



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **28 May 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

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor
Cr G Mead
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

Apologies

Cr A Whitmarsh

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 April 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 23 April 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

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

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25 June 2026 commencing at 12:30pm

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

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

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 May 2026
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The construction crew have made good progress over the last month and are slightly ahead of schedule, a start should be made on the second extra job by the time Council meets. That being said the floodways still need to be done. These will be tackled when Mark Jones returns from his second 3 week stint of his long service leave. Part of the crew will also be spending a few days cleaning up around the caravan park now that the upgrade works are nearing completion.

Maintenance

The maintenance crew have completed the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. from the north boundary to the Settlement, finished Butchers Track and will be heading over to Beringarra to start on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd, heading south. As the bulk of the cyclone damage is in the north eastern section of the Shire, they will be busy up there for some time.

Power Upgrade Works

Hosken Electrical are on site and progressing well with this major upgrade. I do not think we realized how big a job this actually is. A new underground power supply will also have to be laid to facilitate the new housing development and caravan park as the old infrastructure will not be able to cope with the extra demand.

New Housing

The groundwork for the new housing will begin in the near future. This will mean pinching time from the construction crew to ensure this is done in a timely fashion. The septic's and other plumbing requisites have already been delivered and are in the Depot.

Fuel

I am pleased to report that we appear to be returning to a more "business as usual" scenario as far as delivery goes.

SKA Route Works

Walladar are continuing with work on the CGG section of the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd.

We are still waiting on the go ahead from MRWA for work to start on the Boolardy-Kalli Rd to the east of Bordalla Well. Work on this section of road cannot wait much longer as the road is rapidly approaching the point that certain sections of the road can no longer be satisfactorily maintained to keep the road open to the traveling public. As such we are fast approaching the possibility of having to close the road to all traffic in the near future until such time that it can be restored to a safe trafficable state. It may be worthwhile getting this message out to SKAO / MRWA.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 May 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 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 April 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1.1

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

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 April 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 May 2026
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report April 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 Net Surplus \$3,500,216, ahead of YTD budget of \$(2,207,723). Mostly affected by year to date reserve transfers of \$2,744,673 from Grants Commission Reserve (budget profile has reserve transfers at year end).
 - b Significant Capital Projects:
 - i SKA Route \$3,240,529 YTD
 - ii Power Supply \$924,989 YTD
 - iii Carnarvon Mullewa Road \$1,210,449 YTD
 - iv All below full year budget.
 - c Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (Note 12 has further detail)
 - i Operating Grants – \$667,411 below budget:
 - ~ Flood damage \$1,295,568 above budget
 - ~ SKA Operating \$1,540,660 below budget – some reallocation from the above budget SKA capital grant required.
 - ii Capital Grants - \$1,936,049 above budget
 - ~ SKA Capital \$1,595,151 above budget.
 - ~ Roads to Recovery \$349,339 above budget
 - d Rates Revenue – 35,642 below full year budget. UV Mining Interim rolls received and processed in April, resulting in net downwards movement.
- 2 Note 4 Total Cash Balances: \$7,882,639
 - a Restricted \$6,321,623
 - b Unrestricted \$1,561,016
- 3 Major variances are outlined in Note 2.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2026 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17.3 2026 - 2027 Rates Review

File:	3.1
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	22 May 2026
Attachments:	17.3.1 Rating Analysis Review May 2026 17.3.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2026-27 Financial Year

Matter for Consideration

Review of Council's Rating Strategy and considering proposed 2026-27 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

Background

Previous

At the April 2023 Council Meeting Council considered 2023 Rating Strategy Review Report which included an updated Regional Rates Benchmarking Comparison as well as several local Rates Scenarios. In doing so the following resolution was carried.

That Council note the Chief Executive Officers 2023 Rating Strategy Review Report with the intention that it will be used to inform Council's considerations when setting rates as part of future budgets.

Whilst the consideration of rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates is an annual event, given the COVID19 influence and zero rate increase scenario in 2020/21 and expansive COVID 19 changes to Council's operating environment over the past few years, it was considered prudent in 2023/24 to further expand on the 2021/22 and 2022/23 resets with a more "eyes wide open review" with a long-term view in mind.

This resulted in a major reset being undertaken 2023/24 which translated to major change in the differential rating parameters with around a 70% increase in Pastoral Rates and a 28% reduction in Mining Rates. As a result, the differential for Mining and Prospecting and Exploration fell for the first time fell below 2.0; a situation that was to be maintained if possible.'

Importantly In 2023 Council adopted an updated Asset Management Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan, and Corporate Business Plan prior to setting the 2023/24 Rates. Amongst other things the following aspects have been identified.

