



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 **25 June 2026**, commencing at 12:30pm

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.35pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO

Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) - Financial Accountant

Apologies

Cr P Squires

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 28 May 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 28 May 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 May 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

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

Carried

For

5

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 23 July 2026 commencing at 12:30pm

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

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

Shire President indicated that it was most heartening that recent rehabilitation works undertaken by the Works Manager and Works Staff at the Murchison Airstrip Taxiway to resolved water starvation issues noting that has had a positive impact with a good burst of growth and broad cover of herbage.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

General interactions with the Chief Executive Officer

24.06.26

Attended opening of the SKAO CPF Building at Boolardy with Cr E Foulkes-Taylor who will provide a report.

14.2 Councillors

Note Cr R Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Q Fowler, Cr G Mead and Cr A Whitmarsh attended the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting of 25 June 2026 prior to the meeting

Cr Q Fowler and Cr A Whitmarsh

Apart from today's Audit Committee Meeting, Nil Meetings attended during the period

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

24.06.26

Along with Cr R Foulkes-Taylor I attended the SKAO CPF Building Opening at Boolardy. Various attendees including Governor Chris Dawson with senior SKAO Dr Sara Pearce and Anthony Schinckel, SKA Low Site Construction Director Staff expressing that thanks to many who had partnered in the work and assisted generally in the SKAO operation and this project. Whilst a number of persons and groups were specifically motioned, there was a notable lack of recognition of efforts from local members of the Murchison Community and the Murchison Shire. This is disappointing and it is considered appropriate that SKAO be so advised.

The following motion was then put and carried

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That council write to Dr Sarah Pearce SKA Low Telescope Director and Anthony Schinckel, SKA Low Site Construction Director expressing our disappointment at the lack of recognition and acknowledgement of the Murchison Shire and Community at the opening of SKAO CPF building on 24 June 2026.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

03.06.26

Camp Over Muster Festival Working Group Meeting

09.06.26

International Year Rangelands and Pastoralists Mural Meeting

Cr G Mead

3.06.26

Mid-West Chamber of Commerce Economic Forum in Geraldton
Camp Over Muster Festival Working Group Meeting

09.06.26

International Year Rangelands and Pastoralists Mural Meeting

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15.1 Audit and Risk Committee

File: 2.2
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 June 2026
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Recommendations

Matter for Consideration

At the February 2026 Council Meeting I advised that the requirement to complete the Annual Compliance Return for 2025 and have it considered by the Audit Committee (now Audit and Risk Committee) and adopted by Council by 31 March was deferred by the Local Government Department until 30 September 2026 as there are new legislative requirements; with appointment of the Local Government Inspectorate also having a potential influence in limiting the statutory requirements included in the return. This review has now been completed and revised questions have now been provided.

Amongst other things one of the objectives of the Audit and Risk Committee is to receive and review the Annual Compliance Return as presented to the Committee for review. The Committee is to then report to the Council the results of that review. The Compliance Audit Return is to then be adopted by Council, and the certified copy is to be sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government & Communities

A copy of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments for the meeting on 25 June 2026 including the Compliance Audit Return was separately circulated to all councillors.

Committee Recommendations

Were provided to Council following deliberations of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Recommendations

Moved: Cr R Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- 1 reports to the 25 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council that the Compliance Audit Return 2025 has been completed and;
- 2 recommends that Council adopt the Compliance Audit Return 2025 as reviewed by the Committee as attached.

Carried **For** 3 **Against** 0

Council Decision

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

That Council accept the Audit and Risk Committee's Recommendations and adopts the Compliance Audit Return 2025 as as reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee at its Meeting held on 25 June 2026.

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

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold - Works Manager
Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 June 2026
Attachments: Nil

Construction

Weather has delayed some of the crew's progress, a small price to pay for the magnificent rain received around the entire Shire and beyond. Three of the floodway's have been cement stabilised, thus not affecting any of our funding obligations. Some significant repairs will need to be carried out on the haul from the gravel pit before carting can continue. Trevor has stood in for Mark as the grader operator until his return, hopefully in the first week of July.

