



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 **23 July 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 12.38pm

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
Cr P Squires

Staff

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

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 June 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 25 June 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr P Squires

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 25 June 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

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

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

Carried

For

6

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 August 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 commented on the positive reports from the July Murchison Polocrosse Carnival and expressed a very well done to all those involved and those that participated.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Prior to the Meeting Council met with new SKAO Director General Jessica Dempsey and Ant Schinkel SKA Low Construction Director. Good exchange of views and a good constructive meeting

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Various discussions with members of the local community and exchange of emails with fellow councillors. Also attended the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on 30 June 2026 at the Council Office

14.2 Councillors

Cr A Whitmarsh

Nil

Cr P Squires

Nil

Cr Q Fowler

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on 30 June 2026 at the Council Office

Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Murchison Geo Region Meeting on 7 July 2026

Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meetings on 8 July and 22 July 2026

Cr G Mead

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on 30 June 2026 via Teams.

Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meetings on 8 July and 22 July 2026

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: 30 June 2026
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit and Risk Committee 30 June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Matter for Consideration

The Audit and Risk Committee to consider the CEO's report on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial management systems and procedures. Under *s5(2)(c) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* and *s17(1) of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* this is required to be undertaken not less than once in every 3 financial years with the CEO to report to the Audit and Risk Committee and the results of those reviews

On 30 June 2026 the Audit and Risk Committee met to consider the CEO's Report. A copy of the Meeting Minutes and Attachments which have also been previously circulated to all Councillors is attached which details the relevant Committee Recommendations as follows.

Committee Recommendations

That the Audit and Risk Committee report to the 23 July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council that

- 1 A review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial management systems and procedures has been commissioned by the CEO and has completed and notes the findings of the report.
- 2 The CEO is of the opinion that the systems and procedures are adequate and welcomes advice regarding various areas identified for improvement, noting that as part of a continuous improvement processes RSM's engagement will continue to provide expertise and assistance.

Recommendation

That Council notes and accepts recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of the 30 June 2026 that

- 1 A review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial management systems and procedures has been commissioned by the CEO and has completed and notes the findings of the report.
- 2 The CEO is of the opinion that the systems and procedures are adequate and welcomes advice regarding various areas identified for improvement, noting that as part of a continuous improvement processes RSM's engagement will continue to provide expertise and assistance.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council notes and accepts recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of the 30 June 2026 that

- 1 A review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial management systems and procedures has been commissioned by the CEO and has completed and notes the findings of the report.
- 2 The CEO is of the opinion that the systems and procedures are adequate and welcomes advice regarding various areas identified for improvement, noting that as part of a continuous improvement processes RSM's engagement will continue to provide expertise and assistance.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold - Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 16 July 2026

Construction

The crew have continued progressing on the current sheeting job with emphasis on the sections that went underwater creating a few bog holes. Water was pumped out of the table drains that were the cause of the problem. Considerable time has also been spent on the haul road to make it trafficable for the road train. This means the progress has been slow in terms of metres completed since the time Council last met. Some of the crew have also been involved in preparation work for the new houses to the rear of the roadhouse as well as carting material in and out for the covering of the conduit for the new electrical supply to Kurara Way. Some days were also taken up by preparing and cleaning up for the Polocrosse carnival.

Maintenance

The maintenance crew have progressed south down the Beringarra-Pindar Rd, picking up Mt. Wittenoom Rd. They will grade as far as the first grid south of the Pine thicket and stop there. The recently sheeted section from there to the south boundary is in good condition, hard and settled. I feel disturbing this section would be detrimental to the road itself. They will then head to the New Forrest-Yallalong Rd. and Coolcalalaya West Rd. doing a patch grade on the Mc Nabb-Twin Peaks Rd. Having two very new operators has presented the odd challenge. Hopefully they will pick up how we do things in the near future as well as learn which roads they are actually meant to be on!

Polocrosse Carnival

This was held over the weekend of 11 and 12 June. By all accounts a successful Carnival was held. A lot of positive feedback about the renovated caravan park as well as about our roadhouse staff in particular. My thanks to all the staff who contributed to the event.

