



**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 **28 November 2024**, commencing at 12 Noon.

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

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## ATTACHMENTS

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.00 noon

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## 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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### Present

#### Councillors

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

#### Staff

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

### Apologies

Cr A Whitmarsh

### Members of the Public in Attendance

Chris Brayton (CSIRO), Henry Foulkes-Taylor and Sean Szeligiewicz

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## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 24 October 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 24 October 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved:** Cr M Fowler

**Seconded:** Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 October 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

0

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## 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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Nil

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## 5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

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Nil

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## 6 STANDING ORDERS

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### 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 Q Fowler

**Seconded:** Cr G Mead

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**

5

**Against**

0

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## 7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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Henry Foulkes-Taylor asked a question as to whether the Shire would increase the \$100 Wild Dog Bounty to \$200 given that it had been the same for many years.

The Shire President thanked Henry for the question and advised that this issue would be addressed at budget time when fees and charges are set. The President also said the original aim of the bounty was as a bit of cost recovery for locals as a small means to support local stations rather than a profit-making scheme, so for the current budget cycle, the \$100 would remain.

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## 8 NEXT MEETING

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Friday 13 December 2024

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## 9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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Nil

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## 10 URGENT BUSINESS

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Nil

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## 11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

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## **12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

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Nil

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## **14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**

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### **14.1 Shire President**

- ~ Attended and chaired the Murchison Subgroup of the Main Roads WA Regional Roads Group meeting held at the Yalgoo on 15 November 2024
- ~ Attended and chaired the WALGA Murchison Country Zone Meeting at Cue on 22 November 2024. Cr R Foukes-Taylor reported that the Roads forum component relating to truck movements and safety issues on the Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road and other main roads in the region was well attended, informative covering many aspects associated with the issue.

### **14.2 Councillors**

#### *Cr E Foulkes Taylor*

- ~ Attended the WALGA Murchison Country Zone Meeting at Cue on 22 November 2024.
- ~ Attended the Grants Commission Meeting at the Shire Offices on 26 November 2024.  
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor reported that the meeting was very collegial and informative with the Commission operating in a very prescriptive statistical environment.

#### *Cr G Mead*

- ~ Attended the WALGA Murchison Country Zone Meeting at Cue on 22 November 2024.
- ~ Attended the Grants Commission Meeting at the Shire Offices on 26 November 2024.

#### *Cr Q Fowler*

- ~ Attended the Grants Commission Meeting at the Shire Offices on 26 November 2024.

#### *Cr M Fowler*

- ~ Attended the Grants Commission Meeting at the Shire Offices on 26 November 2024.

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## **15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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Nil

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## 16 WORKS

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### 16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42  
Author: William Herold – Works Manager  
Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer \*\*  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 November 2024  
Attachments: Nil

#### Construction

The construction crew have moved to the Settlement and commenced preparation for the sealing of Mulga Crescent and the section between the Roadhouse and the new ablution Block. They will continue in the Settlement until we have a date for the cement stabilisation of the floodways north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd. intersection. Some fine tuning of levels is still required before the stabilizing process commences. The RFQ's are in and are being assessed. This may not be finalised by the time Council meets.

#### Maintenance

The maintenance crew have moved onto the Beringarra-Pindar Rd and started grading north from the McNabb-Twin Peaks Rd intersection. We are attempting to dovetail with TDK Civils who are working on the fiber optic cable heading up to Boolardy. Once they leapfrog the crew they will then start at the south boundary.

#### New Ablution Block

By the time Council meets the concrete slab will have been poured, this is the only progress that would have happened since the last report. MI Global were in site Monda 25 November to further complete their works.

#### Swimming Pool Splashpad

There has been considerable progress as far as the swimming pool splashpad precinct goes. The splash pad is almost complete, the pool needs its final plaster and paint. The pump house container and accessories installation is imminent. Final plumbing should be in place by early December. Electricity connections and pool earthing are an unknown quantity at this stage.

#### Parks and Gardens

The past month has seen a focus on reticulation and the caravan park lawns over and above the normal day to day chores. We are expecting a horticulturalist/ arborist to look at some of our trees that are not fairing too well and to investigate the possibility that we may have dieback in some areas.

#### SKA Route Works

Squires Resources have started work on the Boolardy-Kalli Rd. and Beringarra- Pindar Rd. There will be several kms of new sheeting and other upgrade works in this program as well as heavy maintenance works. Walladar will return to SKA Route works once they have completed work for Newhaul post their carting operation from the Woolbung Peak site.

