



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Hosted as an eMeeting from the Council Chambers  
Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, Murchison Settlement

in accordance with the  
*Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2020*

on Thursday **23 April 2020**, commencing at 12 Noon.

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS .....	3
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....	3
	3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 March 2020.....	3
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	3
5	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE .....	3
6	STANDING ORDERS .....	4
7	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME .....	4
8	NEXT MEETING .....	4
9	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
10	NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	4
11	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION.....	4
12	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS .....	4
13	ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED .....	5
	13.1 Shire President .....	5
	13.2 Councillors .....	5
14	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES .....	5
15	WORKS.....	6
	15.1 Works Report.....	6
	15.2 Coolcalalaya Road .....	8
16	FINANCE.....	10
	16.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was adopted/endorsed by Council.....	10
	16.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 March 2020 .....	11
	16.3 AMEC COVID-19 Rate Relief Request .....	12
17	DEVELOPMENT .....	14
	17.1 COVID-19 Coronavirus Update .....	14
18	ADMINISTRATION.....	17
	18.1 CSIRO Road Reserves Closure Request .....	17
19	NOTICE OF MOTION .....	18
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT .....	19
21	URGENT BUSINESS .....	20
22	ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	20
23	MEETING CLOSURE.....	20

## ATTACHMENTS

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.10pm.

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

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### Present

Via GoTo Meeting

#### Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor – President  
Cr A Whitmarsh – Deputy President  
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor  
Cr G Mead  
Cr P Squires

#### Staff

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

### Leave of Absence

Cr Q Fowler

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## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 March 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 26 March 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 26 March 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

**For** 5

**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 P Squires

**Seconded:** Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

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**

5

**Against**

0

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## 7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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Nil

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## 8 NEXT MEETING

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Thursday 28 May 2020

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## 9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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Nil

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

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Nil

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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**

The president had attended several COVID-19 related webinars but was not attending them all any more as the situation settles down. WALGA have been providing some good support. The CEO concurred but stated that lately the relevance of what is being released by WALGA is of limited relevance to the Shire. The Shire President continued that he has also had some discussion over day to day issues with neighbouring councils. The Murchison Country Zone meeting will be via an e-meeting on Friday May the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **13.2 Councillors**

No reports were made.

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## **14 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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Nil

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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 18 April 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 continued with the re-sheet Job (C14186) SLK 112.10 to SLK 116.17. As of Monday 20 April, an additional water cart and grid roller from Squires Resources are on site. Some additional floodways will be added to both the Carnarvon / Mullewa Road and Muggon Road. Concrete pipe culverts will be installed at the entrance to Mt Narryer access road. This area has been problematic and washes out with each rain event, hopefully this should resolve the issue.

#### Maintenance Crew

The maintenance crew have graded the Mt Gould, Beringarra / Cue, Beringarra / Byro and are currently busy on the Carnarvon / Mullewa Road. They should be back at the Settlement by Friday 24 April. They will then start from the South boundary of the Carnarvon / Mullewa Road, then do New Forrest Yallalong and Coolcalalaya Roads.

#### New Grid Inserts

The first of the new grid inserts have been installed by Yuin Contracting on the grid south of Talling Homestead. Some minor modifications have been suggested for the remaining inserts being built by Jenkin Manufacturing.

#### Beringarra-Pindar additional Construction Works

Following quotations being obtained from Council's Roads Panel, Squires Resources was awarded the contract to undertake three (3) packages of work on the Beringarra- Pindar Road as outlined below

C14193	Package 1 Capex - Beringarra-Pindar SLK 144.29 to SLK 145.31	Cut existing material off the corner, re-sheet, and re-camber corner. Material is already stock- piled in pit located SLK 147.90, 500m West of Beringarra-Pindar Road. Material is bony and will require the use of a grid roller and considerable amount of working prior to being laid. There is a grid at SLK 145.33 that will need to be cleaned. Inserts (4) will need to be removed prior to cleaning.
C14192	Package 2 Capex - Beringarra-Pindar SLK 151.98 to SLK 153.69	From SLK 151.98 to SLK 153.69. This will require the sandy batters to be pulled onto the road and compacted prior to re-sheeting with material from Pit at SLK 147.90. A grid roller will again be required as material is bony.
C14178	Package 3 Capex - Beringarra-Pindar SLK 198.5-204.44	SLK 199.98 – Reinststate bund. SLK 201.23 – Reinststate bund SLK 202.03 – Reinststate bund. SLK 202.03 to 202.61 - Re-sheet SLK 202.60 to 202.66 – Instate floodway and drainage. SLK 202.66 to 204.44 – Re-sheet and correct camber on corner. The camber goes the wrong way.

