



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,  
on Thursday **26 March 2020**, commencing at 12 Noon.

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

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## ATTACHMENTS

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.06pm.

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## 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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### Present

#### Councillors

R Foulkes-Taylor – President  
A Whitmarsh – Deputy President  
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor  
Cr Q Fowler  
Cr P Squires

#### Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO  
Tatjana Erak – Acting DCEO  
William Herold – Works Supervisor

The councillors determined that Cr G Mead could attend the council meeting by teleconference from Bullardoo Station.

### **Recommendation**

That Cr G Mead be allowed to attend the meeting by teleconference.

### Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That Cr G Mead be allowed to attend the meeting by teleconference.

**Carried** **For** 5 **Against** 0

*Cr Mead officially joined the meeting at 12:08pm*

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## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 February 2020

#### Background

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

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 February 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

**Council Decision****Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor**Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 February 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried****For** 6**Against** 0

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**4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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Nil

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**5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Nil

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**6 STANDING ORDERS**

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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** R Foulkes-Taylor**Seconded: Cr** G Mead

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

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

**Carried****For** 6**Against** 0

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**7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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**Public Question received in writing from Sam Walton prior to the Meeting**

I am writing this question to you in regard to the new houses that are being built here in the settlement.

My main question is why are they being built so close together with the distance in between them much closer than the existing houses in the settlement?

I do believe that as we are a small community and do work, socialise in close proximity together is there a reason that the new residents for these new homes will have to be living on top of each other as well?

I am concerned for the mental well-being of these new residents as there is not much privacy and as they will be family homes wouldn't it be better to have these houses a lot more further apart or even relocate one of the houses to the south of the old deputy's house.

Could you please consider this?

#### Response

When the existing houses were laid out a buffer space was provided between some on the basis that at some stage in the future if circumstances change in infill house could if required by constructed.

In this instance each of the new houses are free standing and not semi-detached. This means that each house has a greater amount of privacy such as some the current semi-detached houses that currently exist. The specifications of the plot size and location as approved by leave plenty of space within each allotment as well as buffer strip in between. The builders have drawn plans and costing done on this basis and any change now would involve increased costs in variations that could not be justified.

The entire settlement is not available to be built on because of issues of land tenure and costs of servicing Council needs to cater for potential increased demand. For instance, there is also a low lying area in Mulga Crescent between the existing houses that should not be built on.

Your suggestion to building south of the old deputy CEO's house, which was initially looked at creates several issues as the land tenure alters which not only creates difficulties but places buildings closer to the exiting Polocrosse facilities. The costs to potentially relocate an existing house would not be justified and a similar situation would arise again with significant costs involved.

Concerns regarding mental well-being are noted but the houses are much further apart than the equivalent housing in almost any suburb in the country with buffers spaces which will be planted with trees and shrubs located in between.

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## **8 NEXT MEETING**

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Thursday 23 April 2020

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## **9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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Nil

*Cr Fowler indicated that he may start mustering the day after next meeting.*

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## **10 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

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22.1 Operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 period.

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## **11 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

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Nil

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## 12 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

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Nil

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## 13 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

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### 13.1 Shire President

Several meetings by telephone. Quite a few meetings organised by WALGA to do with probable and possible actions to cope with the COVID-19 event. By our size we are fortunate to not have the issues that large councils such as Kalgoorlie, who may be in a position if a funeral event is planned where they would expect several hundred ingenious mourners to attend thus creating a very real opportunity for the spreading of the COVID-19 virus. We in the Murchison Shire have our own issues to deal with but large social gatherings are not one of them.

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA (Cue Parliament) Meeting may not be in person at the moment. Next meeting in May and a decision will be made if and how the meeting will be conducted.

### 13.2 Councillors

#### Cr P Squires

*Acting DCEO left the room at 12.18pm and returned with copies of Cr P Squires report of a 10 March 2020 Meeting of the Mid West Regional Road Group Meeting (Murchison Sub-Group) that he attended via teleconference along with the Chief Executive Officer and Works Supervisor. Cr Squire reported as follows:*

#### *Mid-West Regional Road Group Meeting (Murchison Sub-Group) Report*

The Regional Roads Group meeting that was going to be held a Meekatharra on the 19th March 2020 was cancelled due to the Coronavirus instead we had a phone hook up with all parties. Meeting was initially facilitated initially by Bernie Miller pending election of Office Bearers.

Bernie mentioned that they would like to have more councillors participating in the meeting being held as all input can only assist with better roads for WA

Regional Roads Group minutes and agenda have been separately forward to elected members as information as there is some interesting reading. For example, traffic count information is only valid for 3 years and some interesting information on (road closures and the legality thereof)

In relation to Council's Roads 2030 submissions to the Technical Working Regional Roads Group, submissions for the Carnarvon-Mullewa and Beringarra-Byro Roads and Butchers Track were accepted. Comments on the others were as follows

#### Coolcalalaya/New Forest Road

Bernie Miller felt there was not enough information from The Shire of Murchison and he also spoke to the Northampton CEO. He explained to Bernie that there was no forecast going forward on any maintenance or upgrades on this road. My suggestion would be to officially enter into some form of dialog with the Northampton Shire or another suggestion would be perhaps to move the boundary shift from Northampton Shire to Murchison Shire, this would allow us to apply for financial funding and our concerns of the road would be solved

#### SKA Access Road

Concerned about the costs

#### Beringarra-Pindar Rd, Wreath Flowers Shire of Murchison

Bernie and the committee were concerned on the cost of such a big project and what would the benefits be, (**safety**) I explained the sheer volume of traffic that attends to view the Wreath Flowers this is from all over Australia and abroad. City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) tourist industry regularly directs people to view this area. Bernie's comment was "Has there been discussions with the City of Greater Geraldton", my reply was we have had informal discussions with the CGG in putting a joint submission in for funding to bituminise from Pindar to Wreath Flowers, since that discussion Geraldton have upgraded their 5.2 km of road.