Maintenance

The recent rains held the crew up for a few days, however the grading conditions have dramatically improved. Luke has been moved over to maintenance to replace Jamie while he deals with a few health issues and appears to be making good progress as a learner grader operator. Since Council last met they have completed Butchers Track, Meeberrie-Wooleen Rd. the airstrip at the end of the Meeberrie-Wooleen Rd, Cue-Kalli and Boolardy-Kalli Rd's east of Bordalla. They are currently heading south on the Beringarra Pindar Rd from the Manfred intersection.

SKA Route Upgrade and Maintenance Work

We are still waiting on MRWA approval for the work east of Bordalla Well, which is rather frustrating as this section of road has reached the point of being maintainable. It is down to bedrock in the identified sections due for upgrade work. I believe Council needs to give this some consideration and possible discussion at the meeting of 25 June 2026.

Walladar are continuing with work on the CGG section with the end of work on this section now in sight.

Power Upgrade Work

Hosken Electrical continue to make significant progress with these works. Trenching and laying of conduit for the new distribution line is due to commence from 29 June on.

Polocrosse

The Construction Crew will put a few days in to preparing for the carnival in July, mainly sourcing the firewood. The fields have already been prepared. Hopefully there will be enough wood left over to accommodate the Camp Oven Muster requirements as well.

Plant

The new grader was delivered on the day of the last Council meeting. So far so good! The John Deere will be going to auction together with various other items in the not too distant future. The Bomag Multi Tyre roller has also had a fairly major issue. There was a compressor failure which has put metal through the motor. I have been in contact with the plant working group to discuss options.

AGRN1280 Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle and Associated Flooding**

Greenfields have completed flood damage pick up and costings for the most recent March 2026 Flood Damage event associated with Tropical Cyclone Narelle. Submission has been submitted to DFES for approval. Estimated Cost \$7.29m. Unfortunately, the estimated cost is >\$5m that puts it into the EPAR system which from previous experience can be torturous.

Boolardy-Kalli Road outside of SKA Project Route **

As indicated above under SKA Route Upgrade and Maintenance Work and also at the last Council meeting this section of road is at the acute stage.

By way of background the condition of this section of the Boolardy-Kalli Road has deteriorated over some considerable time due to SKAO traffic using this section for works associated with the construction project. This has been compounded with the CSIRO/ SKAO purchase / use of the Kalli Station

The Works Manager has advised that Shire has endeavored to keep this project going at all times, especially during times of inclement weather, and to accommodate some of their large and oversized loads required during the development phase of the project. This has also extended to fuel, grocery supplies and waste removal. Maintenance for this section of road, up to and including our boundary with the Shire of Cue has been carried out by ourselves. While I do not know what the cost per day is to keep this project going, judging by the activity and number of people/ vehicles we can only assume it is very significant \$\$\$.

Likewise, Butchers Track has been used heavily for waste removal by MKB Skip bins based in Carnarvon. Again, we continue to pick up the significant extra maintenance on what is a tricky section of road to maintain given the severe water scarcity along the entire 70 odd Km. We realise that this is a cost we as a LG will just have to wear for now.

On 23 March 2026 we placed a funding request with MRWA to undertake the necessary remediation work on the basis that some of this route

- 1 is within the approved sections of this road as contained within SKA Maintenance Deed
- 2 has been directly impacted on by roadworks traffic undertaking works associated with the approved sections including access to water plus point 3 below
- 3 involves other sections have been affected through SKAO Traffic using the road in lieu the approved route, either as result of the official route being closed or as the traffic had more need to come in from the east

At this stage we still await a decision on our request from MRWA, the timing of which has been impacted as two officers' familiar with the project being on leave. However, we expect a decision on our request will be in the next week or so

If the agreement to our request from MRWA the matter is resolved. However if it is not forthcoming then it is essential that we are in a position to act given the condition of the road, which has recently had some short term dry maintenance grading undertaken. Options are however limited and not very productive and include

- a potential road closures
- b direct submissions to SKAO for direct funding of all of the works as opposed to a portion which they have already committed to
- c direct action and potential future recovery through other courses of action

Recommendation

That Council resolve that.

