



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 Wednesday **30 April 2025**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.06pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Apologies

Cr A Whitmarsh

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apologies

William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 March 2025

Background

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 March 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 March 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

5

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 G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

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

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

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Following discussions with the Shire President, in order to accommodate a meeting with the Mid-West Development Commission and Biggest Morning Tea, the May Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025 is proposed to commence from the earlier start time of 10:30am.

Thursday 22 May 2025 commencing at 10:30am.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the May Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025 to commence from the earlier start time of 10:30am

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

11.04.25 Attended as delegate and chaired the Murchison WALGA Country Zone Meeting at Cue. Cr E Foulkes-Taylor was an apology at the meeting with the CEO attending as Council's other delegate at the meeting.

14.2 Councillors

Nil

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: 25 April 2025
Attachments: Nil

Construction and Sealing

Since Council last met the construction crew completed the final preparation work for the various sealing jobs which commenced on 2 April as was scheduled. Thanks to Bitutek for once again being punctual. The work kicked off in the Settlement with Mulga Crescent followed by the Caravan Park. We then moved down to the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. job (SLK 203 to 208) and a floodway south of the twin Peaks intersection SLK 212.15. on completion of the new seal a reseal was done from the twin Peaks intersection to join up with the last new seal at SLK 212.29. Due to the airstrip floodway using blue stone instead of the red laterite they then mobed. back to the Settlement picking up the grid at SLK 174.20.

There is still some tidying up and RTR work to be completed which the crew will get stuck into on their return from the Easter break. Next job for the construction crew will be a tidy up of the Errabiddy Bluff Rd. in preparation for the camp oven muster. This will involve some sheeting and repair to some of the small creek crossings.

Maintenance

The maintenance crew have completed a grade on the McNabb-Twin Peaks Rd, finished the Beringarra-Pindar Rd, skipping the sections that were hard and settled, graded the Meeberrie-Wooleen Rd, Butchers Track and are heading south down the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd from the north boundary; again skipping the settled sections of the road.

Flood Damage

AGRN 1021 and AGRN 1062

These works are continuing to be a bit of a juggling act between the two events. Due to the evidence requirement on completed work it is difficult to string them together. Caleb Bryer from Greenfield Technical Services is doing a fine job in this regard, keeping it as tight as possible while not allowing unnecessary time wasting as far as move and demove go. THEM Earthmoving continue to deliver their high standard of work.

*AGRN1175***

Meanwhile DRFA-WA Eligible Disaster Proclamation Notification - AGRN1175 - Storms and Associated Flooding in the Pilbara and Midwest-Gascoyne Regions (10 -17 December 2024) was finally proclaimed with the Shire being advised on 17 April 2025, some 4 months following the event and other submission.

In accordance with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – WA (DRFA-WA), DFES has advised that the allowable time limit for the completion of Immediate Reinstatement Work (IRW) associated with AGRN1175 was 17 March 2025, one month prior to the event being officially declared.

The Shire has completed the damage assessment for AGRN1175 and, given that the Shire currently has a contractor in the area completing road flood damage repairs associated with AGRN1021 and AGRN1062, was anticipating utilising the IRW provisions to complete the AGRN1175 repairs. Due to the delay in the official declaration of the event, the Shire was unable to proceed with the IRW work as the risk that the event would not be declared was too great for the Shire to accept.

Notwithstanding, the Shire is now ready to complete the AGRN1175 repair work under the IRW provisions. Recognising that the allowable time limit for AGRN1175 IRW work has passed due to the delays in declaring

the event, the Shire is requesting approval for an extension of the allowable time limit to complete IRW work associated with AGRN1175 to 30 September 2025. The Shire is aware that DFES has sought and secured approval to extend the allowable time limit for IRW work for other local governments as part of other AGRN events including the AGRN1044 event. Completing the AGRN1175 work under the IRW provisions will result in numerous synergies and efficiencies as the Shire's contractor completing the AGRN1021 and AGRN1062 work is still on site.

If common sense is to prevail this request should be approved but it remains to be seen if this eventuates.