Power Upgrade

Hosken Electrical have made significant progress since Council last met. We are now running on the new system. Without tempting fate, very few teething problems have been encountered, apart from an oil leak on the rear main seal of one of the generators. This is in hand and being dealt with under warranty. The two old Cummins sets will be sold as soon as we are confident no gremlins are appearing on the new system. My thanks to Josh and his crew who have put in some fairly big effort and hours.

Boolardy-Kalli Rd.

It appears MRWA have agreed to vary the deed allowing us to proceed with this section of road east of Bordalla well. At the time of writing, we do not have this in writing, but I am confident this is just a matter of time. Thanks to CEO Bill for the time and effort he has put into making this happen. A good result all round.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 17 July 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 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 June 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 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 E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr P Squires

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 June 2026 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.46pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.49pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 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.

Carried

For

6

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: 17 July 2026
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report May 2026

Matter for Consideration

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

Comments

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months. At the last meeting this report was held over and is now presented. Given that the June Report is to be considered at the next Agenda Item specific comments have not been provided in this report as they are addressed in the June Report.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

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

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 30 June 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 July 2026
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report June 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.

- 1 Please note that year-end adjustments and audit to be completed. As such, the final closing surplus at 30 June 2026 will differ to that presented in this report.
- 2 Executive Summary
 - a Net Surplus \$3,321,146, ahead of budget of \$211,625.
 - b Significant Capital Projects:
 - i SKA Route \$3,599,951 YTD
 - ii Power Supply \$1,022,504 YTD
 - iii Carnarvon Mullewa Road \$1,466,781 YTD
 - iv All below full year budget.
 - c Grants, Subsidies and Contributions (Note 12 has further detail)
 - i Operating Grants – \$3,991,151 above budget:
 - ~ Financial Assistance Grants – advance payment of \$4,857,264 received in June. This has been transferred to Grants Commission Reserve at year end.
 - ~ Flood damage \$1,324,363 above budget
 - ~ SKA Operating \$1,848,803 below budget – some reallocation from the above budget SKA capital grant required.
 - ii Capital Grants - \$982,677 above budget
 - iii SKA Capital \$1,320,688 above budget. – some reallocation to operating grant required.
 - iv MRWA Specific \$384,011 below budget
 - d Rates Revenue – 35,996 below full year budget. UV Mining Interim rolls received and processed in April, resulting in net downwards movement. Note – Miscellaneous Mining Licences to be refunded as per separate agenda item.
- 3 Note 4 Total Cash Balances: \$11,240,745
 - a Restricted \$10,298,663
 - b Unrestricted \$942,082
- 4 Major variances are outlined in Note 2.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

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

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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17.4 Miscellaneous Mining Licence Rates

File: 2.6
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 July 2026
Attachments: 17.4.1 Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026

Matter for Consideration

Update of the situation with respect to the rateability of land occupied under a Rating of Miscellaneous Mining Licence.

Update

As per previous briefings I can confirm that as per the attached *Local Government Amendment (Rating of Certain Mining Licences) Act 2026*, the State Government has been successful with its bill to amend the *Local Government Act 1995 (Act)* to prevent a Local Government from Rating Certain Miscellaneous Mining Licences and to extinguish any rates liabilities from 1 July 2017.

As a result, we have commenced the next steps, as the Shire is required to comply with Part 10, section 10.2(3) of the now amended LG Act by refunding the amount paid by affected ratepayers within 90 days of the validation day (26 June 2026). I expect that this will be actioned within the next week or so. In doing so refunds will be funded from Councils Asset Management Reserve which was funded from previous payments made from ratepayers of those affected holders of Miscellaneous Mining Licence Tenements.

The Shire was also in proceedings in the State Administrative Tribunal with respect to an appeal by one ratepayer in relation to the matter of the definition of “*occupation*” of the land under the legislation that was in force. These proceedings will also be vacated and will need to be dispensed with; a situation that will be actioned once refunds have been made.

