



Western Australia

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the Murchison Shire Council,
To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
On Friday **15 April 2011**, commencing at 10.00 am.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Stand Down Local Law Standing Orders

- 7.1 Use of official titles
- 8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 8.3 Duration of speeches

5. NEXT MEETING

The scheduled date for the next ordinary meeting is 20 May 2011.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

7. NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

8. CONFIRMATION OF FLYING MINUTES

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

9.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 25 March 2011

Background:

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

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 25 March 2011 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

11. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

12.1 PRESIDENT

12.2 COUNCILLORS

13. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

14. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

15.1 WORKS

15.1.1 WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT MARCH/APRIL 2011

Flood damage December/February

Since the last Council meeting on 25 March 2011 the opening up of the flood damaged roads has been completed on 90% of the roads. Since completion of opening up Northcoast Contractors have had a week's break.

Flood damage road reconstruction is underway on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road from the Murchison Settlement to Mt Narryer.

On Monday 11 April 2011 contractors will commence work on Butchers Track and all side roads will be under construction and completed on the way through.

Paul Squires is repairing flood damaged bitumen on the south side of the Settlement.

Glenn Pinnegar has now vacated his premises allowing temporary accommodation for three Northcoast workers, with eight other Contractors located in the big house plus three in the Motel.

The equipment being used by the Shire on the flood damage repairs to roads is:

1. 2 x 4 inch water pumps
2. 1 x 5.6 KVA Genset
3. 1 x submersible bore pump
4. 1 x 1 ½ inch Davey's pump
5. 1 x machinery transport float
6. 1 x work supervisor
7. 1 x administration support
8. 1 x ute

Maintenance Crew

Paul Smart has maintenance graded the Yallalong New Forrest Road to allow personal supplies to be transferred to the Stations in need. Paul is now carrying out a full maintenance grade along the Carnarvon Mullewa Road with the help of Paul Squires' grader and his grader operator, Steve Mahoney.

Construction Crew

Construction Crew are still working on the bitumen job starting from SLK 45-55 (Twin Peaks turn off). This is going fairly well and final trim grader operator (Tommy Cross from Northcoast) will give Leading Hand Neil Coombe and the crew support to final trim the road and floodways until Easter.

Breakdowns/Services

Vibe roller	-	Axle bearings
12h grader	-	MU 141 needs a 6,500 hour service and also air conditioner
4WD Canter	-	Air conditioner repairs
12m Series	-	Cracked manifold
Isuzu Ute	-	New Differential

Isuzu Ute

I would like to suggest that the current utility assigned to the Works Supervisor is not suitable for the road conditions in the Murchison Shire.

Since the flood damage it has required repairs to:

1. Tyres
2. Differential
3. Brakes
4. Gear box (clutch, pressure plate, thrust bearing)
5. Air bags

I apologise for the short report, but I am currently dealing with opening up costings and flood damage reports.

16. FINANCE

16.1 Financial Activity Statements March 2011

File:
 Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
 Date: 11 April 2011
 Attachments: Financial Activity Statements for March 2011
 Balance Sheet
 Income Statement Detail
 Income Statement by Nature & Type
 Income Statement Summary

Matter for Consideration

Council to consider adopting the monthly financial statements for March 2011.

Background

Amendments to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 that were gazetted on 20 June 2008 and became effective from 1 July 2008 have resulted in regulations 34 and 35 relating to monthly financial reports and quarterly/triennial financial reports being repealed and substituted with a new regulation 34. The new regulation 34 requires that local government report on a monthly basis and prescribes what is required to be reported with the intention of establishing a minimum standard across the industry.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.4—Specifies that a local government is to prepare such other financial reports as is prescribed.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Regulation 34 states:

(1) A local government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d) for that month in the following detail:

- (a) Annual budget estimates, taking into account any expenditure incurred for an additional purpose under section 6.8(1)(b) or (c);
- (b) Budget estimates to the end of month to which the statement relates;
- (c) Actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates;
- (d) Material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c);
- (e) The net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.