With this in mind Bernie explained that he would go and have discussion with the CGG and suggested that maybe we could do the same.

*Cr E Foulkes-Taylor added that not only is Beringarra-Pindar Rd a safety issue but a maintenance issue as well due to the amount of grading that is required.*

*CEO commented that Cr Squires put forward some useful comments at the meeting.*

*Cr Squires indicated that one month is the longest a road can be closed without Ministerial approval.*

#### Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor attended a Mid-West Regional Development Commission Meeting on 6 March 2020. Discussion mainly involved an on camera strategic session.

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## 14 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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### 14.1 Audit Committee

File: 2.2  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 February 2020  
Attachments: 14.1.1 Audit Committee Meeting Report

#### Matter for Consideration

Amongst other things one of the objectives of the Audit Committee is to receive the Annual Compliance Return for the period 1 January to 31 December in each that is presented to the Audit Committee for review. The Audit Committee is to report to the Council the results of that review. The Compliance Audit Return is to be then adopted by Council and the certified copy is to be sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government & Communities by 31 March of the following year.

A copy of the Audit Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments for the meeting on 26 March 2020 including the Compliance Audit Return has been separately circulated.

#### **Recommendation**

To be considered following deliberations of the Audit Committee Meeting.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That in relation to the Audit Committee Report of its Meeting on 26 March 2020 as presented to the 26 March 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council, that Council

- 1 receives and notes the Compliance Audit Return 2019 has been prepared by the CEO as required and
- 2 accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee and adopts the Compliance Audit Return 2019 as presented.

**Carried** **For** 6 **Against** 0

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## 15 WORKS

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### 15.1 Works Report

File:

Author: William Herold – Works Supervisor

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 March 2020

Attachments: 15.1.1 Monthly Plant Report  
15.1.2 Technical Officers Update Report

#### Monthly Plant Report

As Attached

#### Technical Officers Update Report

As attached

#### Construction Crew

The Construction crew have completed work from the Wooramel River crossing to the North Boundary on the Carnarvon – Mullewa Road. The use of a grid roller and second water cart certainly improved the quality of the final outcome as well as speeding the process up. It appears that the material that was causing me to have many sleepless nights has gone down remarkably well. Mark and the crew have done a wonderful job. They have moved South down the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and started on a Main Roads WA funded re-sheet from the Muggon Road intersection SLK 116.17 to SLK 112.10. This is heading North from Muggon Road intersection.

#### Maintenance Crew

Lou Bavoillot our new member on the maintenance crew started on March 9. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Lou and Wendy to the Murchison and hope they have a long and happy stay. My thanks again to Peter Mahony for standing in until Lou could make a start. The Maintenance crew have completed grading the Beringarra-Pindar Road. The crew have done a patch grade on the Mileura-Nookawarra Road and started on the Beringarra-Cue Road. An opening up grade will then be done on the Beringarra-Mt Gould Road before heading West along the Beringarra-Byro Road.

#### Easter Break

The crews will be off from the evening of Thursday 9 April to the morning of Monday 20 April.

#### Tropical Cyclone Damian

Unfortunately, the Murchison saw very little rain out of this system, we did however get a reasonable river causing a significant amount of damage on the Mt Gould Road, on Beringarra as well as on the Beringarra-Byro Road between the Murchison River crossing and Milly-Milly homestead. Greenfield have done a flood damage pick up and we are awaiting the outcome from this report.

#### Plant Replacement – New grader

The new Cat 150 Grader arrived on Wednesday March 5 and certainly created much excitement among those of us left in the settlement. It is currently going very well and being operated by Lou. I believe photographs have been circulated and some will appear in the next Monologue.

#### Roads Stimulus Package

The CEO and I have drawn up a wish list and hopefully we will secure some funding from this to put toward several improvement on the road network.

### **Recommendation**

The Works Supervisors Report be received and accepted.



## Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

*The works crew will now be working through Easter in light of restrictions to travel due to COVID-19.  
The bunding on Mileura Station was judged satisfactory by the station owner.*

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	P Squires
The Works Supervisors Report be received and accepted.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

## **15.2 Roads Economic Stimulus Submission**

File: 12.15  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer. William Herold – Works Supervisor  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date  
Attachments: 15.2.1 Message from Deputy Prime Minister Infrastructure Boost  
15.2.2 Murchison - Roads Economic Stimulus Submission  
15.2.3 Meekatharra Gascoyne Murchison - Roads Economic Stimulus Submission

### Matter for Consideration

As per the attached letter Council has received a request from the Deputy Prime Minister seeking Councils assistance in fast tracking the delivery of land transport infrastructure projects on local roads. Council has been requested to identify roads projects that can be brought forward to start within the next 3 to 6 months.