Background

A summary background that has led to the situation goes back to a situation prior to 2023 where the Shire of Mt Magnet formed a view that the rating provisions relating to the holders of Miscellaneous Mining Tenements which were occupied under a Miscellaneous Mining Licence were rateable. They issued rates notices to affected holders of Miscellaneous Mining Licences, which were subsequently appealed in the State Administrative Appeals Tribunal (SAT) by one mining company.

As a separate independent action, Council also reviewed the legislation and for the 2023/24 Year and issued rates notices for holders of Miscellaneous Mining Licences. This included back rates as provided for under the Act. These were paid “*under dispute*” by one mining company who appealed to SAT. For prudent reasons amounts collected were transferred into an Asset Management Reserve which was specifically created to “*quarantine*” these amounts in case either our Shire or the Shire of Magnet lost their respective SAT appeals. These amounts were also shown separately in Councils adopted budget.

In March 2024 we were advised that the Mt Magnet Shire’s matter was considered by SAT who deemed that Miscellaneous Mining Licences were not rateable. As a result, all rates collected by the Shire were refunded to the relevant tenement holders with fund from the Councils Asset Management Reserve. Councils SAT appeal was therefore abandoned.

Subsequently Mt Magnet appealed their SAT decision to the Supreme Court of WA. In July 2025 the Supreme Court overturned the SAT decision and accepted Mt Magnet’s submission and in a strongly considered decision affirmed that the legal status of the Act that occupied Miscellaneous Mining Licences were indeed rateable.

Consequently, the Shire issued notices for 2025/26 plus relevant back rates to all ratepayers holding Miscellaneous Mining Licences. Again, one mining company paid “*under protest*” and also appealed to SAT regarding the aspect of “*occupation*”. As per previous practice we “*quarantined*” these rate payments collected by transferring amounts into Councils Asset Management Reserve, pending a potential SAT decision.

In August 2025 the Minister of Local Government announced that the Government would move swiftly to amend the Local Government Act to exempt land held under a Miscellaneous Mining Licence from local government rates.

Subsequently, despite lobbying from Council, other Shires, WALGA and many others legislation as attached was ultimately passed by Parliament.

Comments

Putting aside the ethical nature of the decision, it is clear that the impacts on local government finances are not insignificant for some Councils. For those that have been lawfully collecting rates and spending these amounts within their budgets the impacts could be very significant. For others such as Murchison, the ability to increase the development of Shire facilities infrastructure and roads which primarily cater for the State and Region as a whole will remain restricted. As a consequence the additional rate burden will now be inequitable as one segment of the rate base will now be subsidised over another.

During the debate on the legislation, these type of issues were raised. At one stage an amendment was proposed that would require the State to provide additional grant funding to affected local governments. Also raised was compensating local governments for legal costs incurred with respect to their obligations in enforcement of these rating provisions under the Act. Both these aspects only arose through the Government's actions.

Although these aspects were not included in the legislation given the circumstances it is considered at some stage to make an appropriate submission be made to the State Government for financial support.

Financial Implications

The financial impacts associated with changes to the legislation are outlined as follows:

- ~ Current Operations. Approx \$1.15m in Miscellaneous Mining Rates collected from previous years will be refunded from Council's Asset Management Reserve.
- ~ Future Operations. The loss of Council's Asset Management Reserve plus around \$225,000 per annum thereafter.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That the Chief Executive Officer's Miscellaneous Mining Licence Rates Report be noted.

Carried

For

6

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:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

Preparations for the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster continue to progress well, with the event now only weeks away.

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Community Mural Project has moved into its next stage, with artist Samantha Boon arriving in Murchison this week to commence work on the mural. Event merchandise has also arrived and is ready for sale and distribution during the Muster, with pre-orders already being received.

