



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **24 August 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 July 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
14	ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED	5
	14.1 Shire President	5
	14.2 Councillors	5
15	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES	5
16	WORKS	6
	16.1 Works Report.....	6
17	FINANCE.....	8
	17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council	8
	17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2023	10
	17.3 Asset Management Plan	11
	17.4 Long-Term Financial Plan	13
	17.5 2023-2024 Budget Adoption.....	15
18	DEVELOPMENT	24
	18.1 Growing Regions Funding Program	24
19	ADMINISTRATION.....	24
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT	25
21	OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS	26
	21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project	27
22	MEETING CLOSURE.....	27

ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.01pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 July 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 July 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

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

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors R Foulkes-Taylor and E Foulkes Taylor declared a financial interest in relation to Item 21.1- RFT 1-2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project

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 Q Fowler

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
----------------	------------	---	----------------	---

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 28 September 2023

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors Q Fowler and M Fowler indicated that they will be absent from the next Council Meeting and requested a Leave of Absence.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Cr Q Fowler and Cr M Fowler be granted Leave of Absence for the September 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
----------------	------------	---	----------------	---

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Shire President requested that advertisement for the call for nominations for the 2023 Ordinary Council Elections be also sent to the community via the community email notification system.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Mark Bennett from SKAO provided a brief update overview of progress for construction of the SKA Project. Update newsletter is expected to be circulated to Council on a regular basis.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

The President reported that he had been interviewed by ABC radio.

Issues covered included, the ongoing SKAO project, the planned fibre connection to Pia plus the Settlement and other general community topics.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Murchison GeoRegion Update

Attended Murchison GeoRegion Meeting of Project Steering Group on 22 August 2023 at Mt Magnet.

As previously advised recently appointed Project Officer had resigned and as a result of some changes in personnel at Mt Magnet Cr E Foulkes-Taylor as Murchison Shire Representative had agreed to step in as chair. At this meeting appointment as Chair was confirmed.

Karen Morrissey, recently resigned Mt Magnet Councillor had also been appointed as the new Project Officer. Next face to face meeting scheduled for 3 October 2023

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 August 2023
Attachments: Nil

Construction Crew

The Construction Crew are approaching the grid south of the Billabalong homestead. The road centerline has been put in to align with the old existing floodways on the completed works and most of the shoulder reconstruction is complete apart from the final watering and rolling. The procurement process for the stabilization and sealing should be out in the week commencing 28 August 2023. Overall, I am very happy with the work that has been completed so far.

Maintenance Crew

They have progressed up the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. Completed the Boolardy-Kalli Rd. and the Kalli-Cue Rd. The plan is for them to continue up the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. skipping the recently completed flood damage works and complete the Mileura-Nookawarra Rd. before moving across to the north end of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. which has taken a pounding from heavy traffic of late.

SKA Route Upgrade Works

These works are progressing well by our two local contractors. By the time Council meets Walladar should all but have completed their first section from the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd. intersection to the grid east of the old Wooleen woolshed. They will then move closer to the Twin-Peaks end and use material from the 10 M site while we wait for approval and permits to extend old gravel pits. Squires Resources are still busy on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. south of the Boolardy homestead and on the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd.

Flood Damage Works AGRN 1021

The frustration continues! At the time of writing this report we have no indication when this work will progress. It would appear that both the Shire and Greenfield are being stonewalled by DFES.

Beringarra-Pindar Road

Rowe Contractors have progressed exceptionally well with these works. The floodway works and addition of bunds on several sections is complete for this round with some re-sheet work to be completed before the budgeted money comes to an end. I anticipate this will be around August 24 or 25.

Power Upgrade Works.

This is still in the planning and design phase, hopefully there will be a further update available at the meeting.

Meanwhile it is intended to put in an application under the State Government's Infrastructure Development Fund for Stream 3 relating to Unlocking Regional Worker Accommodation Opportunities to part fund this project. The CEO has had discussions with Department Officers to outline the rationale and scope of works. Funding Round 2 closes 7 September 2023 with Round 3 on 7 December 2023. Applications will remain open until 6 September 2024 unless the funding allocation is exhausted earlier.

Water Supply Upgrade Works

These to have stopped temporarily as we wait for the supply of power to the new system. Since the last report a pressure test on the new ring main has been done and no issues revealed themselves.

