



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **27 August 2026**, commencing at 12.30pm.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor
Cr A Whitmarsh
Cr Q Fowler
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Cr M Fowler

Staff

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

Apologies

Cr G Mead

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 July 2026

Background

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 July 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Friday 24 September 2026

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

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

Construction

The crew have continued with the sheeting job 20 km south of the Settlement, having won the battle against the two troublesome bog holes. Several floodway's have been stabilised. The floodway stabilisation will ramp up over the coming weeks in preparation for sealing, this will be followed by preparing the pavement for sealing, depending on the sealing date being locked in.

Some time was also spent preparing new house pads, concrete footings and stockpiling of gravel, sand and fill material.

Maintenance

The past month has been a little challenging and frustrating as far as the maintenance crew goes. Having said that they have achieved a reasonable amount of grading work. They have completed work on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd, south of the McNabb-Twin Peaks intersection. Done some patch grading on the McNabb-Twin Peaks Rd, completed the Coolcalalaya and New Forrest-Yallalong Rds. and are heading south on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. cleaning up the verges, shoulders and drains.

SKA Route Works

Walladar have continued with sheeting and maintenance on the CGG section of the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. By the time Council meets they should have made a start on installing the equalisation culverts and raising the road to cover the culverts as well as addressing the related drainage issues.

Rowe Contractors are making good progress on the Boolardy-Kalli Rd. in spite of using the harder coffee rock material. The results so far are very satisfactory, and I feel we will end up with a good hard wearing pavement surface.

Meanwhile we have submitted a program of works for the remaining funding allocation over the next three years. Preparation work for submissions for an extension to the program are continuing.

New Power Setup

We have experienced a few gremlins in the system which Hosken are busy sorting out. The leaking rear main seal has been replaced under warranty and appears to be behaving itself so far. We are probably still a month or so away from having the load bank installed. Then we still have summer ahead to really test the system!

MRWA Projects **

As per standard practice at this time of year submissions for MRWA Regional Road Group Funding for next year have been prepared and submitted. The 2027/28 year is the first where the new funding criteria applies with max \$300,000 funding per project lifted to \$360,000. The 2:1 funding criteria means max individual project costs have risen from \$450,000 to \$540,000.

As per current strategy we have submitted for 5 projects with widening and reconstruction of various narrow sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between SLK 154.69 (close to the Murchison Settlement) to SLK 171.51. If successful most of the sections between the Settlement and the Twin-Peaks-Wooleen Road will by the end of 2027/28 have by then been completed. It may be a bit of a stretch to expect all 5 projects will be funded but perhaps it's a case of *"in for a penny in for a pound."*

Meanwhile 2026/27 sees completion of 7 projects carried over from 2025/26 plus 5 Projects for 2026/27. Sealing works components are expected to be undertaken in two cycles in late 2026 and mid-2027.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17 DEVELOPMENT

17.1 Murchison Pastoral Community Policy

File: 2.15
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 August 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 Policy 5.11 Murchison Pastoral Community

Matter for Consideration

Review of a Murchison Pastoral Community Policy

Background

As illustrated below discussions at Workshop Level around themes supporting for the Pastoral Community continue to evolve. The 2026/27 Budget for the first time also consolidates presentation of revenue and expense lines for a raft of Pastoral Community Support initiatives that are required from a Financial Accounting Manual Perspective to be show against set programs

Workshop Date	Subject
26-Mar-26	Pastoral and Graziers Association Teams Meeting
27-Feb-26	Future Operational Approach, Pastoral Focus DBCA Land Overview
27-Nov-25	Pastoral Community Focus - Training & Development, MEG Meeting Brief Update Nov2025
23-Oct-25	Background Pastoral Focus August 2025, Update Pastoral Community Focus
28-Aug-25	Pastoral Focus
26-Jun-25	Pastoral Focus
26-Jun-25	Mid-West Chamber of Commerce
30-Apr-25	Wider Strategic Approach
25-Jul-24	Dogger Ex Gratia Arrangements
23-Feb-23	SRPA Presentation
22-Sep-22	Murchison Community Operation

A brief outline of actions already undertaken and potential opportunities are shown as follows.

Element	Other Examples
a Advocating for Pastoral Industry	
b Refining Working Group Structurally to have a wider interdependent operation	
c Specific Pastoral Initiatives	~ Support to organisations such as SRPA, CRBA etc ~ Biosecurity Support Measures
d Roads	~ Roads to Rehydration Approach ~ Bunding of Old Roads
e Residents/Community	~ Funding Incorporation into budget ~ Trailer Purchase ~ Learning and development ~ Project Partnerships
f Collaboration	~ Across Shire Business Units ~ Meat Initiative ~ With Community and Industry ~ With unrelated industry that are present in the Shire
g Other	

It is considered that we are now at such a stage where it is considered essential that more formal "Pastoral Community" position / policy is required to bring together the many actions and opportunities as outlined above

as part of the Shires' Raison D'être. This Policy has been circulated to Councillors with input received and is attached.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Strategies	
Policy on Road Drainage	<i>Preparation of an evidence-based report to support off reserve remediation work, including downstream dispersal.</i>
Continuation of Bunding and Remediation of Old Roads and Borrow Pits	<i>Continuation of the Shire's current management practices in relation to bunding and remediation of old roads</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>
Explore Education Opportunities	<i>Explore potential opportunities to improve access to existing education services for residents within the Shire.</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> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>

Consultation

Councillors, Council Workshops as outlined, Will Herold (Works Manager) and Bec Fogarty & Community Manager DCEO)

Recommendation

That Council adopt Policy 5.11 Murchison Pastoral Community as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17.2 Corporate Business Plan

File: 2.15
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
 Date: 22 August 2026
 Attachments: 17.2.1 Corporate Business Plan August 2026

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Corporate Business Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027. Whilst the plan has not specifically been reviewed since its adoption it has been used extensively a reference and expanded upon in each Corporate Plan and is at this stage is considered sufficient.
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including	28 August 2025	This agenda Item
	Asset Management	28 August 2025	Update with 2025/26 Budget
	Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy	22 May 2025	To be reviewed by 2029
	Long-Term Financial Planning	28 August 2025	Update with 2025/26 Budget

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of each years' Budget consideration.

Consultation

Bec Fogarty - Community Manager DCEO

Comments

The attached Corporate Business Plan was significantly updated in June 2023. This 2026 version is merely an extension of this with progress comments also appearing in each year's Annual Report.

