



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 **23 May 2024**, commencing at 12.00 noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.00 noon

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Lisa Keen – Executive Manager/DCEO
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apology

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 24 April 2024

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 24 April 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 April 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

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 M Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

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

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 June 2024

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

19.3 Mid-West Ports Letter of Support Request

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That the letter from Mid-West Ports requesting Council's support for their pursuit of an upgrade of the Port of Geraldton's Biosecurity (First Point of Entry) Approval status, be considered as Urgent Business

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The President expressed a thank you to all those involved in organising today's Murchison Arts Council's Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fundraising Event, noting the strong corporate and local donations that have contributed towards a successful event.

The President acknowledged the recent death of a significant lifetime Murchison Resident Len Merry. Len and his partner Julie have been a much-respected leadership couple within the community for many years. He reported that he had expressed his condolences, both personal and those of the Shire, in conversations with Len's family.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Roads for Hydration Demonstration

On 3-4 May 2024 Yuin Station, hosted a demonstration, for the Soil Conservation Authority on local and shire roadworks practices associated with drainage of roads to assist in hydration of surrounding land. The Shire through the Works Manager's attendance was able to successfully enlighten those in attendance.

14.2 Councillors

Cr A Whitmarsh

Wild Dog Action Planning Workshop

As member of the Shire's Wild Dog Working Group, I attended the Wild Dog Action Planning Workshop in Perth on 2 May 2024. Issues that arose included potential budget allocations and matter that may be looming with the ATO relating to completion of self-assessment surveys and its potential taxation implications.

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting

Attended a meeting via Teams of the Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group on 7 May 2024 as reported in the Community Development Progress Report under Item 18.1.

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: 18 May 2024
Attachments: Nil

Construction

At last, the stabilization and sealing are completed. There is still some cleaning up and cosmetic work to be done and a little tinkering around the odd floodway. My thanks and appreciation to the Construction crew who have put in some long and irregular hours over the duration of the job. The cement stabilized pavement certainly came up spectacularly. Expensive it certainly was and time will tell if this was the correct move or not. My thanks to WA Stabilizers for guiding us through the process in the initial phases. Also, Bitutek who once again arrived and made things happen smoothly and efficiently. All in all, I am extremely pleased with the final result.

Maintenance

After assisting the Construction crew for several weeks, the Maintenance crew headed north up the Beringarra-Pindar Rd picking up the Mileura-Nookawarra Rd. on the way past. By the time Council meets they should be almost finished with the Beringarra-Cue Rd. which will be the first grade since it was turned back to an unsealed road. It has stood up very well considering it has had a few weather events pass over together with the summer we have just been through. Mt. Gould Rd. will then be picked up before they head west along the Beringarra-Byro Rd. Thankfully grading conditions have improved since the rain event on May 12.

SKA Route Upgrade and Maintenance

This has progressed with Squires Resources sheeting a section between SLK 136 to SLK 140 on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. as well as considerable maintenance work. Walladar are busy with a corner realignment on the Twin-Peaks Wooleen Rd. and have also done a considerable amount of maintenance.

The CEO has also advised that MRWA are close to having an agreement with City of Greater Geraldton signed to allow them to take on maintenance responsibilities for the gravel section. When this occurs, we will have further discussions with MRWA to discuss a plan of attack.

Water Upgrade

Some works are scheduled to start on June 4 which will hopefully get the pumping equipment to a running position with the temporary/backup generator. Works will then commence on getting the new ring main functional.

New Caravan Ablution Block

There is some development on this project, however a date for site preparation and arrival of the structure are still to be confirmed.

New Grids

Two new replacement grids have been installed on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. A new grid has also been placed on the Errabiddy Bluff Rd to replace the gate that was often been left open, especially during the tourist season.

Councillor Comment

Cr Mead congratulated the Works Crew and all those involved in such an impressive pavement construction associated with recent works to widen, upgrade and seal sections on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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: 18 May 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2024 (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 2024 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2024 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 G Mead

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 2024 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.25pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

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

That the Meeting move out from behind closed doors

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.38pm

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1.1

Council Decision

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

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 2024 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 30 April 2024

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 May 2024
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report April 2024

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 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2024 as attached.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.3 2024 / 2025 Rates Review

File:	3.1
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 May 2024
Attachments:	17.3.1 Rating Analysis Review May 2024 17.3.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2024/25 Financial Year

Matter for Consideration

Review of Council's Rating Strategy and considering proposed 2024/25 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

Background

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.

