



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 **27 March 2025**, 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 Q Fowler
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Cr M Fowler
Cr G Mead

Staff

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

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 28 February 2025

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 28 February 2025 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

Wednesday 30 April 2025

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Following on from the February Council Meeting depending on additional information being provided from consultants the following items be required to be considered

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply and Construct Project Tender

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

As per Agenda Item 10 above potentially the following

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project Tender.

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

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
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 March 2025
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The Construction crew have resumed the final preparation work for the upcoming sealing works on the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. as well as around the settlement. The stabilization works were completed on Sunday 9 March, my thanks to the crew for being prepared to work on the Sunday to get the job completed. The week commencing March 24 will see the final prep and marking out of the center line. Bitutek will mobilize on April 1 to commence sealing on April 2. Most of the stone has already been delivered and Bitutek say they are on schedule to start as planned.

Maintenance

Maintenance have patch-graded south along the Beringarra Pindar Rd, picking up Mileura Nookawarra Rd. Manfred Rd. Boolardy Kalli Rd. Kalli Cue Rd. Mt. Wittenoom Rd and Wooleen Mt. Wittenoom Rd to the Boolardy Wooleen Rd. intersection. By the time Council meets they should be south of the Murgoo intersection.

SKA Route Works

These continue with both Squires Resources and Walladar engaged in both upgrade and maintenance work. I am still waiting to meet with representatives from the CGG to conduct and agree to a scope of work for the 28 km section of the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd on the CGG side. I would also like to thank the CSIRO (Andrew and Chris) for their assistance with securing material closer to the current work areas, it considerably shortens our turnaround time.

Water Upgrade

Henry from MGP WA is back on site and work is once again under way after some unrelated maintenance and repairs. We also continue to find pipes and cables no one knew existed. Occasionally this creates a little excitement and a flurry of activity.

Power Upgrade and Chlorinator

Both await consultant advice before being formally considered by Council.

Condolences

Condolences to CEO Bill after the sad news of Kaye's Passing. Kaye was an integral part of the Shire staff for a number of years before the return of her illness.

Recommendation

That Council resolve 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: 23 March 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 2025 (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 February 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 2025 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 28 February 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 March 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report February 2025

Matter for Consideration

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

Comments

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

Key comments in relation to the report:

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity
 - a Closing Surplus \$2,251,598 compared to Budget of \$4,283,466. The material variances are outlined in Note 2.
 - b Note that the budget figures reported against are original adopted. Once the budget review is adopted, the reporting for March onwards will be against the budget review values
- 2 Note 2 provides explanations of Material Variances.
 - a Operating Revenues
 - i Fees and charges and Interest earnings reported as variances in Jan have now normalised below the material variance reporting thresholds
 - ii Other Revenue is a new variance in Feb, as per explanations provided in Note 2
 - b Operating Expenses
 - i Variances reported are in line with items reported in Jan.
- 3 Note 4 – total cash balances \$8,871,069. \$4,878,540 unrestricted and \$3,992,529 restricted reserves.
- 4 Note 6 – rates outstanding \$105,052 down \$31,663 from Jan
- 5 Note 9 Capital Expenditure
 - a Total roads \$1,344,352 YTD
 - b No other major movements from Jan

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 28 February 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17.3 Budget Review March 2025

File: 2.2
Author: Travis Bate – Financial Accountant (RSM Australia)
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 March 2025
Attachments: 17.3.1 2024-25 Budget Review Report

Matter for Consideration

A review of the 2024-25 Budget based on financial performance between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024 has been conducted and is presented to Council.

Background

As required by the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopted a budget for the 2024-25 financial year based on forward plans and best estimates at the time. According to the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, each year, between 1 January and 31 March, a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year, considering its financial performance for at least the first six months of the year, its position at the date of review and its forecast position to the end of the financial year. This review is required to be submitted to the Council for consideration.

The Budget review for 2024-25 has been conducted and amendments are detailed in the Budget Review Report as attached. This followed an in depth review the relevant financials for each Chart of Account and where applicable individual job levels.

