



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 **22 October 2026**, commencing at 12:30pm

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

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

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 24 September 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 24 September 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

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

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 November 2026 commencing at 12:30pm

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File:	12.42
Author:	William Herold - Works Manager Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 October 2026
Attachments	16.1.1 Road Access Hancock Energy Seismic Activity Road Agreement 16.1.2 SRFLGA 2027-28 Local Roads Program Funding Allocations Advice

Construction

The construction crew have spent the last month doing final preparation work for the sealing project. On October 15 sealing commenced and has tied the crew up assisting the sealing team and marking center lines, operating the water cart, moving traffic signs and putting in detours among other jobs that always crop up during sealing. My thanks to the crew for being prepared to work through their RDO's to expedite these works. It will indeed be a busy few weeks.

Sealing

Roadmac won the quote and arrived more or less on time. We have had a few teething issues but things have improved as the job has progressed. I will provide a more complete report at the November meeting when the work is completed.

Maintenance

This continues to be a little challenging at the moment. Finding the second maintenance grader operator and then retaining him has had its difficulties. My thanks to Jamie Hodder for his perseverance and willingness to just get on with the job. The Beringarra-Byro Rd. has been completed as has the Mt Gould Rd. and the pavement only on the Byro-Woodleigh Rd. By the time Council meets he should just have started at the north boundary of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. to do the post Landor grade which will include batters and drains. Trevor Barndon will assist Jamie as and when time allows and until a suitable operator is found.

New Powerhouse

Unfortunately, gremlins are still popping up in the system. Hosken Electrical continue to rectify issues as they occur.

Disposal of Old Plant and Equipment

I am waiting on the representative from Smith Broughton to come up and inspect the John Deere grader and Bomag Multi-Tire Roller as well as various other loose items. I feel it would be prudent to hold on to the old Cummins Generators until such time as the new system is running reliably

Road Access Hancock Energy Seismic Activity

Meeting has been undertaken with Hancock Energy who are looking to undertake seismic exploration activities on Butchers Track and Coolcalalaya between November 2026 and March 2027. The likely impacts expected on each road is expected to be very low. The company requires a road user agreement, as attached which includes matters that we discussed including

- ~ a joint pre-works road condition assessment and provision of a Road Condition Report;
- ~ ongoing consultation regarding road maintenance requirements during the road user agreement period;
- ~ joint road inspections where required; and
- ~ remediation of any project-related road impacts so that road conditions are returned to a standard no worse than the agreed baseline condition.

Hancock Energy have requested that the road user agreement be signed and sealed with such action included in the recommendation.

MRWA Accredited Mass Management Scheme Network Sustainability Proposal **

Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS) recently amended the wording of the Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) CA07 access condition. The revised condition removed the requirement for a Transport Operator to obtain a letter of support from the relevant Road Manager and instead requires them to provide an email notification outlining their intended transport task.

HVS implemented this change after identifying legal implications associated with the previous wording, which related to directly linking road maintenance fees to RAV access approvals and providing the ability for third parties to effectively switch Main Roads RAV access approvals on and off. However, it was done without any consultation with the sector and has caused significant grief for some local governments.

Since this change was made, HVS has been working with WALGA and a reference group of Local Government representatives to develop a solution that will enable Road Managers to recover road maintenance costs associated with RAV access, while ensuring there are no legal implications for Main Roads. The proposed solution introduces new Accredited Mass Management Scheme (AMMS) Network Sustainability provisions, including the requirement for Transport Operators to obtain a Road Maintenance Agreement (RMA) Confirmation Letter from relevant Road Managers.

This change is certainly welcome and hopefully following completion of the consultation stage will become operational but it should not have been necessary if a collegiate pre-emptive approach had been taken.

Local Roads Program Allocations **

2027-28

The State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee advised that the State Government has reviewed and determined under the State Roads to Local Government Agreement (SRFLGA) that the level of Local Government Funding for the remaining two years of the funding agreement (2026-27 and 2027-28) will be capped at 2025-26 levels. Copy of advice attached. Reasons cited include a misalignment grant expenditure estimates and project schedules leading to an historic under expenditure.

As such the 2027-28 Local Road Program Allocations by MRWA have yet to be fully finalised. As previously advised, we have 5 road reconstruction and widening projects on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, each with \$360k funding in for consideration. Prior to this advice it seemed that all would be funded for 2027/28 so the actual situation may change.

A number of questions have been raised by CEO's which will no doubt be raised at the Murchison Regional Road Group and Sub Group Meetings including that rationale for how the reduction in the previously foreshadowed indicative funding of \$34.22m will be managed.

Whilst the cited yearly under expenditure by Local Government appears on the surface to be not a good look in reality this seems a narrow focused approach by the State. In contrast compare this with the Commonwealth Government, who successfully run 5 year Roads to Recovery Programs in a flexible manner with significant success. It also ignores operational constraints that apply to Local Government and does not look at more streamlined funding models with perhaps an increase in minimum road grants.

2026-27

MRWA have advised that they wish to ensure that the region uses our allocated budget for 2026-27 and asked for submission for projects to be completed within this financial year as there is a current surplus of \$412,927

In light of the advice as to the potential uncertainty associated with funding in 2027-28, we have submitted a reduced section of our lowest priority project that we have submitted for an amount of \$300,000. Should we be successful with this surplus funds project, we will obviously have to amend the 2027-28 Priority 5 project if it is to be funded once the 2027-28 project allocations are known.

