



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **27 October 2022**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.21pm.

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO
William Herold – Works Manager

Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Apologies

Cr G Mead

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 22 September 2022

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 22 September 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 22 September 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24 November 2022

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Cr Foulkes-Taylor announced

- ~ Carol Wilson (CSIRO) will be joining via Teams Meeting for item 18.2 Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia.
- ~ As per emails to councillors, I continued to work with City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn via emails over the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
- ~ A thankyou to Natasha Watson from WA Country Health Service – Strategy & Change and to those that attended to discuss local Murchison Health needs.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Chris Brayton CSIRO provided a CSIRO update on various matters including the following.

- ~ ARNT Fibre to PIA and Murchison Settlement. Heritage Clearance about to commence. Expected start first quarter in 2023. Construction time 12-16 weeks. Project is not managed by CSIRO, but they will assist.
- ~ Starlink Service hole over RQZ was initiated by them following an awareness, not a requirement, being raised by ACMA. As a result, Starlink turned some of their satellite beams off. CSIRO have investigated potential impact and it looks like being minimal
- ~ RFI Interference Team likely to come to the Settlement on Xmas Tree Day
- ~ SKAO briefing scheduled for November Council Meeting
- ~ CSIRO overall aim is to have CSIRO related information, events and tours emanating from the Murchison Settlement rather than as per previous arrangements from Geraldton

Note prior to the Meeting Council met to discuss with the following matters

- ~ *Meeting with Natasha Watson from WA Country Health Service – Strategy & Change and Merewyn Templeton WACHS Director of Nursing Murchison to discuss local Murchison Health needs with councillors, representatives from the PIA Wajarri Community and School and two local residents.*
- ~ *Workshop presentation from Scott Lang UDLA with Councillors and Kylie Simpson from the PIA Community to outline the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case*

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

28.09.22

Road inspection on the Beringarra Cue Road with the Works Manager. Rossco indicated that it was pleasing that Rowe Contractors who are undertaking works to convert the seal to gravel and rectify drainage issues have demonstrated a sound appreciation and good practice of the Rangelands Type drainage methods which are required for the works.

01.10.22 to 04.10.22

WALGA Convention in Burswood with Cr E Foulkes Taylor and CEO

05.10.22

Meeting with Richard Newton (GRA), Cr E Foulkes Taylor and CEO in Perth. Generally, a productive positive start to realise potential ways to advance our presence with Government in a strategic manner

24.10.22

Southern Rangelands Pastoral Meeting with Cr E Foulkes-Taylor in Geraldton a report of which is as follows:

Along with Cr Emma I attended the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Forum in Geraldton yesterday.

The event was pretty well supported with around 30 people from 15 different stations in attendance. The spread of stations represented was from near Carnarvon, north-east area of the UG Shire, a few hundred km north and east of Wiluna, eastern Goldfields and several areas in between.

Nutrien did a good job being principal sponsor for the day and with several of their reps, soil health/ carbon experts, animal health specialists/researchers, Ag, Emergency, Water depts. along with the Minister for Agriculture for half a day a total of about 55 were there.

Some presentations on animal nutrition, climate forecasting, fire season potential, cattle breeding and water bore licensing requirements, while being fairly well presented were not something I found that riveting because much of the information seems regularly distributed by media releases, industry newsletters etc.

Conversely, I found the presentations on ruminant methane emissions, soil health, photosynthesis/carbon cycles, potential drone usage for vermin control and setting up a computer/electronics-based station monitoring system very interesting.

I have had several differences of opinion with the Minister for Ag Alannah MacTiernan over the years, but her presentation yesterday was a breath of fresh air with her enthusiasm, knowledge and aspirations for the future of the Southern Rangeland areas strongly evident.

The Minister seems incredulous, almost furious, that cattle and sheep carbon emissions (mainly through methane) are put in the same category as a coal fired power station. She strongly articulated that the animal cycle is one of consuming plants (which stimulates more photosynthesis thus removing extra carbon from the atmosphere), disturbs and aerates the soil, converts cellulose and carbohydrates into useable protein (meat) and then drops dung which nourishes the same soil. While this process does emit methane (CH₄) back into the atmosphere, to have it in the same category of digging up a fossil fuel and burning it in a one-off process to provide power just doesn't stack up.

After fobbing me off pretty quickly and saying we should only pursue hydrogen when I last approached her about our Settlement power possibilities/requirements in person at Mt Magnet about two years ago, the minister was a bit more accommodating this time and reckons she has a couple of mobs worth talking to. She directed her assistants to follow up on this so maybe something constructive may come of it.

