



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,  
on Thursday **26 March 2026**, commencing at 12:30pm

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

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## ATTACHMENTS

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.30pm

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

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### 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

#### Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) - Financial Accountant was unable to attend remote via teams due to preparations for pending Cyclone Narelle

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## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 February 2026

#### 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 27 February 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 February 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

**For**

**6**

**Against**

**0**

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## 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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Nil

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## 5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

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Nil

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## 6 STANDING ORDERS

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### Matter for Consideration

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

### **Recommendation**

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

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

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** P Squires

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

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## 7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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Nil

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## 8 NEXT MEETING

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Thursday 23 April 2026 commencing at 12:30pm

*In discussion around the next meeting date it was identified that this year Anzac Day falls on a Saturday with a Monday Public Holiday Weekend. Councillors considered that attendance at Council's mid-morning service and subsequent community function would be affected, a situation compounded by the current fuel situation. As a result it was considered appropriate to not hold Council's mid-morning service this year, noting that the normal staff organised dawn service would still proceed and that anyone in the community are invited.*

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## 9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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Nil

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## 10 URGENT BUSINESS

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Nil

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

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

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

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Shire President noted that Cyclone Narelle is forecast to cross the coast as a Category 2 Cyclone and track within our Shire in the next few days and wished everyone well with preparations and the situation. Shire President indicated he would be at Yuin Station and is contactable with the Chief Executive Officer, Works Manager and Community Manager all within the Shire and contactable.

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## **13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS**

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Councillors met with earlier in the day prior to the meeting with Rowan Dawson (*District Manager Murchison District Parks and Wildlife Service*) to discuss DBCA Operations locally with respect to future management operations of Muggon and Woolgorong Stations. Issues raised included public access to Errabiddy Bluff, fencing and wild dog control.

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## **14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**

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### **14.1 Shire President**

Several telephone interactions with the CEO regarding the Shire's fuel situation arising from the Middle East War conflict.

### **14.2 Councillors**

#### Cr P Squires

*17.03.26 - MRWA RRG – Murchison Sub-Group Meeting via Teams*

Cr P Squires as Council Delegate provided a report to all councillors prior to the meeting.

- ~ Meeting commenced at 10:30am
- ~ Elections were conducted, and the following positions were confirmed:
  - Chairperson: Cr Beth Walton
  - Deputy Chairperson Cr Paul Squires
  - TWG Representatives: Bill Boehm and Richard Towell
  - RRG Delegates: Cr Paul Squires and Cr Harvey Nichols

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for members to reconnect and share updates. A key issue discussed was the condition of the Geraldton–Mt Magnet Road, particularly the state of the grids. It was noted that Main Roads is seeking funding but facing challenges. The group agreed that demonstrating unified support would be beneficial.

#### Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

*10.03.26 – Murchison GeoRegion Working Group Meeting via Teams*

Main emphasis from GeoRegion is to review access arrangements for GeoRegion sites and determine which are publicly accessible and those that are not, and which require a virtual tour to be developed.

*17.03.26 – Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting via Teams*

As outlined in the Community Development Progress Report

#### Cr G Mead

*17.03.26 – Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting*

As outlined in the Community Development Progress Report

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## **15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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Nil

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## 16 WORKS

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### 16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42  
Author: William Herold – Works Manager  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 22 March 2026  
Attachments: Nil

#### Construction

A bit has happened in the world since Council last met! Up to now it has had very little impact on the construction crew. This will almost certainly change in some way post Easter. The fuel shortage that apparently does not exist, is causing a few issues and will continue to do so for some time. Shire management are looking to put measures in place that will ease the pressure on our fuel resource. This will inevitably have some impact on our progress and timing for the job they are currently busy with. There is a more detailed event list later in the Works Section regarding events and measures taken. That being said, the crew have made good progress with their work since I last reported to Council.

#### Maintenance

Progress has been slow with only one grader and operator available. The first responses for a replacement operator are in and being assessed. Jamie has completed a maintenance grade with some repairs to the New Forrest-Yallalong Rd. and Coolcalalaya Rd. and made a start on the southern end of the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. skipping work recently completed with the flood damage works.