- i Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report Project vision established "*To ensure that Murchison Settlement is an attractive focal point that enables the Shire to function successfully and deliver a range of services that will underpin community, cultural and economic development within the Settlement and broader Shire.*"
- ii A range of projects identified as part of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report and Roadhouse Precinct Detailed Concept Design. Works include in the next few years a new Caravan Park Ablutions Block (2023 and 2024), Community Pool and Splashpad (2024), with a new playground, housing, and Roadhouse redevelopment amongst others foreshadowed in the in the next few years.
Potential works associated with the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case will also require significant levels of external funding with any delivery and will likely be very long term without significant external investment.
- iii Major works to upgrade the water and power supply at the Murchison Settlement in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- iv Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Strategic Upgrade Works every year for the foreseeable future.
- v SKA Route Works
- vi From a policy perspective future rate scenarios are as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are to be ignored

As a result, these documents and the 2023/24 Budget identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates, in future years, a situation to be addressed in this report.

Update

Since this time significant development of all of these matters has occurred as follows

- ii Projects identified as part of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan and Roadhouse Precinct Detailed Concept Design Reports
 - ~ Caravan Park Ablutions Block, Community Pool and Splashpad completed.
 - ~ Additional Housing (2026), Caravan Park, convert existing 3-room non ensuite units into 2 ensuite rooms and new ensuite cabins (2026), Caravan Park Upgrade sites (2026), Housing 5 new units (2026), Roadhouse Redevelopment with REDS funding (2027) and Playground Redevelopment (2027).
- iii Major works to upgrade the water and power supply at the Murchison Settlement in 2023, 2024 2025 and 2026.
- iv Further increase in scale of Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Strategic Upgrade Works with a view to supporting an expanded mining industry.

Rating Analysis & Review

The provisions associated with the setting of rates and the strategies involved are lengthy and complex. Following on from work undertaken in the previous 4 years, a consolidated document addressed under the following headings elements has been prepared as per the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2026.

- Introduction
- Legislative Provisions
- Valuation Methodology
- A Value and Principle Approach
- Rating Nuances
- Rates Analysis
- Local Rates Rationale
- Strategic Rates Approach
- Rates Analysis Details

This work underpins this Report.

Detailed Local Rates Analysis

Whilst benchmarking with Shires provides a useful guide, modelling local rates, valuation issues and changes in valuations also needs to be undertaken. The following comments provided.

- 1 The pastoral sector and mining sector generally see little movements in numbers of ratable assessments. This contrast with the minerals exploration sector, which is highly volatile, can have a number of ins and outs. This is a regular occurrence. The rates base and rates revenue can vary markedly from year to year but the average rates that are derived from existing properties where their tenure continues usually change in consistent manner subject to valuation movements. In 2026/27 There was a significant reduction in the number of Exploration & Prospecting Mining Tenements from 63 to 47 which complicates the situation.
- 2 With such a small valuation base very small changes in occupation can have a significant effect. By way of illustration in 2021/22 the pastoral sector reduced in size by only one pastoral property with changes in valuations to only two others but in both these there was a significant effect much greater than would otherwise be the case compared to a local government with a much larger rate base.
- 3 At the time of presenting this agenda item Landgate have provided the 2026 Pastoral and Mining Tenement Roles detailing Unimproved Valuations. As a result, rates modelling has been able to be undertaken with confidence.
- 4 General overall changes in valuations that will apply for 2025-26 are as follows.

Pastoral	up 3.5%
Mining	up 11.0%
Prospecting & Exploration	up 3.8%

Details of Miscellaneous Mining Licenses will be included in the final Mining Tenement Role and the subsequent budget but not considered in any rates modelling. These tenements have been determined, through an appeal by the Shire of Mt Magnet to the Supreme Court to be rateable and as such must be rated notwithstanding the situation where the Government is attempting to retrospectively change arrangements through the *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Bill 2025*.

Rate Parameters

5 General Rate Increase

It is prudent to consider any rate increase from year to year in terms of excluding *Natural Decline or Growth*. Historically and on a Long-Term Financial Basis 5% increase has been notionally applied. This however is markedly affected by annual valuations.

As indicated in the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2026 there are a number of supporting reasons including an objective analysis by the Grants Commission that there is an inherent capacity to increase rates with perhaps the most relevant comparator to our situation being the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

The Shires large recurrent and future infrastructure spend as outlined and as per Council's revised Long Term Asset Management and Financial Plans with at least two major floodways requiring upgrade on strategically important roads is also on consideration.

6 Minimum Payment

The current Minimum Payment of \$1,000 proposed to be retained.

7 Differential Rates

The need to reduce the Mining and Differential compared to the lowest rate (Pastoral) has been well established through successive Rating Strategy Reviews and has been able to be delivered over the past 10 years for Mining (10.72 to 2.00) and Exploration (3.61 to 2.00). This occurred in 2023/24.

In comparison with other Shires in our region used in the Rates Benchmarking Comparison this reduction in differential to 2.0 has become more of a regular feature and in our instance is proposed to retain this situation.

However consideration of all of the elements as identified above under Background – Update a higher lift in the pastoral rate in the \$ that was previously applied last year is proposed with mining differentials also altering.

Summary movements are as follows.

