

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison, on Thursday **26 September 2024**, commencing at 12 Noon.

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Cr A Whitmarsh

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Cr G Mead

Leave of Absence

Cr Q Fowler

Cr M Fowler

Staff

Bill Boehm - CEO

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

William Herold - Works Manager

Lisa Keen - Senior Executive Manager DCEO

Bec Fogarty - Community Officer

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 22 August 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 22 August 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

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Cou	ıncil Decision		
Моч	ved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
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Car	ried/Lost	For	Against
7	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	E	
_			
8	NEXT MEETING		
Thu	rsday 24 October 2024		
9	APPLICATIONS FOR LE	AVE OF ABSENCE	
10	URGENT BUSINESS		
11	NOTICE OF ITEMS TO B	E DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSI	ED DOORS
17.1	.1 Account Listings Paid since th	ne last list was presented to Council	
12	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY I	PRESIDING PERSON WITHOU	T DISCUSSION

PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

13

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42

Author: William Herold – Works Manager

Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer **

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 September 2024

Attachments: Nil

Construction

The crew are nearing completion of the pavement, apart from a small section that is proving a little tricky with moisture continuing to work its way to the surface. A start has been made on the floodways which will keep them busy for some time. They have also been involved with some periodic works in the Settlement (water upgrade and swimming pool). Some maintenance grading on the New Forrest-Yallalong Rd. and a portion of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd.

Once the floodway works are completed the crew will move to the Settlement and prepare Mulga Crescent for sealing as well as works to the Airstrip apron approach and some works in and around the caravan park.

Maintenance

Our new maintenance crew, Lou Bavoillot and Liam Gall started with the Shire on Monday, 23.09.2024. They will complete work on Butchers Track, then head to the north boundary on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. for a post Landor tidy up. Then hopefully start at the south boundary on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. and head north.

Water Upgrade

Considerable progress has been made with these works since Council last met. The Roadhouse precinct is now running off the new ring main with more connections to take place in the coming weeks. My thanks to Henry from MGP WA for his patience and perseverance in working out some of the old systems and connections. We have found several pipes we did not know existed, some linked multiple sources. A can of spaghetti is probably the only accurate description!

Swimming Pool

The hole has been dug and hopefully works will commence in the next fortnight or so.

Caravan Park New Ablution Block

This is in place, water and power are as good as connected. There are some minor defects that need to be repaired by MI Global and then the concrete slabs will be poured. The caravan park has been a construction site for the last month or so, my apologies to our visitors for the inconvenience, dust and noise.

SKA Route Works

These continue with Walladar busy with some re-sheet works on the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd and Rowe Contractors doing the emergency repair works and some sheeting works on the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd. and Beringarra-Pindar Rd. It is anticipated that Rowe Contractors will be engaged until about the end of October 2024. Our two local contractors, Walladar and Squires Resources, will then be engaged in maintenance and MRWA approved upgrade works.

The 28 km section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. on the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) side is now effectively under our control as far as maintenance and some upgrade works are concerned. Walladar will have conducted the first maintenance grade by the time the Council meets. Formal agreement for the Shire to take operational control of this section is with the CGG for final signing.

Parks and Gardens

Adam and Garry have been doing a fine job coping with some water outages as well as doing their normal everyday jobs. I have had several positive comments from tourists about the appearance and presentation of the Settlement, in spite of all the upgrade and construction work going on. My thanks to them both for just getting on with it.

10M Woolbung Peak

It is anticipated that haulage work will resume in the coming weeks now that we have hopefully resolved the maintenance issue around this operation. If all goes according to plan the remaining ore should be trucked out over roughly a 10-day period. They have engaged Walladar to do the maintenance, but under the direction of the Shire.

Safer Locals Roads and Infrastructure Program**

We have recently been advised that the criteria Commonwealth Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program has been revised be able to effectively merit assess a broader range of projects while streamlining process and reducing the associated burden, including on state and territory government, specifically relating to assessing council-led applications.

Amongst other things it includes a bridge renewal component designed to improve access for communities and facilitate higher productivity vehicle access through the upgrade and replacement of bridges, including culverts. Of particular interest are future road projects for an upgrade of the existing Carnarvon-Mullewa Road crossing over the Wooramel River and the Meeberrie-Wooleen Crossing over the Murchison River. These works are notionally programmed in 2029 (\$2.3m) and 2030 (\$1.5m) respectively but no doubt timing and costs will change.