The response needed to be provided by 16 March 2020 and following feedback from Councillors a submission was lodged is as attached and provided for endorsement.

### Comments

In preparing a response there was an opportunity suggested by the Meekatharra Shire CEO to also place a regional submission with Upper Gascoyne Shires. Like ourselves, both CEO's are keen to have a sealed road extension program and we all agreed that a joint "Regional" submission is potentially better value with each Council also putting in for their own other projects.

The Regional Submission was lodged by Roy McClymont from Meekatharra whilst our local submission which the Works Supervisor and I have been working on was also submitted

### A few points

1. It's a wish list that is to be deliverable so all works would be undertaken but the scope of works involves a number of diverse contractors and suppliers.
2. For the Regional submission we have all put a 1/3 contribution which is slightly greater than the Building Better Regions 3:1 contribution for that applies for Very Remote Area as a means to attract the funding.
3. For our local submission we have generally put in for a 3:1 contribution (25%) although the last two project D & E on the list is a bit less
4. Projects A (Grids) & B (Bilung Creek Crossing) are potentially deliverable quickly and are road safety as well as asset replacement projects. We have already commissioned design for the Bilung Creek Crossing. We also added Project C (Concrete floodway at Milly-Milly over the Murchison)

5. Project D (stabilise floodways on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road) can be potentially added on to the current flood damage contract
6. Project E (seal sections associated with Project D works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road) is a bit speculative but again deliverable and would also provide for three additional opportunities for passing lanes between the Murchison Settlement and Shire boundary.
7. Whilst it doubtful that we will get everything the submission is worthwhile

#### 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

Shire of Murchison Council Community Strategic Plan

Economic Objective 1:

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

Strategies to Achieve Economic Outcomes

*Maintenance and Upgrade of Road Network*

*To develop, maintain and improve an efficient road system to support the transport requirements associated with the pastoral and mining industries and tourism.*

#### Policy Implications

Nil

#### Financial Implications

The proportion of funding is far greater than on most funded programs such as the Roads to Recovery program or if we were to carry out, we would need to use our own funds. We can also massage future projects to suit. For instance, we have in our program money in next year to resheet and reconstruct pavement south of the existing seal on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd which would be covered if we received the regional project grant. In any event all would be in the current or future long-term plans

#### **Recommendation**

That Council endorse the Chief Executive Officers Murchison Roads Economic Stimulus Submission to the Department for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development as attached.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>				
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	G Mead	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	Q Fowler	
That Council endorse the Chief Executive Officers Murchison Roads Economic Stimulus Submission to the Department for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development as attached.				
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

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## 16 FINANCE

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### 16.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was adopted/endorsed by Council

File: 4.37.1  
Author: Tatjana Erak - Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 March 2020  
Attachments: 16.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for February 2020

#### 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 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

Payment from the Municipal, Trust and Reserve Bank Accounts.

#### Consultation

Moore Stephens

#### **Recommendation**

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** P Squires **Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

**Carried** **For** 6 **Against** 0

## 16.2 Financial Activity Statements 29 February 2020

File:

Author: Tatjana Erak – Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 March 2020

Attachments: 16.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report February 2020

### 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 adopting the Monthly Financial Statements.

### Budget/Financial Implications:

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

### Consultation

Moore Stephens

### **Recommendation**

That Council adopt the financial statements for the period ending 29 February 2020 as attached.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

*Meeting adjourned for lunch and review of Moore Stephens report with variances at 12.50pm. ADCEO emailed all councillors the updated financial report.*

*Meeting resumed at 2.32pm.*

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That Council adopt the financial statements for the period ending 29 February 2020 as attached.

**Carried**

**For** 6

**Against** 0

### 16.3 Budget Review March 2020

File: 2.2  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Tatjana Erak – Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 March 2020  
Attachments: 16.3.1 2019-20 Budget Review Report

#### Matter for Consideration

A review of the 2019-20 Budget based on financial performance between 1 July 2019 and 29 February 2020 has been conducted and is presented to Council.

#### Background

As required by the Local Government Act 1995, Council adopted a budget for the 2019-20 financial year based on forward plans and best estimates at the time. According to the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, each year, between 1 January and 31 March, a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year, considering its financial performance for at least the first six months of the year, its position at the date of review and its forecast position to the end of the financial year.

#### Comments

The Budget review for 2019-20 has been conducted and amendments are detailed in the Statutory Budget Review as attached. This followed an in depth review the relevant financials for each Chart of Account and where applicable individual job levels.

The following highlights are of note

- *Opening Carried Forward figure*
  - ~ The opening carried forward figure was reduced from \$4,681,340 to \$4,562,188 due to end of year final adjustments. This is a decrease in the carried forward surplus of \$119,152.
  
- *Operating Revenue*
  - ~ WANDRRA Flood Damage reimbursement has been reduced by \$4,845,499 to reflect income received from Flood 6 and an advanced Flood 7 payment.
  
