



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,  
on Thursday **25 May 2023**, 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 – 27 April 2023.....	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	URGENT BUSINESS .....	4
11	NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	5
12	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION.....	5
13	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS .....	5
15	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES .....	5
	15.1 Audit Committee .....	5
14	ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED .....	6
	14.1 Shire President .....	6
	14.2 Councillors .....	6
16	WORKS .....	7
	16.1 Works Report.....	7
17	FINANCE.....	9
	17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council .....	9
	17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 April 2023 .....	11
	17.3 Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan – Preliminary Review .....	12
	17.4 2023 / 2024 Rates Review .....	14
18	DEVELOPMENT .....	18
	18.1 Wild Dog Control Operational Amendment .....	18
	18.2 Cancer Fund Raising Request .....	19
	18.3 Australian Local Government Association National Conference.....	20
19	ADMINISTRATION.....	21
	19.1 Notice of Motion – Roads Policy.....	21
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT .....	23
21	OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS .....	24
22	MEETING CLOSURE.....	24

## ATTACHMENTS

---

## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

---

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.05pm

---

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

---

### Present

#### Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Cr Q Fowler

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor (via remote video Teams)

Cr M Fowler

Cr G Mead

#### Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO

William Herold – Works Manager

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

### Leave of Absence

Cr A Whitmarsh

---

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

---

### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 April 2023

#### 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 April 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 April 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

**Carried**

**For**

**5**

**Against**

**0**

---

## 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

---

Potential disclosures depending on whether items relating to Urgent Business are accepted.

---

## 5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

---

Nil

---

## 6 STANDING ORDERS

---

### Matter for Consideration

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

### **Recommendation**

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

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

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** E 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

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>0</b>
----------------	------------	----------	----------------	----------

---

## 7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

---

Nil

---

## 8 NEXT MEETING

---

Thursday 22 June 2023

---

## 9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

---

Nil

---

## 10 URGENT BUSINESS

---

Item 18.2. Cancer Fund Raising Request

Item 18.3 Australian Local Government National Conference

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That the following items be accepted and to be considered as Urgent Business

Item 18.1.2 Cancer Fund Raising Request

Item 18.1.3 Australian Local Government Association National Conference

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>0</b>
----------------	------------	----------	----------------	----------

---

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

---

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

---

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

---

Nil

---

## **13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS**

---

Alli Taylor Project Officer for the Murchison GeoRegion attended and provided a presentation in relation to the Murchison GeoRegion. Copy of the presentation is shown in Attachment 13.1.

---

## **15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

---

### **15.1 Audit Committee**

File: 2.2  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 May 2023  
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit Committee Meeting Recommendations

#### Matter for Consideration

Amongst other things one of the objectives of the Audit Committee is to accept responsibility for the annual external audit and liaise with the local government's auditor so that Council can be satisfied with the performance of the local government in managing its financial affairs.

A copy of the Audit Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments including the 2021/22 Financial Report has been separately circulated.

The Audit Committee considered and addressed the following Reports

- 1 Audit Closing Report 2021-22
- 2 2021/22 Financial Report
- 3 Matters Arising from the 2021/22 Audit

#### **Committee Recommendations**

- 1 That the Audit Committee notes the Chief Executive Officers Audit Closing 2021-22 Report and recommends to Council that at its 25 May 2023 Council Meeting that Council notes and accepts the Audit Committees decision.
- 2 That the Audit Committee adopt the 2021/22 Financial Report and recommends to Council at its 25 May 2023 Council Meeting that Council endorse this recommendation and adopt the 2021/22 Financial Report.
- 3 That the Audit Committee notes the Chief Executive Officer's Matters Arising from the 2021/22 Audit Report and recommends to Council that at its 25 May 2023 Council Meeting that Council notes and accepts the Audit Committees decision.

