



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Friday **27 February 2026**, commencing at 12:30pm

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.39pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Bec Fogarty – Community Manager
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 13 December 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 13 December 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 13 December 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr 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

6

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 March commencing at 12:30pm

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

As outlined in the Agenda Item 17.3 Update Financial Activity Statement Report was provided to Councillors the day before the Meeting.

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Shite President commented that it was good to get back into Shire Business and thanked all those involved in organising Councillor Print Profile Training about increased understanding about each other and one's self.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

30.01.26

Print Profile Training at the Council Offices with other Councillors and senior staff

Telephone Conversations

- Gary Patterson (WYAC) concerning various Murchison related WYAC projects
- John Welborne (Fenix) concerning haul road associated with proposed Mt Weld Project and potential future mining development north of the Murchison Settlement.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes Taylor

30.01.26

Print Profile Training at the Council Offices with other Councillors and senior staff

Cr E Foulkes Taylor also advised of her appointment to the Board of Mid-West Gascoyne Regional Development Australia

Cr A Whitmarsh

30.01.26

Print Profile Training at the Council Offices with other Councillors and senior staff

Cr A Whitmarsh also advised that he attended Regional Biosecurity Group State Community Forum on 24 & 25 February 2026

Cr's G Mead and Q Fowler

30.01.26

Print Profile Training at the Council Offices with other Councillors and senior staff

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: 22 February 2026
Attachments: Nil

Update

Since Council last met in December a fair bit has happened around the Shire. Unfortunately, not a lot of it has been on progressing our road construction activities. The Caravan Park is in the process of having a revamp which has kept the crews occupied on and off, various grids around the Shire have had maintenance and repairs carried out, signage around the Shire has had some long overdue attention and still we are not seeing light at the end of the tunnel as far as that goes.

The leading hand of the maintenance crew, Lou has resigned. Thankfully Mark Jones has agreed to come back a week early from his long service break, meaning we again have a competent grader operator on deck. We also have a new member of staff joining the construction crew which will hopefully take a little pressure off, welcome to the team Luke. The administration staff likewise have been under the pump, hopefully a few new faces in the office will likewise relieve some pressure in that department.

Construction

The construction crew, numbering three have been busy with the caravan park revamp, grid maintenance, signage and a floodway clean up south of Billabong Station post ex TC Mitchell.

Maintenance

Jamie has put in a limited amount of time in the caravan park and spent the rest of the time on maintenance grading, Butchers Track and some spot grading on the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. By the time Council meets I hope he will have made a start on the New Forrest-Yallalong Rd and the Coolcalalaya West Rd. to repair the damage from ex TC Mitchell. These two roads fared the worst as far as damage goes.

Ska Route Upgrade Works

Our two local contractors are well into the swing of things post the Christmas break.

Walladar had continued with re-sheet works on the CGG section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. They will now be doing some repair work to the road as a result of ex TC Mitchell. If ever there was an example of how our Roads to Rehydration philosophy works this has to be it. Considering, the amount of water that went over this section of road and how little damage actually occurred I believe is a credit to the contractor and his team on the job they have turned out.

Squires Resources completed a re-sheet job and are now on a wet grade and roll from the Murchison River crossing on the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd working back to the Kalli intersection on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. Thurkle's Earthmoving and Maintenance have also been stockpiling coffee rock for sheeting on the Boolardy-Kalli Rd in preparation for sheeting which take place on completion of the wet grade and roll works.

Water Upgrade

Hosken Electrical have spent some time in conjunction with MG & P to get the chlorinator up and functioning properly, hopefully we are at the final hurdle.

Flood Damage

Likewise on this work, we are approaching the end of the project with only the southern end of the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. left to complete.

Mid-West RRG Further Additional Funding

On 21 January 2026 the CEO advised that the Mid West Regional Road Group had an extra budget of \$787,490 available to be spent by 30 June 2026 with submissions required by 30 January 2026. Following discussion it was decided that whilst we could accommodate additional road reconstruction and widening on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road sealing works was not logistically possible.

An application for an additional \$450,000 project for earthworks and pavement funded on a 2:1 basis was submitted and despite this exceeding the maximum allocation we have recently been advised that we were successful, meaning that we will have 7 MRWA Regional Road Group Funded projects this financial year

Summary

We have a very busy year ahead!!

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	P Squires	
That the Works Report be noted				
Carried		For	6	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: 23 February 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2025 and January 2026
(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 December 2025 and January 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2025 and January 2026 be 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 A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the Local Government Act 1995 that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2025 and January 2026 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.47pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr P Squires

That the Meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.49pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr P Squires

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2025 and January 2026 be and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 December 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 February 2026
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report December 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 receipt 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. Specific comments have been included in the latest January 2026 Report also noting that from a financial management aspect the 2025-26 Budget Review that encapsulates much of the information contained with the December Financial Report.

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 December 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 December 2025 as attached

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 January 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 26 February 2026
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report January 2026

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.

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.

At the time of preparing the agenda the report was not available. As envisaged at the time in preparing agenda this report was provided to Councillors then day before the meeting as a Late Item also noting that from a financial management aspect the 2025-26 Budget Review that encapsulates much of the information contained with the January Financial Report

1 Executive Summary

- a Net Surplus \$2,159,456, ahead of YTD budget of \$1,357,226. Mostly affected by year to date reserve transfers of \$1,500,000 from Grants Commission Reserve (budget profile has reserve transfers at year end).
- b Significant Capital Projects:
 - i SKA Route \$2,271,353 YTD
 - ii Power Supply \$773,418 YTD
 - iii Carnarvon-Mullewa Road \$924K YTD
 - iv All above year to date budget, below full year budget.
- c Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (Note 12 has further detail)
 - i Operating Grants - \$2,428,052 below budget
 - 1. Mostly due to Flood Damage \$1,068,307
 - 2. SKA Operating \$1,054,356
 - 3. Timing of financial assistance grants \$271,981
 - ii Capital Grants - \$2,453,222 above budget
 - 1. SKA Capital \$1,882,046
 - 2. Settlement Infrastructure Grants \$363,893
 - 3. Roads to Recovery \$362,284
- d Rates Revenue – \$864,466 below budget due to change in valuations affecting miscellaneous mining licences.