Whilst the consideration of rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates is an annual event, given the COVID19 influence and zero rate increase scenario in 2020/21 and expansive COVID 19 changes to Council's operating environment over the past few years, it was considered prudent in 2023/24 to further expand on the 2021/22 and 2022/23 resets with a more "eyes wide open review" with a long-term view in mind.

This resulted in a major reset being undertaken 2023/24 which translated to major change in the differential rating parameters with around a 70% increase in Pastoral Rates and a 28% reduction in Mining Rates. As a result, the differential for Mining and Prospecting and Exploration fell for the first time fell below 2.0; a situation that was to be maintained if possible.'

Importantly In 2023 Council adopted an updated Asset Management Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan, and Corporate Business Plan prior to setting the 2023/24 Rates. Amongst other things the following aspects have been identified.

- i 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.*"
- ii A range of projects identified as part of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report and Roadhouse Precinct Detailed Concept Design. Works include in the next few years a new Caravan Park Ablutions Block (2023 and 2024), Community Pool and Splashpad (2024), with a new playground, housing, and Roadhouse redevelopment amongst others foreshadowed in the in the next few years.
Potential works associated with the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case will also require significant levels of external funding with any delivery and will likely be very long term without significant external investment.
- iii Major works to upgrade the water and power supply at the Murchison Settlement in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- iv Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Strategic Upgrade Works every year for the foreseeable future.
- v SKA Route Works
- vi From a policy perspective future rate scenarios are as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are to be ignored

As a result, these documents and the 2023/24 Budget identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates, a situation to be addressed in this report.

Rating Analysis & Review

The provisions associated with the setting of rates and the strategies involved are lengthy and complex. Following on from work undertaken in the previous three years, a consolidated document addressed under the following headings elements has been prepared as per the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2024

Introduction
Legislative Provisions
Valuation Methodology
A Value and Principle Approach
Rating Nuances
Rates Analysis
Local Rates Rationale
Strategic Rates Approach
Rates Analysis Details

This work underpins this Report.

Detailed Local Rates Analysis

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

- 1 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 is a regular occurrence. As a result, the rates base and rates revenue can vary markedly from year to year but the average rates that are derived from existing properties where their tenure continues usually change in consistent manner.
- 2 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 there was a significant effect much greater than would otherwise be the case compared to a local government with a much larger rate base.
- 3 At the time of presenting this agenda item Landgate have provided the 2024 Pastoral and Mining Tenement Roles detailing Unimproved Valuations. As a result, rates modelling has been able to be undertaken with confidence.
- 4 General overall changes in valuations will apply for 2024/25 as follows.

Pastoral	generally no change
Mining	up 49.2%
Prospecting & Exploration	up 5.2%
- 5 Details of Miscellaneous Mining Licenses will be included on the final Mining Tenement Role but not considered in any rates modelling. These tenements have been determined, through a recent judgement in the State Administrative Tribunal, as non-rateable. However this situation that may change if a subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court by the Shire involved is successful.

Rate Parameters

- 6 General Rate Increase
It is prudent to consider any rate increase from year to year in terms of excluding *Natural Decline or Growth*. Historically a 5% increase has been notionally applied. This increase has been applied to Pastoral Properties as a base.
- 7 As indicated in the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2024 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 Plans.

8 Minimum Payment & Differential Rates

The Minimum Payment is proposed to be increased from \$800, which has applied for the previous two years, to \$900. The need to reduce the Mining Differential has been well established through successive Rating Strategy Reviews and was able to be achieved in 2023/24. This situation is proposed to be maintained for 2024/25.

Summary movements are as follows.

Differential Rate Types	Existing			Proposed		
	rate in dollar		min payment	rate in dollar		min payment
	cents	differential	\$	cents	differential	\$
UV Pastoral	8.894	1.0	800	9.325	1.0	900
UV Mining	16.941	1.905	800	18.550	1.989	900
UV Prospecting & Exploration	16.941	1.905	800	18.550	1.989	900

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.

As indicated above for 2024/25 it is proposed that the rate increase will be borne equally across all sectors save for changes to valuations that have risen as a result of increase in rents charged for mining tenements and licences for the Mining and Prospecting & Exploration Sectors.

Differential Rates Administrative Requirements

If Council decides to continue to rate on a differential basis for 2024/25, 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 2024/25 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.

This year, like last year and unlike previous years, 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 2024/25 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.

Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates

The objects and reasons for differential rating for 2024/24 are attached for Council to consider and adopt.

