



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 **24 September 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 12.30pm

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

Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) - Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 August 2026

Background

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

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 August 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 G Mead

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
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7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 22 October 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

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Attended the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Forum in Cue on 18 September 2026. Whilst not in my capacity as Shire President I fielded a few Shire related questions

14.2 Councillors

Cr's G Mead, E Foulkes-Taylor, Q Fowler and P Squires nil meetings attended.

Cr A Whitmarsh went to Geraldton to discuss 4x 4 Fire unit with DFES

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold - Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 September 2026

Construction

The construction crew have continued to progress their works on the floodway's and on some early preparatory work for sealing. That being said, there have been a few disruptions to the program, a bit of weather, various works in and around the Settlement and shuffling gear around. Some have also stepped in to help keep our maintenance program moving forward.

Sealing

The sealing tender has been awarded to Roadmac. They are a company that we have never used before but seem to have pretty good credibility within the industry. At this stage it would appear that the start date will be late October into November. I should have more specific details by early October. This will also give the construction crew ample time to finish the final prep work, which always seems to take longer than expected.

At the meeting the Works Manager advised that sealing works would start 15 October 2026

Maintenance

At the time of writing this has continued to be a little challenging. We have had a resignation, and one operator struggling with a few health problems. My thanks to Jamie for working through most of his RDO's to help make up some of the lost time/ production. On a more positive note, we have a new young operator starting with us around September 21st, with a strong possibility we could secure another younger operator in the month of October.

Luke and Mark together with Trevor have managed to keep the pot boiling for now. The shoulders, drains and batters along the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. from the south boundary to the Settlement have been completed. A start has been made on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd heading north from the Settlement to the north boundary in preparation for the Landor Races traffic. Once the Landor traffic is behind us they will head back south doing a tidy up. The Byro-Woodleigh, Muggon Rd. And Butchers Track will be picked up as well.

Housing

This will be reported on by the Community Manager DCEO. The Works Department has been involved to some degree with carting in and out of material and assisting builders and plumbers where necessary.

Power

Without tempting fate, it appears we are winning the fight against the gremlins in the system. My thanks to Josh and his crew at Hosken Electrical for their perseverance.

Flood Damage AGRN 1280 TC Narrelle

Greenfield Technical Services have been engaged to undertake the administration and site management for this event with claims for emergency works having already been submitted. Meanwhile to minimise potential delays pending formal approval of the works being obtained from DRWFA, we have started work on an RFQ via the WALGA Panel for Plant & Labour Hire for AGRN1280 & Other Works.

MRWA 2027/28 Project Funding

At the meeting the CEO advised that it looks like 5 road reconstruction and widening projects on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, each with \$360k funding will be likely be funded for 2027/28.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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: 19 September 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 August 2026 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2026 and 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 August 2026 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.39pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.40pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 2026 and 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 July 2026

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 September 2026
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 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 as it can now include the budget figures which were adopted at the August Council Meeting

Consultation

RSM Australia

Note the Works Manager left the room to attend to a works related matter at 12.41pm.

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr P Squires

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

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 August 2026

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

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: 19 September 2026

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report September Council Meeting

Background

This report seeks to inform the Shire of the works undertaken in relation to references to the relevant objectives and strategies contained within the Community Strategic Plan, in accordance with the following Vision Statement.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives & Strategies	<i>Description</i>

Murchison Camp Oven Muster Festival

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

Planning for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster 2027 is progressing well, with several facilitators already confirmed and program development underway to build on the success of previous years. The event will align with the 2027 International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism, providing a strong theme to showcase the region's unique landscapes, culture and community.

As part of the preparations, the Shire is exploring a community arts project that will engage local pastoralists, residents and visitors in a series of hands-on workshops led by a professional artist. Participants will work with locally sourced scrap metal to create sculptures inspired by the Murchison's pastoral heritage, landscapes and way of life.

The completed artworks are proposed to be unveiled during the 2027 Camp Oven Muster and incorporated into a permanent public art trail. This initiative aims to celebrate local stories, strengthen community

participation, enhance the visitor experience and create an additional tourism attraction that encourages increased visitation and supports tourism activity during shoulder seasons.