- *Operating Expenditure*
  - ~ Heavy Road maintenance that was deferred from 2018/19 has been effectively used to fund additional non-budgeted for repair items on the Carnarvon-Mullewa and Coolcalalaya Roads under Maintenance - General. It is expected that this approach will be taken in the future.
  - ~ Various budgeted works, especially in the road areas, are not to be undertaken until next year or as in the case of road maintenance have been deferred as they will be addressed through flood damage repairs
  - ~ Audit costs that were expected to increase with AOG involvement but have come in under budget.
  - ~ WANDRRA Flood Damage expenditure has been reduced by \$6,000,000 to reflect the situation that the majority of works will be undertaken in 2020/21
  - ~ DFES Grant for Fire shed is offset by expenditure \$53,950
  - ~ At this stage there has been no allocation allowance for any cost aspects over and above our normal operation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that these will emanate across in a number of areas so we will look at how best to capture details in the future

- *Capital Expenditure - Infrastructure Roads*
  - ~ Some programmed road works have been deferred to 2019-20.
  - ~ Works on Beringarra-Cue Road involved repairs to priority floodways and start of a program to convert the existing seal to gravel.
  
- *Capital Expenditure - Building & Improvements*
  - ~ Capital expenditure on staff housing reflects the costs to provide two accommodation units within the Murchison Settlement as per Council resolution at the November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting. This is to be funded entirely from revenue.
  
- *Capital Expenditure – Plant*
  - ~ The budget has been amended to reflect that budgeted for plus the addition of a replacement 5 Tonne Truck as outlined within the Plant Replacement Program as adopted by Council at the February Ordinary Meeting.
  
- *Capital Revenue*
  - ~ Reserve Transfers to Reserves have reduced by \$103,042.
  - ~ Transfers from Reserves have reduced by \$1,674,770. This is primarily due to
    - transfers from the Building Reserve, and Settlement and Buildings Reserve not being required as the corresponding capital works that were to be funded from these Reserves are not to be undertaken.
    - Transfer from the Sealing Reserve is also not contemplated
  - ~ Transfer from the Beringarra-Cue reserve is reduced to equate to accord with the value of the actual works undertaken
  - ~ Overall, there has been a net \$1,777.812 in reduction in reserves Transfers from that budgeted
  
- *Overall Summary*

Details of amendments are shown in the attached Statutory Budget Review which was provided and reviewed and slightly amended at the meeting.

### Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

#### *33A Review of Budget*

- (1) *Between 1 January and 31 March in each year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year.*
  - (2A) *The review of an annual budget for a financial year must –*
    - (a) *Consider the local government's financial performance in the period beginning on 1 July and ending no earlier than 31 December in that financial year; and*
    - (b) *Consider the local government's financial position as at the date of review; and*
    - (c) *Review the outcomes for the end of that financial year that are forecast in the budget.*
  - (2) *Within 30 days after a review of the annual budget of a local government is carried out it is to be submitted to council.*
  - (3) *A council is to consider a review submitted to it and is to determine\* whether or not to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendation made in the review.*
- \*Absolute majority required.*
- (4) *Within 30 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.*

### Strategic Implications

The budget has been developed based on existing strategic planning documents adopted by council.

Sustainability Implications

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

Policy Implications

The budget is based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and informing strategies.

Financial Implications

The changes suggested in the budget review are based on the local government’s financial performance for the financial year up to 29 February 2020. Adjustments have been made to better reflect actual performance for the period and to give a more accurate projection of an increased surplus at 30 June 2020.

Consultation

CEO, A/DCEO, Works Supervisor  
Moore Stephens

**Recommendation**

That Council adopt the Review of the 2019/20 Budget as attached incorporating amendments made at the meeting.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority.

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	G Mead
That Council adopt the Review of the 2019/20 Budget as attached incorporating amendments made at the meeting.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

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## 17 DEVELOPMENT

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### 17.1 COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

File:	4.77
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	25 March 2020
Attachments:	17.1.1 Mass Gatherings and Closure Directions Orders 17.1.2 Minister for Local Government COVID-19 WALGA Meeting Response 17.1.3 WALGA – ASU COVID 19 leave letter 17.1.4 Local Government (Administration Amendment) Regulations 2020

#### Matter for Consideration

The current declared COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic is shaping up to be likely one of the most significant national events in our history that is and will affect us all. An initial formal update on the potential implications for Council and the Community is provided and considered as an item of Urgent Business.

There are two elements to this update to be considered; namely involving elements that are general in nature and those that pertain specifically to the Murchison Roadhouse, which is listed under Item 22.1 in the Agenda

#### Comments

##### *General Overview*

Every Government, Organisation and person thought the world is being affected drastically by COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic with situations changing daily. The gravity of the situation is highlighted below in what is a snapshot summary of the current situation.

- The World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020
- On 15 March 2020 the Minister for Emergency Services declared a state of emergency with effect from 12 midnight on 16 March 2020
- On 16 March 2020 the Minister for Health declared a public state emergency with effect from 12 midnight on 17 March 2020
- On 20 March 2020 the WA State Emergency Officer exercised emergency powers by issuing a Mass Gatherings Direction Order to prohibit (and for the purpose, better define) non-essential mass gatherings in order to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19
- On 23 March 2020 the Minister for Emergency Services issued a direction for the closure of certain places of businesses worship and entertainment commencing 12 noon on 23 March 2020 and ending midnight on 13 April 2020.
- At that time there were indications that closures will be extended to areas such as swimming pools and public libraries etc.
- Over the weekend of 21-22 March, the WA premier advised that from 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, Western Australia will implement strict border controls for all access points – by road, rail, air and sea. Unless exempted, arrivals from interstate will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days.
- On 24 March 2020 the WA Premier announced in strong terms that people coming to WA should think twice. He also foreshadowed an intention to have in place soon non-essential travel restrictions in Regional WA. To illustrate what was intended the Chief Commissioner indicated that people should not travel on holidays for Easter and that if you live in Perth and have a holiday home in Denmark stay in Perth!