SKA Route Works.

Both Walladar and Squires Resources are still busy with both upgrade and maintenance work at various locations along the route.

I had an onsite meeting with representatives from the CGG on Monday 7 April. We appeared to agree with most of the work required to be done. The CGG require some survey work to be completed and reviewed by themselves before we submit a scope of works program to MRWA for approval. I thank Kerry Smith and the other two city reps as well as Matt Barns who will get the survey work completed as soon as possible and assist with the scope of work. A positive result all around.

Settlement Power

Power Upgrade

At the time of writing a contract is in the process of being drafted for Hosken Electrical. The CEO should have a further update by the time the Council meets.

** Final contract documents are with Hoskens for signing. Meanwhile as part of this project and to in order to take advantage of competitive pricing, orders have been placed for two 300kva units to go into soundproof enclosures plus one 300kva unit act as standby when these units require servicing or if required if unforeseen circumstances arrive. Given experience and our remote location having a robust installation is essential.

*Existing Gensets ***

For several months one of the two gensets, GEN099 has being more troublesome than normal with an intermittent fault causing unexpected shutdowns to occur. On 15 April 2025 an oil fault also occurred necessitating tasing this unit offline with two hire gensets sourced and installed as a backup pending arrival of the 300kva backup generator and upgrade of the power station as outlined above.

Water Upgrade

This is still works in progress. Some additional work has also been added as well as some minor improvements. Meanwhile contract documents for Waterchem to complete chlorination works have been signed

Staff

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Keen for the contribution she has made to the Murchison Shire over the last three and a bit years. Task driven and highly efficient, she will leave big shoes to fill. I wish her well in her new position at the Shire of Cue.

Future Resource Roads **

Through the Regional Roads Group Main Roads WA (MRWA) have recently called for nominations for specific future road resource road projects for consideration by the MW RRG Technical Working Group. Submissions close 30 May 2025. Roads must either be either included or capable of being included in the ROADS 2040 document. This additional road funding category is akin to the one used for the Mid West Secondary Grain Freight category which has successfully delivered additional funding to various Shires in the Mid-West and is tied up as part of the current State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement.

Assessment of applications will be undertaken through a Multi-Criteria Assessment Model for Road Project Funding. Each Regional Roads Group will refine the assessment model according to local needs. Assessment for roads projects from an Improvement Preservation perspective will be undertaken around criteria of Traffic, Road Safety, Economics, Environment, Sustainability and Social. Condition assessment will also apply for Preservation Projects.

From our perspective we have only one Regional Distributor Road being the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road that could potentially qualify with a good case to be mounted . Importantly the Shire of Upper Gascoyne and Carnarvon Sections would also come into play as well as the east - west Dalgety Downs to Meekatharra link. All of these roads are currently listed in Roads 2040.

We have reached out to the Upper Gascoyne and Meekatharra Shire CEO's who are supportive, and we will look to put in a submission for both routes, which from any logical perspective should have had their Regional Distributor Road Classification elevated in funding priority long before now. Arguably at least the east-west Meekatharra to Carnarvon Link should have been classified as Primary Distributor and therefore a MRWA responsibility.

At this stage its not known how the assessment will follow but it is clear that the aim is to look towards the future and as such Economic, Social, Sustainability and Environment Factors out to be the driver not just traffic which is merely an outcome. This will be our approach and in our case is very much tied up with the future growth potential of our Shire.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Carried

For

5

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: 25 April 2025
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for March 2025 (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 March 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for March 2025 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 Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for March 2025 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.15pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That the meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.19pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for March 2025 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council

Carried

For

5

Against

0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 March 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 24 April 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report March 2025

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.