In order to have any reasonable chance of success with any funding application a near shovel ready project status is required. Discussions with Greenfields Technical Services indicates that to establish the preliminary details of the upgraded crossings, a preliminary assessment is required which would usually involve the use and consideration of engineering survey data. The preliminary assessment would:

- ~ Establish the nature of the catchment and waterways for each crossing
- Consider the current and proposed future level of serviceability and what can be achieved
- Consider horizontal and vertical road geometry including the approaches
- Consider design traffic including RAV details
- Identify any potential road safety and/or hazards that would need to be addressed in the treatment
- ~ Propose the details of the preliminary upgrade treatments and establish what level of improvement these treatments would provide.

As a result, it is proposed to progress these works now including obtaining the survey data and proceeding with a preliminary assessment regardless so that the projects can be matured to a point ready for future funding programs. The current funding round closes on 30 September 2024 but we are aiming for applications in the new year / years.

Roadhouse and Playground Redevelopments**

As foreshadowed during the 2024/25 Budget considerations concept and final designs are required for the redevelopment of the Roadhouse and a new Playground prior to construction works which programmed for 2026 and 2027 respectively. UDLA have now been engaged with a view having these works completed in this calendar year. This will also assist with improving our chances for future funding applications, most likely to be submitted in early 2025. The playground works are to be located adjacent to the Splash Pad / Pool so final designs may also influence landscaping and fencing in the area.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

16.2 DRFWA Flood Damage Works

File: 12.42

Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 21 September 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Progress update relating to Council decisions and works associated with DRWFA Flood damage Works arising from the August 2024 Meeting.

Background

At the last Council Meeting as reported in the Works Report the level of frustration with DFES approval processes does not seem to be improving and should continue to be challenged. Information relating to the AGRN1062 Flood event outlining a litary of issues was provided, with Council ultimately resolving as follows:

- A That in relation to current flood works projects including AGRN1062, that Council endorses the CEO's actions to utilise existing schedule of contracts, contract rates and appointed contractors by agreement as also previously acknowledged by DFES, to undertake the required works
- B That Council notes that in relation to the AGRN1062 flood event
 - B1 that DFES has sought confirmation that THEM Earthmoving and Greenfield Technical Services have confirmed in writing that they are willing to use current rates that have been held in check for some two years for the delivery of AGRN1062 flood restoration works, which are to be conducted in accordance with previously approved procurement processes and contracts associated with previous flood events that have been previously accepted by DFES and as such that the works should be approved on this basis without delay.
 - B2 that Council notes the latest in a long list of overly bureaucratical requests from DFES the most recent of which was provided at the 11th hour long after a large array of previous similar pedantic questions have been answered some 2 years 5 months from the actual flood event and resolves to write and provide submissions to relevant Ministers and local members of Parliament on the state of affairs.

AGRN1062 Specific Update

In relation to Council Resolution A and B1 above, since this time the Works Manager and I have met via Teams with a DFES Recovery Funding Manager. Matters discussed and outcomes are highlighted as follows.

Issues raised

- frustration and annoyance the Shire had with the requirement to complete the new Procurement form, particularly given the Shire completed the procurement process for the AGRN951 and AGRN974 cost estimates two years prior, which had been deemed sufficient for DFES to approve these two cost estimate submission for the Shire,
- Shire negotiated with the Contractor to hold over their prices from the earlier procurement to undertake works related to AGRN1021 and AGRN1062,
- ~ unnecessary delays have resulted in what has already been a long and protracted process.
- in general the Shire was of the opinion that procurement requirement was not required, perhaps over reaching, as there were other audit processes the Shire went through that covered procurement.
- There was a significant cost incurred by the community, the Shire and the State in the time to have works approved.