The following highlights are of note:

Opening Carried Forward figure

At the time of budget adoption, a precise opening figure was not able to be determined as Council's 2024 financial statements were yet to be audited. The unaudited opening figure of \$1,768,357, has decreased to \$443,925 based on the 2024 audited financial statements. Movements hereon include:

- ~ Decrease in cash of \$665,796. Budget was adjusted for Main Roads Specific Grants \$600K. Only recognised in July.
- ~ Increased contract assets of \$120,489 due to LRCIP Roadworks Phase 3, funds not yet received.
- ~ Payables increased by \$179,482 with \$142K attributed to accrued expenses which is a timing matter.
- ~ Contract liabilities increased by \$559,801. SKA Capital Grant Contract Liability not recognised at time of budget – timing matter.
- ~ \$49,568 year end leave provision decrease, updated post budget adoption. Non cash impact on surplus as added back.

Operating Revenue

Operating revenues have increased \$463,646. Notable movements relate to:

- ~ Decreased rates of \$75,150 due to mining tenement terminations.
- ~ Increase in Grants, Subsidies and Contributions of \$471,454, mainly attributed to the MRWA SKA operating grant increasing by \$432,433.
- ~ Increase in Fees and Other income by \$105,780 with expected increase in Roadhouse Shop and Fuel sales.

Operating Expenditure

An overall increase in operating expenditure of \$1,361,381 with main contributing factors as follow:

- ~ Increased Grid Maintenance expenditure of \$125,295.
- ~ Increased SKA Road Maintenance expenditure of \$393,121.
- ~ Increased depreciation of \$642,028. No impact on the surplus as this is added back as a non-cash item.

Capital Expenditure - Infrastructure Roads

Minor adjustments with a slight reduction of \$15,990 on total expected spend for the year.

Capital Expenditure – Other Infrastructure

Reduced \$25,463 from the adopted budget.

Capital Expenditure – Buildings and Improvements

Increase of \$155,537 with projects required alignment with cost expected to move upwards:

- ~ Caravan Park Ablution Block cost increased with \$55,275 due to inclusion of turf irrigation.
- ~ Increased cost of \$56,060 on Sports Club Access Upgrade per actual PO.
- ~ Additional cost on roadhouse building and staff accommodation of \$12,003.

Capital Revenue

An increase of \$869,980 is budgeted for and is attributed as follow:

1. An increase of \$365,468 for SKA Roads; capital expenditure has been repurposed from Shire cost to SKA funded cost and no real movement in this spend category.
2. Reduction of \$95,488 for Road to Recovery.
3. Increased MRWA funding of \$600,000.

Transfers from reserves remains unchanged from adopted budget.

A decrease on transfers to reserves of \$744,759 is included in budget review due to reduced cash generated from operating activities, most notable changes relate to:

- ~ Reduced transfer to Settlement Building Reserve of \$589,092, and
- ~ Lower transfer to Workforce Accommodation Reserve of \$190,000.

Closing Carried Forward Figure

The closing carried forward review figure is shown in the attached documents is balanced to \$nil.

Reserve Transfer Summary

Overall summary of all reserves highlighting Balances and movements is detailed in the attached 2024-25 Budget Review Report

Combined Net Current Assets and Reserves

Overall summary of balances of Net Current Assets and Reserves are detailed in the attached 2024-25 Budget Review Report

2024-25 Budget Review Report

As attached.

CEO Comments

As per recent normal practice a three-year outlook has also been provided in the attached Supplementary Schedules. Although not an in-depth review with inflation aspects ignored, all of the major projects have been considered and where applicable budget items that are now not expected to be completed in 2024/25 are shown in ongoing years. The resultant indicative net current asset and reserve positions are then shown. It only with this approach that an indicative future overall position can be revealed. This remains good financial practice, notwithstanding that strictly speaking it is not a mandatory requirement for a budget review.

Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

33A Review of Budget

- (1) *Between 1 January and 31 March in each year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year.*
 - (2A) *The review of an annual budget for a financial year must –*
 - (a) *Consider the local government’s financial performance in the period beginning on 1 July and ending no earlier than 31 December in that financial year; and*
 - (b) *Consider the local government’s financial position as at the date of review; and*
 - (c) *Review the outcomes for the end of that financial year that are forecast in the budget.*
 - (2) *Within 30 days after a review of the annual budget of a local government is carried out it is to be submitted to council.*
 - (3) *A council is to consider a review submitted to it and is to determine* whether or not to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendation made in the review.*
- *Absolute majority required.*
- (4) *Within 30 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.*

Strategic Implications

The budget has been developed based on existing strategic planning documents adopted by council.