#### Power

Hosken Electrical should be in the Settlement to install our new distribution board and to tackle various other jobs around the beginning of December. Hopefully we can get through most of them prior to the Christmas shut down. While the new distribution board is being installed the Settlement will be run off 3 or 4 standby generators.

#### Recent Rain Event

The very welcome recent rain event has certainly put a smile on the faces of us all. As far as the road infrastructure goes, I would say it has been a huge benefit, especially as far as our maintenance program goes. The damage has been virtually nonexistent.

MRWA Regional Road Group 2025-26 Funding Update\*\*

Applications for four reconstruction and widening projects were submitted to Main Roads WA for 2025-26 for reconstruction and widening works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road. Works continue on from this year's program between SLK189.595 to 203.435 north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road Intersection. Projects are funded on a 2:1 basis. Total of \$1.2m funds were applied for.

Along with other Council's, submissions were analysed with ours attracting the highest scores in the region. The Technical Working Group reviewed all submissions, which were later endorsed by the Murchison Sub Group with all projects being funded. One Council did not submit any projects this year due to funding being received from other sources, meaning that there was a surplus of funds. The Technical Working Group endorsed a further call for additional projects with the results to go direct to the Regional Road Group for endorsement. One of these projects includes an additional reconstruction and widening project on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between SLK 187.325 to 189 505 that we have submitted. At this stage an additional \$289,967 in funding is being recommended to the Regional Road Group which meets on 2 December 2024.

**Recommendation**

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>				
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	G Mead	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	M Fowler	
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b> 0

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## 17 FINANCE

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### 17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 October 2024

File: 2.6  
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 November 2024  
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report October 2024

#### Matter for Consideration

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

#### Comment

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

#### Budget/Financial Implications:

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

#### Consultation

RSM Australia

#### Additional Comments Discussed at the Meeting

Travis Bate also highlighted the following points in relation to the report

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity – noting that the Opening Surplus Figure had changed from September. This is because of 1 adjustment identified through the audit process. The reported \$443,925 value is the expected final balance brought forward as the 30 June 2024 Audit is substantially complete.
- 2 Note 2 Variance Reporting – discussed the Materials and Contracts variance. Overall \$1.6M below budget due to the explanations provided (primarily due to flood damage). The SKA Road Maintenance is 471K above budget to end of Oct 24.
- 3 Note 4 – noting total cash balances of \$10.8M at 31 Oct 24.
- 4 Note 5 Receivables - \$498K of rates collected to 31 Oct 24. This is 68% of rate revenue.
- 5 Note 9 Capital Acquisitions:
  - a Carnarvon Mullewa Road \$519K expenditure YTD
  - b Pool Construction \$207K expenditure YTD.

Further discussion in relation to Cr E Foulkes-Taylor Councillor questions in relation to:

- 6 SKA Grants – no income recognised for operating grant YTD
- 7 Timing of Roadhouse Fuel purchase expense

#### **Recommendation**

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

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

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

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

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b>	0
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## 13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

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*Note Chris Brayton from CSIRO provided a verbal update on CSIRO's operation and some of the SKA Project related elements at a Council Workshop prior to the meeting. Ant Schinkel from SKAO was unable to attend and expressed his apology*

*David Pollock from Wooleen Station entered the room at 12.34pm*

### 13.1 Wild Dog Bounty Scheme Petition

David Pollock from Wooleen Station formally presented a petition in relation to the Shire's Wild Dog Bounty Scheme'

The Shire President advised that this would be received and formally considered by Council at a later date and invited David to speak to the matter.

*Summary Notes as follows.*

David advised the reason they went for a public petition, and not approached Council in even an informal manner and advised that he had already had a chat with the Shire President over lunch on day earlier in the year, prior to his two dingoes being shot, and felt that his views had then effectively been dismissed. David indicated that in 17 years he had not pushed his opinion but was also not hiding from it. David claimed that the assertion that a bounty of their two dingoes shot could not have been claimed, because as Wooleen Station owner there would not have been a signed off, were incorrect. David cited an instance in 2016 when a dingo was shot on his property and a bounty claimed without his sign off. David also highlighted one occasion when a dingo had been hung up on a tree on his property. In the most recent event he felt the bounty was very pertinent in that regard.