Promotion of the event through social media continues to generate strong engagement and is helping maintain momentum in the lead-up to the Muster. Overall, planning remains on schedule, with all key preparations progressing well for another successful event.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our 2026 event sponsors: Yuin Station, Walladar, Squires Resources, Hosken Electrical, CSIRO, Salubris Australia, AI Carbon, RSM Geraldton, the Mid West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia. Through their generous support, the Muster has secured a total of \$47,000 in sponsorship this year.

This year's program features a diverse range of facilitators and presenters from across Australia, including:

- ~ Kerry and Jodi, our camp oven cooking specialists.
- ~ Ian and Di Haggerty, 2025 Western Australians of the Year, presenting on regenerative agriculture and sustainable land management.
- ~ Samantha Boon, leading and completing the IYRP community mural project.
- ~ Steph Coombes from the *Central Station* podcast, who will serve as the event MC.
- ~ Cherry Steppers, bringing line dancing fun to the weekend.
- ~ The Hippy Campers, providing live musical entertainment.
- ~ Jo from Flow, delivering a yoga session.
- ~ CSIRO, offering an immersive virtual reality experience.
- ~ Meg Officer, leading botanical walks and sharing her extensive local knowledge.
- ~ Aidan Harris, facilitating timber crafting and branding activities.
- ~ Josh from Murgoo, showcasing working dog demonstrations.
- ~ The Foulkes-Taylor family, coordinating a range of family-friendly games and activities.
- ~ Adam and Bec Fogarty, facilitating leather crafting and branding activities.

Panel discussions will feature representatives from AI Carbon and Salubris Australia, alongside Julia Foulkes-Taylor, Kath Manion (School of the Air), Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, Sandy McTaggart and Meg Officer, providing insights into pastoralism, education, land management and innovation in the rangelands.

Event pop-up displays and information booths will include:

- ~ Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
- ~ International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists
- ~ Pastoralists and Graziers Association
- ~ AI Carbon
- ~ Salubris Australia

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team is working hard to bring the Muster to life. Matt and Amy from North West Entertainment are managing production and photography, Kamal from Kamals Quarter will be keeping attendees well fed on Friday evening and Saturday lunch, 56 Beans will ensure everyone's caffeine needs are covered, 30 Knots Distillery will operate the pop-up bars, and the Murchison Sports Club will provide bar services throughout the event.

We are also incredibly grateful for the support of volunteers from the Shire of Meekatharra, Shire of Upper Gascoyne, Murchison Arts Council, the Murchison Camp Oven Muster Working Group, and Amberley Laverick, whose contributions continue to play a vital role in the success of the event.

With a strong program, outstanding facilitators, generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers, the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster is shaping up to be another memorable celebration of our rangelands, communities and pastoral heritage.

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>

International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists

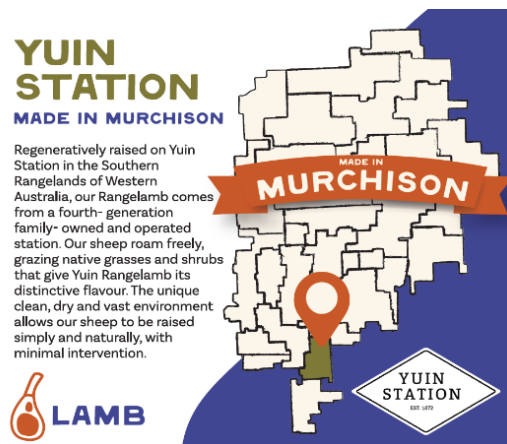
The July theme for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) focuses on Services and Infrastructure for Pastoralists, highlighting the importance of ensuring pastoral communities have access to services and infrastructure that are appropriate for remote and regional lifestyles. This includes improving access to healthcare, education, communications, financial services and transport networks to support the wellbeing, productivity and resilience of pastoral families and businesses.

The theme also emphasises the importance of maintaining mobility corridors and landscape connectivity across rangeland environments. These connections support the movement of livestock, wildlife and people, while contributing to sustainable land management, environmental health and the long-term viability of pastoral communities. The theme aligns strongly with the priorities and challenges experienced across the Murchison region and reinforces the importance of continued investment in remote area infrastructure and services.

