 2024 event around the request for a donation as part of points I and III above, it was considered that in the main a consistent approach should be undertaken with other stakeholders around the following points, and the Polocrosse Club advised of these arrangements for future events.

- ~ For completeness only financial information to be requested from the Club to support their decision relating Councils request for a donation of \$1,000 for the 2024 event.
- ~ Provisions of copy of the Club's Constitution
- ~ Adopted hire fees associated with use of the Community Centre to apply for future events (*currently \$168 per day or part thereof, \$6.00 per table and \$1.00 per chair with a \$255 bond*)
- ~ Consumption of alcohol from the Community Centre is the responsibility of the Murchison Sports Club
- ~ The Shire's support for future event will continue with on ground support by Works and Services Staff with the Polocrosse Club required to undertake responsibilities for the cleaning, stocking and restocking consumables for the Polocrosse Ablutions prior to, during and after the event, and for the cleaning and restocking consumables for the Sports Club Ablutions during and after the event
- ~ Applicable adopted daily fees for the Caravan Park for powered sites, unpowered grass sites and unpowered bush camping sites (*currently \$35, \$25 and \$15 respectively*) will apply and that patrons are required to book into the caravan park prior to occupying the sites.

These aspects are outlined in the recommendation below.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Strategies	
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>
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> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Strategies	
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Refurbishment of Community Centre	<i>The Community Centre is a key building within the Murchison Settlement. The Centre was built in the 1980's and has maintained since this time, however is due to refurbishment.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Detailed and professional administration;</i> <i>High levels of accountability;</i> <i>Compliance with statutory requirements;</i> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Ongoing reviews of the Community Strategic Plan.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Consultation

Bec Fogarty (Community Officer), William Herold (Works Manager), Lisa Keen (Executive Manager DCEO), and councillors present at the at the September 2024 Council Workshops.

Recommendation

That in relation to the Polocrosse Events that the Murchison Polocrosse Club be .

- 1 requested to provide financial information to support their decision relating to the Council's request for a donation of \$1,000 from the club for the 2024 event.
- 2 requested to provide a copy of their Club's Constitution
- 3 advised that the adopted hire fees associated with use of the Community Centre will apply for future events.
- 4 advised that the consumption of alcohol from the Community Centre is the responsibility of the Murchison Sports Club
- 5 advised that the Shire's support for future event will continue with ground support by Works and Services Staff with the Polocrosse Club required to undertake responsibilities for the cleaning, stocking

- and restocking consumables for the Polocrosse Ablutions prior to, during and after the event, and for the cleaning and restocking consumables for the Sports Club Ablutions during and after the event
- 6 advised that the applicable adopted daily fees for the Caravan Park for powered sites, unpowered grass sites and unpowered bush camping sites will apply and that patrons are required to book into the caravan park prior to occupying the sites.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 October 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
24.09.2024	Annual Report Work. Catch up with Community Officer and Works Manager. Meeting with DFES representatives Mark Bowen, Rick Ryan, Peter Norman and Leigh Mullholand.
25.09.2024	Annual Report Work. Audit Review Work. Touch base with Financial Accountant (RSM) regarding Roads to Recovery and other end of year roads financials.
26.09.2024	Council Workshop, Meeting & Minutes. Catch up with Community Officer & Works Manager
27.09.2024	Council Minutes. Follow up actions. TOIL
30.09.2024	Emails. Minutes Flood Claims. Touch bas regarding Infrastructure Development Fund. Monologue Bits. Annual report Work TOIL.
1.10.2024	Email Monologue and Annual Report work. Touch base with Community Officer.
2.10.2024	Emails. Annual Report Work. Telephone discussions with Francis at Wooleen
3.10.2024	Emails. Annual Report Work. Telephone discussions with Shire President, Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer
4.10.2024	Meeting with UDLA in Fremantle. Scott Lang, Julian Jeeves-Bonte and Stejara Timis (Remote) regarding playground, Roadhouse and other associated projects. Emails and general admin
5.10.2024	Site Visit Pool Splashpad & Ablutions Block
7.10.2024	Annual Report Work. Catch up with Community Officer & Executive Manager DCEO. Meeting with Jason from MI Global. Telephone discussion with Shire President
8.10.2024	Annual Report Work. Catch up briefing with Executive Manager DCEO. Telephone discussion with Emma.
9.10.2024	Catch up briefing and touch base Community Officer at Roadhouse. Fire control work. Finalise Infrastructure Development Fund Agreement . WALGA Roads Return Work
10.10.2024	WALGA Roads Return Work. General Administration
11.10.2024	Catch up with Community Officer. Audit Queries. Roadhouse Stats. Email phone calls
12.10.2024	Roadhouse Fuel Stats. Annual Report Work
14.10.2024	Catch up briefing with Community Officer. Annual Report Work. Roads to Recovery Quarterly Report. Start Chlorinator procurement process
15.10.2024	Agenda Work. Touch base on phone with Shire President.
16.10.2024	Agenda Work. Annual Report Work. Teams Meeting with Community Officer and Beth Brady (Holyoake) regarding alcohol and substance abuse based support programs.
17.10.2024	Agenda & Workshop Work. Operational and Planning Meetings with Community Officer, Terry & Wendy at Roadhouse and Community Officer & Gardener Handyman at Community Centre
18.10.2024	Meetings and briefing with Works Manager and Executive Manager DCEO. Roadhouse and Roadhouse Precinct Development Work. Agenda Work
19.10.2024	Agenda & Workshop Work
20.10.2024	Agenda & Administration Work
21.10.2024	Finalise Agenda

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.