### Recommendations

That Council adopt the recommendations from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2023

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council adopt the recommendations from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2023

**Carried**

**For** 5

**Against** 0

---

## **14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**

---

### **14.1 Shire President**

Nil

### **14.2 Councillors**

Nil

---

## 16 WORKS

---

### 16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42  
Author: William Herold – Works Manager  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 May 2023  
Attachments: Nil

#### Construction Crew

The construction crew are progressing steadily with their current task of preparing the first of a number of sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road to be rehabilitated, widened and then sealed.

The process this time around is different to anything we have attempted to do. As this pavement will be stabilized, we need a pavement that will be more than 250mm, which we will comfortably achieve with the new gravel carted in and the insitu gravel and old bitumen we have reclaimed. Also, in order to drop the pavement to an acceptable level we have had to cut out the sub-base and used this to pick up the excessively deep table drains. The original pavement height was around the 500mm mark higher than the surrounding natural ground level in some places, fortunately not the entire length we are preparing.

After my last discussion with both Greenfield and Blacktop it would appear the best form of pavement stabilization will be about a 0.5% inclusion of cement with the floodways getting 2%. Initially we had some delays as the crew were getting their heads around the new process, however it now appears to be all systems go. There will also be a lot more emphasis on getting our levels more accurate, especially around the three new floodways that will be installed. Should Council have any questions and or queries I can elaborate at the meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile on 24 May 2023 we were advised by Main Roads WA that all 3-road widening and rehabilitation projects on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road (SLK190.23-193.42, SLK 222.83-226.47 and Reserve Project SLK 214.32-230.34) for 2023/24 would now be fully funded. The increase in reserve project funding is \$82,431.

#### New Plant

I am hoping that the new construction grader will be arriving sometime on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> and the smooth drum roller that was ordered at the same time about a month or so later.

#### Maintenance Crew

One of our operators has been on annual leave for three weeks so we have been operating with only one grader. The Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. to the north boundary has been graded with a start on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd due to get underway in a fortnight or so. Squires Resources have done opening up grades on the Mt. Gould and Mileura-Nookawarra Rd. both of which suffered considerable damage in the last rain event.

#### Beringarra-Cue Road.

While a considerable amount of water went over this road the damage was surprisingly little. (Nookawarra recorded 80mm over one night) Some lessons we can learn from this is more bunds are better and their location is critical. Short flat bottom drains were more effective than the old deep and long v-drains. Correct pavement level and construction play a major role in protecting the asset as well as being environmentally responsible. Not having massive table drains to channel water alongside the pavement prevents scouring and in many cases loss of pavement formation.

#### Flood Damage

Squires Resources have completed their Flood 8 & 9 packages and we await further correspondence from DFES for the go ahead for flood 10 (AGRN 1021)

Them Earthmoving are still busy with their Flood 8 & 9 package and are currently working from the north boundary on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. back toward their camp opposite the Beringarra-Byro Rd intersection. Like Squires Resources we are waiting for the go ahead for AGRN 1021.

Meanwhile on 24 May 2023 we were advised that Flood 11 for the event for AGRN1062 Midwest-Gascoyne and Pilbara Regions - Storm and Associated Flooding (29 March - 4 April 2023) had been accepted by DFES as eligible for disaster relief funding.

#### Settlement Water Upgrade

A start was made on Monday 8 May and at the time of writing there is about 400m or so of trenching left before the last of the pipe can be buried. The two crossing points over the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. are complete and will be re-sealed in the spring or early summer after the infill has had a chance to settle. Progress has been remarkably quick so far with all of pipe that has been laid already buried.

We are in discussion with Petro Min Engineers trying to sort out some of the gremlins that have popped up regarding getting power to the new compound now that the new fence has been erected and it can be locked. The CEO and our health inspector are also pursuing various options regarding funding for the chlorination plant.

#### SKA Road Upgrade

Walladar are progressing well with their section of the work, and we will hopefully have them move straight onto the next section once this has been completed. After the RFQ closed last Thursday 18 May 2023 Squires Resources should be making a start on the section south of the Boolardy homestead and then move onto the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd.

#### Settlement Power Upgrade

So far there is not a lot of progress to report on apart from what has been mentioned in the water upgrade. I am also waiting for Hosken Electrical to get back to me on when the cable replacement will happen on Kurara Way, hopefully it will be while Murchison Plumbing and Gas have trenching gear on site.