I'm happy to take questions about the day.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

01.10.22 to 04.10.22

WALGA Convention in Burswood with Cr R Foulkes Taylor and CEO. Report is as follows:

Thank you to the Shire of Murchison for the opportunity to attend the WALGA Convention.

Summaries of the presentations and photos/videos can be found here <https://walga.asn.au/lqc22>

Two key themes that I picked up from the conference were a) Climate Change b) Aboriginal inclusion/empowerment/engagement

From a personal perspective, I thought the conference was well run and there were some good speakers. I valued the chance to catch up with old acquaintances and make new ones. My favourite speakers were:

- Bernard Salt who shared some interesting demographic data, insights and predictions. He reckons Australians are 'motivated by the relentless pursuit of lifestyle' and the pandemic has accelerated this further.
- Ukrainian Ambassador- moving presentation. "We are defending all the values that are so important to Australia". "We are standing up to the bully." He suggested that we can't afford to lose this war as it would embolden other nations to take over by force. How can we support Ukraine? Eg Adopt a region. Andrew Forrest is supporting farmers with grain storage facilities, City of Stirling gave \$10,000 to Ukraine Crisis Appeal
- Justin Langer was extremely engaging and had a few pearls of wisdom to share, all of which had an accompanying anecdote:
 - ~ When he asked the Dali Lama how to choose the best place to focus his philanthropy the DL said to 'support education and leadership'.
 - ~ One of the secrets to 'success' is to 'keep your eye on the ball' ie stay focused on what's important.
 - ~ Reflect on your actions and ask yourself ' What could I have done better'.

- ~ Truth works- always tell the truth and be honest with yourself
- ~ Embrace the tough times- they're character building

All motions at the AGM were passed except 3.9 which was withdrawn.

Patrick Gorman, Assistant Minister to the PM strongly suggested that more WA Local Govt reps should go to Canberra to make sure we are heard. WA is way being the other states in representations to Fed Govt.

Meredith Hammat MLA, representing theMin for Climate says the govt will be putting \$500m to LG to pay 50% of installation costs for an EV Charging Hwy.

Tourism presentation– “Camping with Custodians” has potential for our shire.

We could look into the Regional Events Scheme which opens Oct 18th with \$1.1m funding if we haven't already

05.10.22

Meeting with Richard Newton (GRA), Cr R Foulkes Taylor and CEO in Perth

14 10.22

MWDC Board Meeting.

- ~ Note that Karin Grima at the Regional Development Association will be moving over to the Commission
- ~ Spoke to City of Greater Geraldton Deputy President Gerry Clune about the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
- ~ Excellent Apace Space presentation from by Adam Murszewski outlining the wider context and scop of space relate services including NASA, Satellites, Radio Astronomy, and Defence. Copt of presentation available.

18.10.22 to 19.10.22

Mid-West & Gascoyne Major Projects 2022 Forum in Geraldton

18.10.22

Meeting with Hon. Melissa Price in Geraldton. Report is as follows

I presented Melissa a copy of the Settlement Masterplan and showed her through it with background commentary and the estimate funding that will be needed.

I also showed her a copy of Adam Murzewski's Space 'space' presentation and talked to the ideas presented in that. I thanked her for the previous government's commitment to build a fibre cable to the Settlement. This led on to discussion around the issue of the Star Link black hole over the RQZ and some of the problems it presents for our community.

I thanked her for her support letter to the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) for the ALUBS Festival. She said she's uncertain about the future of the BBRF and if it will even continue.

We had a general discussion about the season and the cell fence and our dog fence.

She said she will let us know if she hears of any suitable funding opportunities.

24.10.22

Southern Rangelands Pastoral Meeting with Cr R Foulkes-Taylor in Geraldton a report of which is as follows:

Just adding to that excellent summation of the day, it was noted by the Chair, Debbie Dowden, at the AGM that Murchison Shire and Cue Shire have donated to the SRPA and were publicly thanked for that. Some other shires have contributed for this financial year, although it was not mentioned which ones.

Jack Carmody of Prenti Downs is the new Chair with Alys McKeough vice chair, David Hammerquist from Mt Augustus Stn is the new secretary, Tom F-T is continuing as Treasurer. 2 board positions were unfilled but there are a couple of people that they have in mind for those.

My two favourite speakers were Phil Veroe from UWA's School of Agriculture who spoke about reducing methane from ruminants.

There is no research comparing the CH₄ production of grain/grass/rangeland animals and he suspects that animals on the rangelands would produce less CH₄ because of their diverse diet. I put our hand up for a project site if they are looking for one!