Given changes since 2017 the *Corporate Business Plan - Strategies & Actions Outline - June 2023 Section* has been updated with the following descriptors

current	this denotes that this element is currently in the existing Corporate Business Plan. ie no change just comments
complan	this denotes that this element was not in the existing Corporate Business Plan but was mentioned in the Community Strategic Plan... ie no real change just picking up what may have been missed and adding comments
new	these are new strategies and actions identified thus far

Some of the content of the plan directly relates to aspects associated with the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans. All budget related aspects are addressed separately in the 2026/27 Budget, Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan when these documents are updated.

As indicated above whilst the Strategic Community Plan has not specifically been reviewed since its adoption it has been used extensively a reference and expanded upon in each Corporate Plan. Whilst at this stage it is considered sufficient, it would be prudent for a formal notation to this effect to be recorded.

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer's Corporate Business Plan Report and that the current the Strategic Community Plan is considered sufficient to be retained in its current form and adopt the Corporate Business Plan August 2026.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17.3 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 August 2026

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report August 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 *Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.*

Objectives & Strategies *Description*

Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival

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

The 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster continued to deliver strong tourism and community outcomes, with attendance and satisfaction levels increasing from previous years. A total of 129 tickets were sold, up from 115 in 2025, supported by sponsors, facilitators, volunteers and working group members (200 tickets total). The event attracted a diverse audience, including 24% current or former Murchison residents, 27% visitors from neighbouring local government areas, and 49% tourists and visitors from further afield.

Participant engagement was high throughout the event, with 66 camp ovens entered for the communal dinner, more than 40 participants attending individual experiences, and 58 attendees completing the post-event survey. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all respondents rating their experience between 8/10 and 10/10. Of those surveyed, 29 rated the event 10/10, 15 rated it 9/10, and 13 rated it 8/10. Additionally, 48 of 58 respondents stated they would recommend the Muster to family and friends.

Survey feedback highlighted the event's strong sense of community, belonging, togetherness, fun, friendliness and inclusiveness. The most common recommendation for future events was to maintain the existing format, while others suggested incorporating additional breaks, enhanced entertainment, more camp oven cooking

demonstrations and competitions, greater promotion of local food and produce, storytelling sessions, and nature-based experiences.

Marketing analysis showed that Facebook and word-of-mouth referrals were the primary sources of event awareness, demonstrating the value of both digital promotion and community advocacy. The event also contributed to awareness of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, with approximately 65% of respondents indicating they were more interested in learning about the initiative after attending the Muster.

Financially, the event generated \$77,710 in income, comprising ticket sales (\$23,700), merchandise sales (\$2,310), and sponsorship contributions (\$51,700). Total expenditure was \$90,657.92, resulting in a net investment of \$12,947.92 by the Shire and its partners. This investment enabled the delivery of a high-quality regional event that achieved significant tourism, community engagement, cultural promotion, and destination marketing outcomes for the Murchison region.

Overall, the Murchison Camp Oven Muster serves as both a major tourism attraction and a valuable community-building initiative. The event provides visitors with an authentic outback experience while showcasing the resilience, hospitality, culture and opportunities of the Murchison region. It has become one of the Shire's flagship events, playing an important role in promoting regional tourism, strengthening local pride and connecting people with the unique character of pastoral Western Australia.

Following a comprehensive SWOT analysis undertaken by the working group, planning for the 2027 event commenced immediately. The group responded positively to attendee feedback, deciding to maintain ticket numbers at 200 while refining the event program to create a more relaxed and immersive experience. Key improvements include incorporating additional breaks throughout the schedule, increasing the focus on camp oven cooking and local produce, and expanding opportunities for passive, interest-based experiences that allow visitors to engage more deeply with the region and its unique lifestyle.

Event Questions Summary

#	Question	Result Summary	No
1	How was your overall experience?	8/10	13
		9/10	15
		10/10	29
2	Would you recommend the 2025 event to friends, family or acquaintances?	Yes	48/58
		No	0
		No Response	10
5	3 words describing the Muster	Community / Belonging / Togetherness	25+
		Fun / Enjoyable / Great	25+
		Friendly / Welcoming / Inclusive	15+
		Interesting / Informative / Educational	15+
6	Improvements	No change	10+
		More breaks / downtime / gaps	6
		Music / entertainment improvement	6
7	2027 suggestions	~ More camp oven cooking, demos and competition ~ Local food and produce ~ Yarn / Story Telling ~ Bird / nature experiences	
8	How did you find out about the muster	Facebook	17
		Word of Mouth	15
9	Before attending the muster were you aware of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists	Yes	17
		No	38 (70%)
10	After attending the muster are you more interested in learning about International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists	Yes	30 (65%)
		No	16

Event Outcomes Summary

Outcome	Measurement	Mechanism
Ticket Sales	Tickets Sold 129 (5 youth 8 child) Sponsor, Facilitator, Working Group, Volunteers 72 (2025 - 115 Tickets sold)	Direct from booking platform and in person sales.
Active Participation	66 Camp Ovens for dinner 40+ Participants at individual experiences 58 Ticket holders who provide written feedback	Camp ovens counted Observation at experiences Post Event Survey
Attendance	24% Past or current Residents from Murchison LGA 27% Residents from neighbouring LGAS 49% Visitors and Tourists	This information has been taken from booking information.
Event Satisfaction	48/58 ticket holders who answered the survey said they would recommend the event to friends and family. All ticket holders who answered the survey rated their experience between 8/10 and 10/10. The survey received 58 responses in total 29 rated the experience 10/10 15 rated the experience 9/10 13 rated the experience 8/10	Post Event Survey

Event Financials Summary

Item	Actual	Notes
Expenses		
Marketing	\$690	Social squares and flyers
Attractions	\$64,495.62	Facilitators
Infrastructure	\$20,157.50	St John, Production
Furniture and Equipment	\$1,827.61	SoM Assets
Administration	\$625	wristbands, water, survey software
Accommodation	\$2,862.00	Cabins and bush camping
Total Expenses	\$90,657.92	
Income		
Tickets	\$23,700	Tickets sales
Merchandise	\$2310	Merch sales
Sponsorship	\$51,700	Sponsors x 10
Total Income	\$77,710	
Profit / Loss	-\$12,947.92	

* Note all numbers shown in the financial breakdown include GST as some facilitators are not registered and others are, so the total costs are reflected accurately.