Recovery Funding

- outcome of recent audit process on the DRFA Management System where existing controls in the DRFA MS were not sufficient to meet the controls "Applicable procurement processes have been followed"
- DRFA Management System operates from the beginning of the FY (1 July), therefore there was a requirement to ensure Recovery Funding met the controls required for the 2024-25 year,

- the States claim to the Commonwealth for Essential Public Asset Reconstruction works is based on a Controls Assurance Audit against the DRFA Management System in place for the FY. The State needs to demonstrate how the control has been met, when it was met and the supporting documentation that supports it has been met. Failure to demonstrate a control has been met for an estimate may result through the audit that the estimate is deemed ineligible and removed from the States Claim for reimbursement.
- The form design is trying to address an earlier criticism from local governments that Recovery Funding undertaking what felt like an audit of their procurement processes, the intent of the form is to allow local governments to describe the applicable procurement process that applies and demonstrate with evidence that it has been followed.
- Recovery Funding checks the form to ensure that the process identified by the Shire in their policies has been followed, is supported by appropriate evidence, and the form has been signed off by the Local Governments CEO.
- appreciative of the background and requirement for going forward but reiterated the frustration of it being applied in this instance and felt it should be waived.
- There was awareness that for cost estimates that were near approval prior to 30 June 2024 such as the one for AGRN1062, applying the procurement form to these estimates was problematic and could be seen as a bit of an oxymoron (contradictory) to the estimates process that had progressed prior. That is, from a local government view, information relating to procurement has already been supplied now we are having to complete and sign this form.

Other Points

- ~ general discussion regarding the cost estimate process,
- LGs are increasingly not happy with the DRFAWA processes and the long delays in works being undertaken, the resulting increases in costs to the community and State
- ~ potential for immediate reconstruction works to be undertaken by the Shire
- completion evidence where both DRFAWA-funded and Shire-funded works occur concurrently at same and/or similar locations.

Outcomes

As a result the latest DRFAWA form was completed, albeit with the following generic statement "Refer attached overview summary of a raft of extensive information previously lodged and approved by DFES plus an update from the Shire of Murchison' Council Meeting of 22.08.24."

Following this the AGRN1062 Flood event was approved and is being actioned.

One "potentially" positive aspect to arise was that as a condition of the approval it was formally recognised that so long as appropriate evidence and documentation was put in place that there is no issue with the Shire undertaking additional works at the same time as recovery funded works in the same or adjacent locations. How this plays out given the large list of documents suggested to be provided as shown below, remains to be seen.

The Shire of Murchison has advised that they will be undertaking a program of works at the same and/or adjacent locations at the same time as the Recovery Funded works are in progress. The Shire has advised that where works occur at same or adjacent locations ""....completion photos submitted as part of AGRN1062 work will, in various locations, likely show work that has been completed beyond the extent of the damage photo. The Shire re-iterates that this work will not be DRFA-funded."

There is no issue with the Shire undertaking additional works at the same time as recovery-funded works and this has occurred on several occasions in other local government areas. From an assurance and audit perspective, when additional works are undertaken by an eligible entity, such as a local government, the State is required to evidence that those additional works have not been funded through the DRFAWA.

Therefore, for audit and assurance purposes, where works have been completed at the same and/or adjacent locations, the Shire will be required through the claims process, evidence to support that the work completed outside of the approved scope of works and/or beyond the extent of the damage photo has not been DRFA-funded. This would include financial evidence such as contractor invoices, daily work sheet records, general ledger reports, evidence of payment, reconciliation and apportionment workings related to those additional works.

It should be noted that whilst the statement from DFES notes that other local governments have progressed additional work at the same time as DRFA-funded recovery work and have provided evidence to demonstrate that the additional works were funded separately to the DRFAWA funding, the evidentiary requirements were only applicable where the additional work was overlapped the DRFAWA work. Where additional work was completed at the same time as the DRFAWA-funded work but was outside the DRFAWA work areas, there

was no requirement to justify the expenditure for that portion. The most recent stipulation from DFES represents additional administration as work that is outside the DRFAWA work area now needs to be substantiated in addition to the existing, already documentation heavy, documentation process required for DRFAWA work areas.

DRFA Disaster Recovery Program Update

In relation to Council Resolution B2 above, during the month some work has been undertaken to determine the best course of action in relation to writing and providing submissions to relevant Ministers and local members of Parliament on the state of affairs associated with DFES Disaster Recovery. Whilst a submission can be prepared, providing one that has the potential to make a difference and who to target is a bit more problematical.

Progress Investigation

A few points gleaned thus far.