Flood Damage AGRN 1280 TC Narrelle **

As previously advised, notwithstanding that DRWFA approval for this event has yet to be issued we have proceeded with obtaining WALGA Panel via E Quotes for Plant & Labour Hire for AGRN1280 & Other Works. RFG closes 22 October 2026. Once evaluation has been undertaken update advice will be provided.

Fuel & Oil Supply **

An RFQ has been issued for the Supply of Fuel and Oils for a two year period with option for an extension. As per standard practice provisions to supply stations within the Shire has been made. Quotations close on 19 November 2026.

Recommendation

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 That the Works Report be noted
- 2 That Council sign and seal the Road User Agreement between Hancock Energy and the Shire of Murchison as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 October 2026
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for September 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 September 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 17.1.1

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

17.2 2025-2026 Annual Financial Report Update

File:

Author: Travis Bate – RSM

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 15 October 2026

Attachments: 17.2.1 DLGIRS – Approval of Extension to submit Annual Financial Report

Matter for Consideration

To update Council in relation to two matters associated with the 2026 Annual Financial Report.

Update

There are two matters to bring to Council's attention in relation to the Shire's 2026 Annual Financial Report.

Submission of Annual Financial Report for Audit

Under section 6.4(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 requires a local government to submit its annual financial report to the auditors by 30 September of the following year.

In preparing the 2026 Annual Financial Report, it was identified that the report would not be completed by 30 September 2026. This was impacted by the unexpected resignation of a key staff member of RSM, delaying the finalisation.

An extension to 2 October 2026 to submit the Annual Financial Report to the Auditors was requested from the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety. This request was approved as per Attachment 17.2.1. Whilst this situation has previously occurred in the past, it has not been necessary in the previous two financial years.

The 2026 Annual Financial Report was submitted to the Auditors on 1 October 2026. The revised submission date is not expected to impact on the timing of the 2026 audit, which commenced on 12 October as originally planned. The extension request was discussed with the auditors prior to being submitted.

Flood Damage Contract Asset Adjustment

In the process of RSM preparing the Shire's 2026 Own Source Expenditure Calculation for Roads to Recovery, it was noted that Flood Damage Income exceeded Flood Damage Expenditure by \$1.4M. As flood damage is a reimbursement of costs incurred, it was noted that the excess of Flood Damage Income over Expenditure did not appear correct. This prompted further investigation by RSM as to the cause of the variance.

This investigation found that an error had occurred in the monthly accounting for Flood Damage Contract Assets and Liabilities, whereby effectively, the ARWC component was being double counted into revenue.

Upon discovering this error, RSM notified the Shire CEO and the Shire's Auditors. An adjustment to correct flood damage contract asset balances has been proposed by RSM at 30 June 2026. The effect of the proposed adjustment is to reduce Flood Damage Contract Assets and associated revenue by \$1.389M at 30 June 2026.

The following actions have been considered to ensure future errors of this nature do not occur:

1. Monthly Accounting Process for Contract Assets and Liabilities

The monthly process of accounting for Contract Assets and Liabilities, whilst complying with Australian Accounting Standards, impacts on the clarity of the underlying accounting data. This makes it more difficult to identify errors, as flood damage cash receipts cannot easily be compared against expenditure, without analysis of the underlying ledgers being undertaken. In particular, this impacts non accounting staff review.

Accounting for contract assets and liabilities in monthly financial reports commenced from March 2025, following an audit management letter recommendation from the 2024 audit in relation to revenue recognition (moderate risk rating).

Annual Financial Reports have always been prepared in full compliance with AASB 1058 and AASB 15.

Management is currently considering the cost v benefit of preparing such monthly accounting adjustments. Processing such adjustments less frequently (say annually, bi-annually) would reduce the risk of errors arising.

2. Revision of Contract Assets and Liabilities Template

The template used to account for Flood Damage Contract Assets and Liabilities has been updated to remove the formula error.

Background

Flood Damage

Flood damage works on Shire Roads are funded by DRWFA via the WANDRRA Program. The Shire has four active events which have been spread over a number of years for which expenditure was incurred in the 2026 financial year:

Event	Years of Repair Work
AGRN 1021	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
AGRN 1062	2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
AGRN 1175	2025, 2026
AGRN 1280	2026

Upon approval of an event, an advance payment (Asset Repair Working Capital – ARWC) of 30% of approved expenditure was received by the Shire for AGRN 1021 and AGRN 1062. The purpose of the ARWC is to provide cashflow for the Shire whilst flood damage works are undertaken.

The balance of flood damage expenditure is reimbursed in arrears and there can be a significant lag in the timing of reimbursement after the contractor performing the works has been paid. The value of claims reimbursed is progressively reduced over the course of flood damage repairs to offset the ARWC advance payment.

In accounting for flood damage repairs, adjustments are made on a monthly basis for:

- 1 Reduction in the ARWC (Contract Liability) for the value of amounts withheld from reimbursement
- 2 Accounting for a Contract Asset for the costs incurred that have not been reimbursed by DRFWA at the end of the month

These adjustments are made to comply with the accounting requirements of Australian Accounting Standard AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Financial Implications

Financial Report Submission

There are no financial implications from this matter.