David indicated that that dingoes were an important feature in land management and, in the circumstances, that he felt under attack for his views and looked to the Shire via a public campaign, even if a higher authority may have been a better way to go, claiming that the public had been deluded with respect to the description of a wild dog instead of what was really occurring was that dingoes were being targeted. David said that given a fair percentage of the Shire's funding comes from State and Federal Grants, the wider public has a right to have a say on how these funds are spent. David said that he expected the petition would not change Council policy but at least it would be a way for the public to see that the Murchison Council was proud to support the killing of dingoes.

The Shire President said that being proud of Council's support towards the killing of dingoes is not his approach to the Bounty scheme, rather, he was proud of the Council helping to support the operations of pastoral stations within the Shire. He noted that Council had received written support for the bounty scheme from all of Wooleen's pastoral neighbours with a request to please continue its policies towards controlling the dingo population.

The President advised there had been a question raised earlier in public question time as to whether the Shire would increase the bounty given that it had been the same for many years. He said he had answered that that issue would be more appropriately addressed at budget time when fees and charges were set, but that in any event the aim of the bounty was as a bit of cost recovery for locals as a small means to support local stations.

The Shire President also advised that the Council, being a local Govt (not State or Federal), was not obliged to operate under the guidance of the general public, but rather, should take direction from the ratepayers and the other agencies that provide funding.

The Shire President thanked David for attending and presenting. He said if the CEO's report on the public petition was presented at the December OCM, the matter would be considered then.

*David Pollock left the room at 12.47pm*

### Summary

The Petition as presented was received by Council without a formal motion being put on the understanding that it be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for report as appropriate and that it be considered by Council at a subsequent meeting.

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## 17 FINANCE Continued

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### 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: 23 November 2024  
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 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 October 2024 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 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**

*Chris Brayton (CSIRO), Henry Foulkes-Taylor and Sean Szeligiewicz let the room at 12.48pm*

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**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 October 2024 be discussed behind closed doors

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

0

*The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.48pm*

### **3 Motion to open the meeting to the public**

**Council Decision**

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

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b>	0
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*The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.52pm*

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

**Council Decision**

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

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

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b>	0
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## 18 DEVELOPMENT

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### 18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 25 November 2024

Attachments: Nil

#### Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report November 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>

The first working Group meeting will be called in January 2025. Behind the scenes work has begun to upgrade our website to support ticketing of the 2025 in response to the 2024 event analysis.

## 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.*

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. This project has been completed and is awaiting release dates.

We have been in discussion with the Tourism and Community Development Officer at the Shire of Upper Gascoyne regarding working together to create better connectivity for travellers to access online information in offline areas. Information provided by Cr Mead from Specialised Solutions for off grid information booths has been further investigated and road sign integration options are being bought together.

## Roadhouse Update

Milly and Ben have arrived to support Roadhouse Operations.

The Local Loyalty Scheme has been developed and implementation can be expected to begin before Christmas. Applications to the Scheme will be available online and distributed through email networks as soon as the cards to support purchases have arrived.

## 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 load of containers has been backloaded to Containers for Change depot in Geraldton 519 containers were saved from our landfill on behalf of the Shire. The funds from this will be dispersed across the community groups as adopted in the previous council meeting.

There were also individuals using the bag drop location to get their recycling back to the return depot in Geraldton what saved at least another 500 containers from the Murchison landfill.

Additional infrastructure has been sought from Containers for Change to support times when Tourism will be more active.

Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program.

## 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 Shire was successful in receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Communities to establish an Orchard. The funds have been received and

The Shire has committed to establishing an orchard. The intention is for the orchard to bring together residents of the vast local government area to share knowledge and established agricultural practices. The fruit produced by the orchard will allow residents of the shire to come together to preserve the harvest through homesteading practices that have been occurring on the surrounding 26 pastoral stations of many decades. These would include jams, jellies, chutneys and canning to be shared throughout the community. The orchard will build understanding of where food comes from and how to develop the skills to nurture and preserve these valuable resources. The funds sought through this grant will support the initial purchase of fruit trees, soil conditioner, irrigation materials, mulch, fertilisers and tree boarder rings.