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 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 has designated September as the month focused on "Benefits to Society."

This theme highlights the many ways that rangelands and pastoralist communities contribute to society beyond food production, including:

- ~ Supporting food security through sustainable livestock production.
- ~ Maintaining healthy landscapes that provide carbon storage, water regulation, and biodiversity conservation.
- ~ Preserving valuable cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and community identity.
- ~ Strengthening regional economies and rural communities through pastoral enterprises and land stewardship.
- ~ Demonstrating how pastoralists act as custodians of some of the world's most significant ecosystems.

The Shire of Murchison has launched The Local's Guide, a dedicated online hub bringing together the growing collection of stories, resources, and experiences that showcase the people, landscapes, and culture of the Murchison region.

As part of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, a series of new podcasts is now being released, highlighting the voices, knowledge, and lived experiences of pastoralists and rangeland communities from across Australia. These podcasts will be available through The Local's Guide alongside other valuable regional content.

The Local's Guide will also host:

- ~ Storytowns audio tours
- ~ SoundHound captures collected through the Outback Pathways network.
- ~ Oral histories and community stories.
- ~ IYRP resources and educational materials.
- ~ Visitor information and self-guided experiences.

The initiative aims to create a lasting digital archive of Murchison stories while providing visitors with an authentic way to explore the region through the voices of the people who live and work here. By bringing these resources together in one place, The Local's Guide helps preserve local knowledge, celebrate our pastoral

heritage, and demonstrate the many ways rangeland communities contribute to society, aligning strongly with the IYRP September theme, Benefits to Society.

Featured Residents in the Murchison IYRP Podcast celebration series include

Julia Foulkes Taylor [Episode 247. Julia Foulkes-Taylor – Finding her fit with Flax and Fleece – Central Station](#)

Meg Officer [Episode 248. Meg Officer – An everlasting love of the Murchison – Central Station](#)

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor [Episode 252. Rosco Foulkes-Taylor – 100 years of Yuin – Central Station](#)

Emma Foulkes-Taylor – Still to be published

IYRP Murchison Region Podcasts include

Codie and Jasmine Henville [Episode 249. Codie & Jasmine Henville – The new kids on the block – Central Station](#)

Debbie Dowden [Episode 250. Debbie Dowden – From Challa Station to the United Nations – Central Station](#)

Raelene Hall [Episode 251. Raelene Hall – A legitimate bush woman – Central Station](#)

Ellen Rowe from Carlaminda – Still to be published

Economic Development Australia – Community Development is Economic Development – Building Places Where People Stay and Prosper

Rachel and I participated in the online webinar presented by Economic Development Australia. The workshop highlighted that community development should be viewed as a form of economic infrastructure, with services such as childcare, health, housing, recreation and youth programs playing a critical role in supporting workforce retention, community wellbeing and local economic activity. Examples from Cobar demonstrated how investment in visible and practical community assets, including a childcare hub, youth centre, museum and the Grand Hotel, can strengthen local identity, attract new residents and visitors, and encourage private sector investment. Importantly, the discussion emphasised that the value of community facilities and services should be measured not only by their financial performance, but also by their broader contribution to participation, population retention, social cohesion and business activity. Case studies also highlighted the benefits of community ownership models, such as locally owned banks and hotels, which help preserve essential services and ensure economic benefits remain within the community. A recurring theme throughout the session was the challenge of funding sustainability, noting that while grant funding is often available for capital projects, councils are frequently responsible for ongoing operational costs, reinforcing the need for continued advocacy for more sustainable State and Federal funding arrangements.

Community Development Officers Network Meeting

Representatives from the Shire of Upper Gascoyne, Shire of Meekatharra, Shire of Murchison, and Mid West Development Commission met to share community development updates, discuss regional priorities, and identify opportunities for greater collaboration across the Murchison region.