Flood Damage

The proposed adjustment to Flood Damage Contract Assets at 30 June 2026 will result in the opening surplus for the 2027 financial year being reduced by \$1.389M. The 2027 budget will need to be reviewed to account for the reduced opening surplus. This may involve a proposal to borrow funds for proposed works, as was provisionally identified in the Draft Budget Meeting or delay in timing of works.

It should be noted that this was not a deficiency in the 2027 budget process, but rather a previously undetected accounting error affecting the opening surplus position.

Consultation

RSM Australia

Bill Boehm – CEO Shire of Murchison

Recommendation

That the 2025-2026 Annual Financial Report Update Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 30 September 2026

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

- 1 Contract Assets and Liabilities have not been adjusted at 30 September 2026. The \$1.389M decrease to flood damage contract assets as noted in agenda item 17.2.1 will be posted upon completion of the 30 June 2026 audit which is currently in progress.
- 2 Rates were raised in Sep 26 in line with the budgeted value of \$1.050M
- 3 Cash balances at 30 Sep 26 \$9.001M
 - a Unrestricted \$2.920M
 - b Restricted Reserves \$6.080M. Details are outlined in Note 7
- 4 Material Variances are outlined in Note 2 and are mostly timing differences.
- 5 Year to date capital expenditure \$3.223M details are outlined in Note 9

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Manager DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 14 October 2026

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report October 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.

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 2027 Murchison Camp Oven Muster is well underway, with 56 Beans Co, Geoff Udy and Amberly MaryEllen confirmed to deliver food and entertainment, and North West Entertainment Services engaged to provide sound and lighting for the event.

An invitation has been circulated to previous facilitators seeking quotes and activity proposals for next year's program, with the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism providing a central theme for event development. Planning will continue to build on Murchison's unique strengths, including its pastoral heritage, local produce, strong sense of community and growing appeal as a regional tourism destination. The next Murchison Camp Oven Muster (MCOM) Working Group meeting is scheduled for mid-November to further progress event planning, programming and coordination.

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

October's theme for the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** celebrates the vital contribution of pastoralist women to the sustainability, resilience and future of rangeland communities. Across Australia and the world, women play a central role in pastoral enterprises, contributing not only to livestock production and land management but also to business operations, community leadership, family wellbeing and the preservation of local knowledge. Their skills, adaptability and commitment help strengthen both the social and economic fabric of pastoral regions.

In the Murchison, pastoralist women have long been at the heart of station life, balancing diverse responsibilities while driving innovation, supporting community connections and helping to shape the future of the rangelands. This month's theme is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate their leadership, resilience and the invaluable role they play in sustaining pastoral communities for generations to come.

Murchison Community Arts Project

The Murchison Community Arts Project has been developed in response to community feedback and aligns with both the Murchison Camp Oven Muster and the 2027 International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism. The project will bring together residents from pastoral stations across the Shire in a collaborative creative process, transforming locally sourced scrap metal into a series of sculptures that celebrate the connection between pastoralism, sustainability, and tourism in the Murchison region.

The completed works will form part of an illuminated public art installation designed to create a distinctive visitor experience, strengthen regional storytelling, and foster local pride. Following an evaluation of three submissions, the MCOM Working Group selected Anton Blume and Oscar McCosker to deliver the project. Both artists bring extensive experience in community-led public art, working alongside communities to create meaningful and enduring installations, with existing works located throughout Carnarvon and the Upper Gascoyne.

The project reflects the themes of sustainable and resilient tourism by showcasing the resourcefulness, creativity and heritage of the Murchison community. By repurposing locally sourced materials into public artwork, the installation will celebrate the region's pastoral identity while creating a unique attraction for visitors. To support delivery of the project, one grant application has been submitted and an expression of interest lodged for a further funding opportunity, with additional funding outcomes expected to be considered as planning progresses.

Murchison Museum

I would like to acknowledge and thank Emma Foulkes-Taylor and all volunteers that contributed to the Murchison Museum for the 2026 Tourism season. Our live-in caretakers bring a wonderful atmosphere to the settlement, and we always benefit from the company, the settlement community always learn something new about the past we can then share with tourists in the off peak. From now until the 2027 season staff will support the cleaning and visitation through the off season.

Murchison Pastoral Community Consultation

Development of the Murchison Pastoral Community Policy continues to progress, with several key project milestones now completed. An inception meeting has been undertaken, background data collection finalised, and a stakeholder engagement plan developed to guide consultation activities across the Shire. A Councillor workshop has also been successfully delivered, providing an opportunity to identify key priorities, challenges and opportunities facing the pastoral community, and to shape the direction of the broader consultation process.

Work is now nearing completion on the development of consultation questions informed by the workshop outcomes. These questions will guide engagement with station owners, managers, pastoral workers and other key stakeholders on issues including pastoral operations, road and transport infrastructure, telecommunications, workforce attraction and retention, emergency management, biosecurity, economic diversification, tourism opportunities and broader community development priorities. Consultation activities facilitated by Karin Grima of Lyssna Consulting will commence shortly, with feedback gathered through this process helping to ensure the experiences, needs and aspirations of the Murchison pastoral community are reflected in future Council planning and strategic decision-making.