- 1 the Works Report be noted
- 2 in relation to the current condition of the Boolardy-Kalli Road outside of SKA Project Route that the CEO be authorised to continue to proceed appropriate lobbying actions including those as outlined in the Works Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council resolve that.

- 1 the Works Report be noted
- 2 in relation to the current condition of the Boolardy-Kalli Road outside of SKA Project Route that the CEO be authorised to continue to proceed appropriate lobbying actions including those as outlined in the Works Report.

Carried

For 5

Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 June 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 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 May 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for May 2026 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 May 2026 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 15.52pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh
Th at the Meeting move out from behind closed doors

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.55pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

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

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

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 May 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 June 2026
Attachments: Nil Monthly Management Financial Report May 2026 to be held over till the next meeting

Matter for Consideration

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

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.

Note

At the time in preparing the Agenda the Monthly Management Financial Report May 2026 was not able to be provided and will be held over till the next meeting.

Consultation

RSM Australia

For Information

The financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 May 2026 will be held over till the next meeting

17.3 2026 - 2027 Rates Review

File: 3.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 June 2026
Attachments: 17.3.1 Nil
17.3.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2026-27 Financial Year

Matter for Consideration

Update review of Council's Rating Strategy as part of Council considering its proposed 2026-27 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

Background

At the May 2026 Council Meeting Council considered a comprehensive 2026-27 Rates Review Report before resolving 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 \$
<i>UV Pastoral</i>	<i>14.401</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>UV Mining</i>	<i>28.754</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>UV Prospecting & Exploration</i>	<i>28.754</i>	<i>1,000</i>

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

Since this time public notice has been undertaken in the Western Australian where it indicates that Electors or ratepayers are invited to make submissions regarding the proposed differential rates, to be received at the Shire Office no later than 4.00 pm Wednesday 24 June 2026.

Comment

At the time of preparing the agenda no submissions have been received. On the basis that no public submissions are received prior to the Meeting then Council is able to adopt the differential rates and minimum as advertised when adopting its budgets. The recommendations below are prefaced on this scenario. Should submissions be received prior to the meeting then Council will need to consider and have regard to them prior to making a final determination on what differential rates and minimums are finally adopted.

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 and the one that preceded it at the May 2026 Meeting 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.

Meeting Update

The Chief Executive Officer advised that no public submissions in relation to proposed differential rates had been received prior to the Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2026 - 27 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues with its policy position forming part of the 2026-27 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline through numbers of ratepayers are ignored when setting rates.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2026 - 27 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues with its policy position forming part of the 2026-27 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline through numbers of ratepayers are ignored when setting rates.

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

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 June 2026

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report June 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>

Preparations for the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster are progressing well, with almost all activities now confirmed and the event program almost finalised for publishing. Tickets went on sale on 3 June and sold out on 16th June, with a waitlist already established for those who missed out. Daily social media promotion commenced on 15 June and is scheduled to continue through to the event, supported by a weekly email campaign to attendees.

We are also pleased to welcome Community Development staff from the Shires of Upper Gascoyne and Meekatharra, who will be volunteering at this year's event and providing valuable support. The Camp Oven Muster Working Group has selected the artist for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists community mural project and has met with her to discuss the group's vision and ideas for the mural. Overall, planning is on track for another successful event.

Community Conversations

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

Community Freight Service

Mid-West Freight will continue as the Shire's community freight partner for the 2026/27 year, with several adjustments to the approved pick-up list.

Updates to existing pick-up locations:

- ~ Replace Wonthella Celebrations with Cons Liquor
- ~ Gearings Bluff Point will be added
- ~ Pet Supplies — Pet Barn is now preferred due to click-and-collect capability, alongside existing GNR/MFS and Kmart options
- ~ Remove Truckline, Pharmacy 194, and Transwest as they are rarely used; community response will be monitored

These changes aim to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and better reflect current community usage patterns. Thank you to all that responded to the request for suggestions to the community email that was sent.