2 Note 4 Total Cash Balances: \$8,700,891

- a Restricted \$7,533,628
- b Unrestricted \$1,167,263

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 January 2026 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr P Squires

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 January 2026 as attached.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

17.4 Budget Review February 2026

File: 2.2
Author: Travis Bate – Financial Accountant (RSM Australia)
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 February 2026
Attachments: 17.4.1 2025-26 Budget Review Report

Matter for Consideration

A review of the 2025-26 Budget based on financial performance between 1 July 2025 and 31 December 2025 has been conducted and is presented to Council.

Background

As required by the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopted a budget for the 2025-26 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 2025-26 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 2025 financial statements were yet to be audited. The unaudited opening figure of \$670,723, has decreased to \$317,059 based on the 2025 audited financial statements. This primarily related to the writeback of a trade receivable balance at 30 June 2025.

Operating Revenue

Operating revenues have increased \$171,615. Notable movements relate to:

- ~ Decreased rates of \$864,467 due to changes in valuations affecting interim rates on Mining licenses.
- ~ Increase in Grants, Subsidies and Contributions of \$481,746, mainly attributed to the Financial Assistance Grants increasing \$604,370 and CSIRO Road Contributions \$385,723. This is offset by the timing of flood damage works, reducing flood damage income by \$528,926
- ~ Increase in Fees and Other income by \$107,606 due to private works and expected increase in Roadhouse Shop and Fuel sales.

Operating Expenditure

An overall increase in operating expenditure of \$2,553,537 with main contributing factors as follow:

- ~ Increased depreciation expense of \$2,405,819 following finalisation of the 2025 audit and asset roll forward. No impact on the surplus as this is added back as a non-cash item.
- ~ Decreased employee costs \$282,990.
- ~ Increased roadhouse operating costs of \$119,000 in line with increased sales
- ~ Increased parts and repairs of \$229,000.

Capital Expenditure - Infrastructure Roads

Increased \$1,225,821. This is due to an additional Main Roads WA Project (\$600,000), additional SKA Works \$500,000 and additional roads to recovery funding.

Capital Expenditure – Other Infrastructure

Increased \$309,037 from the adopted budget. Primarily related to:

- ~ Caravan Park precinct \$175,000
- ~ Roadhouse Bowser upgrades \$93,000.

Capital Expenditure – Buildings and Improvements

Increase of \$175,928 related to Public Conveniences noting that the budgeted amount of \$60,000 has been reallocated from the operational account.

Capital Revenue

An increase of \$1,426,445 is budgeted for and is attributed as follow:

1. An increase of \$698,000 for SKA Roads.
2. Increase of \$129,000 for Road to Recovery.
3. Increased MRWA funding of \$600,000.

Transfers from reserves have been increased \$272,400 from the adopted budget related to:

1. Additional \$150,000 from Workforce Accommodation Reserve and
2. Additional \$122,400 from Settlement Buildings and Facilities Reserve.

These transfers are to fund associated capital projects.

A decrease on transfers to reserves of \$834,060 is included in budget review due to reduced cash generated from operating activities, most notable changes relate to:

- ~ Reduced transfer to Asset Management 844,013, and
- ~ Slight increases to other reserves in line with higher year to date interest earnings.

Refer to Note 5 for details of Reserves.

Closing Carried Forward Figure

The closing carried forward review figure is shown in the attached documents has increased to \$211,627.

Reserve Transfer Summary

Overall summary of all reserves highlighting Balances and movements is detailed in the attached 2025-26 Budget Review Report

Combined Net Current Assets and Reserves

Overall summary of balances of Net Current Assets and Reserves are detailed in the attached 2025-26 Budget Review Report

2025-26 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 inflation aspects are included, all of the major projects have been considered and where applicable budget items that are now not expected to be completed in 2025/26 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 2025. 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 2026.

Consultation

CEO, Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Note the 2025-26 Budget Review Report as attached which amongst other things highlights various explanations including the notional three indicative forecasts which maintains the strategic focus as envisaged when the 2025-26 budget was adopted.
- 2 Adopt the 2025-26 Budget Review as presented in the attached Budget Review Report
- 3 Amend the 2025-26 Budget as outlined in the 2025/26 Budget Review.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority.

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council			
1 Note the 2025-26 Budget Review Report as attached which amongst other things highlights various explanations including the notional three indicative forecasts which maintains the strategic focus as envisaged when the 2025-26 budget was adopted.			
2 Adopt the 2025-26 Budget Review as presented in the attached Budget Review Report			
3 Amend the 2025-26 Budget as outlined in the 2025/26 Budget Review.			
Carried/Lost	For	6	Against 0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 23 February 2026

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 Festival

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

The first meeting of the 2026 Working Group for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival has now taken place. Appreciation is extended to Chris Brayton, Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Julia Foulkes-Taylor, Jocelyn Pumpa, Michelle Fowler, Greydon Mead and Karin Grima for volunteering to be part of this year's planning group.

The Working Group has agreed to continue with the successful format used in 2025, featuring a relaxed Friday program followed by a more activity-focused Saturday. A key priority for the 2026 event will be incorporating strong elements that celebrate the International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists, aligning the Muster with this significant global theme.

A wide range of ideas were discussed during the meeting, and the group will now begin refining these concepts and identifying suitable facilitators and contractors to deliver the planned activities.

As part of the promotional strategy, Rachel will attend the Perth Caravan and Camping Show in March, providing an excellent opportunity to engage directly with potential visitors and promote the event's theme and program.

Community Conversations

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

Strategies

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:*
Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;

International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists

The Shire is scheduled to be featured in upcoming media coverage highlighting our support for a local woman attending the Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists in Kathmandu. The Shire's commitment to co-funding successful applicants from within our district reflects our ongoing support for leadership development, knowledge exchange, and the strengthening of pastoral communities. This contribution will help ensure that insights gained through the program are brought back to the region, enriching the collective knowledge and capacity of our community. The Shire will continue to share and promote updates from the program through email communications and social media channels to maximise community awareness and engagement.

