



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **22 May 2025**, commencing at 10:30 am.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 10:39am

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant remote
via Teams from 11:05am

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 30 April 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 30 April 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 30 April 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

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

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

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 June 2025 commencing at 12:00noon.

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Item 16.2 Shire of Shark Bay Roadworks Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges for work on roads within the Shire of Shark Bay as outlined in the Updated Works Report.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That Fees and Charges for work on roads within the Shire of Shark Bay as outlined in the Updated Works Report be considered as Urgent Business.

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

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Cr R Foulkes Taylor highlighted a local and regional concern which had been conveyed to Minister Jackie Jarvis, from people who wish to have permission to use firearms on properties on local stations. The landowner required to complete a landowner registration form on the Firearms Branch Portal, but this is constantly out of order. This situation is extremely confusing, frustrating and unprofessional.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

15.05.25

Attended Meeting at the Shire Office and Settlement walkthrough of the Settlement with the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, (Minister for Agriculture and Food, Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business and Mid-West), Ally White (Senior Policy Advisor), Nils Hay (MWDC), Cr E Foulkes-Taylor, Cr M Fowler, Cr Q Fowler, Chief Executive Officer and Community Officer. Meeting was very encouraging and constructive.

14.2 Councillors

15.05.25

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor, Cr M Fowler, Cr Q Fowler attended meeting as outlined above with the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC. Cr G Mead and Cr W Whitmarsh were apologies.

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: 22 May 2025
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The construction crew have all but completed work and tidying up of the works around the new seal. By the time the Council meets work on Errabiddy Bluff Road should be under way. This will involve some sheeting work and reinforcing of the small creek and wash crossings that constantly wash out as well as correcting some drainage issues. On completion they will spend a few days on bitumen patching between the new seal and the Settlement.

Maintenance

The maintenance crew have completed the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. and done some much-needed plant maintenance. The CEO has contacted the Shire of Shark Bay and our crew are currently doing a heavy maintenance grade on the Shark Bay side back to the North-West Coastal Highway. In the lead up to the tourist season and the parlous state of that section of Butchers track we felt it wise to aid our neighboring Shire. This may become a more permanent arrangement in the future if our resources permit.

*** Note Roadworks within the Shire of Shark Bay are classified as Private Works. Initial verbal discussions with the Shark Bay CEO relating to works on Butchers Track indicated that as we had initiated discussions that we would undertake these works at cost. A subsequent review of our adopted fees and charges indicated that this type of work was not specifically addressed with markups of 15% (Plant) and 45%(Labour) applicable for other Private Works within the Shire. A Council resolution to this effect is required.*

SKA Route Work

This work is nearing completion for this financial year with the exception of the maintenance works which are ongoing. A scope of works will be submitted for approval to MRWA for the upcoming financial year. The CGG have signed off on the proposed works for the 28 km section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd on the city side. We are just waiting for MRWA to sign off before work can commence.

Power Upgrade

There is no new information to report at this stage.

Water Upgrade

These works are now nearing completion. The chlorinator will then be the next task before we can get the water supply certified as potable. The contractor has been up on site and is working with local plumbing and electrical contractors regarding proposed installation on the east side of the current water pumping station.

Flood Damage

AGRN 1021 and AGRN 1062

The flood damage works have now moved to the north-east corner of the Shire. The roads that are currently being worked include the Beringarra-Mt. Gould Rd. Beringarra-Cue Rd. and the Beringarra-Pindar Rd.

*AGRN1175***

As previously advised, 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 and has written to DRWFA seeking

approval for an extension of the allowable time limit to complete IRW work associated with AGRN1175 to 30 September 2025.

DRWFA have since responded as follows

“Unfortunately, the IRW timeframe is a Commonwealth imposed timeline that commences once the road is safe to access. We discussed that given there was no exceptional reason not to undertake IRW that any extension beyond the 3-months would not be supported by the Commonwealth.

Based on your letter to me on Monday 28 April 2025, I understand you have contractor resources nearby who can commence work and are willing to do so at the rates they tendered for other work they are completing for the Shire of Murchison and there may be cost efficiencies by completing the work now rather than progressing through an EPAR application.

If you were able to provide me with a breakdown of the proposed reconstruction works required as a result of AGRN1175, how long you think it will take to complete this reconstruction and the estimated costs of the work and a comparison estimated timeline and cost if it was to progress down an EPAR pathway, I can provide a brief up to see if the State would be willing to take on the full liability for reimbursing eligible activities (in the absence of any Commonwealth reimbursement to the State).