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 August theme for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) is *"Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Culture and Innovation."* This theme recognises the important role of Indigenous and local knowledge in the sustainable management of rangelands, celebrates cultural traditions and practices that have supported pastoral livelihoods for generations, and highlights the integration of traditional knowledge with modern innovation to strengthen resilience, biodiversity and land stewardship.

In support of the IYRP program, the Shire has been working with Steph Coombes of Central Station Podcast towards the October theme, "Pastoralist Women." During her visit to the Murchison Camp Oven Muster, several podcast interviews were recorded with local women involved in the pastoral industry and broader community.

These podcasts will be released through the Central Station Podcast platform, shared as part of the IYRP initiative, and promoted through the Shire's tourism channels, including the Shire website. The recordings provide an opportunity to showcase local stories, celebrate the contribution of women in the pastoral sector, and promote the Murchison region to a broader audience.

Samantha Boon of Under the Sun Graphic Design was selected through a competitive pitch process to deliver the Shire's community mural project, celebrating the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The mural, located on the Murchison Community Centre, became a unique interactive feature of the 2025 Murchison Camp Oven Muster, with attendees invited to contribute to the artwork under Samantha's guidance.

The project provided an opportunity for both visitors and community members to engage directly in the creative process, while also offering real-time feedback on the design and its representation of the region's pastoral heritage and rangeland landscapes. This collaborative approach fostered a strong sense of community ownership and connection to the finished artwork.

While the second planned mural on the adjacent shed was not completed within the project timeframe, the concept and design work have been retained. The Shire intends to progress this element through a separate installation. The mural project has created a lasting visual legacy of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and further enhanced the Community Centre as a welcoming and culturally significant community space.



Cosmic Echo's Exhibition Opening

Attendance at the opening of the Cosmic Echoes: A Shared Sky Indigenous Art Exhibition at the Museum of Geraldton provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders associated with the SKA Observatory (SKAO). The event resulted in direct contact from the Executive Officer to the Director-General of SKAO and generated significant media exposure through interviews with ABC Midwest Morning and Afternoon programs.

The Cosmic Echoes exhibition brings together Indigenous artists from the Wajarri Yamaji community in Western Australia and Indigenous communities from South Africa, exploring the connection between ancient cultural knowledge, astronomy, storytelling and modern science. The exhibition celebrates the shared relationship that Indigenous cultures have with the night sky and highlights the importance of Traditional Knowledge alongside contemporary scientific discovery. The initiative was developed by the SKAO in partnership with CSIRO, the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) and the Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation.

As a result of media engagement surrounding the exhibition, ABC Midwest has invited the Shire to participate in future live radio segments to discuss the Meat Initiative and its relationship to circular economy principles, providing an ongoing opportunity to promote regional innovation, economic diversification and sustainability outcomes across the Murchison.



Murchison Meat Initiative

The Murchison Meat Initiative has continued to be a strong success, with customer demand resulting in most lamb products selling out. The final lamb products currently available for retail sale are chops and sausages, with all other cuts sold, including leg roasts, shoulder roasts, lamb steaks and shanks. The majority of beef stock has also been sold, with only four boxes remaining in backup freezer storage. In addition, there is a small quantity of lamb held as kitchen stock that was not individually priced or prepared for retail sale.

The project has provided valuable lessons for future stock management. Unlike the beef products, not all lamb stock arrived prepared and priced for retail sale, which limited flexibility in product offerings and sales opportunities. Future orders will aim to ensure all products are supplied ready for retail display and sale, allowing the Shire to maximise available sales options and better respond to customer demand.

Sales have increased noticeably following the introduction of station information labels on products. These labels identify the station of origin and the local producers behind the meat, and there has been a clear increase in customer engagement and purchasing behaviour since their introduction. This demonstrates a strong willingness from customers to understand where their food comes from and to support local pastoral enterprises when that information is readily available.

The initiative has highlighted the importance of provenance, local storytelling and producer recognition in promoting regional products. Feedback from customers indicates that the connection to local stations and producers adds value to the product, strengthens purchasing confidence and creates a stronger connection between consumers and the pastoral industry.

Given the strong sales performance and the long shelf life of frozen products, opportunities to restock and continue the initiative will be explored. The success of the program demonstrates demand for locally sourced meat products while supporting broader objectives relating to regional economic development, value-adding, local supply chain participation and circular economy principles within the Murchison.

The Murchison Meat Initiative was officially launched on 2 August with a community lunch held for local residents. Catering was provided by Kamal's Catering, who prepared a range of dishes showcasing local meat and produce for the Sunday lunch event.

Approximately 40 community members attended, enjoying the opportunity to share a meal, connect with one another, and learn more about the initiative. The launch was well received and provided a valuable opportunity to promote local agricultural products while fostering community engagement and support for the region's pastoral industry. The event highlighted the quality of locally produced meat and reinforced the importance of strengthening connections between producers, residents, and visitors.



Murchison Museum

I would like to acknowledge and thank Meg Officer for her commitment and dedication in her role as Museum Caretaker throughout July and August.

Meg continues to make a significant contribution to the operation and presentation of the Museum, including updating displays and signage, researching historical records, and assisting visitors with enquiries. Her extensive local knowledge and willingness to share information enhance the visitor experience and help preserve and promote the history of the Murchison district. Meg's knowledge and support were also greatly appreciated by Sam from Under the Sun Graphic Design during recent work undertaken in relation to the IYRP Mural on the Community Centre.

Meg has also requested that Council consider the installation of a commemorative plaque at the Museum recognising the contributions of key individuals involved in its establishment and early development.

Proposed Plaque Wording

In recognition and appreciation of the work of Jano Foulkes-Taylor of Yuin and Tardie Stations, whose vision, enthusiasm and hard work initiated the establishment of the Murchison Museum and made its creation possible.

And in recognition of Marie Wendland, the Museum's first Curator, who dedicated 15 years to its care, development and preservation.

Their contributions have helped ensure the history and heritage of the Murchison district are preserved for future generations.

Council's consideration of this request would provide an opportunity to formally acknowledge the lasting contributions of both Jano Foulkes-Taylor and Marie Wendland to the preservation of the Shire's local history and heritage.