#### SKA Upgrade and Maintenance Work

This has proceeded unaffected until now, with both contractors being able to have secured some fuel supply. Walladar have continued on the CGG section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. Yuin have also installed four concrete cut off walls on the southern section of the works. Squires Resources have been doing a wet grade and roll from the new Murchison River crossing back towards the Boolardy homestead.

#### Flood Damage

These works have now been completed. My thanks to THEM Earthmoving, not only for the work but also for their patience and preparedness to hold their prices back to previous years levels to enable us to do the work.

#### Power Upgrade

These works are imminent with some minor works already done in upgrading the Caravan Park power supply. I am hoping that by the April Council meeting work will be in full swing.

#### Plant

As outlined in the Agenda following input from the Plant Working Group the Works Manager reported the decision to purchase a new Cat 150 motor grader.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Works Report be noted

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	G Mead
That the Works Report be noted			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

## 16.2 Fuel Supply Update

File: 12.42  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
William Herold – Works Manager  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date 22 March 2026  
Attachments: Nil

### Introduction

Like the rest of the nation we have been caught up and are reacting to Fuel Supply Issues arising out of the Iran war with the USA / Israel and its flow on regional effects one of which is the disruption to maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz. The effective suspension of commercial shipping through this passage has triggered global supply chain realignment which are being felt everywhere in what is a fast-moving environment.

The following local update is provided

### Actions Update Thus Far

- 1 On 09.03.26 we were advised by Fuelex our small independently owned fuel supplier that as of last lunch time on 07.03.26 all fuel allocations to them had ceased. This meant no one can get access to fuel from the Coogee Chemicals distribution centre with no timeframe for the reopening of fuel allocations.
- 2 As a result we put restrictions on our Roadhouse to supplying only during opening hours, with a maximum of 100 per litre per customer imposed late on 09.03.26, with only vehicles not jerry cans or drums being supplied. At this time of the year there is much reduced demand with a review finding perhaps one or two people only having what would be seen as an excessive amount purchased, prior to restrictions being put in place.
- 3 On 12.03.26 we wrote to the, Hon Roger Cook (Premier; Minister for State Development; Trade and Investment; Economic Diversification), Hon Rita Saffioti (Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation) and Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson (Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara) who are part of the Governments approach in coordinating a Fuel Security Roundtable, which is now the Fuel Industry Operations Group (FIOG)  
In this we highlighted our situation noting that in part that *“fuel providers will respond to the needs of regional Western Australians with timely restocking”* and requesting that allocations will reflect different priorities and needs of the State and that we can be included in future priority allocations so our small independently owned fuel supplier can continue to service us and the Shire.  
Until 21.03.2026 no response had been received.
- 4 On 13.03.26 we responded to an email from Nils Hay at the Midwest Development Commission where we highlighted our situation. Since this time we have been verbally advised that whilst no formal response had been received from the government, we were assured that our situation and those of independent suppliers was well understood by the government and FIOG. This was subsequently conformed on 21.03.26.
- 5 On 18.03.26 following advice from Fuelex that they had only been allocated one tanker load we then reduced limit at the roadhouse to 50 litre per customer per day.
- 6 During the time we have refined our analysis of fuel stock levels which are monitored on a continuous basis. Roadhouse usage prior to the restrictions was at historically low levels anyway with changes imposed now seeing a customer purchasing 48 litres on average with 225 litres sold per day: down from the previous year of 262 litres per day. Given the situation, unknowns and restrictions one would expect some further reduction until perhaps the situation alters..
- 7 Recent discussion and dialogue with Crudellis BP at Mullewa and Upper Gascoyne Shire indicate that fuel supply, although significantly more expensive, is not an immediate concern. This may change
- 8 Communication wise all major changes have been emailed to the community. We have also forwarded on a fuel survey from the Pastoral and Graziers Association to all local Pastoral Stations.
- 9 Separate updates / survey information has also been provided to Tourism WA and the Grower Group Alliance CEO who has been appointed to FIOG to provide agricultural feedback to the group.