February's theme is Water Security. Water Security is the central concern for WA's rangelands, with growing questions about whether groundwater is being used faster than it can naturally recharge. Around the world, many rangeland regions are already experiencing "water bankruptcy," where overuse, drought and climate change have led to falling water tables, drying wells and loss of livelihoods. WA faces similar pressures, with pastoralism, towns and expanding mining operations all drawing on shared aquifers in an increasingly hot and unreliable climate. If groundwater levels continue to decline, the impacts would emerge gradually drying soaks, deeper and saltier bores, and declining vegetation health. The IYRP theme highlights the need for honest assessment, shared stewardship and long-term planning to protect land and water security before these warning signs become widespread.

Bec Fogarty has recently been appointed to the Southern Rangelands and Pastoral Alliance Board. This appointment provides a valuable opportunity to deepen understanding of pastoral operations, sector developments and emerging opportunities for support across the region. It also strengthens our connection to broader industry conversations.

Councillor E Foulkes Taylor congratulated Bec on her appointment to the Southern Rangelands and Pastoral Alliance Board.

Tourism

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>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i>

Destination Marketing Strategy

Significant progress has been made on the development of new marketing assets for the Shire. A refreshed brochure and accompanying map are currently in production, showcasing key visitor experiences such as the botanical walk, bird-watching locations and other local attractions. These materials are designed to strengthen the Shire's tourism presence and provide clearer, more engaging information for visitors.

The new branding package has also been successfully integrated into on-ground infrastructure, serving as the foundation for the updated signage within the orchard. This ensures consistency across all promotional and interpretive materials and supports a cohesive visual identity for the Shire moving forward.



Upcoming events

Anzac Day Service and Working Bee, Polocrosse Carnival, Murchison Camp Oven Muster, Annual Christmas Tree

Tourism Partner News

CDO Collaboration

The follow-up session highlighted that the group is highly skilled, creative and committed, with strong practical success despite systemic challenges. The issue isn't a lack of action—it's the absence of a shared story that connects individual efforts and defines the region's collective identity. The region has plenty of space, but without a clear narrative frame, visitors treat it as a drive-through stop rather than a place to explore. This leads to burnout, lost energy and no filter for attracting the right kind of visitor.

The workshop showed that creativity and problem-solving are already strengths. What's missing is a unifying narrative, a shared identity that guides how the region presents itself and how individual work fits into the bigger picture. This is why the session shifted toward narrative framing and the idea of a "reverse promise," grounded in deeper cultural identity.

AGO

The 2026 *Road Trippers* campaign has officially launched, supported by the new interactive Road Trip Tippers app. This work directly responds to the brief to develop a breakthrough creative campaign that shifts AGO from a collection of separate destinations to a unified "Road Trip Country" brand.

This unified approach ensures all areas promoted by WA'S Golden Outback are presented with consistent messaging and visual identity, creating the important filters needed to attract the ideal audiences, those who value slow travel, discovery and meaningful engagement with regional experiences. The campaign invites travellers to become "Road Trip Tippers" by sharing their journeys, uploading photos and videos, and contributing insider tips. This user-generated content strengthens the shared brand story while showcasing hidden gems across the region, helping to build a cohesive and compelling identity for Road Trip Country.



Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways

Work on the updated **Gascoyne Murchison Planner**. Feedback from our Shire has been provided to allow for updates to local pages and any regional corrections, ahead of its use at the Perth Caravan and Camping Show in March.

The **2026 Gascoyne Murchison Regional Event Calendar** will be published online, shared on social media and printed for distribution at visitor centres and the Caravan and Camping Show.

Preparations are underway for the **Perth Caravan and Camping Show (19–22 March)**, where the Gascoyne Murchison will have a dedicated 3x3 stand within the AGO pavilion. This provides a valuable opportunity to engage directly with key visitor markets. Promotional materials can be sent ahead for display. Rachel from the Murchison Shire team will be assisting Ainsley from Upper Gascoyne a great opportunity to understand travellers and bring back knowledge that can support development of our Tourism plans.

Tourism Council of WA

The Tourism Council of WA, in partnership with Perth Airport, celebrated the WA Tourism Awards in November. Finalists representing the Murchison region included Australia’s Golden Outback with the *DeTour to the Gascoyne Murchison* tourism marketing campaign, and Wooleen Station in the categories of Hosted Accommodation and Ecotourism.

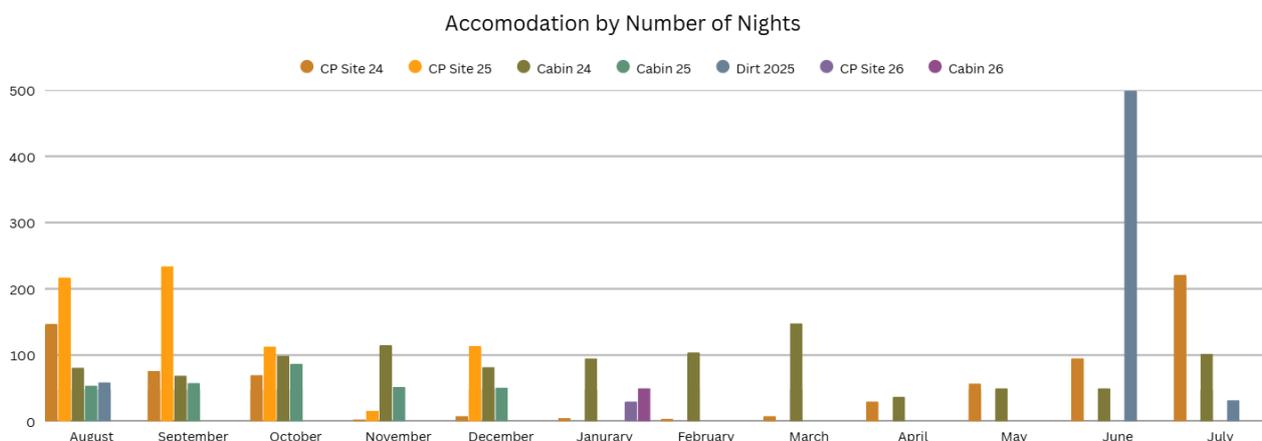
We proudly acknowledge Frances and Wooleen Station for their outstanding achievements—taking Gold in Hosted Accommodation and Bronze in Ecotourism. These awards highlight how sustainable tourism can successfully co-exist with a functioning pastoral enterprise, showcasing the regenerative approach to land management shown in the Murchison.