Sustainability Implications

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

Policy Implications

The budget is based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and informing strategies.

Financial Implications

The changes suggested in the budget review are based on the local government’s financial performance for the financial year up to 31 December 2024. Adjustments have been made to better reflect actual performance for the period and to give a more accurate projection of the forecast surplus at 30 June 2025.

Consultation

CEO, Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Note the 2024/25 Budget Review Report as attached which amongst other things highlights various explanations including the notional two indicative forecasts which maintains the strategic focus as envisaged when the 2024/25 budget was adopted.
- 2 Adopt the 2024/25 Budget Review as presented in the attached Budget Review Report
- 3 Amend the 2024/25 Budget as outlined in the 2024/25 Budget Review.

Voting Requirements

Absolute 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: 22 March 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report February 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>

As second working group meeting has taken place. The event program continues to evolve to become an authentically Murchison experience.

At this point in time we are still negotiating a contract from our headliner. Once it is signed we will be able to release the details to the public.

We are on track for a early April ticket release. Ticket prices are to remain the same \$150 per adult and \$100 for children over 12 and under 18, children under 12 will be free. This year is was decided not to offer a discounted community ticket but instead to encourage residents to volunteer their time to help with the event. A schedule will be created with a number of openings in various areas where assistance will be required such as in the MAC Kitchen for lunch service and assisting facilitators with set up and pack down. In return for their

assistance, a complimentary ticket will be provided. A full list will be developed and expressions of interest requested.

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.*

Kick off meeting for the Tourism Marketing Strategy will take place on the 28th March. I look forward to working with the community to create an authentically Murchison destination identity and strategy.

Partner News

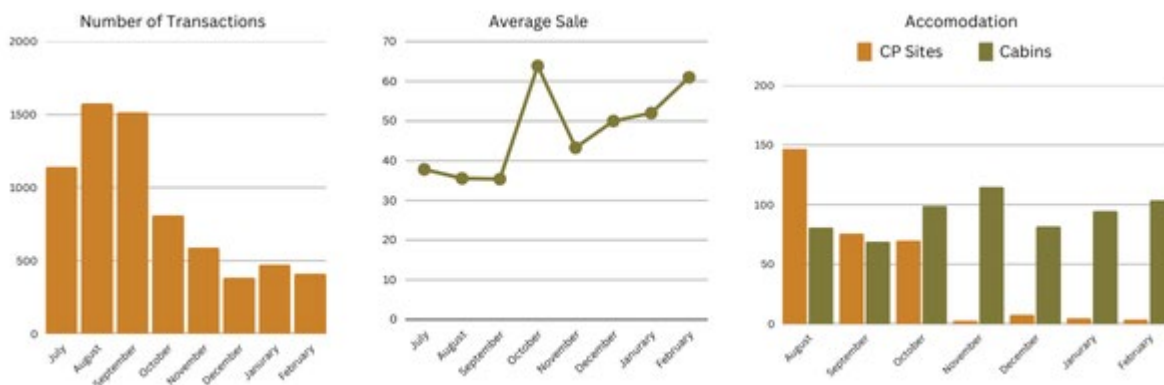
AGO Detour campaign commenced 10th February this is spreading across the AGO website, social media advertising, double page spread in Caravan and Camping magazine, Advertising on 9NOW, radio spots on 6PR, and on the Association of Caravan Clubs.

Tourism WA has posted Road to the Rock Itinerary on 13th February through social media which is a great support for the Detour Campaign.

Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways is attending the Caravan and Camping Show on the AGO stand they will be distributing Gascoyne Murchison Planners, Outback Pathways Guides. An updated Outback Pathways Guide has been completed for 2025 and will be used at the show.

MGR

Roadhouse Update



Local Loyalty Scheme

The Local Loyalty Scheme has been released online through the monologue. We look forward to seeing and processing applications as they arrive.

We have received a total of 8 applications to this point and expect this to increase with the connection of the loyalty card to pool access for local residents.

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 Interpretive 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.*

The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 5,164 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$516.40 going back to community initiatives.