#### Wreath Flower Signage

This will get underway as soon as all the signage arrives. Hopefully it will still be in this financial year.

### **Recommendation**

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

0

#### *Councillor Comment*

*The CEO was requested to check the timeframe provisions of 10M's Agreement with Council.*



---

## 17 FINANCE

---

### 17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 May 2023  
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2023 (Elected Members Only)

#### Matter for Consideration

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13* requires that if the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, then the CEO is to prepare a list of accounts paid by the CEO for each month and present this to the next ordinary meeting of the Council after the list has been prepared and have this list recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

A list of payments presented in accordance with *Regulation 13* of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* made since the last report to Council is attached.

#### Strategic Implications

None

#### Policy Implications

None

#### Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

#### Consultation

Nil

#### **Recommendation**

- 1 That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2023 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2023 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Item to be Discussed behind closed doors**

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler

**Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2023 be discussed behind closed doors

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

0

*The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.51pm*

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

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That the Meeting be open to the public

**Carried**

**For**

**Against**

*The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.54pm*

**Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1**

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2023 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

**Carried**

**For**

5

**Against**

0

## 17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 April 2023

File: 2.6  
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 May 2023  
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report April 2023

### Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

### Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

### Budget/Financial Implications:

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

### Consultation

RSM Australia

### **Recommendation**

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2023 as attached.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** Q Fowler **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2023 as attached.

<b>Carried</b>	<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b>	0
----------------	------------	---	----------------	---

### 17.3 Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan – Preliminary Review

File: 2.15  
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 21 May 2023  
Attachments: 17.3.1 Preliminary Draft Asset Management Plan Long Term Financial Plan (Extracted elements from plans for the future)

#### Matter for Consideration

Preliminary Review of Council’s Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan as part of Councils Plans for the Future.

#### Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996 as shown below.

<b>Reg</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Previous Adoption</b>
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends	18 September 2017
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council’s priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council’s capacity Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including Asset Management Workforce Planning Long-Term Financial Planning Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually	18 September 2017      18 September 2017 28 March 2019 18 September 2017

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes have occurred since prompting a wider review.

The attached extracts addresses these changes and covers the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Planning segments.

#### Comment

At this stage additional work is still required before they can be considered ready for formal adoption. However, they are considered to be relevant for consideration as part future budgets including the setting of rates

**Recommendation**

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan – Preliminary Review Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>				
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	M Fowler	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	G Mead	
That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan – Preliminary Review Report.				
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	5	<b>Against</b> 0

*The Shire President adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.04pm.*

*The Shire President reopened the meeting after lunch at 1.40pm.*

## 17.4 2023 / 2024 Rates Review

File:	3.1
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	21 May 2023
Attachments:	17.4.1 Rating Strategy Review May 2023 (including Regional Rates Benchmarking Analysis) 17.4.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2023/24 Financial Year

### Matter for Consideration

Review of Council's Rating Strategy as part of Council considering its proposed 2022/23 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

### Background

It is incumbent on the Shire administration, for equity reasons to ensure that differential rating proposals are highly equitable amongst ratepayer groupings, optimise total rate yields and are legally compliant.

At the April 2023 Council Meeting Council considered 2023 Rating Strategy Review Report which included an updated Regional Rates Benchmarking Comparison as well as several local Rates Scenarios. In doing so the following resolution was carried.

*That Council note the Chief Executive Officers 2023 Rating Strategy Review Report with the intention that it will be used to inform Council's considerations when setting rates as part of future budgets.*

Since this time, as shown in the previous Agenda Item 17.3 Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan – Preliminary Review, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to develop an updated Draft Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. Major considerations identified include the following.