Key updates included the successful delivery of the sold-out Murchison Camp Oven Muster, growth in Roadhouse visitation and local produce sales, grant-funded community projects in Upper Gascoyne, and preparations for the Spirit of Meekatharra Festival. Several shires reported successful grant applications, new program partnerships, and ongoing initiatives focused on community wellbeing, youth engagement, arts, tourism, and volunteer participation.

Regional discussion focused on:

- ~ Reducing barriers to community participation through small-scale micro-grant programs.
- ~ Improving coordination of touring artists, facilitators, and events to maximise regional investment and reduce costs.
- ~ Demonstrating the value of inter-shire collaboration by measuring efficiencies, resource sharing, and community outcomes.

The group agreed to establish a shared regional directory of community groups, creative practitioners, and visiting artists to support collaborative programming and information sharing. Participating officers will also complete a regional priorities matrix to identify common focus areas and opportunities for joint initiatives. The next meeting will be held in Cue in November, aligned with regional arts and event programming activities.

Murchison Museum

I would like to acknowledge and thank Annette Sellers for her commitment and dedication in her role as Museum Caretaker through August. We have received wonderful feedback from visitors who were grateful for her support.

Mid West Food Industry Alliance (MWFIA)

I attended a Mid West Food Industry Alliance workshop facilitated by DPIRD and delivered by Cheryl Hughes from Facts on Food, focusing on food product labelling requirements and compliance obligations. The workshop provided valuable insights into the regulatory requirements facing food producers and offered an opportunity to network with a range of regional businesses, including meat producers, confectionery makers, oil producers and preserve manufacturers.

Key learnings included the confirmation that all packaged food products sold to the public require compliant labelling, including ingredient lists and nutritional information where applicable. The workshop emphasised that undeclared allergens remain the leading cause of food recalls, highlighting the importance of clear allergen declarations and robust food handling practices.

Additional discussion focused on traceability requirements, including the need for physical business addresses and batch identification on food labels, as well as the management of allergen risks within shared commercial kitchen environments. Participants also noted the challenges created by varying interpretations of food regulations across regional jurisdictions.

The workshop highlighted the significant compliance burden faced by small-scale and emerging food businesses and identified a potential role for local governments in supporting producers through education, technical assistance, or targeted economic development initiatives that help businesses achieve compliance and access new markets.

Million Moves Challenge

The Shire of Murchison is participating in the Million Moves Challenge, a 21-day initiative running from 1–21 September 2026 that encourages Australians to increase their daily physical activity, with every minute of movement counting towards the collective goal.

As part of the challenge, the Shire is facilitating morning walks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as evening tennis on Wednesdays, providing accessible opportunities for the community to get active together. Participation has been positive, with community members attending every session to date, with tennis proving to be the most popular activity.

As at 17 September 2026, there are 9 people registered as part of the Murchison team, who have collectively completed 7,505 minutes of exercise. The initiative has provided a great opportunity for community members to be active, socialise and support health and wellbeing through regular movement.

SRPA Forum

I attended the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) Forum in Cue this week, which brought together pastoralists, industry representatives, government agencies and stakeholders to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the pastoral sector across the rangelands. The forum provided valuable insights into current industry priorities, regional development opportunities, land management, tourism, workforce challenges and the future sustainability of pastoral enterprises. It also offered an important opportunity to strengthen relationships, share local perspectives and advocate for issues relevant to the Murchison region.

I am also pleased to advise that I have been re-nominated to continue serving on the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Board. I am grateful for the confidence shown in my contribution and look forward to continuing to represent the interests of the Murchison region. Ongoing board participation provides an important avenue to contribute to strategic discussions, strengthen regional collaboration and ensure local perspectives are considered in initiatives affecting the rangelands and pastoral industry.

Ray Thompson Water Ponding and Spreading Field Day

I attended the Ray Thompson Water Ponding and Water Spreading Field Day hosted on Austin Downs Station in conjunction with DPIRD. The day provided practical insights into rangeland restoration and water management techniques used across pastoral landscapes. The workshop explored how water ponding can rehabilitate scalded country by improving water infiltration and encouraging native vegetation regeneration, while water spreading systems can slow runoff, reduce erosion and enhance soil moisture retention across grazing land. The session highlighted the significant productivity, land condition and sustainability benefits that

can be achieved through well-designed water management practices and appropriate grazing management. It was great to see permaculture principles being used on such a new scale.