- 10 Following the Main Roads WA Regional Road Sub Group Meeting on 17.03.26, as foreshadowed at the meeting, we wrote to MRWA requesting the final payments for the 2025/26 Regional Road Group Projects be carried over into 2026/27. It was considered prudent given the uncertainties associated with the fuel situation, impacts on bitumen supply and price, contractor availability and likelihood of a very late May program which would invariably be risky given the cold weather we would expect. This also affects our reseal program. An October sealing window would be preferable.
- 11 As at 19.03.26 we have around 35 days diesel and 50 days ULP available. We have conservatively modelled use which is around 1,500 litres of diesel per day made up of Works (39%), Powerhouse (44%) and Roadhouse (17%). This is continually monitored noting that at this time of the year we are at the low end of consumption.
- 12 The WA Government has separately also made adjustments including releasing some fuel from held back from reserves and providing dispensation with respect to some quality control specifications for fuel and bitumen and increasing load limits for some heavy vehicles to deliver more petrol, diesel and fertiliser to regional WA.
- 13 National Cabinet also met on 19.03.26 and have appointed Anthea Harris is formerly the CEO of the Australian Energy Regulator and the former Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Security Board as Fuel Supply Taskforce Coordinator to support coordination across governments and sectors to
- \* drive coordination between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories on fuel security and supply chain resilience.
  - \* provide consistent, coordinated updates to the Commonwealth and States and Territories on our fuel supply outlook as well as our domestic fuel distribution.
  - \* act as a single convening point for fuel supply and forward planning.
- The Commonwealth Government is responsible for national fuel security and supply and will work with States and Territories to support distribution within their jurisdictions.
- 14 Given the unknowns on 20.03.26 a separate request for a fuel delivery from an alternative fuel supplier was sought. Unfortunately, their situation is the same as our current fuel provider and they think this only going to get tighter in the near future, but they have indicated that if this changes and they have the opportunity to supply some fuel they will be in touch.
- 15 On 20.03.26 the Shire President had a media interview with the ABC where the current circumstances were outlined; namely that the Murchison Settlement Roadhouse have been restricted to 50 litres per customer, no indication when the next fuel delivery would arrive and a lack of communication from State and Federal governments where we are not getting clear rational information about what's actually happening.
- 16 All external fuel from the crews will be brought into the depot for security and to top up the powerhouse over the Easter period. Fuel dips will continue twice weekly including over the Easter period.
- 17 Discussions with our contractors are also due to be held, hopefully before Council meets.
- 18 Whilst supply should be sufficient until Easter when the Works Crew return from their break a decision as to whether they work on construction projects or not will most likely then be made, unless a revised update of fuel held indicates an earlier halt is warranted.
- 19 On 21.03.26 we received a call from Robert Cossart (Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO) and former flood recovery coordinator who has been appointed by the State Government to lead WA's fuel crisis response as WA Fuel Controller. Rob provided a brief overview and indicated that in part there seemed to be a number of pockets in the State where fuel distribution, especially with respect to independent distributors was identified as an issue. Our situation and those of pastoralists in the area was explained and he indicated that he would very soon be in consultation with Fuelex.
- Meanwhile he requested information about what we need fuel wise to get us into a potentially sustainable position in part so that he was in a better position to potentially influence distribution decisions with respect to larger distributors. Following discussions with Will this information was immediately provided.
- 20 During this period the Shire President has been kept periodically informed. Further Updates will no doubt arise.
- 21 At the meeting the Chief Executive Officer advised that following the input from the WA Fuel Controller Fuelex advised that the hire and some pastoralists would receive a fuel delivery received some time next week following the passing of Cyclone Narelle.

Comments

Future impacts are still to be determined but will obviously be impacted on by global events and the nations and response by all levels of government. Structurally it seems that whilst the Commonwealth has strong powers in a crisis to intervene these powers require strong evidence that a crisis exists, which for the medium-term shipping supply wise it does not. Given the crisis thresholds required these powers have apparently never been used. However, powers at an individual State level have lesser thresholds meaning more rapid government responses are available.