- ~ Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report Project vision established “*To ensure that Murchison Settlement is an attractive focal point that enables the Shire to function successfully and deliver a range of services that will underpin community, cultural and economic development within the Settlement and broader Shire.*”
- ~ A range of projects identified as part of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report and Precinct Detailed Concept Design. Potential works associated with the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case will require significant levels of external funding with any delivery and will likely be very long term without significant external investment.
- ~ Major works to upgrade the water and power supply at the Murchison Settlement.
- ~ Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Strategic Upgrade Works
- ~ SKA Route Works
- ~ Others

As a result, these documents and draft budgets that result have identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates.

### Detailed Local Rates Analysis

Whilst benchmarking with Shires provides a useful guide, modelling local rates and changes in valuations needs to be undertaken. The following comments are provided.

#### *Valuation Effects*

- ~ The pastoral sector and mining sector generally see little movements in numbers of ratable assessments. This contrast with the minerals exploration sector which is highly volatile can have a number of ins and outs. This occurred in 2021, 2022 and 2023. As a result, the rates base and rates revenue can vary markedly from year to year but the average rates that are derived usually change in consistent manner.

- ~ With such a small valuation base very small changes in occupation can have a significant effect. By way of illustration in 2021/22 the pastoral sector reduced in size by only one pastoral property with changes in valuations to only two others but in both these instances have there was a significant effect much greater than would otherwise be the case compared to a local government with a much larger rate base.
- ~ At the time of presenting this agenda item Landgate were able to provide the 2023 Mining Tenement Unimproved Valuation Roll but not as yet the Unimproved Pastoral Valuation Roll. However verbal advice indicates that Pastoral Roll, although not yet received has only one minor change. Accordingly, rates modelling has been able to be undertaken with confidence.
- ~ General changes in valuations will apply for 2023/24 as follows.
 

Pastoral	No change
Mining	Up generally 37%
Exploration & Prospecting	No change

~ An addition following our request to Landgate we have received details included on the Mining Tenement Roll of some additional properties that fall under the classification of a Miscellaneous Mining Licence.

**Rate Parameters**

- ~ General Rate Increase  
It is prudent to consider any rate increase from year to year in terms of excluding *Natural Decline or Growth* The Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021 which allows for an average 5% rate increase each year. Recent history shows the following increases excluding *Natural Decline or Growth* have been applied.

<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	11.8%

- ~ As indicated in the attached Rating Strategy Review May 2023 (including Regional Rates Benchmarking Analysis) there are a number of supporting reasons including an objective analysis by the Grants Commission that there is an inherent capacity to increase rates, especially considering the Shires large recurrent and future infrastructure spend as per Council’s revised Long Term Asset Management and Financial Plan.
- ~ Minimum Payment  
The Minimum Payment has increase over the past three year from \$350 to \$800. No further change is proposed.
- ~ Differential Rates in the \$  
The need to reduce the Mining Differential has been well established through successive Rating Strategy Reviews. Significant Increases in Mining sector valuations relative to both Pastoral and Prospecting and Exploration provides the opportunity further reduce this Mining differential to below 2.0. This will then also apply to Prospecting and Exploration Rate sector

**Equity across Rate Differential Categories**

For consistency, Council has ensured that properties that are used for the same purpose are rated in the same way and has considered and analysed in detail the rates charged by neighbouring councils in its deliberations. For a very small local government achieving equity across the Pastoral and Mining Sectors is not without its challenges but the variable nature of the Minerals Exploration Sector and small size of the rate base also provides an additional complexity.

Therefore, as indicated above for 2023/24 it is proposed that much like recent previous years the majority of the rate increase will be borne by the Pastoral and Prospecting & Exploration Sectors.

**Differential Rates Administrative Requirements**

If Council decides to continue to rate on a differential basis for 2023/24, then the objects and reasons for imposing each differential rate must be set out by the local government in a publicly available document and local public notice is required to be given of its intention to impose differential rates, giving details of each rate or minimum payment, and inviting submissions within 21 days of the notice.

If the proposed differential rates for mining will be more than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) then Ministerial approval will consequently be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2023/24 budget. The Department of Local Government requires as part of its process that if there are less than 30 ratepayers in a sector, then each rate payer is to be written to individually, inviting submissions. The Department also requires a raft of other information to accompany any application. Invariably this process may, depending on timing, potentially delay adoption of the budget

On the basis that advertising is undertaken soon after the meeting then any submissions received can be considered at the June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, before making the final decision regarding the imposition of the rate or minimum payment, with or without modification.