### Flood 6 Package Works

Tenders for two packages of Works to rectify damage from the April 2019 Flood event (AGRN863) have been advertised. This tender includes in its scope of works the ability, with our consent, to expand the works required to include other Council related non flood damage works that can be cost effectively undertaken if required

Tenders close on 21 April 2020 with an evaluation report from Councils appointed Superintendent Greenfield to follow by Wednesday 29 April 2020. In these circumstances and to avoid a delay the Chief Executive Officer has suggested that a small Working Group be formed to assist in the selection of successful tenderers.

### Flood 7 Works

A claim for \$425,518 in flood damage has been submitted to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for damage to the Beringarra-Byro and Beringarra-Mt Gould Roads as a result of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Damien and Associated Flooding (4-9 February 2020) under AGRN 899

### **Recommendation**

That the Works Supervisors Report be received and accepted and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to proceed with and select appropriate selected contractors for the two (2) packages of Flood 6 Restoration Works in consultation with a Working Group to be appointed by Council.

*Note it is suggested that if desired two or three councillors be appointed to assist.*

*The registrations of the Shire's Prados in the plant report was corrected.*

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That the Works Supervisors Report be received and accepted and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to proceed with and select appropriate selected contractors for the two (2) packages of Flood 6 Restoration Works in consultation with a Working Group to be appointed by Council.

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

### **New Motion**

To appoint councillors to assist the CEO a further motion was added.

*Cr Squires declared an interest and left the meeting at 12.22pm.*

*Cr Mead also declared an interest and left the meeting at 12.24pm.*

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That Council appoint Cr A Whitmarsh and Cr R Foulkes-Taylor to a Working Group to assist in reviewing review the Tenders received for the Flood 6 Restoration Works.

**Carried** **For** 3 **Against** 0

*Cr Squires and Cr Mead returned to the meeting at 12.29pm.*

## 15.2 Coolcalalaya Road

File: 12.24  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 18 April 2020  
Attachments: 15.2.1 Northampton Shire Coolcalalaya Road Correspondence

### Matter for Consideration

At the February 2020 Council Meeting, Council resolved that

*In light of Councils adopted 2030 Regional Roads Review and Murchison Local Roads Review Reports and the increased strategic importance of the Coolcalalaya Road, can Council write to the Shire of Northampton firstly advising them of Councils decisions and request that with this importance in mind they review the level of their maintenance activities undertaken on this road.*

As per the attached letter Council has received a response which is presented for consideration

### Response Summary

In summary Northampton Shire has responded as follows:

- It supports the proposal for Coolcalalaya Road to be a Type 2 (Formed Road) construction as this is the current type that exists
- The recent subgroup meeting noted that our proposal to have this road included in Roads 2030 will need to be resubmitted for a change to the Roads 2030 to occur following the proposal being rejected by the Technical Working Group.
- Coolcalalaya Road comprises 110km from the North West Coastal Highway to the Murchison Shire. This comprises around 73km of actual road reserve which ends around 10km from the Coolcalalaya Station with the balance of around 37km classified as a public access road.
- Advice provided highlights that legally Northampton are not responsible for the formed road from the end of the dedicated road reserve to the Shire boundary
- Their current practice is to grade the road once per annum up to the Coolcalalaya Homestead Station and they have indicated that they intend that this practice will be maintained. Part of their rationale is that they do not have camp out facilities for staff.
- The Coolcalalaya Station is no longer a working station and they understand that it will revert to its bushland state.
- They have indicated that they would be prepared to consider a request for the Murchison Shire to grade the section from the boundary to the Coolcalalaya Homestead for a charge but would need to know the cost.

### Comments

Northampton Shire's response is positive. It clarifies the legal situation and essentially commits a minimal maintenance treatment for most of the road length that has a direct service connection from the Coolcalalaya Station Homestead to the west but also provides the potential for Council to undertake works on their behalf from the Coolcalalaya Station Homestead to our Shire boundary subject to costs being acceptable..