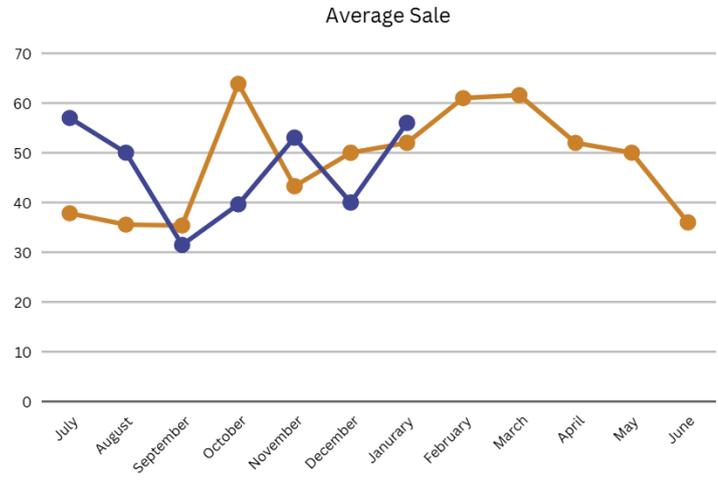
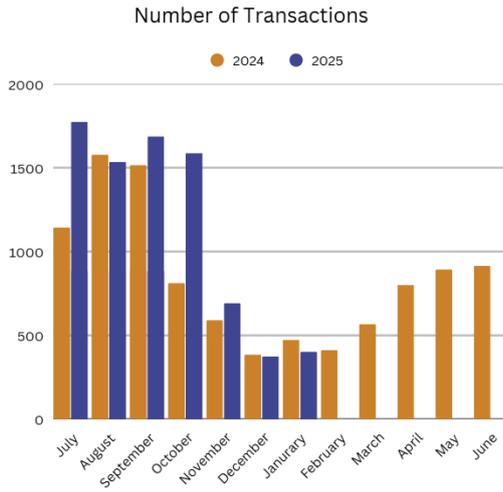
Their success is a testament to the region’s unique blend of heritage, innovation, and commitment to sustainability, and it shines a spotlight on the Murchison as a destination of choice for visitors seeking authentic outback experiences.

Roadhouse Update

- 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.*
- Civic Leadership Objective 4 *To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:*
Regional collaboration where possible;

Roadhouse Statistics





Operational Summary

The reduced operating hours at the Roadhouse and Caravan Parks over December and January had only a minor impact on trade, as shown by the small decrease of around 80 transactions compared with the same period last year. Importantly, the cost savings achieved through operating on reduced hours significantly outweighed the slight dip in income. Overall, the adjusted schedule delivered a positive financial outcome while maintaining service levels for visitors and travellers.

Darren and Ronnie have returned to the settlement and new Staff Travis Hudson, Victoria Walton and Melanie Morrison have arrived. We welcome them and look forward to all the wonderful plans for fresh healthy homemade food for the new year.

Due to the positive availability of staff in the new year Caravan Park renovations have begun the scope includes the installation of gravel hardstand areas to address ongoing compaction issues. New irrigation and turf will also be added to improve flexibility in watering and allow the grounds to be maintained to a higher standard. The goal is to complete these works before Anzac Day.

Upgrades to the camp kitchen are also being planned, featuring new barbecues, integrated sinks, bar fridges and improved preparation areas. There is a plan to install mesh panels to diffuse wind impact and create a more comfortable, functional space for visitors.

Discussions have commenced with the local meatworks regarding opportunities to supply processed meats for both Roadhouse operations and retail sales. Work is also underway to identify the infrastructure required to safely store and manage larger quantities of processed product on site. This initiative aims to improve supply reliability, reduce freight dependency and strengthen local procurement. The goal is to have the first products available for sale ahead of the Murchison Camp Oven Muster.

The Shire has submitted an application to the Mid West Development Commission for Regional Economic Development (RED) Grant to support the Roadhouse Redevelopment project. The preparation process was constructive and has helped refine the project’s scope and priorities. We now look forward to the outcome of the assessment process.

Motel Rooms

Ordering has been completed and construction is underway. Bases have arrived and frame erection has begun. Early estimate for delivery is now June/July.

Roadhouse Housing Developments

Ordering has been completed and construction is underway. Bases have arrived and frame erection has begun. Early estimates for delivery is now June/July.

Changes to opening hours

As per feedback from service users the Roadhouse will be opening earlier at 7:30 to cater to feedback received from truckies.

Previous Summer Hours	New Summer Hours from Monday 23/2/26
Monday 8:30am – 5:30pm	Monday 7:30am – 6:30pm
Tuesday 8:30am – 5:30pm	Tuesday 7:30am – 6:30pm
Wednesday 8:30am – 5:30pm	Wednesday 7:30am – 6:30pm
Thursday 8:30am – 5:30pm	Thursday 7:30am – 6:30pm
Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm	Friday 7:30am – 6:30pm
Saturday 8:30am – 4:00pm	Saturday 8:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am – 12:00noon	Sunday 8:00am – 2:00pm

Roadhouse Redevelopment

With the assistance of Keston Economics an application for funding assistance for an amount of \$250,0000 was submitted in early January to the Mid-West Development Commission for the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program.