Budget / Financial Implications:

Proposed differential rates will be set to meet the estimated budget deficiency in the 2024-25 financial year.

Strategic Implications

Delivery of strategic outcomes are impacted upon through the budget process as underpinned in part through the setting of rates.

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Detailed and professional administration; Compliance with statutory requirements; High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;</i>
Strategies	
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Sustainability Implications

Environmental	There are no known significant environmental considerations.
Economic	There are significant economic considerations.
Social	There will potentially be impacts on social considerations.

Policy Implications

Nil. This report however will assist in an improved policy setting framework. 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.

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 are also relevant.

References

Rating Analysis Review May 2024 as attached.

This includes analysis of rating information from 2023/24 budgets from the Shires of Murchison, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Menzies, Sandstone, Meekatharra, Upper Gascoyne, and Shark Bay.

Landgate Unimproved Value & Pastoral Leases Information

Landgate

Fees and Charges information on Mining Tenements – Mining Act 1978

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

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

Recommendation

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2024 / 25 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2024/25 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2024/25 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
UV Pastoral	9.325	900
UV Mining	18.550	900
UV Prospecting & Exploration	18.550	900

- 4 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2024/25 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 5 That public submissions be invited.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2024 / 25 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2024/25 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2024/25 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
UV Pastoral	9.325	900
UV Mining	18.550	900
UV Prospecting & Exploration	18.550	900

- 4 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2024/25 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 5 That public submissions be invited.

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

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 16/05/2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report April / May 2024

Background

Bec Fogarty commenced in the Community Development Officer roles on 15 April 2024. This report seeks to inform the Shire of the works undertaken in relation to references to the relevant objectives and strategies contained within the Community Strategic Plan, in accordance with the following Vision Statement.

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>

Murchison Camp Oven Muster

Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>

Event Overview

The purpose of the Murchison Camp Oven Muster is to create a wholesome annual event that embraces community participation, creating connectedness for all Muster goers through authentically Murchison experiences. The below outcome measurement framework has been developed for post event reporting purposes.

Outcome	Measurement	Mechanism
Ticket Sales	# Tickets Sold	Website Data
Active Participation	# camp ovens for long table dinner #ticket holders that express increased awareness of local businesses # participants at individual experiences # ticket holder who provide written feedback	Camp Oven count at dinner peak Post event survey to ticket holders Experience facilitators are supported by administration with sign in clipboards
Attendance	# Residents from Murchison LGA # Residents from neighbouring LGA's # Visitors/Tourists – People who reside outside of the above.	Taken from ticket sales data
Event Satisfaction Ticket Holder	# ticket holders who would recommend this event to friend or family member # ticket holders who rate their experience above neutral	Captured through Post Event Survey - Paper copies - EDM

Event Planning Progress

Development of regulatory documentation is underway. These documents include but are not limited to Risk Management Plans and associated registers, Event Brief and Event Management Worksheets including budget. Key experiences have been ascertained and councillors can expect a program of events driven by the community for the community.

2023/24 Tourism Events Budget for all events allocated the following.

Expenses \$60,650	Revenue \$32,000	Net \$ \$28,650
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At this stage there is approximately \$4,000 expenses and revenue in the 2023/24 Accounts associated with last year' ALUBS festival

Budget for the Camp Oven Muster Festival will be expended over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years due to the event date being in August. Sponsorship is being sought in the amount of \$30,000. Revenue from ticket sales is expected to exceed \$20,000. At this stage it is expected overall net expenses to be within the above budgeted figures

The events own brand assets are being developed. These are complimentary to the current shire branding so they can be used in conjunction with each other for years to come.

The event is scheduled for 2 – 4th August 2024 with ticket release expected to be mid-June.

Settlement Tourism

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>

Currently I am in the process of doing a Stocktake of Shire and community assets both physical and digital. When complete, we will do a needs analysis and create an implementation plan to achieve the direction set out in the Community Strategic Plan for Tourism Development.

Observations at this point are there has been development of some fantastic resources across a variety of mediums. Wonderful contributions from past and present residents and volunteers that will make significant contributions to the ability to share the settlements reason for being. With some maintenance to existing infrastructure and ability to pull physical and digital resources under a single banner to strengthen their discoverability we should see positive outcomes.

New tourism initiatives underway include the story towns bespoke tour for the Roads to Rehydration Project. Scheduled to be recorded in May/June with Cr Emma Foulkes Taylor and Works Manager William Herold.