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

Annual Christmas Tree

Tourism Partner News

Tourism Council of WA

The Tourism Council WA June Quarter results indicate a challenging operating environment for the tourism industry, with businesses across the State reporting a 40% decrease in net business activity compared to the same period last year. The report notes that all regions and tourism sectors have experienced some level of decline, although the extent of the downturn varies across locations and product types.

Tourism Council WA has advised that it will be meeting with Tourism WA and the Premier, in his capacity as Tourism Minister, to discuss measures that may assist and support the tourism industry during this period.

At a local level, the Shire's accommodation figures present a more positive outlook than the broader industry trend. Accommodation operations have experienced growth in both transaction numbers and site and cabin bookings over the reporting period. While the average transaction value has decreased, reflecting more cautious visitor spending patterns, the increased volume of bookings indicates continued demand for accommodation services within the Shire.

These results suggest that while visitors may be spending less overall, they are continuing to travel to and stay within the Murchison region. The growth in occupancy and bookings provides a positive indicator of visitor activity and supports observations that the region has not been as significantly impacted as some other tourism destinations across Western Australia.

The trend highlights the importance of continuing to promote Murchison as a destination, while also exploring opportunities to increase visitor spend through local experiences, events, retail offerings and regional products. This will help maximise the economic benefit generated from the growing number of visitors choosing to stay in the region.

Australia's Golden Outback

With the commencement of the new financial year, Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) is focused on promoting the upcoming wildflower season, one of Western Australia's most significant tourism drawcards and a key opportunity to drive visitation throughout the region.

AGO's destination marketing activities continue to highlight the unique experiences available across the Golden Outback, with a particular focus on self-drive tourism. The current wildflower campaign builds on the successful "For the Road Trippers" initiative, promoting the region's touring routes as an ideal way for visitors to experience the seasonal wildflower displays. AGO is also working with tourism operators and destinations to develop cooperative marketing opportunities, enabling local businesses to capitalise on the expected increase in visitor interest during what is anticipated to be a strong wildflower season.

AGO has also reported positive discussions with Tourism WA and other Regional Tourism Organisations regarding the development of a new long-term funding and partnership agreement to commence from 1 July 2027. Further discussions are scheduled later in the year. Securing a new agreement remains important to ensuring the continuation of destination marketing and development initiatives that support sustainable tourism growth and regional communities.

The wildflower season presents an important opportunity for the Murchison region to attract visitors, increase overnight stays and encourage greater expenditure within local businesses through accommodation, hospitality, retail and tourism experiences.

Roadhouse Update

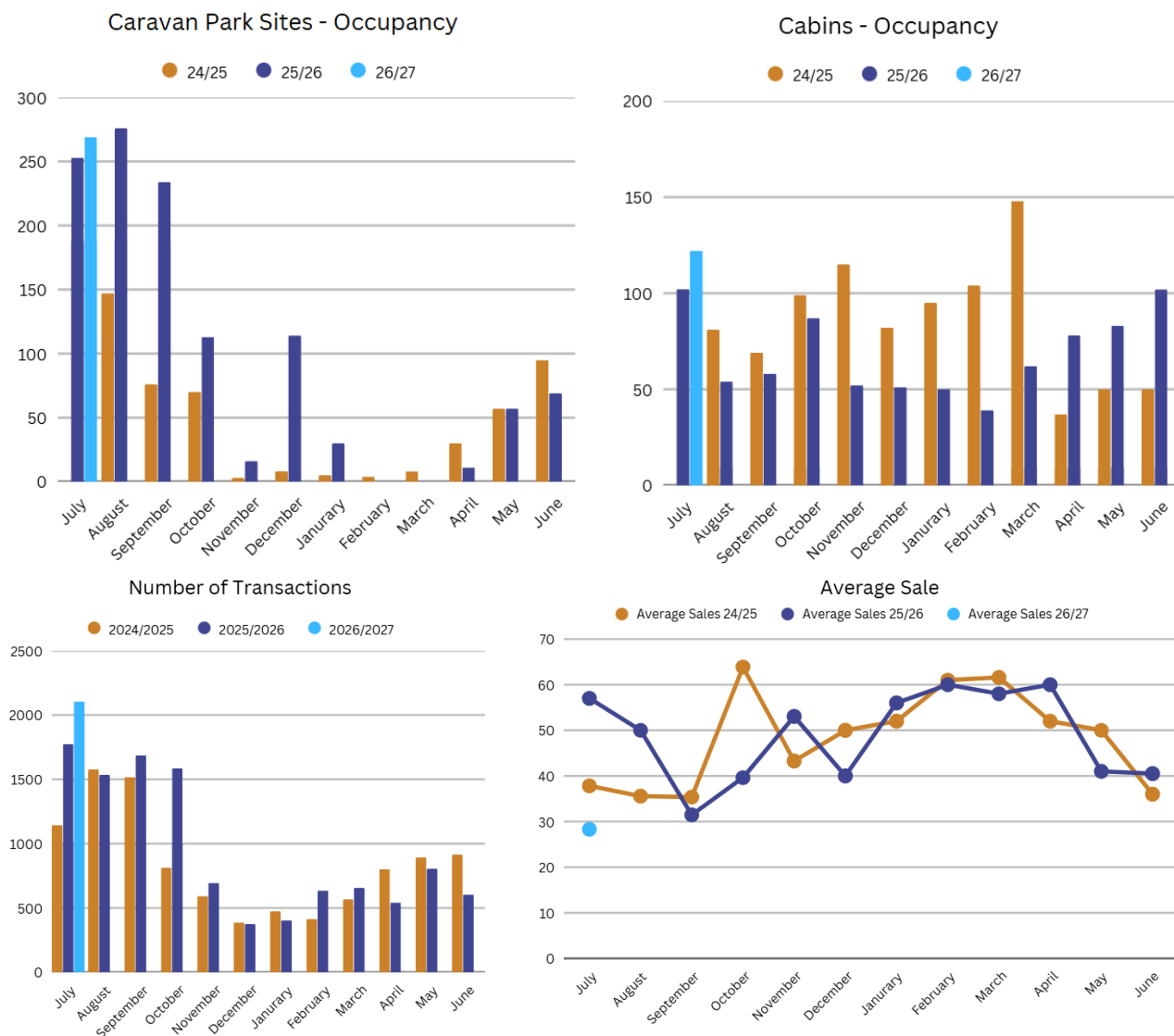
Economic Objective 1 *To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.*

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

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

Regional collaboration where possible;

Roadhouse Statistics



Operational Summary

The 2025/26 year delivered substantially improved caravan site occupancy compared with 2024/25, while cabin occupancy remained solid and showed signs of strengthening toward year-end. The strong start to 2026/27 suggests demand remains robust and may continue to grow as additional accommodation facilities become available.