We received an environmental impact report from WARRL and Containers for Change on March 6th. A total of 11,200 containers have been recycled through our bag drop location. That 2.6 M3 of landfill space saved, 1.9 tonnes of CO2 emission saved and 6.7kWh energy saved.

Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program and changing the bin you put your rubbish in.

Community Garden & Orchard

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.*

Economic Development *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*

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 community groups.

Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.

Support for Community Groups *Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.*

With ANZAC day not far away I'd like to suggest a working bee to plant out the community garden with winter crops. We will sprout some seedlings in house, we have plenty of seed from our previous grant purchase that can give us a good start.

The orchard has made a huge leap forward with 25 epic holes dug to make way for good fill loaded with organic matter to give the fruit trees the best start at life. The Gardeners have been chasing water lines and we would love some feedback on reticulation set ups that have worked the best from the community.

2025 Significant Event Opportunity – Box Rally

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

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

Social Objective 3 *To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:*

Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

Supporting community groups.

Support for Community Groups *Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.*

Civic Leadership Objective 4 *To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:*

Regional collaboration where possible;

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

Box Rallies have been in touch they will be sourcing the bulk of their fuel in Mullewa with only participants that forget or need top-ups requiring unleaded when they reach the settlement to reduce the strain on our limited resources. Box Rallies will be bringing up their own caterers and making use of the sports club hire option. The Murchison Sports Club have agreed to run the Bar which will see funds come back into our community

group. The Caravan Park including all motel rooms, grasses, and powered and bush camping sites have all been secured by the rally. The date is set for 20th June.

Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4 *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.

Strategies

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari *Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).*

Email Communications

- ~ 5 Regional demonstration opportunities, Reminder for Community Meetings, Murchison Monologue, Temporary Changes to Mid Week Mail Delivery, Community Meetings Date Poll,
- ~ 1 Road Condition Report

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.

Mail Communications

None

Website

Currently getting a new roads reports system that will feature a live map, updated event calendar and payment gateway for events. The has moved along and just awaiting final touches.

The next Monologue will be released post the March 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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

18.2 DPLH Request for Comment for Conversion of Wooleen Station Pastoral Lease to a Diversification Lease

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 March 2025

Attachments: 18.2.1 DPLH Request for Comment - Conversion Wooleen Station Pastoral Lease into a Diversification Lease.

Matter for Consideration

Provision of Council comments by to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in relation to a proposal in relation to Pastoral Lease N049906, being Wooleen Station, for the conversion of the entire Pastoral Lease into a diversification lease, which will be predominantly a tourism and conservation enterprise with traditional pastoral purposes to be ancillary to that operation.

Request

DPLH have requested that comments be provided within 42 days of the email advice. ie 25 April 2025.

Details of the request are attached.

Essentially the proposal involves the current Wooleen Pastoral Lease being converted into a diversification lease which will be predominantly a tourism and conservation enterprise with traditional pastoral purposes (i.e. grazing, stock and pastoral activities), to be ancillary to that operation.

Background

The operation at Wooleen Station has had a significant history in relation to operation as a pastoral station and in recent times as a supporting and developing tourism business as adjunct to the existing pastoral operation. Recently two specific matters have come before Council.

DPLH - Wooleen Station Pastoral Lease Amendment Request

At the October 2024 Council Meeting Council considered a 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.

In response Council resolved as follows.

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.*

Wooleen Station Petition

At the December 2024 Council Meeting Council considered of a Petition from the owners of Wooleen Station (David and Frances Pollock) operating through an on-line platform change.org entitled "Stop the Shire of Murchison's Dingo Bounty," and associated comments and submissions received since the launch of the petition.

In response Council resolved as follows.

- 1 *That the "Stop the Shire of Murchison's Dingo Bounty Petition" as presented by petitioners David and Frances of Wooleen Station be formally received.*
- 2 *That the Chief Executive Officers Wooleen Station Petition Report be noted*
- 3 *That Council having considered the Petition received from petitioners David and Frances of Wooleen Station rejects the demand to remove the Shire's Wild Dog Bounty and affirms that the bounty scheme shall remain in place.*
- 4 *That Council write to David and Francis Pollock advising them of Councils decision relating to the Petition as presented.*
- 5 *That Council provides a copy of the Chief Executive Officers' Wooleen Station Petition Report to the Pastoral Land Board (Board) requesting that it consider and review the wild dog management issues raised by Wooleen Stations "Stop the Shire of Murchison's Dingo Bounty" petition and requests that the Board provide the Council with the results of their review.*

Comments

As indicated above Council is quite rightly concerned about the current operation of the Wooleen Station in relation to the control of wild dogs and adverse effects on other pastoral stations. This aspect has been formally brought to the attention of the Pastoral Board, thus far without response.