Differential Rate Types	Existing			Proposed		
	rate in dollar		min payment	rate in dollar		min payment
	cents	differential	\$	cents	differential	\$
UV Pastoral	9.932	1.000	1,000	14.401	1.000	1,000
UV Mining	19.830	1.997	1,000	28.754	1.997	1,000
UV Prospecting & Exploration	19.830	1.997	1,000	28.754	1.997	1,000

Equity across Rate Differential Categories

For consistency, Council has ensured that properties that are used for the same purpose are rated in the same way and has considered and analysed in detail the rates charged by neighbouring councils in its deliberations. For a very small local government achieving equity across the Pastoral and Mining Sectors is not without its challenges, but the variable nature of the Minerals Exploration Sector and small size of the rate base also provides an additional complexity.

As indicated above for 2026-27 it is proposed that the rate increase will be borne equally across all sectors save for changes to valuations that have risen as a result of increase in rents charged for mining tenements and licences for the Mining and Prospecting & Exploration Sectors and in consideration of factors as identified above under Background – Update

Differential Rates Administrative Requirements

If Council decides to continue to rate on a differential basis for 2026-27, then the objects and reasons for imposing each differential rate must be set out by the local government in a publicly available document and

local public notice is required to be given of its intention to impose differential rates, giving details of each rate or minimum payment, and inviting submissions within 21 days of the notice.

If the proposed differential rates for mining will be more than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) then Ministerial approval will consequently be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2026-27 budget. The Department of Local Government requires as part of its process that if there are less than 30 ratepayers in a sector, then each rate payer is to be written to individually, inviting submissions. The Department also requires a raft of other information to accompany any application. Invariably this process may, depending on timing, potentially delay adoption of the budget.

This year, like the previous three years, the proposed differential rates for mining and exploration is proposed to be less than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) and consequently Ministerial approval will not be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2026-27 budget.

On the basis that advertising is undertaken soon after the meeting then any submissions received can be considered at the June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, before making the final decision regarding the imposition of the rate or minimum payment, with or without modification.

Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates

The objects and reasons for differential rating for 2026-27 are attached for Council to consider and adopt.

Budget / Financial Implications:

Proposed differential rates will be set to meet the estimated budget deficiency in the 2026-27 financial year.

Strategic Implications

Delivery of strategic outcomes are impacted upon through the budget process as underpinned in part through the setting of rates.

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Detailed and professional administration; Compliance with statutory requirements; High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;</i>
Strategies	
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Sustainability Implications

Environmental	There are no known significant environmental considerations.
Economic	There are significant economic considerations.
Social	There will potentially be impacts on social considerations.

Policy Implications

Nil. This report however will assist in an improved policy setting framework. As a result, these documents and draft budgets that result have identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates.

Consultation

Travis Bate, Financial Accountant (RSM Australia). Previous dialogue with McLeods Barristers and Solicitors, Landgate Valuation Services and DLGSC was also undertaken in 2021. A number of reference documents are also relevant.

References

- ~ *Rating Analysis Review May 2026 as attached. This includes analysis of rating information from 2024-25 budgets from the Shires of Murchison, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Menzies, Sandstone, Meekatharra, Upper Gascoyne, and Shark Bay.*
- ~ *Landgate. Unimproved Value & Pastoral Leases Information*
- ~ *Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. Fees and Charges information on Mining Tenements – Mining Act 1978*
- ~ *Skilmar Rating Review. Local Government Rating - A Discussion Paper prepared for Playford Council by Skilmar Systems - December 1998.*
- ~ *Access Economics Rating Review. Valuation and local government rating in Tasmania: a robust framework for the Future. Prepared for Local Government Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Tasmania) by Access Economics – October 2010.*
- ~ *DLGSC Rates Detailed Discussion Paper. Rates Fees and Charges Detailed Discussion Paper. Prepared by DLGSC March 2019*

Recommendation

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2026-27 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2026-27 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2026-27 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
UV Pastoral	14.401	1,000
UV Mining	28.754	1,000
UV Prospecting & Exploration	28.754	1,000

- 4 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2026-27 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 5 That public submissions be invited.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 April 2026

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report April 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: Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required. Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.). Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible; Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>
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 strongly, with several key presenters and activities now confirmed. Ian and Di Haggerty, recipients of the West Australian of the Year Award, will host a scone afternoon tea and lead a discussion on regenerative practices in the rangelands. This session will be complemented by a scone bake-off using regenerative flour supplied by Miller + Baker, produced directly from crops grown on the Haggerty's farm. Jodi and Kerry, well-known Camp Oven Champions, are secured to deliver the fireside sundown soup at the Botanical Walk, a camp oven scone demonstration, and a signature camp oven cooking showcase. Musical entertainment will be provided by Hippy Campers, offering live performances including a campfire sing-along and dinner music. In addition, the Cherry Steppers, a Perth-based performance group, will deliver both a line dancing session and a dance demonstration, adding further vibrancy to the event program. Collectively, these activities position the Muster as a high-quality regional attraction with strong cultural, culinary, and community appeal.