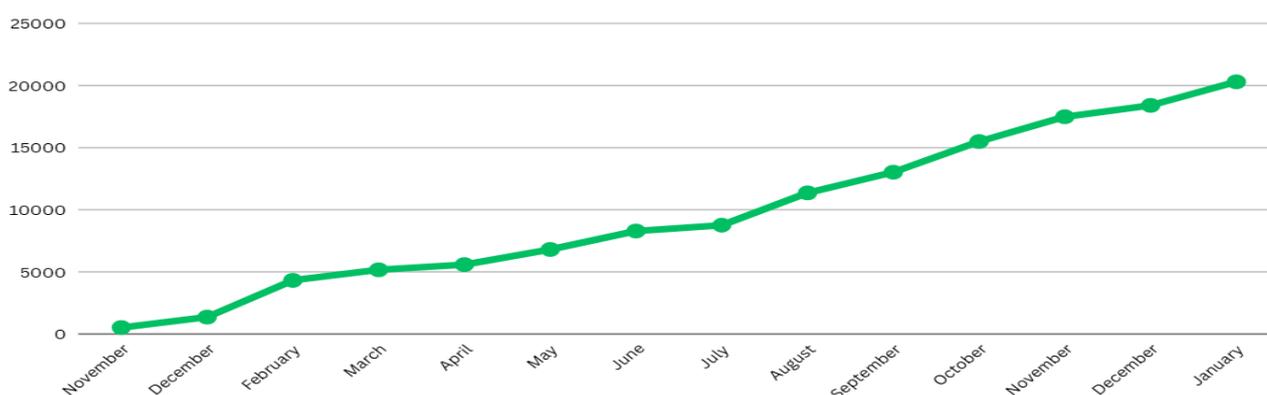
Local Loyalty Scheme

Applications to the local loyalty scheme have slowed in recent weeks; however, with the annual Christmas Tree event and the pool opening approaching, we anticipate a sharp increase in new applications. This expected growth is linked to the process that allows community members to become preapproved for pool access through the loyalty card system, providing an added incentive for participation.

Containers for Change Recycling

- Economic Objective 1 *To develop the region’s economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.*
- Interpretive Centre *Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.*
- Tourism Development *To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.*
- Environmental Objective 2 *To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.*
- Social Objective 3 *To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:*
 - Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.*
 - Supporting community groups.*
- Support for Community Groups *Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.*

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 20,298 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$2,029.80 going back to community initiatives. Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program and changing the bin you put your rubbish in.

Containers for Change has provided return statistics for the Murchison local drop point, showing that community use of the service is more than double the volume generated within the settlement for donation purposes. This demonstrates strong adoption of the drop point and highlights its effectiveness in diverting significant waste from the tip and neighbouring stations. Detailed figures are provided below.



Community Garden & Orchard

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

The summer period has been relatively quiet in the garden, though it has still produced a strong harvest of Egyptian spinach, haies rockmelons and midget melons. Their convenient colour change when ripe has made picking straightforward and efficient.

In consultation with the Roadhouse team, we are now planning a winter planting schedule that aligns with the fruit and vegetables they can best utilise. With favourable conditions and hopefully a break from the extreme heat we aim to get an early start on planting ahead of the April Easter holidays.

Communications

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

Email Communications Dec 13 to Feb 20

- ~ 16 Community Announcements including Road Reports
 - o Thank for a fantastic weekend – Christmas Wrap Up
 - o 2 x Reminder for Kitchen Table Conversations
 - o 2 x Reminder for Australia Day Volleyball
 - o Council Notices, Annual Electors and Meeting Dates
 - o Community Notice – Gunman
 - o MCOM Working Group Expressions of Interest
 - o 2 x International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists
 - o Rural Aid Australia
 - o Flood Warning
 - o New Voluntary Pastoral Accreditation System Discussion
 - o Grounded Festival – Early Bird Tickets
 - o 2 x Road Reports

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

Planned Communications

Bec and Rachel will soon commence the Kitchen Table Conversation series. First one booked in at Murgoo Station on Monday 23rd February

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Sustainability Implications

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

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed above for each item.

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

Councillor E Foulkes Taylor commented that it was good to see increased community participation in the recent Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting.

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Purchasing Policy

File:	14.20
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	23 February 2026
Attachments:	19.1.1 Draft Policy 4.3 Purchasing

Matter for Consideration

Review and Revision of Policy 4.3 Purchasing

Background

As part of a regular review of Council's adopted Policies and Procedures the current Policy 4.3 Purchasing has been identified for review.

In part this is as a result of continuous review process but also as a result of a review by a Section 17 Review of Financial Operations undertaken pursuant to regulation 5(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*. by Council's Financial Accountant Travis Bate (RSM) issued 24 May 2022.

Amongst other things it was recommended that *"the purchasing policy should be reviewed and updated in order to reflect the practicalities of the Shire's Operations"*. In addition to being the right thing to do it is also important to ensure that Council's policy approach is consistent with respect to the Aboriginal Engagement provisions within the Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement that Council recently signed.

In November 2022 a review was undertaken and amendments made to the policy.

Comments

In light of recent experiences including since the commencement of the Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement, a further review was considered opportune to continue to ensure that the purchasing policy reflect the practicalities of the Shire's Operations.

In review of the current policy, it is recognised that whilst value for money is achieved through the critical assessment of price, risk, timeliness, environmental, social, economic, qualitative and locational factors these include *"the remote nature of the Shire in relation to potential suppliers to who are willing to service the Shire"*.

With is in mind the following main changes to affect this include the following:

1.4.3 Purchasing Thresholds and Practices

Purchasing Value Threshold	Changes to current Purchasing Policy Requirements
Up to \$5,000	Removal of point 2 <i>"Seek at least one (1) verbal or written quotation from a suitable supplier; and the paragraph <i>"The rationale for the procurement decision should be documented and recorded in accordance with the Shire Records Management Policy"</i> predominantly as purchases are small in size and large in number making it an administrative burden for little or no value.</i>
From \$5,001 and up to \$20,000	No change to current provisions
From \$20,001 and up to \$50,000	Category removed and incorporated lower limit incorporated in the subsequent category

Purchasing Value Threshold	Changes to current Purchasing Policy Requirements
From \$20,001 and up to \$150,000	Seek one (1) not two (2) verbal or written quotations from a WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement;
Over \$150,000	<p>Seek one (1) not two (2) verbal or written quotations from a WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement.</p> <p>Modification of the purchasing decision is to be based upon the supplier's response to a specification of the goods, services or works (for a tender exempt process including the WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement); or a detailed specification which is not just restricted to an open tender process.</p> <p>Inclusion of a requirement that "<i>The procurement decision is to be represented using a Brief Evaluation Report including price benchmarking activities undertaken and recording of local historical practices where only one (1) suitable supplier has consistently been able to service the Shire with the procurement transaction being documented and recorded in accordance with the Shire Records Management Policy</i>"</p>

Consultation

Financial Accountant (RSM) and Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council adopt Policy 4.3 Purchasing as attached

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council adopt Policy 4.3 Purchasing as attached			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

19.2 WALGA Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions

File:	4.19.6
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	22 February 2026
Attachments:	19.2.1 WALGA Info Page - Elections Advocacy Positions & Draft Discussion Paper on Electoral Reforms 19.2.2 Extract WALGA Positions & Comparisons Summary September 2024 19.2.3 WALGA Positions & Comparisons Summary February 2026

Matter for Consideration

Council's Advocacy Position in relation to Local Government Elections

WALGA Request

As indicated in the *Attachment 19.2.1* WALGA is seeking Council-endorsed feedback from Local Governments to inform a sector-wide response to anticipated State Government proposals for Local Government electoral reform.