- 1 Every local government, that we have dealings with or knowledge of, has many issues over many years with the way the program is administered and ran in WA. No exceptions. It seems some won't bother if the event is relatively small. Waiting over 2 years to have repair works approved is not unusual. WALGA is similarly perplexed. Anecdotally Main Roads WA has similar issue and are still arguing the toss on \$mill funding after last year's Kimberly floods that received national attention.
- Overall experience is the Department we deal with is risk-averse, slow, incompetent and over bureaucratical. Doesn't take advice. Treats Local Government as if it is in the wrong. Situation has become worse over the years as Main Roads WA became less involved bordering on a change in approach which has substantially increased issues since.
- It should be noted that most of the DFES Recovery Officers have little to no technical road experience; this function is fulfilled by Main Roads WA. Whilst the MRWA technical review process of the scope of work does have significant issues, the majority of issues with the process are not technical / engineering road related. Rather the issues are generally associated with the DRFAWA administration process. In other words, the majority of time and delay is associated with non-technical road recovery work. This suggests that the objective of the DRFAWA process, reinstatement and recovery of damaged essential public assets following flooding events, has been obscured in extremely conservative bureaucracy.
- 4 Approach is completely different to other Commonwealth funding programs such as Roads to Recovery and LRCIP where a sound partnership applies. It may or may not be also driven from Commonwealth given the national funding arrangements.
- 5 Discussions with the ALGA indicate that the issue is complex but not forgotten as indicated in the following points.
 - Our frustration with delays in funding are shared widely across the local government sector. This
 issue has been one of the most commonly raised issues with the DRFA, including in a 4-year
 DRFA review by the Commonwealth National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
 - ALGA consistently advocates for more streamlined and faster DRFA funding, as well as a reduction in the administrative burden for councils. They have also consistently called for betterment funding to be a core principle in the DRFA and raise issues surrounding funding delays in almost every meeting.
 - It is definitely a national issue, but there are variations from state to state. For example, Queensland has the smoothest and most well-developed system. They have had the Queensland Reconstruction Authority since 2011, which works closely with State Government departments and with Councils.
 - The NSW Country Mayors Association has recently reported that many NSW councils are still waiting for almost \$1B in funding from 2021-22 flood events. This is despite the NSW Government trialling new funding methods to fast track the recovery process. In this data indicates that since 2021-22, 42 local councils have submitted 1,709 disaster funding claims, and only around 25% of those have been approved and paid.
 - The DRFA was established over a decade ago, originally as the NDRRA in 2012. It has been tinkered with, but various recent reviews including the Royal Commission Review into National Natural Disaster Arrangements suggest the DRFA needs more than a little fiddle.
 - NEMA was established, in part, to encourage a more national approach to disasters ie greater collaboration and cooperation across governments and agencies. One specific recommendation of the RC was for "nationally consistent Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements" and a "simpler"

Disaster Funding Arrangements application process". While everyone agrees with these concepts, State and Territory Governments still have primacy in dealing with disasters. They continue to determine how all aspects of emergency management are governed and trying to change the DRFA to be "uniform" will be virtually impossible. While the Commonwealth holds some of the purse strings, it cannot (and does not want to) take over emergency management.

- The Commonwealth itself acknowledges the DRFA as a completely different program to other Commonwealth programs such as the Disaster Ready Fund, the Roads to Recovery program etc.
- ~ The Commonwealth is working to trial faster payment methods, following information gathered from reviews and other consultations.
- High-level findings from the Listening Sessions at the AGLA recent National General Assembly, showed that funding issues and betterment were the two key issues in the disaster session. The head of NEMA was on the panel for this session and heard the same feedback from council after council across the country. They are very aware of the funding issue for councils.
- Ounder the Commonwealth / State Agreement each State is responsible for managing flood recovery locally with each State responsible for funding all costs annually up to a certain set threshold when it can then seek reimbursement from the Commonwealth. It needs to substantiate its own payments to State entities and local governments in accordance with Commonwealth requirements which may or may not directly influence its administrative approach. What is clear is that there is every incentive financially for DFES to implement an approach that will save on expenditure with this the sole focus underpinning its operation, hence the significant disconnect between the natural flood disaster and the community who is affected.
- 7 The fact that only Queensland appears to have has a more enlightened approach highlights a structural flaw in the operation of the funding program nationally but also how it can change with a proactive approach.
- A number of local governments have had a go at influencing and changing this paradigm, even offering suggestions, extending a willingness to proactively assist having meetings with the relevant Minister with zero effect. This is perhaps the most damming aspect as whilst it is it is recognised that DFES should not be expected to have the required on-ground experience, which is invariably possessed locally, it should recognise these deficiencies and welcome input.
- 9 The issue of "betterment" as mentioned at a national level has been raised locally with DFES. Their reasoning that betterment has not been included in the current system is that the policy and guidelines have not yet been prepared to administer the process. The policy hasn't been developed due to a lack of resources. There has been numerous approaches made to DFES offering free assistance and resources to draft a policy framework. This has been ignored.
- An ongoing frustration with the DRFAWA process, and DFES in particular, is that there is a constant sense of the "goal posts" moving. An example in point is the recent Procurement Process justification form that the Shire was required to complete retrospectively. Whilst it is noted that there should be continual improvement in the DRFAWA framework, DFES does not engage with those stakeholders that are heavily involved with the management and administration of the process at the coal face. This lack of engagement is a lost opportunity for DFES to actively listen to the issues and proposed improvements prior to implementing changes that more often than not are impractical or non-sensical.
- 11 In our discussions with DFES, amongst other things we suggested that they engage reputable consultants with local knowledge and experience to review and work with local governments. Apparently at some stage this was also muted but later abandoned.
- 12 There are options that come to mind, to simplify and improve the situation for the flood events that we deal with, but these can only occur if the government of the day is willing to entertain a change with mindset outside of the current administrative framework.