If the State were to agree to an extension, the work would likely still be timebound and any work incomplete outside of this timeframe would fall into an EPAR pathway for any potential reimbursement. The State would also still require the usual evidence to support reimbursement for any eligible reconstruction works.”

We have completed the process of providing the required breakdown of the proposed reconstruction works which shows an estimated increase from \$391,000 to \$621,000 if the works are not undertaken as requested.

Settlement Development Works **

There has been a fair bit of review, planning as well as organisation with contractors over the previous months to finish off the Ablutions Block, Swimming Pool / Splash Pad and Community Centre Paving Projects within the Settlement. During the last few weeks all the planning has started to see action on the ground.

Irrigation and washing machine appliances have been installed at the Caravan Park Ablutions Block. Paving around the pool and splashpad has been completed with fencing and irrigation also commenced. This will be completed in the coming weeks with new turf to be installed. Paving and turf work at the Community Centre will commence when paving contractors become available in the early part 2025/26.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

16.2 Shire of Shark Bay Roadworks Fees and Charges

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That in this instance Council undertake Roadworks within the Shire of Shark Bay on a cost recovery basis.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 18 May 2025
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 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 April 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for April 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 E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

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

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 10.49am

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

That the Meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 10.52pm

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

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

6

Against

0

17.3 2025 - 2026 Rates Review

File:	3.1
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	18 May 2025
Attachments:	17.3.1 Rating Analysis Review May 2025 17.3.2 Proposed Objects and Reasons for Proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the 2025-26 Financial Year

Matter for Consideration

Review of Council's Rating Strategy and considering proposed 2025-26 Rates and the supporting objects and reasons for differential rates.

Background

Previous

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Update

Since this time significant development of all of these matters has occurred as follows

- ii Projects identified as part of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan and Roadhouse Precinct Detailed Concept Design Reports
Caravan Park Ablutions Block completed with irrigation and lawn to follow. Community Pool and Splashpad are largely completed with some fencing, irrigation and lawn to follow.
Additional Housing (2026), Caravan Park, convert existing 3-room non ensuite units into 2 ensuite rooms and new ensuite cabins (2026), Housing 5 new units (2026), Roadhouse Redevelopment (2027) and Playground Redevelopment (2027)
- iii Major works to upgrade the water and power supply at the Murchison Settlement in 2023, 2024 2025 and 2026.

Rating Analysis & Review

The provisions associated with the setting of rates and the strategies involved are lengthy and complex. Following on from work undertaken in the previous 4 years, a consolidated document addressed under the following headings elements has been prepared as per the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2025.

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

This work underpins this Report.

Detailed Local Rates Analysis

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

- 1 The pastoral sector and mining sector generally see little movements in numbers of ratable assessments. This contrast with the minerals exploration sector, which is highly volatile, can have a number of ins and outs. This is a regular occurrence. As a result, the rates base and rates revenue can vary markedly from year to year but the average rates that are derived from existing properties where their tenure continues usually change in consistent manner subject to valuation movements.
- 2 With such a small valuation base very small changes in occupation can have a significant effect. By way of illustration in 2021/22 the pastoral sector reduced in size by only one pastoral property with changes in valuations to only two others but in both these there was a significant effect much greater than would otherwise be the case compared to a local government with a much larger rate base.
- 3 At the time of presenting this agenda item Landgate have provided the 2024 Pastoral and Mining Tenement Roles detailing Unimproved Valuations. As a result, rates modelling has been able to be undertaken with confidence.
- 4 General overall changes in valuations that will apply for 2025-26 are as follows.

Pastoral	Up 5.8%
Mining	up 10.0%
Prospecting & Exploration	up 5.0%
- 5 Details of Miscellaneous Mining Licenses will be included on the final Mining Tenement Role but not considered in any rates modelling. These tenements have been determined, through a recent judgement

in the State Administrative Tribunal, to be non-rateable. However, this decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court by the Shire involved and may change if the appeal is successful.

Rate Parameters

6 General Rate Increase

It is prudent to consider any rate increase from year to year in terms of excluding *Natural Decline or Growth*. Historically a 5% increase has been notionally applied. This increase has usually been applied to Pastoral Properties as a base.

7 As indicated in the attached Rating Analysis Review May 2025 there are a number of supporting reasons including an objective analysis by the Grants Commission that there is an inherent capacity to increase rates, especially considering the Shires large recurrent and future infrastructure spend as outlined and as per Council's revised Long Term Asset Management and Financial Plans.