Pastoral & Community Support

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	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>

International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists

Pastoral land management plays a critical role in preserving the biodiversity and ecological function of Australia's rangelands. As part of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, the May theme highlights the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, recognising that well-managed pastoral landscapes support native flora and fauna, maintain soil health, protect water systems, and contribute to long-term landscape resilience. Pastoralists actively steward vast areas of rangeland, implementing grazing practices that reduce erosion, promote vegetation recovery, and sustain habitat diversity. These efforts safeguard essential ecosystem services such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, and natural water filtration which underpin both environmental health and the productivity of pastoral enterprises. The theme reinforces the value of pastoral land managers as frontline custodians of some of Australia's most ecologically significant and fragile environments.



We congratulate Julia Foulkes-Taylor on her successful application to attend the IYRP Global Women's Gathering in Kathmandu and wish her well on her journey. We look forward to hearing all about it when she gets back.

Community Freight Service

After feedback received for pick up locations on the community freight service it has been decided to remove those not used and replace them with better options. This will take effect shortly and will be communicated via the community email list.

Murchison Meat Initiative

The Meat Initiative has reached its first major hurdle, with the next critical step being the securing of a suitable meatworks facility to support processing and distribution needs across the region. The project team is currently researching all available options between Geraldton and Gingin, assessing operational capacity, logistics, regulatory requirements, and long-term viability. This phase is essential to determining the most practical and cost-effective pathway forward. Work is progressing steadily, and the Shire anticipates having a preferred solution identified in the coming weeks, enabling the initiative to move into the next stage of planning and partnership development. Strengthening local processing capability remains central to improving supply chain resilience and supporting pastoral industry sustainability across the region.

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;

Upcoming Events

Murchison Polocrosse Carnival, Murchison Camp Oven Muster, Annual Christmas Tree

Tourism Partner News

CDO Collaboration

The Murchison CDO Network is a regional collaboration model that transforms isolated CDO roles into a coordinated, high-value system. It reduces duplication, lowers costs, strengthens community development capacity, and improves outcomes for Shires across the region. The network acts as a shared toolbox, enabling communities to learn from one another, solve problems faster, and support the wellbeing and sustainability of CDO staff.

The network is currently gathering practical examples of how this collaborative model is already delivering value. Murchison has contributed significantly, including:

- ~ Providing experienced event staff to support major regional events such as Meekatharra Spirit and the Under Gascoyne Skies Festival.
- ~ Partnering with the Shire of Upper Gascoyne and RDAWA to pool funds for a feasibility study into digital wayfinding pillars, with potential expansion into digital road-condition signage across the region.

These early examples demonstrate how shared capability, shared investment, and shared learning are already producing tangible regional benefits.

AGO + Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways

The Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways initiative is preparing for a major social media and visitor-engagement campaign as the tourism season begins. The Holiday Planner has been finalised for print, with hard copies expected to arrive by mid-June, supporting both regional promotion and visitor information distribution.

In addition, the AGO Road Trippers Campaign for the Murchison–Gascoyne region has commenced in a scaled-down, market-testing phase. This approach reflects the stabilisation of fuel prices and travel patterns, allowing the campaign to gauge traveller behaviour under the “new normal” before scaling up.

These coordinated efforts aim to strengthen regional visibility, support local tourism operators, and encourage increased visitation across the Outback Pathways network.

Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) is looking for an Independent Chair to lead one of Western Australia's most iconic regional tourism organisation spanning over half of the state. The Chair will provide strategic vision, champion regional collaboration, and represent AGO across government and industry at the highest levels. The AGO is looking for an experienced, independent leader with strong governance skills, and a passion for regional Australia.

Tourism Council of WA

Tourism Council WA will host the 2026 Perth Airport WA Tourism Conference in Carnarvon next week to highlight the importance of regional tourism and advocate for operators facing immediate challenges across regional Western Australia. The event will bring together key decision-makers, including the Minister for Local Government and the Gascoyne Hon Hannah Beazley MLA, the Minister for Regional Development and the Kimberley Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, and the Minister for Tourism and the Great Southern Hon Reece Whitby MLA.

The conference spans **three days** and brings together tourism operators, government agencies, industry leaders, and marketing specialists. The program includes the following.