Summary

In an overall sense it seem clear from our experience and others and basic research is that the overall Disaster Recovery Program needs a major overhaul, particularly in WA. Sadly, it would appear that fundamental attitudinal and cultural change within DFES is required for any meaningful progress it follow, with the community continued to be short changed.

Next Step

A strategic approach is obviously required and should be thought through. The actual form and content of this needs to be developed but at this stage it seems the relevant Minister at a State and Federal Level who carry responsibility should be approached, with perhaps the Minister for Local Government support local government around the cabinet table.

Perhaps Points 7 and 12 outlined above point a way forward with an emphasis on providing solutions for each respective Minister, recognising that potentially a post-election government could be more likely to see this as an issue to improve rather that in the current election environment whether other more pressing issues are in play.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Will Herold (Work Manager), Josh Kirk (Greenfield Technical Services), Patrick Fagan (GRA Partners), DFES Recovery Funding Manager, Representatives from WALGA and ALGA.

Recommendation

That the Chief Executive Officer's DRFWA Flood Damage Works Report be noted

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr		
Carried/Lost	For	Against	

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 21 September 2024

Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 August 2024 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr		
Carried/Lost	For	Against	

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

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

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr		
Carried/Lost	For	Against	

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2024

File: 2.6

Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 20 September 2024

Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 2024

Note this Item was held over from the previous meeting

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 31 July 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 August 2024

File: 2.6

Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 20 September 2024

Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report August 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 31 August 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

18 **DEVELOPMENT**

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty - Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose Date 22 September 2024

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report September Council Meeting

Background

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.

Vision Statement Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and

sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.

Description Objectives & Strategies

Murchison Camp Oven Muster

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay

in the area.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Economic Development 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

Environmental Objective 2

Social Objective 3 To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the

To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.

quality of community life in the Shire by:

Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.

Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).

Supporting community groups.

Civic Leadership Objective 4 To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation:

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia

Wadjari

Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).

Nominations have been called for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster 2025 Working Group with the goal to have the kick off meeting in October.

Settlement Tourism

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

We are currently procuring quotes for the design of signage; measurements have been taken from what is existing and current information catalogued for inclusion in new designs. I have spoken with Emma FoulkesTaylor regarding the Museum Signage and she has agreed to work with the Shire to create a new welcoming sign as part of the project.

The Shire Handymen/Gardeners have commenced work on the information gazebo to remove the rusted parts once all have been removed the gazebo will have some rust remediation works down before getting a new coat of paint. The upper trusses will replace the lower bannisters to retain the style and look and when the signage is ready for the top mounting will be discussed. Any signs that can be reused will be or placed in storage for future applications.

We thank Meg Officer for returning to the Settlement for 10 days as Museum Caretaker. It is always a joy having her around. Meg donated a letter box for the Botanic Walk that has since been mounted and sign written so that Botanic Walk guides can be available at all times. Meg also shared how we can find the history of the graders scattered through the Murchison verges so that we may start to pull together a Transport Walk. I want to thank all Museum volunteers past and present for their love and diligence that has gone into record keeping so that these stories from the past can be shared today.