This situation is fast moving and looking like being prolonged. As oil is so intertwined with everything, we do it is inevitable that prices will increase and flow right through the community. This is starting to happen locally with fuel adjustments to contracts likely. Advice concerning bitumen which is primarily sourced from oil from the middle east projects' raw bitumen prices near twice that currently exists. Overall impacts are unknown but could be significant. Shire budgets also be affected as we react to changed operational circumstances. As a Shire we managed the COVID19 period so this will just be another challenge.

However there may also be opportunities. Already we have identified improvements that can be made at the roadhouse with respect to the more efficient management of fuel at a micro level and now have a more future projection focus on consumption.

The lack of timely government response and disproportionate impact in Regional Areas may just "hopefully" provide an impetus of a much-needed realignment of government relations and interaction with the region during this period, but hopefully longer. One can only hope but it is unlikely to occur without some strategic approach from all in the regions.

**Recommendation**

That the Fuel Supply Update Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>				
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	P Squires	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	A Whitmarsh	
That the Fuel Supply Update Report be noted				
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

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## 17 FINANCE

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### 17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 22 March 2026  
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 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 February 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 2026 be and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councilors 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 February 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** A Whitmarsh

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 17.1.1

#### Council Decision

**Moved: Cr** P Squires

**Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 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 28 February 2026

File: 2.6  
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 22 March 2026  
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report February 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. Few points to note.

#### 1 Executive Summary

- a Annual budget and year-to-date budget now reflect the budget review adopted at the February Ordinary Council Meeting. Details of all the amendments are included in Note 13.
- b Net Surplus \$3,111,268, ahead of YTD budget of \$(1,491,016). Mostly affected by year to date reserve transfers of \$1,500,000 from Grants Commission Reserve (budget profile has reserve transfers at year end).
- c Significant Capital Projects:
  - i SKA Route \$2,678,209 YTD
  - ii Power Supply \$773,418 YTD
  - iii Carnarvon Mullewa Road \$962,063 YTD
  - iv All below full year budget.
- d Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (Note 12 has further detail)
  - i Operating Grants – In line with budget, however note:
    - ~ Flood damage \$997,626 above budget
    - ~ SKA Operating \$1,232,528 below budget – some reallocation from the above budget SKA capital grant required.
  - ii Capital Grants - \$1,644,635 above budget
    - ~ SKA Capital \$1,646,419
- e Rates Revenue – in line with full year budget.

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

- a Restricted \$7,535,366
- b Unrestricted \$235,039

### Consultation

RSM Australia

### **Recommendation**

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 28 February 2026 as attached

**Carried**

**For**

6

**Against**

0

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## 18 DEVELOPMENT

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### 18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 22 March 2026

Attachments: Nil

#### Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report March 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>

Planning for the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster is progressing well, with the working group confirming the event structure, key presenters, catering arrangements, and major activities. Headline talent has been identified for camp oven cooking, dog demonstrations, lost-trade skills, and multiple themed panel sessions, while additional speakers for storytelling and regenerative agriculture are being finalised.

Catering providers, breakfast services, coffee vendors, and long-table dinner logistics are in place, with a focus on local produce and improved guest experience. Operational planning continues across volunteers, first aid, merchandise, sponsorship, signage, and creative elements such as murals and community garden walk-throughs.

The next phase will focus on finalising the program, confirming panel participants, securing sponsorship, and refining activity and catering logistics to deliver an expanded, family-friendly festival

Rachel recently attended the Perth Caravan and Camping Show with A5 brochures promoting the event. Potential muster goers were enthusiastic about this year's event. We have been approached by media outlets to assistance with promotion of this year's event.



Community Conversations

- Economic Objective 1 *To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.*
- Economic Development *Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison*
- Environmental Objective 2 *To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.*
- Social Objective 3 *To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:*
  - Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.*
  - Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).*
  - Supporting community groups.*
- 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*

March IYRP theme is Livelihoods and Economics. Regions driving national income are running on thin services and policy that doesn't fit. Australia's rangelands are economically significant. Covering 81% of our landmass, they generate tens of billions of dollars each year. Beef, sheep and goat production underpin major export industries. Yet economic weight does not always translate into influence.