Comments

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

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity
 - a Closing Surplus \$1,220,088 compared to budget of \$1,051,428. The material variances are outlined in Note 2.
 - b Note that the budget figures reported against are the budget review figures as adopted at the March Council Meeting.
- 2 Note 2 provides explanation of Material Variances
 - a SKA Claim of \$972,671.04 raised in March. This is apportioned \$725,780 to Capital Grant and \$246,890 to Operating Grant.
- 3 Note 4 – total cash balances \$6,829,739. \$2,836,927 unrestricted and \$3,992,812 restricted reserves.
- 4 Note 6 – rates outstanding \$101,941 down slightly from \$105,052 at Feb.
- 5 Note 9 Capital Expenditure
 - a As foreshadowed at the March Council Meeting, SKA costs have been reviewed in March which has resulted in some costs being reallocated from operating expenses to capital. Year to date SKA Route Capital Expenditure \$2,201,128 against annual budget of \$2,152,238. This has also resulted in the SKA maintenance expenditure being below year to date budget.
 - b Caravan Park Pool Construction \$1,099,909 and Community Splash Pool \$595,538.

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 March 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 March 2025 as attached.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 22 March 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report February 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	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives & Strategies	<i>Description</i>

Murchison Camp Oven Muster

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>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

The headliner for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster has been confirmed as Michael Atkinson. Mike is a solo adventurer, survival expert and filmmaker. Mike's experience as a former Army helicopter pilot, survival instructor and Airforce flying instructor contributed to his success on Alone Australia Season 1 where he finished as the runner up. Mike will be in attendance for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster and will contribute a variety of activities from Bush Survival Workshops to Camp Oven Cooking Demos and more.

The program is close to complete and includes a series of 3 permaculture workshops delivered by Drylands Permaculture, Camp Oven Damp Demo and Cook-Off, Murchison Picnic Dinner at Errabiddy Bluff, Movie Screening, Guided Stargazing, Wildflower Walks with Meg, Woodworking with Aidan, Spinning Flowers with Michael, Bush Survival Skills with Mike, Camp oven Cooking with Mike, Billy Boiling Competition, Family Games, Line Dancing with Michelle, MAC Pop up Shop, and the event highlight the Long Table Camp Oven Dinner under the stars.

There was a delay with the ticket release due to technical issues, these have now been overcome and once the program is finalised tickets can go on sale. We have been receiving expressions of interest for the event attendance at roughly 5 per week.

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>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible;</i>

Murchison Tourism Marketing Strategy

The Kick-off meeting for the strategy went well. We discussed strategies that will inform this one, including the Settlement Masterplan, Roadhouse Redevelopment and sources of information from partners in the same sphere. These included Murchison GeoRegion, Australia's Golden Outback, Gascoyne Murchison pathways and Murchison Executive Group Strategies. We also shared current promotional material such as the Murchison Monologue and information regarding the Murchison Camp Oven Muster. It was agreed its important for cohesion and simplicity to use what has already been developed as a base to build upon. We jumped into the why of Murchison Settlement and how it is a base for things to happen through representing the community's needs and interests.

The time-line for the project is to have a comprehensive proof for review by the 7th of May. This will be an opportunity to engagement community for feedback.

Community Development Officer Meeting hosted by Midwest Development Commission

There was a Presentation by Regional Arts WA regarding funding opportunities and contacting arts groups in our region. Margy from Mt Magnet extended an invitation to be a part of the Murchison Creative Trail this is a revised version of the arts trail from 2024. The opportunity for Sports funding was discussed. A collaborative effort was made to bring together the Murchison Event Calendar. This is currently an internal document for the group that can feed information to websites and newsletter from a single source. A huge win.

Murchison Executive Group

The MEG adopted recommendations as a result of the Murchison Visitor Economy Survey that showed a monthly online catch up run by the Shires with Shire representatives from the region in conjunction with Ainsley Hardie from Upper Gascoyne would be beneficial for authentic tourism development. I look forward to regularly meeting with Staff from Murchison Shires, strengthening a collaborative approach to tourism for the region.