In situations associated with through routes it is not uncommon for two respective Shires to view a road in different strategic terms as well as having different needs and operational capabilities.

In our instance we make a significant investment in the roads to service local Stations, general community and tourists along this route. Last year we committed significant costs to repair a section of this road that was damaged. From a practical perspective there should be no real impediment for us to undertake the work within the Northampton Shire on cost recovery basis as its merely an extension of around 27km onto our existing road length.



Although not dealt with in this report, the question would remain as to whether there is any merit in the future of pursuing with Northampton Shire this section of road being formally included as part of Council's overall responsibility.

#### 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

Nil

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note Northampton Shire's response in relation to Coolcalalaya Road and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to pursue an agreement with the Northampton Shire to undertake maintenance works on the Coolcalalaya Road within their Shire on a cost recovery basis.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr**    E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr**    P Squires

That Council receive and note Northampton Shire's response in relation to Coolcalalaya Road and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to pursue an agreement with the Northampton Shire to undertake maintenance works on the Coolcalalaya Road within their Shire on a cost recovery basis.

**Carried**

**For**

**5**

**Against**

**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: 18 April 2020  
Attachments: 16.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for March 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.

*A correction was made to reflect the dog bounties claimed by R King on EFT 4720.*

#### 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** A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

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** 5 **Against** 0

## 16.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 March 2020

File:

Author: Tatjana Erak – Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date

Attachments: 16.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report March 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 31 March 2020 as attached.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

*This item was withdrawn as not all reports were received in time by Moore Stephens. Item to be presented at the May Ordinary Council Meeting*

## 16.3 AMEC COVID-19 Rate Relief Request

File: 3.1.1  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 18 April 2020  
Attachments: 16.3.1 AMEC Request for Rate Relief due to COVID-19

### Matter for Consideration

As per the attached letter the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies have written to Council requesting a temporary relief on local government rates on exploration tenements.

### Comments

This request appears to have come from an industry representative body not from any specific ratepayer within the Murchison Shire. It requests a relief from rates in the forthcoming year citing the need for a pause. At this stage we have received no specific requests from any ratepayer within the Shire for rate relief per say which as a matter of course would be considered on a case by case basis on its merits.

From information obtained from a recent WALGA Webinar it seems that this or a similar request has gone to several Shires. When questioned the Minister for Local Government confirmed that the State had requested Local governments freeze rates and not waive them. Mining companies have also benefited from other government financial support initiatives.

### Statutory Environment

*Local Government Act 1995.*

#### 6.12. Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts

- (1) *Subject to subsection (2) and any other written law, a local government may —*
- (a) *when adopting the annual budget, grant\* a discount or other incentive for the early payment of any amount of money; or*
  - (b) *waive or grant concessions in relation to any amount of money; or*
  - (c) *write off any amount of money,*  
*which is owed to the local government.*
- \* Absolute majority required.*
- (2) *Subsection (1)(a) and (b) do not apply to an amount of money owing in respect of rates and service charges.*
- (3) *The grant of a concession under subsection (1)(b) may be subject to any conditions determined by the local government.*
- (4) *Regulations may prescribe circumstances in which a local government is not to exercise a power under subsection (1) or regulate the exercise of that power.*
- [Section 6.12 amended: No. 64 of 1998 s. 39.]*

### 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

Leadership Objective 4:

*To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:*

- *Compliance with statutory requirements.*
- *High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances.*

Strategies to Achieve Civic Leadership Outcomes

*Financial Planning and Management*

*To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.*

*Asset Management*

*Meet the required level of service in the most cost effective manner for present and future residents.*

*Cr Whitmarsh declared an interest as a shareholder of Athena Resources and left the meeting at 12.37pm.*

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

**Recommendation**

That in relation to the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies request on behalf of its members for Council to initiate temporary relief on local government rates on exploration tenements for the 2020/21, that Council advises that we acknowledge that all ratepayers will be affected by the current COVID-19 Pandemic and that whilst we are not in a position to agree to the request, Council has already committed to freeze rates for 2020/21 at 2019/20 levels.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** P Squires

That in relation to the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies request on behalf of its members for Council to initiate temporary relief on local government rates on exploration tenements for the 2020/21, that Council advises that we acknowledge that all ratepayers will be affected by the current COVID-19 Pandemic and that whilst we are not in a position to agree to the request, Council has already committed to freeze rates for 2020/21 at 2019/20 levels.