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.



### *International Women's Day*

I recently attended the For Purpose Leaders International Women's Day Breakfast in Kings Park, an inspiring event that highlighted the strength, leadership and resilience of women across regional and remote Australia. Dr Hilda Turnbull shared a powerful story of stepping into leadership at just 12 years old, reminding us of the importance of trusting the people around us to do what they do best.

Speakers also reflected on the challenges and triumphs of motherhood, with Mary Neeke's insight "If you can negotiate with a 2-year-old, you can negotiate with anyone" resonating strongly. Her concerns about population decline in rural communities echoed many of our own, and her encouragement for city residents to connect with the strong women of the bush was a timely reminder of the vital role they play in holding communities together. It was a meaningful celebration of leadership and the women who shape our regions in countless, often unseen ways.

### *Kitchen Table Conversations*

Rachel and I visited Murgoo Station for the first of our kitchen table conversations. We look forward to meeting up with others soon and understanding more about our community and how the Shire can assist.

### Tourism

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

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

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

*Regional collaboration where possible;*

### *Destination Marketing Strategy*

Significant progress has been made on the Shire's marketing assets, with the refreshed brochure and visitor map now completed and already in use at the Perth Caravan and Camping Show. The new orchard signage has arrived with installation is expected to commence shortly. The next phase will focus on improving the availability of visitor information within the Settlement via signage in the information gazebo and beginning work on updated brochures for the Botanical Walk and Birds of Murchison.

Work is underway to enhance the illustrated postcards available in the museum, with selected artworks by Jano Foulkes-Taylor and Marie Wendland to be professionally printed; artist biographies and photographs will be included to recognise and celebrate their significant contributions to the Shire. This recognition aligns strongly with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, providing an ideal platform to highlight their legacy and the role of women in shaping the region's cultural and environmental heritage.

### *Upcoming Events*

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

### *Tourism Partner News*

#### **CDO Collaboration**

Progress from the previous CDO meeting has continued, with one final session planned to complete the CDO Collaboration Framework. This meeting will be held in person with Julian Canny during Cue Parliament, ensuring the framework is finalised with shared input and alignment.

#### **AGO + Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways**

Both Australia's Golden Outback and the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways were represented at the Perth Caravan and Camping Show, showcasing new marketing material for the upcoming tourist season. The Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways will proceed to print with their fully updated guide in April, followed by a refresh of their website. Australia's Golden Outback also launched the Gascoyne Murchison specific Road Tripper campaign on 16 March, further strengthening regional promotion ahead of peak visitation.



**Tourism Council of WA**

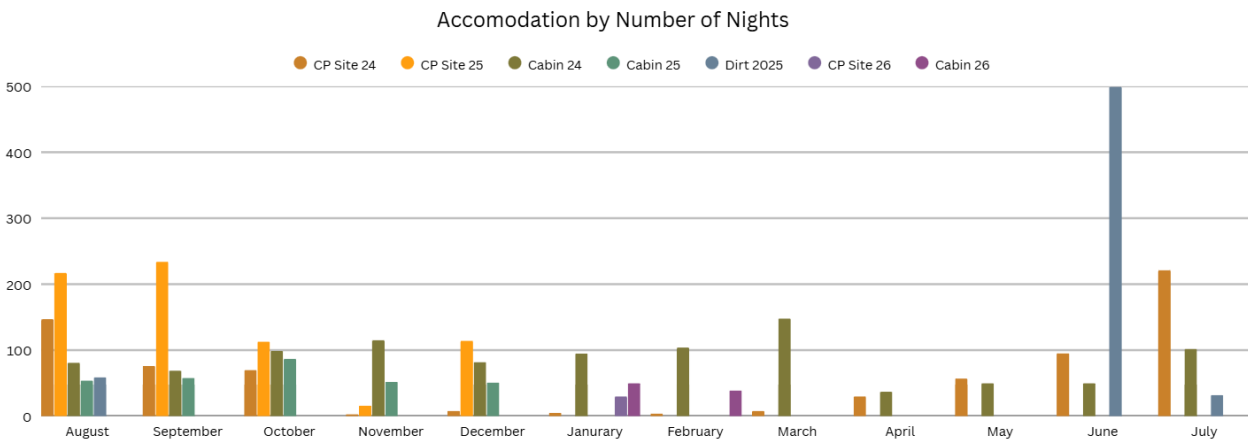
Rachel and I will be attending the 2026 WA Tourism Conference in Carnarvon, a three-day event bringing together operators, industry leaders and government representatives to explore the ideas shaping Western Australia’s visitor economy. The program features keynote speakers, industry updates, workshops and panels on topics including AI in tourism, social media that drives bookings, financial resilience, regional air access and emerging visitor trends.