Sub regulations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 prescribe further details of information to be included in the monthly statement of financial activity.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

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

Consultation

UHY Haines Norton

Comment

None

Voting Requirements

Simple majority

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the financial statements for the period ending 31 March 2011, as attached.

Note: The issues raised during the March meeting regarding the figures will be addressed after the CEO and Finance Officer visit UHY Haines Norton next week.

16.2 Accounts Paid during the period

File:

Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 11 April 2011

Attachments: Payment of Accounts Schedule for March 2011

Matter for Consideration:

Authorisation of accounts paid during the month of March 2011.

Background:

Accounts paid are required to be submitted each month.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Reg 13(1)–Requires that where the Chief Executive Officer has delegated power to make payments from the Municipal or Trust funds a list of accounts paid is to be prepared each month.

Strategic Implications:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Financial Implications:

Payment from Council's Municipal Account

Consultation:

None

Comment:

Payments made during the month of March 2011 as per attached schedule.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached schedule of accounts for payment be passed by Council.

17. DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

18. ADMINISTRATION

18.1.40411 COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND – LOCAL GROUPING

File:

Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil.

Date: 6 April 2011

Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

Council is asked to approve a request from the Shire of Meekatharra to join the Shires of Murchison and Upper Gascoyne regional grouping for expenditure of Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) regional component purposes.

Background:

The guidelines for expenditure of the regional component of the annual CLGF dictate that the funds must be expended on a recognised regional project in conjunction with other Local Governments.

Council has previously agreed to form a regional grouping with the Shire of Upper Gascoyne and expend CLGF income on upgrading the Carnarvon-Mullewa road. The following letter explains why the Shire of Meekatharra is requesting approval to join the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne CLGF regional grouping:



Our Ref: ADM 331

12 January 2011

Mr Mike Sully
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Murchison
PO Box 61
MULLEWA WA 6630

Dear Mike

**Royalties for Regions
Country Local Government Fund (CLGF)
Regional Groupings of Local Governments**

The Shire of Meekatharra discussed regional groupings for the CLGF program at its meeting on 17 December 2010, considering future years of the CLGF and how it may best structure and plan for the future of the program.

At that meeting Council resolved:

That Council confirms that its priority for all CLGF funding is to continue extending the seal on Landor Road and to facilitate this aim, Council will write to the Shires of Upper Gascoyne and Murchison requesting that they consider allowing Meekatharra to join them as a partner in their CLGF regional group of Councils for the purpose of all future CLGF group funding allocations. Further, that a copy of this letter be sent to current Murchison CLGF Regional Group members (Cue, Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Yalgoo and Wiluna).

Since the inception of the CLGF program in the 2008/09, the Meekatharra Council resolved to allocate all its direct and available regional CLGF funds towards upgrading the Landor Road to a 7.2 metre sealed standard.

We understand that your Council has joined with the Upper Gascoyne Council for the purpose of regional CLGF funding with similar goals (to upgrade important regional road infrastructure). We consider that our Councils' mutual desire to use Regional CLGF funding to upgrade road infrastructure is a positive and logical reason for our Councils' to form a partnership for the purpose of CLGF funding.

Our three Councils enjoy very similar funding levels under the CLGF program which provides an equitable financial basis for a potential partnership. In the 2008/09 year for example, our relevant funding levels were; Upper Gascoyne \$931,727, Murchison \$912,836 and Meekatharra \$941,218.

We are aware that the Murchison and Upper Gascoyne Shires have also formed a "Regional Collaborative Group". We do not propose to join this Collaborative Group. We simply wish to join with the Murchison and Upper Gascoyne Shires for the purpose of the Regional CLGF program. The Regional Group 2010-11 Guidelines allow this type of alliance for the purpose of the Regional CLGF program.

The 2010-11 Guidelines for Regional Groups of Country Local Governments states; *"Regional Groups may include Regional Collaborative Groups, Regional Transitional Groups, those local governments that have agreed to amalgamate, regional organisations of councils, strategic alliances or any other grouping of local governments that wishes to work together for the purpose of delivering a regionally significant infrastructure project."*

We understand that should we be accepted to join your group, project details and allocations for future years will need to be discussed and agreed upon by the whole group.