**Carried**

**For** 4

**Against** 0

*Cr Whitmarsh returned to the meeting at 12.38pm.*

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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

#### Matter for Consideration

As we are aware the current declared COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic continues is to be the most significant national events in our history that affecting us all. This item formally updates Council on some of those matters that pertain to our operation.

#### Comments

On an hourly basis emails and information arrives continues to arrive from all sorts of sources that further clarifies, and sometimes confuses the situation. WALGA continues to positively represent the local government sector with regular updates provides as well as information that we provide back to them so that they can articulate and inform others.

The Shire President and I have continued to have the opportunity to separately attend regular WALGA Webinar presentations hosted by WALGA President, Mayor Tracey Roberts, for all Mayors, Presidents and Chief Executive Officers. During the month these have been held on Friday 27 March 2020, Friday 3 April 2020, Thursday 9 April 2020 and Friday 17 April 2020.

A few points arising out of these updates and meetings include the following

#### *Local Government Specifics*

1 The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is working on a range of regulatory amendments to facilitate Council business during the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been or about to be finalised and include the following:

~ Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations

It is proposed the Regulations will be amended by raising the tender threshold to \$250,000; introduce a new tender exemption for purchases required during a state of emergency declaration; and permit the extension or renewal of existing contracts which are due to expire (at the Local Government's discretion). These amendments will permit a wider range of procurement activities to be conducted under Purchasing Policies and assist Local Governments in their response and recovery activities.

~ Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations

The proposed amendment to the Regulations will enable employers and employees to agree to the taking of long service leave in two or more separate periods

~ Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations

The Regulations propose to ease the process for the movement and use of reserve funds, and borrowing of money while a state of emergency declaration is in force

2 Deferral of next year's Valuations

This matter was actively pursued by WALGA and the Minister for Local Government with the view that when 2020/21 rate notices are sent out the valuations would be the same as for 2019/20 and therefore with the same rate in the \$ the rates bill, which is what ratepayers will likely focus on, would be identical. Unfortunately for various reasons in part associated with the independence of the Valuer General, this amendment was not accepted by State Parliament.

As a result, all Councils will need to undertake their 2020/21 rates modelling so that the total rates delivered remains the same recognising that that may be variations at an individual level. WALGA have indicated that they would assist in communication. Given the small and simple nature of our rates base this may not be such a significant issue but time will tell.

- 3 WALGA have indicated that they would work with the State Government to endeavor to move the role in collecting the Emergency Service Levy to a State Agency.
- 4 The LGIS Board is looking at advancing additional funds that they have in Reserves to the sector in 2020/21 as an extra distribution over and above the current one.
- 5 As part of WALGA's role they facilitated an information gathering exercise in relation to the delivery of food and produce to the regions which was then taken to some a logistic meeting in Perth. Our submission based on information obtained from some members of staff and Nicole Mahony at the Oasis Roadhouse was well received such that after the meeting we were able to receive a phone call from Western Independent Foods who amongst other things were able to secure a supply of toilet paper.
- 6 The ALGA and WALGA were unsuccessful in getting the Federal Job Seeker payment made available to local government.
- 7 Similarly, those local governments that manage childcare facilities are not eligible to access assistance packages that apply to private operators.
- 8 The State Government has frozen all its fees and charges at 2019/20 levels.
- 9 The stay at home message has been and is being continually reinforced.
- 10 Regional travel restrictions are well enforced.

### *Murchison Specifics*

Local specific issues addressed include the following.

- 11 Thus far we have not had any issue with our letters of authorisation having been accepted when drivers of vehicles that are servicing Murchison Shire travel across regional boundaries.
- 12 The State Government have been advised that Council has agreed to freeze current rate levels for the 2020/21 year. There have been at least four instances where this advice has been provided in writing or by way of a survey back to WALGA / the State Government.

As a general comment it seems important that WALGA and the State Government be kept abreast of the positive actions that the sector is undertaking.