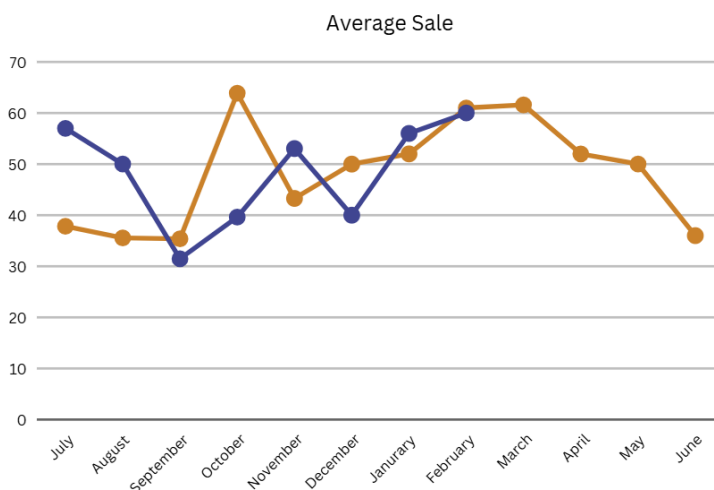
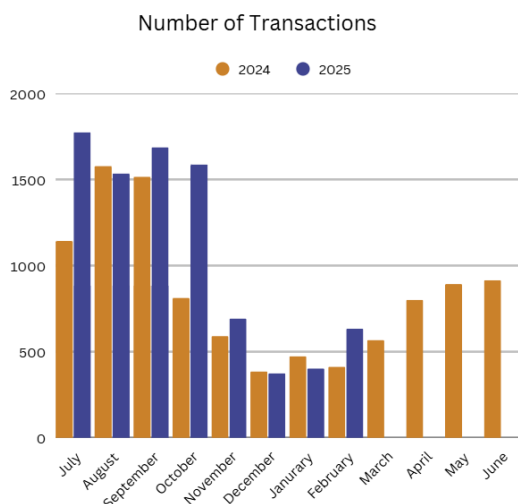
This year’s conference strongly aligns with our approach to food-based tourism, particularly through our work with the Shire Roadhouse, and provides valuable opportunities to strengthen this direction. Delegates will also experience Carnarvon’s renowned produce, culture and landscapes through curated events and regional experiences woven throughout the program. This conference offers an important platform for connection, collaboration and insight as we continue to develop and promote tourism in the Murchison.

**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**

Following the reduced operating hours over December and January we have seen a strong rebound in February. Transactions increased by 53% compared with the same period last year, with the average sale remaining consistent. This indicates not only a solid recovery in visitor activity but also continued confidence in the Roadhouse offerings as we move into the new season.

Murchison Caravan Park Terms and Conditions and Caravan Park Rules have now been completed and operationally approved, paving the way for the implementation of the new caravan park booking software. This system will enable online bookings and provide the ability to recover costs in cases of cancellations, facility damage or lost keys. It represents a strong step forward in improving management efficiency, protecting Shire assets and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

As part of this process, included as part of the recommendation, the following fees should be formally adopted by Council.