The current tunnel is producing well with roughly 10 – 15kgs of tomato's coming out per week a steady supply of carrots, cucumbers and radishes. Summer crops of melons, corn, beans, pumpkins are all getting off the ground. Vegetable concentrate and mulch deliveries are due shortly and I'd like to thank the teams from Green Life Soil Co and Great Northern Rural for working with us to increase the quality of the soil structure and nutrient density as it is having a direct impact on the quality of produce.

## 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. We have reached out for Catering quotations to support this event. I would like to encourage community members to let us know if they would like to volunteer for the evening so we can provide some great hospitality that is authentically Murchison.

## 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; 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>

Unfortunately Art on the Move are not in a position to work with the Shire for a 2025 residency program, however the door remains open for potential future time when they have capacity.

### Communications

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>
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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*

- ~ 1 Community Message - Christmas tree event invitation
- ~ 3 Road Condition Reports
- ~ 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*

None

#### *Website*

Regularly updated to reflect operations.

#### *Monologue*

The next Monologue will be released on December 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b>	0
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## 19 ADMINISTRATION

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### 19.1 Murchison Pool & Splashpad Policy

File:	4.40
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	23 November 2024
Attachments:	19.1.1 Policy 5.10 Murchison Pool & Splashpad

#### Matter for Consideration

Adoption of a policy to guide operations of Murchison Settlement Pool and Splashpad.

#### Background

As identified in the adopted the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report 2021 the construction of a pool and splashpad was always to be undertaken on the basis that the pool was not a public pool per say with supervision not provided but that the splashpad was a community use facility.

In order to achieve this aim a policy outlining the purpose and broad operating arrangements associated with ongoing use needs to be developed to fulfill theses intents.

#### Comments

The policy as attached has been developed to include as separate elements the purpose and use of both the Swimming Pool and Splashpad. It is intended that for safety and liability reasons the actual operational conditions for users of the pool will be set separately by the Chief Executive Officer.

#### 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>
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>
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>

#### Financial Implications

Operational costs form part of the current and future budgets

Consultation

Councillors and staff present at the October 2024 Workshop, Bec Fogarty (Community Officer) and Lisa Keen (Executive Manager DCEO)

**Recommendation**

That Council adopt Policy 5.10 Murchison Pool and Splashpad as attached

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council adopt Policy 5.10 Murchison Pool and Splashpad as attached

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

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## 19.2 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2024

File: 4.72  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 November 2024  
Attachments: 19.2.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2024

### Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider accepting the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2024

### Background

The Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI Act) created a general right of access to documents held by state and local government agencies. The FOI Act requires agencies, including local governments, to make available details about the kind of information they hold and enables persons to ensure that personal information held by government agencies about them is accurate, complete, up-to-date and not misleading.

Section 96 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 requires each government agency, including local governments, to prepare and publish annually, an Information Statement that includes the following:

- ~ the Agency's Mission Statement.
- ~ details of legislation administered.
- ~ details of the agency structure
- ~ details of decision-making functions
- ~ opportunities for public participation in the formulation of policy and performance of agency functions.
- ~ documents held by the agency.
- ~ the operation of FOI in the agency.

### Comment

It is the aim of the Murchison Shire to make information available promptly, at the least possible cost and wherever possible, documents will be provided outside the Freedom of Information (FOI) process.

### Statutory Environment

*Freedom of Information Act 1992*

*Local Government Act 1995 Division 7 Access to Information*

### Sustainability Implications

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

### Strategic Implications

This is a statutory function.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

**Recommendation**

That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2024 as presented and attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b> E Foulkes-Taylor	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	G Mead
That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2024 as presented and attached.		
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

**19.3 Christmas Settlement Arrangements**

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 November 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Noting

Council to note arrangements within the Murchison Settlement for the annual Christmas period.

Background

In previous years the well-established practice was that the Office was closed for a two-week period with Office staff returning the day after New Years Day. A similar closure period applied to Roadhouse staff. This was well received by staff with minimal impact on the Councils operation.

Comment

This year however we have Office staff available and willing to go on leave a few days later after the last freight run for the year prior to Christmas. As New Years Day falls on a Wednesday it has been agreed that in the Office will reopen on Monday following the first weekend in January. A number of staff will be around the Settlement during the Christmas / New Year period and are available for local emergencies if required.

Summary of arrangements as follows.

Office will be closed over the Christmas / New Year Period from Friday 20 December 2024 reopening on Monday 6 January 2025.