Murchison Pastoral Community Consultation

Preparations are underway for the development of the Murchison Pastoral Community Policy, with an initial Councillor workshop scheduled for 24 September 2026. The workshop will help identify key priorities, opportunities and consultation questions that will guide broader engagement with the pastoral community.

The consultation will seek feedback on a range of issues affecting pastoral businesses and residents, including pastoral operations, road and transport infrastructure, telecommunications, workforce attraction and retention, emergency management, biosecurity, economic diversification, tourism opportunities on pastoral leases, and broader community and regional development priorities. The consultation process will be facilitated by Lyssna Consulting, led by Karin Grima, who brings extensive experience in regional development, stakeholder engagement and pastoral industry initiatives.

The outcomes of the consultation will help inform future Council planning and ensure the needs, challenges and aspirations of the Murchison pastoral community are reflected in strategic decision-making. Station owners, managers and pastoral workers are encouraged to participate, with consultation activities commencing shortly across the Shire. Community members are encouraged to keep an eye out for upcoming communications, as Karin will be contacting stations throughout the Murchison to seek input and involvement in the consultation process.

Tourism

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>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i>

Upcoming Events

Annual Christmas Tree

Tourism Partner News

Tourism Council of WA

Council is advised that Tourism Council WA is actively advocating against proposed reductions to long-stay Tourist and Working Holiday Maker visa settings currently being considered by the Federal Government as part of efforts to reduce headline net overseas migration figures. The proposed changes could significantly impact Western Australia's visitor economy, particularly regional destinations that rely on longer-stay international travellers. Working Holiday Makers and other long-stay visitors contribute substantial economic benefits through extended travel, regional dispersal, workforce participation, and visitor expenditure.

According to Tourism Council WA, more than 65% of Working Holiday Makers commence their Australian travel experience in Sydney or Melbourne and often require extended visa periods to travel across the country and reach Western Australia. These visitors typically stay longer, spend more, and travel more extensively throughout regional WA than other visitor segments, providing important support to tourism operators, hospitality businesses, and regional communities.

Tourism Council WA is leading a national advocacy campaign seeking to retain current Tourist and Working Holiday Maker visa arrangements and is encouraging local governments, tourism operators, and community stakeholders to support the initiative through its public petition.

Given the importance of self-drive travellers and working holiday makers to regional tourism visitation, workforce availability, and local business activity, the outcome of this advocacy campaign may have implications for tourism-dependent communities such as the Shire of Murchison.

Given the importance of self-drive and long-stay travellers to the regional visitor economy, any reduction in Working Holiday Maker or long-stay tourist visa arrangements has the potential to negatively affect visitor numbers, regional spending, workforce availability and tourism growth opportunities within the Shire of

Murchison. As such, the advocacy being undertaken by Tourism Council WA is relevant to Council's ongoing efforts to support regional tourism development and economic diversification.

Australia's Golden Outback

Council received an update highlighting the growing opportunities within the wellness tourism sector, which is one of the fastest-growing segments of the global visitor economy. Wellness travellers are increasingly seeking destinations that offer space, tranquillity, nature, dark skies, and opportunities to disconnect from everyday pressures, attributes that align strongly with the tourism appeal of the Murchison region.

A presentation by Lisa Spencer of Destination Wellbeing explored how destinations can capitalise on this trend through strategic positioning, experience development, retreat offerings, and wellness-focused visitor programming. The session reinforced the potential for regional and remote destinations to leverage their natural assets and authentic landscapes to attract high-value wellness travellers and diversify local tourism offerings.

I am pleased to advise that I have successfully been appointed to the Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) Board as the representative for the Gascoyne-Murchison region. I am grateful for the support and recommendation received through the nomination process and look forward to representing the interests of our region at a strategic level.