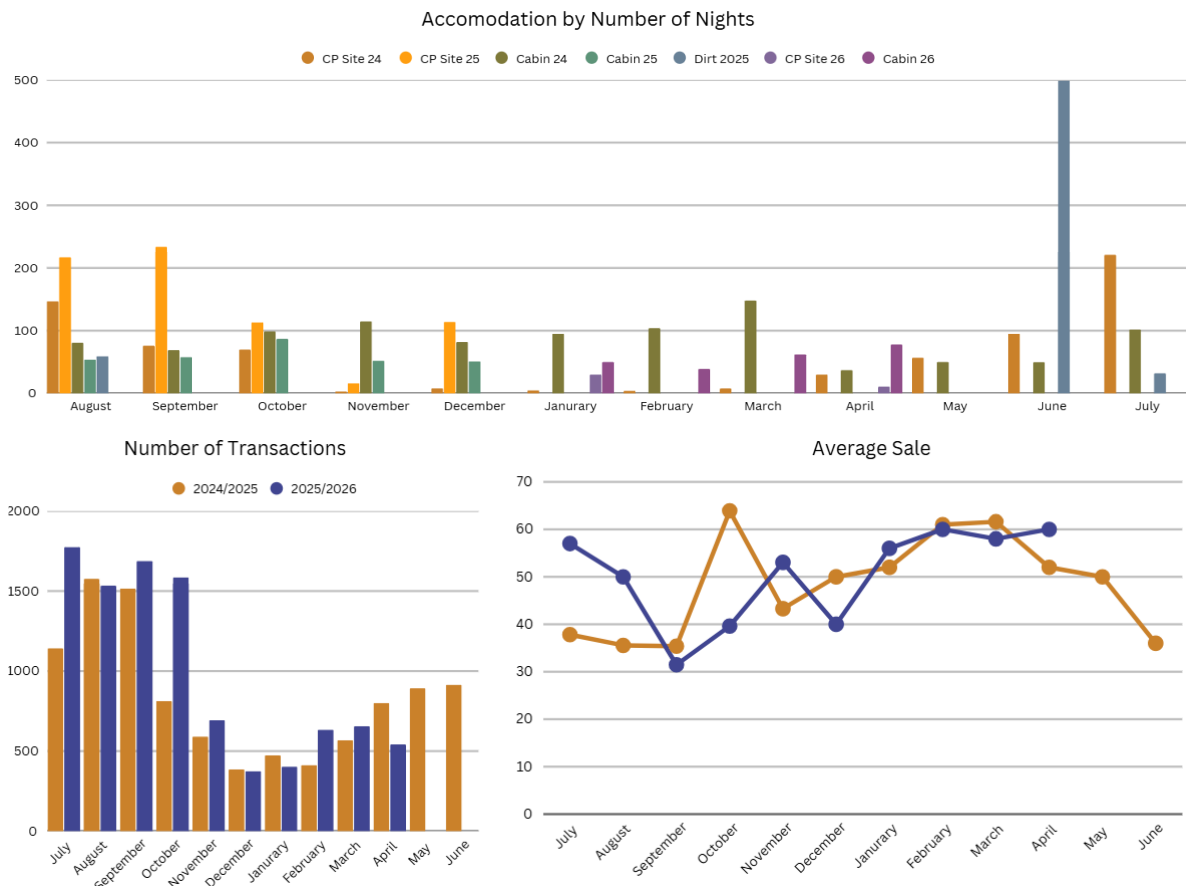
- ~ Key Themes & Sessions
 - o Tourism industry outlook – updates from Tourism WA and Tourism Australia
 - o Artificial intelligence and digital transformation in tourism
 - o Social media strategies to increase visitation and bookings
 - o Financial resilience and business sustainability for tourism operators
 - o Regional air access and transport challenges
 - o Emerging visitor trends across Western Australia
- ~ Speakers & Contributors
 - o Futurist Steve Sammartino
 - o Digital strategist Meg Coffey
 - o Senior representatives from Tourism WA, Tourism Australia, and Visitor Centre WA
 - o Regional tourism operators sharing case studies and practical insights
- ~ Workshops & Networking
 - o Visitor Centre WA professional development sessions
 - o Business capability workshops
 - o Structured networking with industry leaders and government decision-makers

When this report is distributed Rachel and myself will be at the 2026 WA tourism Conference in Carnarvon. I look forward to bringing an update on Council Meeting Day.

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 Roadhouse has seen modest improvements in camping activity throughout April, despite only bush camping being available, which has noticeably impacted overall visitation. A significant number of contractors undertaking essential Shire works have been accommodated onsite, placing increased demand on the kitchen during peak meal times. While the average spend per customer has risen, the total number of transactions has decreased, which is expected given the temporary closure of the Caravan Park for renovations.

Fuel availability has now returned to 24/7 access, with the 50-litre limit remaining in place, and pricing continues to follow the Shire's established policy to provide maximum value to travellers. The new Caravan Park management software is now operational, including an online booking platform accessible via the Shire website, and the Square POS system is scheduled for introduction in mid-June to align with end-of-financial-year processes. At the Roadhouse, the new combi oven has been successfully installed.

Renovations at the Caravan Park are progressing well. Turf, trees, and irrigation have been completed, and parts of the park reopened to the public on 20 May, with all available sites booked and additional bush camping utilised. A staged reopening will see the western section available from 27 May, with the remaining south-eastern area opening on 3 June. Power access remains limited until the installation of a new electrical mains line to service both the Caravan Park and the housing precinct in the coming months.

Market research has now been completed, and given the significantly improved amenity, it is recommended that Council adopt a new pricing structure aligned with upcoming events: \$45 powered sites, \$35 unpowered sites, and \$55 per night for swag hire.