Overall, the data indicates that customer spending remained resilient throughout 2025/26, with higher average transaction values offsetting lower transaction volumes. The very strong start to 2026/27 suggests increased visitation and activity at the Roadhouse, although it will be important to monitor whether average sale values recover in coming months.

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 September

The new POS System is providing a new level of transparency allowing us to share that since it's installation in June the Local Loyalty discount has been used a total of 372 times to total discount providing key discounts on a combination of homemade ready to eat, grocery, takeaway and convenience items.

- ~ Most popular category of products sold are drinks, lollies, grocery items.
- ~ Most popular food items are from the fryer followed by homemade pies & Sausage rolls then toasties.
- ~ Positive reviews continue to be posted through wikicamps and google reviews.



Dots and Max
Reviewed 16 days ago

...

★★★★★

Stayed 2/8/26 on new sites. they had great lawn and power set to go. Camp BBQ area still underway. New bathrooms worked well with good pressure and hot water. One washing machine in new amenities block \$4 per load. Will happily stay again. ...[View less](#)

Helpful - 1
Not helpful



Hollydog
Reviewed 27 days ago

...

★★★★★

Stopped for fuel and coffee. A lovely oasis of green and good clean facilities.

Helpful - 0
Not helpful



KMA062
Reviewed a month ago

...

★★★★★

We had a lovely 2 night stay here and one free

☆ Rate and review



Wayne Turner
2 days ago on Google

4/5

Had 3 nights at this great little caravan park. Nice sites, nice amenities, nice staff & nice chips. There in August so plenty of wildflowers.








Jules Magic
5 days ago on Google

5/5

Holiday | Couple

We stayed last night and after our three weeks un WA this site is probably the most cleanest, neatest and well cared for campsite that we've stayed in, it was absolutely lovely. I would have liked to have stayed there longer and visiting the museum was just a treat, no charge to get in, just the pride of sharing the cultural history of the Murchison settlement. Well done, everybody.

Hotel highlights Quiet

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse Motel Caravan Park and Tourist Centre



6 days ago on Google

5/5

Holiday | Couple

Stopped in for fuel and lunch. Great facilities

Service 5.0



Jack Avalon
2 weeks ago on Google

5/5

Great coffee Great burgers Great location

Service 5.0 **Location** 5.0

Housing Developments

The delivery date for two additional houses has been confirmed as 3 September 2026 (one behind the Roadhouse and one at 2A Kurara Way). Supporting contractors are expected to arrive in mid-September to complete plumbing and concreting works.

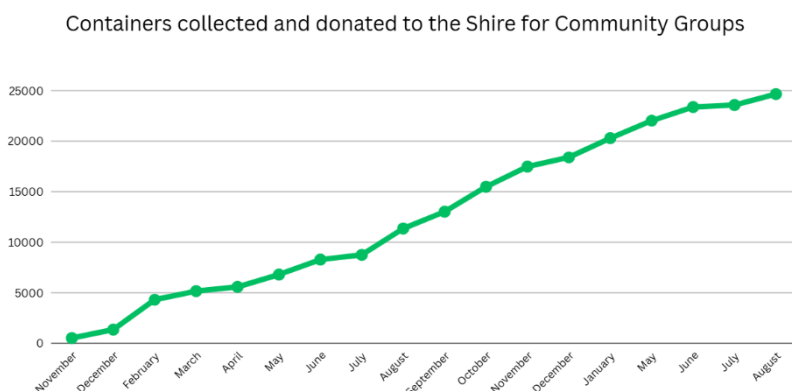


Delivery of the final house and cabin is currently estimated for late September. At the time of writing this report, Fox Modular/Pique staff are on site completing works on the houses already delivered. This includes conducting a thorough inspection from roof to ground level to ensure all components meet expectations and to rectify any defects that may have occurred during transport. Overall, the houses travelled well with minimal issues identified.

Once the concreting works are completed, contractor activity on site is expected to increase to facilitate the installation of carports and sheds. We anticipate that power connections will be among the final services to be completed, after which landscaping and fencing works will commence. Subject to these remaining works progressing as planned, we expect the houses to be operational by late October or early November.

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 24,657 which is \$2,465.70 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 tunnel is doing its thing! We have cabbages making hearts, lettuce and kale galore. We have seen many tourists in there picking some greens along with Meg our Museum Caretaker and Bill our CEO popping in to

grab plenty of greens for dinner. Beau and Adam have been nibbling on the snow peas and peas amazing for two non-vegetable eaters. The asparagus have been cut back and mulched and composted with compost made here from waste at the settlement. Fingers crossed for a bumper garlic harvest too.



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 17th July – 17th August

31 Community Announcements

7 Camp Oven Muster	1 Telstra Satellite Network
4 Mid-West Chamber of Commerce & Industry Membership	1 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists
3 Community Services / opportunities	1 Regional Australia Podcasts
1 Roadhouse	1 Remote and Rural Boarding school survey
6 Road Report	2 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
3 Power / Water Outages	1 Variety Bash

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

1. That Council note the Community Development Progress Report
2. That Council endorse the creation of a plaque and dedication of the Museum Building.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

18 ADMINISTRATION

18.1 ICPA Sponsorship Request

File

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 21 August 2026

Attachments: 18.1.1 ICPA Sponsorship Request & Sponsorship Options

Matter for Consideration

Request from the Eastern Districts Branch of the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) for Council to Sponsor their Annual Conference to be held in Perth on 19 March 2027.

Background

Copy of letter of request from the ICPA outlining a suggested amount of between \$500 and \$1000. Letter and other sponsorship package details are attached. ie Valued Member (\$500), Bronze (\$750), Silver (\$1,500), Gold (\$2,500) and Platinum (\$5,000).

Council has from time to time traditionally sponsored the IPCA to assist in keeping conference costs low and to assist members to attend. The Annual Conference is organised each year by various branches; last year being the Meekatharra Air Branch. Previous allocations undertaken in 2022/23 for \$500 (Conference) as \$2,900 (Scitech) and in 2025/26 for \$1,500 (Silver Conference).