Meanwhile it is intended to put in an application under the State Government's Infrastructure Development Fund for Stream 3 relating to Unlocking Regional Worker Accommodation Opportunities to fund the Chlorinator

part of this this project as outlined under the above Power Upgrade Item. This aspect also formed part of a Growing Regions Expression of Interest Submission Application which has been submitted as outlined under Item 18.1.

10M

The CEO and I had a meeting with Phil Robinson and Kevin Little from 10M. It would appear at this stage that they will be looking at commencing some works fairly soon, with a possible start date for carting of ore sometime in October 2023.

New Plant

It is hoped that the new smooth drum roller will arrive at the Construction Crew work site on August 23.

Wreath Flower Signage

This should be up and the north bound traffic lane open was open on the 24 August 2023.

New Gardener

It is hoped the new gardener will start sometime in the second week of September.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** M Fowler

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
----------------	------------	---	----------------	---

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: 20 August 2023
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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 July 2023 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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

1 Item to be Discussed behind closed doors.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr Whitmarsh

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 July 2023 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.40pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor
That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried **For** **Against**

The meeting moved out from behind closed doors at 12.42pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** G Mead
That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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** 6 **Against** 0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2023

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 August 2023
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 2023

Note this was held over till the next month as a significant resources has been applied to end of year reconciliation and budget finalisation.

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

17.3 Asset Management Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 20 August 2023
 Attachments: 17.3.1 Asset Management Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Asset Management Plan as part of Council's Planning 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 this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
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	Review required by 2027
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.	22 June 2023	
	Asset Management	18 September 2017	This Agenda Item. Preliminary Review May 2023. To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2023/24 Budget.
	Workforce Planning	28 March 2019	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	18 September 2017	Preliminary Review May 2023. Year 1 to underpin the 2023/24 Budget.
	Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually.		

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.

At the May Council Meeting a Preliminary Draft Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan update was provided and noted by Council. At the time it was indicated that some further work needed to be undertaken as part of the 2023/24 Budget consideration.

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the contents included in the Long-Term Financial and 2023/24 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management Plan Report and adopt the Asset Management Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Asset Management Plan Report and adopt the Asset Management Plan as attached.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

17.4 Long-Term Financial Plan

File: 2.4
 Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: Nil
 Date: 20 August 2023
 Attachments: 17.4.1 Long-Term Financial Plan

Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of Council's Planning 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 this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
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	Review required by 2027
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.	22 June 2023	
	Asset Management	18 September 2017	Previous Agenda Item. Preliminary Review May 2023. To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2023/24 Budget.
	Workforce Planning	28 March 2019	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	18 September 2017	This Agenda Item. Preliminary Review May 2023. Year 1 to underpin the 2023/24 Budget.
Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually.			

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.

At the May Council Meeting a Preliminary Draft Asset Management - Long-Term Financial Plan update was provided and noted by Council. At the time it was indicated that some further work needed to be undertaken as part of the 2023/24 Budget consideration.

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the 2023/24 Budget.

This plan and the associated Long-Term Financial Plan will be updated annually as part of a “*Structure follows Strategy Approach.*”

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Long-Term Financial Plan Report and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Long-Term Financial Plan Report and adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan as attached.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

17.5 2023-2024 Budget Adoption

File:	2.4
Author:	Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	20 August 2023
Attachments:	17.5.1 Murchison Shire 2023/24 Annual Budget
	17.5.2 Murchison Shire 2023/24 Budget Snapshot
	17.5.3 Fees and Charges 2023-24

Matter for Consideration

Council is to consider the Draft Budget for the 2023-24 Financial Year and the Fees & Charges Table for 2023-24 in the context of a post COVID-19 Coronavirus environment.

Background

As part of the function of a local government as per its obligations under Section 6.2 of *the Local Government Act 1995*, that during the period 1 June to 31 August in a financial year the local government is to prepare and adopt its Annual budget in the prescribed format.

The 2023-2024 draft budget has been developed amongst other things in consideration of the following:

- ~ Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 - 2026/27
- ~ Corporate Business Plan 2023-2027 adopted June 2023
- ~ Asset Management Plan 2024-2045 as per Agenda Item 17.3
- ~ Long Term Financial Plan 2024-2045 as per Agenda Item 17.4
- ~ Councilor workshops held on 25 May 2023 and 27 July 2023.

COVID-19 Coronavirus General Influences

At the 20 August 2020 Council Meeting it was noted that ahead on the then 2020/21 budget deliberations that there were then various actions associated with the COVID-19 environment with several notable decisions made which influenced the then operating environment as follows

- 1 *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 *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.*

Whilst this budget is impacted by previous decisions made during the COVID19 period, this is the first budget prepared where these COVID19 influences now do not specifically apply.