To compound matters the owners of the Wooleen Station have on record indicated that they are opposed to management controls of wild dogs and indicated that they have not and would not participate in any mitigation strategies, notwithstanding their obligations under the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

Notwithstanding the owners of Wooleen Station have not sought to comply with their obligations under the *Land Administration Act 1997* to control wild dogs, the proposed conversion from a permit to undertake pastoral tourism on the Stations' Pastoral Lease to a diversification lease has the potential to significantly weaken this legislative control.

Whilst there is no formal planning consideration required by Council at this time, DPLH has noted that Wooleen Station is zoned Pastoral under the Shire of Murchison Planning Scheme. Amongst other things the pastoral zone provides for the following.

- ~ *Pastoral Zone Objective 4.2*
 - (a) *to promote the economic and social importance of the pastoral industry by protecting and promoting the sustainable use and development of the Shire for pastoral uses.*
 - (b) *To have regard for the Shire of Murchison Local Planning*
- ~ *Pastoral Zone provision 5.7.2*

An application for planning approval is to be made under the Scheme for all other uses not mentioned in Clause 5.7.1. In determining such applications, the local government is to have regard to the State Planning Framework, the provisions of the Scheme and the objective of the Pastoral zone as set out in Clause 4.2(b).

In these circumstances it is considered that Council should oppose the application. The owners have not and have indicated that they will not comply with the necessary controls in relation to wild dogs at the detriment to other pastoralists. These sentiments should be conveyed to DPLH as well as outlining the basic provisions of the Shire of Murchison Planning Scheme which will also apply if the application to change from a pastoral lease to a diversification lease is approved.

Recommendation

That Council resolve as follows.

That in relation to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) request for Council comments in regarding a proposal in relation to Pastoral Lease N049906, being Wooleen Station, for the conversion of the entire Pastoral Lease into a diversification lease which for predominantly tourism and conservation enterprise with traditional pastoral purposes ancillary to that operation, that Council

- 1 Objects to the proposed change from a pastoral lease to a diversification lease and this objection be conveyed to DPLH
- 2 Also advise DPLH that
 - a the owners of Wooleen Station have not and have indicated that they will not comply with the necessary controls in relation to wild dogs at the detriment to other pastoralists in the district
 - b this proposal potentially weakens the current legislative controls in relation to the control of wild dogs which is also a DPLH and Pastoral Board responsibility
 - c under the provisions of the provisions of the Shire of Murchison Planning Scheme a separate planning application for the amendment to the tourism operation will be required to be approved by Council with amongst other things the Pastoral zone objective to *“promote the economic and social importance of the pastoral industry by protecting and promoting the sustainable use and development of the Shire for pastoral uses”* being a key consideration.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Elected Member Superannuation

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 22 March 2025

Attachments: 19.1.1 Elected Member Allowances

Matter for Consideration

Superannuation contribution payments for its council members

Outline

Following an amendment to the *Local Government Act 1995 (Western Australia)* last year, local governments may decide to make payments as a contribution to a superannuation account nominated by their council members from 1 February 2025. These superannuation contributions will be mandatory for class 1 and 2 local governments from 19 October 2025 but discretionary for Band 3 and 4 local governments.

Where a council resolves to make superannuation contribution payments for its council members, the amount of the payment is to be the amount the council would have been required to contribute under the Commonwealth *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* as superannuation if the council members were employees of the local government. Any resolution must be by absolute majority.

Following advice obtained for WALGA It is considered the following payments to council members will be ordinary time earnings for superannuation purposes:

- ~ Meeting attendance fees.
- ~ Annual allowance for mayor, president, chair, deputy mayor, deputy president and deputy chair.

It is considered the following payments will NOT be ordinary time earnings for superannuation purposes:

- ~ Expenses to be reimbursed on claim, such as travel, vehicle, childcare and professional development expenses.
- ~ An annual allowance in lieu of reimbursement of expenses.