Dr Susan Orgill, a soil scientist with Select Carbon, who spoke about the importance of soil carbon and how to generate it. She was super engaging and obviously very passionate about her subject.

We also heard from Debbie Dowden and Wes from AxisTech about the way Challa Natural Capital Project that is currently being undertaken and sounds really interesting so keep your eyes open for more on that down the track.

There is a post on Alannah MacTiernan's Facebook page from the day if you want to check it out.

Cr Q Fowler

1.10.22 to 2.10.22

Attended Landor Race Meeting and in the process obtained consistent feedback concerning the state of local roads. Attendees to the race meeting were very happy with respect to Murchison's gravel roads, and especially pleased with the additional seal on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, but not so with respect to the condition on the gravel section of this road within the City of Greater Geraldton.

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

12.54 pm

Item 18.2 Briefing

Carol Williams (CSIRO) via Teams provided a brief explanation of the ACMA proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone (RQZ) Western Australia as addressed -under Item 18.2. Information provided to inform Council included the following:

- ~ Review is conducted entire by ACMA and not related to any CSIRO or SKA operation or works currently underway and is purely a legislative instrument where there is an automatic sunset clause triggering a review which is called a "remake."
- ~ The actual Radio Quiet Zone has minimal changes and relates to band widths and frequencies with no additional areas involved
- ~ Use of CB bands and Satellite telephones are currently not affected
- ~ Current practice by CSIRO within the RQZ is to raise a query if there is an issue encountered and work with the actual person concerned. This approach won't change
- ~ The current Starlink IT Broadband service which is not offered in the radio Quiet Area is not a matter for the Review nor associated with CSIRO or SKA's operation

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.08pm

Meeting re-opened at 1.42pm

Cr E Foulkes Foulkes-Taylor returned to the meeting at 1.43pm

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Report

File:

Author: Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager / DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 October 2022

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community development projects update at Murchison Shire which are outlined as follows.

Murchison Aquatic Facility Component of the Settlement Redevelopment

The establishment of an aquatic facility addresses a major component of the Shire's Masterplan by meeting a community service initiative. The aquatic facility consisting of a swimming pool, splash pad, paving, sunshades, and landscaped gardens will be the main recreational facility for the Shire of Murchison.

As previously advised the Shire has applied for \$250,000 through the Regional Economic Development grant. A further \$250,000 has been requested through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF). Most recently, the third and final funding application for \$250,000 has been lodged through Lotterywest.

Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival (ALUBSF)

The '*Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival*' will cater for the local and wider Murchison and Mid-West community, aligning with the April 2023 Solar Eclipse, it will provide a positive space to celebrate the Murchison showcasing Astro dark sky tourism, science tourism and geo-tourism assets. The event will generate additional tourism income for the Murchison community by increasing visitor numbers and expenditure in the area, encouraging visitors to take a road trip through stunning outback Gascoyne and Murchison station stay country. It will also attract media coverage and raise the profile of the Murchison as a Western Australian premium Astro tourism destination.

Recent developments include a \$5,000 financial contribution from Greenfield Technical Services and a further \$5,000 financial contribution from Squires Resources Pty Ltd. These recent sponsorship agreements have assisted the Shire to meet the event budget given that the Building Better Regions grant application is still currently pending.

Further developments include discussions with Chris Brayton (CSIRO) and Kirsten Fredericksen (CSIRO), for the inclusion MRO site visits via bus tours to and from the settlement to the MRO for festival attendees on the Sunday 16 April 2023.

Further discussions also through ICRAR (International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research) and Astrotourism WA for the inclusion of the immersive display VR headsets "Beyond the Milky Way" featurette as well as another Stellar Stargazing event hosted by Astrotourism WA to end the festival Sunday evening. The inclusion of MRO site visits for festival attendees is very unique and has the potential to be recognised on an international level. It is estimated that 50,000 people will visit Ashburton and the wider Pilbara, Gascoyne and Midwest regions to witness the total solar eclipse, which will have a positive impact on WA's tourism industry.

Now that the majority of the funding package and program outline has now been finalised, we are about to form up a small Working Group including of staff and other persons to assist in a successful implementation. Councillor suggestions representation and participation would be ideal, especially at this event is becoming a major showcase of the Shire.

Story Towns Podcasts

The Murchison Story Towns podcasts have commenced the production phase. Russell McGilton recently met with Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor and Michael Foulkes-Taylor and conducted interviews for the Murchison Museum, Settlement and Heritage episode. The second episode combines Rebecca Wheadon (MRO Site Entity Leader) and Indigenous Elder where they discuss the SKA from a scientific viewpoint and ancient astronomy viewpoint.