International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists

The June theme for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists focuses on Sustainable Rangeland Use and Restoration. Healthy rangelands rely on practical land stewardship, adaptive management, and a commitment to improving country for future generations. Landcare Australia has released a 13-minute video, Rehydrating Thirsty Land – Regenerative Rangelands, which has been viewed more than 300,000 times. The video highlights Queensland graziers using simple, low-cost techniques to improve water retention, productivity, and biodiversity across rangeland landscapes. The video is supported by Landcare Australia's Regenerative Rangelands case study series, which showcases producers applying adaptive grazing, rotational and multi-species grazing, rehydration works, and ongoing monitoring to improve groundcover, soil health, biodiversity, and resilience to drought and climate extremes. Together, these resources demonstrate that sustainable rangeland management is not a single practice but an ongoing process of observation, learning, and adaptation. Stakeholders involved in rangelands, pastoralism, conservation, and land stewardship are encouraged to view the video and explore the case studies.

We welcome Julia Foulkes-Taylor back from her trip to Kathmandu for the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women. More than 90 pastoralist women from 40 countries came together to share experiences, learn from one another, and identify common priorities for the future. Over four days, participants explored themes such as land stewardship, traditional knowledge, climate resilience, leadership, and the future of pastoral communities. It was inspiring to hear about the diversity of pastoral operations around the world and how women are forming regional and sub-regional networks to advocate for pastoral women's rights and strengthen their collective voice. Julia's insights into these global conversations and how they connect back to life in our own rangelands will be incredibly valuable. We look forward to Julia sharing her experience during the IYRP Panel Discussion at the Murchison Camp Oven Muster.



Mid-West Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit

Cr Greydon Mead and Cr Paul Squires attended the Mid-West Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit in early June alongside the CEO and staff. The Summit focused primarily on mining and port operations, and how the State Government is supporting industry growth through the 7 Cities Initiative and, more locally, the MWDC Digital Economy Strategy.

A significant portion of the discussion centred on Geraldton's role as one of the seven key cities, with an emphasis on creating a community where people can be born, live, and retire without needing to relocate for essential services such as health, education, and housing. Speakers highlighted current bottlenecks to growth and noted increasing commercial interest in Geraldton, demonstrated by multinational companies establishing new stores—an indicator of confidence in the region's economic stability.

One notable gap across the panel discussions was the absence of representation from regional councils like ours, as well as limited acknowledgement of the agricultural sector, despite its significant contribution to the Mid-West economy. However, it was positive to see the Mid-West Food Industry Alliance present, including the launch of the *Taste of the Mid West* initiative.

There is a clear opportunity for the Shire and the broader region to strengthen advocacy for the agricultural sector, which covers large areas of the Mid West and remains a critical component of the region's economic landscape.

Murchison Meat Initiative

I am pleased to report that the first livestock has now been butchered and will be delivered to the Roadhouse kitchen and retail freezer this week. This marks an important milestone in our local meat initiative, supporting both product quality and regional supply resilience.

Thank you to Yuin Station, Cr Greydon Mead, and Gearings Butchers for their combined efforts in making this possible.

Murchison Museum

I'd like to thank Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor for her commitment to the Murchison Museum and bringing vibrant Museum Caretakers to the Settlement. Dennis Cherry is here for the month of June, and we are so lucky to have him. It's wonderful having him in the settlement and to support the tourists as they come through town on their historical journey.

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

Tourism Council of WA

Recent results from the **WA consumer travel survey** show a continued decline in intrastate travel intentions, down 6% for winter and the next six months, following an 8% decline in actual travel from March to May. The downturn is most evident in the **regional self-drive and caravan market**, road-trip destinations, and tours and experiences. This softening demand coincides with rising operating costs for tourism businesses, including increases in fuel, insurance, and wage rates. The full fuel excise also returns on 1 July, adding further cost pressures. Tourism Council WA is meeting with the Tourism Minister to advocate for measures to stimulate visitor bookings and spending.