This year, unlike the past, the proposed differential rates for mining and exploration is proposed to be less than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) and consequently Ministerial approval will not be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2023/24 budget.

#### Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates

The objects and reasons for differential rating are attached for Council to consider prior to adoption in some form.

#### Budget/Financial Implications:

Proposed differential rates will be set to meet the estimated budget deficiency in the 2023-24 financial year.

#### Consultation

Travis Bate, Financial Accountant (RSM Australia). Previous dialogue with McLeods Barristers and Solicitors, Landgate Valuation Services and DLGSC was also undertaken in 2021. A number of reference documents were also relevant at the time.

#### References

*Rating Strategy Review May 2023 (including Regional Rates Benchmarking Analysis).*

Analysis of rating information from 2022/23 budgets from the Shires of Murchison, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Menzies, Sandstone, Meekatharra, Upper Gascoyne, and Shark Bay.

*Skilmar Rating Review.*

Local Government Rating - A Discussion Paper prepared for Playford Council by Skilmar Systems - December 1998.

*Access Economics Rating Review.*

Valuation and local government rating in Tasmania: a robust framework for the Future. Prepared for Local Government Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Tasmania) by Access Economics – October 2010.

*DLGSC Rates Detailed Discussion Paper.*

Rates Fees and Charges Detailed Discussion Paper. Prepared by DLGSC March 2019

#### Strategic Implications:

The Corporate Business Plan 2017-2021 allows for rate increase each year. The Preliminary Draft 2023 Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan identifies a need to increase rates to help fund community services and amenities and to address intergenerational issues.

#### 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

Nil

## **Recommendation**

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2023 / 24 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2023/24 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2023/24 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Current		Proposed	
	Rate in dollar cents	Min Payment \$	Rate in dollar cents	Min Payment \$
UV Pastoral	4.863	800	<i>to be set by Council</i>	800
UV Mining	24.552	800	<i>to be set by Council</i>	800
UV Exploration	9.339	800	<i>to be set by Council</i>	800

- 3 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2023/24 as attached in attachment 17.4.2.
- 4 That public submissions be invited.

*Note proposed rates in the \$ will need to be set by Council at the meeting.*

## Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

## **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** G Mead

**Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2023 / 24 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2023/24 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2023/24 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Current		Proposed	
	Rate in dollar cents	Min Payment \$	Rate in dollar cents	Min Payment \$
UV Pastoral	4.863	800	8.894	800
UV Mining	24.552	800	16.941	800
UV Exploration	9.339	800	16.941	800

- 3 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2023/24 as attached in attachment 17.4.2.
- 4 That public submissions be invited.

**Carried**

**For**

**5**

**Against**

**0**

---

## 18 DEVELOPMENT

---

### 18.1 Wild Dog Control Operational Amendment

File:	13.2
Author:	Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	22 May 2022
Attachments:	18.1.1 Extract from Council Minutes 19 December 2013 and 15 May 2015

#### Background

Following discussions at Councillor level the issue of Doggers eligible as part of the Shires Vermin Control Bounty Scheme has been raised. Whilst discussions have occurred Wild Dog Working Group Members Cr A Whitmarsh and Cr G Mead have sought to have the matter formally raised for discussion with the potential to amend the current scheme to permit their inclusion. As background a copy of extracts from previous minutes on the subject are attached

#### Policy Implications

Nil

#### Financial Implications

The extent of potential additional costs involved, should the scheme be amended, is unknown but as a guide a recent claim which has not been paid involved the destruction of 36 wild dogs over a 9-month period. This equates to an amount of \$3,600. Current Budget \$13,000. Year to Date \$4,475.

#### Consultation

Wild Dog Working Group Members Cr A Whitmarsh and Cr G Mead.