Policy Implications

Policy 4.2 Donations and Grants

Financial Implications

Amount to be determined by Council. The 2026/27 proposed budget provides and amount of \$1,000

Comment

This year the request is from the Eastern Districts Branch of the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) with the following recommendation is based on the 2026/27 proposed budget allocation

Recommendation

That Council agree to sponsor the Eastern Districts Branch of the Children's Parents Association (ICPA) for the Annual Conference to be held in Perth on 19 March 2027 for an amount of \$1,000.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19 FINANCE

19.1 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: 24 August 2026
Attachments: 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 19.1

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

19.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 August 2026
Attachments: Nil as per comment below

Note this Item will be held over till the next month as significant resources have been applied to end of year reconciliation and budget finalisation with comparisons to the 2026-27 Budget not possible until it has been adopted. The July Report when submitted to Council will then include adopted budget figures.

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.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note that the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 July 2026 will be presented to the September Meeting.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

19.3 Asset Management Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 22 August 2026
 Attachments: 19.3.1 Asset Management Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Asset Management Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends'	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027 Refer also to Agenda Item 17.2
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community. Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually. Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including.	28 August 2025	Agenda Item 17.2
	Asset Management Plan	28 August 2025	This Agenda Item. To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2026/27 Budget.
	Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy)	22 May 2025	To be reviewed by 2029
	Long-Term Financial Planning	28 August 2025	Year 1 to underpin the 2026/27 Budget.

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the each years' Budget consideration.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant, William Herold - Works Manager and Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the contents included in the Long-Term Financial and 2026/27 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management Plan Report and adopt the Asset Management Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19.4 Long-Term Financial Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 22 August 2026
 Attachments: 19.4.1 Long-Term Financial Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends'	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027 Refer also to Agenda Item 17.2
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community. Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity. Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including. Asset Management Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy)	28 August 2025 28 August 2025 22 May 2025	Agenda Item 17.2 To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2026/27 Budget. To be reviewed by 2029
	Long-Term Financial Planning	28August 2025	This Agenda Item. Year 1 to underpin the 2026/27 Budget.

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of each years' Budget consideration.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the 2026/27 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long-Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Long-Term Financial Plan Report and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19.5 Murchison Community Fund Reserve

File: 2.4
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: Nil
Date: 23 August 2026
Attachments: 19.5.1 Murchison Community Fund Reserve Background Paper

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Murchison Community Fund Reserve.

Background

At the October 2025 Council Meeting amongst other things Council resolved that Council “*formally review the operations and needs of the Murchison Community Fund*” At this meeting it was also decided to not appoint members to the Murchison Community Fund Management Committee

In part this arose out of various reviews of the operation of the fund which are summarised in the attached background paper.

Initially at the September 2024 Workshop, a report was presented outlining the legal position regarding the operation of the Murchison Community Fund which indicated that the Original Road Train Permit the with MML (now Sinosteel Crosslands) has terminated, and the provisions did not survive termination such that the Shire is not considered to remain subject to the contractual obligations and can apply the funds paid by MML as it sees fit without being bound by the provisions of the agreement nor any previous operational decisions of the Committee.

The report also identified opportunities to refine the Fund’s structure to ensure the original intent is preserved while allowing for a more contemporary and flexible approach to its administration.

An updated report provided at the February 2026 Workshop provided further detail on the legal framework, operational implications, and potential pathways for modifying the Fund’s structure. The refined approach maintains the core purpose of the Fund while enabling adjustments that improve governance, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

It was intended that this information would be subsequently led to inclusion of Murchison Community Funds to be as part of the 2026/27 Budget Process

Update

In essence it is intended for the reasons as outlined in the Background Paper, to have funds from the Murchison Community Fund Reserve transferred from the existing liability account into a dedicated Council Reserve with the expressed purpose of being used for future redevelopment of the Murchison Community Centre. Given the historical nature of the acquisition and application of the funds a conservative approach to their use at a later stage is contemplated.

All other direct financial support mechanisms for the community will be funded from Council Revenue as part of its well-founded community support program which has been in part articulated and likely to be expanded as a result adoption of the Murchison Pastoral Community Policy as articulated in Agenda Item 17.1.

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 below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</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>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>
Refurbishment of Community Centre	<i>The Community Centre is a key building within the Murchison Settlement. The Centre was built in the 1980's and has maintained since this time, however is due to refurbishment.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Compliance with statutory requirements;</i> <i>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>

Budget Implications

Ability to potentially utilise funds for the redevelopment of the Community Centre

Consultation

Councillor Workshops, McLeod's Lawyers Travis Bate (Financial Accountant – RSM), Bec Fogarty (Community Manager DCEO), Will Herold (Works Manager)

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Note the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Community Fund Reserve Report and
- 2 Resolve that funds from the Murchison Community Fund Reserve transferred from the existing liability account into a dedicated Council Murchison Community Fund Reserve with the expressed purpose of being used for future redevelopment of the Murchison Community Centre.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

19.6 2026-2027 Budget Adoption

File: 2.4
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: Nil
Date: 23 August 2026
Attachments: 19.6.1 Murchison Shire 2026-27 Annual Budget
19.6.2 Murchison Shire 2026-27 Budget Snapshot
19.6.3 Fees and Charges 2026-27

Matter for Consideration

Council is to consider the Draft Budget for the 2026-27 Financial Year and the Fees & Charges Table for 2026-27 period.

Background

As part of the function of a local government as per its obligations under Section 6.2 of *the Local Government Act 1995*, that during the period 1 June to 31 August in a financial year the local government is to prepare and adopt its Annual budget in the prescribed format.

The 2026-2027 draft budget has been developed amongst other things in consideration of the following:

- ~ Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 - 2026/27
- ~ Corporate Business Plan 2027-2030 as per Agenda Item 17.2
- ~ Asset Management Plan 2027-2047 as per Agenda Item 19.3
- ~ Long Term Financial Plan 2027-2047 as per Agenda Item 19.4
- ~ Councilor workshop held on 23 July 2026.

COVID-19 Coronavirus General Influences

At the 20 August 2020 Council Meeting it was noted that ahead on the then 2020/21 budget deliberations that there were then various actions associated with the COVID-19 environment with several notable decisions made which influenced the then operating environment as follows

- 1 *In responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus that Council act in accordance with the following principles and rationale associated with health and economic activity:*
 - (a) *Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.*
 - (b) *Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.*
- 3 *That Council look to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community.*

Whilst this budget is impacted by previous decisions made during the COVID19 period, this is the fourth budget prepared where, other than repayments of a 2020 Road loan, these COVID19 influences now do not specifically apply.