This appointment will provide an opportunity to strengthen collaboration, advocacy and communication across the tourism sector, while ensuring the unique opportunities and challenges of the Gascoyne-Murchison region are represented in regional tourism planning and marketing initiatives. I look forward to working with fellow board members and regional stakeholders to support sustainable tourism growth and positive outcomes for our communities.

Roadhouse Update

- Economic Objective 1

Tourism Development

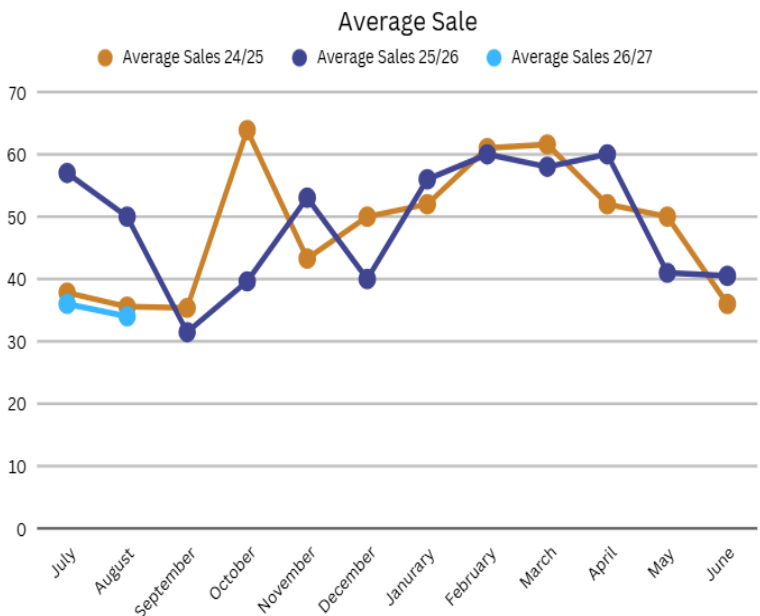
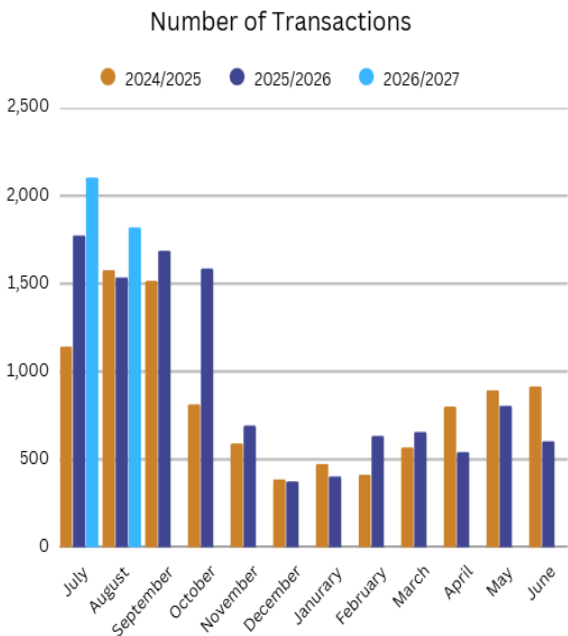
Civic Leadership Objective 4
- To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.