Strategic Implications

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
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</i>
<i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i>	<i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

Statutory Environment

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Chief Executive Officer, Works Manager, Carol Redford, Astrotourism WA, Chris Brayton, CSIRO, Kirsten Fredericksen, CSIRO, Russell McGilton, Story Towns

Recommendation

That the Council note the Community Development Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler	
That the Council note the Community Development Report.				
Carried	For	5	Against	0

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 16.1.1 Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report

Construction Crew

By the time Council meet all earthworks and pavement laying on the remaining gravel section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road south of the Murchison Settlement should be completed. Minor pavement maintenance only will be taking place, most probably just back watering and the quantity will obviously be determined by weather factors. They will also hopefully have made a start on moving gear to the Beringarra-Pindar Rd to make a start about mid-November. Some pothole patching will also occur over this period.

Maintenance Crew

The Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd has been completed and they are currently on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd heading north. They will be heading back toward Tallering to do some more tidy up work as well as rectify some offshoot drain intakes that have vegetation and sand blocks.

Crew Training

Both works crews have undergone 3 days of Traffic Management training, both theory and practical.

Flood Damage

Squires Resources have kicked off their works and are progressing very satisfactorily. McNabb-Twin Peaks Rd is complete. On the Beringarra-Pindar Rd from our south boundary to about Boolardy homestead on 2 of the 3 AGRN packages work is complete as is the Mt Wittenoom Rd. It is hoped THEM will kick off around mid-November.

Sealing Works

As things currently stand this is due to commence on November 8.

Parks and Gardens

I am sure that most of the community would have noticed some new vigour has been injected into this field, most leaking taps, dysfunctional sprinklers etc have been repaired or replaced. My thanks to Des and Wendy for making us look like a new pin.

Niche Wall

Murchison Rammed Earth have completed the niche wall at the cemetery.

Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement

The final Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement as approved by Main Roads WA has now arrived. There were minimal changes from previous drafts, and we are happy with the content as it is workable.

At the February 2022 Council Meeting Council resolved *“That decision to sign the final addendum be delegated to a Working Group comprising Cr A Whitmarsh, Cr Q Fowler and Cr S Fowler and that they have the power to authorise the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to sign the addendum should it be deemed appropriate.”* The final agreement has now been provided to Cr’s A Whitmarsh, Q Fowler and S Fowler for decision.

Note prior to the Meeting Cr A Whitmarsh, Cr Q Fowler and Cr S Fowler met to discuss the SKA Road Access Agreement and agreed to authorise the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to sign the final addendum as provided by Main Roads WA.

Seal Widening Works

Initial planning and budgeting for sealed widening works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road envisaged stabilisation of the existing pavement with additional pavement material with cement also required in some floodway areas.

After discussion with the CEO and Josh Kirk of Greenfield Technical Services on the best way to achieve seal widening works cost effectively and efficiently. We are now also looking at other stabilisation possibilities given that we may not have to cart material which we have yet to find, and / or have to cart material considerable distances depending on the source of gravel supply if and when found. Josh Kirk and I will be further evaluating final option following testing of insitu pavement materials. This aspect is also further addressed and should be read in conjunction with this section of my works report below.

Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report

As part of the Murchison Road Sealing Planning and Design Project funded through Royalty for Regions, Greenfield Technical Services were commissioned to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential impact of heavy vehicle traffic on typical sealed pavements within the Murchison Shire.

This predominately refers to the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road which has, as one of its key management considerations, the need to quantify a contribution that heavy vehicles make to the wear tear and damage over and above "normal" use, given expected future mine operations who may use this road.

A copy of their Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution Preliminary Cost Report is attached. Section 7 of the report summaries findings and potential next steps.

A few comments include the following.

- ~ Heavy vehicle traffic on local Shire roads can have a significant impact on the life of the sealed pavement and without proper management, can impose significant costs on local governments. Determining a reasonable contribution from heavy vehicle operators as compensation for the additional pavement wear is a challenging proposition given the significant complexity involved with structural pavement design.
- ~ Pavement life is highly sensitive to the bearing strength as measured by the California Bearing Ratio (CBR) of both the underlying subgrade material and the pavement gravel. As both of these are likely to vary along a road and will vary across the entire Shire, any cost recovery model needs to consider the site location. A significant amount of local knowledge is likely to constitute site sampling and geotechnical testing of numerous samples along each road section across the road network.
- ~ Adoption of a cost recovery unit rate expressed in \$ per tonne kilometre will vary over time. There is likely two scenarios; either a fixed rate is adopted and is appropriately time indexed, or a rate is determined on a regular basis (e.g., yearly) which is pegged to the current cost of the Shire's sealed pavement construction. For equity reasons adoption of such a rate could be applied regardless of location.