Murchison Meat Initiative

I am pleased to report that the second batch of livestock (beef/cattle) has been delivered for butchering and will arrive at 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 Bullardoo Station, Cr Greydon Mead, and Gearings Butchers for their combined efforts in making this possible.

The initial response for meat sales has been fantastic. We have been working the numbers, and this project is on track for making a significant impact economically and reputationally. Please see an example of the label design progress.



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. Meg Officer will arrive soon we are so lucky to have her. It's wonderful having Meg in the settlement and to support the tourists as they come through town on their historical journey and inform the community about our beautiful surroundings.

2026 Murchison Polocrosse Carnival

This years Polocrosse event has received great positive feedback over 280 people checked in. The Roadhouse permit system for bush camping operated effectively, providing a streamlined process for visitors and event organisers. Feedback regarding the camping arrangements was overwhelmingly positive, with only one visitor expressing concerns regarding bush camping fees. Visitors were friendly, respectful and appreciative of the facilities and services available throughout the weekend. Roadhouse staff specifically commented on the polite and well-mannered behaviour of the many young attendees who visited the premises during the event.

The administration staff received feedback from visitors that complimented the Shire for the facilities and wanted to let us know that the Shire did an amazing job. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff across every area of the organisation for their efforts both before, during and after the event. The success of the 2026 Murchison Polocrosse Carnival is a direct result of the dedication, professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by staff across the Shire. Your collective contribution ensured the event was well organised, welcoming and enjoyable for participants and visitors alike, and is greatly appreciated.

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

Camp Oven Muster, Annual Christmas Tree

Tourism Partner News

Tourism Council of WA

Tourism Council WA has welcomed Premier Roger Cook's appointment as Minister for Tourism, viewing the decision as a strong indication that tourism remains a key economic priority for the Western Australian Government. The appointment is expected to elevate the profile of the tourism sector across government at a time when regional tourism operators continue to face challenges arising from global economic conditions and the impacts of Cyclone Narelle.

Tourism Council WA acknowledged the State Government's support initiatives, including the Cyclone Narelle Tourism Business Support Package and the Kimberley Season Pass, and looks forward to working closely with the Premier to support the ongoing recovery and growth of the industry. The Council also recognised former Tourism Minister Hon Reece Whitby MLA for his leadership and swift response in assisting tourism businesses affected by Cyclone Narelle.

Australia's Golden Outback

The Shire has renewed its membership with the Australian Golden Outback (AGO) and secured a full-page advertisement in the upcoming *Holiday Planner* to promote the Murchison region and its visitor experiences. Following the recent favourable rainfall across the region, AGO has advised that a range of additional marketing and promotional opportunities will be available throughout the upcoming wildflower season, providing valuable exposure for Murchison as a destination for nature-based tourism and self-drive visitors. Rachel has continued to actively engage with AGO member network meetings and online professional development opportunities. These sessions have provided valuable insights into emerging tourism trends, marketing initiatives and successful visitor attraction strategies being implemented across regional Western Australia. Key learnings and ideas identified through these meetings are being considered for adaptation and implementation within the Murchison context to further strengthen the Shire's tourism offering and visitor experience.

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.

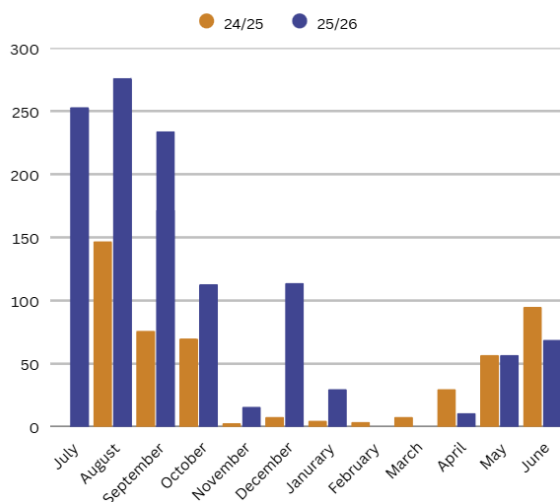
Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