We congratulate the Winners of the Tourism Town awards ;

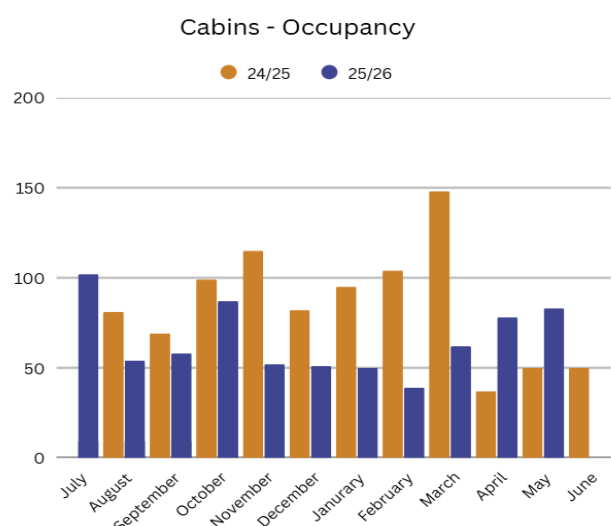
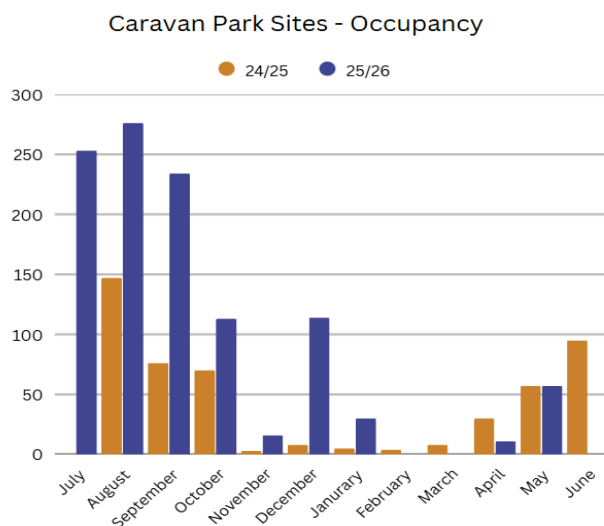
<i>Top Tourism Town Award Winner</i>	<i>Small Tourism Town Award Winner</i>	<i>Tiny Tourism Town Award Winner</i>
Gold Kununurra	Gold Jurien Bay	Gold Kalbarri (Hall of Fame)
Silver Geraldton	Silver Carnarvon	Silver Pemberton
Bronze Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Bronze York	Bronze Walpole

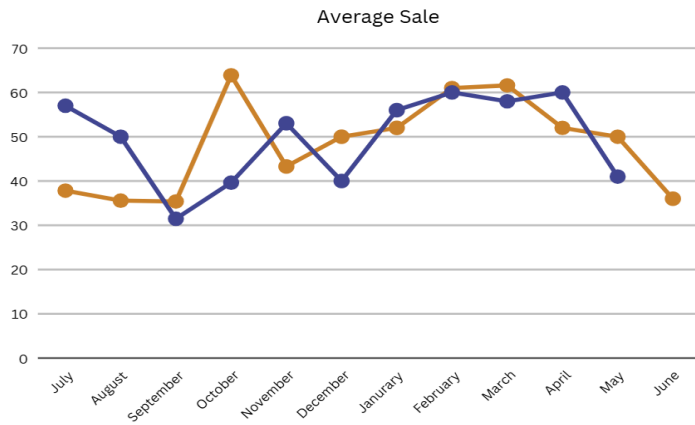
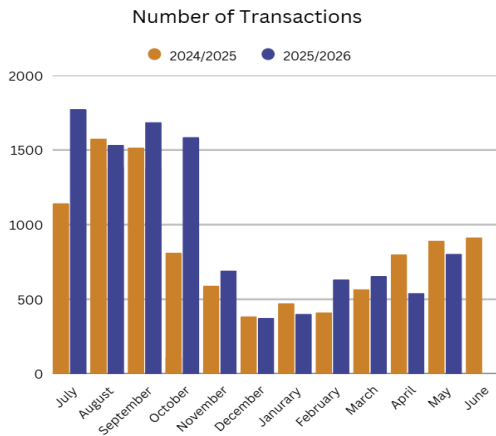
The Gold Winner in each category goes on to represent Western Australia in the Australian Top Tourism Town awards, announced in Canberra in September.