The models prepared in the assessment highlight the need to further develop this analysis and possibly reduce the range of uncertainty within the model, conducting testing of the CBR of the existing insitu pavement and/or subgrade material as well as undertaking pavement dipping's to establish the typical pavement thickness for various roads in the Shire, with focus obviously on the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd.

In conjunction with Greenfield's, we will soon commence such a testing program. We also continue to collect and improve the quality and completeness of the Shire's traffic data along the length of this road to reduce uncertainty in the model.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That the Works Report be noted.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 August 2022
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 (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

That Council

- 1 Receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 and that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items that this be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 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

Recommendation 1 Absolute Majority
Recommendation 2 Simple Majority

Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision

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

That pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 be discussed behind closed doors.

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 2.10pm

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That the meeting to come out from behind closed doors.			
Carried		For	5 Against 0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 2.12pm

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

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 2022 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.			
Carried		For	5 Against 0

CEO Bill Boehm left the meeting at 2.12pm

CEO Bill Boehm returned to the meeting at 2.13pm

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report September 2022

Note attachment to be provided prior to the meeting.

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 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 September 2022 as attached.

Carried **For** 5 **Against** 0

18 DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

18.2 Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia

File: 14.11
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 October 2022
Attachments: 18.2.1 Radio Quiet 2022 Consultation Compilation

Matter for Consideration

Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia

Background

The Radiocommunications (Mid-West Radio Quiet Zone) Frequency Band Plan 2011 (the band plan) is part of a multi-tiered spectrum planning regulatory arrangement in place to support the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia (ARQZWA) and its ongoing viability for radio astronomy services.

Under Part 4 of Chapter 3 of the Legislation Act 2003, most legislative instruments 'sunset'. That is, they are automatically repealed on 1 April or 1 October that first occurs 10 years after they are registered. This is an automatic process applying to most legislative instruments, regardless of their content. The band plan is due to sunset on 1 April 2023. We have formed the preliminary view that the band plan is operating effectively and efficiently and continues to form a necessary and useful part of the legislative framework.

The ACMA proposes to remake the Radiocommunications (Mid-West Radio Quiet Zone) Frequency Band Plan 2011 with only such minor changes, and to retitle it the Radiocommunications (Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia) Frequency Band Plan 2023. A draft of the proposed new band plan is available in the key documents section of the consultation as included in the attached **Radio Quiet 2022 Consultation Compilation** document which has already been circulated to councillors.

Comments from interested parties on the proposed new band plan by COB, Monday 14 November 2022. Information about making a submission is in the Invitation to comment section of this consultation paper.

Comment

It is obvious that Radio Quiet Provisions will remain moving forward but there is no reason why Council cannot articulate those key community concerns as part of a submission should it chose to do so. Key elements of a submission could be framed up at the meeting or a working group established to form up a proposal, given that the closing date for submissions is prior the next Council Meeting.

Recommendation

For Council to decided

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That Council note the report on the Proposal to Remake the Australian Radio Quiet Zone Western Australia and resolved to not make a submission at this stage.

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 22 October 2022

Attachments: 20.1 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention Program
20.2 2022 WALGA Aboriginal Forum Program

Staff

As Council are aware our Finance Officer Racheal King has tendered her resignation and will finish up on the Council Day. Racheal has obtained a similar position at the Shire of Tammin with the main reason for moving being to give her kids greater opportunities and especially improved schooling and to be closer to family.

Whilst we are all sad to see her leave as she has been a great asset to us and a terrific person. She leaves on very good terms and I am pleased that she has made what looks like a great move for her and am very appreciative of her work.

We have also made significant progress with Travis and Lisa on board and operating well so we are not left completely in the lurch but will look to recruit temporarily and on a permanent basis.