Digital Information Bays

In collaboration with the Shire of Upper Gascoyne we have been pursuing Solar powered, Starlink capable nodes to create a connectivity route up the Carnarvon -Mullewa Rd. These nodes will provide access to the internet with conditions on the user however it will also provide an opportunity to make emergency calls, check road reports and tourism information. In a recent meeting with the supplier and our IT contractors we worked out the nuts and bolts of how the system could operate most cost effectively on an ongoing basis. Now that we have an understanding of this we have moved forward to get a quote for the nodes themselves. It is proposed that our initial node is positioned at Ballinyoo Bridge.

Upcoming Events

ANZAC Day Service 25th April , Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 22nd May, Murchison Camp Oven Muster 1st & 2nd August, Annual Christmas Tree 13th December.

Partner News

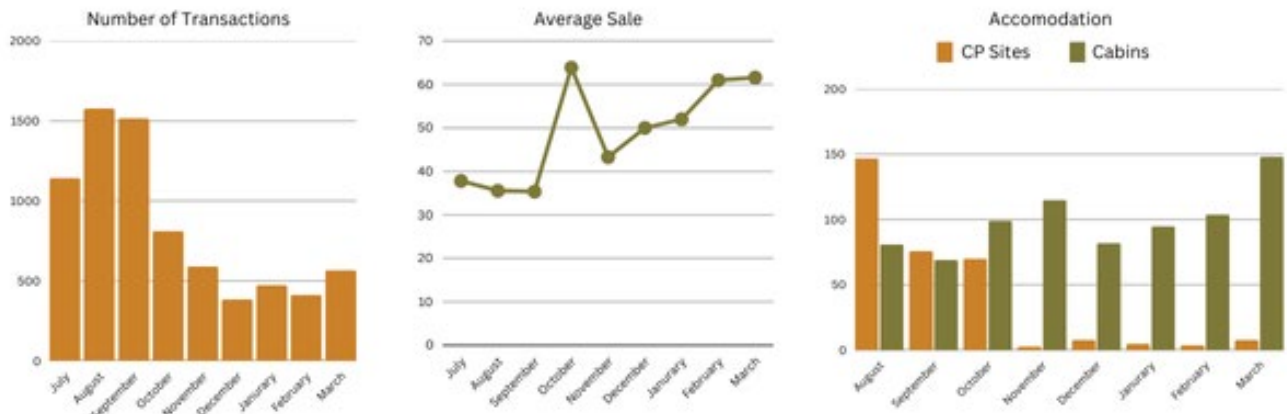
Australian Gilden Outback

AGO is currently developing their 2033 Visitor Economy Strategy. They are working on a holistic approach to destination management putting AGO in a position to be an interface for initiating and enabling strong partnerships.

Tourism Council of WA

Unless new budget measures are introduced in the state budget, Destination Marketing funding will decline 47% from \$73M FY24 to \$39M FY27. This will have significant negative impact on visitation which has already shown a decline in 2024. Tourism Council of WA are advocating that the current level of destination marketing funding be maintained

Roadhouse Update



Local Loyalty Scheme

The Local Loyalty Scheme has been released online through the monologue. We look forward to seeing and processing applications as they arrive.

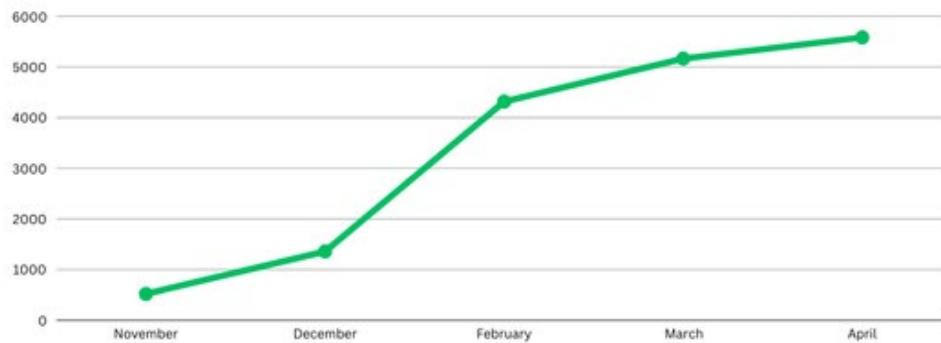
We have received a total of 12 applications to this point and expect this to increase with the connection of the loyalty card to pool access for local residents.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Interpretive Centre	<i>Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 5,583 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$558.30 going back to community initiatives.