Cancellations within 7 days of arrival	Lose all money paid
Cancellations prior to 7 days of arrival	\$30 cancellation fee
Loss Key Fee	\$250
Smoking in in premises	\$200 cleaning fee,
Lost Property Return Handling Fee	\$15 plus postage

Caravan Park renovations are progressing well, with the hardstand works now complete and new conduit installed to support electrical cabling that will finally allow power to all bays, one of our most significant operational challenges in the past. To maximise efficiency and contractor availability, the main trench has been intentionally left open to accommodate upcoming irrigation and water infrastructure works. Landscaping has also been incorporated into the turf renovation package, and the redesigned layout will feature green gathering spaces bordered by native trees, helping to restore the Caravan Park to the oasis-like environment it was once known for. Thank you to Emma-Foulkes-Taylor, for providing a native tree list this helped greatly with selection.

The Roadhouse has also benefited from several key appliance upgrades, including a new dishwasher and under-bench refrigerators to improve operational efficiency and new coffee machine. A new combi oven is on its way, which will allow us to introduce pizza nights, house-baked bread and regular roast specials. We're all genuinely excited to see what Darren and Ronnie create with the expanded capability, and the upgrades position us well to continue enhancing the visitor experience.

### Roadhouse Housing Developments

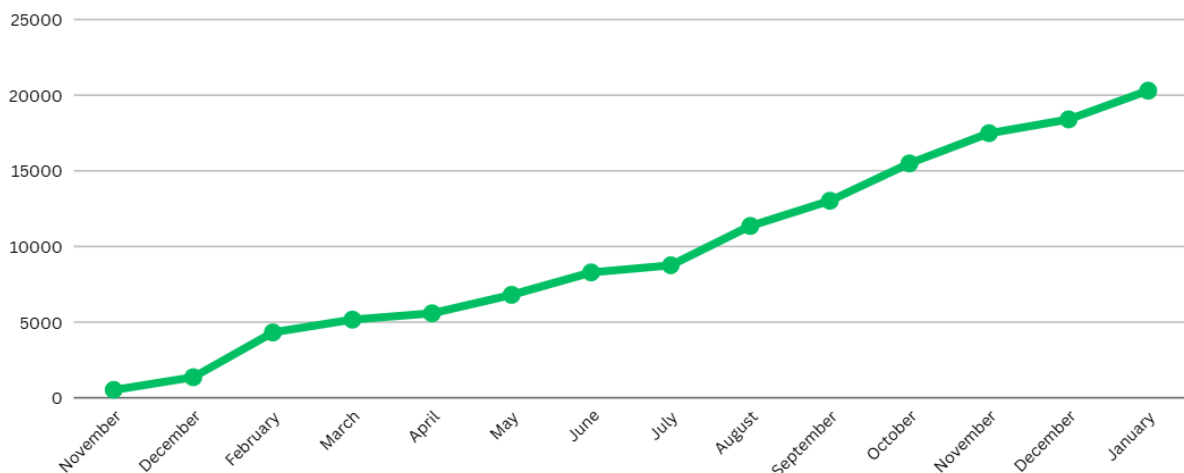
Housing construction continues to progress, with two houses now at lock-up stage. The remaining three builds have experienced delays related to their concrete bases, however delivery is still indicated for June or July. Despite the setback, timelines remain manageable, and we will continue to monitor progress closely as works advance.



### Containers for Change Recycling

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

### 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.

### Local Loyalty Scheme

Applications to the local loyalty scheme now has 25 members and adoption for the purpose of using the pool has been welcomed.

## 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 Gardeners are digging in at the community garden its time for a big clean up before we start seeding for the winter season. The seeds that have been ordered have arrived and after last years success with garlic we will certainly be growing it again.