- On 24 March 2020 through WALGA Council was advised by the WA Premier that the circumstances that are facing the State, and indeed the world are without precedent; and the State's response to this is going to rely heavily on Local Government and the contribution the sector can make in supporting households and business. The Premier reaffirmed his call for Local Governments to place an urgent and immediate freeze to all household and business fees and charges. Other initiatives discussed included: freeing up approvals processes; support for small businesses and relief for organisations that lease Local Government premises.

Given the impact to date of the COVID-19 virus on the WA workforce the Premier urged the sector to focus on continuity of employment for their workforce and focusing on new ways in which to utilise staff whose roles may have been impacted.

He further urged activity to bring about job creation, bringing forward projects currently planned or under consideration.

The Premier was emphatic in his statement that *"we're beyond talking about business as usual"* and he was looking to the sector to think outside the box on ways in which to support community and business during this time.

- On 24 March 2020, following a meeting of the National Cabinet, the Prime Minister addressed the nation and has now begun sending text messages to keep you informed about the national response to COVID-19. Please act on that advice, it will help save lives. This includes the following:
  - ~ Tighter restrictions on weddings, funerals, fitness classes, beauty salons, arcades, play centres and more from 11:59pm, 25 March
  - ~ Pubs, licensed clubs and hotels (excluding accommodation), places of worship, gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, casinos must close. Takeaway only at restaurants and cafes. Supermarkets, and pharmacies remain open.
  - ~ Tasmania, the NT, WA, Queensland and SA announced border closures. Anyone entering is to self-isolate for 14 days. See specific State and Territory Government sites for information.
  - ~ JobSeeker Payment claims can be submitted online 24/7. Online service capacity is being increased.
  - ~ For school closures (government and non-government) please refer to state and territory education authorities.
  - ~ Stop the spread! Stay 1.5 metres away from others, wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face and if sick, stay home.

#### *Local Government Specifics*

On an hourly basis emails and information arrives from all sorts of sources that further clarifies, and sometimes confuses the situation.

With respect to issues specific to Local Government on two occasions the Shire President and I have separately attended two WALGA Webinar presentations hosted by WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts for all Mayors. Presidents and Chief Executive Officers with another planned for Friday 27 March 2020 where the Premier will address our sector.

- On Monday 16 March 2020 meeting included the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Health, Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture & the Arts assisted by Dr Clare Huppatz, Senior Medical Adviser, Communicable Disease Control, Western Australian Department of Health. A copy of subsequent correspondence is attached
- On Friday 20 March 2020 meeting included Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government and a variety of Health Professionals

A few points arising out of these meetings include the following

- 1 National Cabinet has been formed and meets regularly. Decisions, directions and actions move very quickly.
- 2 Local Governments role will be critical in the coming months.

- 3 WALGA is the governments key point of contact with Local Government who will be a conduit to disseminate information to our sector
- 4 The Government has requested that Local Government Freeze rates for 2020/21. There has been a request to ensure that the current valuations used remain in force.
- 5 The State Government has advised that it has instigated special COVID-19 leave provisions for State employees. The ASU have written to WALGA requesting a statewide response and as indicated in the attached letter that a decision is up to each individual Council. The State Government supports the ASU request.
- 6 The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will deliver important changes to regulations, quorums and legal obligations through circulars as soon as possible. This should address arrangements for remote meetings. A copy of the amendment to the regulations is attached
- 7 There is a strong push for Local Government to lead their respective communities and to fast track and bring word capital projects. On 24 March 2020 this sentiment was echoed by the WA Premier.
- 8 Some suggestion that there will be less emphasis by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on compliance aspects so that resources can be directed to more proactive endeavours.

#### *Murchison Specifics*

The current situation is already having and will have significant influence on our operation. The issues surrounding us a small remote community we are in many ways less problematical but nevertheless we have need to respond sensibly and responsibly; even if at times we think that the situation seems an overkill.

The following suggestions and subsequent recommendations are in the main predicated around the following principles / rationale associated with health and economic activity

- (a) Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.
- (b) Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.

In light of the above, the following actions with identified Comments and rationale are presented for consideration:

- 1 State Government request for Council agrees to freeze current rate levels for the 2020/21 year  
*It is important to support our local businesses and stations in recognition of the financial hardship that we all face. Like the Australian and State Governments and businesses generally we all have responsibility to share the financial burden. Rate revenue is a very small portion of our funding base. A nominal 2% increase in the current \$464,000 rate revenue equates to \$9,280 in revenue forgone. This is manageable.*
- 2 ASU request through WALGA for Council to agree to support the instigation of special COVID-19 leave provisions  
*We have a very small staff who are vulnerable in times such as these and need to be supported. The COVID-19 situation is unique and not in any way considered to be within the normal course of events. State Government COVID-19 provisions are extensive involving a range of including such matters as the following:*
  - *an employee is sick with the COVID-19 coronavirus*
  - *a member of the employee's family or household is sick with the COVID-19 coronavirus*
  - *employees unable to work due to self-isolation of themselves or a family member*
  - *employees who are caring for children who are impacted by school or childcare closures*
  - *employees who are required by an employer to remain away from the workplace as a precautionary measure*
  - *employees who wish to stay home as a precaution**However, some of these may not necessarily be applicable nor appropriate for our situation so a nuanced approach is suggested.*