2023/24 Budget Summary

Prior to finalising the 2023/24 Council Budget significant bodies of work have been undertaken including updating our Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews and considered by Council during the year at previous meetings as well at including at various Councillor Workshops Meetings

Whilst Budgets are set and delivered on an annual basis, in reality, works and services are delivered on a continuous basis with the financial year merely a point in time. The 2023/24 Budget follows this "*Structure follows Strategy Approach*" with the 2023/24 Budget effectively implementing year one of the Long-Term Financial Plan. Supporting budget information also includes a 4-year indicative Corporate Plan Budget which is an extract of the Long-Term Financial Plan but in an expanded form. The Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary Graph included in these documents highlights these approaches.

As previously identified a small number of changes have been identified since the last Councillor workshop associated with end of year adjustments and updating budget estimates associated with budgeted items previously identified. Final documents incorporate these changes. It is also considered prudent that all supporting budget documents be formally endorsed by Council given the strategic importance of the 2023/24 Budget to Councils overall strategy.

2023/24 Budget Snapshot

The attached 2023/24 Budget Snapshot is a two-page simple summary of Council's 2023/24 Budget. It is intended that this will accompany the Rates Notices when they are sent out.

Accrual of Interest on Overdue Rates or Service Charges

Pursuant to s 6.51 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council may set an interest rate when adopting its annual budget on a rate or service charge, and any costs of proceedings to recovery of any such charge that remains unpaid after becoming due and payable. The interest rate however must not exceed the prescribed maximum rate of interest that is prescribed by regulation.

Notwithstanding that the maximum prescribed rate of interest on unpaid rates per *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 80* is 11%, given the potential extent of change to individual ratepayers due to this year's review, no change to the current adopted COVID19 related interest rate 7% is proposed.

Year	Maximum Permitted Interest Rate % per annum	Council Interest Rate % per annum
2023/24	11.00%	proposed 7.0%
2022/23	8.17%	7.0%
2021/22	8.03%	8.0%
2020/21	8.53%	8.0%
2019/20	9.83%	8.0%

Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020

In response to the current COVID-19 Coronavirus environment The Minister for Local Government implemented the *Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020* which had implications for Local Government on how Councils make their rating and budget decisions. As previously indicated, this is no longer applicable.

Differential General Rates – s6.33

A local government may impose a single general rate which applies to all the properties in the unimproved value or gross rental value category; or alternatively, the local government can distinguish between land in either category on the basis of its zoning, use or whether or not it is vacant land (or a combination of these factors) and apply a differential rate to each.

Ministerial approval is required where a differential rate which is more than twice the lowest differential rate is to be imposed by it.

At the May Council Meeting Council resolved 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.

All of the above actions were undertaken.

At the June Council Meeting Council resolved as follows

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2023 / 24 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council adopts as a policy position forming part of the 2023/24 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are ignored when setting rates.
- 3 That Council note the submission received as attached and advise the Company of the rationale behind proposed differential rates as outlined in this report and that the contents will form part of Council's considerations when it finalises its 2023/24 Budget and formally declares differential rates.

As previously advised the differential rates as advertised are not more than twice the lowest differential rate such that differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government. Accordingly, as recommended, the differentials and minimum rates as advertised can be formally declared.

Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2022/23

Note in preparing this element of this report no discussions have been held with any Elected Member.

Council is required on an annual basis, to determine fees and allowances for elected members. The range of permitted fee are determined under the *Salaries and Allowance Act 1975* as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal and as outlined in the 6 April 2023 Determination. Traditionally Council has adopted an Annual Attendance Fee in lieu of a per meeting attendance fee.

Details of applicable Fees and Allowances endorsed under the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal are shown as follows:

Tribunal Fee & Allowances (Band 4 Council)	Council Member		President	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member / President	\$3,735	\$9,890	\$3,735	\$20,325
Annual Allowance for President			\$535	\$20,875
Annual Allowance for Deputy President (25% of President)	\$133	\$5,218		
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$500	\$3,500		

It is for Council to determine Member fees and allowances so long as they set are within the allowable limits.

Historically Member Annual Attendance Fees have been set at the maximum. Maintaining this arrangement seems reasonable. In 2021/22 the President was around 37.5% above this but also well below the maximum so a slightly greater increase of around 50% above the member fee was introduced in 2022/23 and was considered reasonable. It is proposed that nexus be retained.