8 Minimum Payment & Differential Rates

The Minimum Payment is proposed to be increased from \$900, to \$1,000 in line with movement elsewhere. The need to reduce the Mining Differential has been well established through successive Rating Strategy Reviews and was able to be achieved in 2023/24. This situation is proposed to be maintained for 2025-26.

Summary movements are as follows.

Differential Rate Types	Existing			Proposed		
	rate in dollar		min payment	rate in dollar		min payment
	cents	differential	\$	cents	differential	\$
UV Pastoral	9.325	1.0	900	9.932	1.0	1,000
UV Mining	18.550	1.989	900	19.830	1.997	1,000
UV Prospecting & Exploration	18.550	1.989	900	19.830	1.997	1,000

Equity across Rate Differential Categories

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

As indicated above for 2025-26 it is proposed that the rate increase will be borne equally across all sectors save for changes to valuations that have risen as a result of increase in rents charged for mining tenements and licences for the Mining and Prospecting & Exploration Sectors.

Differential Rates Administrative Requirements

If Council decides to continue to rate on a differential basis for 2025-26, then the objects and reasons for imposing each differential rate must be set out by the local government in a publicly available document and local public notice is required to be given of its intention to impose differential rates, giving details of each rate or minimum payment, and inviting submissions within 21 days of the notice.

If the proposed differential rates for mining will be more than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) then Ministerial approval will consequently be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2025-26 budget. The Department of Local Government requires as part of its process that if there are less than 30 ratepayers in a sector, then each rate payer is to be written to individually, inviting submissions. The Department also requires a raft of other information to accompany any application. Invariably this process may, depending on timing, potentially delay adoption of the budget.

This year, like the previous two years and unlike previous years, the proposed differential rates for mining and exploration is proposed to be less than twice the lowest differential rate (pastoral) and consequently Ministerial approval will not be required before the rates can be imposed as part of the 2025-26 budget.

On the basis that advertising is undertaken soon after the meeting then any submissions received can be considered at the June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, before making the final decision regarding the imposition of the rate or minimum payment, with or without modification.

Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates

The objects and reasons for differential rating for 2025-26 are attached for Council to consider and adopt.

Budget / Financial Implications:

Proposed differential rates will be set to meet the estimated budget deficiency in the 2025-26 financial year.

Strategic Implications

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

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

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

Sustainability Implications

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

Policy Implications

Nil. This report however will assist in an improved policy setting framework. As a result, these documents and draft budgets that result have identified a need to lift revenue and will impact in the setting of rates.

Consultation

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

References

~ *Rating Analysis Review May 2025 as attached.*

This includes analysis of rating information from 2024-25 budgets from the Shires of Murchison, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Cue, Menzies, Sandstone, Meekatharra, Upper Gascoyne, and Shark Bay.

~ *Landgate. Unimproved Value & Pastoral Leases Information*

~ *Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. Fees and Charges information on Mining Tenements – Mining Act 1978*

- ~ *Skilmar Rating Review*. Local Government Rating - A Discussion Paper prepared for Playford Council by Skilmar Systems - December 1998.
- ~ *Access Economics Rating Review*. Valuation and local government rating in Tasmania: a robust framework for the Future. Prepared for Local Government Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Tasmania) by Access Economics – October 2010.
- ~ *DLGSC Rates Detailed Discussion Paper*. Rates Fees and Charges Detailed Discussion Paper. Prepared by DLGSC March 2019

Recommendation

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2025-26 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2025-26 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2025-26 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
UV Pastoral	9.932	1,000
UV Mining	19.830	1,000
UV Prospecting & Exploration	19.830	1,000

- 3 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2025-26 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 4 That public submissions be invited.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council Resolve as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2025-26 Rates Review Report be noted
- 2 That Council endorse the following proposed differential rates and minimum payments for 2025-26 Financial Year for the purpose of giving local public notice of its intentions to impose differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2025-26 Financial Year

Differential Rate Types	Proposed	
	rate in dollar cents	min payment \$
UV Pastoral	9.932	1,000
UV Mining	19.830	1,000
UV Prospecting & Exploration	19.830	1,000

- 3 That Council adopts the Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for 2025-26 as attached in attachment 17.3.2.
- 4 That public submissions be invited.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 16 May 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report May 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>

This years event has attracted sponsorship from Regional Development Australia, RSM Geraldton, Yuin Station, Bullardoo Station/Walladar , UDLA, Them Earthmoving.