CDO Network

The Shire was pleased to support the Spirit of Meekatharra celebrations, with Adam, Erin, Rachel and Bec attending a range of events across the weekend as part of the CDN network partnership and regional collaboration activities.

The program commenced with a memorable Long Table Dinner at Peace Gorge on Friday evening, followed by a community Carnival at the Town Oval on Saturday and culminating in the Muster Ball on Sunday night. These events showcased the vibrancy of the Meekatharra community and provided valuable opportunities to connect with residents, visitors and regional stakeholders.

Council would like to congratulate Peema, Elenora, Deeki and the entire Shire of Meekatharra team on delivering a fantastic series of events and experiences for their local community. The professionalism, organisation and community spirit demonstrated throughout the weekend were a credit to all involved and highlight the important role regional events play in strengthening community connections, celebrating local identity and supporting regional tourism. Our visit also included their golf course and experiencing the golf simulator as part of the Muster Ball Event. The settlement residents are eager to resurrect the previously planned and proposed golf course and get a simulator in place to provide opportunities for tourism, social opportunities and mental health.





Vet Program Visit

The Shire's Ranger, Peter Smith, recently facilitated the final government-funded visit by the Murdoch University Veterinary Program, continuing an initiative that has delivered significant benefits to both veterinary students and the local community.

The program provides veterinary students with valuable hands-on experience in a remote and regional setting while delivering animal health and veterinary services that are not routinely available within the Murchison. The visits have assisted local residents with access to veterinary advice, treatment and animal welfare support, while also exposing future veterinary professionals to the unique opportunities and challenges associated with working in remote Western Australia.

Council would like to acknowledge Peter's ongoing support in coordinating these visits and thank the veterinary students and program coordinators for their contribution to the Murchison community. The program has been well received locally and has provided a valuable service while supporting practical training and workforce development within the veterinary sector.

With the conclusion of the government-funded component of the program, the Shire looks forward to further discussions with Murdoch University and participating local governments regarding the future delivery of the service through the proposed collaborative shire funding model. Council remains supportive of initiatives that improve access to veterinary services in remote communities and is keen to explore opportunities to ensure the program can continue to deliver benefits to both students and regional residents into the future.



Upper Gascoyne Small Business Workshop, Community Dinner and Quiz Night

Sydney recently attended the Upper Gascoyne Small Business Workshop, Community Dinner and Quiz Night, gaining valuable insights and networking opportunities relevant to Roadhouse operations and broader business sustainability initiatives.

Attending from a Roadhouse perspective, Sydney participated in the Small Business Workshop on Friday, which focused on practical strategies to help regional businesses operate more efficiently and sustainably. Topics included pricing structures and profitability, the effective use of artificial intelligence tools in small business, productivity improvements, and maintaining healthy work habits to support long-term business success.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to explore ideas and approaches that may assist in improving operational performance and financial sustainability at the Roadhouse. The event was followed by a community dinner and an Australian-themed quiz night delivered by the Bogan Bingo team, providing a relaxed and engaging environment for networking with regional business operators and community members from across the Upper Gascoyne. The weekend highlighted the value of regional collaboration, knowledge sharing and community connection in supporting resilient and sustainable regional businesses.

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 December 12th

Tourism Partner News

Tourism Council of WA

The Shire has been advised that Tourism Council WA is continuing to advocate strongly against the Federal Government's proposed changes to regional Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visas, which may reduce the availability of backpacker labour in regional Australia. Evan Hall, CEO of Tourism Council WA, met with Tony Burke, Minister for Home Affairs, in Canberra and has also engaged with representatives from the Nationals, Liberals, Greens and One Nation to build bipartisan support for retaining regional WHM arrangements.

The Federal Coalition has announced a migration policy opposing the proposed cap and ballot system for regional backpackers and has indicated support for exempting regional Working Holiday Makers from visa application fees. Regulations to implement the proposed visa changes may be introduced to the Senate in the coming weeks. Given the significant role Working Holiday Makers play in supporting regional workforces, including tourism, hospitality, agriculture and pastoral industries, the proposed changes may have implications for labour availability across regional communities such as the Murchison. Stakeholders are being encouraged to support advocacy efforts aimed at maintaining access to regional Working Holiday Maker visa arrangements.

Australia's Golden Outback

The Shire continues to engage with Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) and leverage opportunities to promote the Murchison region through the organisation's tourism and destination marketing networks.

The next AGO Member Meet-Up is scheduled for 15 October 2026 and will provide an opportunity to meet newly appointed Marketing Coordinator, Sally Stabler, receive regional tourism updates, and discuss upcoming marketing and promotional opportunities. The Shire intends to utilise this forum to showcase several key initiatives currently underway, including the delivery of the new accommodation cabins, caravan park upgrades, and the proposed Murchison Community Arts Project.

Council will also be present at the upcoming Australia's Golden Outback Annual General Meeting on 27 October 2026. These engagement opportunities will enable the Shire to continue raising the profile of the Murchison as a unique outback destination and highlight projects that align with the 2027 International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism. Through these initiatives, the Shire is promoting experiences that celebrate local heritage, sustainability, community participation and regional storytelling, while creating new opportunities to attract visitors and support economic development.