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 significant improvements in camping activity throughout May, the re-opening of the caravan park saw a flurry of visitors returning and wanting to be the first to stay at our new facilities. 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 declined, the total number of transactions has increased from last month but is still down on the previous year, which is expected given the temporary closure of the Caravan Park for renovations.

Fuel availability has now returned to 24/7 access with no limits. The new Caravan Park management software is operational many are taking advantage of the online booking portal accessible via the Shire website. The Square POS system is scheduled for introduction on 23rd June has now been installed. At the Roadhouse, the new combi oven has been successfully installed and the first batches of home baked bread out for sale. We get the feeling this is going to be a popular option for residents and visitors alike given the initial response. You can order bread rolls, Vienna loaf, high tin loaf, sourdough baguette, sourdough loaf all unsliced just the day before by calling the Roadhouse.

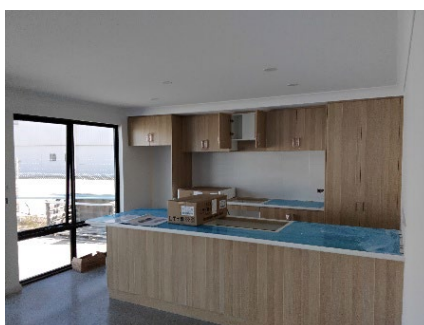
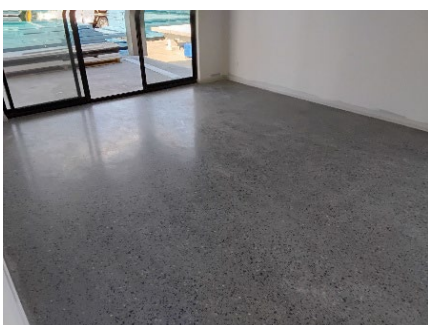


Renovations at the Caravan Park are progressing well. The final pieces to the puzzle are the upgraded power supply which begins trenching on 29th June which will also see the new power supply for the housing development on Kurara Way completed. The renovation to the public toilets and showers will be completed by June 30th.

Welcome Rowena and Roger Williams to the Roadhouse Team as our second permanent couple.

Roadhouse Housing Developments

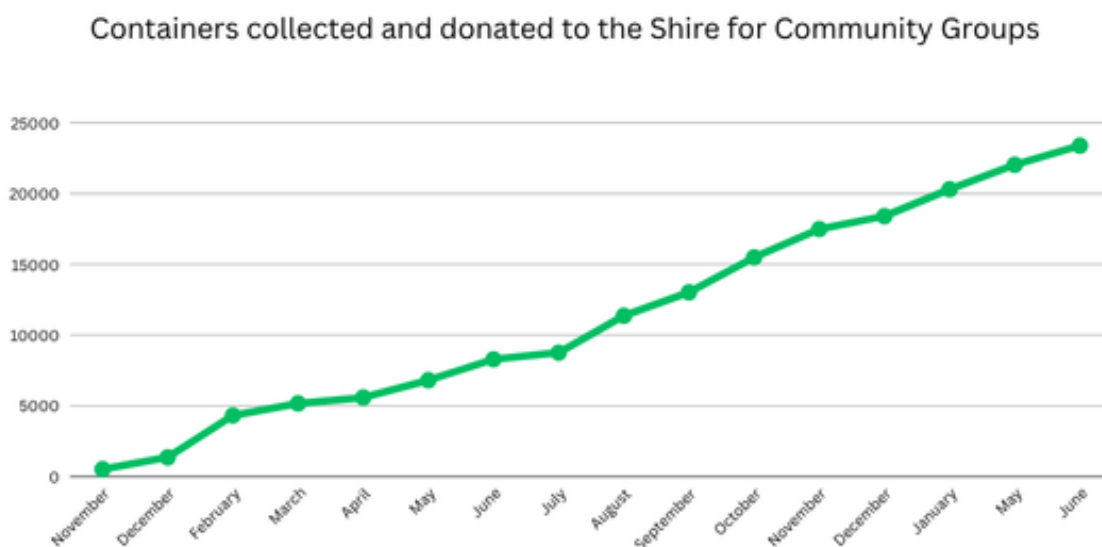
Housing construction continues to progress 4 builds are now at lock up, we now have transportation dates for 4 of the five houses the first 2 being delivered 21st July for installation behind the Roadhouse and the second two on 2nd September for Kurara Way. Then work can begin complexing the two halves together along with the construction of carports and sheds followed by septic, power connections then landscaping, fencing and internet connections. Representatives from Fox Modular will be visiting on 23/24 June to see the pegged sites and meet with contractors. We are still awaiting transportation dates on the final house for behind the roadhouse and the set of 3 cabins.