Meanwhile, with summer season approaching we have and will reduce our casual staffing at the Roadhouse over this quite period

General

The following update of activities is provided

Date	Activity
20.09.2022	TOIL
21.09.2022	Application for a request for an extension to submit Annual Financial Report to Auditors. Meeting with WALGA procurement Representatives with Works Manager, Community Manager-DCEO and Depot Officer. Meetings and briefings with Works Manager.
22.09.2022	Queens Memorial Public Holiday. Council Meeting & Workshop. Annual Electors Meeting. Council Minutes
23.09.2022	Council Minutes. Administration
26.09.2022	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
27.09.2022	Meeting with Community Manager-DCEO, Finance Officer and Administration Officer. Catch up with AGFIX. Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program
28.09.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program. Meeting with Works Manager and Gardener / Handyman over Settlement maintenance and improvements. Phone discussion / touch base with Chris Brayton CSIRO
29.09.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks program. Provide brief Finance Submission to WALGA
30.09.2022	Administration Travel to Perth for WALGA State Convention
1.10.2022	Administration Emails. Roadworks program.
2.10.2022	Work on Main Roads WA Roadworks Program.

Date	Activity
3.10.2022 to 4.10.2022	Attend WALGA State Conference. Follow up Emails.
5.10.2022	Attend Meeting with Shire President, Cr Emma Foulkes Taylor and Richard Newton (GRA). Attend WALGA Aboriginal Forum. Attend to emails. Provide advice to Shire President concerning CGG response.
6.10.2022	Arrange for car service. TOIL
7.10.2022	Travel back from Perth
10.10.2022	Catch up with Office. Meeting with Works Manager. Review and update draft Asset Revaluation Work. Asset Management Work. Telephone discussion with Jeff King (CSIRO)
11.10.2022	Asset Revaluation Work. Asset Management Work.
12.10.2022	Asset Management Work. LRCIP Acquittal work.
13.10.2022	Asset Management Work. Meetings with Community Manager – DCEO and Finance Officer
14.10.2022	Asset Management Work. Meeting with Finance Officer. Telephone discussions with Margie Weir (SPA), Scott Lang (UDLA) and Travis Bate (RSM)
17.10.2022	Meeting with Community Manager – DCEO. Work on Finance Officer PD and Roads to Recovery and LRCIP Acquittal works and WALGA Roads expenditure return
18.10.2022	Attend PIA School Council Meeting at PIA. Meeting Briefing with Works Manager. Meetings with Roadhouse Staff
19.10.2022	Several Telephone discussions with Shire President. Attend Audit Entrance Meeting via Teams. Provide PIA Educational School Review feedback. Asset Management Plan Work. Telephone discussions with Josh Kirk (Greenfield\ Technical Services) regarding Carnarvon-Mullewa Road
20.10.2022	Asset Management Plan Work. Meeting with Roadhouse Staff. Council Policy and Agenda Work
21.10.2022	Agenda Work. Meeting and site inspection at Airport with Works Manager
22.10.2022 to 24.10.2022	Agenda Work

WALGA Local Government Convention

As indicated on the 3 and 4 October 2022 I attended with Crs Rossco and Emma Foulkes-Taylor the 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition with the theme “*Embracing Change*”. A copy of the Conference program is attached.

Both councillors will report on this convention separately. Whilst I have attended similar conventions interstate, this was the first WALGA conference that I have attended. My overall impression is that it was extremely well run and of high quality with the theme “*Embracing Change*” topical and relevant, with some lessons, also relevant to Murchison. Networking was also important.

A few summary extracts / comments / observations, with references as per the Conference Program is provided as follows:

Opening Keynote

Cecile Thaxter- Vice President, Health, Safety, Environment & Communities Rio Tinto Iron Ore Cecile

Cecile spoke about recent challenges the mining giant has faced and the resulting changes being implemented. Cecile gave the audience plenty to ponder and challenged Local Government leaders in the room to think about their operations, their workforce, and their own journeys. Not shying away from the Juukan Gorge incident, Cecile gave an honest appraisal of the lessons learned, and how these lessons can be applied to any organisation.

In short, Cecile said Rio Tinto didn’t partner, didn’t listen and didn’t engage. Partnerships and relationships with communities built on listening to understand rather than just listening to respond were vital. This allows trust to be built, problems to be solved and positive change to be affected. She added that when engaging

with stakeholders, don't arrive with a solution that is ultimately your solution. That only demonstrates you are not willing to work together.

In relation to sexual harassment within its workforce, Cecile was candid, admitting like many companies, Rio Tinto had placed an emphasis on the physical safety of its workforce, but not the mental safety.

What was her advice for those resistant to change?

Find people who are innovators in your organisation and convince them to get on board with your change journey and inspire people to implement change.

"Think about the change journey and what you're trying to get to. Start creating stories. Start sharing stories. Start telling stories."

One of the interesting takes Cecile offered was to embrace conflict and tension because it comes from emotion and humans are feeling beings with thinking abilities. Don't be afraid of not always getting it right.