As outlined in the attached Info Page and accompanying Discussion Paper, the State Government is expected to progress reforms relating to the introduction of a full spill elections every four years and compulsory voting at Local Government elections. The Discussion Paper summarises these emerging reform considerations and provides example questions each Local Government may wish to address. Responses are requested by 4:00pm, Friday 27 March 2026.

Background

At the September 2024 Meeting Council considered these specific matters as part of a slightly broader WALGA Advocacy feedback request and at the time amongst other things resolved as follows.

That Council recommends that WALGA adopt the following Local Government Election Advocacy Positions.

1 Participation

The sector supports compulsory voting at Local Government Elections

2 Terms of Office

The sector supports for 4-year terms with a two-year split

3 Voting Methods

The sector supports Preferential Voting as an improvement to the current Optional Preferential Voting system for all general elections with the inclusion of random order ballot papers similar to the Robson Method.

A copy of the analysis that supported these decisions made at the time is attached as per *Attachment 19.2.2*

Comments

As per the previous 2024 review I have prepared and a Comparisons Summary in line with the requested WALGA Positions Considerations and Questions as per *Attachment 19.2.3*.

Note

Please note that my comments are provided to aid Council in its deliberations and are as a guide only. It's up to Council to form its own views. As a result comments made in this this comparison summary and comments and recommendations below should be seen in this light.

Effectively though, if Council retains its previous positions in relation to Participation (*Compulsory Voting*) and Voting Methods (*support Preferential Voting as an improvement to the current Optional Preferential Voting system for all general elections with the inclusion of random order ballot papers similar to the Robson Method*), then the only decision is to review in relation to WALGA's latest request is in relation to whether it still supports 4-year terms with a two-year split or move to a 4-year term with all in all out provisions, in part as new information has been provided by WALGA.

As indicated in the Comparison Summary, whilst there may be some perceived benefits in having a part spill of positions ever two years, it can also be argued that there are benefits of having a potential clean sweep option split. In reality however this is not as a result of the timing of the electoral term but about the quality and integrity of the personnel elected; a situation that is not controllable anyway.

Importantly considerations of voter participation, democracy legitimacy, voter engagement, awareness and of fatigue are not insignificant and more than balance a change. For these reasons inclusion of point 3 (*Voting Methods*) is also retained as this directly strengthens the overall aim to deliver the most representative voter outcome that can be possibly achieved.

Recommendation

That Council recommends that WALGA adopt the following Local Government Election Advocacy Positions and includes the *Attachments 19.2.2 and 19.2.3* in support of its position.

- 1 Participation
The sector supports compulsory voting at Local Government Elections (*Current Position*)
- 2 Terms of Office
The sector supports four-year terms with a full spill every four years. (*New Position*)
- 3 Voting Methods
The sector supports Preferential Voting as an improvement to the current Optional Preferential Voting system for all general elections with the inclusion of random order ballot papers similar to the Robson Method. (*Current Position*)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr P Squires

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council recommends that WALGA adopt the following Local Government Election Advocacy Positions and includes the *Attachments 19.2.2 and 19.2.3* in support of its position.

- 1 Participation
The sector supports compulsory voting at Local Government Elections (*Current Position*)
- 2 Terms of Office
The sector supports four-year terms with a half spill every two years. (*Current Position*)
- 3 Voting Methods
The sector supports Preferential Voting as an improvement to the current Optional Preferential Voting system for all general elections with the inclusion of random order ballot papers similar to the Robson Method. (*Current Position*)

Carried

For

6

Against

0

19.3 Bush Fire Control Operations

File: 5.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 February 202
Attachments: 19.3.1 Murchison Bush Fire Brigade Meeting Minutes 13.12.25

Matter for Consideration:

Council to ensure that the functions of the Murchison Bushfire Brigade are in place in an appropriate manner and appointing such persons as the Council it thinks necessary to be Bush Fire Control Officers for the Shire of Murchison.

Background

The Murchison Bush Fire Brigade met on 13 December 2025. As indicated in the attached minutes of the meeting various positions were filled as follows.

Position	Person
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	William Herold
Deputy Bushfire Control Officer	Tom-Foulkes-Taylor
Bushfire Control Officers	Tom-Foulkes Taylor, William Herold, Quentin Fowler, Andrew Whitmarsh, Lou Bavoillot and Rick Ryan
Bushfire Committee Chair	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer South	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer North	Quentin Fowler
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer East	Andrew Whitmarsh
Brigade Captain	Lou Bavoillot
Brigade Lieutenant	Lou Bavoillot
Brigade Secretary	Rick Ryan

In addition, the current Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM), Rick Ryan has volunteered to be the Secretary for the Brigade and under Council's Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) he is required to be appointed as a Fire Control Officer under s38 of the *Bush Fire Act 1954*.

Council's legislative responsibilities in relation to the Management of Bush Fires are outlined in the Bush Fires Act 1954 with the operations of the Bushfire Brigade operating under a local law, in our instance under By Law No 1 established by the Murchison Roads Board and gazetted on 5 January 1961 which for all intents and purposes remains relevant.

Amongst other things this Bylaw requires the Board (nee Council) to appoint

- ~ a captain, first lieutenant, second lieutenant, to act as officers of the brigade and who in the Boards opinion, have the necessary qualification and knowledge of the district required in such capacities.
- ~ a secretary
- ~ bush fire officers.