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 Interpretative 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 recycled to date are 23,377 which is \$2,337.70 donated back to Murchison Community Groups and Projects. Thank you to those who continue to donate their containers back to the Shire.



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 broccoli, cauliflower, broccolini, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, dill and coriander have joined the bean in the main growing tunnel. Thank you to Adam, Beau, Sydney, Rachel, Erin, Darren and Milton for their help

to get it all in the ground including some additional seeds and garlic bulbs. Also our Rhubarb is going nuts I never seen leaves so big in my life!



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 May 21st - June 18th

22 Community Announcements

- ~ x9 Camp Oven Muster
- ~ X8 Road Reports
- ~ X1 Settlement Pizza Night
- ~ X1 Talling Views Rehydration Invite
- ~ X1 Desert Blue Training Opportunities
- ~ X1 May Council Report Snapshot
- ~ X1 Full Closure of Settlement 12th June

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.

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 note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	A Whitmarsh	
That Council note the Community Development Progress Report				
Carried		For	5	Against 0

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 22 June 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

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

Date	Activity
26.05.2026	MRWA Road Grant Work. Touch base with MRWA over SKA Road Agreement and Project Funding. Telephone catch ups with Shire President and Phil Swain. Catch up with Works Manager
27.05.2026	Touch base with Works Manager. Health Plan Work. Agenda Prep Work. General Administration
28.05.2026	Telephone discussion with Lyn Fogg (WALGA Governance). Council Workshop & Meeting. TOIL
29.05.2026	TOIL General Administration Emails Phone calls. Council Minutes
30.05.2026	Council Minutes
1.06.2026	WA Day Public Holiday
2.06.2026	TOIL. Travel to Geraldton. Attend MWCC Dinner. Council Minutes and correspondence
3.06.2026	Midwest Chamber of Commerce Economic Forum
4.06.2026	Catch up with CGG CEO. Drive back to Murchison. TOIL
5.06.2026	Catch up with Community Manager Tourism Recreational Officer & Customer Service Officer. General Administration
6.06.2026	MRWA Road Work. General Administration
8.06.2026	Finalise and lodge Disability Action Inclusion Plan. Catch up with Community Manager. Roadhouse and Works Fuel. MRWA Road Work. Catch up with Works Manager
9.06.2026	HR Work. General Administration. MRWA Road Work
10.06.2026	HR Work. General Administration. MRWA Road Work. Catch up with Community Manager.
11.06.2026	HR Work. General Administration. MRWA Road Work. Peg out housing sites with Community Manager & Works Manager. Audit query responses.
12.06.2026	Staff Training. Audit Work.
13.06.2026	General Administration. MRWA Road Work. Audit query responses.
15.06.2026	General Administration. Preliminary Budget Work. Audit Query responses.
16.06.2026	General Administration. Preliminary Budget Work
17.06.2026	General Administration. Preliminary Budget Work. Catchup with Works Manager
18.06.2026	Compliance Audit Return. General Administration. Preliminary Budget Work. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO & Works Manager
19.06.2026	Phone catch up with Shire President via phone. MRWA Work. Council Agenda and Audit Committee Work
20.06.2026	MRWA Work. Council Agenda and Audit Committee Work. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO.
21.06.2026	Council Agenda and Audit Committee Work
22.06.2026	Council Agenda and Audit Committee Work. General Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO’s Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	
That Council note the CEO’s Update Report.				
Carried		For	5	Against 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.03pm.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 July 2026

Signed..... Presiding Officer