Current sponsorship total is \$19,000 Up 216% on 2024

There is a commitment for another \$7,000 from 3 more organisations, these are still to be finalised. We are waiting to hear an outcome for the Mary MacKillop Hyways and Byways Grant we applied for which would be an additional \$5,000.

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:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i>

Murchison Tourism Marketing Strategy

The draft of the Tourism Marketing Strategy will soon be available for public feedback. Copies of the strategy will be available online and feedback promoted through the Monologue and on Facebook.

It is encouraged that feedback is provided by email to community@murchison.a.gov.au
murchison.wa.gov.au/documents/933/shire-of-murchison-tourism-marketing-strategy-for-feedback

Digital Information Bays

We are currently in standby mode for this while we await quotes from potential suppliers. I have also requested a meeting of the Information bay working group.

Upcoming Events

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

ANZAC Day Event

There were 20 attendees at this year ANZAC day ceremony. Cr Rosso MC'd the ceremony with CR Emma sharing a story of Lieutenant Charles Foulkes-Taylor, Rossco's Grandfather. We thank all who attended, bought morning tea to share and joined in on the working bee to clean up the museum and community garden.

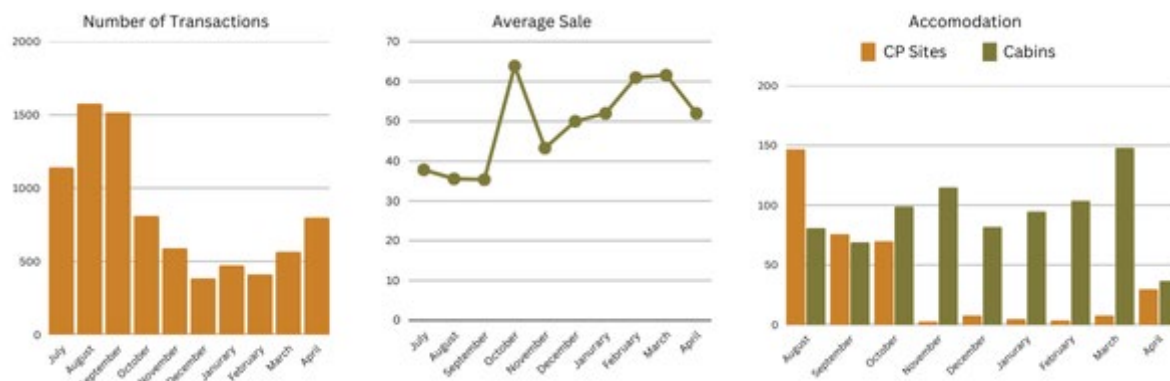


Partner News

Australian Golden Outback. AGO will be delivering an online workshop and campaign briefing on Tuesday, 22nd of July as part of the initiative discussed through the Murchison Executive group. I look forward to participating.

Tourism Council of WA. The 2025 Perth Airport Tourism Conference is happening on May 26 – 28. I'd like to acknowledge Frances Pollock as one of the presenters in the Tourism Innovation Champions Showcase where she will share innovative approaches, overcoming challenges and creative solutions for tourist operations.

Roadhouse Update



We are now starting to see an upward trend in Site bookings with the cooler weather and traditional tourism season kicking off. This is supported with the number of transactions increasing through the Roadhouse systems. It is to be expected that the average sale amount has dropped as traveller numbers increase as smaller purchases are expected from those stopping through.

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.

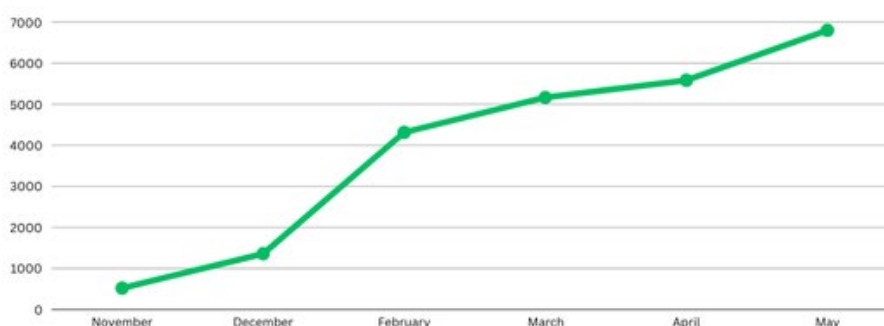
Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.
Interpretive Centre	Development of an Interpretive 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 latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 6,801 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$680.10 going back to community initiatives.