Under s38 of the *Bush Fire Act 1954* Council local government may appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers and appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers

Statutory Environment:

Bush Fires Act 1954

33 Local government may require occupier of land to plough or clear fire-break

(1) Subject to subsection (2) a local government at any time, and from time to time, may, and if so required by the Minister shall, as a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, give notice in writing to an owner or occupier of land situate within the district of the local government or shall give notice to all owners or occupiers of land in its district by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the area requiring him or them as the case may be within a time specified in the notice to do or to commence to do at a time so specified all or any of the following things —

(a) to plough, cultivate, scarify, burn or otherwise clear upon the land fire-breaks in such manner, at such places, of such dimensions, and to such number, and whether in parallel or otherwise, as the local government may and is hereby empowered to determine and as are specified in the notice, and thereafter to maintain the fire-breaks clear of inflammable matter;

(b) to act as and when specified in the notice with respect to anything which is upon the land, and which in the opinion of the local government or its duly authorised officer, is or is likely to be conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire, and the notice may require the owner or occupier to do so —

(c) as a separate operation, or in co-ordination with any other person, carrying out a similar operation on adjoining or neighbouring land; and

(d) in any event, to the satisfaction of either the local government or its duly authorised officer, according to which of them is specified in the notice.

38 Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

(1) A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.

(4) A bush fire control officer appointed under the provisions of this section shall, subject to such directions as may be given by the local government, and subject to this Act take such measures as appear to him to be necessary or expedient and practicable for

(a) carrying out normal brigade activities;

(d) exercising an authority or carrying out a duty conferred or imposed upon him by any of the provisions of Part III;

(e) procuring the due observance by all persons of the provisions of Part III.

(8) An approved local government may appoint to the office of fire weather officer such number of senior bush fire control officers as it thinks necessary.

(9) Where more than one fire weather officer is appointed by a local government the local government shall define a part of its district in which each fire weather officer shall have the exclusive right to exercise the power conferred by subsection (17).

(17) A fire weather officer of an approved local government, or a deputy of that fire weather officer while acting in the place of that officer, may authorise a person who has received a permit under section 18(6)(a), to burn the bush in the district of the local government notwithstanding that for any day, or any period of a day, specified in the notice the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth, in respect to the locality where the bush proposed to be burnt is situated, is "catastrophic", "extreme" or "high", and upon the authority being given the person, if the person has otherwise complied with the conditions prescribed for the purposes of section 18, may burn the bush.

41 Bush fire brigades

(1) For the purpose of carrying out normal brigade activities a local government may, in accordance with its local laws made for the purpose, establish and maintain one or more bush fire brigades and may, in accordance with those local laws, equip each bush fire brigade so established with appliances, equipment and apparatus.

Shire of Murchison By-Law No 1 – 5 January 1961

BUSH FIRES ACT, 1954.

By-laws of the Murchison Road Board relating to the Establishment, Maintenance and Equipment of Bush Fire Brigades for the Road District or any part of the Road District of Murchison.

Establishment of Brigade.

1. (a) On the resolution of the Board to establish, maintain and equip a bush fire brigade under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, 1954, and regulations thereunder, the brigade shall be formed in accordance with these by-laws; and a name shall be given to the brigade and application, accompanied by the resolution of the Board forming the brigade, shall be made to the Bush Fires Board for its registration accordingly.

(b) A bush fire brigade may be established for the whole of the road district or for any specified area thereof.

Appointment of Officers.

2. The Board shall appoint a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant and such additional lieutenants as it shall deem necessary to act as officers of the brigade and who, in the Board's opinion, have the necessary qualification and knowledge of the district required in such capacities.

3. The Secretary of the Board or such other person as the Board may appoint shall be the secretary of the brigade.

4. The Board may appoint an equipment officer who shall be responsible for the custody and maintenance in good order and condition of all equipment and appliances acquired by the Board for the purposes of the brigade. Such officer may station such equipment at a depot approved by the captain where, if possible, motor trucks can easily be called upon. If there are more than one such depots in the area, the equipment officer shall appoint at each depot a person to look after the equipment and have it ready for immediate use when required.

5. The Board shall appoint bush fire control officers in accordance with the requirements of the district and may prescribe the area over which each such officer shall have jurisdiction. The employment, dismissal and payment for services of persons (other than officers) employed for duties under this Act shall be vested in the chairman and secretary of the Board conjointly.

○

**** Note**

By-law cl.2 provisions for appointment of a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant and such additional lieutenant are appointments that can only be made under the By-law and therefore must be made by Council resolution on the basis that:

- ~ *S.43 of the Bush Fires Act specifies that appointment or election of these offices is subject to the local law (By-law) provisions.*
- ~ *Cl.2 of the By-law prescribes that **the Board** shall appoint....*
 - o *The Local Government Act 1960 was proclaimed in November 1960 and the Shire's By-law was gazetted on 5 Jan 1961. It appears the Shire's By-law was made under transitional provisions, so that it included terms from the Road District Act 1919.*

The Road District Act 1919 defines 'Board' as meaning the 'Board of a Road District', which is equivalent of the definition of Council under the Local Government Act 1995.

Strategic Implications:

Nil

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Comment

The recommended appointments from the Bush-for Committee are considered to be entirely appropriate

Recommendation

That Council appoint the following persons to the positions as outlined.

Position	Person
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	William Herold
Deputy Bushfire Control Officer	Tom-Foulkes-Taylor
Bushfire Control Officers	Tom-Foulkes Taylor, Willam Herold, Quentin Fowler, Andrew Whitmarsh, Lou Bavoillot and Rick Ryan
Bushfire Committee Chair	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer South	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer North	Quentin Fowler
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer East	Andrew Whitmarsh
Brigade Captain	William Herold <i>(Note the CEO advised at the meeting that Lou Bavoillot had recently resigned from the Shire and had relocated to Yallalong Station and that it would be more appropriate for William Herold as Works Manager to fulfill this role as per last year)</i>
Brigade Lieutenant	Lou Bavoillot
Brigade Secretary	Rick Ryan

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

That Council appoint the following persons to the positions as outlined.