We will be grateful if your Council can consider our proposal when time permits. We have also written to the Shire of Upper Gascoyne with this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Roy McClymont
Chief Executive Officer

Comment:

Meekatharra's proposal will complement Murchison and wider regional efforts to promote tourism and economic activity throughout the region and is therefore supported. The proposal is also likely to give additional impetus to the upgrading of transport links generally throughout the Mid West region.

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne agreed to the proposal in March 2011.

Consultation:

Roy McClymont	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Meekatharra
Paul Rawlings	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Upper Gascoyne

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

The Shire of Murchison will retain the right to decide where and how its annual regional component of the CLGF is expended.

Strategic Implications

The ongoing development of the Carnarvon–Mullewa Road is included in Council’s strategic plan and supports the regional focus of the CLGF.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council advise the Shire of Meekatharra that it fully supports Meekatharra’s request to join with the Shires of Murchison and Upper Gascoyne for the purposes of regional projects funded by the Regional Country Local Government Fund.

18.1.50411 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

File:
 Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil.
 Date: 8 April 2011
 Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

This report recommends that Council support the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) campaign for the constitutional recognition of Local Government.

Background:

There is a long history of debate on Constitutional recognition for Local Government in Australia, with referendums having previously been put before the voters in 1974 and 1988, with both being defeated.

During 2008 ALGA actioned a strategic approach aimed at securing a referendum which involved:

- Some initial resource materials to assist Local Governments to conduct a conversation at the local level on the need for Constitutional recognition.
- Zone or region level discussions, where appropriate, based on WALGA agenda items.
- Statewide forum to determine a State Government position (resolved at Local Government convention)
- National experts forum at a National Constitution Summit (Melbourne December 2008)

In 2009/10 ALGA focused advocacy around national political forum, political parties and key influential academics while State Associations built up state profiling campaigns to improve the image and perception of Local Government.

The ALGA Board further refined the national position in 2010 to focus specifically on financial recognition and the WALGA position was also aligned to this focus.

Comment:

Whilst the Federal Government has said that it will run a referendum, likely to be held in conjunction with the 2013 federal election, their willingness to do so in any sort of reasonable time frame will be heavily influenced by their perceptions of its likely success. A major factor in their perceptions will be the degree to which the conversation reflects broad community engagement.

It is important that local community support is marshalled to ensure that community ownership is injected into the campaign. If the campaign is seen purely as one being run by and for the Local Government system, then success will be difficult to achieve.

Consultation:

Wayne Scheggia

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, WALGA

Statutory Environment:

Nil.

Strategic Implications:

Constitutional recognition for Local Government is aligned to the Shire's Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 as the objective for Creating Opportunities is:

To continually develop service delivery through regional cooperation and structural reform.

Policy Implications:

The national policy position is consistent with the WALGA position. Adoption of the recommendation will formalise council's policy position and align it with the national campaign.

Financial Implications:

The costs associated with any local campaign will be dependent in its extent and complexity. Expenditure could involve expenses such as venue use and catering and administrative charges including telephone calls, printing etc. These are likely to be minimal and manageable within the constraints of budgeted operational expenditure.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Shire of Murchison:

1. Support the ALGA campaign for the Constitutional recognition of Local Government.
2. Call on the Federal Government to conduct a referendum to achieve the Constitutional recognition of Local Government at the 2013 federal election.
3. Develop a local level campaign in support of the national campaign, to inform the local community and encourage its support.
4. Acknowledge that funding implications need to be considered as part of the ongoing financial planning process.

18.1.60411 WRITE-OFF OF COUNCIL RATES

File:
 Author: Joyce Sully, Administration Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 7 April 2011
 Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

That Council agree to write off outstanding rates of \$4017.84 owed by the previous owners of Bullardoo Station.

Background:

Prior to 1 November 2009 Bullardoo Station was owned in two separate parcels by two Companies. These parcels were assessed separately. The current owners are Walladar Enterprises and the two parcels were amalgamated and valued as one property from 1 November 2009.