2026/27 Budget Summary

Prior to finalising the 2026/27 Council Budget significant bodies of work have been undertaken to continue to consolidate the 2023/24 major updates of our Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews and considered by Council previously and during the year at previous meetings as well at various Councillor Budget Workshops.

Whilst Budgets are set and delivered on an annual basis, in reality, works and services are delivered on a continuous basis with the financial year merely a point in time. The 2026/27 Budget follows this *“Structure follows Strategy Approach”* with the 2026/27 Budget effectively implementing year one of the Long-Term Financial Plan. Supporting budget information also includes a 4-year indicative Corporate Plan Budget which is an extract of the Long-Term Financial Plan but in an expanded form. The Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary Graph included in these documents highlights these approaches.

As previously foreshadowed at the July 2026 Councillor Workshop a small number of changes as agreed at the Workshop have been identified associated with end of year adjustments and updating budget estimates associated with budgeted items previously identified. Final documents incorporate these changes. It is also considered prudent that all supporting budget documents be formally endorsed by Council given the strategic importance of the 2026/27 Budget to Councils overall strategy.

2026/26 Budget Snapshot

The attached 2026/27 Budget Snapshot is a two-page simple summary of Council's 2026/27 Budget. It is intended that this will accompany the Rates Notices when they are sent out.

Accrual of Interest on Overdue Rates or Service Charges

Pursuant to s 6.51 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council may set an interest rate when adopting its annual budget on a rate or service charge, and any costs of proceedings to recovery of any such charge that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable. The interest rate however must not exceed the prescribed maximum rate of interest that is prescribed by regulation.

The maximum prescribed rate of interest on unpaid rates per *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 70* is 11%. 11% is proposed for 2026/27.

Year	Maximum Permitted Interest Rate % per annum	Council Interest Rate % per annum
2026/27	11.00%	11.00%
2025/26	11.00%	11.00%
2024/25	11.00%	10.00%
2023/24	11.00%	7.00%

Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020

In response to the current COVID-19 Coronavirus environment The Minister for Local Government implemented the *Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020* which had implications for Local Government on how Councils make their rating and budget decisions. As previously indicated, this is no longer applicable.

Differential General Rates – s6.33

A local government may impose a single general rate which applies to all the properties in the unimproved value or gross rental value category; or alternatively, the local government can distinguish between land in either category on the basis of its zoning, use or whether or not it is vacant land (or a combination of these factors) and apply a differential rate to each.

Ministerial approval is required where a differential rate which is more than twice the lowest differential rate is to be imposed by it.

At the May Council Meeting Council resolved as follows:

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

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

- 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.

All of the above actions were undertaken.

At the June Council Meeting the Chief Executive Officer advised that no submissions had been received. Council then resolved 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.

As previously advised the differential rates as advertised are not more than twice the lowest differential rate such that differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government. Accordingly, as recommended, the differentials and minimum rates as advertised can be formally declared.

As previously advised 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 such refunds for amounts paid by affected ratepayers are 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. Overall amounts involved are approx \$1.15m in Miscellaneous Mining Rates collected from previous years plus around \$225,000 per annum thereafter.

Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2026/27

Council is required on an annual basis, to determine fees and allowances for elected members. The range of permitted fee are determined under the *Salaries and Allowance Act 1975* as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal and as outlined in the relevant determination for the year. Traditionally Council has adopted an Annual Attendance Fee in lieu of a per meeting attendance fee.

Details of applicable Fees and Allowances endorsed under the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal are shown as follows:

Salary & Allowance Tribunal Fees & Allowances

Item	2025		2026		2027	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member	\$3,884	\$10,286	\$4,020	\$10,650	\$4,161	\$11,023
Annual Attendance Fees President	\$3,884	\$21,138	\$4,020	\$21,880	\$4,161	\$22,646
Annual Allowance for President	\$556	\$21,710	\$575	\$22,470	\$596	\$23,257
Annual Allowance for Dep President (25% of President)	\$139	\$5,428	\$144	\$5,618	\$149	\$5,814
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$500	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,500

It is for Council to determine Member fees and allowances so long as they set are within the allowable limits. Historically Member Annual Attendance Fees have been set at the maximum. Maintaining this arrangement seems reasonable. Recommended fees and allowances including past years comparisons are outlined in the following table have been included in the recommendation.

Elected Members Fees & Allowances

Item	2025	2026	2027
Murchison Shire	Previous	Previous	Proposed
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member	\$10,286	\$10,650	\$11,023
Annual Attendance Fees President	\$15,429	\$16,200	\$17,010
Annual Allowance for President	\$18,032	\$18,934	\$19,880
Annual Allowance for Dep President (25% of President)	\$4,508	\$4,733	\$4,970
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$2,400	\$2,520	\$2,646

Fees and Charges

All of the fees and charges which applied in 2025/26 have been reviewed considering the cost to Council and by comparing the proposed Fee or Charge to that charged by alternative suppliers in a similar situation. In the main, fees have remained at current levels but in some situations have been rationalised or modernised to reflect a more contemporary practice.

The attached schedule 19.6.3 shows previous years fees and what are proposed for 2026/27.

Statutory Environment:

Budget Adoption

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.2 Local government to prepare annual budget

- (2) *In the preparation of the annual budget the local government is to have regard to the contents of the plan for the future of the district made in accordance with section 5.56 and to prepare a detailed estimate for the current year of —*
- (a) *the expenditure by the local government; and*
 - (b) *the revenue and income, independent of general rates, of the local government; and*
 - (c) *the amount required to make up the deficiency, if any, shown by comparing the estimated expenditure with the estimated revenue and income.*
- (3) *For the purposes of subsections (2)(a) and (b) all expenditure, revenue and income of the local government is to be taken into account unless otherwise prescribed.*
- (4) *The annual budget is to incorporate —*
- (a) *particulars of the estimated expenditure proposed to be incurred by the local government; and*
 - (b) *detailed information relating to the rates and service charges which will apply to land within the district including —*
 - (i) *the amount it is estimated will be yielded by the general rate; and*
 - (ii) *the rate of interest (if any) to be charged by the local government on unpaid rates and service charges; and*
 - (c) *the fees and charges proposed to be imposed by the local government; and*
 - (d) *the particulars of borrowings and other financial accommodation proposed to be entered into by the local government; and*
 - (e) *details of the amounts to be set aside in, or used from, reserve accounts and of the purpose for which they are to be set aside or used; and*
 - (f) *particulars of proposed land transactions and trading undertakings (as those terms are defined in and for the purpose of section 3.59) of the local government; and*
 - (g) *such other matters as are prescribed.*

Elected Member Fees & Allowances

Sections 5.98 to Section 5.99A Local Government Act 1995

Section 7A Salaries & Allowance Act 1975

Strategic Implications

As outlined above the Budget has been adapted to the with the view to achieving the community's vision and Shire's strategic goals use outlined by the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 -2026/27, Corporate Business Plan 2026-2029, Asset Management Plan 2026-2047, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2047 which together form the Shire Plan for Future.