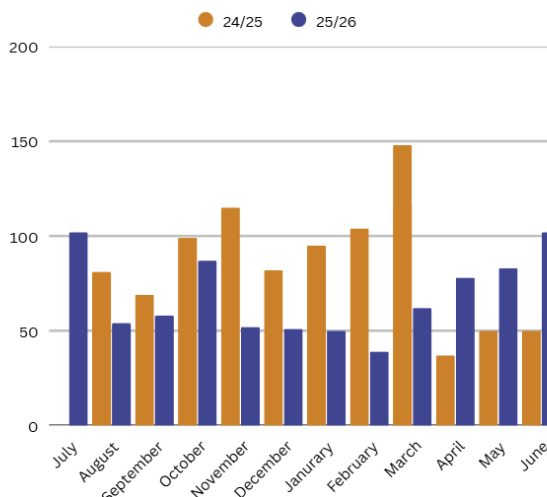
Regional collaboration where possible;

Roadhouse Statistics

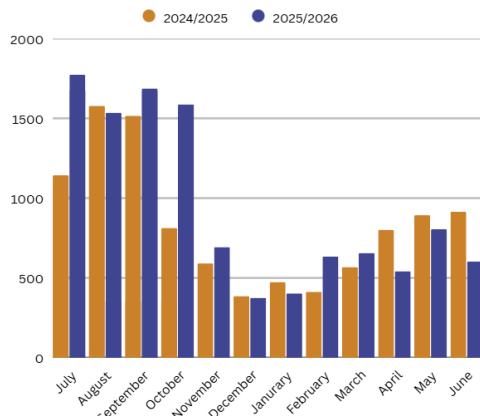
Caravan Park Sites - Occupancy



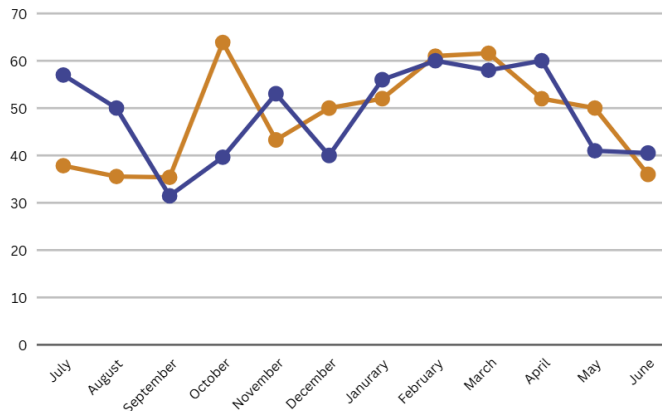
Cabins - Occupancy



Number of Transactions



Average Sale



Operational Summary

The caravan park is now fully reopened with only power and water works still to be completed. 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 increased, the total number of transactions has increased from last month but is still down on the previous year. Good feedback and comments on Caravan Park green sits and level parking areas.

The Square POS system is now in full swing with Roadhouse staff adapting quickly and implementing process that streamline existing processes and inventory updates. I want to take this opportunity to thank all staff up their commitment to learning new systems lately many have been implemented which will bring us long term benefits.

Renovations at the Caravan Park are progressing well. The trenching of the new power connections has been completed and I have received communications that indicate the power and water connections are likely to take place in late August.

Public Toilet renovations are now complete. GBSC have completed a full internal renovation with repairs to external areas and plumbing to improve waste water egress.



Liam James
 Local Guide · 14 reviews

★★★★★ 3 hours ago **NEW**

Great roadhouse with excellent food and friendly staff. Brilliant pies.