Peter Groom Settlements in Geraldton handled the sale of the Station. Despite repeated requests to the Shire office to provide rates information for settlement at the transfer date, the information was not supplied until September 2010, some 10 months after Settlement. Unfortunately, the information supplied to the Settlement Agent for the 2009/2010 rates was incorrect and they were also not advised of the rate arrears owing on the property.

Comment:

The current owners have, understandably, queried their rates. As this outstanding amount is due to errors by previous council administration staff it would not be good practice to insist on the debt being paid.

Consultation:

Debbie White – UHY Haines Norton

Statutory Environment:

Section 6.12 (1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1995 allows Council to write off any amount of money which is owed to the local government. The Local Government Act is silent on the treatment of rate assessments that are in credit.

Strategic Implications:

Nil.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

Council’s income from rates would be reduced by \$4017.84. However, due to a property revaluation Council’s rate income for the 2010/2011 financial year is currently:

2010/2011	Budgeted income	\$147,259
	Actual income	<u>\$304,084</u>
	Balance	+\$156,825

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority..

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council write off \$4,017.84 in outstanding rates that were the responsibility of the previous owners of Bullardoo Station.

18.1.70411 STAFF HOUSING – INSTALLATION OF FOXTEL SATELITE DISHES

File:

Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: There may be a perception of impartiality as the author would receive a benefit from the installation of a satellite dish.

Date: 7 April 2011

Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

Council is asked to approve Council funding of up to \$4,500 for the installation of a satellite dish on eight Council buildings.

Background:

At a recent Council employee meeting there was a request from a number of employees for the provision of additional entertainment facilities within the Settlement. Following discussion it was decided that facilities to enable Settlement residents to access paid TV programs was the most favoured option.

Comment:

The request for access to paid TV programs is considered reasonable as it would provide additional entertainment and education options. It could also be seen as an additional incentive to retain current employees and attract new employees, particularly those with a family.

The employees wishing to access paid TV programs agreed that if Council was to provide the hardware as a permanent attachment to the Council residences, they would pay the necessary ongoing fees to access the programs of their choice.

Consultation:

Employees – Shire of Murchison

Lessees - Murchison Oasis Roadhouse

Statutory Environment:

Nil.

Strategic Implications:

Nil.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

The cost of purchasing and installing the necessary hardware to eight Council buildings is approximately \$4,500 and could be costed proportionately to Staff Housing – Building Maintenance and Oasis Roadhouse Plant and Equipment accounts

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council fund the purchase and installation of the necessary hardware to provide access to paid TV programs in eight council buildings for an amount of up to \$4,500

18.1.80411 ACCESS TO ASAP SITE

File:
 Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil.
 Date: 11 April 2011
 Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

This report recommends that Council select the Pindar-Beringarra road as preferred access for the ASKAP Boolardy site and that Council accept an amount of \$100,000 from CSIRO as payment towards maintenance of the Pindar-Beringarra road during the construction work to be undertaken at the ASKAP site between April 2011 and March 2012

Background:

Historically the Shire of Murchison has advised CSIRO that the Shire’s preferred route to the CSIRO ASKAP Boolardy site is via the Carnarvon-Mullewa (C-M) road. However, a large majority of CSIRO employees and contractors continually use the Pindar-Beringarra (P-B) road to access the site.

Council preferred the C-M road as it is constructed to a higher standard. It would sustain less damage when used by large numbers of large vehicles and has a greater width than the P-B road. Council also receives Government funding towards the maintenance of the C-M road and the P-B road maintenance is fully funded through Council’s finances so greater damage to the P-B road would result in a considerably higher maintenance cost to Council.

Comment:

Both the C-M and P-B roads are public roads and Council can only recommend to CSIRO employees and contractors which road it believes should be the preferred route. Whichever route that the CSIRO employees and contractors take Council has been seeking financial assistance from CSIRO to fund the additional road maintenance costs that result from the CSIRO traffic.