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

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



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 ANZAC day working bee had a good group of volunteers here to mulch the gardens and plant seedlings. Thank you for their efforts. The garden continues to produce vegetables for the community. Anyone is welcome to come and pick what they need. The Lemon tree is back producing again, there is a milk crate underneath for fruits that have fallen from the tree. Please feel free to take some.

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

- ~ 2 Biggest Morning Tea, Murchison Monologue
- ~ 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 May 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 M Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For

6

Against

0

Councillor Comment

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor indicated how pleasing it was to see such positive outcomes from the sponsorship partners for the Camp Oven Muster Festival.

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 17 May 2025

Attachments: 19.1.1 Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy

Matter for Consideration:

Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Incorporating Workforce Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

Background

Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, amongst other things this it is the role of the Chief Executive Officer manage the day-to-day operations of the local government, including all employment and contractor related engagements, whilst it is the Council that is responsible through advice from the CEO for a range of legislated plans for the future.

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

As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	Strategic Community Plan The Community Plan Sets out the vision, aspirations and objectives of the community. It also Covers a period of at least 10 years and to be reviewed every 4 years Developed with regard to the capacity of current and anticipated resources, strategic performance indicators and demographic trends	18 September 2017	Review required by 2027
19DA	Corporate Business Plan The Corporate Business Plan Sets out consistently with any relevant priorities as set out in the Strategic Community Plan Council's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including Asset Management Workforce Planning Long-Term Financial Planning Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually	22 August 2024 22 August 2024 28 March 2019 22 August 2024	Now update annually Now update annually This Report Now update annually

The Council's last Workforce Plan was adopted in March 2019, and this report constitutes a formal update but within the Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy context.

Comment

The Shires workforce planning requirements have been significantly influenced, not just by changes that have occurred over time including significant changes the past five years, but by the very nature and function of the Shire which in local government terms is unique. If this “uniqueness” is not captured within the overall strategy, then the ultimate delivery of the community’s vision and the personnel associated with its delivery will be compromised.

This Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Report addresses these elements and also provides guidance of some of the levers that may be applied through the Workforce Planning component as part of a strategic approach to recruitment and retention for Council staff and other actions more broadly. The attached Report addresses several elements as outlined in the following section headlines.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Shire Evolution | 4 | Financial Considerations and |
| 2 | Murchison’s Uniqueness | 5 | Recruitment Challenges Opportunities and |
| 3 | Existing Staff and Contractor Engagements | | Actions |

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Community Strategic Plan

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>

This Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy and Workforce Plan helps deliver on the Community’s Vision via all of the accompanying areas.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Budget and Financial Implications will be addressed through the annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Consultation

Community Manager, Works Manager and Councillors at the 30 April Councillor Workshop

Recommendations

That Council

- 1 Note the Chief Executive Officer’s Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Report
- 2 Adopt the Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Incorporating Workforce Plan as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Councillor Comment

Councillor E Foulkes-Taylor commented positively on the Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy and noting an omission on a key Council Strategy to potentially provide for a school room / support mechanisms as part of future Settlement Redevelopment Works.

Council Decision

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

That Council

- 1 Note the Chief Executive Officer’s Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Report
- 2 Adopt the Organisational Rationale and Recruitment Strategy Incorporating Workforce Plan as amended

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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19.2 Committee Presiding Member Appointments

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 17 May 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Appointment of Presiding Members to Council Committees.

Background

Reforms proclaimed late last year amended the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), sections 5.12 and 5.13. Amongst other things these changes require Local Governments to obtain a Council decision, by absolute majority, to appoint a Committee Presiding Member, and optionally also appoint a Deputy Presiding Member, by no later than 1 July 2025 for all Council Committees .

This applies to current Audit Committees and any other Committee established under s.5.8 of the Act.

Reforms replacing Audit Committees with Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees have not yet taken effect. There is no current requirement to appoint an independent person as the Presiding Member of Audit Committees.

When committees are re-established, following the 2025 Local Government Elections, Council will again appoint, by absolute majority, each Committee's Presiding Member / Deputy Presiding Member.

Comment

Council has two Committees and a number of Working Groups but under the respective terms of reference for each, only the Audit Committee is formally constituted under section 5.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. All of the others are also advisory in nature.

With respect the Audit Committee, whilst the Shire President is the Presiding Member, this appointment was not specifically resolved as a Council Decision meaning that a formal Council resolution is now required prior to 1 July 2025 and then later following the 2025 Ordinary Council Elections. Should Council so choose it may also appoint a Deputy Presiding Member.