Dark Sky Accreditation

The Shire is exploring opportunities to protect and promote the Murchison's exceptional night skies through the potential pursuit of International Dark Sky Place certification. Preliminary work is underway to assess the

region's suitability for accreditation and to incorporate dark-sky-friendly principles into future infrastructure projects, including planned streetlight and caravan park lighting upgrades.

Proposed lighting specifications include the use of fully shielded fittings, a maximum colour temperature of 3000K, and measures to minimise light spill and skyglow. These initiatives aim to preserve the natural night environment, reduce light pollution, and support the growing potential for astrophotography, astronomy, and nature-based tourism experiences within the Shire. Pursuing Dark Sky accreditation would further strengthen the Murchison's reputation as a unique outback destination, complementing broader tourism development initiatives and aligning with the Shire's commitment to sustainable and resilient tourism.

Roadhouse Caravan Park Update

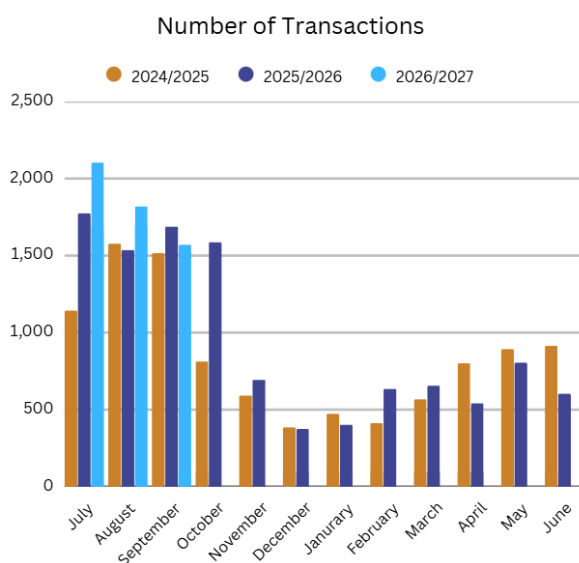
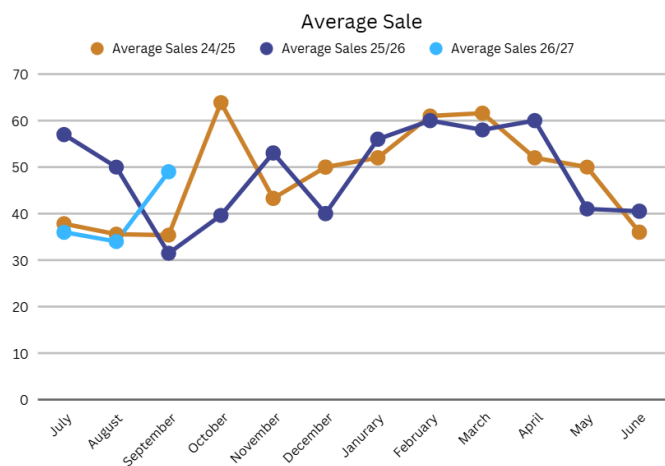
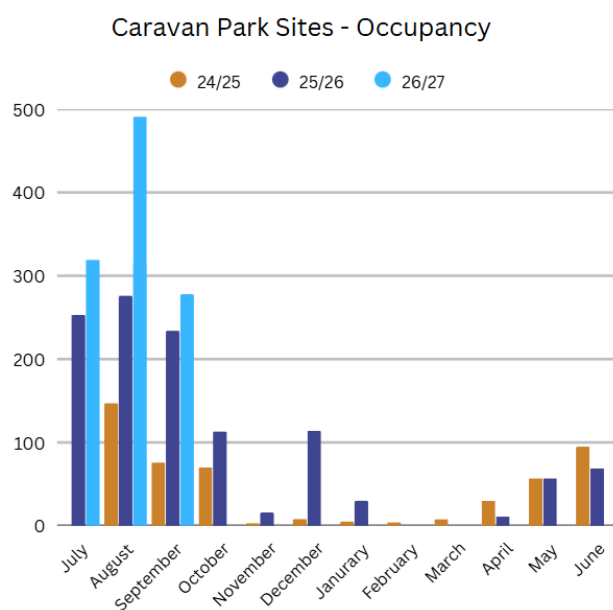
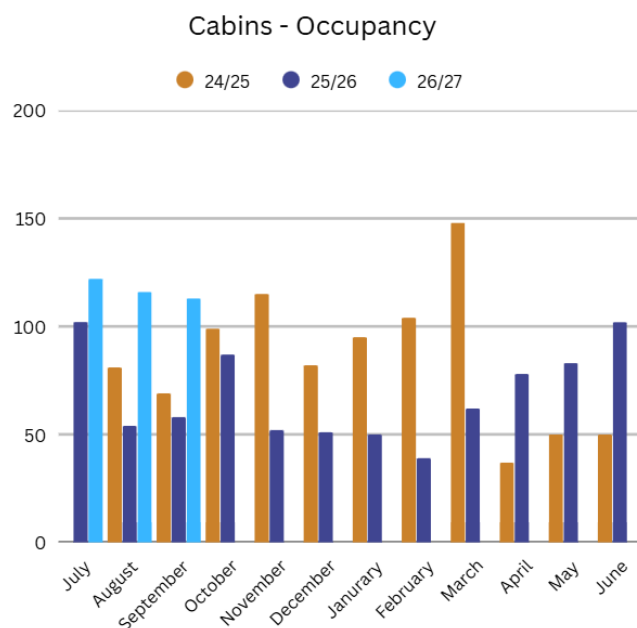
Economic Objective 1 *To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.*