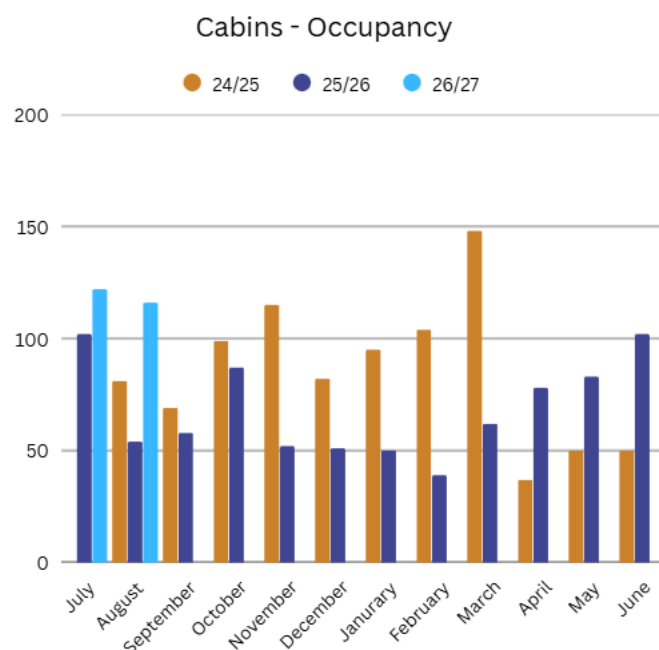
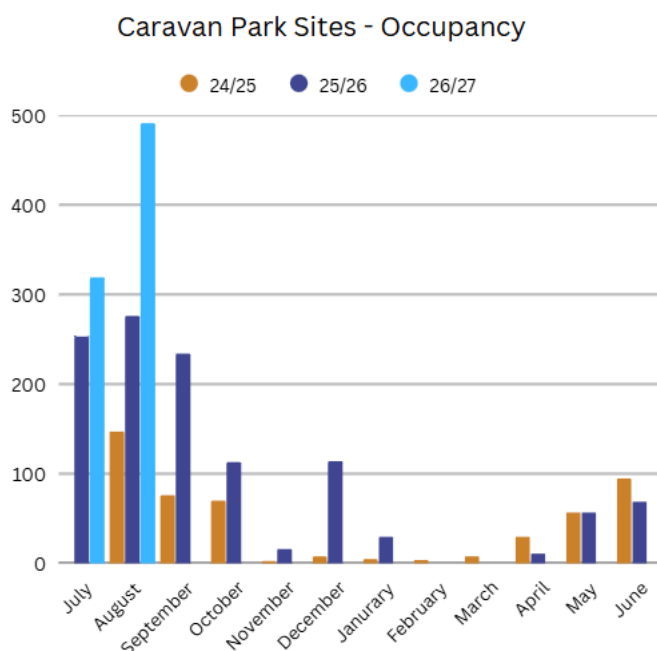
To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Roadhouse Statistics





Operational Summary

Accommodation and tourism activity has commenced strongly for the 2026/27 season, with both caravan park and cabin occupancy recording significant growth compared to the same period last year. Caravan park occupancy increased by approximately 27% in July and almost 80% in August, while cabin occupancy increased by approximately 20% in July and more than doubled in August. These results reflect strong visitor demand and continue the positive trend in tourism visitation experienced across the Shire.

Roadhouse performance has also strengthened, with transactions increasing by approximately 19% in July and 16% in August compared to 2025/26, indicating increased customer activity and visitation. While average transaction values were slightly lower than the previous year, the higher volume of customers has contributed to strong overall trading performance and positive outcomes across both accommodation and Roadhouse operations.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ronnie for her contributions to the development of the Roadhouse and Caravan park business unit and wish her well on her travels. We welcome Pierre and Violene from France as they start their Journey in Australia first stop Murchison.

Positive reviews continue to be posted through wikicamps and google reviews.



Lloyd & Denise
 Reviewed 16 days ago



wow so lovely to get lush grass after red dirt. had a great hamburger at Toadhouse, staff were so lovely.

the only glitch we had was I went to book online but said to call as all powered sites booked. we decided to just wing it & on arrival heaps of sites. so moral is call. we were going to miss this stop which would have been a shame. ...[View less](#)

Helpful - 0

Not helpful



Kamal Alfaro
 2 weeks ago on Google

5/5

Amazing spot great little get away, people are so friendly helpful and fun to be around, we will be returning. Thank you

Rooms 5.0 Service 5.0 Location 5.0





Jenny Marshall
 3 weeks ago on Google

5/5

We have been here a few times now & it continues to improve. Great camping / caravan with grass & handstand. Amenities have all been renovated & there are some new ones... all of a high standard with plenty of lovely hot water ! We had dinner...steak, chops & salad with a side serve of onions & mushrooms... couldn't fault any of it... 