In 2019/20 the annual allowance for the President, was increased by around \$2,000 as it then was well under the mark for the work undertaken. At the time I was of the view that this situation remains and a progressively lifting the amount was justified. A \$2,000 increase was applied for 2022/23 and is again proposed.

Recommended fees and allowances as outlined in the following table have been included in the recommendation.

Murchison Fee & Allowances	Council Member			President		
	2022	2023	Proposed	2022	2023	Proposed
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member / President	\$9,504	\$9,742	\$9,890	\$13,824	\$14,613	\$14,835
Annual Allowance for President				\$12,032	\$14,032	\$16,032
Annual Allowance for Deputy President (25% of President)	\$3,008	\$3,508	\$4,008			
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$1,785	\$2,000	\$2,215			

Fees and Charges

All of the fees and charges which applied in 2022/23 have been reviewed considering the cost to Council and by comparing the proposed Fee or Charge to that charged by alternative suppliers in a similar situation. In the main, fees have remained at current levels but in some situations have been rationalised or modernised to reflect a more contemporary practice.

At the July Annual General Meeting a recommendation was passed to have the price of fuel sold at the Roadhouse reviewed. At this stage the analysis required to review the costs of fuel operations in relation to Councils policy which has the objective to operate these fuel facilities at neither a profit or loss over the medium to long term has not been able to be carried out such that the current markup remains. This can be altered later during the year if required. The attached schedule 17.5.3 shows previous years fees and what are proposed for 2023/24.

Statutory Environment:

Budget Adoption

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Section 6.2(2) of the Act requires that in preparing its annual budget the Council is to have regard to the contents of its plan for the future prepared in accordance with section 5.56. Under the Integrated Planning Framework for Local Government, that is the Community Strategic Plan. This section requires that Council must prepare detailed estimates of:

- (a) *Expenditure.*
- (b) *Revenue and income, independent of general rates*
- (c) *The amount required to make up the 'deficiency' if any shown by comparing the estimated expenditure with the estimated revenue and income.*

Section 6.2(3) requires that all expenditure, revenue and income must be taken in account unless otherwise prescribed. Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 32 prescribes amounts that may be excluded in calculating the 'budget deficiency'

Section 6.2(4) requires the annual budget to incorporate:

- (a) *Particulars of estimated expenditure proposed;*
- (b) *Detailed information relating to the rates and service charges which will apply, including:*
 - (i) *Amount estimated to be yielded by the general rate*
 - (ii) *Rate of interest to be charged on unpaid rates and service charges;*
- (c) *Fees and charges;*
- (d) *Borrowings and other financial accommodations proposed;*
- (e) *Reserve account allocations and uses;*
- (f) *Any proposed land transactions or trading undertakings per section 3.59*
- (g) *Such other matters that are prescribed*

Elected Member Fees & Allowances

Sections 5.98 to Section 599A Local Government Act 1995

Section 7A Salaries & Allowance Act 1975

Strategic Implications

As outlined above the Budget has been adapted to the with the view to achieving the community's vision and Shire's strategic goals use outlined by the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 -2026/27, Corporate

Business Plan 2023-2027, Asset Management Plan 2024-2045, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2045 which together form the Shire Plan for Future.

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

Financial Implications

The 2023-24 budget will guide the activities of the Shire for the financial year, but also in context for future years.

Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant and William Herold - Works Manager

Recommendation

That Council resolve resolutions as outlined in PARTS A to H as follows:

Part A- Budget Considerations

A1 That Council receives the 2023-2024 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2023/24 Budget.

Voting Requirements

A1 Simple Majority

Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2023-24

B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2022/23 year as attachment 17.4.5.3 to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

B1 Absolute Majority

Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2023-24

C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

Voting Requirements

C1 Absolute Majority

Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2023/24

D1 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following meeting attendance fees for elected members:

President	\$14,835 per annum
Councillors	\$9,890 per annum.