Roadhouse Housing Developments

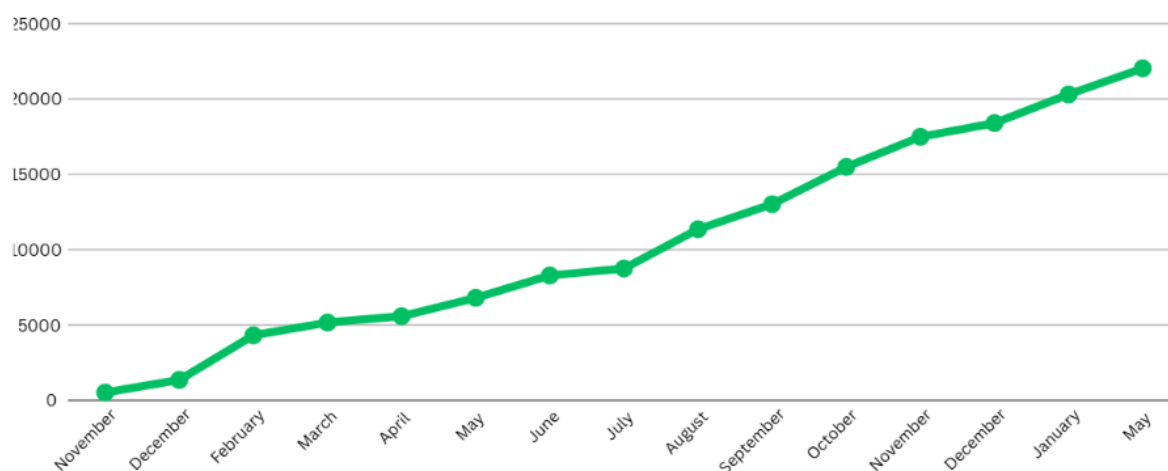
Housing construction continues to progress, we now have three houses at lock-up stage, 2 more are roof on and wrapped awaiting glazing, cabins have their walls underway and the veranda has been built. All builds at lock up stage have completed floors in all areas apart from wet areas as they are polished concrete slabs.



Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Interpretive Centre	<i>Development of an Interpretive Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of 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>Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



Containers returns have commenced recording again we are still awaiting notification from the team what happened to the containers delivered from February through April.

Local Loyalty Scheme

Applications to the local loyalty scheme now has 34 members up from 33 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 beans and peas have been planted out on trellis, broccoli, cauliflower, broccolini, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, dill and coriander are growing up big and strong in the greenhouse in the hope we can get them planted out in the coming weeks.



The orchard is getting some TLC the weeds are coming through thick and fast with the recent rains so mulching and weeding is a must. Trees were pruned after cyclone Narelle to encourage new growth and our JuJubes are now heading toward dormant.



Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Detailed and professional administration;

High levels of accountability;

Compliance with statutory requirements;

High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;

Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;

Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.

Strategies

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari

Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).

Email Communications April 20 to May 20

- 14 Community Announcements
- x4 Camp Oven Muster
- x2 Road Report
- x2 Pool & Splash Pad
- x1 ANZAC Day
- x1 International Year Rangelands and Pastoralists
- x1 Department of Transport Visit

- x1 Midwest Freight Pick Up Review
- x1 Member Pricing Available for Mid-West Economic Summit
- x1 Caravan Park Reopening Date

Social Media Communications

The Shire has continued to actively share updates on developments within the Settlement and broader district through its Facebook page. Throughout May, communications have focused on promoting tourism, highlighting the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, and advertising the Settlement mural opportunity.

The staged reopening of the Caravan Park generated exceptional engagement, reaching 113.8K views from 75K unique viewers, resulting in 135 new followers and 888 interactions across likes, shares, and comments.

The reach was so significant that community members reported seeing the post as far away as Perth, including during routine shopping trips. Subsequent posts promoting the Murchison Camp Oven Muster and International Museum Day have also attracted audiences well above typical levels, demonstrating growing interest in Shire activities and strong community engagement with Shire communications.

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 amended fees and charges at the Murchison Oasis Caravan Park
 - ~ \$45 powered site
 - ~ \$35 unpowered site
 - ~ \$55 per night for swag hire.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority



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

18.2 Murchison Public Health Plan

File: 17.12
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 22 May 2026
Attachments: 18.2.1 Murchison Local Public Health Plan

Matter for Consideration

Adoption of the Murchison Public Plan for the Murchison Shire

Background

All local governments are required to plan for the future of their district under s.5.56(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*. Recent amendments to the *Public Health Act 2016* have for the first time required Local Government to prepare and adopt a Local Public Health Plan which sits alongside the State Public Health Plan 2025-2030. (SPHP)

Public health refers to the health and wellbeing of the public; it is much more than just the provision of health services and managing environmental health risks but encompasses all aspects of life that enable the community to thrive. By actively planning for the best public health outcomes of a community, local governments can support and drive the changes required.