Roadhouse Update

With the new till now in place we are starting to gather the supporting data which will be much needed when it comes time to apply for funds for roadhouse renovations. Terry and Wendy have said goodbye to Scott and Tannith, we wish them well on their journey and thank them for their efforts.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay

in the area

Interpretive Centre Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development

Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Environmental Objective 2 To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.

Social Objective 3 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.

Support for Community Groups Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

The meeting held on 21st August with WARRL and the Return it refund point and the Murchison Shire was significantly positive with all coming to an agreement to service Murchison.

All paperwork has been signed were approvals have been required and we are on the last steps of getting our freight provider inducted to the Geraldton Return it facility in order for them to pick up and deliver the infrastructure required. The Murchison Containers for Change bag drop depot will be co-located with the freight shed to make dropping off and picking up smooth and efficient.

WARRL will be providing a variety of infrastructure that will make using the containers for change offering easy and efficient. These items include 500 green net bags, 40 pop up bags, 4 120Lt containers for Change flip top lid bins, 1 60lt Workplace containers for change bin, 2 wrapped IBC's, Container Exchange Point Baskets and signage.

Community Garden

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay

in the area.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Economic Development 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

Environmental Objective 2 To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.

Social Objective 3 To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the

quality of community life in the Shire by:

Supporting community groups.

Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and

support those groups who use them.

Support for Community Groups Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

The application for orchard is pending and will be until 12 weeks after closing applications closed on August 21st.

The Community Garden hosted a reticulation workshop on Monday 9th September. Cory from Great Northern Rural CRT talked the group through installation of agricultural, domestic and commercial fittings and assisted with the automation of watering the asparagus and top watering for the wicking beds to increase better germination of seeds and establishment of seedlings. There was a particular focus on the quality of water and the best way to deliver it into the soil.

2025 Significant Event Opportunity - Box Rally

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay

in the area.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Social Objective 3 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.

Support for Community Groups Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups. Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and private Regional Collaboration

enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.

The Box rallies have provided a template for us to return information about the settlement and it's capacity for the event. Early enquiries have been made with services in Geraldton regards to bringing in additional toilets and caterers for the volume of people expected.

2025 Artist Residency Opportunity - Art on the move (AOTM)

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to

stay in the area.

Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Social Objective 3 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.

Support for Community Groups Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.

Civic Leadership Objective 4 To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;

Regional Collaboration Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and

private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce

resources.

Art on the Move has welcomed a partnership with Murchison Shire for 2025/26. Two staff members from AOTM will be coming to Murchison Monday 30th September to Wednesday 2rd October for a reccy trip. While here the AOTM staff will spend their time in the settlement, visiting our tourist locations and various stations. This process will provide them with enough experiential information to create an authentic artist residency application pack. I have reached out to a number of stations to arrange the best days and times for visits. As there will be a number of visits in a single day I will be hitting the road with them.

The path forward from here

- AOTM will prepare an MOU which will outline budget and program support.
- AOTM will provide an opportunity for a Shire representative to be part of the selection process.
- AOTM will provide a tri-partite artist agreement that will connection the Shire, AOTM and the artist.
- A rough timeline has been provided
 - o Feb / March 2025: EOI open (4-6 weeks)
 - o April / May 2025: Selection process (4 weeks)
 - June / July 2025: Artist confirmed
 - o Reccy visit in early August 2025 to align with the Camp Oven Muster

Education and Health

Social Objective 3	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.
	Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).
	Supporting community groups.
	Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.
Health Services	Explore strategies to improve the delivery of health services to residents of the Shire.
Civic Leadership Objective 4	To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:
	Regional collaboration where possible;
	Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;
Regional Collaboration	Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.

The health services database has been created and published on the Shire website. The database was promoted in the most recent Murchison Monologue.

Part 5 of the Public Health Act came into effect on 4th June 2024. As a result the Chief Health officer must prepare and publish the State Public Health Plan within 12 months, and local governments must prepare and publish a local public health plan within 24 months. Previously this has not been a requirement of Local Governments.