Service 5.0



Deborah Symes
 2 weeks ago on Google

5/5

Holiday | Couple

Murchison is a Shire settlement. The CP facilities are fairly new and kept clean and tidy. The staff in the shop are friendly, and a good variety of local meats and other groceries to top up with. Interesting little museum and a botanical walk opposite.

Location 5.0
Hotel highlights Quiet

Housing Developments

Progress continues on the Shire's housing development program, with plumbing and concreting works now underway. Excavation works for leach drains and septic tanks have been completed, and the plumbing contractor is scheduled to return next week to continue installation works. Concrete footings for the accommodation cabins have been completed, with contractors due to return to commence construction of the associated carport and shed pads.

Delivery of the final house and cabin package remains scheduled for 21 October 2026. Fox Modular/Pique is scheduled to return to site on 12 October 2026 to commence construction of carports and sheds and to complete the fit-out and commissioning of the two buildings recently delivered to site. The project remains on schedule, with significant progress being made towards increasing residential accommodation capacity within the Shire.



Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1

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

Interpretive Centre

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

Tourism Development

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

Environmental Objective 2

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

Social Objective 3

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

Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

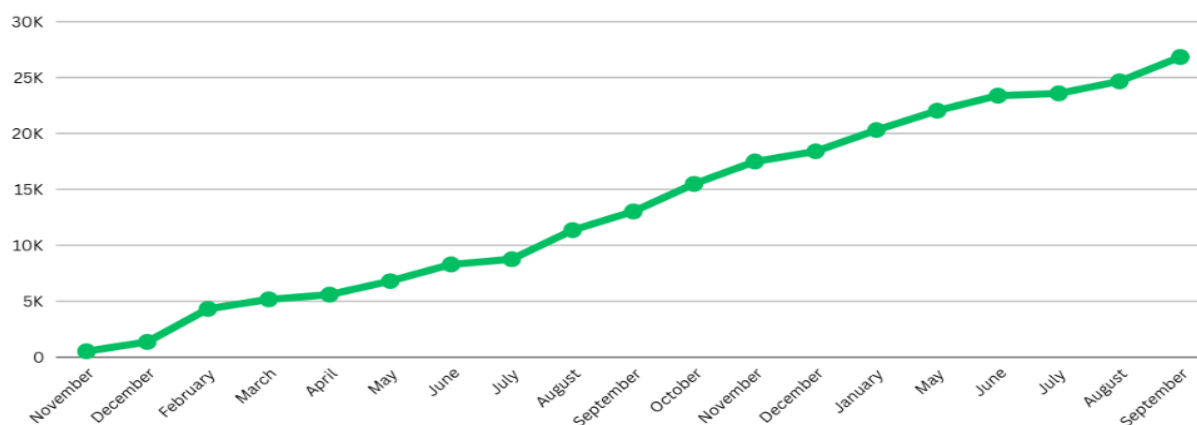
Supporting community groups.

Support for Community Groups

Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Containers recycled to date are 26,829 which is \$2,682.90 donated back to Murchison Community Groups and Projects. Thank you to those who continue to donate their containers back to the Shire.

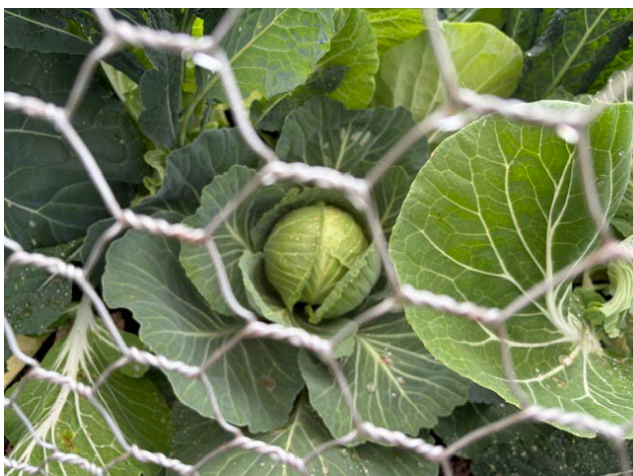
Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



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>

We have bought in the heavy weed removing equipment. While the leafy greens are safely behind some chook wire the chickens have been let loose to till the ground in the community garden. There is an abundance of kale and our late blooming cabbages are ready for picking. Romanesco Broccoli is forming their heads nicely and were crossing our fingers that the white and purple caulis will come about nicely too although a bit late in the season.