Recent negotiations between representatives from CSIRO, McConnell Dow (construction contractor) and Council have developed an in-principle agreement that CSIRO will provide funding of up to \$100,000 to be used to offset some of the additional maintenance costs that will be incurred by the use of the P-B road, which is the preferred route for CSIRO and its contractors. Separate negotiations will be held to discuss funding for the necessary reinstatement/upgrade work on the P-B road that will be required when the construction phase is complete.

Consultation:

Consultation has been undertaken by representatives from CSIRO, McConnell Dow and the Shire of Murchison.

Statutory Environment:

Nil.

Strategic Implications:

Development of the ASKAP project will provide economic opportunities within the Shire of Murchison and the Mid West region.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

The cost of road maintenance and repairs will vary depending on the number of vehicles that will use the P-B road and the impact of adverse weather conditions. Future negotiations will also determine the final cost to Council and the Murchison community for use of the road.

Voting Requirements:

Recommendation 1 Simple Majority

Recommendation 2 Absolute Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Advise CSIRO and its contractors that Council's preferred road route, within the Shire of Murchison, to the ASKAP Boolardy site is via the Pindar-Beringarra road.
2. Accepts CSIRO's offer of funds up to \$100,000 for the additional maintenance that will be required for the Pindar-Beringarra road during the construction phase for the ASKAP site, subject to the development of a mutually acceptable agreement.

18.1.90411 **MURCHISON SETTLEMENT HERITAGE PRECINCT RELOCATION OF
BOOLARDY SHEARER'S SHED**

File:
Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: Nil
Date: 7 April 2011
Attachments:

Matter for Consideration:

This report recommends that Council revoke its decision to relocate the Boolardy shearers' quarters shed to the Murchison Settlement heritage precinct.

Background:

In September 2009 (Item OC 090913) Council approved the following recommendation:

That Council:

Include the community project of relocating Shearers' Quarters into the CBD Development.

Carried 5/0

At the time this decision was related to the relocation of the Shearers' Quarters from Byro Station. After further consultation with the community the offer of the Byro Shearers' Quarters was rejected and the offer of the Boolardy Station Shearers' Quarters was accepted. This does not affect Council's decision made in September 2009 as there was no specific Shearers' Quarters named in the decision.

A number of factors have since delayed the relocation of the building; e.g. floods and changes to Elected Members and Administration staff. The delay has resulted in the loss of \$30,000 Regional Local Infrastructure Project (RLCIP) funding which was required to be expended on the relocation and acquitted by 31 December 2010.

The proposed relocation of the Shearers' Quarters and subsequent loss of the \$30,000 funding was discussed at length at the 2009/10 Annual Electors' Meeting held in March 2011 and the majority opinion of the 25 community members present was that the Boolardy Station Shearers' Quarters building should not be relocated to the Settlement and that a new accommodation building, designed with a heritage theme, should be constructed on the site, located between the Community Centre and the Roadhouse, currently occupied by the horse stables and the stock ramp.

Comment:

It is now unlikely that the Shearers' Quarters will be relocated to the Settlement due to the loss of the \$30,000 grant. However, a second Federal Infrastructure grant of \$30,000 has also been accessed by Council for the purpose of internal renovation of the building when it is relocated to the Settlement.

Both Federal RLCIP grants were provided for specific purposes and several requests to the Federal Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government to change the use of the initial \$30,000 funding have been unsuccessful as it has passed its expiry date of 31 December 2010. If the building is not relocated using other Council funds, a possible change of use for the second \$30,000 grant is currently being considered by the Department. However, it is likely to be rejected by the Department given their strict funding guidelines.

In the absence of an endorsed Town Plan for the Shire of Murchison community opinion should be regarded by Council as an important indicator for decisions regarding community development projects. Therefore, as hope is always the best option, it would be a positive move to request that, if a change is approved, the \$30,000 be used to relocate the stables and stock ramp to a more suitable location and free up the community's preferred location for an accommodation unit between the Community Centre and the Roadhouse.