- 13 Staff have been briefed of Council's general support for the work that they do and that we will, if required instigate special COVID-19 leave provisions
- 14 Work has commenced to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community as follows:

#### Roadworks

- ~ As indicated under the Works Supervisors Report a contract for three (3) packages of resheet / rehabilitation works have been let for the Beringarra-Pindar Road
- ~ Tenders for two (2) packages of Works to rectify damage from the April 2019 Flood event (AGRN863) includes in its scope of works that ability with our consent, to expand the works required to include other Council related non flood damage works that can be cost effectively undertaken if required

#### Settlement Works

- ~ As identified in the March Budget Review works associated with the minor renovations to the Council Offices / Library and Roadhouse are being actioned.
- ~ Prices and designs are being obtained for the construction of an additional staff house
- ~ Prices and design for and a new Ablution Block for the Caravan Park and to refurbish and convert the central unit of the three (3) older accommodation units to provide two (2) fully ensuite units are being obtained.
- ~ Other works associated with the sporting facilities and water supply are being more closely examined.

Financial impacts associated with these works have been and will be include in the next budget review which will be part of next years formal consideration.

- 15 Library and Museum have been closed
- 16 Operators of the Murchison Roadhouse have been advised of Councils support and decisions already made in relation to their operation. We continue to work with them as the operational situation changes.
- 17 We have been working with Mid-West Freight given changed circumstances. As a result, we have agreed to expand the free list for grocery pickup to re-include IGA Wonthella and introduce Western Independent Foods. This should give more options, especially with the increased demand placed on

pick up services generally and variations in supply. There have also been changes at supplier level which mean that the we have now to load in Geraldton very early on the Thursday morning before travelling up to deliver in Murchison on the Thursday

#### 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

Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic will encompass many strategies contained within all four Objectives of our Community Plan ie 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 polices may be required.

#### Financial Implications

Yet to be fully determined but financial impacts associated with these works have been and will be include in the next budget review which will be part of next year’s formal consideration.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Chief Executive Officer’s Council COVID-19 Coronavirus Update Report be received and accepted.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	A Whitmarsh	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	P Squires
That the Chief Executive Officer’s Council COVID-19 Coronavirus Update Report be received and accepted.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b> 0

It was affirmed by the CEO that Midwest Freight had been compensated for the increased measures undertaken in getting freight to the settlement.



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## 18 ADMINISTRATION

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### 18.1 CSIRO Road Reserves Closure Request

File: 12.15  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 18 April 2020  
Attachments: 18.1.1 CSIRO Road Reserves Closure

#### Matter for Consideration

As per the attached letter Council has received a request from CSIRO for Council to undertake formal road closures for various road reserves within the Boolardy Station with the intent to amalgamate these areas within the adjoining lease

#### Comments

At the February 2020 Council Meeting as part of considering of a review of Council's Road the issue of legal land tenure and Grants Commission implications for Council's Roads network was also considered.

In the past Council has attempted to seek support from Landgate to ascertain the legal status of our road network. Unfortunately, this has become problematic with only some roads having been investigated for evidence of any gazettal or dedication. Not all roads have been investigated. The gaps are significant and, in some occasions, raise further questions.

For instance, some have been gazetted, others gazetted but not located within the dedicated road boundary, others located on pastoral lease and others closed but on our data base. The situation is not unique to Murchison with Landgate resources only being able to address and review a particular situation when they have reason for doing so.

There is also a further problem in that the processes of closing a road are tedious and invariably may lead to a road area being incorporated into a pastoral lease which may then open up potential native title claim.

For these reasons it would seem to be of little value to proceed with any formal road closures on a general Council wide basis and restrict such an action to specific justified requests.

In this instance, whilst from CSIRO's perspective there may appear to be a reason for formally closing those roads identified in the request there are a few pertinent issues that the Works Supervisor and I have identified including the following:

- One of the road reserves s Maps 1 and 3 is Manfred Road which is a recognised as on Councils Main Roads data base. This involves some 34.70km and if closed would effectively see around a \$11,718 per annum reduction in roads funding from the Grants Commission. Whilst this road is currently maintained by CSIRO, I understand that this is at their request.
- The road reserve to the north on Map 1 is from what we can ascertain a part of a dedicated stock route, the linkage to and from is unknown, as are the wider implications.
- The status and use road reserve on map 3 heading north east from the Beringarra-Pindar Road heading east is unknown
- Specific requests for additional information relating to some roads with names, GPS coordinates and/or SLK readings has thus far not been able to be provided.