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park will be closed from 4pm Thursday 24 December 2024 and reopen on Friday 27 December 2024. Normal summer and public holiday hours will otherwise apply. Public toilets will remain open, and fuel will be available with 24-hour access to fuel bowser with card swipe facility.

Last freight run for 2024 will be on Thursday 19 December 2024, with the freight run recommencing in 2025 on Thursday 9 January 2025 .

**For Information**

## 20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 24 November 2024

Attachments: Nil

### General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
22.10.2024	Onsite Meeting with Settlement Crew (Works Manager, Executive Manager DCEO, Community Officer, Roadhouse Managers and Garden Staff) at Caravan Park to view potential redevelopment options
23.10.2024	Roadhouse Precinct Redevelopment Work including meetings with Community Officer. Telephone discussions with Dean Crothers DPLH
24.10.2024	Council Workshop Meeting & Minutes
25.10.2024	Council Minutes & follow up actions. Roadhouse Redevelopment work
26.10.2024	Council Minutes & follow up actions.
28.10.2024	Council Meeting follow up actions. R2R & LRCIP Work. MRWA Technical Working Group Work.
29.10.2024	R2R & LRCIP Work. DPLH Land Tenure . Settlement Projects Work
30.10.2024	Settlement Projects Work.
31.10.2024	DPLH Land Tenure . Settlement Projects Work. Settlement Works. Meeting with Dept Conservation and Muggon Ranger Program Representative
1.11.2024	Travel to Geraldton. MRWA Technical Working Group Meeting. TOIL
4.11.2024	TOIL. Emails Meeting with Community Officer and UDLA and their Offices in Fremantle regarding Playground, Roadhouse and Roadhouse Precinct
5.11.2024 to 6.11.2024	Attend LGPro Conference in Perth
7.11.2024	TOIL. Emails Regional; Road Group Submission
8.11.2024	TOIL. Touch base via phone with Works Manager
11.11.2024	Separate Meeting Briefings with Works Manager. Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer. Recruitment Works. WALGA Country Zone Report
12.11.2024	Site inspection with Works Manager over drainage in and around the Settlement. Policy Work
13.11.2024	Policy Work. Follow up telephone discussions Dept Conservation Representative concerning the Muggon Ranger Program
14.11.2024	Policy Administration and Agenda Work
15.11.2024	Policy and Administration Work. Attend MRWA Murchison Sub Group Meeting via Teams. Catch up and briefings Executive Manager DCEO. Telephone discussion with Lyn Fogg (WALGA).
16.11.2024	Touch base with Swimming Pool Splash Pad Contractor on site. Policy Administration and Agenda Work. Catch up briefings with Works Manager
17.11.2024 to 19.11.2024	Policy Administration and Agenda Work
20.11.2024	Policy Administration and Agenda Work. Catchup with Mark Holdsworth (Regional Development Australia). Attend Teams Meeting for Playground Scope Update with UDLA, Councillor E Foulkes-Taylor, Julia Foulkes-Taylor, Community Officer & Executive Manager DCEO. Touch base with Chris Brayton CSIRO via Phone
21.11.2024	Travel to Cue with Community Officer. Attend Regional Community Development Officers and MEG Meeting
22.11.2024	Attend WALGA Country Zone Meeting. Travel back from Cue
23.11.2024	Agenda Work. Grants Commission Submission
24.11.2024	Grants Commission Submission
25.11.2024	Finalise Agenda. Grants Commission Submission

**Recommendation**

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	M Fowler	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.			
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	5
		<b>Against</b>	0

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**21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

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Nil

*Staff Members Vick Dumbris and Sydney Fogarty entered the room at 1.06pm*

*Shire President Comments*

The Shire President Roscco Foulkes-Taylor brought Administration Officer Vicki Dumbris into the room as this was the last meeting before Vicki finishes up with the Shire.

Roscco indicated that Vicki had been a very positive uplifting person, always friendly and supportive on Council days and a wealth of local knowledge always appreciated by staff and visitors alike. Roscco thanked Vicki for her long years of service and also husband Ivor who had only recently resigned, thanking them both in moving from Northampton a number of years ago for Ivor to take up a position on the work crew with Vicki later working as part of the Shire Office staff .

Roscco wished Vicki and Ivor all the best for the future.

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**22 MEETING CLOSURE**

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*The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.08pm*

**Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 13 December 2024**

Signed..... Presiding Officer