Public Health Planning				
	Identifies publ	lic health needs		
	Examines health status and health determinants			
Establishes objectives and p		and policy priorities for:		
State public health plan	Promotion, improvement and protection of public health	Development and delivery of public health services	Local public health plans	
	Establishes a framework for identifying and responding to public health risks			
	Ensures continuous review, replacement and reporting of the plan			

The Murchison Shire Public Health Plan is required to

- (a) identify the public health needs of the local government district; and
- (b) include an examination of data relating to health status and health determinants in the local government district; and
- (c) establish objectives and policy priorities for
 - i the promotion, improvement and protection of public health in the local government district; and
 - ii the development and delivery of public health services in the local government district; and
- (d) identify how, based on available evidence, the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c) are proposed to be achieved; and
- (e) describe how the local government proposes to work with the Chief Health Officer and other bodies undertaking public health initiatives, projects and programmes to achieve the objectives and policy priorities referred to in paragraph (c); and
- (f) include a strategic framework for the identification, evaluation and management of public health risks in the local government district and any other matters relating to public health risks in the local government district
 - i that the local government considers appropriate to include in the plan; or
 - ii that are required to be included in the plan by the Chief Health Officer or the regulations; and
- (g) include a report, in accordance with the regulations, on the performance by the local government of its functions under this Act.

We will be engaging with Shire residents via phone, meetings, email and survey to better understand our specific local government area as the current public health data that is available is for the Murchison Region includes Murchison, Mt Magnet, Yalgoo, Cue, Meekatharra, Sandstone and Wiluna with a collective population of over 4000 people it seems unrealistic to use this as proportionally we account for only 3% of the data collected and the facilities available are significantly different to those of our local government area neighbours.

Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Detailed and professional administration;

High levels of accountability;

Compliance with statutory requirements:

High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;

Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;

Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit

of excellence in professional administration and communication.

Strategies

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari

Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).

Email Communications

- 6 Community Messages were sent with a wide variety of messages including, litter, fuel, off-grid energy subsidies, Nominations for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster 2025 and the community garden reticulation workshop.
- ~ 1 Road Condition Report
- 1 Murchison Monologue This included integrated feedback options due to the significant change in format.

Social Media Communications

The Shire continues to share developments within the settlement and shire through facebook with infrastructure projects attracting the most attention these being the swimming pool and ablutions

Mail Communications

Rates were mailed out including a budget snapshot.

Website

Regularly updated to reflect operations.

The next Monologue will be released on October 4th as this is the second Friday following council meeting.

Positive Pathways to Local Rural Prosperity Conference 17th - 20th September

Civic Leadership Objective 4 To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

Regional collaboration where possible;

Regional Collaboration Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and private

enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.

The Positive Pathways to Local Rural Prosperity Inaugural conference seeks to provide an opportunity for those who care passionately about the future of small-town Australia to come together around conversation and storytelling and share best practices related to the following development themes:

- Continually growing and diversifying local leadership and capacity.
- ~ Fostering a positive and can-do mindset.
- Actively encouraging healthy community behaviours related to inclusion, conversation, engagement and collaboration.
- Encouraging asset, idea and opportunity obsession.
- ~ Developing community wow-factor
- ~ Enhancing lifestyle options related to recreation, education, health, housing, childcare, retail services and staying local.
- \sim Creating the environment that supports local-based employment , enterprise and economic development.

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 as detailed above for each item.

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Counci	I Dec	ision
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Moved: Cr Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 WALGA Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions

File: 4.19.6

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 20 September 2024

Attachments: 19.1.1 WALGA Info Page - Elections Advocacy Positions

19.1.2 WALGA Positions & Comparisons Summary

Matter for Consideration

Council's Advocacy Position in relation to Local Government Elections

WALGA Request

As indicated in the Attachment 19.1.1 Info Page WALGA recently undertook a comprehensive review and analysis of 5 ordinary election cycles up to and including the 2023 Local Government election against the backdrop of legislative reforms to the Local Government electoral process. The review and report focused on postal elections conducted exclusively by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC), with the analysis finding evidence of the rising cost of conducting Local Government elections in Western Australia.

The report was presented to State Council 4 September 2024, with State Council supporting a review of WALGA's Local Government Elections Advocacy Positions.

Since 2008, WALGA has surveyed the sector on five occasions and at all times the sector has supported the following:

- first-past-the-post method of counting votes,
- voting at Local Government elections to be voluntary, and
- ~ four-year terms with a two-year spill.

All Local Governments are now being asked to provide a Council decision on WALGAs advocacy positions as they relate to Local Government Elections, to see if the positions are still current.