In view of the above both the Works Supervisor and I have indicated to CSIRO that we are not inclined to support the request and indicated that the status quo should remain. In part it would seem that without any information to the contrary how the operation of the Boolardy Station and CSIRO's operation generally in practice is being affected by the current situation.

The point regarding the Kalli-Roderick Road was removed as it is not within the Boolardy Station reserve.

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.*

*Negotiate Communication Concerns with CSIRO*

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

There would be a loss of around \$11,718 per annum in Grant Commission funding if Manfred Road was closed to the public.

**Recommendation**

That at this time CSIRO be advised their request for Council to undertake formal road closures for various road reserves within the Boolardy Station with the intent to amalgamate these areas within the adjoining lease is declined.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	P Squires	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	G Mead
That at this time CSIRO be advised their request for Council to undertake formal road closures for various road reserves within the Boolardy Station with the intent to amalgamate these areas within the adjoining lease is declined.			
<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b> 0

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**19 NOTICE OF MOTION**

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Nil

## 20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 20 April 2020  
Attachments: Nil

### General

The activities below show the extent of activity undertaken with initial and continuing emphasis on short and medium term financial planning and budgeting. Continued work in relation to our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic activities since last Meeting

Date	Activity
24.03.2020	Meeting with Peter & Nicole Mahony with Works Supervisor and Technical Officer regarding COVIC-19 Roadhouse Report Agenda Item.
25.03.2020	COVIC-19 Roadhouse Report Agenda Item
26.03.2020	COVIC-19 Agenda Item. Council Meeting. Annual Electors Meeting. Verbally advise Lessees of Roadhouse of Council decisions at the meeting
27.03.2020	Attend Regional Development and WALGA COVID-19 Update Webinars. Meetings with Works Superintendent and staff. Finalise Council and Audit Committee Minutes. Liaise with Roadhouse operators.
28.03.2020	Prepare Road Advice Public Notice and finalise Council Minutes. Rossco Rundown. Staff meeting at Workshop
30.03.2020	Roadhouse inspection with Technical Officer and Nicole Mahony. Finalise Council Minutes. Attend MEG Meeting via video conference. Start scope Settlement Building works.
31.03.2020	Finalise Minutes. Finalise & lodge 2019 Compliance Return & 2019/20 Budget Review. Follow up Monologue Information.
1.04.2020	Meeting with Peter & Nicole Mahony with Works Supervisor and Technical Officer regarding Roadhouse operations. Review Roadhouse communications. Travel with Works Supervisor and discuss on site with Greenfields Supervisor bituminous sealing works on Carnarvon-Mullewa Road. Budget model Preparation. WALGA and State Government COVID-19 response and general COVID-19 follow up
2.04.2020	Letters to Minister & Roadhouse & Travel Template. Budget model Preparation. Telephone discussions with Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor over Monologue & Branding. Finalise Elector Meeting Minutes. COVID-19 Follow up
3.04.2020	Budget model Preparation. WALGA Webinar. WALGA Food Response
4.04.2020	Monologue Review. Budget Model Presentation. Food Supply follow up
5.04.2020	Attend RFDS Emergency Landing Patient Transfer with Technical Officer, Andrew Whitmarsh, Nicole Mahony and others. Budget Review and general administration work.
6.04.2020	Budget Review work. Public Question Letter to Sam Walton. Meetings with Works Supervisor and Acting DCEO. Review Auditor draft letter of engagement response ahead meeting with Auditor
7.04.2020	Budget Review. Telephone conference with Acting DCEO and Dominic Zappa and David Wall & David from RSM (Auditors) regarding Pre Audit meeting. Draft public notice for website
8.04.2020	Field Trip North with Works Supervisor to view amongst other things Beringarra Cue Rd, Jack Hills Mine etc. Follow up with Mid-West Freight various operational issues.
9.04.2020	Budget Review. Attend WALGA Webinar. Meeting with Nicole Mahony, Works Supervisor and Technical Officer over Roadhouse operations. Follow up briefings with Works Supervisor and Technical Officer. Attend to Mid-West Freight Email