#### Comment

I understand the request to consider such amendment arises from an understanding that current arrangements and costs make it difficult for the Doggers to fulfill their duties effectively. Cr A Whitmarsh and Cr G Mead will have a better understanding of the actual funding arrangements. If the bounty scheme is extended, then it may effectively be seen as cost shifting from one form of government to another. Another consideration from an equity viewpoint also relates to whether any extension also applies to Councils Ranger.

#### **Recommendation**

For Council to decide

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### *Councillor Discussion*

*Following general discussion, it was recognised that whilst some additional financial support for local Doggers could be seen as cost shifting, it was considered important to provide some support to assist to in undertaking this important work which involves significant amounts of effort and local experience and knowledge to eradicate what are a very difficult to find problem species. An ex-gratia incentive payment rather than a variation in the per head bounty fee was considered the most appropriate form of assistance.*

**Council Decision****Moved: Cr** G Mead**Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council provide a \$30per day ex-gratia payment to local Doggers operating within the Murchison Shire capped at 160 days per annum.

**Carried****For**

5

**Against**

0

*Cr M Fowler and Cr Q Fowler declared a Financial Interest in Agenda Item 18.2 Cancer Fund Raising Request and left the room at 2.27pm*

**18.2 Cancer Fund Raising Request**

File:

Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 24 May 2023

Attachments: 18.2.1 Shelly Fowler Fund Cancer Fund Raising Request

Matter for Consideration

Request from Shelly Fowler for Council support associated with a biggest morning tea cancer fundraising event.

Comment

A formal email from Shelly is attached. The event will have wide appeal and the request for Council to match \$ for \$ any amount raised up to an amount of \$500 again seems reasonable and fits within Councils overall strategic approach to assist the community. Last year's event was a huge success with Council very supportive.

**Recommendation**

That Council support the request from Shelly Fowler to provide matching funds up to \$500 to aid in fundraising for a biggest morning tea cancer fundraising event as per the attached request.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

**Council Decision****Moved: Cr** G Mead**Seconded: Cr** R Foulkes-Taylor

That Council support the request from Shelly Fowler to provide matching funds up to \$500 to aid in fundraising for a biggest morning tea cancer fundraising event as per the attached request.

**Carried****For**

3

**Against**

0

*Cr M Fowler and Cr Q Fowler returned to the room at 2.28pm*

*Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes-Taylor declared a Financial Interest in Agenda Item 18.3 Australian Local Government National Conference and left the room at 2.30pm*

*Cr Q Fowler took the chair*

### 18.3 Australian Local Government Association National Conference

File:  
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: Nil  
Date: 25 May 2023  
Attachments: Nil

#### Matter for Consideration

Request from Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor to represent Council at the 2023 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Conference with Council to be responsible for expenses associated with travel, and conference fees.

#### Comment

It is my understanding that Council has not been represented at the ALGA Conference for some time. It would be advantageous and appropriate for both to represent Council also as an adjunct to their current regional leadership positions. The request for Council to meet expenses associated with travel, and conference fees is less than that covered with Policy 2.2 Councillors Expenses.

#### **Recommendation**

That Council Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor request to represent Council at the 2023 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Conference with Council to be responsible for expenses associated with travel, and conference fees.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr G Mead**

**Seconded: Cr M Fowler**

That Council support Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor request to represent Council at the 2023 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Conference noting that both Councillors were happy to pay their own accommodation and meal expenses, with Council to be responsible for expenses associated with travel, and conference fees.

**Carried**

**For 3**

**Against 0**

*Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes-Taylor returned to the room at 2.32pm*

*Cr R Foulkes Taylor resumed the chair.*

---

## 19 ADMINISTRATION

---

### 19.1 Notice of Motion – Roads Policy

Author:	Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	20 May 2023
Attachments:	19.1.1 Policy 6.1 Roads

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor has provided notice that she intends to move the following motion at the May Council Meeting

“That Council review and update 6.1 Roads Policy”

#### Explanation

Whilst we are very fortunate to have a Works Manager and CEO that understand the importance of maintaining the hydration of the surrounding country when constructing and maintaining Shire roads, this may not always be the case. As it is a major part of our core business it is important that we document our current road construction/maintenance practice in order that the practical knowledge gained over many years is retained and implemented in the future-Whilst acknowledging that new ideas and technology may also need to be explored in the future.