1

David Daviddavid 111
 Local Guide · 226 reviews · 66 photos

 ★★★★★ 6 days ago **NEW**

1

Neil Mackenzie
 4 reviews

 ★★★★★ 3 weeks ago **NEW**

Hover to react

Claire Schwarzwinger
 12 reviews

★★★★★ a month ago

Hover to react

Euan Jamieson
 Local Guide · 58 reviews · 23 photos

★★★★★ a month ago

1

Tim Madigan
 9 reviews

★★★★★ a month ago

157 Reviews

KMA062
 Reviewed 20 hours ago

★★★★★

We had a lovely 2 night stay here and one free camp near by due to the horse polo....booked out. Clean amenities, friendly staff. Very impressed with the Museum and Community Garden. Thank you to Murchison Shire. Would recommend. [...View less](#)

GI_Jane
 Reviewed 14 days ago

★★★★★

Stray Grays
 Reviewed 21 days ago

★★★★★

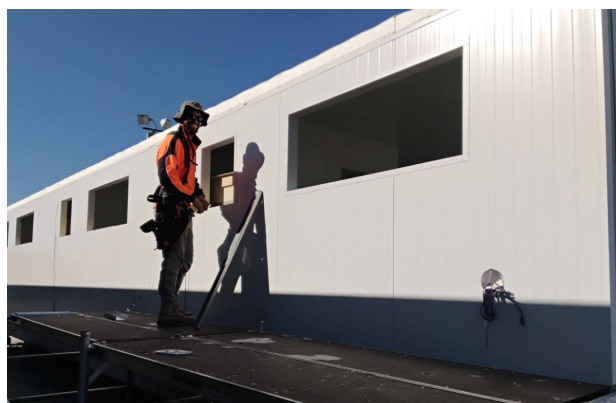
Roadhouse Housing Developments

By the time this report is presented to Council, two of the three homes being installed behind the Roadhouse are expected to have been delivered. These are the two dwellings located closest to Mulga Crescent and arrived on Council Day.

Representatives from Fox Modular Todd and Liam visited on 23 and 24 June to peg the sites and met with Will and me to confirm installation requirements. Will and his team have since completed the necessary footings in preparation for delivery.

The next delivery is scheduled for 2 September and will include the homes for 2A and 2B Kurara Way. These sites are to be cleared, and gravel bases will need to be constructed to improve ground density and establish a finished surface level consistent with the adjoining road height.

Transportation dates for the final house behind the Roadhouse and the set of three cabins are still being confirmed. Pleasingly, the cabins have now entered the construction phase, as shown in the images below.



Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1

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

Interpretive Centre

Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.

Tourism Development

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

Environmental Objective 2

To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.

Social Objective 3

To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:

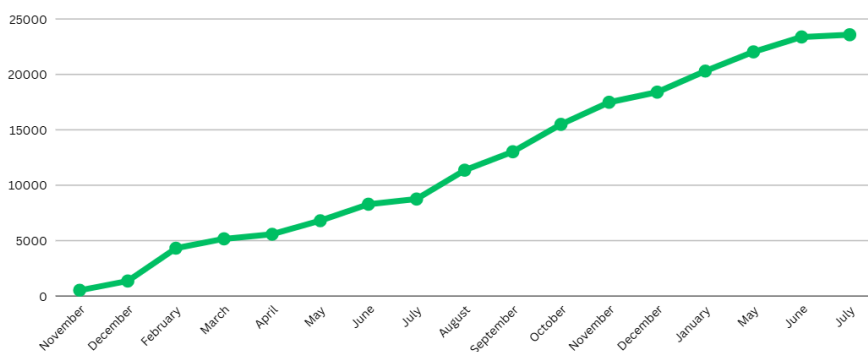
Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

Supporting community groups.

Support for Community Groups

Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



Containers recycled to date are 23,578 which is \$2,357.80 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 tunnel is doing its thing! The covering nets have been removed from the seedlings in the hope that the rascally rabbits wont enjoy their now stronger leaves. The wicking beds are growing strong and Darrens making wonderful apple and rhubarb crumble for the Roadhouse! We are looking at ways we can incorporate the chickens into the orchard on a more permanent basis for managing weeds and pest and their ability to contribute manure exactly where its needed.