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program and changing the bin you put your rubbish in.

Community Garden & Orchard

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>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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:</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

The community garden received a request from the Camp Oven Muster Working Group for cabbages and carrots for the Murchison picnic dinner, seeds have been sown and will be popping up shortly. There has also been a variety of seeds sown in seed blocks in preparation for the working bee after the ANZAC Day Service.

Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>Detailed and professional administration;</i> <i>High levels of accountability;</i> <i>Compliance with statutory requirements;</i> <i>High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;</i> <i>Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;</i> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
Strategies	
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

Email Communications

- ~ 3 ANZAC Day Service, Murchison Monologue, Upcoming Shire Closures
- ~ 0 Road Condition Reports

Social Media Communications

The Shire continues to share developments within the settlement and Shire through Facebook. This month has been used to present tourism within the shire in a positive light.

Mail Communications

None

Website

New Events Calendar has launch this includes a ticketing function for this years Camp Oven Muster.

The next Monologue will be released post the April Council meeting.

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For

5

Against

0

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Local Government Elections 2025

File:	4.9
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	25 April 2025
Attachments:	19.1.1 WAEC Local Government Ordinary Election Cost Estimate Letter 19.1.2 WAEC Written Agreement Letter

Matter for Consideration:

Arrangements to conduct the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections.

Background

In March 2023 ahead of the October 2023 Council Elections, Council moved away from local conducted elections by way of the following resolution.

That Council

- 1 *declares that in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the Local Government Act 1995, the WA Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2023 ordinary elections together with any other elections or polls which may be required.*
- 2 *decides that in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the Local Government Act 1995, that the method of conducting the election will be a Postal Election.*

In doing so it was then noted that in relation to the conduct of elections generally Australia has a well-established, respected and creditable system for the conduct of elections which are conducted independently from the government of the day through the respective Commonwealth and State Electoral Commissions. Amongst other things it's this independence that protects the democratic process. In addition the method of vote counting had moved to a proportional representation system with the need to pay for and use Count WA Software.

This report addresses the requirements to engage the WAEC to conduct the 2025 Ordinary Local Government Elections on this basis

Comment

The WAEC has been contacted to ascertain the nature of any agreement and costs involved. A copy of WAEC's response is attached. In addition, following discussions with the WAEC it is to be noted that

- ~ The election is to be postal voting
- ~ The timeframe to allow for postal votes to be sent and returned has been extended by a week meaning 5 weeks between the close of nominations and election day
- ~ Under postal voting there is still a requirement to have at least one place for voters to deposit their completed postal votes and that this place be open on election day and be manned by a WAEC appointed Returning Officer.
- ~ There would still be a WAEC Ballot Box available at the Council Office during the election period for voters to deposit their completed postal votes
- ~ WAEC costs are \$9,152 plus variations such as provision of casual staff to assist the Returning Officer on Election Day.

Financial Implications:

\$9,152 plus costs of one staff member to assist the Returning Officer on Election Day

Recommendations

That Council

- 1 declare, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the Local Government Act 1995, the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2025 ordinary election, together with any other elections or polls which may be required;
- 2 decide, in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the election will be as a Postal election.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council

- 1 declare, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the Local Government Act 1995, the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2025 ordinary election, together with any other elections or polls which may be required;
- 2 decide, in accordance with section 4.61(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the method of conducting the election will be as a Postal election.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

19.2 Band 4 Local Governments Meeting Update from WALGA

File: 4.9
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 25 April 2025
Attachments: 19.2.1 WALGA Band 4 Update Report
19.2.2 WALGA Band 4 Update Report Attachment

Matter for Noting

WALGA update report outlining progress relation to actions that arose following a meeting held in October 2024 of representatives from Band 4 Local Governments.