The State of Play

The West Australian's Chief Reporter Ben Harvey quizzed Madeleine King – Minister for Resources; Minister for Northern Australia, and Patrick Gorman, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister, in the State of Play session.

Minister King, in her capacity as Resource Minister, has the job of making sure we can keep paying for everything. She noted, *"Resources are the source materials for Australia's future, a future that has decarbonisation and renewables at its forefront and I know WALGA has been on the front foot with this transformation with commitments such as your Sustainable Energy Project, your Urban Canopy project, and the fact 50 LGAs in WA – 80 per cent of the state - have signed climate change declarations."* –

Minister Madeleine King acknowledged the challenges facing the rural regions of WA in securing and retaining skilled workers and affordable housing. She complimented Local Government as the Government that sits closest to the people of Western Australia – *"this makes you all very important assets for those of us in the national government as genuine partners in delivering the best policy outcomes for Australia."*

Both Ministers spoke about the forthcoming Voice to Parliament and referendum that aims to enshrine a body in the Constitution that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide advice on policies that impact their lives.

Holistic Wellbeing Measures: A Tool for Better Planning and More Engaged Citizens

Professor Fiona Stanley AC joined this session via Zoom and even from her home office, she had the audience well engaged. She and fellow panellist Mike Salvaris, from the University of Melbourne, have been working on measuring well-being instead of GDP since the 2000s, and are excited it is now high on the agenda for governments at both national and state levels in Australia.

Professor Stanley explained the excessive focus on GDP has a variety of negative social impacts - it increases inequalities in power and wealth and causes overconsumption - creating waste, environmental degradation, unliveable cities and pollution, to name a few.

Why GDP is not a good measure of Society's Progress?

"The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile." [Robert F Kennedy]

As an alternative to measuring GDP, Mike Salvaris pointed to the National Development Index (ANDI) Project, which identifies, measures and reports on 12 key areas of community importance and progress. He also shared the proposed 'best practice' WA Development Index (WADI). In a recent survey in Australia, people were asked, 'What is the primary purpose of government?' 'Improving the overall wellbeing of the population' was the highest response (32%). By listening to and engaging with our communities, Professor Stanley believes it will strengthen people's trust in democracy.

WALGA was acknowledged as being a leader in this field and produced the Local Government Metrics of Wellbeing Research Report in 2021. WALGA is a principal partner in the WADI project. Beat Huser joined the conversation and shared his work with wellbeing indices in New Zealand, specifically in the Waikato region, through the Waikato Regional Council. The 32 Waikato Progress indicators are annually reported, with a quality-of-life survey done bi-annually. The wellness data has primarily been used for strategic planning, project development and funding applications.

During the Q+A session, the panel acknowledged there is so much siloed data in Local Government that is kept internally and not shared. But the data collected is often reflective of common insights broadly and the WADI project will allow for data to be collected and shared for everyone's benefit.

We have good data in WA, and it can help Local Governments decide where to get best bang for your buck." - Professor Fiona Stanley AC. Utilising wellbeing data assists Local Governments in their strategic planning, to make informed policy decisions and to advocate to other spheres of government on behalf of their community.

The final word: *"If we measure progress by GDP, doesn't that mean "life = shopping?"* – Mike Salvaris

As a general comment the use of a well-being index, which will become a prime measure in WA. The rationale is also being articulated by the Federal Government Treasurer as part of the October budget. Potentially it is something that Murchison could readily adapt to as part of our community planning processes. In part we have already coined the well-being concept and if we work in conjunction with the WA project that that Mike Salvaris an currently working on such that we could potentially be on the front foot.

Address from Ambassador Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko

The Ambassador gave an emotional speech with a moving video on the plight of his homeland Ukraine, since it was invaded by Russia earlier this year. He thanked the Australian public and Federal Government for their support and gave a shout out to two Western Australian local governments for their contribution. Mr Myroshnychenko called on attendees to adopt a region in Ukraine and help support the reconstruction and recovery in the area. The final word: *"In Ukraine, we're defending all the rights and values that are important to Australians too"*. – Vasyl Myronshnychenko

Comment. One couldn't help but be moved.

WALGA Aboriginal Forum

On 5 October 2022 I attended the 2022 WALGA Aboriginal Forum. A copy of the Conference Program is attached.

This was not the first of such Forums organised by WALGA from all accounts was of a higher order than previously. Again, good networking opportunities but significantly many of those that presented and articulated what they were doing at a local level that included many local governments.