*Employment provisions are in the main the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer but in this instance. it would be appropriate if feedback was provided in order for us to be able to respond expeditiously.*

- 3 Expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community

*The WA Premier is emphatic in his statement that "we're beyond talking about business as usual" and he was looking to the sector to think outside the box on ways in which to support community and business during this time.*

*The latest budget review shows that we are in relatively reasonable financial position. The projects that we could advance can be based around or road construction responsibilities but there are a few in the Murchison Settlement that could be advanced now and thereby take advantage of the current situation. We would also be doing "our bit" along with other levels of government and businesses generally.*

- 4 Murchison Roadhouse

*The Murchison Roadhouse is a unique situation and given the financial aspects of the operation a separate discussion in Closed Council is required.*

- 5 Library Closure

*After much consideration and given the move nationally and at a State Level to close public libraries that we follow suit. A number of neighbouring Shires have already done so. In our situation we have only one regular library client who has been contacted and we have hardly any public entry; a situation that is unlikely to change. There is also an advantage of having an additional room to use for other staff functions / emergencies should the need arise.*

- 6 Museum Closure

*Although not strictly speaking technically arguably our responsibility moves nationally and at a State level to close venues such as Visitor Information Centres, Art Galleries etc mean that the Museum should be similarly so treated in a similar manner and close. The current volunteer management should also cease during this period.*

- 7 Council Office Public Access Arrangements

*A number of Councils have put in arrangements to regulate public access their respective Council Offices. Eg ringing to make an appointment. The need to protect staff and keep the operation running is of prime importance. Equally although infrequently we still need to serve customers for such things like registrations and bullets for guns. At this stage, although on the surface it appears excessive such a requirement may be worthwhile*

- 8 Council Meetings

*It is considered that in the foreseeable future that Council Meetings are conducted remotely in accordance with the requisite legislation.*

#### Councillor Comments

*Cr Whitmarsh brought up queries by Athena Resources as to are contractors and non-Shire employees still able to travel in the Shire strictly for work purposes. The general consensus was that if people could keep working that should be encouraged.*

*From his first and experience, Cr P Squires spoke highly of the Council's Construction Crew as being considered as being "special" in the way that they operate and relate to each other.*

*The CEO explained that his preliminary intentions with leave is that at 14 days of additional sick be provided in the event that it is required strictly for COVID-19 purposes as a matter of course and noted general positive feedback from councillors who are very supportive of staff and note that additional leave specific to the event may be required should circumstances dictate so.*

## Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995

## Sustainability Implications

Environmental	At this stage details of environmental considerations are unknown but may potentially be significant.
Economic	At this stage details of economic considerations are unknown but are likely to be significant.
Social	At this stage details of social considerations are unknown but are likely to be significant.

## Strategic Implications

Shire of Murchison Council Community Strategic Plan

Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic will encompass many strategies contained within all four Objectives of our Community Plan. In Economic, Environmental, Social and Civic Leadership as articulated in our Vision Statement

***“Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.”***

## Policy Implications

Adaptation and potentially new policies may be required

## Financial Implications

Yet to be determined but potentially significant but generally within our capabilities. March 2020 Budget Review analysis included foreshadowing potentially specific projects that could be advanced and are likely to be required during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Financial Years.

## **Recommendation**

That Council resolve as follows:

- 1 The Chief Executive Officer's report relating COVID-19 Coronavirus Update Report be received and noted.
- 2 In responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus that Council act in accordance with the following principles and rationale associated with health and economic activity
  - (a) Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.
  - (b) Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.
- 3 As requested by the State Government Council agrees to freeze current rate levels for the 2020/21 year.
- 4 As requested by the Australian Services Union (ASU) through WALGA that Council note that special COVID-19 leave provisions have been introduced for State Government employees and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to introduce provisions similar for Council employees that are appropriate to our circumstances.
- 5 That Council look to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community.
- 6 The Council Library be closed to members of the public until such time that Council considers it appropriate to re-open.
- 7 The Council recommend to the Murchison Museum Committee the Museum close and that the current volunteer management program be suspended.
- 8 Council notes that public access to the Council Office may have to be restricted due to COVID-19 Coronavirus and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make changes if deemed necessary.
- 9 On the foreseeable future that Council Meetings are conducted remotely in accordance with the Local Government (Administration Amendment) Regulations 2020.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E. Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** P. Squires

That Council resolve as follows:

- 1 The Chief Executive Officer's report relating COVID-19 Coronavirus Update Report be received and noted.
- 2 In responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus that Council act in accordance with the following principles and rationale associated with health and economic activity
  - (c) Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.
  - (d) Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.
- 3 As requested by the State Government Council agrees to freeze current rate levels for the 2020/21 year.
- 4 As requested by the Australian Services Union (ASU) through WALGA that Council note that special COVID-19 leave provisions have been introduced for State Government employees and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to introduce provisions similar for Council employees that are appropriate to our circumstances.
- 5 That Council look to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community.
- 6 The Council Library be closed to members of the public until such time that Council considers it appropriate to re-open.
- 7 The Council recommend to the Murchison Museum Committee the Museum close and that the current volunteer management program be suspended.
- 8 Council notes that public access to the Council Office may have to be restricted due to COVID-19 Coronavirus and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make changes if deemed necessary.
- 9 On the foreseeable future that Council Meetings are conducted remotely in accordance with the Local Government (Administration Amendment) Regulations 2020.