To inform an item for the December meeting of State Council, Council decisions are requested by Monday 28 October 2024. Local Governments will also be able to provide feedback through the November round of Zone meetings.

Comments

Council has addressed some of these issues as part of its submission to WALGA and the Minister for Local Government as part of the 2022 Review into Local Government Reform and ahead of the 2023 Council, Elections.

Attachment 19.1.2 includes various information to aid Council's deliberations comprising the following.

- ~ Table of WALGA's position with Council's current views
- ~ Table of WALGA's Specific request as per ultimate motion with CEO Comments
- ~ Additional background relating to the subject topic

Note

Please note that my comments are provided to aid Council in its deliberations and are as a guide only. It's up to Council to form its own views. As a result ,the recommendations below should be seen in that light.

Recommendation

That Council recommends that WALGA adopt the following Local Government Election Advocacy Positions.

1 Participation

The sector supports compulsory voting at Local Government Elections

2 Terms of Office

The sector supports for-year terms with a two-year split

3 Voting Methods

The sector supports Preferential Voting as an improvement to the current Optional Preferential Voting system for all general elections with the inclusion of random order ballot papers similar to the Robson Method.

4 Internal Elections

The sector supports Preferential Voting as the preferred voting method for all internal elections.

5 Voting Accessibility

The sector supports the option to hold general elections through Postal Voting with postal votes being able to be submitted in person on during the election period and on the nominated election day at the nominated polling location.

6 Method of Election of Mayor

The sector supports as per the current legislation with no change – Class 1 and 2 local governments directly elect the Mayor or President (election by electors' method), with regulations preventing a change in this method.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 21 September 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
27.08.2024	SKA Work. Meeting with Works Manager and Jamie South and Jamie Jones from Newhaul. Meeting with Works Manager via Teams with DFES regarding Disaster Recovery Funding. AARNet Murchison Settlement - Site Visit.
28.08.2024	Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO. Post Budget follow up work incl submission of budget to DLGSC. Flood Damage follow up actions. Catch up with Community Officer. Monologue work
29.08.2024	General Administration. Rates Work. TOIL
30.08.2024	TOIL
2.09.2024	TOIL
3.09.2024	General Administration, Emails. Catch up with Community Officer & Executive Manager DCEO.
4.09.2024	General Administration, Emails. Telephone discussion with Leon Wilson MRWA. Site inspection Ablution Block. Site inspection catchup with Tony Jones (Water Features by Design), Henry Foulkes-Taylor, Tom Foulkes-Taylor, Works Manager, Executive Manager DCEO, Community Officer at Pool Splashpad site
5.09.2024	Roads to Recovery Work. Royalty for Regions Vast Sky Project Acquittal Work. Catch up with Community Officer.
6.09.2024	Royalty for Regions Vast Sky Project Acquittal Work. Touch base via phone with ALGA and Financial Accountant (RSM) Bate (RSM)
9.09.2024	SKA Route Work. Roads To Recovery End of Year work
10.09.2024	Roads To Recovery and LRCIP Work. Catch up with Community Officer.
11.09.2024	Roads To Recovery and LRCIP Work. Catch up with Community Officer and Works Manager
12.09.2024	Meeting with Community Officer & Karen Morrissey (GeoRegion). Community Fund Review. Touch base with Financial Accountant (RSM) via phone regarding end of year audit, and Roads to Recovery and LRCIP Acquittals.
13.09.2024	Meetings with Community Officer. Attend GRA Political Update via zoom. Local Loyalty Application work. Touch base with Josh Kirk (Greenfields) and Scott Lang regarding playground and roadhouse design work
14.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review and Administration work
15.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review
16.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review. Flood Disaster Recovery follow up work .Infrastructure Funding Deed Review
17.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review. Meeting briefing with Phil Swain (Environmental Health / Building Officer). Infrastructure Development Fund and Settlement Land tenure work
18.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review. Meeting briefing with Phil Swain (Environmental Health / Building Officer). Infrastructure Development Fund and Settlement Land tenure work. Touch base with Shire President via phone
19.09.2024	WALGA Elections Review. Infrastructure Development Fund and Settlement Land tenure work. SKA Work.
20.09.2024	Agenda Work. Touch base with Josh Kirk (Greenfield's) and Patrick Fagan (GRA)
21.09 2024	Agenda Work
23.09.2024	Agenda Work. Public Holiday

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost For Against

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.