As a general comment it some observations, contacts lessons learnt could be potentially useful locally

A few summary extracts / comments /observations, with references as per the Conference Program is provided as follows:

Aboriginal leadership and change makers in Local Government and the community

Nolan Hunter, Local Dialogue participant and Former CEO Kimberley Land Council outlined some of the actions undertaken as part of and since the Uluru Statement from the Heart was undertaken a number of years, ago and also provided some comments on the reconciliation process as per the following brief points

- ~ Aboriginal exclusion from Constitution until the 1966 referendum
- ~ Constitutional provisions for Parliament to make laws for aboriginal people, including suspending the racial discrimination act without any rights available for those people to have constitutional rights to have a say
- ~ Through the Marbo land rights case finally, a successful recognition to debunk the notion of Terra nullius—meaning land belonging to no-one and then require those affected to prove that they existed

and continue to exist on the land when it's obvious that they did exist. Net result 17 years average delays in claims, complicated and costly legal processes with \$ that could have better spent.

~ Simple notion from Nolan of "*I am sick of putting out fires. Let's address the fire eaters*"

Cr Elsta Foy, Shire of Broome outlined a few anecdotes of how she dealt with racism and made change through quiet perseverance. Eg Elsta wasn't allowed to play Tennis at normal times, so she played at very early in the morning. She also turned to Golf and won many championships.

Let's Talk About Racism – Impact and Change

Christine Young; Executive Project Officer, City of Melville, Leanne Woods; First Nations Engagement Coordinator, City of Melville, Barbara Freeman; Family and Community Development Manager, City of Cockburn

Outline of a successful, unique and evolving program that tackles racism head on, its impacts, causes and solutions. This program, involving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff from the neighbouring cities of Cockburn and Melville, aims to increase awareness and understanding of racism, and discuss ways to step up and take action to stop its perpetuation.

Program seems to be rolled out to all staff. Takes 4 sessions with profound change and influence resulting at an individual and organisational level.

"Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny" (Our Truth Telling)

Robert Miles, Chairman, Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, Helen Shanks, Director - Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, Project Coordinator - Shire of Toodyay

Outline of Truth Telling processes undertaken in Toodyay which included reconciliation with previous and actions taken against aboriginal people, reconciling those actions with the truth, healing those involved and providing documented histories, yarning experiences and signage.

Comment. From all accounts a very positive and enriching process which we could learn from.

Menang First - The Albany Approach to Restoring Menang Noongar

Place Names, Reconciliation and WA's First Bicentenary, Lester Coyne, Menang Elder, Chair, Albany Aboriginal Heritage Reference Group Louise Paterson, Manager Community Relations, City of Albany, Bethany Findlay, Bicentenary Coordinator, City of Albany

An impressive outline of what is obviously a well support process from the City of Albany and the local Menang Noongar people to ensure that progressively local Aboriginal names have pride of place ahead of current colonial names for many local areas and features

Department of Local Government, Sport and Industries Update

Outline of a major project to develop a Cultural Centre for all Western Australian Aboriginal peoples in Perth overlooking the Swan River. Project is being overseen by the Whadjuk Noongar and has significant investment at a State and National Level to be built and operational well before the WA Bicentennial. A specific decision was made undertake this project as a standalone commitment not linked to WA Bicentennial. All Aboriginal regions and cultures will be represented.

Yacker Danjoo Ngala Bidi

Presentation of the background and process behind the December 2021 signing of the Yacker Danjoo Ngala Bidi with representatives of the City of Perth Elders Advisory Group. This formal "treaty" document was the culmination of many facilitated discussions and meetings between the City of Perth and local Elders. It followed significant amount of adverse press, confrontation and fines for local Whadjuk people who were attending and celebrating local sites of their significance contrary to the City of Perth's directions. The growth of reconciliation and improved understanding was significant with a number of activists included in the process and ultimately forming part of the solution.

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	M Fowler	
That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.				
Carried		For	5	Against 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

Prior to closure of the Meeting Finance Officer Rachael King, accompanied by Administration Officer Vicki Dumbris, were invited into the Council Chamber for the Shire President to say a few words to Racheal as this was her last day at work prior to relocating to work with Tammin Shire.

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor expressed positive thanks on Racheal’s time at Murchison and appreciation of seamless manner that Rachael integrated with the staff and community and her contribution overall. Rossco indicated that he had no doubt all staff, particular senior staff will miss her support, which will no doubt be Tammin Shires gain.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 2.42pm.

Minutes of the of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 24 November 2022

Signed..... Presiding Officer