**Carried**

6

**Against**

0

*Cr E Foulkes-Taylor left the chambers at 3.06pm and returned at 3.07pm.*

#### Additional Motion

*The following additional motion was then put and carried. From an operational perspective the guidelines as identified are to be prepared by the Chief Executive Officer and circulated to all Councillors for comment for a 48 hour periods prior to being finalised.*

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority.

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** A Whitmarsh

**Seconded: Cr** E. Foulkes-Taylor

That council resolve that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised, in consultation with Council, to develop, update and implement as required COVID-19 guidelines specific to the Murchison Shire.

**Carried**

**For** 6

**Against**

0

## 17.2 Wild Dog Control Working Group Recommendation

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 March 2020

Attachments: Nil

### Matter for Consideration

The Wild Dog Control Working Group met in July 2018 and amongst other things, I have been advised that they discussed and recommended that the bounty for Wild Donkeys be increased from \$10 to \$20. Whilst this recommendation has been discussed informally by Council no actual resolution to accept this recommendation was made. This Item addresses the situation.

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

Shire of Murchison Council Community Strategic

Plan Economic Objective 1:

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

Strategies to Implement Objectives Small Scale Support for Vermin Control

*The Pastoral industry is a key industry within the Shire. Vermin issues, in particular wild dogs, have the ability to impact on the ongoing viability of the Pastoral industry within the Shire. The Shire supports a range of measures in relation to vermin control.*

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Financial Implications

The increase recommended would have a minimal impact on our budget.

## **Recommendation**

That Council accept the recommendation from the Wild Dog Control Working Group to increase the bounty for Wild Donkeys & camels from \$10 to \$20.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q. Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** P. Squires

That Council accept the recommendation from the Wild Dog Control Working Group to increase the bounty for wild donkeys & wild camels from \$10 to \$20 effective 1 July 2019.

**Carried**

6

**Against**

0

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## 18 ADMINISTRATION

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### 18.1 Compliance Audit Return 2019

File:	4.18
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 March 2020
Attachments:	18.2.1 Murchison Compliance Audit Return 2019

#### Matter for Consideration

Council to review a report from the Audit Committee and consider adopting the Compliance Audit Return 2019.

#### Background

A Compliance Audit Return for the period 1 January to 31 December in each year is to be carried out and presented to the Audit Committee for review. The Audit Committee is to report to the Council the results of that review. The Compliance Audit Return is to be then adopted by Council and the certified copy is to be sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government & Communities by 31 March of the following year.

#### Comment

The Audit Committee met earlier today to review the Compliance Audit Return 2018 and gives its recommendation below.

#### Statutory Environment

Local Government Audit Regulations 1996

14 *Compliance audits by local governments*

- (1) *A local government is to carry out a compliance audit for the period 1 January to 31 December in each year.*
- (2) *After carrying out a compliance audit the local government is to prepare a compliance audit return in a form approved by the Minister.*
- (3A) *The local government's audit committee is to review the compliance audit return and is to report to the council the results of that review.*
- (3) *After the audit committee has reported to the council under sub regulation (3A), the compliance audit return is to be —*
  - (a) *presented to the council at a meeting of the council*
  - (b) *adopted by the council; and*
  - (c) *recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is adopted.*

15 *Compliance audit return, certified copy of etc. to be given to Executive Director*

- (1) *After the compliance audit return has been presented to the council in accordance with regulation 14(3) a certified copy of the return together with —*
  - (a) *a copy of the relevant section of the minutes referred to in regulation 14(3)(c); and*
  - (b) *any additional information explaining or qualifying the compliance audit,**is to be submitted to the Executive Director by 31 March next following the period to which the return relates.*
- (2) *In this regulation — certified in relation to a compliance audit return means signed by —*
  - (a) *the mayor or president; and*
  - (b) *the CEO.*

#### Strategic Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Audit Committee.

**Recommendation**

*Audit Committee Recommendation (Considered after the meeting of the Audit Committee)*

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

*Note this item was addressed under Item 14.1 - Audit Committee Report where the following resolution was carried*

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** A Whitmarsh

**Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That in relation to the Audit Committee Report of its Meeting on 26 March 2020 as presented to the 26 March 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council, that Council

- 1 receives and notes the Compliance Audit Return 2019 has been prepared by the CEO as required and
- 2 accepts the recommendation from the Audit Committee and adopts the Compliance Audit Return 2019 as presented.

**Carried**

**For**

**6**

**Against**

**0**



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## 19 NOTICE OF MOTION

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Nil

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## 20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

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File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 March 2020

Attachments: Nil

### General

The activities below show the extent of activity undertaken with initial and continuing emphasis on long-term financial planning. Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has seen an additional and no doubt elevated emphasis in developing and implementing a response.

Meanwhile, as outlined under the Works Supervisors Report we welcome Lou Bavoillot as our new member on the maintenance crew and wife Wendy to our community. We have also finalised the engagement of Sam Walton as Community Projects Officer. Sam will operate as a casual employee with a varying workload depending on needs which will no doubt need to adapt as we support our community.