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;

Statistics



Operations

The Roadhouse team has continued to focus on service delivery, operational improvements and long-term business sustainability. Council extends its sincere appreciation to Darren for his contribution and commitment to Roadhouse operations and wishes him every success in his future endeavours. The team is also pleased to welcome Mel back from leave, with her return providing valuable support and continuity across the business. A big thank you goes to Administration staff member Sydney for providing support over the past month to keep operations on track.

Work has commenced to identify opportunities to strengthen the long-term sustainability and profitability of the Roadhouse. Initial discussions have focused on menu rationalisation, pricing frameworks, product mix, operational efficiencies and customer experience. The objective is to develop a more streamlined and commercially sustainable operating model while maintaining the quality service expected by residents, travellers and visitors.

Trading performance remains positive, with both transaction volumes and average sale values performing strongly during the first quarter of 2026/27.

The Caravan Park and Cabins continue to experience strong demand following recent accommodation and infrastructure upgrades. Caravan park site occupancy remained well above previous years, with September recording approximately 275 occupied site nights, compared to around 235 in September 2025/26 and 75 in September 2024/25. It is noted that the strong September performance was significantly supported by visitors travelling through the region to attend the Landor Races, which continues to be an important driver of seasonal visitation across the Mid-West and Gascoyne regions.

Cabin occupancy has also remained strong, recording approximately 112 occupied room nights in September 2026, compared to around 58 during September 2025/26 and 68 in September 2024/25. Occupancy in July and August exceeded 115 room nights per month, demonstrating sustained demand for quality accommodation and highlighting the success of Council's investment in visitor infrastructure.

Overall, the positive occupancy and trading results provide encouraging evidence that recent investments in tourism infrastructure and visitor services are delivering tangible benefits. Focus will continue on enhancing operational efficiency, refining pricing strategies, improving yield management and maximising opportunities associated with growing visitation to the Murchison.

The Roadhouse liquor licence application has now been submitted to the Department for assessment and approval. Securing a liquor licence represents an important step in expanding the Roadhouse's service offering, improving the visitor experience and supporting future business development opportunities.

As part of ongoing operational improvements, Compac will be providing a replacement fuel system computer, with the existing unit approaching end-of-life and being phased out. The new hardware has been procured and is expected to be installed before the end of the calendar year. This upgrade is anticipated to improve the reliability of fuel operations and address a number of operational challenges associated with the ageing system, including hardware failures and service disruptions.

Capital Developments

Planning is also underway for the installation of an additional fuel bowser. However, this component of the project is expected to take longer to deliver, as the registered installer is not currently available and works are unlikely to proceed until later in 2027. Once completed, these upgrades will strengthen the Roadhouse's fuel infrastructure and help ensure the continued provision of reliable fuel services to residents, industry operators and travellers visiting the region.

Development of the tender specification for the Roadhouse Development Kitchen is currently underway. To ensure the facility is fit for purpose and able to support future operational needs, advice has been sought from commercial kitchen specialists regarding kitchen layout, workflow, storage requirements, and the design and construction of walk-in cool room and freezer facilities.

This consultation process is helping to inform the final specification and ensure the proposed kitchen incorporates efficient functionality, adequate storage capacity, and contemporary food preparation and

handling standards. Once completed, the tender documentation will provide a clear framework for the delivery of a commercial-grade facility capable of supporting expanded food service operations at the Roadhouse.

Reviews

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



Pam69
Reviewed 23 days ago

★★★★★

Welcoming and comfortable. The staff are lovely and very helpful. Lush green grass. Power and water (not potable) available. Prices in the store are extremely reasonable, cheaper than some major towns we have been to. There is construction in the process, but that's a good thing, showing expansion plans carefully thought through. Given time, there will be heaps of shade. Highly recommend ...[View less](#)

Helpful - 0

Not helpful



Jez1004
Reviewed a month ago

★★★★☆

nice little park.
lots of construction still going on
nice to have green grass



Jeff
a day ago on Google

4/5

Holiday | Couple
Just stopped in for fuel and a drink friendly staff



mick walker
2 days ago on Google

5/5

Great staff & great food
Service 5.0 Location 5.0



Robbie
2 weeks ago on Google

5/5

Service 5.0



sonya
2 weeks ago on Google

5/5

Holiday
We just stayed here for one night because of the flies - they were a bit much. However we had a really nice stay here, there is a swimming pool which was very welcoming, toilets and showers were really good and very clean. Staff were lovely. The museum here was a little treat - really enjoyed that.
Service 5.0 Location 5.0



Deborah Symes
a month 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

The Shire's housing development project remains on track, with final delivery anticipated by 21 October 2026. The Pique construction team is currently on site completing the installation of carports and sheds, as well as finalising works on the two transportable houses that have arrived since their previous visit.