Containers for Change Recycling

Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i>
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>

Discussions have started with managing body WA Return Recycle Renew(WARRR) for the Shire to become an Authorised Bag drop location. Community accesses the service by registering with containers for change to get a member number. Members then attach their number to their bags and the Geraldton Containers for Change depot will provide refunds direct to community members nominated accounts or community groups. The Shire is in discussions regarding the backloading of recycling to the Geraldton depot via the current freight service.

Community Garden

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i>
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>

A grant was secured through Department of Communities for \$10,000 in 2023 it is required to be used for increasing gardening skills and knowledge, undertaking skills training, purchase of gardening equipment and supporting infrastructure. Under community direction 50% of the funds have been invested in consumables to revitalise the community garden soil, equipment to support successful food production and infrastructure to care for the new equipment. It is a requirement that the full amount of grant funding be exhausted by 1 December 2024.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Sustainability Implications

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

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For

6

Against

0

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor declared a financial interest in relation to Item 18.2 and left the room at 12.49pm

18.2 Cancer Fund Raising Request

File:
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: Nil
Date: 18 May 2024
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Request from Shelly Fowler on behalf of the Murchison Arts Council for Council support associated with a biggest morning tea cancer fundraising event.

Request

Shelly Fowler has, like recent previous years provided a formal request for Council, to make to make a donation towards this year's Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fund Raising Event. Shelly has indicated that any amount would be much appreciated for such a worthwhile cause.

Comment

The event will have wide appeal and over recent years Council has agreed to match \$ for \$ any amount raised up to an amount of \$500. This amount 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. It seems that this event now a regular feature on the Murchison Events Calendar.

Given this situation, it is perhaps appropriate that any donation could as a "standing donation" whereby an amount set would form part of future budgets, much other example such as the RFDS. In this way a separate request we won't be needed to be considered every year with any amount capable of being adjusted every year as part of the budget consideration. If the event doesn't go ahead for any reason, then there will obviously be no donation required. I have briefly discussed this aspect with Shelly Fowler who is comfortable with this approach.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by: Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required. Supporting community groups.</i>
Strategies	
Health Services	<i>Explore strategies to improve the delivery of health services to residents of the Shire.</i>

Recommendation

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 That Council support the request from the Murchison Arts Council to provide a donation towards the 2024 Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fund Raising Event with matching funds up to an amount of \$500.
- 2 That Council make a donation towards future Murchison Arts Council Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fund Raising Events on a matching fund basis with the maximum amount as set by Council as part of future budgets.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 That Council support the request from the Murchison Arts Council to provide a donation towards the 2024 Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fund Raising Event with matching funds up to an amount of \$500.
- 2 That Council make a donation towards future Murchison Arts Council Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Fund Raising Events on a matching fund basis with the maximum amount as set by Council as part of future budgets.

Carried

For 5

Against 0

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor returned to the room at 12.51pm

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Commonwealth Local Government Sustainability Inquiry

File: 14.19.6
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 May 2024
Attachments: 19.1.1 Murchison House of Reps Local Gov Sustainability Inquiry Brief Submission

Matter for Consideration

Finalisation of Council's submission to the Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry examining local government sustainability.

Background

At the March Council Meeting Council was advised that Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport has announced a new inquiry examining local government sustainability. A copy of details of the Inquiry including Terms of Reference and Committee Membership was then provided. Broadly speaking the Committee is has prioritised gaining a deeper understanding of local government financial sustainability and funding frameworks and the challenges faced by local government in servicing infrastructure requirements across Australia's regional rural and remote locations.

At the Meeting it was resolved that *"Councillors provide comments to the Chief Executive Officer on the Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport local government sustainability inquiry for inclusion in an agenda item at the next meeting."*

As per the Council resolution this was carried out with a number of councillors contributing with an updated draft submission provided at April Council Meeting where it was resolved that *"Council endorse "in principle" the Murchison House of Representatives Standing Committee Local Gov Sustainability Inquiry Brief Submission as attached authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit it on Council's behalf with any suggestions and amendments that arise up to 23 May 2024."*

Update

A copy of the final submission is attached.