- D2 That Council, pursuant to section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual Information & Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance for elected members:
ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,215
- D3 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:
President \$16,032
- D4 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:
Deputy President \$4,008

Voting Requirements

D1, D2, D3, D4 Absolute Majority

Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2023-24

- E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2023/24 financial year, including the following:
- E1.1 2023/24 Budget Summary
 - E1.2 2023/24 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works
- E2 That Council endorses the 2023/24 Budget Snapshot as attached.
- E3 That in adopting the 2023/24 Budget that Council specifically notes that,
- E3.1 the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2023/24 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2023/24 Budget deficiency.
 - E3.2 the Settlement Building and Facilities Reserve has been renamed as the Settlement Asset Reserve and has been slightly repurposed in the budget to be used to fund and maintain new and upgraded buildings, facilities and infrastructure within the Murchison Settlement.
 - E3.3 the Asset Rehabilitation Reserve has been renamed as the Road Asset Reserve and has been slightly repurposed in the budget to be used to fund works for the construction and reconstruction of Councils Road Infrastructure.
 - E3.4 as previously foreshadowed the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Mining Related Reserve has been established in the budget to be used to fund works for the construction and reconstruction of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road as associated with Mining related traffic.
 - E3.5 a new Asset Management Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with short and long-term management of Council's Infrastructure Assets.
 - E3.6 a new Museum Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with the short and long-term management of Council's Museum

Voting Requirements

E1 Absolute Majority
E2, E3 Simple Majority

Part F – Interest on Money Owing to Local Governments

- F1 That Council in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995* will not apply an interest rate to any amount of money owing to the local government (other than rates or service charges).

Voting Requirements

F1 Absolute Majority

Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements

G1 That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and that pursuant to Section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the following differential and minimum rates on Unimproved Values.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	8.894	800
UV Mining	16.941	800
UV Exploration	16.941	800

G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.

G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 st instalment	9 October 2023
2 nd quarterly instalment	11 December 2023
3 rd quarterly instalment	12 February 2024
4 th quarterly and final instalment	15 April 2024

G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$11; this being the same as that was adopted in previous years and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts an interest rate of 7% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Voting Requirements

G1, G5, G6	Absolute Majority
G2, G3, G4,	Simple Majority

Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2023/24

H1 That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2023/24 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Voting Requirements

H1 Simple Majority

Overall Voting Requirements

As outlined under each Part.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

Part A- Budget Considerations

A1 That Council receives the 2023-2024 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2023/24 Budget.

Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2023-24

B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2022/23 year as attachment 17.4.5.3 to this agenda.

Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2023-24

C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2023/24

D1 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopt the following meeting attendance fees for elected members:

President \$14,835 per annum

Councillors \$9,890 per annum.

D2 That Council, pursuant to section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual Information & Communication Technology (ICT) expenses allowance for elected members:

ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,215

D3 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

President \$16,032

D4 That Council, pursuant to section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995* and within the range determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, adopts the following annual local government allowance to be paid in addition to the meeting attendance fees:

Deputy President \$4,008

Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2023-24

E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2023/24 financial year, including the following:

E1.1 2023/24 Budget Summary

E1.2 2023/24 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works

E2 That Council endorses the 2023/24 Budget Snapshot as attached.

E3 That in adopting the 2023/24 Budget that Council specifically notes that,

E3.1 the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2023/24 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2023/24 Budget deficiency.

E3.2 the Settlement Building and Facilities Reserve has been renamed as the Settlement Asset Reserve and has been sightly repurposed in the budget to be used to fund and maintain new and upgraded buildings, facilities and infrastructure within the Murchison Settlement.

E3.3 the Asset Rehabilitation Reserve has been renamed as the Road Asset Reserve and has been sightly repurposed in the budget to be used to fund works for the construction and reconstruction of Councils Road Infrastructure.

E3.4 as previously foreshadowed the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Mining Related Reserve has been established in the budget to be used to fund works for the construction and reconstruction of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road as associated with Mining related traffic.

E3.5 a new Asset Management Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with short and long-term management of Council's Infrastructure Assets.

E3.6 a new Museum Reserve has been established in the budget for the purpose to be used to fund works associated with the short and long-term management of Council's Museum

Part F – Interest on Money Owing to Local Governments

F1 That Council in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995* will not apply an interest rate to any amount of money owing to the local government (other than rates or service charges).

Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements

G1 That Council, for the purpose of yielding the deficiency disclosed by the Municipal Fund Budget adopted at Part A above, pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33, 6.34 and that pursuant to Section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, impose the following differential and minimum rates on Unimproved Values.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	8.894	800
UV Mining	16.941	800
UV Exploration	16.941	800

G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.

G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 st instalment	9 October 2023
2 nd quarterly instalment	11 December 2023
3 rd quarterly instalment	12 February 2024
4 th quarterly and final instalment	15 April 2024

G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$11; this being the same as that was adopted in previous years and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.