Background

In October last year, WALGA hosted a meeting of representatives from Band 4 Local Governments. The aim of the meeting was to identify and agree on the top issues facing Band 4 Local Governments in WA, to enable the group to consider and develop potential solutions to these issues, before presenting to the Minister for Local Government, Hon Hannah Beasley.

Since the meeting, WALGA has undertaken considerable work on the four top issues identified by the group, namely:

1. Housing
2. Audit fees
3. Provision of medical services
4. Financial assistance grants

Attached is a report summarising the work done by WALGA on each of these issues.

Recommendation

That Council note the WALGA update report outlining progress in relation to actions that arose following a meeting held in October 2024 of representatives from Band 4 Local Governments.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

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

That Council note the WALGA update report outlining progress in relation to actions that arose following a meeting held in October 2024 of representatives from Band 4 Local Governments.

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 26 April 2025

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
25.03.2025	SKA Work. Meetings with Works Manager, Executive Manager DCEO & Mechanic
26.03.2025	SKA Route Work. Council Agenda Work. Meeting with Community Officer. Brief attendance at Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting
27.03.2025	Council, Meeting and Workshop. Council Minutes.
28.03.2025	SKA Route Work. Council Agenda Work. Meeting with Community Officer. Brief attendance at Camp Oven Muster Festival Working Group Meeting
29.03.2025	Council Minutes & Follow up actions
30.03.2025	Council Follow up actions. General Administration
31.03.2025	Infrastructure Development Fund Progress Report. Lottery West Splashpad Acquittal Work. Meeting with Dirk Sellenger (Saltwater Bay Services)
1.04.2025	Attend Visitor Economy Assessment Project Steering Group Meeting via Teams. Submit Lottery West Splashpad Acquittal. WALGA Murchison Country Zone Report
2.04.2025	WALGA Murchison Country Zone Report. Infrastructure Development Fund Progress Report and discussion with DPLH. Road Asset Management Update Work. Emails Administration. DRWFA Flood work follow up.
3.04.2025	Road Asset Management Update Work. Emails Administration. Mid-West Development Commission Annual Stakeholder Survey. Attend remotely Pia Wadjarri RCS Public School Review Meeting. Telephone discussions with Adam Murszewski MWDC
4.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. Integrity & Conduct Annual Survey. Touch base with Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
5.04.2025 to 6.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work.
7.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. Attend remotely Murchison Regional Road Group Meeting. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Officer.
8.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. Teams Meetings Roadhouse Review & Camp Oven Muster Festival
9.04.2025	Staff Meeting at Roadhouse. Meeting with Roadhouse at Community Centre. MRWA Future Resource Roads Work
10.04.2025	Travel to Cue. Attend Community Officers and MEG Meetings
11.04.2025	Murchison WALGA Country Zone Meeting. Travel back from Cue
12.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. MWDC itinerary Emails.
13.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work.
14.04.2025	MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. Organisational Strategy Work. Emails & Administration
15.04.2025	Organisational Strategy Work. Mining Tenement Training with Jeff Hayles (DMIRS). Touch base with Travis Bate RSM. Emails & Administration
16.04.2025	Organisational Strategy Work. Touch base Executive Manager DCEO & Community Officer regarding power outage. Emails & Administration
17.04.2025	Organisational Strategy Work. Emails & Administration. Catch up with Community Officer & Finance Officer. Infrastructure Development Fund follow up
18.04.2025	Good Friday Public Holiday
20.04.2025	Sealing Works Reconciliation

Date	Activity
21.04.2025	Easter Monday Public Holiday. Roads to Recovery & MRWA Work
22.04.2025	TOIL. Administration
23.04.2025	Grants reconciliation work. General Administration. TOIL
24.04.2025	Grants reconciliation work. General Administration. Attend Executive Manager DCEO Farewell. TOIL
25.04.2025	Anzac Day Public Holiday. Agenda Work
26.04.2025	Agenda & Workshop Work
27.04.2025	Workshop Work

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Carried

For

5

Against

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21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.35pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 22 May 2025

Signed.....

Presiding Officer