Recommendation

That Council endorse adopt the Murchison House of Representatives Standing Committee Local Government Sustainability Inquiry Brief Submission as attached and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit it on Council's behalf.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

That Council endorse adopt the Murchison House of Representatives Standing Committee Local Government Sustainability Inquiry Brief Submission as attached and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit it on Council's behalf.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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19.2 Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements and Recovery Plan

File: 5.1
Author: Rick Ryan - Community Emergency Services Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 May 2024
Attachments: 19.2.1 Murchison Shire Emergency Management Arrangements 2024
19.2.2 Murchison Shire Local Recovery Plan 2024

Matter for Consideration

Council endorsement of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

Background

Council is required to have a set Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and Recovery Plan, it is a requirement for the LEMA & Recovery Plan to be fully reviewed, and rewritten if required, every 5 Years. The review is designed to pick up changes in the Emergency Management Act of 2005 and State Emergency Management Plans and any changes in terminologies that may impact on the Shire's current LEMA and Recovery Plan .

Both documents have been re-written to include current changes to State EM Plans and new terminologies. The LEMA and Recovery Plan were endorsed by the Murchison Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) at its meeting held on the 19 March 2024.

Following Council endorsement, the Arrangements and Recovery Plan will be forwarded to the District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) for review and then forwarded onto the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) for final approval. The approval will ensure the Shire of Murchison LEMA and Recovery Plan are current for a further 5 years.

Comment

Changes to the LEMA and Recovery Plan review include contact names and title details within the document to ensure that these critical aspects are relevant and accurate within both documents.

The LEMA and Recovery Plan are now presented to Council for adoption after which it will be forwarded to relevant local agencies and the District Emergency Management Committee.

Sustainability Implications

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

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan

Element	Description
Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by: Supporting community groups.</i>
Strategies	
Regional Community Emergency Services Manager	<i>Emergency Services planning and response is a key issue for the Shire. Additional resources would improve the planning and response to emergency situations.</i>

Statutory Environment

Emergency Management Act 2005
Emergency Management Regulations 2006

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

CEO- Bill Boehm (Murchison Shire CEO), Ranelle Clarke (DEMA) and LEMA Committee Members

Recommendation

That Council.

- 1 Adopts the Murchison Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2024 – 2029 and Recovery Plan as attached.
- 2 Requests the CSEM to forward a copy to both documents to the District Emergency Management Committee, relevant local agencies, and State Emergency Management Committee.
- 3 Updates the Shire website with the adopted documents.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That Council.

- 1 Adopts the Murchison Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2024 – 2029 and Recovery Plan as attached.
- 2 Requests the CSEM to forward a copy to both documents to the District Emergency Management Committee, relevant local agencies, and State Emergency Management Committee.
- 3 Updates the Shire website with the adopted documents.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 20 May 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The table below provides an update of activities undertaken since the last report.

Date	Activity
22.04.2024	Catch up with Community Officer. Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting via Teams
23.04.2024	Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO. Camp Oven Muster Festival. Rates Work. General Administration and Council Agenda Work
24.04.2024	Council Meeting. Council Minutes. ANZAC Service Preparation
25.04.2024	Anzac Day Public Holiday. Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO. General Administration. Council Minutes.
26.04.2024	Attend funeral Late Len Merry at Mullewa. TOIL
29.04.2024 to 30.04.2024	Council Minutes and follow up actions. Emails. TOIL
1.05.2024	Attend to mails. General Administration Teams Meeting with Jo Kempton DPLH Infrastructure Development Fund. Separate Touch base with Works Manager, Executive Manager DCEO & Community Officer. TOIL
2.05.2024	Annual Leave
3.05.2024	Travel & Meeting with Tony Jones Water Feature by Design. TOIL
6.05.2024	Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer. Council Meeting follow up actions. Pool Splashpad Contract Preparation. SKA work. Brief discussions with Auditor
7.05.2024	Camp Oven Muster Works & Teams Meeting. Pool Splash Pad Work. General Administration. Meeting with Works Manager & Executive Manager DCEO. SKA Work.
8.05.2024	Meetings briefings with Community Officer. Bitumen Sealing invoice reconciliation
9.05.2024	Bitumen Sealing invoice reconciliation. Catch up with Community Officer. Rates Analysis Work.
10.05.2024	Rates Analysis Work. Meeting with Community Officer. Attend GRA Partners monthly political briefing via Teams
11.05.2024	Rates Analysis Work
12.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work
13.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work. Pool Splash Pad work incl site inspection
14.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work. Catch up briefing with Executive Manager DCEO
15.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work. Catch up briefing with Executive Manager DCEO
16.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work. Agenda Work. Catch up briefing with Executive Manager DCEO and Community Officer
17.05.2024	Rates Benchmarking & Analysis Work. Agenda Work. Catch up briefing with Executive Manager DCEO and Works Manager
18.05.2024 to 20.05.2024	Agenda Work.

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 1.02pm.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2024

Signed.....

Presiding Officer