Consultation:

Funding Officers - Federal Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government
25 community members - Shire of Murchison

Statutory Environment:

If council agrees to revoke its decision on Item OC 090913, September 2009 then the Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.25(1) (e) and Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 (10) (1) (b) requires that:

Any motion to revoke or change a decision made at a Council Meeting must be supported by at least one third of the number of members (whether vacant or not) of members of the Council.

Strategic Implications:

The proposal to use the \$30,000 RLCIP funds, if approved, to relocate the existing stables and stock ramp would allow for appropriate development along the Carnarvon-Mullewa road front.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

Changing the purpose of the \$30,000 RLCIP grant may allow its retention by Council.

Voting Requirements:

Recommendation 1 - Absolute Majority
Recommendation 2 - Absolute Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council revoke its decision made on September 2009 Item OC 090913 being to:

Include the community project of relocating Shearers' Quarters into the CBD Development.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council relocate the stables and stock ramp located alongside the Community Centre to a site, to be selected in consultation with the PoloCrosse Club, using the second \$30,000 RLCIP funds, if available.

18.1.100411 REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE GROUP – REGIONAL BUSINESS PLAN

File:
Author: Mike Sully, Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: Nil.
Date: 8 April 2011
Attachments: Regional Business Plan quote

Matter for Consideration:

This report recommends that Council accept a quote from RSM Bird Cameron for the preparation of a Regional Business Plan as required for the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne Regional Collaborative Group (RCG), for a cost of up to \$62,276.00.

The report also recommends that Council accept a quote from RSM Bird Cameron for the preparation of a regional Strategic Plan and a regional Asset Management plan.

Background:

The State Government has provided the Shires of Murchison and Upper Gascoyne with funds for the preparation of a regional Business Plan, a regional Strategic plan and a regional Asset management plan

In December 2010 the two Shire's held an RCG committee meeting and selected a number of service providers, who have been approved by the Department of Local Government, to quote on the development of the required plans. They are:

Price Waterhouse Cooper
UHY Haines Norton
Morrison & Low

When approached to provide a quote for developing the plan all three Perth based providers declined, stating they were too busy developing plans for Perth metropolitan Councils and did not want to travel to remote Councils. Subsequently, a Geraldton based provider, RSM Bird Cameron, agreed to quote for developing the required range of regional plans.

Comment:

The report that includes the quotes from RSM Bird Cameron is attached to the meeting agenda. An investigation of quotes received by Councils in RCG's similar to the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne RCG indicates that the quote for up to \$62,276 for the regional business plan is very competitive and well below the funding amount of \$90,000 that is available to the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne RCG. The report also includes indicative costs for a regional Strategic Plan, \$33,000 and a regional Asset Management plan, \$49,500

There is a strong connection between the three plans and having one provider prepare drafts of all the plans over a period of time would allow the provider to transfer information between the plans. It would also reduce the cost for the work as there would be less preparation time required.

Consultation:

Price Waterhouse Cooper
UHY Haines Norton
Morrison & Low
Ron Back & Associates
RSM Bird Cameron

Statutory Environment:

Initially, Councils are required to be involved in the development of a regional Business plan to be able to access future Royalties for Regions funding.

Strategic Implications:

Regional Business, Strategic and Asset management plans would be a valuable tool for Council to use when developing its Plan for the Future by providing direction and an indication of future funding requirements.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

The funds for developing the required plans have been provided to the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne Regional Collaborative Group by the Department of Local Government. The funding is sufficient to cover the total expenditure for all plans required by the two Shires to complete the regional planning process.

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept the quote from RSM Bird Cameron, Geraldton Office, for the preparation of the following plans for the Murchison-Upper Gascoyne Regional Collaborative Group, subject to similar approval by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne:

- Regional Business Plan
- Regional Strategic Plan
- Regional Asset Management Plan

19. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Paul Squires has provided a notice of motion for the following motion:

That a financial report be sent to Councillors each week, on a Thursday, showing weekly expenditure on flood repairs

20. CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

20. URGENT BUSINESS

21. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

22. MEETING CLOSURE