Recommendation

That Council appoint the Shire President as Presiding Member to the Murchison Shire Audit Committee.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council appoint the Shire President as Presiding Member to the Murchison Shire Audit Committee.

Carried

For

6

Against

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20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 18 May 2025

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
28.04.2025	Bitumen Sealing, Roads to Recovery and Grants Acquittal Work. Catch up with Financial Accountant (RSM) via Phone and Community Officer
29.04.2025	Grants Schedule Work. CSIRO Invoice. General emails & Administration
30.04.2025	Council Workshop & Meeting. Council Minutes. Catchup with Financial Accountant (RSM) and Community Officer. Grants Schedule Work.
1.05.2025	Council Follow up Actions. Grants Schedule Work. Meetings with Community Officer
2.05.2025	Grants Schedule, Performance Review and SKA Work. MRWA Future Resource Roads Work. Emails Administration and Finance Work.
3.05.2025 to 4.05.2025	Rates Work
5.05.2025	Rates Work. LRCIP Adhoc Report. Administration Emails. Catch up and briefing with Community Officer
6.05.2025	Rates Work. LRCIP Adhoc Report. Administration Emails. Recruitment Interview. Payroll Administration.
7.05.2025	Catch up meeting with Works Manager & Community Officer. Organisational Strategy Review Work. Initial preparation for Minister Jacki Jarvis visit including discussions with Nils Hay & Bev Brosnan (MWDC).
8.05.2025	Catch up meeting with Works Manager & Maintenance Leading Hand. Organisational Strategy Review Work. Administration and Roadhouse Fuel Work.
9.05.2025	Organisational Strategy Review Work. Administration Financials journals. Minister Jarvis Presentation Work. Catch up with Works Manager. Initiate and finalise Butchers Track Shark Bay Shire Maintenance approach. Interview with Amberley Laverick UWA PhD on community impacts of mine closures.
10.05.2025 to 11.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Presentation Work. Rates Benchmarking Work
12.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Presentation Work. Site Meeting with Stuart Broom from Waterchem
13.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Presentation Work.
14.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Presentation Work. Catch up with Community Officer. Grants Commission Follow Up
15.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Meeting. Rates Review Work.
16.05.2025	Minister Jarvis Meeting Follow Up. Council Agenda Work
17.05.2025	Council Agenda Work. Organisational Strategy Review Work
18.05.2025 to 19.05.2025	Council Agenda Work & Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Carried

For

6

Against

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21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

17 FINANCE Continued

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant entered the meeting via Teams at 11:05am

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 April 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 19 May 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report April 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.

The contract Assets and Contract Liabilities have been updated at 30 April 2025. These will be updated on a monthly basis going forward. In conjunction with this update, a summary of grants, outlining the cash received, accounting revenue recognised, and the associated expenditure has been prepared. The grant summary will be issued to Council in conjunction with the Monthly Financial Report going forward.

Key comments in relation to the report are as follows

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity (Page 8 of agenda attachments)
 - a Closing Surplus \$2,606,830 compared to budget of \$695,823. The material variances are outlined in Note 2.
- 2 Note 2 Material Variances (Page 20 of the agenda attachments)
 - a Note the Other Revenue variance of \$642K related to reimbursements for Beringarra/Pindar Road which was not included in the budget. This relates to non-standard maintenance of Beringarra-Pindar Road for the 2017/18 – 2024/25 years. This remains an outstanding debtor at the date of this report (19 May).

- b Other variances are largely the same as per March report.
- 3 Note 3 (Page 21 of agenda) – this sets out the detail of the Net Current Funding Position at 30 April. Note the Contract Asset balance of \$1,883,777 and Contract Liability balance of (\$2,082,623)
- 4 Note 4 (Page 22 of agenda) – Total cash balances \$6,419,212. \$2,426,126 unrestricted and \$3,993,086 restricted reserves
- 5 Note 6 (Page 23 of agenda) – Rates outstanding \$92,817 down from \$101,641 at March.
- 6 Note 9 Capital Expenditure (Pages 26 – 27 of agenda attachments)
 - a Roadworks
 - i General Road Sealing Works \$732K in April
 - ii SKA route capex up to \$2.4M YTD, (March \$2.2M)
 - iii Carnarvon Mullewa Road up to \$940K YTD (March \$850K)
 - b Infrastructure Other
 - i Drinking Water Reticulation \$206K (March \$72K)
 - ii Power Supply Upgrade \$421K (March \$135K)

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 April 2025 as attached.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 11.20am.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 26 June 2025

Signed..... Presiding Officer