Legislative

Local Government Act 1995

5.56. Planning for the future

- (1) *A local government is to plan for the future of the district.*
- (2) *A local government is to ensure that plans made under subsection (1) are in accordance with any regulations made about planning for the future of the district.*

Public Health Act 2016

45. Local public health plans

- (1) *A local government must prepare a public health plan (a local public health plan) that applies to its local government district.*
- (2) *A local public health plan must be consistent with the State public health plan.*
- (3) *A local public health plan may be prepared in conjunction with a plan for the future of the local government district prepared under the Local Government Act 1995 section 5.56.*
- (4) *A local public health plan must —*
 - (a) *identify the public health needs of the local government district; and*
 - (b) *include an examination of data relating to health status and health determinants in the local government district; and*
 - (c) *establish objectives and policy priorities for —*
 - (i) *the promotion, improvement and protection of public health in the local government district; and*
 - (ii) *the development and delivery of public health services in the local government district; and*
 - (d) *identify how, based on available evidence, the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c) are proposed to be achieved; and*
 - (e) *describe how the local government proposes to work with the Chief Health Officer and other bodies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programmes to achieve the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c); and*
 - (f) *include a strategic framework for the identification, evaluation and management of public health risks in the local government district and any other matters relating to public health risks in the local government district —*
 - (i) *that the local government considers appropriate to include in the plan; or*
 - (ii) *that are required to be included in the plan by the Chief Health Officer or the regulations; and (g) include a report, in accordance with the regulations, on the performance by the local government of its functions under this Act.*
- (5) *A local government must review its local public health plan each year and may amend or replace it at any time.*
- (6) *Unless it is sooner replaced, a local public health plan must be replaced at the end of the period of 5 years after it was prepared.*
- (7) *A local government must prepare its first local public health plan not later than 2 years after this section comes into operation.*

Strategic Implications

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>
Social	
Health Services	<i>Explore strategies to improve the delivery of health services to residents of the Shire.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Refurbishment of Community Centre	<i>The Community Centre is a key building within the Murchison Settlement. The Centre was built in the 1980's and has maintained since this time, however is due to refurbishment.</i>
Regional Community Emergency Services Manager	<i>Emergency Services planning and response is a key issue for the Shire. Additional resources would improve the planning and response to emergency situations.</i>
Explore Education Opportunities	<i>Explore potential opportunities to improve access to existing education services for residents within the Shire.</i>
Civic Leadership	
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
Regional Collaboration	<i>Work collaboratively with neighbouring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Ongoing reviews of the Community Strategic Plan.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Minimal. Most of the actions will be incorporated into or form part of existing programs.

Consultation

WA Country Health Service – Strategy & Change, Bec Fogarty Community Manager

Comment

The preparation of a Local Public Health Plan is a new requirement for local government. Whilst it may be appropriate in a holistic sense with respect to improving the health of the community, in reality the majority of work that a local government performs will likely have some public health implications and almost always form part of community well-being which is intrinsic to a local government's operations. In our instance health is one of many well-being foci as part of our raison detre, even if it may not be formally stated.

Other elements however which have a greater impact remain the domain of the State Government and I suspect the community at large, which is very small and sparsely settled would have more focus on local delivery of health related services which are extremely lacking. Certainly the health and well-being information and summary of selected health service information provided by the WACHS shows this focus, but critically there is likely little a local government can do to directly to direct change with individuals surely having a prime responsibility.

Given the nature of our Shire which is sparsely settled and broadly segmented into different three sectors namely Murchison Settlement (staff pop 20), Pastoral Stations (pop 35) and Pia Wadjari Community (pop 50) then what we can do to affect change with our small resources becomes somewhat problematical.

The overall State Government definition of public health and as shown the following diagram attempts to encapsulate all relevant aspects and as such the Murchison Public Health Plan has been developed with this linkage in mind.