G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.

G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts an interest rate of 7% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2023/24

H1 That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2023/24 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
----------------	------------	----------	----------------	----------

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Growing Regions Funding Program

File: 13.2
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 20 August 2023
Attachments:

Matter for Consideration

Update regarding the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Program

Briefing

As outlined at the last Council Meeting it was indicated that it may be worthwhile placing an expression of interest for Stage 1 of the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Program for the potential chlorination of the Settlement Water Supply as this project can be made shovel ready and may stand a chance of meeting the Funding Criteria.

Upon a detailed review of the funding guidelines, it was revealed that the cost of a Chlorinator would fall below the minimum project threshold cost. As a result, it was decided to include this as part of the wider project as follows.

Murchison Roadhouse Caravan Park Redevelopment & Water Supply Chlorination

Redevelopment of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park through a total internal renovation of the roadhouse, construction of a new separate managers residence, provision of new ensuite cabins, improved lawn and landscaped areas, shade sails over fuel facilities and inclusion of an electric vehicular charging station. Works supplemented through installation of a chlorinator for a separately funded upgraded water supply. Project Cost \$3,143,367 with 90% funded.

This is an expression of interest and if successful an invitation to submit a formal proposal may arise. If this occurs, and we were ultimately successful works would be programmed for 2024/25.

Obviously there a lot of ifs and buts.

For Information

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 August 2023

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
25.07.2023	LTFP Budget. Attend MEG Meeting and dinner at Wooleen
26.07.2023	LTFP Budget. Council Presentation
27.07.2023	Council Meeting & Workshops. Hon Peter Foster Meeting. Council Minutes
28.07.2023	Council Minutes
29.07.2023	LTFP Budget. MRWA funding applications and Grant work
31.07.2023	Growing Regions Application. Auditor Briefing Meeting with Travis Bate RSM via Teams
1.08.2023	Growing Regions Application. Catch up with Works Manager.
2.08.2023	Meeting with Works Manager & Senior Works Finance & Admin Officer @ depot. Audit status follow up. Infrastructure funding touch base. Administration
3.08.2023 to 4.08.23	Annual Leave. Emails follow up
5.08.2023	Emails follow up
7.08.2023	TOIL. MRWA Road Program. Fiona McKenzie RDA Mid-West Mining Meeting via Teams and follow up work. Email as EEO Plan follow up
8.08.2023	TOIL EEO Plan Update. Carn-Mull Rd Official Invite update. Monthly Fuel check review. Prepare Splashpad Pool Briefing Pics.
9.08.2023	TOIL. Drop off laptop to arrange data transfer to new machine
10.08.2023	TOIL Collect laptops after arranging data transfer to new machine. Emails. Follow up Carn-Mull Picnic Invitations. Swimming Pool Splashpad Work
11.08.2023	TOIL. Emails follow up
14.08.2023	Annual Leave
15.08.2023	Catch-up Meetings with Works Manager & Senior Works Finance & Admin Officer. Meeting with Works Manager & 10M. Remote Teams Meeting with Infrastructure Development. General Emails and administration.
16.08.2023	Budget LTFP Work
17.08.2023	Budget LTFP Work. Meetings with Works Manager & Senior Works Finance & Admin Officer.
18.08.2023 to 19.08.23	Budget LTFP Work
20.08.2023	Budget LTFP and Agenda Work
21.08.2023	Agenda Work.

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Other Items to be Discussed behind closed doors

21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project

Recommendation

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b)(c)(d) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the following matters be discussed behind closed doors

21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b)(c)(d) & (e) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> that the following matters be discussed behind closed doors			
21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

Councillors R Foulkes-Taylor and E Foulkes Taylor declared a financial interest in relation to this item and left the room at 12.55pm.

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.55pm

Cr A Whitmarsh assumed the role of chair of this section of the meeting

Motion to open the meeting to the public.

Recommendation

That the meeting come from behind closed doors

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the meeting come from behind closed doors

Carried

For 4

Against 0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 1.02pm

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor resumed as Chair of the meeting.

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting

21.1 RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Caravan Park Ablution Block Project

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council resolves that in relation to RFT 1 - 2023-24 – Murchison Carvan Park Ablution Block Project that Council accepts the tender submission from MI Global, that they become the preferred tenderer and that the Shire enter into negotiations to incorporate their submission is into the final contract.

Carried

For 4

Against 0

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.04pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 28 September 2023

Signed.....

Presiding Officer