Sustainability Implications

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

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The 2026-27 budget will guide the activities of the Shire for the financial year, but also in context for future years.

Consultation

Travis Bate - Financial Accountant (RSM), William Herold - Works Manager, Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO, and Councillors at Council Workshop 23.07.26

Recommendation

That Council resolve resolutions as outlined in PARTS A to H as follows:

Part A- Budget Considerations

- A1 That Council receives the 2026-2027 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and previous Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2026/27 Budget.

Voting Requirements

- A1 Simple Majority

Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2026-27

- B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2026/27 year as attachment 19.6.3 to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

- B1 Absolute Majority

Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2026-27

- C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2026/27 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

- C1 Absolute Majority

Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2026/27

- D1 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following meeting attendance fees for elected members:

President	\$17,010 per annum
Councillors	\$11,023 per annum.

- D2 That Council, pursuant to section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual Information & Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance for elected members:

ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,646

- D3 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:
President \$19,880
- D4 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:
Deputy President \$4,970

Voting Requirements

D1, D2, D3, D4 Absolute Majority

Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2026-27

- E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2026/27 financial year, including the following:
- E1.1 2026/27 Budget Summary
 - E1.2 2026/27 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works
- E2 That Council endorses the 2026/27 Budget Snapshot as attached.
- E3 That in adopting the 2026/27 Budget that Council specifically notes
- E3.1 that the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2026/27 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2026/27 Budget deficiency.
 - E3.2 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 such refunds for amounts paid by affected ratepayers are to 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. Overall amounts involved are approx \$1.15m in Miscellaneous Mining Rates collected from previous years plus around \$225,000 per annum thereafter.
- E4 That in accordance with *Local Government Act 1995 S6.11(1)*, Council resolves to establish a new "Murchison Community Fund Reserve" for the purpose being used for future redevelopment of the Murchison Community Centre utilising funds from the Murchison Community Fund Reserve Liability Account of \$365,118.
- E5 That Council resolves that interest earned on the Beringarra- Cue Road Reserve will not be applied to the reserve in the 2026/27 financial year.

Voting Requirements

- E1 Absolute Majority
E2, E3 Simple Majority
E4, E5 Absolute Majority

Part F – Interest on Money Owed to Local Governments

- F1 That Council in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995* will not apply an interest rate to any amount of money owing to the local government (other than rates or service charges).

Voting Requirements

- F1 Absolute Majority

Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements

- G1 That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and that pursuant to Section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the following differential and minimum rates on Unimproved Values.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	14.401	1,000
UV Mining	28.754	1,000
UV Exploration	28.754	1.000

- G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.
- G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 st instalment	9 October 2026
2 nd quarterly instalment	11 December 2026
3 rd quarterly instalment	12 February 2027
4 th quarterly and final instalment	16 April 2027

- G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$15.00 and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
- G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
- G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts an interest rate of 11% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Voting Requirements

- G1, G5, G6 Absolute Majority
G2, G3, G4, Simple Majority

Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2026/27

- H1 That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2026/27 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Voting Requirements

- H1 Simple Majority

Overall Voting Requirements

As outlined under each Part.

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

20 CEO REPORT

20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 August 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

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

Date	Activity
21.07.2026	Budget Work. Catch up with Works Manager. MRWA Roads Work
22.07.2026	Compliance Return Work. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO & Works Manager. Agenda Work. Budget Work. General Administration
23.07.2026	Council Meeting & Workshop. Travel to Geraldton. Attend CSIRO SKAO Cosmic Echoes & Shared Sky Indigenous Art Exhibition
24.07.2026	TOIL Catch up with Josh Kirk (Greenfield Technical Services). Drop and collect vehicle with new tyres. Travel back from Geraldton with Small Cherry picker
25.07.2026	Council Minutes. Compliance Audit Return Lodgement.
26.07.2026	Budget Work
27.07.2026	Budget Work. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO & Works Manager. SKA Route Work. Agenda Preparation
28.07.2026	Budget Work. SKA Route Work. General Administration
29.07.2026	SKA Route Work. General Administration. Telephone catch up with Shire President
30.07.2026	Road Asset Management. Catch up with Chris Brayton CSIRO. MCOM Work
31.07.2026	SKA Route Work. General Administration. Road Asset Management. Miscellaneous Mining Licence Work
1.08.2026	Road Asset Management. MCOM Assistance
2.08.2026 to 3.08.2026	Road Asset Management. General Administration
4.08.2026	Road Asset Management. Fuel Work. General Administration. Budget Work. Agenda Work
5.08.2026	Road Asset Management. General Administration. Budget Work. Agenda Work
6.08.2026	TOIL
7.08.2026	Attend CEO Forum at Wanneroo. TOIL
9.08.2026	General Administration
10.08.2026	TOIL
11.08.2026	General Administration. Budget Asset Management Work. Fuel Review. Timesheet Review. Flood Damage Review Work
12.08.2026	Fuel Review Work. Water Licence Application. General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO.
13.08.2026 to 14.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work. Water Licence Application
15.08.2026 to 16.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work
17.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work. MEG Regional Coordination Strategy Working Group Meeting via Teams
18.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work.
19.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work. Travel to Yalgoo for MEG Meeting
20.08.2026	MEG Meeting. Travel back from Yalgoo to Murchison. Roads Management Work.
21.08.2026 to 22.08.2026	Budget, Asset Management and Roads Management Work. Agenda Work
23.08.2026	Agenda Work
24.08.2026	Agenda Work. General Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.