Communications

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

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
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Email Communications 19th June – 16th July

27 Community Announcements

- 3 Roadhouse Announcements
- 1 Mosquito and Sandfly Alert
- 11 Camp Oven Muster
- 2 Road report
- 1 Road Closure
- 1 Power outage

- 1 Mid West Chamber of Commerce & Industry Membership
- 2 Invitation to Local Meat Initiative Launch
- 1 Midwest Freight Service
- 1 Containers for Change
- 1 Desert Blue Connect
- 1 WA Government Fuel Support Payment
- 1 Community Pool and Splash Pad

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 A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For

6

Against

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19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 WALGA Local Government Convention 2026

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Potential Financial Interest

Date 19 July 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Councillor and Staff attendance at the WALGA 2026 Local Government Convention.

Comments

As per Council Policy 2.2 the Shire President is authorised to attend the WALGA Local Government Convention each year with other Councillors also able to attend with a motion put and carried at a meeting prior to the conference; hence this Agenda Item. At the last meeting this matter was informally discussed with councillors being made aware of this upcoming event. Cr Greydon Mead has thus far the only Councillor who has expressed an interest to attend. In the past his partner Tania has also accompanied him as partner.

It is usually for most local governments to send their respective CEOs, and from time to time other members of staff. In my instance, since commencement with the Shire in 2019, I have attended only once. Councils Works Manager has also never attended and has also expressed an interest if Council so wishes. Both would derive benefit from attendance, with myself as CEO also being able to act as voting delegate along with Cr Greydon Mead if Council desires.

Note this report and recommendation below are based on the expressions of interest received thus far.

Recommendation

That Council support Cr Greydon Mead's and the CEO's attendance as delegates and to the WALGA Local Government Convention 2026 as well also supporting the Works Manager to attend and if desired Cr Greydon's Mead's partner Tania as support.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr P Squires

That Council support Cr Greydon Mead's and the CEO's attendance as delegates and to the WALGA Local Government Convention 2026 as well also supporting the Works Manager to attend and if desired Cr Greydon's Mead's partner Tania as support.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

20 CEO REPORT

20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 20 July 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

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

Date	Activity
23.06.2026	MRWA Work. General Administration
24.06.2026	HR Work. General Administration. Council Meeting Agenda Work
25.06.2026	Audit Committee, Council Workshop and Council Meeting. Council and Audit Committee Minutes.
26.06.2026	Council and Audit Committee Minutes. MRWA SKA Route Follow up. Touch base via phone with Shire President.
27.06.2026	Audit & Rosk Committee Agenda. Council follow up actions from Meeting.
28.06.2026	MRWA SAA Route Submission
29.06.2026 to 30.06.2026	SKA Work. Roads Management Plan. Council & Audit Committee Minutes.
1.07.2026	Catch up with Community Manager DCEO and Works Manager. Catch up with Cr Greydon Mead. Roads Management Plan Work. General Administration. Rates Work
2.07.2026	Catch up with Community Manager DCEO. Roads Management Plan Work. General Administration. Rates Work
3.07.2026	General Administration. Roads Management Plan. Budget Work. SKA Route Work.
4.07.2026 to 5.07.2026	Budget Work
6.07.2026	Budget Work. Rates Review Work.
7.07.2026	Budget Work. Site inspection of new Power Station with Josh Hoskens
8.07.2026	Budget Work. General Administration
9.07.2026	Budget Work. General Administration. Fuel Review
10.07.2026	Budget Work. General Administration. Fuel Review. Audit queries
11.07.2026 to 12.07.2026	Budget Work
13.07.2026	Budget Work. Catch up with Works Manager
14.07.2026	Budget Work. Catch up with Works Manager. Payroll. General Administration
15.07.2026	Budget Work. Touch base with Travis.
16.07.2026	Budget Work. Catch ups with Works Manager with Greydon
17.07.2026 to 19.07.2026	Budget Work. Agenda Work.
20.07.2026	Agenda & Workshop Work General Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Carried

For

6

Against

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21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.01pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 27 August 2026

Signed.....

Presiding Officer