### Activities since last Meeting

Date	Activity
25.02.2020	Travel North to review roads and flood issue with Works Supervisor
26.02.2020	Financial Statements, Record Keeping Plan and Flood Information update. Telephones discussion with Midwest-Gascoyne Regional Development Authority and Shire President
27.02.2020	Audit Committee Meeting. Council Meeting
28.02.2020	Council & Audit Committee Minutes. Follow up Council Meeting TOIL
2.03.2020	Public Holiday and prepare draft Rossco's Rundown
3.03.2020	Follow up Council Meeting Actions. Start logo transition process
4.03.2020 to 6.03.2010	Follow up Council Meeting Actions, Logo transition process
7.03.2020 to 8.03.2020	Finalise Minute Attachments and Murchison Monologue preparation.
9.03.2020	Attend Workshop Toolbox Meeting. Finalise correspondence from Council Meeting. Meeting with Works Supervisor over potential road economic stimulus packages. Work on Murchison Monologue.
10.03.2020 to 11.03.2020	Work on Murchison Monologue, Roads Economic Stimulus Program with Works Supervisor. Telephone briefings with Shire President and Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor. Commence preliminary work on Tania Meads request
12.03.2020 to 13.03.2020	Work on Monologue, Economic Stimulus Program. Emails. Tania Mead's support.
13.03.2020	Work on Monologue, Economic Stimulus Program. Emails. Tania Mead's support.
14.03.2020	Logo development, Monologue, Budget Review

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
15.03.2020	Budget Review
16.03.2020	Budget Review. Telephone catchup with Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor over Monologue and Branding. Attend COVID19 WALGA Webinar.
17.03.2020	Telephone discussion with Shire President. Budget Review. Meetings with Sam Walton and Cr Paul Squires. Attend Yuck Circus Telephone hook-up. Work on COVID19 and Economic Stimulus Letter.
18.03.2020	Budget Review Work. Meeting with Works Supervisor, Technical Officer and Nigel from Quality Builders. Finalise Annual Compliance Return. Work on Council, and Audit Committee Agenda's.
19.03.2020	Budget Review with Works Supervisor and Technical Officer. Agenda and COVID-19 work. Regional Road Group Meeting via telephone with Works Supervisor and Cr Paul
20.03.2020	Budget Review and Agenda Preparation. Attend WALGA COVID-19 Webinar. Discussion with Shire President and follow up and distribute Shire Presidents media announcement. Discussion with Nicole Mahony and follow up and distribute Roadhouse media announcement.
21.03.2020 to 23.03.2020	Budget Review. Agenda Preparation

### **Recommendation**

That the CEO's Activity Report be accepted.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** A Whitmarsh

**Seconded: Cr** Q. Fowler

That the CEO's Activity Report be accepted.

**Carried**

**For** 6

**Against** 0

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## 21 URGENT BUSINESS

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The following items were identified and considered as Urgent Business.

- Item 14.1 Audit Committee Report and recommendations were considered under Items 14.2 and 18.1
- Item 16.3 2019-20 Budget Review and recommendations were considered under Item 16.3.
- Item 17.1 COVID-19 Coronavirus Update. General preliminary update of current situation with respect to COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and potential implications for Council and the community were considered under Item 17.1. Specific elements of this relating to the Murchison Roadhouse were considered under item 22.1

### Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

#### **Council Decision**

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

That Council accept and consider the items as outlined as Urgent Business.

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b>	0
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## 22 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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Council is to discuss the following items Pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) and s5.23(2)(c) behind closed doors:

- 22.1 Operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 Period  
Consideration of matters specific to the operation of the Murchison Roadhouse through the COVID-19 Period.

### **Recommendation**

That the meeting moves behind closed doors to discuss an item pursuant to LGA s.5.23(2)(c) relating to the following items:

- 22.1 Operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 period.

### Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

#### **Council Decision**

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

That the meeting moves behind closed doors to discuss an item pursuant to LGA s.5.23(2)(b) and (c) relating to the following items:

- 22.1 Operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 Period

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b>	0
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*Meeting was closed to the public at 3.23pm.*

### **Motion to open the meeting to the public**

### **Recommendation**

That the meeting moves out from behind closed doors.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	Q. Fowler	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	A Whitmarsh
That the meeting moves out from behind closed doors.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

*The meeting was declared re-opened to the public at 3.35pm.*

**Decisions Disclosed from Closed Section of Meeting**

**22.2 Operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 Period**

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	P. Squires	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	A Whitmarsh
That Council resolve as follows:			
1 The Chief Executive Officers Report on the operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 period be received and noted			
2 The Murchison Oasis Caravan Park remain closed to members of the public through the COVID-19 period but that subject the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, the Caravan Park can remain for open for use by contractors that are performing works within the Murchison Shire and for emergency situations.			
3 The request from the lessees of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse to vary the current opening hours through the COVID-19 period be accepted and that Council authorises the Chief Executive to vary opening times should circumstances if justified.			
4 The request from the lessees of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse to extend the current retainer for a 6-month period be accepted by Council.			
5 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to proceed with work to identify projects for potential improvements to the roadhouse, its facilities and equipment including having accommodation with independent toilets and showers and report back to Council for potential fast tracking through the COVID-19 period.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	6	<b>Against</b> 0

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**23 MEETING CLOSURE**

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*The Shire President closed the meeting at 3.35pm*

<b>Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 April 2020.</b>	
Signed.....	Presiding Officer