#### Strategic Implications

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region’s economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Strategies	
Maintenance and Upgrade of Road Network	<i>To develop, maintain and improve an efficient road system to support the transport requirements associated with the pastoral and mining industries and tourism.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Strategies	
Policy on Road Drainage	<i>Preparation of an evidence-based report to support off reserve remediation work, including downstream dispersal.</i>
Continuation of Bunding and Remediation of Old Roads and Borrow Pits	<i>Continuation of the Shire’s current management practices in relation to bunding and remediation of old roads</i>

#### Policy Implications

Policy 6.1 Roads

#### Financial Implications

Nil

#### CEO Comment

A copy of Council’s Policy 6.1 Roads is attached. This Notice of Motion relates to documenting the Shire’s current road construction/maintenance practices in relation to the Road Drainage Principles and Practices section.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

*Councillor Discussion*

*In support of the Notice of Motion councillors considered that a small working group be formed to provide details of local knowledge and experience that would further inform Council in relation to some of the road construction/maintenance practices that may form part of the policy review*

**Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

**Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council

- 1 Review and update Policy 6.1 Roads and
- 2 Form a Working Group comprising Cr R Foulkes-Taylor, Cr G Mead and Works Manager to assist in this review by documenting current road construction/maintenance practices in relation to the Road Drainage Principles and Practices section of the Policy, and report back to Council with their findings.

**Carried**

**For** 5

**Against** 0

## 20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 22 May 2023

Attachments: Nil

### General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
25.04.2023	Anzac Day Public Holiday. Agenda Work. Rates Comparison Work. LTFP Budget. Meeting with potential Roadhouse operators.
26.04.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget
27.04.2023	Council Meeting & Follow up Actions
28.04.2023	TOIL. Follow up Council Actions
29.04.2023	Emails. Minutes LTFP Rating
30.04.2023	LTFP Assets Rating & Budget
1.05.2023	TOIL. LTFP Assets Rating & Budget
2.05.2023	TOIL.
3.05.2023	TOIL incl medical
4.05.2023	Meeting with Senior Works Finance Administration Officer. Telephone follow up with Travis Bate RSM Financial Accountant. Email follow ups. Disability inclusion Access Action Plan Return.
5.05.2023 to 7.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget
8.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget. Meetings with Works Manager & Senior Works Finance Administration Officer
9.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget. Emails other Administration
10.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget. Performance Review Meeting with Works Manager. WALGA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Workshop via Skype
11.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget. Attend PIA Wadjari School Council Meeting at PIA. Audit work. Meeting with Senior Works Finance Administration Officer
12.05.2023	Audit work Meeting with Senior Works Finance Administration Officer. LTFP Assets & Budget
13.05.2023 to 14.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget
15.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan
16.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review
17.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review. Meeting with Phil Swain
18.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review. Meetings with Works Manager and Phil Swain
19.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review. Meeting with potential Roadhouse Operators
20.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review
21.05.2023	LTFP Assets & Budget & Corporate Plan. Rating Review. Agenda Work
22.05.2023	Agenda Work

**Recommendation**

That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>			
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	G Mead	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	E Foulkes-Taylor
<b>Carried</b>		<b>For</b>	5
		<b>Against</b>	0

---

**21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

---

Nil

---

**22 MEETING CLOSURE**

---

*Councillor Discussions*

Cr M Fowler raised the matter of the recent passing of the late Merv Tomkins. Cr R Foulkes-Taylor indicated that he was unaware of the recent death and would contact the family expressing Council’s condolences.

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor raised the matter of chlorination of the Settlement Water Supply. Arrangements will be for the Environmental Health Officer to contact Cr E Foulkes Taylor to advise.

Cr Q Fowler offered his assistance to advance the Container Deposit Scheme Project.

*The Shire President closed the meeting at 2.44pm*

**Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 June 2023**

Signed..... Presiding Officer