The Settlement is expected to be a hive of activity throughout the remainder of the month, with concreting and plumbing works scheduled for completion and preparations underway for final service connections. The Shire is hopeful that Hosken Electrical will also be able to complete the installation of underground power cables and final electrical connections, enabling the houses to become fully operational and ready for occupation.

To support a smooth transition for incoming staff, furniture, appliances and other housing requirements have been ordered and are progressively being coordinated for delivery. Once completed, the development will provide much-needed staff accommodation, improving the Shire's ability to attract and retain employees while supporting the long-term sustainability of local service delivery.

Looking ahead, earthworks and fencing works are scheduled to be completed before the end of the calendar year, delivering the final supporting infrastructure for the development. Landscaping works will commence once the summer heat subsides, providing more suitable conditions for plant establishment and ensuring the long-term success of the landscaping program. These final stages will enhance the overall presentation and liveability of the precinct, creating an attractive and functional residential environment for staff and their families.



Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1

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

Interpretive Centre

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

Tourism Development

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

Environmental Objective 2

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

Social Objective 3

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

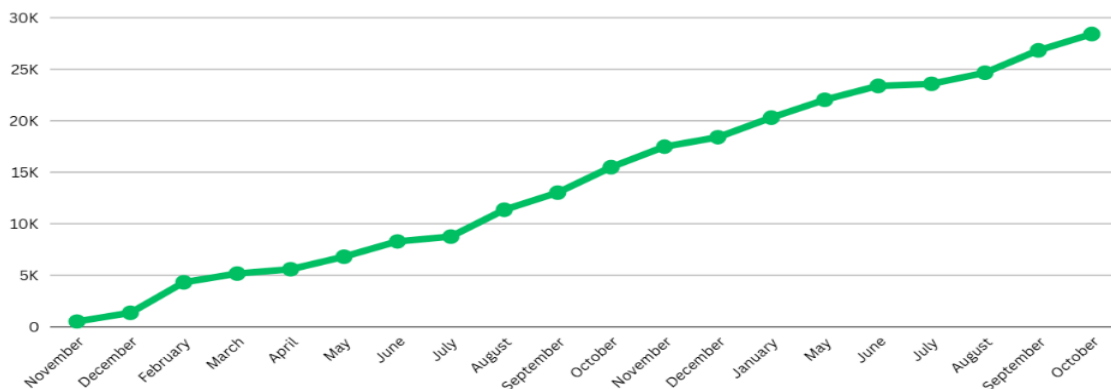
Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

Supporting community groups.

Support for Community Groups

Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



Containers recycled to date are 28,416 which is \$2,841.30 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 Parks and Gardens crew has been working hard to prepare the Community Garden and orchard for the warmer months ahead. Significant effort has been invested in suppressing weeds, retaining soil moisture and improving growing conditions, with cardboard and heavy layers of mulch applied around all orchard trees. These measures will help protect the soil from the summer heat, reduce evaporation and provide a healthier growing environment to support strong growth and fruit production throughout the season.

Summer vegetables including okra, corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and chillies have now been planted and are becoming established, while the Brussels sprouts continue to progress exceptionally well. With favourable growing conditions and ongoing care, the garden is expected to produce a bumper crop in the coming months.

A special thank you goes to Adam, Beau and Rachel for their assistance with the recent works and ongoing support of the Community Garden. Their efforts have made a significant contribution to the success of the project and helped ensure the garden remains a productive and welcoming community asset. Through the dedication of staff and volunteers, the Community Garden continues to promote local food production, sustainability and opportunities for residents to connect through shared gardening activities.



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).

MySuburb App

The Shire has been exploring opportunities to create stronger and more connected communication networks for all residents across the Murchison. As part of this work, staff have been investigating the MySuburb App as a potential platform to improve community engagement, information sharing and community connectivity.

The platform would provide a central location for residents to access Council updates, community notices, local events, emergency information, volunteer opportunities and business promotions. It would also allow pastoral stations, community groups, local organisations and businesses to share information and promote activities, creating stronger connections across the geographically dispersed Murchison community.

A significant benefit of this approach is that it offers a dedicated community communication platform without requiring residents to participate in traditional social media channels or be "friends" with particular individuals or groups to stay informed. Community members can access information relevant to them while maintaining greater privacy and avoiding many of the distractions associated with social media. Given the geographic spread of the Shire, a platform such as MySuburb has the potential to improve communication, increase awareness of local opportunities and services, strengthen community participation, and provide a more inclusive and reliable way for residents to stay informed and connected with community life. Further investigation is underway to assess the suitability, costs and benefits of the platform and determine whether it would provide value to the broader Murchison community.

Email Communications 17th September to 13th October 2026

15 Community Announcements

1 Roads

8 Community Announcements

3 Settlement Announcements

2 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.

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****Seconded: Cr****Carried/Lost****For****Against**

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Terms of Reference

File:	4.17
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 October 2026
Attachments:	19.1.1 Murchison Shire Audit Risk Committee - Terms of Ref Draft 22.10.26

Matter for Consideration

Update Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, now Audit Risk & Improvement Committee, in light of recent legislative changes.