Position	Person
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	William Herold
Deputy Bushfire Control Officer	Tom-Foulkes-Taylor
Bushfire Control Officers	Tom-Foulkes Taylor, Willam Herold, Quentin Fowler, Andrew Whitmarsh, Lou Bavoillot and Rick Ryan
Bushfire Committee Chair	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer South	Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer North	Quentin Fowler
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer East	Andrew Whitmarsh
Brigade Captain	William Herold
Brigade Lieutenant	Lou Bavoillot
Brigade Secretary	Rick Ryan
Carried	For 6 Against 0

20 CEO REPORT

20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 23 February 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

The table below provides an update of activities undertaken since the last report. This time of the year represents an opportunity to focus on more strategic work, as shown with time spend on February Workshop Items.

Date	Activity
11.12.2025	Safer Local Roads Program Application. Catch up with Works Manager and Community Manager including Pool site inspection.
12.12.2025	Infrastructure Development Fund Work. Catch up with Works Manager and Community Manager. General Administration. Catch up with Cr Greydon Mead
13.12.2025	Xmas Tree Day. General Administration. Audit Committee and Council Meeting, plus Community Meetings and Pool Splashpad Opening.
14.12.2025	Council and Audit Committee Minutes
15.12.2025	Council and Audit Committee Minutes, General Administration. Meeting with Community Manager & Works Manager. TOIL Drop Water Samples of at Perth Lab
16.12.2025	TOIL
17.12.2025	General Administration. Telephone catch ups with Community Manager. Attend Local Government Remote Webinar on ARIC and Inspector Regulations. Council Minutes
18.12.2025	Annual Leave. Roadhouse Business Case Application Review
19.12.2025	Annual Leave. Roadhouse Business Case Application Review. Council Minutes
22.12.2025 to 24.12.2025	Annual Leave
25.12.2025	Christmas Day Public Holiday
26.12.2025	Boxing Day Public Holiday
29.12.2025 to 30.12.2025	Annual Leave
31.12.2025	TOIL
1.01.2026	New Years Day Public Holiday
2.01.2026	TOIL
5.01.2026	Catch up Meeting with Works Manager and Community Manager. Roadhouse Business Case Application Review
6.01.2026 to 8.01.2026	Catch up Meetings with Works Manager and Community Manager. Roadhouse Business Case Application Review. Fuel Review Work
9.01.2026	General Administration Emails Phone calls. LGRIS Financial Health Check work.
10.01.2026	Catch up with Community Manager & Adam Fogarty and WA Police. House of Reps Local Government Submission. Catch up with Works Manager regarding water supply issue
11.01.2026	House of Reps Local Government Submission
12.01.2026	Teams Meeting MEG Regional Coordination Working Group. House of Reps Local Government Submission
13.01.2026	Teams Recruitment interviews. House of Reps Local Government Submission
14.01.2026	Teams Recruitment interviews. House of Reps Local Government Submission. Catch up with Community Manager

Date	Activity
15.01.2026	Catch up with Community Manager & Works Manager. Grants Commission Return
16.01.2026	Settlement Water Supply Licence Application. Finalise Grants Commission Return
17.01.2026	House of Reps Local Government Submission. General Administration
18.01.2026	General Administration Budget Review Work
19.01.2026	General Administration. Budget Review Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager
20.01.2026	Teams Recruitment Interview. General Administration. Budget Review Work.
21.01.2026	MRWA Funding Response. Budget Review Work.
22.01.2026	Budget Review Work. Teams Meeting with Dept Water. Touch base with Shire President via phone.
23.01.2026 to 25.01.2026	Budget Review Work.
26.01.2026	Australia Day Public Holiday
27.01.2026	Administration. Budget Review Work.
28.01.2026	Timesheet Payroll Work. Finalise and send off House of Reps Local Government Submission. Budget Review Work.
29.01.2026	Timesheet Payroll Work. Touch base with Travis via phone. Budget Review Work. General Administration
30.01.2026	Attend Councillor / Senior Staff training workshop. TOIL
2.02.2026	Emails and Council policy work. Catch up with Peter Jones (Athena Resources) in Fremantle. TOIL
3.02.2026	Budget review. Administration. TOIL
4.02.2026	Travel to Geraldton and attend Fenix Stakeholder Meeting. TOIL
5.02.2026	Travel back to Murchison. General catchup with Works Manager & Community Manager. Administration TOIL
6.02.2026	Fuel Work. Budget Review Work. Catch up with Works Manager
7.02.2026 to 8.02.2026	Budget Review Work
9.02.2026	Catch up with Works Manager. Budget Review and General Administration Work
10.02.2026	Budget Review and General Administration Work. Attend MEG Regional Strategy Priority Framework Working Group Teams Meeting.
11.02.2026	Budget Review. Works Timesheets
12.02.2026	Budget Review Work. Fenix Community Stakeholder Meeting Summary. General Administration. Pastoral Focus Work.
13.02.2026	Budget Review Work. Fenix Community Stakeholder Meeting Summary. General Administration. Pastoral Focus and Council Workshop Work.
14.02.2026 to 16.02.2026	Council Workshop Work
16.02.2026	Council Workshop Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager
17.02.2026	Council Workshop Work. Catch up with Works Manager. Meeting with Works Manager and Gary Patterson (YACC CEO)
18.02.2026	Council Workshop Work. Budget Review Work. Catch up with Works Manager. Touch base with Travis Bate (RSM) vis phone
19.02.2026	Council Workshop Work. Budget Review Work. Catch up with Works Manager.
20.02.2026	Council Workshop Work. Budget Review Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager.
21.02.2026	Council Agenda & Workshop Work
22.02.2026 to 23.02.2026	Council Agenda & Annual Electors Meeting Agenda Work
24.02.2026	Council Agenda Work. General Administration

Administrative Update

Also of note is that we are usually required to complete the Annual Compliance Return and have it considered by the Audit Committee (now Audit and Risk Committee) and adopted by Council by 31 March. Ordinarily this would be done at the February Meeting.

However we have been advised by the Department that this has been deferred until 30 September 2026 as there are new legislative requirements, with appointment of the Local Government Inspectorate also having a potential influence in limiting the statutory requirements included in the return. This is currently being determined .

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	P Squires	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council note the CEO's Update Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.10pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026

Signed..... Presiding Officer