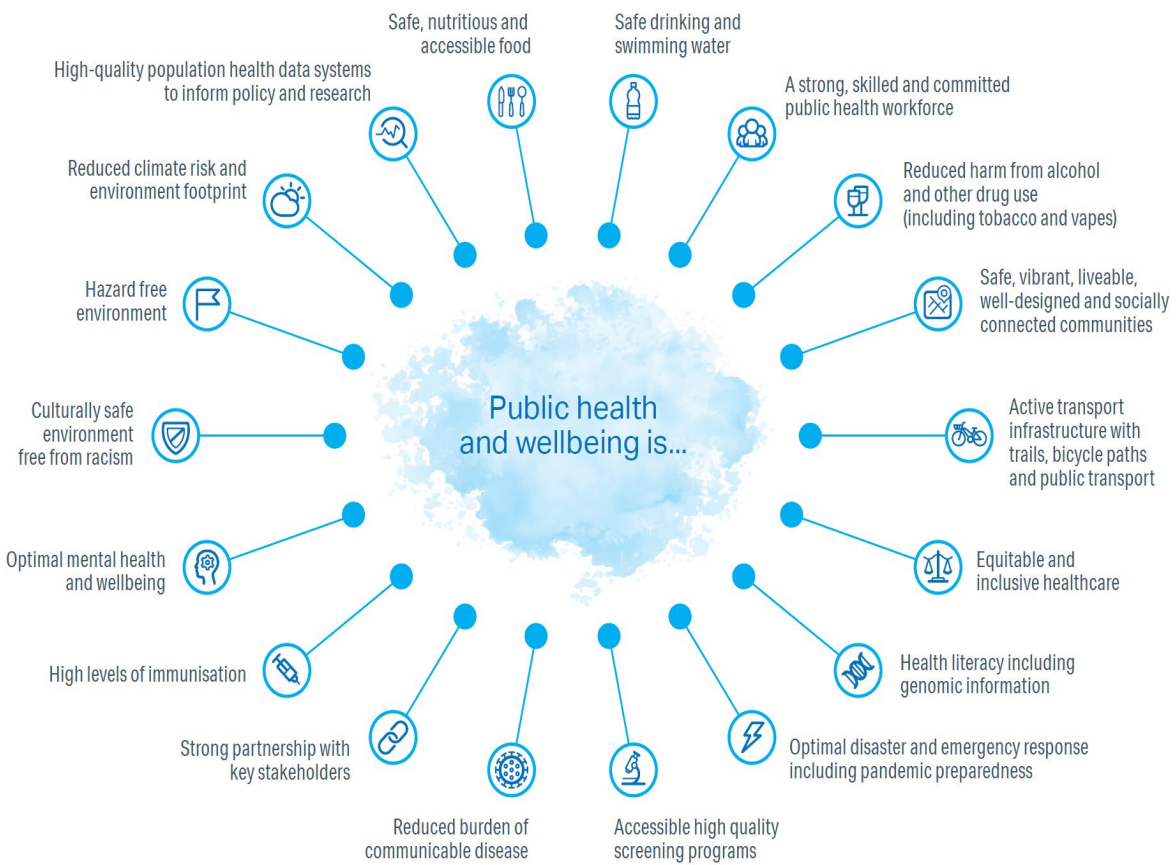


Fig1 Public health and wellbeing (sources WA Department of Health)

In essence in many respects we have in the main just articulated what we currently do and what we would like to do but also provide an opportunity for others to understand the breadth of community focus that we like all local governments are there for.

Section 3.11 Healthy Partnerships is perhaps the most important section as it provides a formal opportunity with perhaps a mandate to see better engagement with the health sector to report on what services are delivered and to improve local health service delivery.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Murchison Public Health Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO REPORT

20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 May 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

The table below provides an update of activities undertaken since the last report.

Date	Activity
21.04.2026	Meeting with Works Manager, Community Manager and Peter Jones, Liam Kelly and Roger Grogan (Athena Resources). Fuel Review and General Administration. Councillor Workshop Work
22.04.2026	Councillor Workshop Work. General Administration. Touch base via phone with Mark Holdsworth (RDA) Catch up with Community Manager.
23.04.2026	Audit Entrance Meeting . Councillor Workshop. Council Meeting. TOIL
24.04.2026	Council Minutes. Telephone catch up with Cr Paul Squires. TOIL
27.04.2026	Anzac Day Public Holiday
28.04.2026	TOIL
29.04.2026	Project update briefings with Community Manager and Works Manager. Insurance Work. General Administration
30.04.2026	Insurance, Housing WA Land Tenure and SKA Route Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Submission work..
1.05.2026	SKA Route incl Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Submission work. Attend Remote WALGA Road Transport Contractual Chain Order Implications for Local Governments Teams Webinar.
2.05.2026	SKA Route Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Submission Work.
4.05.2026	SKA Route incl Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Submission Work. Touch base with Rosasco, Works Manager and Mark Bennett with respect to SKAO operations and arrange and funding dry grade of sections of the Boolardy-Kalli Road. Provided MRWA Roads 2040 updated data. Timesheet work. Local Public Health Plan Work.
5.05.2026	Local Public Health Plan Work. Road Transport Contractual Chain Order Work.
6.05.2026	Local Public Health Plan Work. Administration
7.05.2026	Local Public Health Plan Work. Disability Action and Inclusion Plan Report Work. Administration
8.05.2026 to 10.05.2026	MWDC Presentation Work
11.05.2026 & 12.05.26	MWDC Presentation Work. Catch up with Community Manager
13.05.2026	MWDC Presentation Work. Fuel Review
14.05.2026	MWDC Presentation Work. Fuel Review. MWDC Dinner
15.05.2026	MWDC Meeting. Local Public Health Plan Council Agenda Work
16.05.2026	Rates Review Work.
17.05.2026 to 19.05.2026	Rates Review Work. Local Public Health Plan Work. Administration
20.05.2026	Rates Review Work. Local Public Health Plan Work. SKA Route Submission Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager
21.05.2026	Rates Review Work. SKA Route Submission Work. Audit Work. Catch up with Community Manager.
22.05.2026 to 23.05.2026	Rates Review Work. Agenda Work
24.05.2026	General Administration
25.05.2026	Agenda Work. General Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.