The orchard is doing well trees are happy and the mulch is getting a top up and tree fertiliser rings are on their way to support nutrient delivery over the next 12 months. Signage has arrived and hopefully installation will commence shortly



## Communications

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

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
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### *Email Communications Feb 20 to March 20*

- ~ 8 Community Announcements
  - o Water Bankruptcy in the Rangelands – IYRP
  - o Rural Growth – Farm Business Resilience Program
  - o Oasis Roadhouse – New Opening Hours & Updates
  - o Pest Control Services Available
  - o 2 x Fuel Availability Changes
  - o PGA Fuel Survey
  - o Murchison Camp oven Muster Save the Date

*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

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

- 1 Note the Community Development Progress Report
- 2 Adopt the following fees and charges as part of the Murchison Oasis Caravan Park Terms and Conditions

Cancellations within 7 days of arrival	Lose all money paid
Cancellations prior to 7 days of arrival	\$30 cancellation fee
Loss Key Fee	\$250
Smoking in in premises	\$200 cleaning fee,
Lost Property Return Handling Fee	\$15 plus postage

Voting Requirements

- 1 Simple Majority
- 2 Absolute Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	P Squires
That Council			
1 Note the Community Development Progress Report			
2 Adopt the following fees and charges as part of the Murchison Oasis Caravan Park Terms and Conditions			
Cancellations within 7 days of arrival		Lose all money paid	
Cancellations prior to 7 days of arrival		\$30 cancellation fee	
Loss Key Fee		\$250	
Smoking in in premises		\$200 cleaning fee,	
Lost Property Return Handling Fee		\$15 plus postage	
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	
	6	0	

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## 19 ADMINISTRATION

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Nil

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## 20 CEO REPORT

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### 20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 22 March 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
25.02.2026	Road Maintenance Records. Infrastructure Development Fund Works. Catch up with Community Manager. Touch base via phone with Peter Jones (Athena Resources)
26.02.2026	Agenda Work., Infrastructure Development Fund Work.
27.02.2026	Council Workshop & Meeting. Annual Electors Meeting. TOIL
28.02.2026	Council Minutes
2.03.2026	Public Holiday. Council Minutes. General Administration
3.03.2026	Meeting with Goran Seat (Fenix) in Perth. Finalise Council Minutes. and send Budget Review to Department. TOIL
4.03.2026	Follow up work. Meeting with Steve Carroll Assistant Director Community Housing in Fremantle. TOIL
5.03.2026	General Administration. Teams Meeting MRWA Technical Working Group. MRWA Road Claims.
6.03.2026	Website Review Work. MEG WALGA Country Zone Agenda Item.
7.03.2026 to 8.03.2026	General Administration
9.03.2026	General Administration. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Review Caravan Park Rules and Terms & Conditions
10.03.2026	Telephone discussion with Cr Emma Foukes-Taylor. Timesheet Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Hon Amanda Dorn MLC response to queries regarding our Wild Dog Control Bounty Scheme. Touch base on phone with Shire President, Josh Kirk & Phil Swain
11.03.2026	Roads Planning Work. Fuel Review Work. Touch base with Shire President via phone.
12.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. Touch base with Shire President via phone. Touch base with Works Manager & Community Manager. Telephone discussion with Karin Grima (Lyssna Consulting) regarding MEG Work.
13.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. MEG Work. Catch up with Community Manager. General Administration
14.03.2026	Very Preliminary Rates Review Work. Telephone catch up with Paul Squires
16.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. MEG Work. Catch up with Community Manager & Works Manager. Meeting with Paul Squires.
17.03.2026	Teams Meeting - Regional Roads Group - Murchison Sub Group. Infrastructure Development Fund Progress Report. Attend Pia Wadjarri School Council Meeting via Webex. Fuel Review Work.
18.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. Works and Roadhouse Fuel. Catch up with Works Manager and Community Manager
19.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. Works and Roadhouse Fuel. MRWA Regional Road Group Work.
20.03.2026	Fuel Review Work. Agenda & Workshop Work

Date	Activity
21.03.2026	Catch ups with Works Manager. Agenda & Workshop Work. Telephone discussion and subsequent email to Robert Cossart (WA Fuel Controller)
22.03.2026 to 23.03.2026	Agenda & Workshop Work. General Administration

**Recommendation**

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	G Mead	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	A Whitmarsh
That Council note the CEO's Update Report.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

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

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Nil

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**22 MEETING CLOSURE**

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*The Shire President wished everyone safe with respect to the forecast arrival of Cyclone Narelle and closed the meeting at 12.57pm.*

<b>Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 April 2026</b>	
Signed.....	Presiding Officer