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 18th August to 16th September 2026

20 Community Announcements

6 Roads

11 Community Announcements

1 Testing & Tagging

1 Mid West Chamber of Commerce & Industry

1 August Council Report Submission

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

Roadhouse Fuel

At the meeting the Community Manager DCEO provided update advice that over the period due to a power outage the card reader at the roadhouse became inoperable requiring staff to pump all fuel for a period of 4 days until a replacement could be re-installed. This meant fuel could only be dispensed during the opening hours of the roadhouse

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 Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For

6

Against

0

Councillor Comment

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor congratulated the Community Manager DCEO on her appointment to the Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) Board as the representative for the Gascoyne-Murchison region noting that this would provide valued input for the region.

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO REPORT

20.1 CEO Update Report

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 20 September 2026

Attachments: Nil

CEO Activity Report

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

From 16 September to 19 September I, along with Works Manager Will Herold thank Council for being able to attend the 2026 WALGA Convention held at the Convention Centre Perth under the theme *Tomorrows World*. A report comprising a brief snapshot notes and comments has been separately circulated.

Date	Activity
26.08.2026	Catch up with Community Manager DCEO and Works Manager. Councillor Workshop Agenda Work. House of Reps Standing Committee Local Government Inquiry Supplementary Submission.
27.08.2026	House of Reps Standing Committee Local Government Inquiry Supplementary Submission. Council Workshop Meeting & Minutes
28.08.2026	Travel to Northam and attend House of Reps Standing Committee Local Government Inquiry. Travel to Fremantle
29.08.2026	Travel Fremantle to Geraldton. Attend Funeral and home to Murchison
30.08.2026	Council Minutes
31.08.2026 to 1.09.2026	Council Meeting follow up actions. General Administration
2.09.2026	Catch up with Phil Swain (EHO). Meetings with Community Manager DCEO and Phil Swain (EHO). Council Meeting follow up actions. General Administration
3.09.2026	Catch up with Phil Swain (EHO) Fuel Review Work. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO. General Administration
4.09.2026 to 6.09.2026	General Administration
7.09.2026	General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO & Works Manager. Tourism Industry Meeting - Backpackers & Tourist Visas via Teams. Payroll Work
8.09.2026	General Administration. Recruitment & Roadhouse Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager DCEO. Pastoral Community Scoping Briefing. Meeting with Brooke Groth LGIS
9.09.2026	General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO. RDA Community Enterprise Project Discussion Meeting via Teams. Grants Commission Gravel Roads Traffic Work
10.09.2026	General Administration. WALGA Road Assets and Expenditure Report Modernisation Project Webinar via Teams. Travel to Fremantle
11.09.2026	General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO. RDA Community Enterprise Project Discussion Meeting via Teams. Grants Commission Gravel Roads Traffic Work
12.09.2026	Audit queries follow up
14.09.2026	PIA School Council Meeting via Teams. General Administration. Roads to Recovery Acquittal Work. Audit Queries TOIL. Phone catch up with Shire President
15.09.2026	Roads for Recovery Work. General Administration. TOIL
16.09.2026	Travel and attend WALGA 2026 Convention. Catch up with Peter Jones (Athena Resources). Follow up report work
17.09.2026	Travel and attend WALGA 2026 Convention
18.09.2026	MRWA Work. Travel and attend WALGA 2026 Convention. Agenda and Workshop Work
20.09.2026	Agenda and Workshop Work
21.09.2026	Travel back to Murchison. TOIL

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council note the CEO's Update Report.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

Councillor Comment

Cr Q Fowler expressed his appreciation the Shire staff for the printing programs for the Landor Race Meeting.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.51pm.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 22 October 2026

Signed.....

Presiding Officer