Update

Recent legislative reform has altered the role and functions of the Council's Audit Committee with this Committee now known as the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee which has slightly expanded operations. Membership is effective from 1 July 2026.

One of the requirements is for the Council to appoint one (1) Independent Presiding Member and one (1) Independent Deputy Presiding Member to the Independent Presiding Member who will act in the Independent Presiding Members absence.

However on 17.09.26 the Department of Local Government Industry Regulation & Safety advised that regulatory reforms to be introduced would remove the need to appoint an independent deputy member to the independent presiding member of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

The attached Terms of Reference has been developed to be fit for purpose for our small operation which ordinarily meets two times per year plus other specific occasions such as the CEO's reviews into financial management and risk management which have already been recently addressed but also recognising these foreshadowed legislative changes.

Current members already appointed by Council shall continue as members with the addition of the Independent Presiding Member.

Legislative

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996

16. Functions of audit, risk and improvement committee

An audit, risk and improvement committee has the following functions —

- (a) to receive and review reports on, and recommend to the council actions to be taken in relation to —*
 - (i) audits under Part 7 of the Act; and*
 - (ii) compliance audits; and*
 - (iii) reviews under regulation 17;*
- (b) to otherwise receive and review reports on the appropriateness and effectiveness of, and recommend to the council improvements to, the local government's systems and procedures in relation to —*
 - (i) financial management; and*
 - (ii) legislative compliance; and*
 - (iii) risk management;*
- (c) to receive and review reports on, and recommend to the council improvements to, the implementation of any actions that the local government —*
 - (i) is required to take under section 7.12A(3); and*
 - (ii) has stated it has taken or intends to take in a report prepared under section 7.12A(4)(a); and*

- (iii) *has otherwise decided to take in response to a report or recommendation referred to in paragraph (a) or (b); and has stated it has done or proposes to do in written advice prepared under section 8.6(1)(a) or 8.23(4)(a);and*
- (iv) *any other function conferred on the audit, risk and improvement committee under these regulations or another written law.*

Consultation

Travis Bate (Financial Accountant RSM)

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Terms of Reference as attached

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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 19 September 2026

Attachments: 20.1.1 ALGA Media Releases

General

Attached are three media releases issued by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in relation to following subjects with comments also provided. All of which have relevance to Murchison, and which show a positive response for our sector

- ~ *Time for action as the Government wraps up its inquiry into local government funding and budget needs*

This Inquiry has been positively received by the sector and judging from the submissions and evidenced presented at public hearings and the Inquiry members thoughtful questions, generally a good exercise worth participating in.

- ~ *Disaster recovery funding decision a win for councils and communities*

This would have been disastrous if it had of proceeded. The situation is bad enough as it is.

- ~ *Lift regional productivity? Invest in the councils that deliver in regional Australia.*

Reinforces the need for increase untied funding

As a general comment it seems pretty clear that Local Government, whilst perhaps less politically influential in some people's eyes, compared with the Commonwealth and State, has far greater insight in many aspects in which to growth the nation locally and regionally. As demonstrated having direct influence at an ALGA level is essential with WALGA and other key industry players equally as important. Whilst Murchison might be tiny the level of quality input should not be under estimated and is and can be influential.

CEO Activity Report

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

Date	Activity
22.09.2026	Catch up with Community Manager DCEO. Workshop Work. General Administration. Payroll Work
23.09.2026	General Administration. Roads Work. Audit Work Catch up with Community Manager DCEO and Works Manager. Catch up with Community Manager DCEO & Karing Grima
24.09.2026	Catch up with Henry Foulkes-Taylor. Council Meeting & Workshop. TOIL
25.09.2026	TOIL
28.09.2026	Council Minutes. Audit Review Work. Public Holiday
29.09.2026	Audit Review Work. TOIL
30.09.2026	General Administration. Attend MEG CEO Working Group Priority Projects Meeting via Teams. Rates Work. Catch ups with Works Manager & Community Manager DCEO. Meeting with Works Manager & Squires Resources.
1.10.2026	Catch up with Works Manager. Audit Work. SKA Route Work. General Administration.
2.10.2026	MRWA SKA and other Roads Work. General Administration.
3.10.2026	General Administration.
5.10.2026	General Administration. Fuel RFQ Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager DCEO.
6.10.2026	General Administration. Roads to Recovery Work. Timesheet Work.
7.10.2026	Catch up with Works Manager. General Administration. Audit Work

Date	Activity
8.10.2026	Staff Accommodation Levels with Works Manager. General Administration. Audit Work
9.10.2026	General Administration. Audit Work. Monthly Fuel Work.
10.10.2026	General Administration. Audit Work. Fuel RFQ Work
12.10.2026	Audit Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager DCEO. HR Management. Attend Vet Program Dinner
13.10.2026	Catch up with Community Manager DCEO and Karen Morrissey GeoRegion. Audit Work. General Administration Work
14.10.2026	Audit Work. Roads to Recovery Work. Agency Works. Administration
15.10.2026	Audit Work. Agenda Work. General Administration
16.10.2026	Audit Work. Agenda Work. Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Work. General Administration
17.10.2026 to 18.10.2026	Agenda Work. Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Work. Finance Work
19.10.2026	Agenda Work. 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.