Previous Council View

In October 2021 the matter of Superannuation for Elected Members was discussed as part of a policy position that at the time WALGA was seeking. Council resolved as follows

Council does not support the proposal and believes that increasing the allowance would be a simpler method to achieve the desired outcome of providing more encouragement to recruiting potential councillors.

Administrative

Unlike superannuation for employees what would apply to elected members is slightly different as follows.

- ~ Only meeting attendance fees and Annual allowances for mayor, president, chair, deputy mayor, deputy president and deputy chair apply
- ~ There is no default fund with each elected member required to provide details of their respective funds. If this is not done. then no payment can be made
- ~ Some additional work will be required for this to be put into effect

Analysis

A copy of the costs associated with a potential move are attached.

It is of note that as per Council' previous view that, should the Council decide to obtain the same remuneration increase that would apply if superannuation was applied but not actually take specific superannuation payments, then tweaking the current allowances would virtually achieve the same net result. This would obviously be done when setting next year's allowances at the time the budget is set.

Comment

As indicated, there is no compulsion for Council to resolve to pay elected members superannuation. It's entirely discretionary.

I am of the view that in line with Council's previous views in the subject that Council resolve to not make superannuation contribution payments for its council members noting that the same effect can be achieved by varying the allowances at budget time should Council so wish

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Potential costs of payments of superannuation for elected members are outlined in Attachment 19.1.1

Consultation

Nil

Consultation

WALGA, Councillor Workshop 28 February 2025

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Note the Elected Member Superannuation Report
- 2 Resolves to not make superannuation contribution payments for its council members

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority.

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

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 March 2025

Attachments: Nil

General

As previously indicated in mid-January until 21 March 2025 I have had to attend to some significant personal issues, some joyous with my marriage to my long-term partner Kaye Doyle but otherwise not so with Kaye's passing on 1 March 2025 following long term cancer illness. This required me to work remote from the Office. During this time I have been in regular dialogue with The Shire President and Senior Staff such the overall operation is running on track, albeit within a very busy time. Kaye and I and our families are very appreciative of the support, especially the presence of the Shire President at Kaye's funeral service. Many thanks.

Meanwhile the following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
26.02.2025	Administration Emails. Touch base with Works Manager. Personal Leave
27.02.2025	Council Agenda. Touch base with Works Manager Administration Emails. Personal Leave
28.02.2025	Attend Audit Committee Meeting and Council Workshop Remotely. Administration follow up emails. Touch base with Works Manager, Shire President and Emma by phone. Personal Leave
3.03.2025	Public Holiday
4.03.2025	Emails Administration Council Minutes. Touch base with Works Manager. TOIL
5.03.2025	Emails Administration . TOIL .
6.03.2025	Emails Audit Compliance Return. Touch base with Shire President, Community Officer and Lisa. TOIL
7.03.2025	Attend MRWA Technical Working Group Meeting remotely. Emails Administration TOIL
10.03.2025	Emails Administration Audit Queries. Touch base with Community Officer. TOIL
11.03.2025	Emails Administration. Touch base with Community Officer. TOIL
12.03.2025	Catch up with Shire President and Works Manager via phone. Emails Administration. Budget Review Work
13.03.2025	Emails Administration. Budget Review Work. TOIL
14.03.2025	Roads to Recovery Work. Touch base with Community Officer via phone. Emails Administration. TOIL
17.03.2025	Email Administration. Touch base via phone with Community Officer. TOIL
18.03.2025	Personal Leave. Kaye's Funeral Service
19.03.2025	Emails Administration. Personal Leave
20.03.2025	Emails Administration. TOIL
21.03.2025	Brief catch up with staff. Attend Community Meetings. TOIL.
22.03.2025	Catch up with Henry Foulkes-Taylor and Community Officer. Agenda Work.
23.03.2025	Agenda Work.
24.03.2025	General Administration

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

As per Agenda Item 10 potentially the following

Other Items to be Discussed behind closed doors

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project Tender.

Recommendation

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b)(c)(d) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the following matters be discussed behind closed doors

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply and Construct Project Tender

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Recommendation

That the meeting come from behind closed doors

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting

21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender

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

21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade and Construct Project Tender.

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

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.